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## HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

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Bill: House File 254  
Committee: Commerce  
Floor Manager: Representative Stew Iverson  
Date: July 14, 2011  
Staff: Brad Trow (1-3471)

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### Local Government Flexibility for Using Iowa Communications Network

House File 254 amends the requirements that local governments and schools operate under when they agree to be part of the Iowa Communications Network. Under current law, an entity that agrees to join the ICN is required to get all of its video, data, and phone services through the ICN. The only way currently that local governments and schools could get out of this is through a complicated waiver process.

House File 254 gives local governments and schools flexibility when it comes to getting services from the ICN. The bill changes the Code to allow a local government or school to decide what services it will purchase from the ICN. The bill also eliminates the waiver process.

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### Summary of Action

**Committee Action** – The Commerce Committee **PASSED** House File 254 on a vote of 23-0 on February 9, 2011.

**Initial House Action** – The House **ADOPTED** House File 254 on a vote of 99-0 on March 8, 2011.

**Senate Action** – The Senate **ADOPTED** House File 254, as amended, on a vote of 50-0 on April 13, 2011.

**Further House Action** – The House **ADOPTED** House File 254, as amended, on a vote of 95-0 on April 18, 2011.

**Final Action** – The Governor **SIGNED** House File 254 on April 27, 2011.

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### Section by Section Analysis

**Section 1** – The section amends Iowa Code section 8D.9 (2) by changing the requirement that a local government that chooses to join the Iowa Communications Network is required to get all of its telecommunications services from the Network. Section 1 eliminates the requirement and instead gives a local government body the ability to choose what services it purchases from the ICN.

Additionally, the section eliminates the process by which local governments had gotten waivers from the requirement to purchase all telecom services from the ICN. The bill also clarifies that private colleges or nonpublic schools may agree to participate in the ICN and utilize its services as they determine necessary.