

2.70 through 2.99 Reserved. 2.100 through 2.104 Repealed by 2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49.

SUBCHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.1 Sessions — place.

The sessions of the general assembly shall be held annually at the seat of government, unless the governor shall convene them at some other place in times of pestilence or public danger. Each annual session of the general assembly shall commence on the second Monday in January of each year. The general assembly may recess from time to time during each year in such manner as it may provide, subject to [Article III, section 14 of the Constitution of the State of Iowa](#).

[C51, §4; R60, §13; C73, §5; C97, §5; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §5; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.1]

[2006 Acts, ch 1010, §1](#)

2.2 Designation of general assembly.

1. Each regular session of the general assembly shall be designated by the year in which it convenes and by a number with a new consecutive number assigned with the session beginning in each odd-numbered year.

2. A special session of the general assembly shall be designated as an extraordinary session in the particular year of a numbered general assembly.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.2]

Referred to in [§2B.17](#)

2.3 Temporary organization.

At 10:00 a.m. on the second Monday in January of each odd-numbered year, the general assembly shall convene. The president of the senate, or in the president's absence some person claiming to be a member, shall call the senate to order. If necessary, a temporary president shall be chosen from the persons claiming to be elected senators. Some person claiming to be elected a member of the house of representatives shall call the house to order. The persons present claiming to be elected to the senate shall choose a secretary, and those of the house of representatives, a clerk on a temporary basis.

[C51, §5; R60, §14; C73, §6; C97, §6; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §6; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.2; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.3]

2.4 Certificates of election.

The selected secretary and clerk shall receive and file the certificates of election presented for their respective houses, and make a list therefrom of the persons who appear to have been elected members of the respective houses.

[C51, §6; R60, §15; C73, §7; C97, §7; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §7; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.3; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.4]

2.5 Temporary officers — committee on credentials.

The persons appearing to be members shall proceed to elect such other officers as may be requisite and when so temporarily organized shall choose a committee of five, who shall examine and report upon the credentials of the persons claiming to be members.

[C51, §7; R60, §4; C73, §8; C97, §8; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §8; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.4; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.5]

2.6 Permanent organization.

The members reported by the committee as holding certificates of election from the proper authority shall proceed to the permanent organization of their respective houses

by the election of officers and shall not be challenged as to their qualifications during the remainder of the term for which they were elected.

[C51, §8; R60, §5; C73, §9; C97, §9; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §9; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.5; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.6]

2.7 Officers — tenure.

The president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives shall hold their offices until the first day of the meeting of the next general assembly. All other officers elected by either house shall hold their offices for the same terms, unless sooner removed, except as may be otherwise provided by resolution or rules of the general assembly.

[R60, §16; C73, §13; C97, §17; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §10; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.6; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.7]

[90 Acts, ch 1223, §1](#)

2.8 Oaths.

Any member may administer oaths necessary in the course of business of the house of which that person is a member, and, while acting on a committee, in the course of business of such committee.

[C51, §10; R60, §7; C73, §10; C97, §10; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §11; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.7; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.8]

2.9 Journals — bills and amendments.

1. *a.* The senate and house of representatives shall each publish a daily journal of the transactions of their respective bodies. The secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house shall each determine the format and manner of the journal's publication, the procurement procedures for the journal's publication, and the journal's distribution for their respective bodies.

b. The secretary of the senate and the clerk of the house of representatives shall each preserve copies of the printed daily journals of their respective bodies, as corrected, certify to their correctness, and file them with the secretary of state at the adjournment of each session of the general assembly. The secretary of state shall preserve the original journals of the senate and the house in the manner specified by the majority leader of the senate and speaker of the house.

2. *a.* The senate and house of representatives shall each publish bills and amendments of their respective bodies. The secretary of the senate and the chief clerk of the house shall each determine the procurement procedures for the publication of the bills and amendments and the distribution of the bills and amendments for their respective bodies.

b. A bill that seeks to legalize the acts of any official or board or other official body, in regard to any matter of public nature or for any person or persons, company, or corporation, shall not be considered by the senate or house of representatives until the bill is published and distributed to members of the general assembly, and the publication shall be without expense to the state. The senate and house shall not order any such bill published until the secretary of the senate or chief clerk of the house has received a deposit to cover the cost of the publication. The newspaper publication of such bill shall be without expense to the state, and the bill shall not be published in a newspaper until the costs of the newspaper publication have been paid to the secretary of state.

[C97, §132; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §13; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.9]

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §2001](#); [2003 Acts, ch 35, §9, 49](#); [2003 Acts, ch 145, §102](#)

2.10 Salaries and expenses — members of general assembly.

Members of the general assembly shall receive salaries and expenses as provided by [this section](#).

1. Every member of the general assembly except the presiding officer of the senate, the speaker of the house, the majority and minority floor leader of each house, and the president pro tempore of the senate and speaker pro tempore of the house shall receive an annual salary of twenty-five thousand dollars for the year 2007 and subsequent years while serving as a

member of the general assembly. In addition, each such member shall receive a per diem, as defined in [subsection 5](#), for expenses of office, except travel, for each day the general assembly is in session commencing with the first day of a legislative session and ending with the day of final adjournment of each legislative session as indicated by the journals of the house and senate, except that if the length of the first regular session of the general assembly exceeds one hundred ten calendar days and the second regular session exceeds one hundred calendar days, the payments shall be made only for one hundred ten calendar days for the first session and one hundred calendar days for the second session. Members from Polk county shall receive an amount per day equal to three-fourths of the per diem of the non-Polk county members. Each member shall receive a three hundred dollar per month allowance for legislative district constituency postage, travel, telephone costs, and other expenses. Travel expenses shall be paid at the rate established by [section 8A.363](#) for actual travel in going to and returning from the seat of government by the nearest traveled route for not more than one time per week during a legislative session unless the general assembly otherwise provides.

2. The speaker of the house, presiding officer of the senate, and the majority and minority floor leader of each house shall each receive an annual salary of thirty-seven thousand five hundred dollars for the year 2007 and subsequent years while serving in that capacity. The president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker pro tempore of the house shall receive an annual salary of twenty-seven thousand dollars for the year 2007 and subsequent years while serving in that capacity. Expense and travel allowances shall be the same for the speaker of the house and the presiding officer of the senate, the president pro tempore of the senate and the speaker pro tempore of the house, and the majority and minority leader of each house as provided for other members of the general assembly.

3. When a vacancy occurs and the term of any member of the general assembly is not completed, the member shall receive a salary or compensation proportional to the length of the member's service computed to the nearest whole month. A successor elected to fill such vacancy shall receive a salary or compensation proportional to the successor's length of service computed to the nearest whole month commencing with such time as the successor is officially determined to have succeeded to such office.

4. *a.* The director of the department of administrative services shall pay the travel and expenses of the members of the general assembly commencing with the first pay period after the names of such persons are officially certified. The salaries of the members of the general assembly shall be paid pursuant to any of the following alternative methods:

(1) During each month of the year at the same time state employees are paid.

(2) During each pay period during the first six months of each calendar year.

(3) During the first six months of each calendar year by allocating two-thirds of the annual salary to the pay periods during those six months and one-third of the annual salary to the pay periods during the second six months of a calendar year.

b. Each member of the general assembly shall file with the director of the department of administrative services a statement as to the method the member selects for receiving payment of salary. The presiding officers of the two houses of the general assembly shall jointly certify to the director of the department of administrative services the names of the members, officers, and employees of their respective houses and the salaries and mileage to which each is entitled. Travel and expense allowances shall be paid upon the submission of vouchers to the director of the department of administrative services indicating a claim for the same.

5. *a.* In addition to the salaries and expenses authorized by [this section](#), a member of the general assembly shall be paid a per diem, and necessary travel and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings for which per diem or expenses are authorized by law for members of the general assembly who serve on statutory boards, commissions, or councils, and for standing or interim committee or subcommittee meetings subject to the provisions of [section 2.14](#), or when on authorized legislative business when the general assembly is not in session. However, if a member of the general assembly is engaged in authorized legislative business at a location other than at the seat of government during the time the general assembly is in session, payment may be made for the actual transportation and lodging costs incurred

because of the business. Such per diem or expenses shall be paid promptly from funds appropriated pursuant to [section 2.12](#).

b. For purposes of [this section](#), “*per diem*” means the maximum amount generally allowable to employees of the executive branch of the federal government for per diem while away from home at the seat of government.

6. If a special session of the general assembly is convened, members of the general assembly shall receive, in addition to their annual salaries, a per diem for each day the general assembly is actually in special session, and the same travel allowances and expenses as authorized by [this section](#). A member of the general assembly shall receive the additional per diem, travel allowances, and expenses only for the days of attendance during a special session.

