



BILL SUMMARY

Enhance Iowa SF 2308

Status of Bill: House Calendar
Committee: House Appropriations (24-0)
Lead Democrats: Rep. Chris Hall
Floor Manager: Rep. Deyoe
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Enhance Iowa Board

SF 2308 establishes an Enhance Iowa Board to replace the Vision Iowa Board. The board takes over responsibility for the existing CAT and RECAT programs and administers the newly created sports tourism program. The board will be located and supported within the Economic Development Authority (EDA).

The 11 voting members of the board will consist of two members from each congressional district and three at large members. Of those eleven members, the membership must be as follows:

- One member from the board of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.
- One person with an experience in finance or investment banking.
- One person with tourism industry experience; one person with experience in architecture or historic preservation.
- One person with experience in cultural attractions and programming.
- Six people actively employed in private industry with expertise in economic development.

(In order to ensure an effective transition from the Vision Iowa Board to Enhance Iowa, at least three members from the current Vision Iowa board will be appointed to Enhance Iowa)

The members of the board will be appointed by the Governor to two year staggered terms and must be confirmed by the Senate. In addition to the voting members of the board, there will be four ex-officio members consisting of one member from each caucus of the General Assembly.

Sports Tourism

SF 2308 directs EDA to create a sports tourism program to provide financial assistance to promote sporting events in the state. A city, county, or a convention and visitors bureau can apply to the authority for financial assistance for a project that promotes sporting events. The application can be for a project that spans multiple fiscal years or a renewal of a project awarded in the prior year if all requirements are met. Applicants must demonstrate matching funds in order to apply; the amount of matching of funds required is up to the Enhance Iowa Board.

Enhance Iowa and Sports Tourism Funds

SF 2308 creates two funds: an Enhance Iowa Fund and a Sports Tourism Fund. Both may be administered as a revolving loan fund and can consist of any money appropriated by the General Assembly. Money in the funds would not revert back into the general fund at the end of each fiscal year. If funds are appropriated to the Enhance Iowa or Sports Tourism Funds EDA will submit a report to the Governor and General Assembly detailing the use of the moneys and the results achieved from the expenditure. No appropriations are made in this legislation.