



KIM REYNOLDS  
GOVERNOR

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

ADAM GREGG  
LT GOVERNOR

May 17, 2024

The Honorable Paul Pate  
Secretary of State of Iowa  
State Capitol  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby transmit House File 2539, an Act relating to penalties associated with open meetings violations.


House File 2539, as introduced, would have required public officials to receive training on their responsibilities under chapters 21 and 22. Unfortunately, this provision was removed during the legislative process. This is a laudable goal and one that I hope the Legislature will continue to pursue.

The final version of the bill increases damages assessed against governmental bodies who violate Iowa's open meeting laws and amends the definition of a "meeting" in chapter 21. Although well-intentioned, the amendment to the definition is unnecessary and will cause confusion. Open meeting laws need to be clear; otherwise, their application and enforcement will be inconsistent and varied.

I am committed to working with the Legislature and stakeholders on making our open meeting laws stronger.

For these reasons, I respectfully disapprove of House File 2539 in its entirety.

Sincerely,

  
Kim Reynolds  
Governor of Iowa

cc: Secretary of the Senate  
Clerk of the House