

January 16, 1951.
Passed on File.

House File 50

By NELSON of Woodbury and CROSIER.

Passed House, Date

Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Passed Senate, Date

Vote: Ayes..... Nays.....

Approved

A BILL FOR

An Act to abolish river front commissions and to repeal chapter three hundred seventy-two (372), Code 1950, and other sections of the Code relating thereto and to transfer powers relating to river front improvements in municipal corporations to the council.

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

1 That chapter three hundred seventy-two (372), Code 1950,
2 is repealed and sections one (1) to three (3) hereof enacted in
3 lieu thereof.

1 Section 1. Meandered streams. The fee simple title to
2 land along any meandered stream within the limits of a
3 municipal corporation, between the boundaries of riparian owners
4 and the bed of the stream, shall vest in the municipal
5 corporation, in trust for the public. (372.6, C50, revised.)

1 Sec. 2. Non-meandered streams. When any stream that is
2 not meandeared divides or traverses the limits of any municipal
3 corporation such corporation may acquire the fee simple title
4 to such portion of the channel or bed thereof within the
5 corporate limits as the council may deem advisable, by
6 donation or purchase, or by condemnation in the manner provided

7 for the taking of private property for public use. (372.7,
8 C50, revised.)

1 Sec. 3. Powers. Municipal corporations may redeem
2 lands between the meandered lines of any such meandered stream;
3 redeem lands acquired by them in the bed of any stream that is
4 not meandered; construct, regulate, and maintain dams across
5 such streams; provide for and protect by secure walls or banks,
6 a channel adequate to carry flood waters; deepen, widen,
7 straighten, or change the channels of such streams; abate
8 nuisances or obstructions in such streams or along the banks
9 thereof; beautify such walls or banks; make any part of the
10 area acquired and redeemed suitable for sites for public
11 buildings and to erect public buildings thereon; make parks
12 on any part of the area acquired and where a park board or
13 commission exists delegate authority over such area to such
14 board of commission. (372.8, 416.125, 416.130, C50, revised.)

1 Sec. 4. Temporary. On the effective date of this Act,
2 all river front commissions in municipal corporations shall
3 cease to exist and the terms of all commissioners shall cease
4 and determine. All property and unfinished business of such
5 commissions shall be turned over to the council and, for the
6 purpose of completing any unfinished business and retiring any
7 indebtedness of such commission, the council shall have, in
8 addition to the powers delegated by sections one (1) to three
9 (3) of this act, all powers possessed by river front commissions
10 prior to the enactment hereof, but may exercise said additional

11 powers only until said unfinished business is completed and
12 said indebtedness is retired.

1 Sec. 5. Chapter three hundred seventy-two (372), Code
2 1950, is hereby repealed.

1 Sec. 6. Sections four hundred sixteen point one hundred
2 twenty-four (416.124) to four hundred sixteen point one hundred
3 twenty-six (416.126), inclusive Code 1950, are hereby repealed.

1 Sec. 7. Sections four hundred sixteen point one hundred
2 thirty (416.130) to four hundred sixteen point one hundred
3 thirty-four (416.134), inclusive, Code 1950, are hereby repealed.

1 Sec. 8. Sections four hundred twenty point one hundred
2 fifty-five (420.155) to four hundred twenty point one hundred
3 fifty-eight (420.158), inclusive, Code 1950, are hereby
4 repealed.

1 Sec. 9. The code editor is hereby authorized to strike
2 all references to river front improvement commissions wherever
3 such references appear in the statutes other than in this Act.

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 50

There is today only one river front commission in existence in the State of Iowa and it is inactive. The purpose of this bill is to repeal laws which have fallen into disuse but to preserve all necessary or useful municipal powers over river fronts and streams by transferring them to the council.