

Senate File 594 - Reprinted

SENATE FILE 594
BY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1206)

(As Amended and Passed by the Senate March 18, 2025)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act requiring the state fire marshal to conduct a study on
2 the consolidation of fire protection services, and including
3 effective date provisions.

4 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. The Iowa emergency management association.
- 16 g. At least one attorney licensed to practice law in this
17 state with experience representing entities associated with fire
18 protection services.
- 19 h. At least one representative from a city having a
20 population of thirty-seven thousand or more as determined by the
21 2020 federal decennial census.
- 22 i. At least one representative from a city having a
23 population of less than five thousand as determined by the 2020
24 federal decennial census.
- 25 j. At least one representative from a county having a
26 population of ninety thousand or more as determined by the 2020
27 federal decennial census.
- 28 k. Four members of the general assembly serving as ex
29 officio, nonvoting members, one representative to be appointed by
30 the speaker of the house of representatives, one representative
31 to be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
32 representatives, one senator to be appointed by the president of
33 the senate after consultation with the majority leader of the
34 senate, and one senator to be appointed by the minority leader of
35 the senate.

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

- 3 a. A cost analysis for upfront and ongoing costs to provide
4 consolidated countywide fire protection services systems. The
5 analysis and recommendations shall include proposed funding
6 mechanisms and potential consolidated funding resources that
7 comply with local, state, and federal law. The analysis shall
8 also include the potential effects countywide fire protection
9 services could have on local authority expenditures and budgets.
- 10 b. An analysis of current fire protection coverage including
11 current response times and recommendations for placement of
12 service stations to maximize fire protection coverage and
13 emergency response times in the most efficient and cost-effective
14 manner.
- 15 c. An analysis of current and future staffing needs including
16 a proposed employment structure for countywide fire protection
17 services that focuses on adequate employee pay and volunteer
18 staffing, including benefits, stipends, or other compensation
19 allowed in accordance with local, state, or federal law.
- 20 d. An analysis of current fire protection services equipment
21 and future fire protection services equipment needs including
22 proposed placement of fire protection services equipment in
23 service stations to maximize fire protection coverage and
24 emergency response times.
- 25 e. An analysis of current communication and dispatch
26 challenges including proposed recommendations for more efficient
27 and effective communications.
- 28 f. An analysis of the need for city and township fire
29 protection services in relation to the implementation of a
30 countywide fire protection service.
- 31 g. An analysis of existing countywide fire protection service
32 programs in this state including outlining current processes
33 and procedures. The analysis under this paragraph must include
34 outlines of any current or proposed fire protection service
35 programs under chapter 28E, 357B, 357F, 357G, or 357J, and

1 any other legal agreement, contract, or consolidated effort,
2 including as part of a district.

3 h. An analysis of countywide fire protection services in
4 other states, with an emphasis on midwest states, including an
5 analysis of those fire protection programs in comparison to the
6 fire protection needs of this state.

7 i. Recommendations for the implementation of countywide
8 fire protection services in this state including proposed
9 functionality and an emphasis on the potential impact of
10 implementation on the four most populous counties in this state
11 as determined by the 2020 federal decennial census, along with
12 surrounding counties if a multicounty approach to fire protection
13 services would be more beneficial based on the study's findings.

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

17 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
18 importance, takes effect upon enactment.