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**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 11:45 AM

**To:** Cook, Ed [LEGIS]

**Subject:** RE: State Government Efficiency Review Committee - Agency directors request

Iowa Code section 8D.1 provides:

“8D.1 Purpose.

It is the intent of the general assembly that communications of state government be coordinated to effect maximum practical consolidation and joint use of communications services.”

In the past, agencies have been permitted to procure cellphones and landline communications from providers other than the ICN, and as a result increase the overall cost to the State. To facilitate the realization of increased savings of taxpayer dollars, it is recommended that cellphone business for all State agencies should be required to be moved to the ICN to allow for economy of scale to be realized, and agencies should be required to receive ICN approval before moving their voice service elsewhere. These requirements would allow for an open and thorough review of an agencies proposed decision on the total overall cost to the State as well as opportunity to ensure that the agency has a clear understanding of what “hidden” costs they may be facing if they move forward.

The ICN has as its core mission the provisioning of telecommunications services, and as such, is the State’s source of expertise in this area. If implemented, the recommendations would facilitate the ICN’s ability to do all of the following:

- ICN is trying to reduce the cost for phone service on the complex, erosion of revenue by replacing desk phones with cell phones will undermine that effort.
- The Unified Communications system will allow for the efficiency state agencies seek but the cell phones will be integrated into the ICN phone system.
- Cost savings will occur for the State and the negative impact to the ICN will be reduced, allowing it to continue to operate without the benefit of general fund subsidization, as it currently does.