

House File 2659 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2659
BY COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
GROWTH AND TECHNOLOGY

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2312)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act establishing an affordable housing task force.
- 2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING TASK FORCE.

2 1. An affordable housing task force is created to identify
3 state and local regulatory barriers that contribute to the cost
4 of affordable housing and to examine the corresponding public
5 benefit of such regulations relative to their impact on housing
6 costs.

7 2. The task force shall study and make recommendations
8 concerning state and local regulations and practices affecting
9 the development and availability of affordable housing,
10 including but not limited to the following areas:

- 11 a. Zoning and land use regulations.
- 12 b. State and local building codes.
- 13 c. Permitting and approval processes.
- 14 d. State and local funding mechanisms.

15 3. The task force members shall be chosen to reflect
16 geographic diversity and shall consist of the following:

- 17 a. The state building code commissioner or the
18 commissioner's designee.
- 19 b. The state fire marshal or the fire marshal's designee.
- 20 c. The director of the Iowa economic development authority
21 or the director's designee.
- 22 d. Three members representing housing developers, appointed
23 by the governor.
- 24 e. One elected official of a city with a population of fifty
25 thousand or more, appointed by the governor.
- 26 f. One elected official of a city with a population of fewer
27 than fifty thousand, appointed by the governor.
- 28 g. One county supervisor from a county with a population of
29 fifty thousand or more, appointed by the governor.
- 30 h. One county supervisor from a county with a population of
31 fewer than fifty thousand, appointed by the governor.
- 32 i. Two members of the house of representatives, one
33 appointed by the speaker of the house and one appointed by the
34 minority leader of the house.
- 35 j. Two members of the senate, one appointed by the majority

1 leader of the senate and one appointed by the minority leader
2 of the senate.

3 k. A director of a city's or county's planning and zoning
4 department, division, or authority, or similar entity even
5 if a different nomenclature is used to describe the entity,
6 appointed by the governor.

7 l. One member of a housing nonprofit organization,
8 appointed by the governor.

9 m. One member of the housing lending organization,
10 appointed by the governor.

11 n. One member of an economic development group, appointed by
12 the governor.

13 4. Members of the task force shall serve without
14 compensation but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses
15 incurred in the performance of their official duties. Task
16 force members who are members of the general assembly shall
17 be paid in accordance with section 2.32A. The remaining task
18 force members shall be reimbursed from moneys appropriated for
19 such a purpose.

20 5. On or before December 1, 2026, the task force shall
21 submit a written report to the general assembly detailing
22 the task force's findings and recommendations, including
23 any proposed statutory or administrative changes to reduce
24 regulatory barriers to affordable housing while preserving
25 public health and safety.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 This bill establishes an affordable housing task force to
30 study state and local regulations that contribute to the cost
31 of affordable housing and to examine the corresponding public
32 benefit of such regulations relative to their impact on housing
33 costs.

34 The bill requires the task force to examine zoning and land
35 use regulations, state and local building codes, permitting

1 and approval processes, and state and local funding mechanisms
2 affecting the development and availability of affordable
3 housing.

4 The bill establishes the membership of the task force,
5 which includes representatives from state agencies, housing
6 developers, local government officials from cities and counties
7 of varying population sizes, members of the general assembly,
8 a director of a city's or county's planning and zoning
9 department, and members from a housing nonprofit organization,
10 housing lending organization, and economic development
11 group. The bill requires the members to be chosen to reflect
12 geographic diversity.

13 The bill requires the task force to submit a written report
14 to the general assembly and the governor by December 1, 2026,
15 detailing the task force's findings and recommendations,
16 including any proposed statutory or administrative changes
17 intended to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable housing
18 while preserving public health and safety.