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## BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2025

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2024



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## Iowa Public Information Board

### Background

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) was created by 2012 Iowa Acts, chapter [1115](#) (Public Information Board Act). The Board is an independent agency that was created to address open government concerns, to bring consistency to the interpretation of open meetings and public records laws, and to provide an alternative for the enforcement of these laws. The Governor made the first Board appointments in late FY 2012, and the Board began meeting in July 2012 to organize, develop administrative rules, and participate in the budgeting process. Beginning in FY 2014, the Board was fully operational and began meeting monthly to discuss complaints and contested cases and to issue declaratory orders and advisory opinions.

### Operations

Pursuant to Iowa Code chapters [21](#) and [22](#), the Board has the authority to issue both informal advice and declaratory orders to enforce laws regarding the State's open meetings and records laws. When requested, the IPIB staff is also available to offer advisory opinions and formal rulings. The Board also offers training to local and State agencies, disseminates information regarding relevant transparency issues, investigates complaints and subpoena information, seeks resolution of disputes, and is able to impose civil penalties and other appropriate remedies to enforce the open meetings and public records laws.

### Staffing

The Board consists of nine members, who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, along with three full-time employees: an executive director, a deputy director, and an administrative assistant. In judicial proceedings to enforce or defend its orders and rules, the IPIB can represent itself through attorneys on its own staff, through the office of the attorney general, or through other attorneys retained by the Board.

### Complaints, Enforcement, and Resolution

Complaints must be filed with the IPIB within 60 days of the occurrence of the violation. The IPIB may informally or formally coordinate compromises that satisfy all parties involved. Remedial plans include conducting investigations, conducting party hearings, completing training sessions regarding Iowa Code chapter 22, and participating in informal or formal conferences to reach a peaceful solution. The IPIB and its counsel may also publish advisory and declaratory opinions regarding open record violations. If no informal resolution can be agreed to, a formal hearing may be held by an administrative law judge. Statutory damages of up to \$2,500 may be imposed. If a State government body is fined, the damage fee will be paid by the General Fund. If a local official or committee is fined, the appropriate local government body will be required to pay the fee. If the parties are not satisfied with the ruling of the administrative law judge, they may appeal the ruling with the district court.

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### More Information

Iowa Public Information Board: [ipib.iowa.gov](http://ipib.iowa.gov)

LSA Staff Contact: Joey Lovan (515.242.5925) [joey.lovan@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:joey.lovan@legis.iowa.gov)

In calendar year 2023, the IPIB processed 745 cases and inquiries regarding open meetings and public record laws. **Figure 1** includes a breakdown of cases processed by the IPIB annually.

**Figure 1 — IPIB Annual Cases and Inquiries**

Cases	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Formal Complaints	148	133	124	128	137
Advisory Opinions	7	7	9	9	3
Declaratory Orders	0	1	0	0	0
Informal Complaints	58	74	75	79	141
Informal Requests	438	399	414	363	348
Miscellaneous Other	121	129	75	109	116
<b>Total</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>745</b>

### Funding

The Board receives an annual General Fund appropriation.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapters [21](#), [22](#), and [23](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [497](#)

### Budget Unit Number

5920P220001

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