7. A member of the general assembly may return to the state treasury all or a part of the salary, per diem, or expenses paid to the member pursuant to [this section](#). The member may specify the public use for the returned money. A member has no income tax liability for that portion of the member’s salary or per diem which is returned to the state treasury pursuant to [this subsection](#). The administrative officer of each house shall provide a form at the convening of each legislative session to allow legislators to return any portion of their salaries or expenses according to [this section](#).

8. Commencing upon the convening of the Seventy-eighth General Assembly in January 1999, the annual salaries of members and officers of the general assembly, as the annual salaries existed during the preceding calendar year, shall be adjusted by an amount equal to the average of the annual cost-of-living pay adjustments negotiated for the members of the collective bargaining units represented by the state police officers council labor union, the American federation of state, county, and municipal employees, and the Iowa united professionals for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1997. For the calendar year 2000, during the month of January, the annual salaries of members and officers of the general assembly shall be adjusted by an amount equal to the average of the annual cost-of-living pay adjustments received by the members of those collective bargaining units for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998. The annual salaries determined for the members and officers as provided in [this section](#) for the calendar year 2000 shall remain in effect for subsequent calendar years until otherwise provided by the general assembly.

[C51, §11; R60, §18; C73, §12; C97, §12, 14; S13, §12; C24, 27, 31, 35, §14-a1, 14-a2, 14-a3; C39, §14, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15, 16, 17; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.11, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.10]

83 Acts, ch 205, §20; 87 Acts, ch 227, §14; 88 Acts, ch 1267, §12, 13; 88 Acts, ch 1275, §29; 89 Acts, ch 302, §10; 89 Acts, ch 303, §13; 90 Acts, ch 1223, §2; 90 Acts, ch 1256, §19; 91 Acts, ch 258, §1; 93 Acts, ch 177, §16 – 18; 95 Acts, ch 211, §14, 17; 97 Acts, ch 204, §16; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §103, 286; 2005 Acts, ch 177, §14, 16; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §110; 2014 Acts, ch 1026, §1

Referred to in §2.14, 2.32A, 2.40, 2.44, 2.51, 4A.6, 8A.375, 17A.8, 80.28, 80B.8, 97B.8A, 97D.4, 142A.3, 225C.5, 256.179, 256I.3, 261D.3, 272B.2, 418.5

See Iowa Constitution, Art. III, §25

2.11 Officers and employees — compensation — prohibitions.

1. Each house of the general assembly may employ such officers and employees as it shall deem necessary for the conduct of its business. The compensation of the chaplains, officers, and employees of the general assembly shall be fixed by joint action of the house and senate by resolution at the opening of each session, or as soon thereafter as conveniently can be done. Such persons shall be furnished by the state such supplies as may be necessary for the proper discharge of their duties.

2. Each house of the general assembly shall implement the sexual harassment prohibitions and grievance, violation, and disposition procedures of [section 19B.12](#) for its respective full-time, part-time, and temporary employees, including, but not limited to, interns, clerks, and pages. Each house shall develop and cause to be distributed, at the time of hiring or orientation, a guide that describes for its employees the applicable sexual

harassment prohibitions and grievance, violation, and disposition procedures. [This section](#) does not supersede the remedies provided under [chapter 216](#).

[C73, §12; C97, §13, 152; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §18, 19; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.18, 2.19; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.11]

[92 Acts, ch 1086, §1](#)

2.12 Expenses of general assembly and legislative agencies — budgets.

1. There is appropriated out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated a sum sufficient to pay for legislative printing and all current and miscellaneous expenses of the general assembly, authorized by either the senate or the house, and the director of the department of administrative services shall issue warrants for such items of expense upon requisition of the president, majority leader, and secretary of the senate or the speaker and chief clerk of the house.

2. There is appropriated out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary, for each house of the general assembly for the payment of any unpaid expense of the general assembly incurred during or in the interim between sessions of the general assembly, including but not limited to salaries and necessary travel and actual expenses of members, expenses of standing and interim committees or subcommittees, and per diem or expenses for members of the general assembly who serve on statutory boards, commissions, or councils for which per diem or expenses are authorized by law. The director of the department of administrative services shall issue warrants for such items of expense upon requisition of the president, majority leader, and secretary of the senate for senate expense or the speaker and chief clerk of the house for house expense.

3. There is appropriated out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as are necessary for the renovation, remodeling, or preparation of the legislative chambers, legislative offices, or other areas or facilities used or to be used by the legislative branch of government, and for the purchase of legislative equipment and supplies deemed necessary to properly carry out the functions of the general assembly. The director of the department of administrative services shall issue warrants for such items of expense, whether incurred during or between sessions of the general assembly, upon requisition of the president, majority leader, and secretary of the senate for senate expense or the speaker and chief clerk of the house for house expense.

4. There is appropriated out of any funds in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the fiscal year budgets of the legislative services agency and the office of ombudsman for salaries, support, maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes to carry out their statutory responsibilities. The legislative services agency and the office of ombudsman shall submit their proposed budgets to the legislative council not later than September 1 of each year. The legislative council shall review and approve the proposed budgets not later than December 1 of each year. The budget approved by the legislative council for each of its statutory legislative agencies shall be transmitted by the legislative council to the department of management on or before December 1 of each year for the fiscal year beginning July 1 of the following year. The department of management shall submit the approved budgets received from the legislative council to the governor for inclusion in the governor's proposed budget for the succeeding fiscal year. The approved budgets shall also be submitted to the chairpersons of the committees on appropriations. The committees on appropriations may allocate from the funds appropriated by [this section](#) the funds contained in the approved budgets, or such other amounts as specified, pursuant to a concurrent resolution to be approved by both houses of the general assembly. The director of the department of administrative services shall issue warrants for salaries, support, maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes upon requisition by the administrative head of each statutory legislative agency. If the legislative council elects to change the approved budget for a legislative agency prior to July 1, the legislative council shall transmit the amount of the budget revision to the department of management prior to July 1 of the

fiscal year, however, if the general assembly approved the budget it cannot be changed except pursuant to a concurrent resolution approved by the general assembly.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.10, 2.20; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.12]

85 Acts, ch 65, §1; 86 Acts, ch 1244, §1; 90 Acts, ch 1223, §3; 2003 Acts, ch 35, §46, 49; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2013 Acts, ch 10, §1; 2013 Acts, ch 140, §45

Referred to in §2.10, 2.12A, 2.16, 2.43, 2.44, 2.47A, 4A.6, 8A.375, 42.5, 68B.31, 80B.8, 97B.8A, 97D.4, 256.179, 261D.3, 272B.2, 411.36

2.12A Legal expenses reviewed by the court.

If a member or members of the general assembly are involved in court proceedings on behalf of the general assembly, and are represented by an attorney who is not an employee of the state, and the legislative council determines that the reasonable expense of the court proceedings, including reasonable attorney fees, shall be paid from funds in the state treasury appropriated pursuant to [section 2.12](#), at the conclusion of the court proceedings, the court shall review the fees charged to the state to determine if the fees are fair and reasonable. The legislative council shall not reimburse attorney fees in excess of those determined by the court to be fair and reasonable.

92 Acts, ch 1240, §11

2.12B State capitol maintenance fund — appropriation.

1. A state capitol maintenance fund is created in the state treasury under the control of the legislative council. The fund shall consist of all moneys appropriated to the fund.

2. There is appropriated from the rebuild Iowa infrastructure fund for deposit in the state capitol maintenance fund, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2018, and for each fiscal year thereafter, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars.

3. The facilities manager for facilities under the control of the general assembly shall develop and submit to the legislative council by December 15, 2020, a five-year maintenance project schedule report, with annual written updates thereafter, for the Iowa state capitol and the Ola Babcock Miller building.

4. Moneys in the state capitol maintenance fund shall be expended upon approval of the legislative council and used for maintenance projects for the Iowa state capitol and the Ola Babcock Miller building.

5. Notwithstanding [section 12C.7, subsection 2](#), interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the state capitol maintenance fund shall be credited to the state capitol maintenance fund. Notwithstanding [section 8.33](#), moneys credited to the state capitol maintenance fund shall not revert at the close of a fiscal year.

