

Budget Unit Brief

FY 2017



Iowa Public Information Board

Background

The [Iowa Public Information Board](#) (IPIB) was created by [SF 430 \(Public Information Board Act\)](#) during the 2012 Legislative Session. The Board is an independent agency that was created to deal with open government concerns, to bring consistency to the interpretation of open meetings and public record laws, and to provide an alternative for the enforcement of these laws. The Governor made the first Board appointments in late FY 2012, and the Board began meeting in July 2012 to organize, develop administrative rules, and participate in the budgeting process. As of FY 2014, the Board was fully operational and began meeting monthly to discuss complaints, contested cases, and issue declaratory orders and advisory opinions.

Operations

Pursuant to Iowa Code chapters [21](#) and [22](#), the Board has the authority to issue both informal advice and declaratory orders to enforce laws regarding the state's open meetings and records laws. When requested, IPIB staff is also available to offer advisory opinions and formal rulings. The Board also offers training to local and state agencies, disseminates information regarding relevant transparency issues, investigates complaints and subpoena information, seeks resolution of disputes, and is able to impose civil penalties and other appropriate remedies to enforce the open meetings and public records laws. As of the close of CY 2014, the IPIB staff has processed 811 cases. The majority of these cases consisted of informal requests. Four declaratory orders were filed and seven formal advisory opinions were disbursed.

Staffing

The Board consists of nine members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, along with three full-time employees – an executive director, deputy director, and an administrative assistant. When contested cases come before the IPIB, the executive director typically serves as counsel to the Board, and the deputy director prosecutes contested cases. In a case where the executive director and the deputy director cannot serve as counsel to the Board, the Board relies on the Attorney General's staff for consultation and advice. If necessary, the Attorney General's staff will defend the Board in court.

Funding

For FY 2017, the Board received a State General Fund appropriation of approximately \$348,000 and 3.0 appropriated FTE positions.

Related Statutes

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

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More Information

Iowa Public Information Board: <https://ipib.iowa.gov/>

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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