

**House File 704 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 704  
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 178)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the Iowa propane education and research  
2 council, and including applicability provisions.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 101C.2, subsection 3, Code 2025, is  
2 amended by striking the subsection.

3 Sec. 2. Section 101C.2, subsection 13, Code 2025, is amended  
4 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the  
5 following:

6 13. "Wholesaler" means a person engaged primarily in the sale  
7 of odorized propane who does not sell propane to the ultimate  
8 consumer or retail propane dispenser.

9 Sec. 3. Section 101C.3, subsections 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10,  
10 Code 2025, are amended to read as follows:

11 1. The Iowa propane education and research council is  
12 established. The council shall consist of ten ~~voting~~ members,  
13 ~~nine~~ eight of whom represent retail propane marketers and or  
14 wholesalers, one of whom shall be a representative of the  
15 department of health and human services responsible for community  
16 action agencies, and one of whom shall be the fire marshal.  
17 Members of the council representing retail propane marketers or  
18 wholesalers shall be appointed by ~~the fire marshal from a list~~  
19 ~~of nominees submitted by~~ qualified propane industry organizations  
20 by December 15 of each year. A vacancy in the unfinished  
21 term of a council member shall be filled for the remainder of  
22 the term in the same manner as the original appointment was  
23 made. Council members representing retail propane marketers  
24 or wholesalers shall be full-time employees or owners of a  
25 propane industry business or representatives of an agricultural  
26 cooperative actively engaged in the propane industry. An  
27 employee of a qualified propane industry organization shall not  
28 serve as a member of the council. An officer of the board of  
29 directors of a qualified propane industry organization or propane  
30 industry trade association shall not serve concurrently as a  
31 member of the council. ~~The fire marshal or a designee may serve~~  
32 ~~as an ex officio, nonvoting member of the council.~~

33 2. In ~~nominating~~ appointing members of the council, qualified  
34 propane industry organizations shall give due consideration to  
35 nominating council members who are representative of the propane

1 industry, including representation of all of the following:

2     a. Interstate and intrastate retail propane marketers.

3     b. Interstate and intrastate wholesalers.

4     ~~b.~~ c. Large and small retail propane marketers, including  
5 agricultural cooperatives.

6     ~~c.~~ d. Diverse geographic regions of the state.

7     5. A council member shall serve a term of ~~three~~ two years.

8     6. Initial appointments to the council shall be for terms of  
9 ~~one, and two, and three~~ years that are staggered to provide for  
10 the future appointment of at least ~~two~~ four members each year.

11     7. The ~~voting~~ members of the council shall select a  
12 chairperson and other officers as necessary from the ~~voting~~  
13 members and shall adopt rules and bylaws for the conduct of  
14 business and the implementation of this chapter. The council  
15 may establish committees and subcommittees comprised of members  
16 of the council and may establish advisory committees comprised of  
17 persons other than council members. The council shall establish  
18 procedures for the solicitation of propane industry comments and  
19 recommendations regarding any significant plans, programs, or  
20 projects to be funded by the council.

21     9. At the beginning of each fiscal year, the council shall  
22 prepare a budget plan for the next fiscal year, including the  
23 probable cost of all programs, projects, and contracts to be  
24 undertaken. ~~The council shall submit the proposed budget to~~  
25 ~~the fire marshal for review and comment. The fire marshal may~~  
26 ~~recommend appropriate programs, projects, and activities to be~~  
27 ~~undertaken by the council.~~

28     10. The council shall keep minutes, books, and records that  
29 clearly reflect all of the acts and transactions of the council  
30 which are public records open to public inspection. The books  
31 and records shall indicate the geographic areas where benefits  
32 were conferred by each individual program or project in detail  
33 sufficient to reflect the degree to which each program or project  
34 attained equitable geographic distribution of its benefits. The  
35 books of the council shall be audited by a certified public

1 accountant at least once each fiscal year and at such other  
2 times as the council may designate. The cost of the audit  
3 shall be paid by the council. Copies of the audit shall be  
4 provided to all council members, all qualified propane industry  
5 organizations, and to other members of the propane industry upon  
6 request. ~~In addition, a copy of the audit and a report detailing~~  
7 ~~the programs and projects conducted by the council and containing~~  
8 ~~information reflecting the degree to which equitable geographic~~  
9 ~~distribution of the benefits of each program or project was~~  
10 ~~attained shall be submitted each fiscal year to the chief clerk~~  
11 ~~of the house of representatives and the secretary of the senate.~~

12 Sec. 4. Section 101C.3, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
13 by striking the subsection.

14 Sec. 5. Section 101C.3, subsection 8, paragraph b, Code 2025,  
15 is amended to read as follows:

16 b. The council may develop energy efficiency programs  
17 dedicated to ~~weatherization, acquisition and installation of~~  
18 ~~energy-efficient customer appliances that qualify for energy star~~  
19 ~~certification, installation of low-flow faucets and showerheads,~~  
20 and energy efficiency education. ~~The council may by rule~~  
21 ~~establish quality standards in relation to weatherization and~~  
22 ~~appliance installation.~~

23 Sec. 6. Section 101C.11, Code 2025, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 **101C.11 Report.**

26 The council shall prepare and submit an annual report to  
27 the ~~fire marshal~~ general assembly and the auditor of state  
28 summarizing the activities of the council conducted pursuant to  
29 this chapter. The report shall show all of the following:

- 30 1. All income, expenses, and other relevant information  
31 concerning assessments collected and expended under this chapter.  
32 ~~The report shall also include a~~  
33 2. A summary of energy efficiency programs as specified in  
34 section 101C.3, subsection 8, if developed by the council.  
35 3. A copy of the audit conducted pursuant to section 101C.3,

1 subsection 10.

2 4. A report detailing the programs and projects conducted  
3 by the council, which shall include information reflecting  
4 the degree to which the council achieved equitable geographic  
5 distribution of the benefits of each program or project.

6 Sec. 7. APPLICABILITY. The following apply to members  
7 appointed to the Iowa propane education and research council on  
8 or after the effective date of this Act:

9 1. The portions of the section of this Act amending section  
10 101C.3, subsections 1, 2, 5, and 6.

11 2. The section of this Act striking section 101C.3,  
12 subsection 3.

13 EXPLANATION

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

16 This bill relates to the Iowa propane education and research  
17 council (council). The bill strikes definitions for "energy star  
18 certification" and "weatherization".

19 The bill changes the membership of the council by removing  
20 all ex officio, nonvoting members, and adding the state fire  
21 marshal. The bill also requires qualified propane industry  
22 organizations to appoint members to the council rather than  
23 submitting a list of potential appointees to the state fire  
24 marshal. When selecting members, the bill requires qualified  
25 propane industry organizations to consider representatives from  
26 wholesalers, defined in the bill. The bill requires new  
27 appointees to the council to serve two-year terms, with initial  
28 appointments made such that at least four members are selected  
29 every year. Changes to the membership of the council apply to  
30 members appointed on or after the effective date of the bill.

31 The bill strikes a requirement that the council submit its  
32 proposed budget to the state fire marshal for review and comment.  
33 The bill changes the requirement that the council submit an audit  
34 of its books and a report regarding its programs by including  
35 those items in an annual report submitted by the council to the

1 general assembly and the auditor of state. The bill changes the  
2 types of energy efficiency education programs that the council  
3 may develop and strikes the authority of the council to establish  
4 quality standards in relation to weatherization and appliance  
5 installation.

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