

Senate File 201 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 201

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A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a home modification grant program within
2 the department on aging, and providing an appropriation.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 231.67 Home modification grant
2 program — established — requirements.

3 1. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise
4 requires:

5 a. "Accommodate" means to make a residence accessible for
6 a qualified person in a manner that is necessary due to the
7 qualified person's age, disability, or condition.

8 b. "Medical provider" means a physician, physician
9 assistant, advanced registered nurse practitioner, physical
10 therapist, or occupational therapist.

11 c. "Modification or improvement" means a modification of or
12 improvement to a qualified person's residence that is certified
13 by a medical provider as being necessary to accommodate the
14 qualified person.

15 (1) A "modification or improvement" includes one or more of
16 the following:

17 (a) Providing for or installing a nonstep entrance.

18 (b) Providing for or installing exterior or interior ramps.

19 (c) Providing for or installing stairway lifts or
20 elevators.

21 (d) Providing for or installing handrails or grab bars, or
22 the reinforcement of grab bars.

23 (e) Providing for or installing hardware for doors.

24 (f) Widening exterior doors or interior hallways to more
25 than thirty-six inches.

26 (g) Widening interior doors to more than thirty-two inches.

27 (h) Modifying electrical components, including moving
28 electrical outlets and switches.

29 (i) Modifying bathrooms, including but not limited to
30 providing for the modification or installation of accessible
31 toilets, bathtubs, showers, plumbing, or fixtures.

32 (j) Modifying kitchens including but not limited to
33 providing for the modification or installation of accessible
34 countertops, cabinets, appliances, plumbing, or fixtures.

35 (k) Modifying bedrooms including but not limited to

1 the relocation of a bedroom to an accessible space in the
2 residence.

3 (2) A *“modification or improvement”* does not include
4 the construction of a new residence, or an addition to or
5 modification of an existing residence that expands the living
6 area but is not otherwise described in this paragraph *“c”*,
7 subparagraph (1).

8 *d. “Qualified homeowner”* means a person who meets all of the
9 following conditions:

10 (1) Has an income at or below the annual Iowa median
11 household income.

12 (2) Is the owner of residential real property in this state,
13 including a condominium, that is the primary residence of the
14 owner.

15 (3) Is a qualified person or resides with a spouse or
16 dependent who is a qualified person.

17 *e. “Qualified person”* means a person who is at least sixty
18 years of age, or who is living with a disability, as defined in
19 42 U.S.C. §12102, or who has a chronic condition the prognosis
20 for which requires a permanent modification to the qualified
21 person’s residence.

22 2. *a.* A home modification grant program is established in
23 the department. The department shall administer the program
24 and provide grants through expenditure of funds appropriated
25 to the department for this purpose. Grants shall be made,
26 in amounts not to exceed five thousand dollars per primary
27 residence, to qualified homeowners for the purposes of
28 modification or improvement to a qualified person’s residence
29 to accommodate the qualified person.

30 *b.* The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A
31 to administer the program.

32 *c.* Notwithstanding section 8.33, funds appropriated to
33 the department for the purposes of the home modification
34 grant program under this section that remain unencumbered or
35 unobligated at the close of a fiscal year shall not revert

1 but shall remain available for expenditure for the purposes
2 designated.

3 Sec. 2. HOME MODIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM —

4 APPROPRIATION. There is appropriated from the general
5 fund of the state to the department on aging for the fiscal
6 year beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2022, the
7 following amount, or so much thereof as is necessary, to be
8 used for the purpose designated:

9 For administration of and the issuance of grants pursuant
10 to the home modification grant program established in section
11 231.67:

12 \$ 1,000,000

13 The department shall work with the Iowa finance authority to
14 match the funds appropriated with federal funding available for
15 the purposes of home modification.

16 EXPLANATION

17 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
18 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

19 This bill establishes a home modification grant program to
20 be administered by the department on aging (IDA). To receive
21 a grant under the program, a qualified homeowner must have an
22 income at or below the annual Iowa median household income, be
23 the owner of a residential real property in the state that is
24 the primary residence of the owner, and be a qualified person
25 or reside with a spouse or dependent who is a qualified person.
26 Under the bill, a "qualified person" means a person who meets
27 one of the following conditions: is at least 60 years of age,
28 is living with a disability as defined under federal law, or
29 has a chronic condition the prognosis for which requires a
30 permanent modification to the qualified person's residence.
31 Grants under the program are limited to not more than \$5,000
32 per primary residence and may only be used for modifications
33 or improvements to a qualified person's residence that are
34 certified by a medical provider as necessary to accommodate
35 the qualified person. Under the bill, a "modification or

1 improvement" does not include the construction of a new
2 residence, or an addition to or modification of an existing
3 residence that expands the living area but is not otherwise
4 described as an allowable modification or improvement under the
5 bill.

6 The bill provides an appropriation for administration and
7 the issuance of grants for the home modification program and
8 provides that IDA shall work with the Iowa finance authority to
9 match the funds appropriated with federal funding available for
10 the purposes of home modification.