

FEB 11 2008
ECONOMIC GROWTH

HOUSE FILE 284
BY CARROLL

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of rural improvement zones.
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 284

1 Section 1. Section 357H.1, subsection 1, Code 2005, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. The board of supervisors of a county with less than
4 ~~eighteen~~ twenty thousand ~~five-hundred~~ residents, based upon
5 the ~~1990~~ 2000 certified federal census, and with a private
6 lake development shall designate an area surrounding the lake,
7 if it is an unincorporated area of the county, a rural
8 improvement zone upon receipt of a petition pursuant to
9 section 357H.2, and upon the board's determination that the
10 area is in need of improvements.

11 EXPLANATION

12 This bill provides that a county with a population of less
13 than 20,000 residents, based on the 2000 federal census, may
14 qualify to establish a rural improvement zone.

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Fiscal Services Division
Legislative Services Agency
Fiscal Note

HF 284 - Rural Improvement Zones (LSB 2008 HH)
Analyst: Jeff Robinson (Phone: (515) 281-4614) (jeff.robinson@legis.state.ia.us)
Fiscal Note Version - New
Requested by Representative Paul Wilderdyke

Description

House File 284 increases the maximum size of a county able to utilize a special form of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) known as a Rural Improvement Zone. The designation of a Rural Improvement Zone is currently available for a private lake development in a county with a 1990 census population of 18,500 or less. House File 284 would raise the population cap to 20,000, based on the 2000 Census.

With the change to the 2000 U.S. Census and the increase to 20,000, Clayton, Hardin, Kossuth, and Poweshiek counties would be added to the list of counties with the potential to establish Rural Improvement Zones.

Background

Rural Improvement Zones and other TIF arrangements do not have a fiscal impact on the State or local governments unless and until the authority to create such an arrangement is utilized. If the authority is exercised, the TIF will impact schools and local governments by absorbing incremental increases in the tax base. In the case of a predominantly residential TIF, the taxable base value of the property (and therefore the revenue to schools and local governments) can erode due to the action of the residential rollback.

There are currently three Rural Improvement Zones in Iowa.

- Lake Panorama in Guthrie County (est. 1996)
- Diamondhead Lake in Guthrie County (est. 1997)
- Sun Valley in Ringgold County (est. 2001)

The incremental taxable value in the three current zones totals \$45.5 million and the total incremental tax devoted to the three zones is \$1,049,000 (FY 2005). In addition, exempting \$45.5 million from the school finance foundation formula increases annual State General Fund expenditures for schools by \$246,000.

Fiscal Impact

The expanded TIF authority in HF 284, if utilized by one or more counties, will divert property taxes from the general support of schools, counties, community colleges, and other local government entities. Diversion of taxable value from the school foundation formula will also increase State General Fund expenditures by \$5.40 per thousand of diverted taxable value.

Iowa's experience with three current Rural Improvement Zones diverts \$350,000 per Zone per year from support of general government and increases General Fund expenditures for schools by \$82,000 per year per zone. Each new TIF area created through the authority contained in HF 284 would likely have similar local government and State General Fund expenditure impacts. The size of the impact will depend on the amount of incremental taxable value ultimately absorbed by any new Rural Improvement Zones established under the expanded authority granted in HF 284.

