

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2010

SMART PLANNING

Establishes a set of ten comprehensive planning principles that state and local governments should use in preparing for future growth. These principles are guides and are not mandates. Iowa's current code section on planning dates back to the 1950's and is based on a model law developed in the 1920's. In addition, a task force is created to consult with experts, local governments, and others; solicit information from the public; evaluate state policies, programs and laws; develop statewide goals; evaluate and develop incentives to conduct comprehensive planning; develop a model for regional comprehensive planning; and develop recommendations for a state comprehensive planning programs. (SF 2383, to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

ELIMINATING NUISANCE PROPERTIES

Prevents properties that are considered nuisance properties from going to tax sale, and refunds the tax certificate holder if a nuisance citation is filed by the city after the sale. This will help cities clean up nuisance properties rather than allow them to pass from owner to owner. (SF 434, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

COLLECTION OF USE TAX ON MANUFACTURED HOUSING

Requires that the manufactured housing or mobile home retailer collect the use tax from the buyer of the manufactured housing and forward it to the county treasurer or department of transportation. The retailer will also submit the application for a certificate of title on behalf of the owner. The certificate of title cannot be issued until the tax has been paid. Provides a process in cases where a certificate of title cannot be found for a manufactured or mobile home that has been converted to real estate by being placed on a permanent foundation and entered on the tax rolls. (SF 2199, Signed by Governor, effective 4/7/10)

COLLECTION OF REVENUE FROM FENCE DISPUTES AND WATER DISTRICT ASSESSMENT

This bill changes the method in which charges for fence construction or repair work are handled so that the township trustees certify the charges to the county treasurer rather than the auditor. Upon certification to the county treasurer, the amount is assessed as a lien on the parcel until paid and are collected in the same manner as county taxes. The bill also deals with assessments for water district improvements. When bonds are sold, the county treasurer rather than the auditor will receive a schedule of assessment for collection in installment payments in the same way as ordinary taxes. The bonds are still delivered to the county auditor. Also gives county treasurers permission to destroy old records. (SF 2254, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

DEFINITION OF SUBDIVISION

This bill includes horizontal property regimes (condominiums) under the definition of a subdivision. It then requires that the plans for horizontal property regimes, located within 2 miles of the city's boundaries, be submitted to the city for review and approval like all other subdivision plans.

The purpose of the review is to make sure that any subdivisions, including horizontal property regimes, in unincorporated areas, meet the standards and conditions the city uses within its borders. (SF 2264, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010.)

**CIVIL SERVICE
COMMISSIONERS**

This bill will allow civil service commissioners to sell goods and services to a city, as long as competitive bids are sought. This is already permitted for school board members and city council members. (SF 2350, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

**RECORDERS' TECHNICAL
BILL**

This bill helps bring operations in county Recorder's offices up to date by clarifying that one index is needed for all real estate transactions since so much is now done electronically. Also defines grantee and grantor for indexing purposes only. (HF 2407, Signed by Governor, effective July 1, 2010)

**CITY DEVELOPMENT
BOARD MEMBERS**

This bill allows city development board members to serve unlimited terms on the board rather than just 2 six-year terms. Terms are also reduced to four years. (HF 2318, Signed by Governor, effective March 10, 2010)

**COUNTY TREASURER
DEBT COLLECTION**

The county treasurer may collect delinquent taxes, including penalties and interest, owed to the state when a vehicle owner appears to renew a their registration. If the full payment, plus a \$5 processing fee is made, the county treasurer can then issue the vehicle registration. If the payment is not made, current law forbids issuing the driver's license. The \$5 fee will be split between the county general fund and the department of transportation, until the department costs are covered. The payment will go to the state treasurer. In addition, the state court administrator and the county treasurers association are to develop a plan to allow treasurers to collect court debt by July 1, 2011. (SF 2383, to Governor, effective January 1, 2011.