

House File 971 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 971
BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 581)
(SUCCESSOR TO HF 130)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a scenic byways enhancement fund, including
2 by providing for voluntary contributions to the fund, making
3 appropriations, and including effective date provisions.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **307.50 Scenic byways enhancement**
2 **fund.**

3 1. A scenic byways enhancement fund is created in the state
4 treasury under the control of the department. The fund shall
5 consist of moneys transferred to the fund pursuant to section
6 321.44B and any other moneys appropriated to or deposited in the
7 fund. Moneys in the fund are appropriated to the department for
8 the support, development, maintenance, and enhancement, including
9 but not limited to litter prevention, of the scenic byways of
10 this state.

11 2. Notwithstanding section 8.33, moneys in the fund that
12 remain unencumbered or unobligated at the close of a fiscal
13 year shall not revert but shall remain available for expenditure
14 for the purposes designated. Notwithstanding section 12C.7,
15 subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys in the fund shall
16 be credited to the fund.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **321.44B Voluntary contribution —**
18 **scenic byways enhancement fund — amount retained by county**
19 **treasurer.**

20 For each application for vehicle registration renewal, the
21 county treasurer or the department shall request through use
22 of a written form, and, if the application is made in person,
23 through verbal communication, that an applicant make a voluntary
24 contribution of one dollar or more, computed to the nearest whole
25 dollar, to the scenic byways enhancement fund established in
26 section 307.50. One hundred percent of the moneys collected by
27 the county and one hundred percent of the moneys collected by
28 the department in the form of contributions shall be remitted
29 to the treasurer of state for deposit in the scenic byways
30 enhancement fund to be used for the purposes specified for the
31 fund. However, up to five percent of the moneys collected by
32 the county may be retained by the county treasurer for deposit in
33 the general fund of the county. The department shall adopt rules
34 pursuant to chapter 17A to administer this section.

35 Sec. 3. Section 331.557, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 1. Issue, renew, and replace lost or damaged vehicle
3 registration cards or plates and issue and transfer certificates
4 of title for vehicles, and collect voluntary contributions,
5 as provided in sections 321.17 through 321.20B, 321.22 through
6 321.26, 321.28 through 321.32, 321.34, 321.35, and 321.37 through
7 321.52.

8 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect January 1,
9 2026.

10 EXPLANATION

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

13 This bill creates a scenic byways enhancement fund and
14 appropriates moneys in the fund to the department of
15 transportation (DOT) for the support, development, maintenance,
16 and enhancement, including litter prevention, of scenic byways.
17 For each application to renew the registration of a vehicle,
18 the county treasurer or the DOT is required to request that an
19 applicant make a voluntary contribution of \$1 or more, computed
20 to the nearest whole dollar, to the scenic byways enhancement
21 fund. Up to 5 percent of the moneys collected by the county may
22 be retained by the county treasurer for deposit in the general
23 fund of the county.

24 The bill takes effect January 1, 2026.