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H. J. R. 5

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Departmental Affairs.

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Providing for the appointment of a state building code council by the governor to prepare a modern and uniform state building code establishing minimum standards for buildings to be used by the public together with a proposed revision and codification of the laws of Iowa relating to building construction, providing for the scope of the work of the council, providing for a report of the council to the governor, and making an appropriation to carry out the provisions of the resolution.

WHEREAS, the life, health, safety and economy of the citizens of the state of Iowa are affected by and depend upon safe and sound construction; and

WHEREAS, the state of Iowa through acts of the legislature and municipalities through city ordinances, have endeavored to protect citizens through the adoption of laws, regulations and codes; and

WHEREAS, the present statutes concerning building construction and building codes of most cities contain numerous conflicts, uncertainties and omissions which are detrimental to and interfere with safe, sound, healthful, efficient and economic construction; and

WHEREAS, greater economy and safety can be effected by the availability of a modern and uniform code for the entire state of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, there is urgent need for minimum standards of practice and construction for public buildings to alleviate particularly fire hazards and losses; and

WHEREAS, all new developments in the methods, materials and technical knowledge related to building construction should be utilized to full advantage in the expenditure of public funds; and

WHEREAS, there will be a large amount of building construction for public and private use in the postwar period; now therefore,

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

1 Section 1. The governor of the state of Iowa shall appoint,
2 within sixty (60) days after the passage of this act, a building
3 code council of ten (10) members. The membership of this council
4 shall include two (2) engineers, two (2) general contractors,
5 all four experienced in building construction, two (2) architects
6 and four (4) laymen at least two (2) of whom shall be members of
7 the general assembly. The council shall have the power to make
8 final decisions in all matters pertaining to the preparation of
9 a proposed uniform state building code of Iowa; they shall
10 elect one of their members to act as chairman. The council
11 shall employ a technical secretary and clerical assistants and
12 prescribe their duties. The council shall be assisted by an
13 ex officio advisory committee including a representative of the
14 state architect, the state fire marshal, the director of public
15 health engineering of the department of health, the state board
16 of education, the superintendent of public instruction, the
17 attorney general, the commissioner of labor, and the state
18 building code central committee which consists of members
19 officially designated by established organizations in Iowa
20 interested in buildings to be used by the public.

1 Sec. 2. The council shall prepare, or cause to be prepared
2 with the aid of a technical secretary and the advisory committee,

3 a proposed modern and uniform state building code with a
4 declaration of principles regarding minimum standards for the
5 state of Iowa; this code shall include the revision and
6 codification of the present laws of Iowa in all matters relating
7 to building construction; this code shall in no way restrict
8 or be applicable to private farm buildings and to one or two
9 family dwellings. The council shall be empowered to conduct
10 fact-finding surveys and necessary investigations. The council
11 shall be empowered to call for consultation qualified persons in
12 the field of building construction and such matters as relate
13 thereto; and to pay such persons their expenses and such
14 compensation as may be determined by the council. The council
15 shall adopt such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary
16 to govern its own procedure. The council may call upon state,
17 county and municipal agencies for information and assistance.
18 The council shall enter upon their duties within thirty (30)
19 days after their appointment by the governor and their duties
20 shall terminate upon the completion of their report to the
21 governor; but, they shall be available to the general assembly
22 for consultation during the consideration of the proposed
23 uniform state building code. The council shall complete and
24 file with the governor a report upon a uniform state building
25 code not later than sixty (60) days preceding the convening of
26 the Fifty-Third (53rd) General Assembly; and, thereupon, the
27 governor shall cause one thousand copies of the same to be
28 printed and have copies placed in the hands of the members of the

29 Fifty-third (53rd) General Assembly, as early as possible prior
30 to the convening of the said Fifty-third (53rd) General Assembly
31 and in addition have copies available for municipalities and
32 other interested groups. During and after the preparation of
33 the report of the council to be submitted to the governor, state
34 agencies, school districts and municipalities choosing by
35 ordinance may utilize standards of practice as such become
36 available from the work and said report or in portions of
37 sections thereof not in conflict with the laws of Iowa.

1 Sec. 3. The members of the council shall receive no
2 compensations but shall receive their actual and necessary
3 expenses including travel incurred in the performance of their
4 duties. The council shall be empowered to choose and shall fix
5 the salary of the technical secretary, who shall not be a
6 member of the council. The technical secretary shall attend the
7 meetings of the council and serve as its secretary, and shall
8 have general charge of the work of the council, subject to its
9 orders and direction, and shall serve at the pleasure of the
10 council. The council shall also fix and pay the salaries of
11 such clerical assistants as may be necessary. All salaries of
12 said employees and expenses incurred by the council shall be
13 verified and approved by the chairman thereof and referred to
14 the state comptroller who shall issue warrants for the same
15 from funds hereinafter appropriated to the council.

1 Sec. 4. There is hereby appropriated from the general
2 fund of the state the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars

3 (\$25,000.00) or so much thereof as may be necessary for the
4 purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Joint Resolution.
5 At the termination of the duties of said council any unexpended
6 funds are to revert to the general fund of the state of Iowa.

1 Sec. 5. This Joint Resolution being deemed of immediate
2 importance shall be in full force and effect from and after
3 its passage and publication in the, a
4 newspaper published at, Iowa, and in the
5, a newspaper published at,
6 Iowa.