

**Senate File 503 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 503  
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1072)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to government bodies for purposes of open  
2 records, and making penalties applicable.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 22.1, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3 1. "Government body" means this state, or any county,  
4 city, township, school corporation, political subdivision,  
5 tax-supported district, or instrumentality of a county, city, or  
6 township; a nonprofit corporation other than a fair conducting  
7 a fair event as provided in chapter 174, whose facilities or  
8 indebtedness are supported in whole or in part with property tax  
9 revenue and which is licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering  
10 pursuant to chapter 99D; the governing body of a drainage  
11 or levee district as provided in chapter 468, including a  
12 board as defined in section 468.3, regardless of how the  
13 district is organized; or other entity of this state, or  
14 any branch, department, board, bureau, commission, council,  
15 committee, official, or officer of any of the foregoing or  
16 any employee delegated the responsibility for implementing the  
17 requirements of this chapter.

18 Sec. 2. Section 22.1, Code 2025, is amended by adding the  
19 following new subsection:

20 NEW SUBSECTION. 1A. a. "Instrumentality" means an entity to  
21 which all of the following apply:

22 (1) The entity serves a governmental purpose or performs a  
23 governmental function.

24 (2) The entity operates on behalf of one or more political  
25 subdivisions.

26 (3) One or more political subdivisions have the powers and  
27 interests of an owner with respect to the entity.

28 (4) Control and supervision of the entity is vested in  
29 members of one or more political subdivisions.

30 b. "Instrumentality" includes but is not limited to the  
31 following entities:

32 (1) The Iowa league of cities.

33 (2) The Iowa state association of counties.

34 (3) The Iowa stormwater education partnership.

35 c. "Instrumentality" does not include a state, county, or

1 city insurance group entity or an employee benefits group entity.

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EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

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This bill amends the definition of "government body" in  
6 Code chapter 22 (open records) to include an instrumentality  
7 of a county, city, or township, thereby subjecting such  
8 instrumentalities to open records requirements and associated  
9 civil penalties applicable to government bodies. The bill  
10 defines the term "instrumentality".

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By operation of law, the bill includes such instrumentalities  
12 as government bodies in, among other provisions, Code chapter  
13 23 (public access to government information), Code section  
14 543E.5 (exemption from provisions for real estate appraisal  
15 management companies), Code chapter 618 (publication and posting  
16 of notices), and Code section 721.1 (felonious misconduct in  
17 office). Under Code section 721.1, a public officer or employee  
18 who knowingly falsifies a writing, or knowingly delivers a  
19 falsified writing, with the knowledge that the writing is  
20 falsified and that the writing will become a public record of a  
21 government body, commits a class "D" felony. A class "D" felony  
22 is punishable by confinement for no more than five years and a  
23 fine of at least \$1,025 but not more than \$10,245.