

**Senate File 75 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 75  
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1018)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to county supervisors, concerning county  
2 supervisor representation plans and county supervisor  
3 vacancies, and including effective date provisions.  
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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DIVISION I

PLAN "THREE" COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPRESENTATION PLANS AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Section 1. Section 331.206, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

a. The plan used under subsection 1 shall be selected by the board or by a special election as provided in section 331.207. A plan selected by the board shall remain in effect for at least six years and shall only be changed by a special election as provided in section 331.207. However, a county with either a population of one hundred twenty-five thousand or more based on the most recent federal decennial census or the main campus of an institution of higher learning governed by the state board of regents shall use plan "three" for the election of supervisors.

Sec. 2. Section 331.207, subsections 2 and 5, Code 2025, are amended to read as follows:

2. The petition shall be filed with the county commissioner by June 1 of an odd-numbered year, subject to subsection ~~6~~ 7. The special election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in August ~~November~~ of the odd-numbered year. Notice of the special election shall be published once each week for three successive weeks in an official newspaper of the county, shall state the representation plans to be submitted to the electors, and shall state the date of the special election. The last in the series of publications shall occur not less than four nor more than twenty days before the election.

5. If the plan adopted by a plurality of the ballots cast in the special election represents a change from plan "one" to plan "two" or "three", or from plan "two" to plan "three", as each plan is defined in section 331.206, the temporary county redistricting commission shall divide the county into districts as provided in sections 331.209 and 331.210. The plan shall be completed not later than ~~November 1~~ December 31 following the special election and shall be submitted to the state commissioner of elections. The plan shall become effective the following

1 January 1.

2 Sec. 3. Section 331.207, subsection 6, Code 2025, is amended  
3 by striking the subsection.

4 Sec. 4. TRANSITION PROVISION.

5 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
6 a county with either a population of one hundred twenty-five  
7 thousand or more based on the most recent federal decennial  
8 census or the main campus of an institution of higher learning  
9 governed by the state board of regents that does not use  
10 plan "three" for the election of supervisors, as defined in  
11 section 331.206, as of the effective date of this Act, shall  
12 elect supervisors using plan "three" during the 2026 general  
13 election, using a representation plan drawn pursuant to section  
14 331.210A, subsection 2, paragraph "f", and the requirements of  
15 this section.

16 2. A county required to use a representation plan as provided  
17 in this section shall establish a temporary county redistricting  
18 commission by the later of thirty days after the effective date  
19 of this Act or May 15, 2025, and shall complete a precinct  
20 plan, in conformity with the requirements of sections 331.209  
21 and 331.210A, no later than October 1, 2025. The precinct  
22 plan shall be submitted to the state commissioner of elections  
23 and the legislative services agency shall draw and publish the  
24 representation plan by January 1, 2026.

25 DIVISION II

26 COUNTY SUPERVISOR VACANCIES

27 Sec. 5. Section 43.6, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 2. When a vacancy occurs in the office of county supervisor  
30 or any of the offices listed in section 39.17 and more than  
31 seventy days remain in the term of office following the next  
32 general election, the office shall be filled for the balance  
33 of the unexpired term at that general election unless the  
34 vacancy has been filled by a special election called more than  
35 seventy-three days before the primary election. If the vacancy

1 occurs more than seventy-three days before the primary election,  
2 political party candidates for that office at the next general  
3 election shall be nominated at the primary election. If an  
4 appointment to fill the vacancy in office is made in accordance  
5 with section 69.14A, subsection 1, paragraph "a", eighty-eight or  
6 more days before the primary election and a petition requesting  
7 a special election has not been received within fourteen days  
8 after the appointment is made, candidates for the office shall be  
9 nominated at the primary election.

10 Sec. 6. Section 69.14A, subsection 1, paragraph a, unnumbered  
11 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

12 By If the population of the county is less than one hundred  
13 twenty-five thousand based on the most recent federal decennial  
14 census and if the county does not include the main campus of  
15 an institution of higher learning governed by the state board  
16 of regents, by appointment by the committee of county officers  
17 designated to fill the vacancy in section 69.8.