2018 Acts, ch 1162, §16; 2020 Acts, ch 1120, §11

2.13 Issuance of warrants.

The director of the department of administrative services shall also issue to each officer and employee of the general assembly, during legislative sessions or interim periods, upon vouchers signed by the president, majority leader, and secretary of the senate or the speaker and chief clerk of the house, warrants for the amount due for services rendered. The warrants shall be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

[C97, §15, 16; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §20; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.21, 2.22; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.13]

86 Acts, ch 1244, §2; 90 Acts, ch 1223, §4; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

2.14 Meetings of legislative committees.

1. *a.* A standing committee of either house or a subcommittee when authorized by the chairperson of the standing committee, may meet when the general assembly is not in session in the manner provided in [this section](#) and upon call pursuant to the rules of the house or senate. In case of vacancy in the chair or in the chairperson's absence, the ranking member shall act as chairperson.

b. A standing committee or subcommittee may act on bills and resolutions in the interim between the first and second regular sessions of a general assembly. A standing committee may also study and draft proposed committee bills. However, unless the subject matter of a

study or proposed committee bill has been assigned to a standing committee for study by the general assembly or legislative council, the services of the legislative services agency cannot be utilized.

c. The date, time, and place of any meeting of a standing committee shall, by the person or persons calling the meeting, be reported to and be available to the public in the office of the director of the legislative services agency at least five days prior to the meeting.

d. A standing committee may hold public hearings and receive testimony upon any subject matter within its jurisdiction.

2. The legislative services agency shall provide staff assistance for standing committees when authorized by the legislative council. The chairperson of the committee or subcommittee shall notify the legislative services agency in advance of each meeting.

3. Interim studies utilizing the services of the legislative services agency must be authorized by the general assembly or the legislative council.

a. Nonlegislative members shall not serve upon any study committee, unless approved by the legislative council.

b. Nonlegislative members of study committees shall be paid their necessary travel and actual expenses incurred in attending committee or subcommittee meetings for the purposes of the study.

4. Standing committees and subcommittees of standing committees may meet when the general assembly is not in session under the following conditions:

a. A standing committee may meet one time at the discretion of the chairperson.

b. Additional meetings of standing committees or their subcommittees shall be authorized by the legislative council; however, such authorization may be given at any one time for as many meetings as deemed necessary by the legislative council.

c. Any study committee, other than an interim committee provided for in [subsection 3 of this section](#), which utilizes staff of the legislative services agency may meet at such times as authorized by the legislative council.

5. When the general assembly is not in session, a member of the general assembly shall be paid the per diem and necessary travel and actual expenses, as specified in [section 2.10, subsection 5](#), incurred in attending meetings of a standing committee or subcommittee of which the legislator is a member in addition to regular compensation. However, the per diem and expenses shall be allowed only if the member attends a meeting of the committee or subcommittee for at least four hours.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.14]

[91 Acts, ch 258, §2](#); [2003 Acts, ch 35, §44, 49](#); [2008 Acts, ch 1031, §72](#)

Referred to in [§2.10, 2.15](#)

2.15 Powers and duties of standing committees.

1. The powers and duties of standing committees shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

a. Introducing legislative bills and resolutions.

b. Conducting investigations with the approval of either or both houses during the session, or the legislative council during the interim, with authority to call witnesses, administer oaths, issue subpoenas, and cite for contempt.

c. Requiring reports and information from state agencies as well as the full cooperation of their personnel.

d. Selecting nonlegislative members when conducting studies as provided in [section 2.14](#).

e. Undertaking in-depth studies of governmental matters within their assigned jurisdiction, not only for the purpose of evaluating proposed legislation, but also for studying existing laws and governmental operations and functions to determine their usefulness and effectiveness, as provided in [section 2.14](#).

f. Reviewing the operations of state agencies and departments.

g. Giving thorough consideration to, establishing priorities for, and making recommendations on all bills assigned to committees.

h. Preparing reports to be made available to members of the general assembly containing the committee's findings, recommendations, and proposed legislation.

2. A standing committee may call upon any department, agency or office of the state, or any political subdivision of the state, for information and assistance as needed in the performance of its duties and the information and assistance shall be furnished to the extent that they are within the resources and authority of the department, agency, office or political subdivision. **This subsection** does not require the production or opening of any records which are required by law to be kept private or confidential.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.15]

84 Acts, ch 1171, §1; 85 Acts, ch 67, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §111

2.16 Prefiling legislative bills.

1. Any member of the general assembly or any person elected to serve in the general assembly, or any standing committee, may sponsor and submit legislative bills and joint resolutions for consideration by the general assembly, before the convening of any session of the general assembly. Each house may approve rules for placing prefiled standing committee bills or joint resolutions on its calendar. Such bills and resolutions shall be numbered, printed, and distributed in a manner to be determined by joint rule of the general assembly or, in the absence of such rule, by the legislative council. All such bills and resolutions, except those sponsored by standing committees, shall be assigned to regular standing committees by the presiding officers of the houses when the general assembly convenes.

2. Departments and agencies of state government shall, at least forty-five days prior to the convening of each session of the general assembly, submit copies to the legislative services agency of proposed legislative bills and joint resolutions which such departments desire to be considered by the general assembly. The proposed legislative bills and joint resolutions of the governor must be submitted by the Friday prior to the convening of the session of the general assembly, except in the year of the governor's initial inauguration. The legislative services agency shall review such proposals and submit them in proper form to the presiding officer in each house of the general assembly for referral to the proper standing committee. Before submitting any proposal prepared under **this section** to the presiding officers, the legislative services agency shall return it for review to, as appropriate, the relevant department or agency or the governor's office and such department or agency or the governor's office shall review and return it within seven days of such delivery.

3. The costs of carrying out the provisions of **this section** shall be paid pursuant to **section 2.12**.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.16]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §2002; 2003 Acts, ch 35, §44, 49

Referred to in §2A.4

2.17 Freedom of speech.

A member of the general assembly shall not be held for slander or libel in any court for words used in any speech or debate in either house or at any session of a standing committee.

[C51, §9; R60, §6; C73, §11; C97, §11; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §22; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.23; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.17]

2.18 Contempt.

Each house has authority to punish for contempt, by fine or imprisonment or both, any person who commits any of the following offenses against its authority:

1. Arresting a member, knowing the member to be such, in violation of the member's privilege, or assaulting, or threatening to assault, or threatening any harm to the person or property of, a member, knowing the member to be such, for anything said or done by the member in such house as a member thereof.

2. Attempting by menace, or by force, or by any corrupt means to control or influence a member in giving a vote, or to prevent giving it.

3. Disorderly or contemptuous conduct, tending to disturb its proceedings.

4. Refusal to attend, or to be sworn, or to affirm, or to be examined, as a witness before it, or before a committee thereof, when duly subpoenaed.

5. Assaulting or preventing any person going before it, or before any of its committees, by its order, the offender knowing such fact.

6. Rescuing or attempting to rescue any person arrested by its order, the offender knowing of such arrest.

7. Impeding any officer of such house in the discharge of the officer's duties as such, the offender knowing the officer's official character.

[C51, §12; R60, §8; C73, §14; C97, §18; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §23; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.24; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.18]

2.19 Punishment for contempt.

Fines and imprisonment for contempt shall be only by virtue of an order of the proper house, entered on its journals, stating the grounds thereof.

[C51, §14; R60, §10; C73, §15; C97, §19; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §24; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.25; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.19]

2.20 Warrant — execution.

Imprisonment for contempt shall be effected by a warrant, under the hand of the presiding officer, for the time being, of the house ordering it, countersigned by the acting secretary or clerk, in the name of the state, and directed to the sheriff or jailer of the proper county. Under such warrant, the proper officer will be authorized to commit and detain the person.

[C51, §14; R60, §10; C73, §15; C97, §19; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §25; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.26; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.20]

2.21 Fines — collection.

Fines for contempt shall be collected by a warrant, directed to any proper officer of any county in which the offender has property, and executed in the same manner as executions for fines issued from courts of record, and the proceeds paid into the state treasury.

[C51, §14; R60, §10; C73, §15; C97, §19; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §26; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.27; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.21]

2.22 Punishment — effect.

1. Imprisonment for contempt shall not extend beyond the session at which it is ordered, and shall be in a facility designated by the presiding officer.

2. Punishment for contempt shall not constitute a bar to any other proceeding, civil or criminal, for the same act.

[C51, §13, 15; R60, §9, 11; C73, §16; C97, §20; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §27; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.28; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.22]

2.23 Witness — attendance compulsory.

Whenever a committee of either house, or a joint committee of both, is conducting an investigation requiring the personal attendance of witnesses, any person may be compelled to appear before such committee as a witness by serving an order upon the person, which service shall be made in the manner required in case of a subpoena in a civil action in the district court. Such order shall state the time and place a person is required to appear, be signed by the presiding officer of the body by which the committee was appointed, and attested by its acting secretary or clerk; or, in case of a joint committee, signed and attested by such officers of that body.

