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**SF 430** – Public Information Board (LSB 1487SV.2)  
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended by H-8270

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**Description**

**Senate File 430**, as amended by **H-8270**, creates the Iowa Public Information Board to provide an alternative for complaint proceedings for open meetings and public record laws. The Board will consist of seven members appointed by the Governor. The Board is permitted to hire one employee, an attorney, to serve as an Executive Director. Except for certain provisions related to startup of the Board, the Bill takes effect July 1, 2013.

**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 1.0 FTE position at the beginning of FY 2014 with salary and benefits of approximately \$110,000.
- Other office costs are estimated at \$12,500 annually.
- The Board and Office will be housed within a State agency that will provide office space, utilities, budgeting support, and general administrative support. This State agency will provide staff support to the Board during the startup year.
- The Board may charge a complaint filing fee of up to \$50 which is to be refunded if the complaint is meritorious. It is assumed the fee will not be implemented unless a significant number of nuisance complaints are received.

**Fiscal Impact**

**FY 2013:** The new Board will require funding for FY 2014 for initial per diem and travel-related expenses estimated at \$2,300 to \$4,700 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 2014 and Beyond:** Assuming the initial funding is received and the new Board is included in the appropriations process, the cost to the General Fund will be approximately \$122,500 annually, plus the cost of the Board members' per diem and travel.

**Sources**

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

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/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#). 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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