

**House File 650 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 650  
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 479)

**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:

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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.

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