[C73, §17; C97, §21; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §28; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.29; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.23]

Referred to in §2.24

2.24 Witnesses — compensation.

Witnesses called by a standing or joint committee shall be entitled to the same compensation for attendance under [section 2.23](#) as before the district court but shall not have the right to demand payment of their fees in advance.

[C73, §18; C97, §22; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §29; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.30; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.24]

Witness compensation in court, see [§622.69 – 622.74](#)

2.25 Joint conventions.

1. Joint conventions of the general assembly shall meet in the house of representatives for such purposes as are provided by law. The president of the senate, or, in the president's absence, the president pro tempore of the senate shall preside at such joint conventions.

2. The speaker of the house of representatives may, for purposes of canvass of votes for governor and lieutenant governor and for the inauguration of such officers, designate any suitable hall at the seat of government as the hall of the house of representatives.

[R60, §674, 675; C73, §19; C97, §23; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §30; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.31; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.25]

Referred to in [§2.28](#)

2.26 Secretary — record.

The clerk of the house of representatives shall act as secretary of the convention, and the clerk and the secretary of the senate shall keep a fair and correct record of the proceedings of the convention, which shall be entered on the journal of each house.

[R60, §677; C73, §21; C97, §25; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §31; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.32; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.26]

Referred to in [§2.28](#)

2.27 Canvass of votes for governor.

The general assembly shall meet in joint session on the same day the assembly first convenes in January of 1979 and every four years thereafter as soon as both houses have been organized, and canvass the votes cast for governor and lieutenant governor and determine the election. When the canvass is completed, the oath of office shall be administered to the persons so declared elected. Upon being inaugurated the governor shall deliver to the joint assembly any message the governor may deem expedient.

[S13, §30-a; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §32; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.33; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.27]

[2007 Acts, ch 59, §1, 19; 2009 Acts, ch 57, §1](#)

Referred to in [§2.28](#)

2.28 Tellers.

1. After the time for the meeting of the joint convention has been designated each house shall appoint three tellers, and the six shall act as judges of the election.

2. Canvassing the votes for governor and lieutenant governor shall be conducted substantially according to the provisions of [sections 2.25 through 2.27](#) and [this section](#).

[R60, §676; C73, §20, 26; C97, §24, 30; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §33, 34; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.34, 2.35; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.28]

[2008 Acts, ch 1032, §1](#)

2.29 Election — vote — how taken — second poll.

1. When any officer is to be elected by joint convention, the names of the members shall be arranged in alphabetical order by the secretaries, and each member shall vote in the order in which the member's name stands when so arranged. The name of the person voted for, and the names of the members voting, shall be entered in writing by the tellers, who, after the secretary shall have called the names of the members a second time, and the name of the person for whom each member has voted, shall report to the president of the convention the number of votes given for each candidate.

2. If no person shall receive the votes of a majority of the members present, a second poll may be taken, or as many polls as may be required until some person receives a majority.

[R60, §678, 679, 680; C73, §22, 23; C97, §26, 27; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §35, 36; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.36, 2.37; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.29]

2.30 Certificates of election.

When any person shall have received a majority of the votes, the president shall declare the person to be elected, and shall, in the presence of the convention, sign two certificates of such election, attested by the tellers, one of which the president shall transmit to the governor, and the other shall be preserved among the records of the convention and entered at length on the journal of each house. The governor shall issue a commission to the person so elected.

[R60, §682; C73, §25; C97, §29; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §37; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.38; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.30]

2.31 Adjournment.

If the purpose for which the joint convention is assembled is not concluded, the president shall adjourn or recess the same from time to time as the members present may determine.

[R60, §681; C73, §24; C97, §28; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §38; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.39; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.31]

2.32 Confirmation of appointments — procedures.

1. The governor shall either make an appointment or file a notice of deferred appointment by March 1 for the following appointments which are subject to confirmation by the senate:

- a. An appointment to fill a term beginning on May 1 of that year.
- b. An appointment to fill a vacancy, other than as provided for in paragraph “d”, existing prior to the convening of the general assembly in regular session in that year.
- c. An appointment to fill a vacancy, other than as provided for in paragraph “d”, which is known, prior to the convening of the general assembly in regular session, will occur before May 1 of that year.

d. An appointment to fill a vacancy existing in a full-time compensated position on December 15 prior to the convening of the general assembly.

2. The governor shall file by February 1 with the secretary of the senate a list of all the appointment positions requiring gubernatorial action pursuant to [subsection 1](#). The secretary of the senate shall provide the governor a written acknowledgment of the list within five days of its receipt. The senate shall approve the list or request corrections by resolution by February 15.

3. The governor shall submit all appointments requiring confirmation by the senate and notices of deferred appointment to the secretary of the senate who shall provide the governor’s office with receipts of submission. Each notice of appointment shall be accompanied by a statement of the appointee’s political affiliation. The notice of a deferred appointment shall be filed by the governor with the secretary of the senate and accompanied by a statement of reasons for the deferral. For appointments requiring confirmation by the senate made during the legislative interim, the notice of appointment shall be submitted to the secretary of the senate within three days of the appointment date.

4. A gubernatorial appointee, whose appointment is subject to confirmation by the senate and who serves at the pleasure of the governor, is subject to reconfirmation by the senate during the regular session of the general assembly convening in January if the appointee will complete the appointee’s fourth year in office on or before the following April 30. For the purposes of [this section](#), the submission of an appointee for reconfirmation is deemed the same as the submission of an appointee for confirmation and the procedures of [this section](#) regarding confirmation and the consequences of refusal to confirm are the same for reconfirmation.

5. If an appointment subject to senate confirmation is required by statute to be made by an appointing authority other than the governor, the duties assigned under [this section](#) to the governor shall be performed by the appointing authority.

6. If a vacancy in a position requiring confirmation by the senate, other than a full-time

compensated position, occurs after the convening of the general assembly in regular session, the governor shall, within sixty calendar days after the vacancy occurs, either make an appointment or file a notice of deferred appointment unless the general assembly has adjourned its regular session before the sixty-day period expires. If a vacancy in a full-time compensated position requiring senate confirmation occurs after December 15, the governor shall, within ninety calendar days after the vacancy occurs, make an appointment or file a notice of deferred appointment unless the general assembly has adjourned its regular session before the ninety-day period expires.

7. If an appointment is submitted pursuant to [subsection 1](#), the senate shall by April 15 of that year either approve, disapprove, or by resolution defer consideration of confirmation of the appointment. If an appointment is submitted pursuant to [subsection 6](#), the senate shall either approve, disapprove, or by resolution defer consideration of confirmation of the appointment within thirty days after receiving the appointment from the governor. The senate may defer consideration of an appointment until a later time during that session, but the senate shall not adjourn that session until all appointments submitted pursuant to [this section](#) before the last thirty days of the session are approved or disapproved. If a nomination is submitted during the last thirty days of the session, the senate may by resolution defer consideration of the appointment until the next regular session of the general assembly and the nomination shall be considered as though made during the legislative interim.

8. The confirmation of every appointment submitted to the senate requires the approval of two-thirds of the members of the senate. The senate shall adopt rules governing the referral of appointments to committees, the reports of committees on appointments, and the confirmation of appointments by the senate.

9. A person whose appointment is subject to senate confirmation shall make available to the senate committee to which the appointment is referred, upon the committee's request, a notarized statement that the person has filed federal and state income tax returns for the three years immediately preceding the appointment, or a notarized statement of the legal reason for failure to file. In addition, a person whose appointment is subject to senate confirmation shall make available to the senate committee to which the appointment is referred a notarized statement on whether the person has filed a registration statement pursuant to the federal Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended, 22 U.S.C. §611 et seq. If the appointment is to a board, commission, council, or other body empowered to take disciplinary action, all complaints and statements of charges, settlement agreements, findings of fact, and orders pertaining to any disciplinary action taken by that board, commission, council, or body in a contested case against the person whose appointment is being reviewed by the senate shall be made available to the senate committee to which the appointment is referred upon its request.

10. All tax records, complaint files, investigation files, other investigation reports, and other investigative information in the possession of the committee which relate to appointee tax filings or complaints and statements of charges, settlement agreements, findings of fact, and orders from any past disciplinary action in a contested case against the appointee are privileged and confidential and they are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for their release to a person other than the appointee unless otherwise provided by law.

11. Sixty days after a person's appointment has been disapproved by the senate, that person shall not serve in that position as an interim appointment or by holding over in office and the governor shall submit another appointment or file a notice of deferred appointment before the sixty-day period expires.

