

Changes to the Civil Service Law Passes House

A bill making changes to Iowa's civil service law has passed the House and is currently on the Senate calendar for consideration. A key provision in the bill allows police or firefighters two years to find residency in Iowa if they are hired to work at an Iowa police or fire station. The bill also allows cities to set up reasonable time and distance standards between where these employees work and live.



Civil service commissions are generally appointed by mayors and are a city level governing tool. They deal with testing for promotions and qualifications for specific job classifications for fire fighters, police officers and critical civil service personnel.

House File 420 would prevent apparent conflict of interests of someone on the civil

service commission by preventing them from selling or having a contract that furnishes or supplies material or labor to their city. The bill also improves openness in government by requiring that the names of the persons approved to administer a promotional examination be posted in city hall at least 24-hours prior to the examination.

The Iowa Fire Fighters Union and the Iowa Police Officers Union have pushed for the bill for three years.