

**House File 43 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 43

BY JONES

**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 2023, 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 2023, is amended by striking the paragraph.

7 Sec. 3. Section 331.322, subsection 6, Code 2023, 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 2023, is amended  
14 by striking the subsection.

15 Sec. 5. Section 331.323, subsection 1, paragraph e, Code  
16 2023, 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 2023, 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. ~~A recommended compensation schedule requires a majority~~  
5 ~~vote of the membership of the county compensation board.~~

6 2. At the public hearing held on the county budget as  
7 provided in section 331.434, the ~~county compensation~~ board  
8 shall submit its ~~recommended~~ compensation schedule for the  
9 next fiscal year ~~to the board of supervisors~~ for inclusion  
10 in the county budget. ~~The board of supervisors shall review~~  
11 ~~the recommended compensation schedule for the elected county~~  
12 ~~officers and determine the final compensation schedule which~~  
13 ~~shall not exceed the compensation schedule recommended by~~  
14 ~~the county compensation board. In determining the final~~  
15 ~~compensation schedule if the board of supervisors wishes to~~  
16 ~~reduce the amount of the recommended compensation schedule,~~  
17 ~~the amount of salary increase proposed for each elected~~  
18 ~~county officer, except as provided in subsection 3, shall be~~  
19 ~~reduced an equal percentage. A copy of the final compensation~~  
20 ~~schedule shall be filed with the county budget at the office~~  
21 ~~of the director of the department of management. The final~~  
22 ~~compensation schedule takes effect on July 1 following its~~  
23 ~~adoption by the board of supervisors.~~

24 3. The ~~board of supervisors~~ may adopt a decrease in  
25 compensation paid to supervisors irrespective of ~~the county~~  
26 ~~compensation board's recommended compensation schedule or other~~  
27 approved changes in compensation paid to other elected county  
28 officers. A decrease in compensation paid to supervisors shall  
29 be adopted by the ~~board of supervisors~~ no less than thirty days  
30 before the county budget is certified under section 24.17.

31 4. The elected county officers are also entitled to receive  
32 their actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance  
33 of official duties of their respective offices. The ~~board~~  
34 ~~of supervisors~~ may authorize the reimbursement of expenses  
35 related to an educational course, seminar, or school which that

1 is attended by a county officer after the county officer is  
2 elected, but prior to the county officer taking office.

3 Sec. 7. REPEAL. Section 331.905, Code 2023, is repealed.

4

EXPLANATION

5

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

7

This bill eliminates county compensation boards. The bill  
8 grants county boards of supervisors the responsibility of  
9 annually preparing and reviewing the compensation schedule  
10 for certain elected county officers. Under current law, a  
11 county compensation board annually prepares a recommended  
12 compensation schedule for certain elected county officers for a  
13 succeeding fiscal year subject to adoption by the county board  
14 of supervisors.