

Senate File 594 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 594
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1206)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the state fire marshal to conduct a study on the
2 consolidation of fire protection services.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. STATE FIRE MARSHAL — COUNTYWIDE FIRE PROTECTION
2 SERVICES STUDY.

3 1. The state fire marshal shall conduct a study of fire
4 protection services in this state to analyze whether a structure
5 of countywide fire protection services would maximize fire
6 protection coverage and emergency response times. The study
7 shall be conducted in consultation with representatives from the
8 following stakeholders:

- 9 a. The department of homeland security and emergency
10 management.
- 11 b. The Iowa association of professional fire chiefs.
- 12 c. The Iowa fire chiefs' association.
- 13 d. The Iowa firefighters association.
- 14 e. The Iowa professional fire fighters.
- 15 f. At least one representative from a city having a
16 population of thirty-seven thousand or more as determined by the
17 2020 federal decennial census.
- 18 g. At least one representative from a city having a
19 population of less than five thousand as determined by the 2020
20 federal decennial census.
- 21 h. At least one representative from a county having a
22 population of ninety thousand or more as determined by the 2020
23 federal decennial census.
- 24 i. At least one representative from a county having a
25 population of less than seven thousand five hundred as determined
26 by the 2020 federal decennial census.
- 27 j. Four members of the general assembly serving as ex
28 officio, nonvoting members, one representative to be appointed by
29 the speaker of the house of representatives, one representative
30 to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
31 representatives, one senator to be appointed by the president of
32 the senate after consultation with the majority leader of the
33 senate, and one senator to be appointed by the minority leader of
34 the senate.

35 2. The countywide fire protection services study shall

1 include all of the following:

2 a. A cost analysis for upfront and ongoing costs to provide
3 consolidated countywide fire protection services systems. The
4 analysis and recommendations shall include proposed funding
5 mechanisms and potential consolidated funding resources that
6 comply with local, state, and federal law. The analysis shall
7 also include the potential effects countywide fire protection
8 services could have on local authority expenditures and budgets.

9 b. An analysis of current fire protection coverage including
10 current response times and recommendations for placement of
11 service stations to maximize fire protection coverage and
12 emergency response times in the most efficient and cost-effective
13 manner.

14 c. An analysis of current and future staffing needs including
15 a proposed employment structure for countywide fire protection
16 services that focuses on adequate employee pay and volunteer
17 staffing, including benefits, stipends, or other compensation
18 allowed in accordance with local, state, or federal law.

19 d. An analysis of current fire protection services equipment
20 and future fire protection services equipment needs including
21 proposed placement of fire protection services equipment in
22 service stations to maximize fire protection coverage and
23 emergency response times.

24 e. An analysis of current communication and dispatch
25 challenges including proposed recommendations for more efficient
26 and effective communications.

27 f. An analysis of the need for city and township fire
28 protection services in relation to the implementation of a
29 countywide fire protection service.

30 g. An analysis of existing countywide fire protection service
31 programs in this state including outlining current processes and
32 procedures.

33 h. An analysis of countywide fire protection services in
34 other states, with an emphasis on midwest states, including an
35 analysis of those fire protection programs in comparison to the

1 fire protection needs of this state.

2 i. Recommendations for the implementation of countywide
3 fire protection services in this state including proposed
4 functionality and an emphasis on the potential impact of
5 implementation on the following counties as determined by the
6 2020 federal decennial census:

7 (1) The county in this state with the highest population.

8 (2) Two of the next five most populous counties in this
9 state giving preference to those counties that have implemented
10 countywide emergency medical services in accordance with chapter
11 422D. The selection of the two counties out of the next five most
12 populous counties in this state shall be determined by the state
13 fire marshal in consultation with the stakeholders outlined in
14 subsection 1.

15 (3) The least populous county in this state.

16 (4) Two of the next five least populous counties in this
17 state giving preference to those counties that have implemented
18 countywide emergency medical services in accordance with chapter
19 422D. The selection of the two counties out of the next five
20 least populous counties in this state shall be determined by the
21 state fire marshal in consultation with the stakeholders outlined
22 in subsection 1.

23 3. The state fire marshal shall submit a report of the
24 study's findings to the general assembly on or before June 30,
25 2026.

26 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
27 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

28 EXPLANATION

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

31 This bill requires the state fire marshal, in consultation
32 with a variety of stakeholders, to submit a report of a
33 countywide fire protection services study's findings to the
34 general assembly on or before June 30, 2026. The bill provides
35 that the study must include all of the following: a cost

1 analysis for upfront and ongoing costs to provide consolidated
2 countywide fire protection services systems including proposed
3 funding mechanisms and the potential effect a countywide fire
4 protection service could have on local authority expenditures
5 and budgets; an analysis of current fire protection coverage
6 including current response times and recommendations for
7 placement of service stations to maximize fire protection
8 coverage and emergency response times; an analysis of current
9 and future staffing needs including a proposed employment
10 structure that focuses on adequate employee pay and volunteer
11 staffing including benefits, stipends, or other compensation
12 allowed in accordance with local, state, or federal law; an
13 analysis of current fire protection equipment and future fire
14 protection equipment needs including proposed placement of
15 fire protection equipment in service stations; an analysis of
16 current communication and dispatch challenges including proposed
17 recommendations for more efficient and effective communications;
18 an analysis of the need for city and township fire protection
19 services in relation to the implementation of a countywide fire
20 protection service; an analysis of existing countywide fire
21 protection service programs in this state and midwest states;
22 and recommendations for the implementation of countywide fire
23 protection services in this state with an emphasis on the effects
24 the consolidated services could have on particular counties.

25 The bill takes effect upon enactment.