



Improving State Government Website

Background

The Executive and Legislative Branches both completed studies of government reorganization and efficiency efforts during 2009. The General Assembly created a [State Government Reorganization Commission](#) that met during the 2009 Interim. The Governor contracted with a private company, Public Works LLC, to provide an efficiency report.

The State Government Reorganization Commission that met during the 2009 Legislative Interim was established by the Legislative Council to:

Consider options for reorganizing state government to improve efficiency, modernize processes, eliminate duplication and outdated processes, reduce costs, and increase accountability. The review shall address the expanded use of the Internet and other technology, and the incorporation of productivity improvement measures. The study shall include a process to receive state government efficiency suggestions offered by the public and public employees.

The Improving State Government website was activated to fulfill the public comment portion of the charge to receive state government efficiency suggestions from the public and public employees.

The final report of the Commission, suggestions from the website, and recommendations from Public Works LLC were utilized to develop and enact [SF 2088 \(Government Reorganization and Efficiency Act\)](#) during the 2010 Legislative Session. The fiscal analysis of the enacted version of SF 2088 was estimated to provide the following *net savings* (increased revenues and decreased expenditures) to the General Fund: FY 2010 – \$102,000; FY 2011 – \$70.5 million; FY 2012 – \$34.7 million. Senate File 2088 also established and codified the State Government Efficiency Review Committee with a requirement to meet at least every two years to review state government operations. The Committee is a permanent statutory committee authorized in [Iowa Code section 2.69](#). The Committee reviewed the [fiscal impact of SF 2088](#) at the first meeting in November 2011.

Website

The initial website requested by the Commission was active from February to November of 2009. A listing of the posts is available online by clicking [here](#). Most of the savings ideas fall into the following categories: consolidating and improving information technology; consolidating purchasing; general government efficiencies (streamlining processes and reducing expenditures such as travel and printing costs); span of control (reducing supervisory and managerial staff); reducing the number of boards and commissions; increasing online training; and increasing electronic storage of records. The website was deactivated in January 2010 after the [final report](#) of the Commission was issued.

The [State Government Efficiency Review Committee](#) that was established by SF 2088 first met in November 2011. The [Improving State Government website](#) was reactivated at that time to provide a vehicle for public comment and suggestion as required as part of the Committee charge. Public comments are not edited and are posted as submitted. An LSA staff member monitors and publishes the posts. Almost all posts are published. Exceptions are made for posts deemed offensive (profanity) or those that are technically not viable (web crawler advertising posts and duplicates).

Public Comment Analysis

Since the website was reactivated in November of 2011, there have been 338 posts published. Of these, approximately half (171 posts – 50.1%) have a government improvement component. The remaining website entries are editorial in nature (statements and opinions) and provide no discernible public improvement component. The LSA conducted a brief review of the posts with government improvement suggestions and categorized them by subject in the table on the following page. To view the full text of all posts included in this summary, click [here](#).

More Information

State Government Efficiency Review Committee:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/committee?endYear=2015&groupID=578>

Improving State Government Website:

Public Input: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/apps/feedback/respond?q=2>

View Moderated Responses: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/apps/feedback/responses?q=2>

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Summary – Improving State Government Website Posts

Accountability – 1	Department of Transportation – 24	Legislative reform – 5
Agency reorganization – 2	Employee input – 3	Meal reimbursement – 3
Alternative work schedules – 5	Employee training – 2	Multiple categories – 3
Audit – 3	Energy conservation – 3	Office closing – 1
Budget reform – 5	Financial reform – 1	Outsourcing – 3
Building maintenance – 5	Government consolidation – 4	Paperless – 8
Cell phones – 2	Hiring practices – 6	Prioritize funding – 3
Collaboration – 5	Improve productivity – 1	Reduce duplication of services – 3
Compensation – 18	Incentive payments – 1	Reduce management staff – 1
Consolidate administrative costs – 1	Information access – 1	Reduce printing costs – 2
Consolidate rules/Code – 1	Information technology – 5	Revenue generation – 2
Contract bidding - 1	Interdepartmental costs – 1	Travel policies – 20
Consolidate mail service – 1	Investigation – 1	Utility costs – 2
Customer service – 1	Judicial Branch – 4	Website improvement – 7

Other Information

Other resources related to recent government reorganization and efficiency include:

Legislation:

- SF 2088 (2010 Legislative Session):
 - Enacted fiscal impact: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/NOBA/83_SF2088_Graybook.pdf
- Actual fiscal impact: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/IH/20970.pdf>
- SF 2388 (2012 Legislative Session): https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/NOBA/84_SF2338_Final.pdf
NOTE: Senate File 2388 was vetoed in its entirety by the Governor.
- SF 396 (2013 Legislative Session):
 - Bill text: <http://coolice.legis.iowa.gov/Cool-ICE/default.asp?Category=billinfo&Service=Billbook&menu=false&ga=85&hbill=SF396>
 - Fiscal impact: https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FT/attachments/698829_796799.pdf

Committee Information:

The following links include legislative membership and all materials distributed at meetings:

- [State Government Reorganization Commission](#) (2009 Legislative Interim)
- [State Government Efficiency Review Committee](#) (statutory Committee that meets in alternate years)