18 Sec. 7. Section 69.14A, subsection 1, paragraph b, unnumbered  
19 paragraph 1, Code 2025, is amended to read as follows:

20 By If the population of the county is one hundred  
21 twenty-five thousand or more based on the most recent federal  
22 decennial census or the county includes the main campus of an  
23 institution of higher learning governed by the state board of  
24 regents, by special election held to fill the office for the  
25 remaining balance of the unexpired term.

26 Sec. 8. Section 331.201, subsection 3, Code 2025, is amended  
27 to read as follows:

28 3. The office of supervisor is an elective office except that  
29 if a vacancy occurs on the board, a successor may be appointed  
30 to the unexpired term as provided in section 69.14A, subsection  
31 1, paragraph "a", if the population of the county is less than  
32 one hundred twenty-five thousand based on the most recent federal  
33 decennial census and if the county does not include the main  
34 campus of an institution of higher learning governed by the state  
35 board of regents.

1 Sec. 9. Section 331.214, subsection 2, paragraph c, Code  
2 2025, is amended to read as follows:

3 c. If the board declares a vacancy under this subsection and  
4 the remaining balance of the supervisor's unexpired term is two  
5 and one-half years or more, a special election shall be held  
6 to fill the office as provided in section 69.14A, subsection 1,  
7 paragraph "c", if the population of the county is one hundred  
8 twenty-five thousand or more based on the most recent federal  
9 decennial census or the county includes the main campus of an  
10 institution of higher learning governed by the state board of  
11 regents. However, if the population of the county is less than  
12 one hundred twenty-five thousand based on the most recent federal  
13 decennial census and if the county does not include the main  
14 campus of an institution of higher learning governed by the state  
15 board of regents, an appointment shall be made to fill the office  
16 as provided in section 69.14A, subsection 1, paragraph "a".

17 DIVISION III

18 EFFECTIVE DATE

19 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate  
20 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

21 EXPLANATION

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

24 This bill concerns county supervisor representation plans and  
25 county supervisor vacancies.

26 DIVISION I — PLAN "THREE" COUNTY SUPERVISOR REPRESENTATION  
27 PLANS AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS. The bill requires a county with  
28 either a population of 125,000 or more based on the most recent  
29 federal decennial census or the main campus of an institution  
30 of higher learning governed by the state board of regents  
31 to use plan "three" for the election of county supervisors.  
32 Plan "three" requires individual members of the board of  
33 supervisors for that county to be elected from single-member,  
34 equal-population districts. The bill provides that such counties  
35 that do not use plan "three" for the election of supervisors

1 as of the effective date of the bill must submit a precinct  
2 plan to the state commissioner of elections by October 1. The  
3 legislative services agency must draw the representation plan,  
4 in conformity with the provisions of law governing the adoption  
5 of a plan "three" representation plan, for use by such counties  
6 to elect supervisors under plan "three" during the 2026 general  
7 election.

8 The bill requires special elections for the purpose of  
9 selecting a supervisor representation plan to be held on the  
10 first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, rather than the  
11 first Tuesday in August. In accordance with Code section 39.2  
12 (special elections), a special election may be held on the same  
13 day as a regularly scheduled election. The bill also requires a  
14 new representation plan, if a plan "two" or "three" is approved  
15 at the special election, to be completed not later than December  
16 31, rather than November 1. Such a plan will still take effect  
17 the following January 1.

18 The bill fixes an internal subsection reference that  
19 was inadvertently not updated when Code section 331.207 was  
20 renumbered for the 2019 Code.

21 DIVISION II — COUNTY SUPERVISOR VACANCIES. The bill requires  
22 vacancies on the board of supervisors to be filled by special  
23 election in a county with either a population of 125,000 or more  
24 or the main campus of an institution of higher learning governed  
25 by the state board of regents. Current law allows for vacancies  
26 to be filled by appointment under certain circumstances. The  
27 bill requires vacancies to be filled by appointment in a county  
28 with a population of less than 125,000 that does not include an  
29 institution of higher learning governed by the state board of  
30 regents in accordance with current law, including a vacancy that  
31 is treated as a resignation due to the physical or mental status  
32 of a supervisor.

33 DIVISION III — EFFECTIVE DATE. The bill takes effect upon  
34 enactment.