

House File 2659 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2659
BY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND TECHNOLOGY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2312)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act establishing an affordable housing task force.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE.

2 1. An affordable housing task force is created to identify
3 state and local regulatory barriers that contribute to the cost
4 of affordable housing and to examine the corresponding public
5 benefit of such regulations relative to their impact on housing
6 costs.

7 2. The task force shall study and make recommendations
8 concerning state and local regulations and practices affecting
9 the development and availability of affordable housing, including
10 but not limited to the following areas:

- 11 a. Zoning and land use regulations.
- 12 b. State and local building codes.
- 13 c. Permitting and approval processes.
- 14 d. State and local funding mechanisms.

15 3. The task force members shall be chosen to reflect
16 geographic diversity and shall consist of the following:

- 17 a. The state building code commissioner or the commissioner's
18 designee.
- 19 b. The state fire marshal or the fire marshal's designee.
- 20 c. The director of the Iowa economic development authority or
21 the director's designee.
- 22 d. Three members representing housing developers, appointed
23 by the governor.
- 24 e. One elected official of a city with a population of fifty
25 thousand or more, appointed by the governor.
- 26 f. One elected official of a city with a population of fewer
27 than fifty thousand, appointed by the governor.
- 28 g. One county supervisor from a county with a population of
29 fifty thousand or more, appointed by the governor.
- 30 h. One county supervisor from a county with a population of
31 fewer than fifty thousand, appointed by the governor.
- 32 i. Two members of the house of representatives, one appointed
33 by the speaker of the house and one appointed by the minority
34 leader of the house.
- 35 j. Two members of the senate, one appointed by the majority

1 leader of the senate and one appointed by the minority leader of
2 the senate.

3 k. A director of a city's or county's planning and zoning
4 department, division, or authority, or similar entity even if a
5 different nomenclature is used to describe the entity, appointed
6 by the governor.

7 l. One member of a housing nonprofit organization, appointed
8 by the governor.

9 m. One member of the housing lending organization, appointed
10 by the governor.

11 n. One member of an economic development group, appointed by
12 the governor.

13 4. Members of the task force shall serve without compensation
14 but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the
15 performance of their official duties. Task force members who
16 are members of the general assembly shall be paid in accordance
17 with section 2.32A. The remaining task force members shall be
18 reimbursed from moneys appropriated for such a purpose.

19 5. On or before December 1, 2026, the task force shall
20 submit a written report to the general assembly detailing the
21 task force's findings and recommendations, including any proposed
22 statutory or administrative changes to reduce regulatory barriers
23 to affordable housing while preserving public health and safety.

24 EXPLANATION

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

27 This bill establishes an affordable housing task force to
28 study state and local regulations that contribute to the cost
29 of affordable housing and to examine the corresponding public
30 benefit of such regulations relative to their impact on housing
31 costs.

32 The bill requires the task force to examine zoning and land
33 use regulations, state and local building codes, permitting
34 and approval processes, and state and local funding mechanisms
35 affecting the development and availability of affordable housing.

1 The bill establishes the membership of the task force, which
2 includes representatives from state agencies, housing developers,
3 local government officials from cities and counties of varying
4 population sizes, members of the general assembly, a director
5 of a city's or county's planning and zoning department, and
6 members from a housing nonprofit organization, housing lending
7 organization, and economic development group. The bill requires
8 the members to be chosen to reflect geographic diversity.

9 The bill requires the task force to submit a written report
10 to the general assembly and the governor by December 1,
11 2026, detailing the task force's findings and recommendations,
12 including any proposed statutory or administrative changes
13 intended to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing
14 while preserving public health and safety.

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