



# Iowa General Assembly

## 2013 Committee Briefings

Legislative Services Agency – Legal Services Division <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committee.aspx?GA=85&CID=540>

### STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

**Meeting Dates:** [October 9, 2013](#)

**Purpose.** *This compilation of briefings on legislative interim committee meetings and other meetings and topics of interest to the Iowa General Assembly, written by the Legal Services Division staff of the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency, describes committee activities or topics. The briefings were originally distributed in the Iowa Legislative Interim Calendar and Briefing. Official minutes, reports, and other detailed information concerning the committee or topic addressed by a briefing can be obtained from the committee's Internet page listed above, from the Iowa General Assembly's Internet page at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>, or from the agency connected with the meeting or topic described.*

### STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

October 9, 2013

**Co-chairperson:** Senator Jeff Danielson

**Co-chairperson:** Representative Guy Vander Linden

**Overview.** The State Government Efficiency Review Committee received testimony from various organizations and individuals concerning a variety of state and local government efficiency efforts and requests.

**State Expenditures for Organizational Dues.** Mr. Dave Reynolds, Senior Legislative Analyst, Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency (LSA), reviewed information regarding the state's expenditures for membership organization dues. Mr. Reynolds noted that total dues expenditures over the past three fiscal years were \$2.14 million in FY 2010-2011, \$2.06 million in FY 2011-2012, and \$2.24 million in FY 2012-2013.

**Information Technology Consolidation.** Mr. Robert von Wolfradt, Chief Information Officer (CIO), reviewed legislation from the 2013 Legislative Session that consolidated information technology management and resources and established the independent Office of the Chief Information Officer separate from the Department of Administrative Services. The new agency is in the formative stages of organizational structuring and information technology consolidation efforts within the executive branch have currently been on a selective basis, utilizing voluntary Iowa Code chapter 28D agreements to consolidate information technology staff and resources where appropriate. Current information technology activities include implementing cloud-based e-mail, communications, and collaborative solutions, data center consolidation, infrastructure time reporting, web portal services, invitation to quality for web development, new service desk tools, improved information technology incident response, alignment of technology related contracts, information technology staff sharing using chapter 28D agreements, and a partnership with the state of Michigan for limited disaster recovery capabilities.

**Human Resources Consolidation and Other Efficiency Measures.** Ms. Michelle Minnehan, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Administrative Services-Human Resources Enterprise (DAS-HRE), discussed the provisions of Iowa Code §8A.402 and the broad authority it provides to DAS for human resources management related to employment, compensation, benefits, labor relations, and other issues. While legislation was proposed in 2013 to require human resources consolidation within the executive branch with an anticipated future cost savings of approximately \$3.4 million, the legislation that was enacted in 2013 provides for human resources consolidation as a voluntary initiative for agencies. As of the end of September 2013, 11 agencies with 3,700 employees have agreed to partner with DAS-HRE.

In assessing best practices in human resources management, an examination of the ratio between human resources personnel and employees served is utilized. The two types of human resources services, with differing target ratios, are technical and professional. In examining the effects of the consolidation with the 11 agencies, Ms. Minnehan noted that staffing levels have been reduced for both types of services but the agencies have had a positive response to the consolidation. In addition to reduced costs through personnel efficiencies, consolidated human resources management can have the effect of reduced human resources errors.

**Department of Administrative Services Efficiency Efforts.** Mr. Mike Carroll, Director, Department of Administrative Services, discussed how DAS works to make the government more efficient in IT and HR. Mr. Carroll then described several

additional efficiency efforts. The efforts include increasing the use of telework and work from home, requiring employees to choose either employer provided cell phone or desk phone services, elimination of required reports, fleet restructuring and risk management relative to accidents and damages to state-owned vehicles, expansion of the purchasing card program, establishment of a separate central procurement enterprise within the department, and school bus cooperative purchasing.

**Executive Branch Boards/Commissions.** Mr. David Roederer, Director, Department of Management, discussed executive branch boards and commissions relating to the philosophy behind boards, types of boards, and challenges in appointing members to boards. Suggestions for legislative consideration include examination of the boards in the regular budget process, providing for a sunset date for boards, and continual review of boards as to how the public is served by that board and has the need for the board passed.

**Local Government Efficiency Opportunities.** Mr. Alan Kemp, Executive Director, Iowa League of Cities, and Ms. Linda Hinton, Government Relations Manager, Iowa State Association of Counties, addressed the committee relative to local government efficiencies and concerns. Issues identified by the presenters included infrastructure funding, pension and health care costs, newspaper publication of notices, certain city elections for vacancies, diversified funding options to recover costs, implementation flexibility when major policy changes are adopted, such as property tax reform and mental health redesign, state agency downsizing with reduced local offices, document storage requirements, such as manure management plans, and access to the Iowa Communications Network (ICN).

**Committee Recommendations.** The committee agreed to the following recommendations:

- Request that department heads seek input from their employees relating to current and new government efficiency efforts, and that the directors encourage employee input through the departments themselves or through the State Government Efficiency Review Committee's public comment Internet site.
- Request that department heads offer recommendations for the consolidation or elimination of boards and commissions within their department's purview, and that the department heads provide such recommendations to the committee and to each department's respective budget subcommittee.

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