



IOWA CODE §29C – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

“A Technical Clean-up Bill to secure Iowa’s emergency & disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and economic security posture”.

Countywide Emergency Management Commissions (EMA) and County Boards of Supervisors have historically interpreted 29C, related to EMA funding, two different ways leading significant difficulties in maintaining preparedness programs and the Iowa Legislature’s intent for EMA to be an autonomous joint county-municipal public safety agency that transcends political subdivisions and disparate budgetary priorities that can diminish the equitable protection of all Iowans through arbitrary and unilateral funding cuts.

WHY IT’S IMPORTANT

Iowa is ranked 4th in the Nation among States most impacted by natural disaster.¹
22 disaster events have caused over \$1 billion dollars each in damages to Iowans.

CRITICAL PROPOSAL POINTS

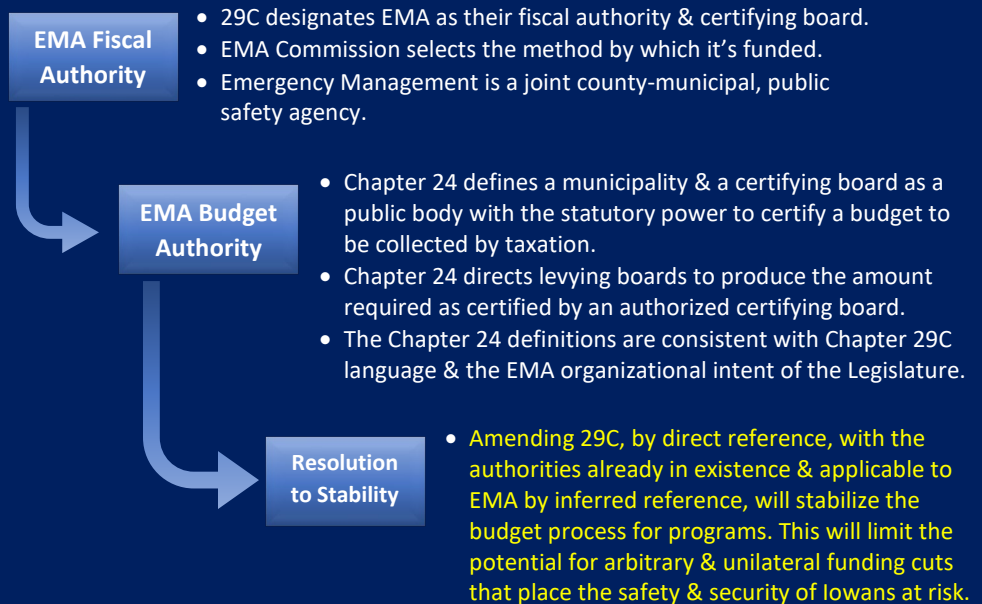
- This proposal creates no new authorities for EMA and does not diminish any other jurisdiction’s authorities under law.
- Iowa Code already defines EMA funding roles & responsibilities.
- The historic confusion is attributed to additional code references within 29C that are often overlooked.
- All political subdivisions already have a decision-making voice in EMA funding.
- All EMA funding decision-makers are elected leaders ensuring taxpayer funds are appropriately programmed and allocated.
- Taxpayer funds for EMA are itemized separately on County Treasurer’s tax statements for transparency and public accountability.

Did You Know?
This issue has been a recurring point of contention since 1986!

THE SOLUTION

IEMA proposes including references to local budgeting laws in chapters §24.2(2) and §24.2(5) as part of the EMA enabling legislation in chapter 29C.

ROADMAP TO A SECURE FUTURE



PROPOSED TECHNICAL CLEAN-UP LANGUAGE

Amend Chapter 29C.9(4) as follows (new language in yellow):

For the purposes of this chapter, a commission is a municipality as defined in section 670.1 and section 24.2(5).

Amend Chapter 29C.17(1) as follows (new language in yellow):

A local emergency management fund is created in the office of the county treasurer. An unencumbered balance in the fund shall not revert to county general revenues. Any reimbursement, matching funds, moneys received from sale of property, or moneys obtained from any source in connection with the local emergency management program shall be deposited in the local emergency management fund. The commission shall be the fiscal authority and certifying board as defined in section 24.2(2). ~~and~~ The chairperson or vice chairperson of the commission is the certifying official.

¹ WalletHub Market Report, Oct. 2022