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# LEGAL UPDATE

Legal Services Division



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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

## STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING — NOVEMBER 17, 2025

**Purpose.** *Legal updates are prepared by the nonpartisan Legal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency. A legal update is intended to provide legislators, legislative staff, and other persons interested in legislative matters with summaries of recent meetings, court decisions, Attorney General Opinions, regulatory actions, federal actions, and other occurrences of a legal nature that may be pertinent to the General Assembly's consideration of a topic. Although an update may identify issues for consideration by the General Assembly, it should not be interpreted as advocating any particular course of action.*

**Co-chairpersons:** Senator Ken Rozenboom, Representative Jane Bloomingdale

**Overview.** The Legislature created the State Government Efficiency Review Committee in Code Chapter 4A to review the usefulness, performance, and efficacy of each board and commission over a rolling four-year review cycle.

**Questionnaire for State Boards and Commissions.** Co-chairperson Bloomingdale introduced a proposed questionnaire to be distributed to the boards and commissions of state government for the purpose of evaluating their activities and solicited proposed changes to the questionnaire from members of the committee.

Senator Winckler proposed adding a question regarding how the board or commission operates efficiently and effectively within the department in which it is housed, if applicable. Ms. Laura Book, a representative from the Governor's office, suggested that the questionnaire should ask about any federal mandates requiring that the board or commission exist, as well as a citation to the Iowa Code section creating the board or commission. Co-chairperson Bloomingdale recommended adding a question to learn how boards and commissions fill vacancies, including how boards and commissions provide notice of vacancies, while Senator Schultz proposed adding a question covering challenges faced by boards and commissions.

During the discussion of the questionnaire, Senator Winckler questioned whether the four-year review cycle was the most efficient use of the committee's time and suggested that it might be preferable to review each board and commission every year. Members of the committee discussed the suggestion and determined that reviewing each board and commission every year might not be feasible or desirable.

Following the discussion of the substance of the questionnaire, the committee discussed a proposed timeline for the submission and return of the questionnaire. The committee decided to submit the questionnaire to the boards and commissions by April 1, 2026, to require the return of the questionnaire by November 1, 2026, and to meet in December as necessary to complete the review of the boards and commissions. Representative Charley Thomson moved that the committee accept the proposed changes to the proposed questionnaire as well as the proposed dates for the sending and returning of the questionnaire.

**Future Meeting.** Co-chairperson Bloomingdale suggested that the committee meet again on Wednesday, January 21, at 12:00 p.m. to approve the amended proposed questionnaire and to discuss the boards and commissions proposed to be reviewed during the next legislative interim. Senator Schultz moved that the committee meet at that date and time and the motion was adopted. Copies of the proposed timeline for reviewing boards and commissions were distributed at the meeting. Senator Winckler proposed considering

whether the review by the committee could be synchronized with the activities of the Administrative Rules Review Committee.

LSA Staff Contact: Stuart Stromberg, 515.281.3430 or [stuart.stromberg@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:stuart.stromberg@legis.iowa.gov)