

Reported Recommending
Ind. Postponed
Passed House
Failed to Pass House
Passed Senate
Failed to Pass Senate

House File 406

February 26, 1947.
Passed on File.

By POLICE REGULATION.

A BILL FOR

An Act to provide for the identification by footprints of newly born children; to provide for the registration and identification by fingerprints of all residents of this state over fifteen years of age; to provide for the issuance by the bureau of identification of the Iowa department of public safety of identification cards to all such registrants; to designate the Iowa department of public safety as the state agency to furnish and supply the necessary forms and to supervise the regulation of all registrants, and to maintain all records relating to such registrants.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. All children born in this state shall after
2 birth be identified by taking the footprints of every newly
3 born child, which prints shall be furnished to the department
4 of public safety and maintained by such department in indexed
5 files provided therefor. Upon the birth of any child in this
6 state or as soon thereafter as is possible the hospital or
7 other institution in which a child is born shall take or
8 cause to be taken prints of each foot of such child. If a
9 child is born in a place in this state other than in a
10 hospital or institution, it shall be the duty of the attending
11 physician or person acting as midwife, and if none, by the

12 parent or person in charge where the birth occurred, to
13 immediately notify the bureau of identification of the Iowa
14 department of public safety of the birth of said child and
15 to submit information on forms furnished by the department
16 of public safety, reporting such birth and the time and
17 place thereof. The department shall upon receipt of such
18 report cause prints of both feet of said child to be taken,
19 and may designate the sheriff of the county in which such
20 birth occurred or appropriate city or town officials or
21 agencies to have such prints taken.

22 All prints taken shall be immediately forwarded to the
23 office of the bureau of identification of the Iowa department
24 of public safety and filed for record, together with the
25 names of the parents, or of the mother if the father is
26 unknown, the place and date of birth and the residence of
27 the parents or mother. The footprints shall be taken on
28 cards furnished by the department of public safety.

1 Sec. 2. Every person who is now a resident of this
2 state and who has maintained residence in this state for a
3 period of six months, who is over the age of fifteen years,
4 and every person residing in this state upon reaching the age
5 of fifteen years may register with the sheriff of the county
6 wherein such person resides in the manner to be prescribed
7 by the department of public safety. Every person may at the
8 time of registration be fingerprinted by the sheriff of the
9 county in which such person resides or by a local agency at

10 the place of residence which shall be designated for such
 11 purpose by the bureau of identification of the Iowa department
 12 of public safety; and such fingerprints shall be taken on
 13 cards to be furnished to the sheriff or local agency by the
 14 department of public safety and submitted to the bureau of
 15 identification of the Iowa department of public safety to be
 16 filed and maintained in an indexed file system provided
 17 therefor. The bureau of identification of the Iowa department
 18 of public safety shall issue to the registrant a card to be
 19 designated "identification card", which shall be prepared
 20 and furnished by the department of public safety to the
 21 sheriff or other agency for such purpose and which card
 22 shall contain space for the following information and data:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 23 | (1) name and sex | (8) color of hair |
| 24 | (2) home address | (9) complexion |
| 25 | (3) age | (10) race or color |
| 26 | (4) date issued | (11) space provided for |
| 27 | | signature of |
| 28 | | registrant |
| 29 | (5) occupation | (12) seal of state |
| 30 | (6) height and weight | (13) fingerprint of |
| 31 | | registrant |
| 32 | (7) color of eyes | (14) serial number |

33 The registrant shall, upon receipt of such identification
 34 card affix his signature in the space provided therefor.

1 Sec. 3. The registration and fingerprinting of all

2 inmates of all state institutions shall be compulsory, any
3 provision of this act to the contrary notwithstanding.

4 It shall be the duty of the superintendent or other
5 officer in charge of said institution to perform the acts
6 necessary for said registration and fingerprinting of said
7 inmates.

1 Sec. 4. The bureau of identification of the Iowa
2 department of public safety is hereby designated as the
3 state agency to supervise, regulate, and handle any matters
4 pertaining to the enforcement of the provisions of this act.
5 It shall designate the sheriff of each county and any other
6 city or town agency to assist in the enforcement of this act,
7 and shall prepare and furnish all forms necessary for the
8 administration of this act. The identification cards
9 required to be issued to registrants, as provided herein,
10 shall be prepared and furnished in form and size to be
11 determined by the department, and every card shall bear the
12 signature or the imprint thereof of the head of said bureau.

1 Sec. 5. The commissioner of public safety may adopt
2 rules and regulations for the proper administration and
3 enforcement of the provisions of this act, not inconsistent
4 therewith.

1 Sec. 6. There is hereby appropriated to the department
2 of public safety from the general fund or the state the
3 amount of fifteen thousand dollars for each year of the
4 biennium beginning July 1, 1947, and ending June 30, 1949,

- 5 or so much thereof as shall be necessary to effectuate the
6 purposes of this act.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 406

This bill is an act to provide positive identification for every man, woman and child in the state of Iowa.

1. The bill provides for footprinting of all new-born children. This will absolutely prevent misidentification in hospitals where hundreds of children are born and many mix-ups occur. In case of kidnaping it would aid enforcement authorities to locate and identify the proper child. This means of identification could be used for many years.

2. Applies to all persons fifteen years of age and over who are residents of Iowa. It provides for registration and fingerprinting for the purpose of identification. The registrant will carry the card at all times.

a. The bill will provide identification in cases of sudden death by cyclone, drownings, and in many cases fire or other disasters.

b. It will enable people to cash checks.

c. It will assist labor to identify themselves for social security benefits.

d. It will assist the board of social welfare to identify old-age recipients, no matter where they are located in the state.

e. It will curb sabotage in time of war.

f. It will check crime in time of peace.

g. Transients' residence will be determined, thus placing the expense of death or keep for this class of people on the proper county or state.

h. Owners and operators of beer and liquor establishments would be able to determine the age of minors seeking to purchase intoxicants, drugs, etc. It will curb the use of liquor by our youth.

i. Birth certificates would not be nearly so necessary for persons seeking employment within the state, or even the nation.

j. Inmates of institutions who might escape could be more easily identified.

k. Heirs to estates could prove their identity.

The identification card is to protect honest, God-fearing, freedom-loving people. It protects the rights and privileges of the law-abiding citizen. It does not restrict. It does not destroy.