[C27, 31, 35, §38-b1; C39, §38.1; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §2.40; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.32] [85 Acts, ch 145, §1](#); [86 Acts, ch 1245, §2003](#); [88 Acts, ch 1128, §1](#); [94 Acts, ch 1184, §1](#); [2008 Acts, ch 1031, §73](#); [2009 Acts, ch 106, §1, 2, 14](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1061, §1](#)

Referred to in [§7E.8](#), [15E.63](#), [84A.1](#), [99D.5](#), [142A.3](#), [159A.13](#), [169.5](#), [216A.3](#), [225C.5](#), [257.30](#), [307A.4](#), [475A.1](#)

2.32A Appointments by members of the general assembly to statutory boards, commissions, councils, and committees — per diem and expenses.

1. A member of the general assembly who is charged with making an appointment to

a statutory board, commission, council, or committee shall make the appointment prior to the fourth Monday in January of the first regular session of each general assembly and in accordance with [section 4A.13](#). If multiple appointing members are charged with making appointments of public members to the same board, commission, council, or committee, including as provided in [section 333A.2](#), the appointing members shall consult with one another in making the appointments. If the senate appointing member for a legislative appointment is the president, majority leader, or the minority leader, the appointing member shall consult with the other two leaders in making the appointment. If the house of representatives appointing member is the speaker, majority leader, or minority leader, the appointing member shall consult with the other two leaders in making the appointment.

2. Each appointing member shall inform the director of the legislative services agency of the appointment and of the term of the appointment. The legislative services agency shall maintain an up-to-date listing of all appointments made or to be made by members of the general assembly.

3. The legislative services agency shall inform each appointee and each affected board, commission, council, or committee of the appointment and of the term of the appointment.

4. Unless otherwise specifically provided by law, a member of the general assembly shall be paid, in accordance with [section 2.10](#), per diem and necessary travel and actual expenses incurred in attending meetings of a statutory board, commission, council, or committee to which the member is appointed by a member of the general assembly.

[2008 Acts, ch 1156, §1, 58; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §2](#)

Referred to in [§2A.4, 4A.13, 256H.2](#)

Section not amended; internal reference change applied

2.33 Differential treatment in legislation.

The general assembly shall not pass a bill that uses gender as the basis for differential treatment unless there is a compelling reason for the differential treatment and no reasonable alternatives exist by which the treatment could be mitigated or avoided.

[84 Acts, ch 1042, §1](#)

2.34 Reserved.

2.35 and 2.36 Repealed by 2008 Acts, ch 1156, §53, 58.

2.37 through 2.39 Reserved.

2.40 Membership in state insurance plans.

1. *a.* A member of the general assembly may elect to become a member of a state group insurance plan for employees of the state established under [chapter 509A](#) subject to the following conditions:

(1) The member shall be eligible for all state group insurance plans on the basis of enrollment rules established for the largest number of full-time state employees of the executive branch, other than employees of the state board of regents, that are excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#).

(2) The member shall pay that portion of the total premium for the plan selected on the same basis as paid by the largest number of full-time state employees of the executive branch, other than employees of the state board of regents, that are excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#).

(3) The member shall authorize a payroll deduction of the premium due according to the member's pay plan selected pursuant to [section 2.10, subsection 4](#).

b. A member of the general assembly may continue membership in a state group insurance plan without reapplication during the member's tenure as a member of consecutive general assemblies. For the purpose of electing to become a member of the state health or medical service group insurance plan, a member of the general assembly has the status of a "new hire", full-time state employee following each election of that member in a general or special election, or during the first subsequent annual open enrollment.

c. In lieu of membership in a state health or medical group insurance plan, a member of the general assembly may elect to receive reimbursement for the costs paid by the member for a continuation of a group coverage (COBRA) health or medical insurance plan. The member shall apply for reimbursement by submitting evidence of payment for a COBRA health or medical insurance plan. The maximum reimbursement shall be no greater than the state's contribution for health or medical insurance family plan II.

d. A member of the general assembly who elects to become a member of a state health or medical group insurance plan shall be exempted from preexisting medical condition waiting periods. A member of the general assembly may change programs or coverage under the state health or medical service group insurance plan during the month of January of odd-numbered years, but program and coverage change selections shall be subject to the enrollment rules established for full-time state employees excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#).

e. A person who has been a member of the general assembly for two years and who has elected to be a member of a state health or medical group insurance plan may continue to be a member of such state health or medical group insurance plan by requesting continuation in writing to the finance officer within thirty-one days after leaving office. The continuing former member of the general assembly shall pay the total premium for the state plan and shall have the same rights to change programs or coverage as state employees. This paragraph shall not be construed to permit a former member to become a member of a state health or medical group insurance plan providing programs or coverage of a type that the former member did not elect to continue pursuant to this paragraph.

f. In the event of the death of a former member of the general assembly who has elected to continue to be a member of a state health or medical group insurance plan, the surviving spouse of the former member whose insurance would otherwise terminate because of the death of the former member may elect to continue to be a member of such state health or medical group insurance plan by requesting continuation in writing to the finance officer within thirty-one days after the death of the former member. The surviving spouse of the former member shall pay the total premium for the state plan and shall have the same rights to change programs or coverage as state employees. For purposes of this paragraph, health or medical programs or coverage and dental programs or coverage are to be treated separately and the rights to change programs or coverage apply only to the type of programs or coverage that the continuing former member has elected to continue.

2. A part-time employee of the general assembly may elect to become a member of a state group insurance plan for employees of the state established under [chapter 509A](#) subject to the following conditions:

a. The part-time employee shall be eligible for all state group insurance plans on the basis of enrollment rules established for full-time state employees excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#) and shall have the same rights to change programs or coverage as are afforded such state employees.

b. The part-time employee shall pay the total premium.

c. A part-time employee may continue membership in a state group insurance plan without reapplication during the employee's employment during consecutive sessions of the general assembly. For the purpose of electing to become a member of the state group insurance plan, a part-time employee of the general assembly has the status of a "new hire", full-time state employee when the employee is initially eligible or during the first subsequent enrollment change period.

d. (1) A part-time employee of the general assembly who elects membership in a state group insurance plan shall state each year whether the membership is to extend through the interim period between consecutive sessions of the general assembly.

(2) If the membership is to extend through the interim period the part-time employee shall authorize payment of the total annual premium through direct payment of the monthly premium for the plan selected to the state group insurance plan provider.

(3) The part-time employee shall notify the finance officer within thirty-one days after the conclusion of the general assembly whether the person's decision to extend the membership through the interim period is confirmed.

e. A member of a state group insurance plan pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall have the same rights upon final termination of employment as a part-time employee as are afforded full-time state employees excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#).

f. A part-time employee of the general assembly who elects membership in a state life insurance plan shall authorize payment of the premium through a total of two payments during each annual period made to the department of administrative services on dates prescribed by the department.

3. A full-time employee of the general assembly may elect to become a member of a state group insurance plan for employees of the state established under [chapter 509A](#) subject to the following conditions:

a. The full-time employee shall be eligible for all state group insurance plans on the basis of enrollment rules established for the largest number of full-time state employees of the executive branch, other than employees of the state board of regents, that are excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#) and shall have the same rights to change programs or coverage as are afforded such state employees.

b. The full-time employee shall pay that portion of the total premium for the plan selected on the same basis as paid by the largest number of full-time state employees of the executive branch, other than employees of the state board of regents, that are excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#).

c. A member of a state group insurance plan pursuant to [this subsection](#) shall have the same rights upon final termination of employment as are afforded the largest number of full-time state employees, other than employees of the state board of regents, that are excluded from collective bargaining as provided in [chapter 20](#).

[83 Acts, ch 205, §21; 88 Acts, ch 1267, §14; 89 Acts, ch 303, §14; 90 Acts, ch 1122, §1, 2; 95 Acts, ch 211, §15; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286; 2005 Acts, ch 52, §1; 2008 Acts, ch 1031, §2; 2017 Acts, ch 35, §1 – 5](#)

Limitation on additional coverage benefits, lower costs, or other enhancements of group health insurance coverage provided to general assembly members and employees on or after March 7, 2011; [2011 Acts, ch 122, §1, 5](#)

SUBCHAPTER II LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

2.41 Legislative council created.

1. A continuing legislative council of twenty-four members is created. The council is composed of the president and president pro tempore of the senate, the speaker and speaker pro tempore of the house of representatives, the majority and minority floor leaders of the senate, the chairperson of the senate committee on appropriations, the minority party ranking member of the senate committee on appropriations, three members of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, three members of the senate appointed by the minority leader of the senate, the majority and minority floor leaders of the house of representatives, the chairperson of the house committee on appropriations, the minority party ranking member of the house committee on appropriations, three members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and three members of the house of representatives appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

2. Members shall be appointed prior to the fourth Monday in January of the first regular session of each general assembly and shall serve for two-year terms ending upon the convening of the following general assembly or when their successors are appointed. Vacancies on the council, including vacancies which occur when a member of the council ceases to be a member of the general assembly, shall be filled by the appointing authority who made the original appointment. Insofar as possible at least two members of the council from each house shall be reappointed.

