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**SF 430** – Public Information Board (LSB 1487SV)

Analyst: Joseph Brandstatter (Phone: 515-281-8223) ([joseph.brandstatter@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:joseph.brandstatter@legis.state.ia.us))

Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

**Senate File 430** creates the Iowa Public Information Board to provide an alternative for complaint proceedings for open meeting and public record laws. The Board will consist of seven members appointed by the Governor no later than August 1, 2011. The Board is permitted to hire an Executive Director and an Assistant to the Executive Director (but not prior to July 1, 2012). Except for certain provisions related to the transition and startup of the Board, the Bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

**Background**

Currently, complaints relating to the open meetings and public records laws are handled by different agencies in the State. The Office of Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman handles many of these cases. In addition, some cases are handled by the Attorney General's Office, as well as internally by local entities.

**Assumptions**

- The Board will hire 2.0 FTE positions at the beginning of FY 2013. These include: 1.0 Executive Director as legal counsel for the Board and 1.0 Administrative Assistant 2 to handle the business and procedural operations of the Board. The cost for these positions is \$128,000 for FY 2013 and \$133,000 for FY 2014.
- Other office costs are estimated at \$22,000 per year and there will be one-time startup costs of \$5,000 for FY 2013.

**Fiscal Impact**

**FY 2012:** The new Board will require funding for FY 2012 for initial per diem and travel-related expenses estimated at \$2,000 to \$4,000 for the year, depending on the number of meetings and distance traveled. The funding is not specified in the Bill and could come from third-party grants. Without the initial funding, the Board will not be implemented.

**FY 2013 and FY 2014:** Assuming the initial funding is received, the additional cost to the General Fund for the Office is \$155,000 for FY 2013 and \$156,000 for FY 2014.

The following table outlines the cost estimate for FY 2013 and FY 2014:

	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>
Salaries and benefits	\$ 128,000	\$ 133,000
Support (office space, supplies, travel, per diem, utilities)	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,500</u>
<b>Total Ongoing Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 150,000</b>	<b>\$ 155,500</b>
One time setup new office computer and technology costs	5,000	-
<b>Total One Time Start-up Costs</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$ 155,000</b>	<b>\$ 155,500</b>

**Sources**

Office of Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman  
Department of Administrative Services  
Iowa Attorney General  
Iowa Communications Network

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 14, 2011

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the correctional and minority impact statements were prepared pursuant to Code [Section 2.56](#). Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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