

**CHAPTER 178**  
**WELCOME CENTERS**  
*H.F. 540*

**AN ACT** relating to the planning, acquisition, development, and operation of welcome centers in proximity to highways and at other locations throughout the state.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. **NEW SECTION. 15.261 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE – INTENT.**

1. The general assembly finds that:
  - a. Highway travelers have special needs for information and travel services.
  - b. Highway travelers have a significant positive influence on the state's economy.
  - c. A principal goal of economic development in this state is to increase the influence which travel and hospitality services, tourism, and recreation opportunities have on the state's economic expansion.
  - d. Facilities and programs are needed where travelers can obtain information about travel and hospitality services, tourism attractions, parks and recreation opportunities, cultural and natural resources, and the state in general.
  - e. A program shall be established to plan, acquire, develop, promote, operate, and maintain a variety of welcome centers at strategic locations to meet the needs of travelers in the state. The program is intended to be accomplished by 1992.

2. The primary goals of a statewide program for welcome centers is to provide to travelers the following:

- a. High quality, accurate, and interesting information about travel in the state; national, statewide, and local attractions of all types; lodging, medical service, food service, vehicle service, and other kinds of necessities; and general information about the state.
- b. Needed and convenient services, including but not limited to, restrooms; lodging information and event reservation services; vehicle services; and others. Services shall also include the distribution and sale of souvenirs, crafts, arts, and food products originating in the state; food and beverages; fishing, hunting, and other permits and licenses needed for recreation activities; and other products normally desired by travelers.
- c. Settings that will convey a sense of being welcomed to the state through hospitable attitudes of personnel; high quality of site landscape architecture, architectural theme, and interior design of the buildings; special events that occur at the centers; and high levels of maintenance.

Sec. 2. **NEW SECTION. 15.262 STATEWIDE WELCOME CENTER PROGRAM – OBJECTIVES AND AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES – PILOT PROJECTS.**

The state agencies, as indicated in this section, shall undertake certain specific functions to implement the goals of a statewide program, including the pilot projects, for welcome centers.

1. The department and the state department of transportation shall jointly establish a statewide long-range plan for developing and operating welcome centers throughout the state. The plan shall be submitted to the general assembly by January 15, 1988. The plan shall address, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Integrating state, regional, and local tourism and recreation marketing and promotion plans.
- b. Recommending a wide range of centers, including state-developed and state-operated to privately managed facilities.
- c. Establishing design, service, and maintenance quality standards which all welcome centers will maintain. Included in the standards shall be a provision requiring that space or facilities be available for purposes of displaying and offering for sale Iowa-made products, crafts, and arts. The space or facilities may be operated by the department or leased to and operated by other persons.

d. Making projections of increased tourist spending, indirect economic benefits, and direct revenue production which are estimated to occur as a result of implementing a statewide welcome center program.

e. Projecting estimated acquisition, construction, exhibit, staffing, and maintenance costs.

f. Integrating electronic data telecommunications systems.

g. Identifying sites for maintaining existing centers as well as locations for new centers.

The departments may enter into contracts for the preparation of the long-range plan. The departments shall involve the department of natural resources and the department of cultural affairs in the preparation of the plan. The recommendations and comments of organizations representing hospitality and tourism services, including but not limited to, the regional tourism councils, convention and visitors bureaus, and the Iowa travel council, and others with interests in this program will be considered for incorporation in the plan. Prior to submission of the plan to the general assembly, the plan shall be submitted to the regional tourism councils, the convention and visitors bureaus, and the Iowa travel council for their comments and criticisms which shall be submitted by the department along with the plan to the general assembly.

2. The responsibilities of the department include the following:

a. Seeing to the acquisition of property and the construction of all new welcome centers including the pilot projects selected by the department pursuant to paragraph "e". In carrying out this responsibility the department may, but is not limited to, the following:

(1) Arrange for the state department of transportation to acquire title to land and buildings for use as and undertake construction of state-owned welcome centers. In acquiring property and constructing the welcome centers, including any pilot projects, the state department of transportation may use any funds available to it, including but not limited to, the RISE fund, matching funds from local units of government or organizations, the primary road fund, federal grants, and moneys specifically appropriated for these purposes.

(2) Contract with other state agencies, local units of government, or private groups, organizations, or entities for the use of land, buildings, or facilities as state welcome centers or in connection with state welcome centers, whether or not the property is actually owned by the state. If the local match required for pilot projects or which may be required for other welcome centers is met by providing land, buildings, or facilities, the entity providing the local match shall enter into an agreement with the department to either transfer title of the property to the state or to dedicate the use of the property under the conditions and period of time set by the department.

b. Providing for the operations, management, and maintenance of the state-owned and state-operated welcome centers, including the collection and distribution of tourism literature, telecommunication services, and other travel-related services, and the display and offering for sale of Iowa-made products, crafts, and arts.

c. Providing, at the discretion of the department, financial assistance in the form of loans and grants to privately operated information centers to the extent the centers are consistent with the long-range plan.

d. Developing a common theme or graphic logo which will be identified with all welcome centers which meet the standards of operations established for those centers.

e. Selecting the sites for the pilot projects. In selecting the pilot project sites, the following apply:

(1) Up to three sites may be located in proximity to the interstates and up to three sites may be located in proximity to the other primary roads. The department shall select at least one site which is in proximity to a primary road which is not an interstate.

(2) Proposals for the sites must be submitted prior to September 1, 1987 and shall contain a commitment of at least a one-dollar-per-dollar match of state financial assistance. The local match may be in terms of land, buildings, or other noncash items which are acceptable by the department.

(3) Priority shall be given to proposals that have the best local match, that are to be located where there is a very high number of travelers passing, and for which the department, after consultation with the departments of transportation, natural resources, and cultural affairs, considers the chances of success to be nearly perfect.

(4) The department shall select the sites by September 15, 1987.

Approved June 2, 1987

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**CHAPTER 179**  
CRUELTY TO ANIMALS  
*S.F. 17*

**AN ACT** relating to the penalty for cruelty to animals.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

Section 1. Section 717.2, Code 1987, is amended to read as follows:

717.2 CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

A person who impounds or confines, in any place, a domestic animal or fowl, or an animal or fowl subject to section 109.60, or dog or cat, and fails to supply the animal during confinement with a sufficient quantity of food, and water, or who fails to provide a dog or cat with adequate shelter, or who tortures, torments, deprives of necessary sustenance, mutilates, overdrives, overloads, drives when overloaded, beats, or kills an animal by any means which cause unjustified pain, distress, or suffering, whether intentionally or negligently, is guilty of a simple misdemeanor commits the offense of cruelty to animals.

A person who commits the offense of cruelty to animals is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. A person who intentionally commits the offense of cruelty to animals which results in serious injury to or the death of an animal is guilty of a serious misdemeanor.

Approved June 2, 1987

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**CHAPTER 180**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
*S.F. 396*

**AN ACT** relating to the creation of a waste management authority within the department of natural resources, and providing for the management of solid, hazardous, and low-level radioactive wastes.

*Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:*

**PART 9**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Section 1. **NEW SECTION. 455B.479 SHORT TITLE.**

This part may be cited as the "Waste Management Authority Act".

Sec. 2. **LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

The general assembly finds as follows:

1. A considerable volume of solid wastes, hazardous wastes, and low-level radioactive wastes are generated from modern agricultural, industrial, medical, educational, and research activities within the state.