

Senate Study Bill 3150 - Introduced

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
STATE GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON ROZENBOOM)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to matters associated with county officers.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 35B.10, subsection 2, Code 2026, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 2. The county commission of veteran affairs shall prepare
4 ~~and file in the office of the county auditor~~ on or before the
5 thirtieth day of each January, April, July, and October a report
6 showing the case numbers of all recipients receiving assistance
7 under this chapter, together with the amount paid to each during
8 the preceding quarter. Each report ~~so filed~~ shall be maintained
9 as a permanent record to be used only for such reports made under
10 this chapter.

11 Sec. 2. Section 39.17, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 1. There shall be elected in each county at the general
14 election to be held in the year ~~1976~~ 2028 and every four years
15 thereafter, ~~an auditor and a sheriff,~~ each to hold office for a
16 term of four years.

17 Sec. 3. Section 39.21, Code 2026, is amended by adding the
18 following new subsection:

19 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. County auditors as required by section
20 331.501A.

21 Sec. 4. Section 53.2, subsection 2, paragraph d, Code 2026,
22 is amended to read as follows:

23 d. (1) No Except as provided in subparagraphs (2) and (3),
24 an absentee ballot application shall not be provided to a
25 registered voter with any field prefilled, except that the.

26 (2) The absentee ballot application may have the fields for
27 the type and date of the election prefilled.

28 (3) A county commissioner of elections may provide an
29 absentee ballot with the personal information of a registered
30 voter prefilled to a registered voter who appears to vote in
31 person pursuant to section 53.10 or 53.11 and whose identity has
32 been verified as provided in section 49.78.

33 Sec. 5. Section 53.8, subsection 1, paragraph a, unnumbered
34 paragraph 1, Code 2026, is amended to read as follows:

35 Upon receipt of an application for an absentee ballot and

1 immediately after the absentee ballots are printed, but not
2 more than ~~twenty~~ twenty-five days before the election, the
3 commissioner shall mail an absentee ballot to the applicant
4 within twenty-four hours, except as otherwise provided in
5 subsection 3. The absentee ballot shall be sent to the
6 registered voter by one of the following methods:

7 Sec. 6. Section 53.17A, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 2. The state commissioner shall adopt rules regarding the
10 statewide implementation of a ~~postal service barcode and tracking~~
11 information database and the implementation of a postal service
12 barcode for absentee ballots requested or returned pursuant
13 to section 9E.6, 53.22, 53.39, 53.44, or 53.45, including
14 procedures to be followed when usage of a postal service
15 barcode or the tracking information database is negatively
16 impacted. Each commissioner shall use a postal service barcode
17 and tracking information database consistent with rules of the
18 state commissioner. ~~Every commissioner shall send notice to the~~
19 ~~state commissioner and implement the use of a postal service~~
20 ~~barcode and tracking information database prior to October 1,~~
21 ~~2020.~~

22 Sec. 7. Section 53.17A, subsection 3, paragraph a, Code 2026,
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 a. An absentee ballot requested or returned pursuant to
25 section 9E.6, 53.22, 53.39, 53.44, or 53.45 and received after
26 the polls close on election day but prior to the official canvass
27 shall be counted if the commissioner determines that the ballot
28 entered the federal mail system by the deadline specified in
29 section 53.17 or 53.22. The date of entry of such an absentee
30 ballot into the federal mail system shall only be verified as
31 provided in paragraph "b".

32 Sec. 8. Section 298.11, Code 2026, is amended to read as
33 follows:

34 **298.11 Apportionment of school funds.**

35 1. The county ~~auditor~~ treasurer shall, on the first Monday

1 in April and the first Monday in October of each year, apportion
2 the school tax, together with rents on unsold school lands to
3 which the county is entitled as shown in notice from the director
4 of the department of administrative services, and all other
5 moneys in the hands of the county treasurer belonging in common
6 to the schools of the county and not included in a previous
7 apportionment, among the corporations in the county in the manner
8 provided by law.

9 ~~2. The county auditor shall immediately notify the county~~
10 ~~treasurer of such apportionment and of the amount due thereby to~~
11 ~~each corporation.~~

12 ~~3.~~ 2. The county treasurer shall thereupon give notice
13 to the president of each corporation, and shall pay out such
14 apportionment moneys in the same manner that the county treasurer
15 is authorized to pay other school moneys to the treasurers of the
16 several school districts.

17 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. **331.501A Election of auditor.**

18 1. There shall be elected in each county at the general
19 election a county auditor, who shall hold office for a term of
20 four years.

21 2. The ballot for county auditor shall not reflect a
22 nominee's political affiliation.

23 3. Nomination of candidates for the office of county auditor
24 shall be made by petition in accordance with chapter 45.

25 Sec. 10. Section 331.502, subsections 10, 11, 16, and 35,
26 Code 2026, are amended by striking the subsections.

27 Sec. 11. Section 331.502, subsection 12, Code 2026, is
28 amended to read as follows:

29 12. Issue warrants ~~and maintain a permanent record for~~
30 payment of claims of persons receiving veteran assistance as
31 provided in section 35B.10.

