

**Senate Study Bill 1206 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE \_\_\_\_\_  
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL BY  
CHAIRPERSON WEBSTER)

**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.
- 17 g. At least one representative from a city having a  
18 population of less than five thousand.
- 19 h. At least one representative from a county having a  
20 population of ninety thousand or more.
- 21 i. At least one representative from a county having a  
22 population of less than seven thousand five hundred.
- 23 j. Four members of the general assembly serving as ex  
24 officio, nonvoting members, one representative to be appointed by  
25 the speaker of the house of representatives, one representative  
26 to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
27 representatives, one senator to be appointed by the president of  
28 the senate after consultation with the majority leader of the  
29 senate, and one senator to be appointed by the minority leader of  
30 the senate.

31 2. The countywide fire protection services study shall  
32 include all of the following:

- 33 a. A cost analysis for upfront and ongoing costs to provide  
34 consolidated countywide fire protection services systems. The  
35 analysis and recommendations shall include proposed funding

1 mechanisms and potential consolidated funding resources that  
2 comply with local, state, and federal law. The analysis shall  
3 also include the potential effects countywide fire protection  
4 services could have on local authority expenditures and budgets.

5 b. An analysis of current fire protection coverage including  
6 current response times and recommendations for placement of  
7 service stations to maximize fire protection coverage and  
8 emergency response times in the most efficient and cost-effective  
9 manner.

10 c. An analysis of current and future staffing needs including  
11 a proposed employment structure for countywide fire protection  
12 services that focuses on adequate employee pay and volunteer  
13 staffing.

14 d. An analysis of current fire protection services equipment  
15 and future fire protection services equipment needs including  
16 proposed placement of fire protection services equipment in  
17 service stations to maximize fire protection coverage and  
18 emergency response times.

19 e. An analysis of current communication and dispatch  
20 challenges including proposed recommendations for more efficient  
21 and effective communications.

22 f. An analysis of the need for city and township fire  
23 protection services in relation to the implementation of a  
24 countywide fire protection service.

25 g. An analysis of existing countywide fire protection service  
26 programs in this state including outlining current processes and  
27 procedures.

28 h. An analysis of countywide fire protection services in  
29 other states, with an emphasis on midwest states, including an  
30 analysis of those fire protection programs in comparison to the  
31 fire protection needs of this state.

32 i. Recommendations for the implementation of countywide  
33 fire protection services in this state including proposed  
34 functionality and an emphasis on the potential impact of  
35 implementation on the following counties as determined by the

1 2020 federal decennial census:

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

3 (2) Two of the next five most populous counties in this  
4 state giving preference to those counties that have implemented  
5 countywide emergency management services. The selection of the  
6 two counties out of the next five most populous counties in  
7 this state shall be determined by the state fire marshal in  
8 consultation with the stakeholders outlined in subsection 1.

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

10 (4) Two of the next five least populous counties in this  
11 state giving preference to those counties that have implemented  
12 countywide emergency management services. The selection of the  
13 two counties out of the next five least populous counties in  
14 this state shall be determined by the state fire marshal in  
15 consultation with the stakeholders outlined in subsection 1.

16 3. The state fire marshal shall submit a report of the  
17 study's findings to the general assembly on or before June 30,  
18 2026.

19 Sec. 2. 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 requires the state fire marshal, in consultation  
25 with a variety of stakeholders, to submit a report of a  
26 countywide fire protection services study's findings to the  
27 general assembly on or before June 30, 2026. The bill provides  
28 that the study must include all of the following: a cost  
29 analysis for upfront and ongoing costs to provide consolidated  
30 countywide fire protection services systems including proposed  
31 funding mechanisms and the potential effect a countywide fire  
32 protection service could have on local authority expenditures  
33 and budgets; an analysis of current fire protection coverage  
34 including current response times and recommendations for  
35 placement of service stations to maximize fire protection

1 coverage and emergency response times; an analysis of current and  
2 future staffing needs including a proposed employment structure  
3 that focuses on adequate employee pay and volunteer staffing;  
4 an analysis of current fire protection equipment and future  
5 fire protection equipment needs including proposed placement of  
6 fire protection equipment in service stations; an analysis of  
7 current communication and dispatch challenges including proposed  
8 recommendations for more efficient and effective communications;  
9 an analysis of the need for city and township fire protection  
10 services in relation to the implementation of a countywide fire  
11 protection service; an analysis of existing countywide fire  
12 protection service programs in this state and midwest states;  
13 and recommendations for the implementation of countywide fire  
14 protection services in this state with an emphasis on the effects  
15 the consolidated services could have on particular counties.  
16 The bill takes effect upon enactment.