

**House File 631 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 631  
BY BODEN

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act relating to backwater variances for bridge construction or
- 2 repair.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 455B.276, Code 2025, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. The director shall issue a variance to  
4 any state agency, county, or city for backwater requirements  
5 for bridge construction or repair if the director receives from  
6 all affected landowners who have not provided the state agency,  
7 county, or city with a flooding easement a written acknowledgment  
8 stating that each affected landowner's property will be subject  
9 to flooding during and after the construction or repair.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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This bill relates to backwater variances for bridge  
14 construction or repair.

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Under current administrative rules, if a bridge that requires  
16 a flood plain construction permit exceeds established backwater  
17 limits, the department of natural resources (DNR) may require  
18 the relevant authority to acquire from the affected landowners a  
19 flooding easement for the excess backwater.

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The bill requires the director of DNR to issue a variance  
21 to any state agency, county, or city for backwater requirements  
22 for bridge construction or repair if the director receives from  
23 all affected landowners who have not provided the state agency,  
24 county, or city with a flooding easement a written acknowledgment  
25 that each landowner's property will be subject to flooding during  
26 and after the construction or repair.