

House File 949 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 949
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 250)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act concerning the duties of county commissioners and county
2 auditors.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 47.5, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 1. a. Except for legal services and printing of ballots,
4 the commissioner shall take bids for goods and services ~~which~~
5 that are needed in connection with registration of voters or
6 preparation for or administration of elections and ~~which that~~
7 will be performed or provided by persons who are not employees
8 of the commissioner under the following circumstances:

9 ~~a.~~ (1) In any case ~~where~~ when it is proposed to purchase
10 data processing services. The commissioner shall give the
11 registrar written notice in advance on each occasion when it
12 is proposed to have data processing services, necessary in
13 connection with the administration of elections, performed by
14 any person other than the registrar or an employee of the
15 county. Such notice shall be made at least thirty days prior to
16 publication of the specifications.

17 ~~b.~~ (2) ~~In all other cases, where the cost of the goods or~~
18 ~~services to be purchased will exceed one thousand dollars~~ For the
19 purchase of goods or services when the anticipated cost of the
20 goods or services exceeds fifty thousand dollars.

21 b. Notwithstanding paragraph "a", if the anticipated cost of
22 goods or services to be purchased by the commissioner is equal
23 to or less than fifty thousand dollars, the commissioner may use
24 an informal bid process to solicit written bids from at least
25 three qualified contractors that either sell the needed goods or
26 provide the needed services in accordance with applicable local,
27 state, or federal law.

28 Sec. 2. Section 64.24, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended to
29 read as follows:

30 1. ~~a.~~ The secretary of state, each county auditor, each
31 district court clerk, and each auditor or clerk of a city shall
32 keep a book, to be known as the "Record of Official Bonds", and
33 all official bonds shall be recorded therein in full as follows:

34 (1) a. In the record kept by the secretary of state, the
35 official bonds of all state officers, elective or appointive,

1 except the bonds of notaries public.

2 (2) b. In the record kept by the county auditor, the
3 official bonds of all county officers, elective or appointive,
4 and township clerks.

5 (3) c. In the record kept by the city auditor or clerk, the
6 official bonds of all city officers, elective or appointive.

7 (4) d. In the record kept by the district court clerk, the
8 official bonds of judicial magistrates.

9 ~~b. The records shall have an index which, under the title of~~
10 ~~each office, shall show the name of each principal and the date~~
11 ~~of the filing of the bond.~~

12 Sec. 3. Section 64.24, subsection 1, paragraph b, Code 2025,
13 is amended by striking the paragraph.

14 Sec. 4. Section 331.502, subsections 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15,
15 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30, 35, and 36, Code 2025, are amended by
16 striking the subsections.

17 Sec. 5. Section 331.508, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2025, are
18 amended by striking the subsections.

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 relates to the duties of county commissioners and
23 county auditors.

24 Under current law, the county commissioner must take bids for
25 goods and services when the cost of the goods or services to be
26 purchased will exceed \$1,000. The bill raises the threshold to
27 an amount exceeding \$50,000 and, if the anticipated cost is equal
28 to or less than \$50,000, the commissioner may use an informal
29 bid process to solicit written bids from at least three qualified
30 contractors that either sell the needed goods or provide the
31 needed services.

32 The secretary of state, each county auditor, district court
33 clerk, and each auditor or clerk of a city must keep a book
34 known as the "Record of Official Bonds". The bill eliminates the
35 requirement that the bonds be indexed in the book by the name of

1 the principal and the date the bond is filed.

2 The bill eliminates a variety of duties assigned to county
3 auditors including: attesting to anticipatory warrants issued
4 by the board for the operation of a county limestone quarry;
5 carrying out duties relating to the determination of residency,
6 collection of funds due the county, and support of persons
7 with intellectual disabilities; collecting the costs relating
8 to the treatment and care of private patients at the state
9 psychiatric hospital; carrying out duties relating to the
10 hospitalization and support of persons with mental illness;
11 issuing warrants and maintaining a permanent record of persons
12 receiving veteran assistance; ordering the county treasurer to
13 transfer tuition payments from the account of the debtor school
14 corporation to the creditor school corporation; ordering the
15 county treasurer to transfer transportation service fees from
16 the account of the debtor school corporation to the creditor
17 school corporation; apportioning school taxes, rents, and other
18 money dedicated for public school purposes; carrying out duties
19 relating to school lands and funds; carrying out duties
20 relating to the establishment, alteration, and vacation of public
21 highways; carrying out duties relating to the establishment and
22 maintenance of secondary roads; notifying the state department of
23 transportation of claims filed for improvements on public roads
24 payable from the primary road fund; acknowledging satisfaction
25 of the mortgage by execution of a written instrument referring
26 to the mortgage for payment of a permanent school fund mortgage;
27 and receiving moneys recovered from a person willfully committing
28 waste or trespass on real estate and recording in a book kept for
29 that purpose.

30 The bill eliminates certain books and records kept by county
31 auditors including an account book and index of persons receiving
32 mental health treatment and a permanent record of the names and
33 addresses of persons receiving veteran assistance.