

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

Date: 2/18/2022

Weekly Agenda Date: 3/1/2022

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Supervisor Jeremy Taylor

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution Supporting HF 2430, A Bill for an Act Relating to Methods of Determining Compensation for Elected County Officers (Formerly HSB 666)

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The current way that Iowa Law mandates county compensation boards is antiquated and is of poor service to taxpayers. It is very unfair. A cursory glance of happenings in counties that are making news and comments made by supervisors in relationship to comp board recommendations is reflective of a system that needs serious reform.

HF 2430 and SSB 3117 are laudable bills aimed at reforming this system. Property taxpayers have an interest in making sure compensation is both fair, efficient, and conscientious of their total resources, something that compensation board recommendations do not account for.

BACKGROUND:

HF 2430 moved out of a House Local Government full committee on 2-15-22. The bill would authorize the board of supervisors to establish or dissolve a county compensation board. If established, the compensation board would follow requirements under current code, and if dissolved, those requirements would go to the supervisors. The bill would allow supervisors to adopt a compensation board recommendation if retained, go lower or higher, and the supervisors would no longer be required to adjust compensations for all elected officials by the same percentage, a serious flaw of the comp board system. (ISACS is registered FOR).

SSB 3117, another laudable bill, would require the county compensation board to consider the economic health of the county, state, and country when determining its compensation recommendation to the board of supervisors, as well as requiring documentation of how compensation recommendations were determined. Currently, an all-too-simplistic comparison of population drives consideration and completely ignores competing tax rates, border counties, small business tax climate, economic health, property tax intensity/levy-ability and a whole host of factors.

I spoke with Rep. Jane Bloomingdale, Chair of the Local Government Committee, on 2-19-22 and learned that HF 2430 has very good support.

The Woodbury County Board of Supervisors will hear from Lucas Beenken from ISACS at 5:00 pm tonight regarding this current legislation. I am hoping we can have a discussion and then pass the attached resolution in order to balance fair and reasonable compensation within our fiduciary responsibility on behalf of taxpayers.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None. See resolution language here:

WHEREAS unelected compensation boards often look at single factors such as looking at comparables on a population basis and do not fully take into account property tax affordability and economic conditions, and

WHEREAS Boards of Supervisors in Iowa's 99 counties are forced to reduce by equal percentages the recommendations of compensation boards often ranging from 6-30%, and

WHEREAS the average raise nationally of ALL companies' workers in the U.S. is 3.4% in 2022, the highest in over a decade, and

WHEREAS Boards of Supervisors have a fiduciary responsibility to take into account the economic health and tax climate of the county, state, and county when determining compensation, and

WHEREAS House File 2430 authorizes a board of supervisors to establish or dissolve a compensation board and if such compensation board is dissolved, those requirements would fall to the supervisors, and

WHEREAS HF 2430 would allow supervisors to adopt a compensation board recommendation if retained and increase or decrease the recommendations, and

WHEREAS supervisors would no longer be required to adjusted compensation for all elected officials by the same percentage, and

WHEREAS the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors is likewise registered in support of HF 2430,

Now, therefore be it RESOLVED that the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors resoundingly supports HF 2430 and urges the Iowa Legislature to pass HF 2430 and the Honorable Governor Kim Reynolds to sign into law its provisions in order to give Boards of Supervisors the greatest freedom to support taxpayers and the hardworking families we are elected to represent.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

See below.

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Pass the resolution and forward to every member of both House and State Local Government Committees.