32 Sec. 12. Section 331.508, subsections 4 and 5, Code 2026, are
33 amended by striking the subsections.

34 Sec. 13. Section 331.552, subsection 16, Code 2026, is
35 amended to read as follows:

1 16. Pay Apportion and pay to the treasurers of the school
2 corporations located in the county the taxes and other moneys
3 due as provided in section 298.11 and send amounts collected for
4 each fund of a school corporation for direct deposit into the
5 depository and account designated as provided in section 298.13.

6 Sec. 14. Section 331.552, Code 2026, is amended by adding the
7 following new subsection:

8 NEW SUBSECTION. 37. Receive and record in a book kept for
9 that purpose, moneys recovered from a person willfully committing
10 waste or trespass on real estate as provided in section 658.10.

11 Sec. 15. Section 331.907, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 1. The annual compensation of the auditor, treasurer,
14 recorder, sheriff, county attorney, and supervisors shall be
15 determined as provided in this section. The county compensation
16 board annually shall review the compensation paid to comparable
17 officers in other counties of this state, other states, private
18 enterprise, and the federal government, as well as school
19 business officials, state employees, and city clerks employed
20 by cities of similar population to the county. In setting
21 the salary of the county sheriff, the county compensation board
22 shall set the sheriff's salary so that it is comparable to
23 salaries paid to professional law enforcement administrators and
24 command officers of the state patrol, the division of criminal
25 investigation of the department of public safety, and city
26 police chiefs employed by cities of similar population to the
27 population of the county. The county compensation board shall
28 prepare a compensation schedule for the elected county officers
29 for the succeeding fiscal year. The county compensation board
30 shall provide documentation to the board of supervisors that
31 demonstrates how the county compensation board determined the
32 recommended compensation schedule, including by providing the
33 applicable compensation information for comparable officers ~~in~~
34 ~~other counties of this state, other states, private enterprise,~~
35 ~~and the federal government~~ as described in this subsection. A

1 recommended compensation schedule requires a majority vote of the
2 membership of the county compensation board.

3 Sec. 16. Section 658.10, Code 2026, is amended to read as
4 follows:

5 **658.10 Disposition of money.**

6 All money recovered in an action brought under section 658.9
7 shall be paid by the officer collecting it to the ~~auditor~~
8 treasurer of the county in which the lands are situated, which
9 shall be held by the ~~auditor~~ treasurer, and an entry thereof made
10 in a book kept for that purpose, until the lands are redeemed,
11 or a treasurer's deed therefor executed to the holder of said
12 certificate. If redemption is made, the money shall be paid to
13 the owner of the land, and if not, to the person to whom the deed
14 is executed.

15 Sec. 17. REPEAL. Section 225.35, Code 2026, is repealed.

16 EXPLANATION

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

19 This bill relates to matters associated with county officers.

20 The bill strikes a requirement that a county commission of
21 veteran affairs file in the office of the county auditor a report
22 regarding recipients of services from the county commission of
23 veteran affairs. Under the bill, the commission rather than the
24 auditor is responsible for maintaining permanent records of the
25 reports. Under current law and the bill, a person who discloses,
26 authorizes, knowingly permits, participates in, or acquiesces
27 in the use of any lists, names, or other information obtained
28 from the reports for commercial or political purposes commits
29 a serious misdemeanor. A serious misdemeanor is punishable by
30 confinement for no more than one year and a fine of at least \$430
31 but not more than \$2,560.

32 The bill changes elections for county auditors from partisan
33 elections to nonpartisan elections. The bill requires candidates
34 for election to the office of county auditor to be nominated
35 by petition as provided in Code chapter 45 (nominations by

1 petition).

2 The bill allows a county auditor, in the auditor's role
3 as county commissioner of elections, to provide an absentee
4 ballot to a voter with the personal information prefilled if
5 the voter appears to vote absentee in person and the voter's
6 identity has been verified as provided in Code section 49.78
7 (voter identity and signature verification). The bill changes
8 the first day on which a county commissioner of elections may
9 mail absentee ballots from 20 days before an election to 25 days
10 before an election. The bill requires a county commissioner of
11 elections to implement a postal service barcode only for absentee
12 ballots requested or returned by a confined person or a person
13 participating in the address confidentiality program or voting
14 pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee
15 Voting Act. Current law requires the implementation of a postal
16 service barcode for all absentee ballots.

17 The bill changes the person responsible for the apportionment
18 of school tax, rents, and other moneys belonging to schools
19 from the county auditor to the county treasurer. The bill
20 strikes requirements that a county auditor collect the costs
21 relating to the treatment and care of private patients at the
22 state psychiatric hospital and carry out duties relating to the
23 hospitalization and support of persons with mental illness. The
24 bill also strikes a reference to a repealed requirement that
25 a county auditor maintain an account book and index of persons
26 receiving mental health treatment.

27 When reviewing the compensation of county officers, the bill
28 requires a county compensation board to review compensation paid
29 to school business officials, state employees, and city clerks
30 employed by cities of similar population to the county. Current
31 law requires a county compensation board to review compensation
32 paid to comparable officers in other counties of this state,
33 other states, private enterprise, and the federal government.

34 The bill requires money recovered by the owner of a
35 treasurer's certificate of purchase of land sold for taxes from

S.F. _____

1 a person willfully committing waste or trespass on the land to be
2 paid to the county treasurer rather than the county auditor.

unofficial