3. The council shall hold regular meetings at a time and place fixed by the chairperson of the council and shall meet at any other time and place as the council deems necessary.

[C58, §2.46; C62, 66, 71, 73, §2.49; C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.41]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §2005; 90 Acts, ch 1223, §6; 2008 Acts, ch 1156, §2, 58

2.42 Powers and duties of council.

The legislative council shall select its officers and prescribe its rules and procedure. The powers and duties of the council shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To establish policies for the operation of the legislative services agency.
2. To appoint the director of the legislative services agency for such term of office as may be set by the council.
3. To prepare reports to be submitted to the general assembly at its regular sessions.
4. To appoint interim study committees consisting of members of the legislative council and members of the general assembly of such number as the council shall determine. Nonlegislative members may be included on such committees when the council deems the participation of such members advantageous to the conduct of the study.
5. To conduct studies and evaluate reports of studies assigned to study committees and make recommendations for legislative or administrative action thereon. Recommendations shall include such bills as the legislative council may deem advisable.
6. To cooperate with other states to discuss mutual legislative and governmental problems.
7. To recommend staff for the legislative council and the standing committees in cooperation with the chairperson of such standing committees.
8. To recommend changes or revisions in the senate and house rules and the joint rules for more efficient operation of the general assembly and draft proposed rule amendments, resolutions, and bills as may be required to carry out such recommendations, for consideration by the general assembly.
9. To recommend to the general assembly the names and numbers of standing committees of both houses.
10. To establish rules for the style and format for drafting and preparing of legislative bills and resolutions.
11. To approve the appointment of the Iowa Code editor and the administrative code editor.
12. To establish policies for the distribution of information which is stored by the general assembly in an electronic format, including the contents of statutes or rules, other than value-added electronic publications as provided in [section 2A.5](#). The legislative council shall establish payment rates that encourage the distribution of such information to the public, including private vendors reselling that information. The legislative council shall not establish a price that attempts to recover more than is attributable to costs related to reproducing and delivering the information.
13. To establish policies with regard to publishing printed and electronic versions of legal publications as provided in chapters [2A](#) and [2B](#), including the Iowa Acts, Iowa Code, Iowa administrative bulletin, Iowa administrative code, and Iowa court rules, or any part of those publications. The publishing policies may include, but are not limited to: the style and format to be used; the frequency of publication; the contents of the publications; the numbering systems to be used; the preparation of editorial comments or notations; the correction of errors; the type of print or electronic media and data processing software to be used; the number of volumes to be published; recommended revisions; the letting of contracts for publication; the pricing of the publications to which [section 22.3](#) does not apply; access to, and the use, reproduction, legal protection, sale or distribution, and pricing of related data processing software consistent with [chapter 22](#); and any other matters deemed necessary to the publication of uniform and understandable publications.
14. To hear and act upon appeals of aggrieved employees of the legislative services agency and the office of ombudsman pursuant to rules of procedure established by the council.
15. Authority to review and delay the effective dates of rules and forms submitted by the supreme court pursuant to [section 602.4202](#).

16. To implement the sexual harassment prohibitions and grievance, violation, and disposition procedures of [section 19B.12](#) with respect to full-time, part-time, and temporary central legislative staff agency employees and to develop and distribute, at the time of hiring or orientation, a guide that describes for its employees the applicable sexual harassment prohibitions and grievance, violation, and disposition procedures. [This subsection](#) does not supersede the remedies provided under [chapter 216](#).

[C58, §2.47; C62, 66, 71, 73, §2.50; C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.42]

[83 Acts, ch 186, §10001, 10201; 84 Acts, ch 1067, §1; 85 Acts, ch 65, §2, 3; 85 Acts, ch 197, §1; 87 Acts, ch 115, §2; 91 Acts, ch 258, §4; 92 Acts, ch 1086, §2; 96 Acts, ch 1099, §1; 2003 Acts, ch 35, §10, 49; 2010 Acts, ch 1031, §26; 2013 Acts, ch 10, §2; 2013 Acts, ch 140, §46; 2014 Acts, ch 1141, §30](#)

Referred to in [§2A.2, 2A.5, 2B.1, 2B.5A, 2B.5B, 2B.10, 2B.17, 2B.17A, 2B.18, 2B.33, 2B.34, 2B.35, 2B.37, 2B.39](#)

2.43 General supervision over legislative facilities, equipment, and arrangements.

1. The legislative council in cooperation with the officers of the senate and house shall have the duty and responsibility for preparing for each session of the general assembly. Pursuant to such duty and responsibility, the legislative council shall assign the use of areas in the state capitol except for the areas used by the governor as of January 1, 1986, and, in consultation with the director of the department of administrative services and the capitol planning commission, may assign areas in other state office buildings, except for the judicial branch building, for use of the general assembly or legislative agencies. The legislative council shall provide the courts with use of space in the state capitol for ceremonial purposes. The legislative council may authorize the renovation, remodeling and preparation of the physical facilities used or to be used by the general assembly or legislative agencies subject to the jurisdiction of the legislative council and award contracts pursuant to such authority to carry out such preparation. The legislative council may purchase supplies and equipment deemed necessary for the proper functioning of the legislative branch of government.

2. In carrying out its duties under [this section](#), the legislative council shall consult with the director of the department of administrative services and the capitol planning commission, but shall not be bound by any decision of the director in respect to the responsibilities and duties provided for in [this section](#). The legislative council may direct the director of the department of administrative services or other state employees to carry out its directives in regard to the physical facilities of the general assembly, or may employ other personnel to carry out such functions.

3. The costs of carrying out the provisions of [this section](#) shall be paid pursuant to [section 2.12](#).

[C71, 73, §2.51; C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.43]

[86 Acts, ch 1245, §301; 2002 Acts, ch 1173, §23; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §104, 286; 2017 Acts, ch 170, §20](#)

Referred to in [§8A.322](#)

Capitol space allocation, see also [§8A.322](#)

2.44 Expenses of council and special interim committees.

1. Members of the legislative council shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, and shall be paid the per diem specified in [section 2.10, subsection 5](#), for each day in which engaged in the performance of their duties. However, the per diem and expenses shall not be paid when the general assembly is actually in session at the seat of government. The expenses and per diem shall be paid in the manner provided for in [section 2.12](#).

2. Members of special interim study committees which may from time to time be created and members of the legislative fiscal committee who are not members of the legislative council shall be entitled to receive the same expenses and compensation provided for the members of the legislative council.

[C97, §181; S13, §181; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §44; C46, 50, §2.46; C54, §2.45; C58, §2.45, 2.48; C62, 66, §2.45, 2.51; C71, 73, §2.45, 2.52; C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.44]

[91 Acts, ch 258, §5](#)

2.45 Committees of the legislative council.

The legislative council shall be divided into committees, which shall include but not be limited to:

1. The legislative service committee which shall be composed of six members of the legislative council, consisting of three members from each house, to be appointed by the legislative council. The legislative service committee shall select a chairperson from its membership, and shall determine policies relating to the operation of the legislative services agency, subject to the approval of the legislative council.

2. The legislative fiscal committee, composed of the chairpersons or their designated committee member and the ranking minority party members or their designated committee member of the committees of the house and senate responsible for developing a state budget and appropriating funds, the chairpersons or their designated committee member and the ranking minority party members or their designated committee member of the committees on ways and means, and two members, one appointed from the majority party of the senate by the majority leader of the senate and one appointed from the majority party of the house by the speaker of the house of representatives. In each house, unless one of the members who represent the committee on ways and means is also a member of the legislative council, the person appointed from the membership of the majority party in that house shall also be appointed from the membership of the legislative council.

3. The legislative administration committee which shall be composed of six members of the legislative council, consisting of three members from each house, to be appointed by the legislative council. The legislative administration committee shall perform such duties as are assigned it by the legislative council.

4. *a.* The legislative capital projects committee which shall be composed of ten members appointed as follows:

(1) Two senate members of the legislative fiscal committee or the senate committee on appropriations, one to be appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one to be appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

(2) Two house members of the legislative fiscal committee or the house committee on appropriations, one to be appointed by the speaker of the house and one to be appointed by the minority leader of the house.

(3) The chairpersons of the senate and house committees on appropriations.

(4) Four members of the legislative council, one appointed by the speaker of the house, one by the majority leader of the senate, one by the minority leader of the house, and one by the minority leader of the senate.

b. The chairperson of the legislative council shall designate the chairperson or chairpersons of the legislative capital projects committee.

