

**Senate File 2394 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2394

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3173)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to a statewide urban design and specifications  
2 board, including assessment of costs for local government  
3 projects that do not comply with the board's design or  
4 specifications manuals.

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

1 Section 1. Section 307.22, Code 2026, is amended by adding  
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 7. Ensure planning and programming  
4 activities comply with the statewide urban design standards  
5 and specifications developed by the statewide urban design and  
6 specifications board pursuant to section 307.22A.

7 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **307.22A Statewide urban design and**  
8 **specifications board.**

9 1. A statewide urban design and specifications board is  
10 established within the department. The board shall develop  
11 statewide urban design standards and specifications. The  
12 board shall publish on the department's internet site a design  
13 manual and a specifications manual. The board may solicit  
14 recommendations from the institute for transportation at the  
15 Iowa state university of science and technology.

16 2. The statewide urban design and specifications board  
17 shall consist of the following members:

18 a. Three employees of the department appointed by the  
19 director.

20 b. Two members appointed by the Iowa state association of  
21 counties.

22 c. Two members appointed by the Iowa league of cities.

23 d. Two members appointed by the home builders association  
24 of Iowa.

25 e. One member appointed by the associated general  
26 contractors of Iowa.

27 f. One member appointed by the master builders of Iowa.

28 g. One member appointed by the asphalt association of Iowa.

29 h. One member appointed by the Iowa real estate developers  
30 association.

31 i. One member appointed by the Iowa concrete paving  
32 association.

33 j. One member appointed by the associated builders and  
34 contractors of Iowa.

35 3. The regular term of appointment is four years. A vacancy

1 shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in the  
2 same manner as the original appointment.

3 4. Members of the board shall serve without compensation  
4 from the state and are not eligible to receive reimbursement  
5 for expenses using state moneys. However, state employees  
6 serving on the board shall receive their regular compensation  
7 for board duties performed during the hours the person  
8 regularly performs work for the state.

9 5. The statewide urban design and specifications board  
10 shall publish on the department's internet site an analysis  
11 of any changes made to the statewide urban design and  
12 specifications manuals and provide an estimate of expected cost  
13 variations that are likely be incurred, if any, by implementing  
14 the changes.

15 6. The board is not subject to section 4A.5.

16 Sec. 3. Section 331.301, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
17 following new subsection:

18 NEW SUBSECTION. 30. A county that approves a project plan  
19 that does not comply with statewide urban design standards and  
20 specifications, as published by the statewide urban design  
21 and specifications board pursuant to section 307.22A, is  
22 responsible for paying any additional costs for the project  
23 resulting from the noncompliance. A property owner shall not  
24 be assessed any costs relating to projects on or adjacent to  
25 the owner's property that result from the county's noncompliant  
26 plan.

27 Sec. 4. Section 364.3, Code 2026, is amended by adding the  
28 following new subsection:

29 NEW SUBSECTION. 24. A city that approves a project plan  
30 that does not comply with the statewide urban design standards  
31 and specifications, as published by the statewide urban design  
32 and specifications board pursuant to section 307.22A, is  
33 responsible for paying any additional costs for the project  
34 resulting from the noncompliance. A property owner shall not  
35 be assessed any costs relating to projects on or adjacent to

1 the owner's property that result from the city's noncompliant  
2 plan.

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EXPLANATION

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

6       This bill establishes the statewide urban design and  
7 specifications board (SUDAS board) within the department of  
8 transportation (DOT). The SUDAS board is required to develop  
9 statewide urban design standards and specifications (SUDAS),  
10 which may include soliciting recommendations from the institute  
11 for transportation at Iowa state university. Currently,  
12 the institute maintains Iowa's SUDAS manuals for public  
13 improvements.

14       The bill provides for 15 members from the DOT and various  
15 nongovernment entities to serve as members on the SUDAS board.  
16 The SUDAS board is required to publish on the DOT's internet  
17 site a design manual and a specifications manual, along with  
18 an analysis of any changes to the SUDAS manuals, and provide  
19 an estimate of expected cost variations that are likely to  
20 be incurred, if any, by implementing the changes. A SUDAS  
21 board member's regular term of appointment is four years, and a  
22 vacancy must be filled for the unexpired portion of the term in  
23 the same manner as the original appointment.

24       The bill provides that the SUDAS board does not dissolve  
25 under Code section 4A.5.

26       The bill requires a county or city that approves a project  
27 plan that does not comply with the SUDAS manuals to pay any  
28 additional costs for projects resulting from the noncompliance.  
29 A property owner cannot be assessed any costs relating to  
30 projects on or adjacent to the owner's property that result  
31 from the county's or city's noncompliant plan.