

House Study Bill 562 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON JONES)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act creating a study committee on the feasibility of
2 implementing wildlife crossings at certain highway locations.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION — STUDY COMMITTEE
2 — FEASIBILITY OF IMPLEMENTING WILDLIFE CROSSINGS AT HIGHWAY
3 LOCATIONS.

4 1. The department of transportation shall convene a study
5 committee to produce a report on the feasibility of implementing
6 wildlife crossings at certain highway locations with high rates
7 of vehicle crashes involving animals. The department of
8 transportation shall file the study committee's report with the
9 general assembly on or before January 11, 2027.

10 2. The membership of the study committee shall consist of all
11 of the following persons or that person's designee:

12 a. The director of transportation.

13 b. The director of the department of natural resources.

14 c. The director of the institute for transportation at Iowa
15 state university of science and technology.

16 3. The study committee's report must include all of the
17 following:

18 a. A data-driven ranking of the highway locations in Iowa
19 with the highest number of vehicle crashes involving animals.
20 Such data must be derived from information the committee gathers
21 including statistics regarding average highway traffic volume,
22 animal carcass removals, vehicle crash reports for crashes
23 involving an animal, animal habitat and migration data, and any
24 other data the committee deems relevant. The ranking of highway
25 locations must include adjustments for unreported vehicle crashes
26 involving animals.

27 b. Recommendations to the general assembly on implementing
28 countermeasures to reduce the frequency of vehicle crashes
29 involving animals at specific highway locations, or within
30 specific highway corridors, including but not limited to
31 constructing highway overpasses or underpasses, and adding or
32 improving fencing along the highway.

33 c. Preliminary costs and crash-reduction estimates, including
34 benefit-to-cost ratios using the latest cost-benefit analysis
35 parameters.

1 d. A grant request strategy and timeline aligned to
2 applicable federal funding schedules, including for grants
3 awarded by the United States department of transportation,
4 through the federal highway administration for the wildlife
5 crossings pilot program.

6 4. The study committee shall adopt reporting milestones and
7 data standards to utilize while studying the feasibility of
8 implementing wildlife crossings at certain highway locations.
9 The department of transportation shall make available on the
10 department's internet site a study committee dashboard so members
11 of the public can follow the study committee's progress.

12 5. This section is repealed July 1, 2027.

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 directs the department of transportation (DOT) to
17 convene a study committee (committee) with the department of
18 natural resources and the institute for transportation at Iowa
19 state university of science and technology to produce a report
20 on the feasibility of implementing wildlife crossings at certain
21 highway locations with high rates of vehicle crashes involving
22 animals. The bill requires the DOT to file the committee's
23 report with the general assembly no later than January 11, 2027.

24 The bill sets forth specific requirements for the committee to
25 follow and specific data the committee must analyze when making
26 its report. The DOT is required to make available on the DOT's
27 internet site a committee dashboard so members of the public can
28 follow the committee's progress.