

Young People Represented on Boards Moves Forward

A bill that would encourage Iowa boards and commissions to have at least one member between the ages of 18 to 35 has passed the House. The bill is currently on the Senate debate calendar for consideration.

The bill is a recommendation from the Generation Iowa Commission that was created to develop ideas and provide for the input of Iowa's young people. According to their 2010 report, having young people participate on boards and commissions can provide perspective that might retain others; at the same time, the opportunity to serve provides an incentive for each individual to stay in Iowa.

Currently, only 114 of 1,533 commission or board seats are held by Iowans aged 35 or younger. Nationally, when someone decides where to live, the "amenities of a location" rated as a "tie breaker" in Next Generation decision making, when economic opportunities were equal. By supporting programs that educate, inspire and develop these young leaders, Iowa can demonstrate its commitment to their advancement and learn about their needs and goals.