5. The legislative health policy oversight committee, which shall be composed of ten members of the general assembly, consisting of five members from each house, to be appointed by the legislative council. The legislative health policy oversight committee may meet annually to provide continuing oversight for Medicaid managed care, and to ensure effective and efficient administration of the program, address stakeholder concerns, monitor program costs and expenditures, and make recommendations.

[C97, §181; S13, §181; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §39, 40; C46, 50, §2.41, 2.42; C54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §2.41; C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.45]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §2006; 89 Acts, ch 298, §1; 2002 Acts, ch 1162, §74; 2003 Acts, ch 35, §11, 44, 49; 2006 Acts, ch 1153, §16; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §201; 2009 Acts, ch 86, §1; 2010 Acts, ch 1138, §2; 2015 Acts, ch 137, §64, 162, 163; 2016 Acts, ch 1139, §97; 2022 Acts, ch 1002, §60; 2023 Acts, ch 112, §55

2.46 Powers of legislative fiscal committee.

The legislative fiscal committee may, subject to the approval of the legislative council:

1. *Budget.* Gather information relative to budget matters for the purpose of aiding the legislature to properly appropriate money for the functions of government, and to report their findings to the legislature.

2. *Examination.* Examine the reports and official acts of the executive council and of

each officer, board, commission, and department of the state, in respect to the conduct and expenditures thereof and the receipts and disbursements of public funds thereby. All state departments and agencies are required to immediately notify the legislative fiscal committee of the legislative council and the director of the legislative services agency if any state facilities within their jurisdiction have been cited for violations of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations or have been decertified or notified of the threat of decertification from compliance with any state, federal, or other nationally recognized certification or accreditation agency or organization.

3. *Reorganization.* Make a continuous study of all offices, departments, agencies, boards, bureaus, and commissions of the state government and shall determine and recommend to each session of the legislature what changes therein are necessary to accomplish the following purposes:

a. To reduce expenditures and promote economy to the fullest extent consistent with the efficient operation of state government.

b. To increase the efficiency of the operations of the state government to the fullest extent practicable within the available revenues.

c. To group, coordinate, and consolidate judicial districts, agencies and functions of the government, as nearly as may be according to major purposes.

d. To reduce the number of offices, agencies, boards, commissions, and departments by consolidating those having similar functions, and to abolish such offices, agencies, boards, commissions, and departments, or functions thereof, as may not be necessary for the efficient and economical conduct of state government.

e. To eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort on the part of such offices, agencies, boards, commissions, and departments of the state government.

4. *Administration of legislative database.* Determine the policy for the content and administration of a legislative database.

5. *Information needs determination.* Determine the information needs of the general assembly and report them to the director of the department of administrative services who shall consider such needs in establishing the operating policies for a database management system.

[C97, §181, 182; S13, §181; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §42, 45; C46, 50, §2.44, 2.47; C54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §2.43; C75, 77, §2.46; C79, §2.46, 2.54; C81, §2.46]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §302; 89 Acts, ch 298, §2; 2003 Acts, ch 35, §45, 49; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §286

2.47 Procedure.

The chairpersons of the committees on appropriations shall serve as co-chairpersons of the legislative fiscal committee. The legislative fiscal committee shall determine its own method of procedure and shall meet as often as deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the legislative council. It shall keep a record of its proceedings which shall be open to public inspection, and it shall inform the legislative council in advance concerning the dates of meetings of the committee.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.47]

2023 Acts, ch 64, §1

2.47A Powers and duties of legislative capital projects committee.

1. The legislative capital projects committee shall do all of the following:

a. Receive the recommendations of the governor regarding the funding and priorities of proposed capital projects pursuant to [section 8.3A, subsection 2](#), paragraph “b”.

b. Receive the reports of all capital project budgeting requests of all state agencies, with individual state agency priorities noted, pursuant to [section 8.5, subsection 12](#).

c. Receive annual status reports for all ongoing capital projects of state agencies.

d. Examine and evaluate, on a continuing basis, the state’s system of contracting and subcontracting in regard to capital projects.

2. The legislative capital projects committee, subject to the approval of the legislative council, may do all of the following:

a. Gather information relative to capital projects, for the purpose of aiding the general assembly to properly appropriate moneys for capital projects.

b. Examine the reports and official acts of the state agencies, as defined in [section 8.3A](#), with regard to capital project planning and budgeting and the receipt and disbursement of capital project funding.

c. Establish advisory bodies to the committee in areas where technical expertise is not otherwise readily available to the committee. Advisory body members may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses from funds appropriated pursuant to [section 2.12](#), but only if the reimbursement is approved by the legislative council.

d. Compensate experts from outside state government for the provision of services to the committee from funds appropriated pursuant to [section 2.12](#), but only if the compensation is approved by the legislative council.

e. Make recommendations to the legislative fiscal committee, legislative council, and the general assembly regarding issues relating to the planning, budgeting, and expenditure of capital project funding.

3. The capital projects committee shall determine its own method of procedure and shall keep a record of its proceedings which shall be open to public inspection. The committee shall meet as often as deemed necessary, subject to the approval of the legislative council, and the committee shall inform the legislative council in advance of its meeting dates.

[89 Acts, ch 298, §3; 90 Acts, ch 1168, §1; 91 Acts, ch 268, §601; 95 Acts, ch 214, §1; 2001 Acts, 2nd Ex, ch 2, §1, 13; 2003 Acts, ch 145, §105; 2007 Acts, ch 115, §1; 2024 Acts, ch 1185, §87](#)

Subsection 1, paragraph b amended

2.48 Review of tax incentive programs.

1. As used in [this section](#), “*tax expenditure*” means an exclusion from the operation or collection of a tax imposed in this state. Tax expenditures include tax credits, exemptions, deductions, and rebates. Tax expenditures also include sales tax refunds issued pursuant to [section 423.3](#) or [423.4](#).

2. a. (1) The department administering a tax expenditure described in [subsection 3](#) shall engage in a review of the tax expenditure based upon the schedule in [subsection 3](#). If multiple departments administer the tax expenditure, the departments shall cooperate in the review.

(2) The review shall consist of evaluating any tax expenditure described in [subsection 3](#) and assess its equity, simplicity, competitiveness, public purpose, adequacy, and extent of conformance with the original purpose of the legislation that enacted the tax expenditure, as those issues pertain to taxation in Iowa.

b. (1) The department shall file a report detailing the review with the general assembly no later than December 15 of the year the credit is scheduled to be reviewed in [subsection 3](#).

(2) The report may include recommendations for better aligning tax expenditures with the original intent of the legislation that enacted the tax expenditure.

3. The applicable department shall review the following tax expenditures and incentives according to the following schedule:

a. In 2011:

(1) The high quality jobs program under [chapter 15, subchapter II, part 13](#).

(2) The tax credits for increasing research activities available under [sections 15.335, 422.10, and 422.33](#).

(3) The franchise tax credits available under [sections 422.11 and 422.33](#).

(4) The earned income tax credit available under [section 422.12B](#).

b. In 2012:

(1) The Iowa fund of funds program in [chapter 15E, subchapter VII](#).

(2) The targeted jobs withholding credits available under [section 403.19A](#).

(3) Funding of urban renewal projects with increased local sales and services tax revenues under [section 423B.10](#).

(4) School tuition organization tax credits under [sections 422.11S and 422.33](#).

(5) Tuition and textbook tax credits under [section 422.12](#).

c. In 2013:

- (1) The child and dependent care and early childhood development tax credits under [section 422.12C](#).
- (2) The endow Iowa tax credits authorized under [section 15E.305](#).
- (3) The redevelopment tax credits available under [section 15.293A](#).
- (4) Property tax revenue divisions for urban renewal areas under [section 403.19](#).
- d. In 2014:
 - (1) Tax credits for investments in qualifying businesses under [chapter 15E, subchapter V](#).
 - (2) Historic preservation tax credits under [chapter 404A](#).
 - (3) Wind energy production tax credits under [chapter 476B](#).
 - (4) Renewable energy tax credits under [chapter 476C](#).
 - (5) The ethanol promotion tax credits available under [section 422.11N](#).
 - (6) The E-85 gasoline promotion tax credits available under [section 422.11O](#).
 - (7) The biodiesel blended fuel tax credits available under [section 422.11P](#).
- e. In 2015:
 - (1) The beginning farmer tax credit program as provided in [chapter 16, subchapter VIII, part 5, subpart B](#).
 - (2) The claim of right tax credit under [section 422.5](#).
 - (3) The reduction in allocating income to Iowa by S corporation shareholders under [section 422.8](#).
 - (4) The minimum tax credit under [section 422.11B](#), Code 2023, and [sections 422.33](#) and [422.60](#).
 - (5) The assistive device corporate tax credit under [section 422.33](#).
 - (6) The charitable conservation contribution tax credit under [sections 422.11W](#) and [422.33](#).
 - (7) The motor vehicle fuel tax credit under [section 422.110](#).
 - (8) The new jobs tax credits available under [section 422.11A](#).
- f. In 2016:
 - (1) The homestead tax exemption and credit under [chapter 425](#).
 - (2) The elderly and disabled property tax credit under [chapter 425](#).
 - (3) The agricultural land tax credit under [chapter 426](#).
 - (4) The military service tax credit under [chapter 426A](#).
- g. In 2017, the innovation fund investment tax credit available under [section 15E.52](#).
- h. In 2022, the renewable chemical production tax credit program available under [sections 15.315 through 15.322](#).

