

House File 479 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 479
BY SITZMANN

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act authorizing county boards of supervisors to employ firms
- 2 of professional engineers as the county engineer.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 309.17, Code 2025, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **309.17 Engineer — term.**

4 The board of supervisors shall employ one or more licensed
5 civil engineers as county engineers. However, the board may
6 employ a professional engineering entity as the county engineer,
7 with one or more licensed civil engineers employed by the entity
8 responsible for performing the duties required of the county
9 engineer, pursuant to an agreement between the board and the
10 entity. The board shall fix the term of employment for county
11 engineers, which shall not exceed three years, but the tenure of
12 office may be terminated at any time by the board.

13 Sec. 2. Section 309.18, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 2. The county engineers shall, in the performance of their
16 duties, work under the directions of the board and shall give
17 bonds for the faithful performance of their duties in a sum not
18 less than two thousand nor more than five thousand dollars, to be
19 approved by the board. The board shall approve a bond given by a
20 professional engineering entity employed as the county engineer,
21 which covers the entity's licensed civil engineers, as if the
22 entity was one licensed civil engineer.

23 **EXPLANATION**

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

26 Under current law, the board of supervisors of a county
27 (board) is required to employ one or more licensed civil
28 engineers as the county engineer. County engineers must directly
29 supervise all construction and maintenance work to ensure the
30 work is carried out efficiently and properly. County engineers
31 may be hired for terms of up to three years, though the
32 employment may be terminated at any time. The board is required
33 to determine the level of compensation for a county engineer,
34 and county engineers are required to provide a bond between
35 \$2,000 and \$5,000. Multiple counties can collaborate to hire a

1 county engineer and share costs for support, with an agreement
2 specifying cost allocation and reimbursement, in accordance with
3 Code chapter 28E (joint exercise of governmental powers). A
4 county engineer is required to submit detailed accounts for any
5 expenses incurred related to the engineer's duties as county
6 engineer.

7 This bill authorizes boards to employ a professional
8 engineering entity as the county engineer, with one or more
9 licensed civil engineers employed by the entity responsible for
10 performing the duties required of the county engineer, pursuant
11 to an agreement between the entity and the board. A board must
12 approve a bond given by a professional engineering entity, which
13 covers the entity's licensed civil engineers, as if the entity
14 was one licensed civil engineer.