

Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund Bill House File 971

Last Action:
House Appropriations
Committee
March 20, 2025

Executive Summary Only

An Act establishing a Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund, including by providing for voluntary contributions to the Fund, making appropriations, and including effective date provisions.

**Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency**

NOTES ON BILLS AND AMENDMENTS (NOBA)

Available online at www.legis.iowa.gov/publications/information/appropriationBillAnalysis

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SCENIC BYWAYS ENHANCEMENT FUND BILL

NEW PROGRAMS, SERVICES, OR ACTIVITIES

Establishes a Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund under the control of the Department of Transportation (DOT). The Fund will consist of voluntary contributions and any other appropriations. The money will be used by the DOT to support, development, maintenance, and enhancement of scenic byways in the State.

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Moneys in the Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund will not revert, but remain available in the Fund. Interest or earnings on moneys in the Fund will be retained in the Fund.

FUNDING FOR PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Requires either the county treasurer or DOT to request a voluntary contribution of \$1 or more to the Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund during a vehicle registration or renewal. The county treasurer may retain up to 5.0% of the moneys collected and deposit the moneys in the county general fund. The DOT will adopt administrative rules to administer this section of the Bill.

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BACKGROUND:

Under Iowa Code section [321.44A](#), applicants for vehicle registration or renewal can currently make a voluntary contribution of \$1 or more to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transplantation Fund established in Iowa Code section [142C.15](#). The counties may retain up to 5.0% of the moneys collected by the county. In calendar year 2023, moneys collected in this Fund totaled \$125,000.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If contributions made to the Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund mirror those made to the Anatomical Gift Public Awareness and Transportation Fund, the fiscal impact of HF 971 is estimated to increase revenue to the Scenic Byways Enhancement Fund by \$63,000 in FY 2026 and \$125,000 in FY 2027 and each fiscal year thereafter. County general funds in the aggregate would receive an increase of approximately \$4,000 in FY 2026 and \$7,000 in FY 2027 and each year thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Bill takes effect on January 1, 2026.

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