4. A tax expenditure or incentive reviewed pursuant to [subsection 3](#) shall be reviewed again not more than five years after the tax expenditure or incentive was most recently reviewed.

[2010 Acts, ch 1138, §3; 2012 Acts, ch 1110, §1; 2012 Acts, ch 1124, §1, 2; 2012 Acts, ch 1136, §29, 39 – 41; 2013 Acts, ch 117, §1, 7; 2013 Acts, ch 125, §1, 23, 24; 2014 Acts, ch 1026, §2; 2014 Acts, ch 1080, §79, 80, 98, 115, 125; 2014 Acts, ch 1130, §28; 2015 Acts, ch 138, §107, 126, 127; 2016 Acts, ch 1065, §2, 15, 16; 2016 Acts, ch 1138, §4; 2017 Acts, ch 29, §1; 2019 Acts, ch 161, §1, 18, 19; 2021 Acts, ch 177, §109; 2022 Acts, ch 1002, §61 – 63; 2022 Acts, ch 1061, §28, 38; 2023 Acts, ch 71, §23, 48, 49](#)

Referred to in [§422.25, 423.37](#)

For future strike of subsection 3, paragraph h, effective July 1, 2030, see 2017 Acts, ch 29, §2, 169

2.49 and 2.50 Repealed by 2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49. See chapter 2A.

2.51 Visitations.

The legislative fiscal committee, with the approval of the legislative council, may direct a subcommittee, which shall be composed of the chairpersons and minority party ranking members of the appropriate subcommittees of the committees on appropriations of the senate and the house of representatives and the chairpersons of the appropriate standing committees of the general assembly, to visit the offices and facilities of any state office, department, agency, board, bureau, or commission to review programs authorized by the general assembly and the administration of the programs. When the legislative fiscal

committee visits the offices and facilities of any state office, department, agency, board, bureau, or commission to review programs authorized by the general assembly and the administration of the programs, there shall be included the chairpersons and minority party ranking members of the appropriate subcommittees of the committees on appropriations of the senate and the house of representatives. The legislative council may appoint a member of the subcommittee or standing committee to serve in place of that subcommittee's or standing committee's chairperson or minority party ranking member on the legislative fiscal visitation committee or subcommittee if that person will be absent. The subcommittee and the legislative fiscal committee shall be provided with information by the legislative services agency concerning budgets, programs, and legislation authorizing programs prior to any visitation. Members of a committee shall be compensated pursuant to [section 2.10, subsection 5](#). The subcommittee shall make reports and recommendations as required by the legislative fiscal committee.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §2.51]

[84 Acts, ch 1026, §1](#); [2003 Acts, ch 35, §45, 49](#); [2023 Acts, ch 64, §2](#)

2.52 Access — subpoenas. Repealed by [2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49](#). See [§2A.3](#).

2.53 and 2.54 Reserved.

2.55 and 2.55A Repealed by [2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49](#).

SUBCHAPTER III

CORRECTIONAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

2.56 Correctional impact statements.

1. Prior to debate on the floor of a chamber of the general assembly, a correctional impact statement shall be attached to any bill, joint resolution, or amendment which proposes a change in the law which creates a public offense, significantly changes an existing public offense or the penalty for an existing offense, or changes existing sentencing, parole, or probation procedures. The statement shall include information concerning the estimated number of criminal cases per year that the legislation will impact, the fiscal impact of confining persons pursuant to the legislation, the impact of the legislation on minorities, the impact of the legislation upon existing correctional institutions, community-based correctional facilities and services, and jails, the likelihood that the legislation may create a need for additional prison capacity, and other relevant matters. The statement shall be factual and shall, if possible, provide a reasonable estimate of both the immediate effect and the long-range impact upon prison capacity.

2. *a.* When a committee of the general assembly reports a bill, joint resolution, or amendment to the floor, the committee shall state in the report whether a correctional impact statement is or is not required.

b. The legislative services agency shall review all bills and joint resolutions placed on the calendar of either chamber of the general assembly, as well as amendments filed to bills or joint resolutions on the calendar, to determine whether a correctional impact statement is required.

c. A member of the general assembly may request the preparation of a correctional impact statement by submitting a request to the legislative services agency.

3. The legislative services agency shall cause to be prepared a correctional impact statement within a reasonable time after receiving a request or determining that a proposal is subject to [this section](#). All correctional impact statements approved by the legislative services agency shall be transmitted immediately to either the chief clerk of the house or the secretary of the senate, after notifying the sponsor of the legislation that the statement has been prepared for publication. The chief clerk of the house or the secretary of the senate

shall attach the statement to the bill, joint resolution, or amendment affected as soon as it is available.

4. The legislative services agency may request the cooperation of any state department or agency or political subdivision in preparing a correctional impact statement.

5. The legislative services agency, in cooperation with the department of health and human services as the agency responsible for criminal and juvenile justice planning, shall develop a protocol for analyzing the impact of the legislation on minorities.

6. A revised correctional impact statement shall be prepared if the correctional impact has been changed by the adoption of an amendment, and may be requested by a member of the general assembly or be prepared upon a determination made by the legislative services agency. However, a request for a revised correctional impact statement shall not delay action on the bill, joint resolution, or amendment unless so ordered by the presiding officer of the chamber.

[93 Acts, ch 171, §14](#); [2003 Acts, ch 35, §12, 49](#); [2008 Acts, ch 1095, §1, 2, 4](#); [2023 Acts, ch 19, §1](#)

Referred to in [§2A.4](#)

2.57 Reserved.

2.58 through 2.60 Repealed by [2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49](#). See chapter 2A.

SUBCHAPTER IV

RESEARCH REQUESTS — INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEES

2.61 Requests for research.

Requests for research on governmental matters may be made to the legislative services agency by either house of the general assembly, committees of either house of the general assembly, special interim committees of the general assembly, the legislative council, or upon petition by twenty or more members of the general assembly. Any legislative committee may request the legislative services agency to do research on any matter under consideration by such committee. For each such request the legislative council may, if deemed advisable, authorize a special interim study committee to conduct the research study or may request a standing committee to conduct such study. Members on a study committee shall be appointed by the council and shall consist of at least one member of the council and such other members of the majority and minority parties of the senate and the house of representatives as the council may designate. As far as practicable, a study committee shall include members of standing committees concerned with the subject matter of the study. No legislator shall serve on more than two study committees. Nonlegislative members having special knowledge of the subject under study may be appointed by the council to a study committee but such members shall be nonvoting members of such committee. The legislative services agency shall assist study committees on research studies when authorized by the legislative council.

[C58, §2.52; C62, 66, §2.55; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.61]

[2003 Acts, ch 35, §44, 46, 49](#)

2.62 Interim study committee powers.

Special interim study committees shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Elect officers and adopt necessary rules for the conduct of business.
2. Conduct research on any matter connected with the study assigned by the legislative council.
3. Hold hearings.
4. Make regular progress reports to the legislative council.
5. Make a report, which may include recommendations, to the legislative council. Copies of study committee reports shall be made available to members of the general assembly and

may be made available to other interested individuals upon request. The reports shall not be final until approved by the legislative council.

[C62, 66, §2.57; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.62]

2.63 Interim study committee meetings.

Special interim study committees shall first meet at the call of the ranking legislative council member assigned to the study committee, and shall thereafter meet at such time as study committee members shall so designate. Any legislator may attend any study committee meeting or any hearing held by a study committee. All study committee meetings shall be open to the public.

[C62, 66, §2.58; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §2.63]

2.64 through 2.67 Repealed by 2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49. See chapter 2A.

2.68 Reserved.

SUBCHAPTER V

STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

2.69 State government efficiency review committee established. Repealed by 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §53.

2.70 through 2.99 Reserved.

2.100 through 2.104 Repealed by 2003 Acts, ch 35, §47, 49. See chapter 2A.