

February 28, 1963.

Passed on File.

*Coyne & Co. Ord of State Gov 3/11
Indefinitely postponed 3/21*

House File 453

By MURRAY, SWISHER,
STANLEY and REPERT.

Passed House, Date.....

Passed Senate, Date.....

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

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

Approved.....

A BILL FOR

An Act relating to the creation of the office of consumer counsel.

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

1 Section 1. The purpose of this Act is to protect and promote
2 the interests of the people as consumers.

1 Sec. 2. There is hereby created in the office of the governor
2 the office of consumer counsel. The consumer counsel shall be
3 appointed by the governor and shall serve at his pleasure.

1 Sec. 3. The governor shall fix the salary of the consumer
2 counsel, but such salary shall not exceed fifteen thousand
3 (15,000) dollars per year. The governor may also appoint and fix
4 salaries of such assistants and employees for the consumer coun-
5 sel as the governor may deem necessary.

1 Sec. 4. The consumer counsel shall advise the governor as to
2 all matters affecting the interests of the people as consumers.
3 The consumer counsel shall recommend to the governor and to the
4 general assembly the enactment of such legislation as he deems
5 necessary to protect and promote the interests of the people as
6 consumers. To carry out the purpose of this Act, the consumer
7 counsel may make such studies as he deems necessary or as direct-
8 ed by the governor. The consumer counsel may from time to time
9 make reports on such studies to the people of the state.

1 Sec. 5. In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the con-

2 sumer counsel or his assistants or employees may:

3 1. Appear before governmental commissions, departments, and
4 agencies to represent and be heard on behalf of consumers' in-
5 terests.

6 2. Co-operate and contract with public and private agencies
7 to obtain statistical surveys, printing, economic information,
8 and such other similar services as may be deemed necessary by the
9 consumer counsel.

10 3. Do such other acts as may be incidental to the exercise
11 of his powers as conferred by this Act.

1 Sec. 6. Each agency, department, officer, and employee of
2 the state shall co-operate with the consumer counsel in carrying
3 out the provisions of this Act.

1 Sec. 7. The governor may by executive order create such ad-
2 visory committees as he deems necessary to assist the consumer
3 counsel in carrying out his duties under this Act. The governor
4 shall appoint the members of such committees and they shall serve
5 at his pleasure. The committees shall serve at the direction of
6 the consumer counsel. Members of such committees shall receive
7 no compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses
8 in carrying out their duties.

9 All meetings of the advisory committees shall be open to the
10 public. All persons shall be permitted to attend any meetings
11 of the advisory committees.

EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 453

This bill creates an office of consumer counsel and establishes his duties and powers. Frauds and cheats roaming Iowa have given birth to the needs of more regulation, control and attention. They often operate under the guise of some business such as house siding, furnace cleaning, appliance salesman and a myriad of other pursuits that cost Iowa millions of dollars. The present Iowa law makes no one office or department responsible for this particular purpose. This bill will create a consumers counsel akin to the duties of the better business bureau.