

House File 2345 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2345

BY DUNWELL

A BILL FOR

1 An Act abolishing county compensation boards.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 331.212, subsection 2, Code 2024, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:

3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *i.* Setting the compensation schedule of
4 elected county officers.

5 Sec. 2. Section 331.321, subsection 1, paragraph 1, Code
6 2024, is amended by striking the paragraph.

7 Sec. 3. Section 331.322, subsection 6, Code 2024, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 ~~6. Review~~ Annually prepare and review the final
10 ~~compensation schedule of the county compensation board and~~
11 ~~determine the final compensation schedule~~ in accordance with
12 section 331.907.

13 Sec. 4. Section 331.322, subsection 7, Code 2024, is amended
14 by striking the subsection.

15 Sec. 5. Section 331.323, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code
16 2024, is amended to read as follows:

17 ~~e. When~~ If the duties of an officer or employee are assigned
18 to one or more elected officers, the board shall set ~~the an~~
19 ~~initial salary for each elected officer. Thereafter, the~~
20 ~~salary and, thereafter, shall be determined~~ determine the
21 salary as provided in [section 331.907](#).

22 Sec. 6. Section 331.907, subsections 1, 2, 3, and 4, Code
23 2024, are amended to read as follows:

24 1. The annual compensation of the auditor, treasurer,
25 recorder, sheriff, county attorney, and supervisors shall
26 be determined as provided in [this section](#). The ~~county~~
27 ~~compensation~~ board annually shall review the compensation
28 paid to comparable officers in other counties of this state,
29 other states, private enterprise, and the federal government.
30 In setting the salary of the county sheriff, the ~~county~~
31 ~~compensation~~ board shall set the sheriff's salary so that it
32 is comparable to salaries paid to professional law enforcement
33 administrators and command officers of the state patrol, and
34 the division of criminal investigation of the department of
35 public safety, and to city police chiefs employed by cities of

1 similar population to the population of the county. The ~~county~~
2 ~~compensation~~ board shall prepare a compensation schedule for
3 the ~~elective~~ elected county officers for the succeeding fiscal
4 year with an annual salary increase based on the consumer
5 price index but not to exceed a three percent increase. A
6 ~~recommended compensation schedule requires a majority vote of~~
7 ~~the membership of the county compensation board.~~ The board
8 may increase the annual salary of an elected county officer
9 by resolution and budgetary procedures set forth in section
10 331.434, but a salary increased by resolution shall not take
11 effect until the first fiscal year following the next regular
12 election for which the affected position was on the ballot.
13 For purposes of determining a salary increase under this
14 subsection, the board shall initially use the salary of a
15 position as of the effective date of this Act.

16 2. At the public hearing held on the county budget as
17 provided in [section 331.434](#), the ~~county compensation~~ board
18 shall submit its ~~recommended~~ compensation schedule for the
19 next fiscal year ~~to the board of supervisors~~ for inclusion
20 in the county budget. ~~The board of supervisors shall review~~
21 ~~the recommended compensation schedule for the elected county~~
22 ~~officers and determine the final compensation schedule which~~
23 ~~shall not exceed the compensation schedule recommended by~~
24 ~~the county compensation board.~~ In determining the final
25 compensation schedule if the board of supervisors wishes to
26 reduce the amount of the recommended compensation schedule,
27 the amount of salary increase proposed for each elected
28 county officer, except as provided in [subsection 3](#), shall be
29 reduced an equal percentage. A copy of the final compensation
30 schedule shall be filed with the county budget at the office
31 of the director of the department of management. The final
32 compensation schedule takes effect on July 1 following its
33 adoption by the board ~~of supervisors~~.

34 3. The board ~~of supervisors~~ may adopt a decrease in
35 compensation paid to supervisors irrespective of the ~~county~~

1 ~~compensation board's recommended compensation schedule or other~~
2 approved changes in compensation paid to other elected county
3 officers. A decrease in compensation paid to supervisors shall
4 be adopted by the board ~~of supervisors~~ no less than thirty days
5 before the county budget is certified under [section 24.17](#).

6 4. The elected county officers are also entitled to receive
7 their actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance
8 of official duties of their respective offices. The board
9 ~~of supervisors~~ may authorize the reimbursement of expenses
10 related to an educational course, seminar, or school ~~which~~ that
11 is attended by a county officer after the county officer is
12 elected, but prior to the county officer taking office.

13 Sec. 7. Section 331.907, Code 2024, is amended by adding the
14 following new subsection:

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 6. The board shall not adopt a salary
16 increase for the auditor, treasurer, recorder, county attorney,
17 or supervisors unless the board provides county employees with
18 an annual cost-of-living pay adjustment.

19 Sec. 8. REPEAL. Section 331.905, Code 2024, is repealed.

20 EXPLANATION

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

23 This bill eliminates county compensation boards. The bill
24 grants county boards of supervisors the responsibility of
25 annually preparing and reviewing the compensation schedule
26 for certain elected county officers. Under current law, a
27 county compensation board annually prepares a recommended
28 compensation schedule for certain elected county officers for a
29 succeeding fiscal year subject to adoption by the county board
30 of supervisors.

31 The bill requires the county board of supervisors to
32 increase an elected county officer's annual salary based on
33 the consumer price index but not by more than 3 percent each
34 year. The bill permits the county board of supervisors to
35 increase elected county officer salaries by resolution and

1 budgetary procedures, but the salary increase shall not go into
2 effect until the next regular election for which the affected
3 position was on the ballot. For purposes of determining salary
4 increases, the bill requires the county board of supervisors
5 to initially use the salary of a position as of the effective
6 date of the bill.

7 The bill prohibits the county board of supervisors from
8 adopting a salary increase for the auditor, treasurer,
9 recorder, county attorney, or supervisors unless the county
10 board of supervisors provides county employees with an annual
11 cost-of-living pay adjustment.