

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	House File 398 (HF 111)	House Committee:	PASSED February 12 (16-7)
Committee:	State Government	House Floor:	PASSED March 11 (62-29)
Floor Manager:	Representative Dunwell	Senate Floor:	PASSED April 17 (32-15)
Date:	May 6, 2025	Governor:	SIGNED May 6
Staff:	Jason Covey (1-3626)		

Department of Corrections Department Bill

- Amends code to align the Board of Corrections' role to be align with last year's Boards and Commission's bill. Amends that appointments made within the Department of Corrections are not contingent on the approval of the Board of Corrections, but that the board serves to provide advice and recommendations of such appointments.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1 – Director — duties, powers (Iowa Code 904.108(1)(h,k,l))

Amends code that the board does not have approval authority of the Department budget or rulemaking authority but provide advice and recommendations to the Director.

Section 2 – Director — duties, powers (Iowa Code 904.108(2))

Amends code that the board does not have approval authority to grant furlough period of an inmate but provides advice and recommendations.

Section 3 – Official seal (Iowa Code 904.110)

Removes the board's role in the Department of Corrections official seal.

Section 4 – Travel Expenses (Iowa Code 904.114)

Move the approval for travel expenses from the board to the director or a designee of the director.

Section 5 – Violator facility (Iowa Code 904.207)

Removes rulemaking authority of the board for violator facilities but provide advice and recommendations.

Section 6 – Appointment of superintendents (Iowa Code 904.301)

Amends code to align with changes made in last year's Boards and Commissions bill that the appointment of superintendents of institutions is based on advice and recommendations of the Board of Corrections.

Section 7 – Appointment of directors (Iowa Code 904.301A)

Amends code to align with changes made in last year's Boards and Commissions bill that the appointment of district directors is based on advice and recommendations of the Board of Corrections.

District directors have the immediate custody and control of all property used in connection with the district and serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority and may be removed for inability or refusal to perform the duties of the office.

Section 8 – Director may buy and sell real estate — options (Iowa Code 904.317(1))

Amends code to align with changes made in last year's Boards and Commissions bill that the Director of the Department of Corrections may purchase or sell real estate for use of the institutions based on advice and recommendations of the Board of Corrections.

Section 9 – Property of inmate — inmate savings fund (Iowa Code 904.508(1))

Strikes reference to policies prescribed by the board.