

**House File 477 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 477  
BY JACOBY

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the secession of counties.

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

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **331.301A Secession.**

2 1. A county may, by adoption of an ordinance, secede from the  
3 state of Iowa. Upon the effective date of an ordinance to secede  
4 from the state of Iowa, a county shall cease to be a political  
5 subdivision of the state for all purposes and the county and  
6 the residents of the county shall not be subject to the laws or  
7 Constitution of the State of Iowa.

8 2. All property, real or personal, that is owned by the state  
9 of Iowa that is located in a county that secedes from the state  
10 of Iowa shall remain under the ownership and control of the state  
11 of Iowa.

12 3. An ordinance to secede from the state of Iowa shall have  
13 an effective date of not less than one year after the date of  
14 adoption.

15 4. This section does not apply unless the county has approval  
16 from the federal government and another state to become part  
17 of the other state, or unless the county has approval from the  
18 federal government to become its own state or territory.

19 EXPLANATION

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

22 This bill allows a county to secede from the state of Iowa by  
23 the adoption of an ordinance. A county that adopts an ordinance  
24 to secede from the state of Iowa ceases to be a political  
25 subdivision of the state for all purposes and the county and  
26 the residents of the county shall no longer be subject to the  
27 laws or Constitution of the State of Iowa. The bill requires  
28 all property, real or personal, that is owned by the state of  
29 Iowa and located in a county that secedes from the state to  
30 remain under the ownership and control of the state. The bill  
31 requires an ordinance to secede from the state of Iowa to have  
32 an effective date of not less than one year after the date of  
33 adoption. The bill does not apply unless the county has approval  
34 from the federal government and another state to become part  
35 of the other state, or unless the county has approval from the

1 federal government to become its own state or territory.

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