

vocational rehabilitation services to individual Iowans.

By setting accreditation standards and ensuring that public schools, area education agencies and community colleges meet those standards, by approving practitioner preparation programs and by monitoring federal education programs, the department is performing its regulatory function.

Although the scope of the department's responsibility is from pre-kindergarten through the two-year community colleges, one of its most important leadership roles is to set priorities for the state's educational system. Current priorities are increasing the learning, achievement and performance of all students; helping schools and their communities obtain the skills and resources to meet their learning needs; coordinating the educational support system to help schools and communities meet their local goals; and providing leadership and support for education to create system wide improvement and increased student achievement.

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The Board of Educational Examiners exclusively licenses the state's education practitioner's who do not hold or receive a license from another professional licensing board. Authority of the board includes establishing criteria for the licenses, including but not limited to: issuance and renewal requirements; creating of application and renewal forms; creation of licenses that authorize different instructional functions or specialties; development of a code of professional rights and responsibilities, practice, and ethics; and the authority to develop any other classifications, distinctions, and procedures which may be necessary to exercise licensing duties.

The board enforces its adopted rules through revocation or suspension of a license or other disciplinary action. Appeals are heard by the board regarding application, renewal, suspension, or revocation of licenses.

The board is made up of 11 members: two members from the general public and the remaining nine must be licensed practitioners. Members of the board shall be appointed to terms of four years. The director of education or the director's designee serves until the director's term of office expires.

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The Department of Elder Affairs was first created as the Commission on the Aging by the 61st General Assembly. In 1986, the responsibilities of the Commission were included in the duties of the Department of Elder Affairs. The department was established under the "Elder Iowans' Act," which sets forth the state's commitment to its elders and their dignity.

independence, and rights. The department is an advocate for elder Iowans and is responsible for developing a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and activities for older people through 13 designated area agencies on aging across the state.

An eleven member commission is the policy-making body with seven members appointed by the governor, two by the House and two by the Senate for four-year terms. The commission designates the area agencies on aging and approves and monitors the area plans for area agencies. The governor appoints an executive director subject to confirmation by the Senate.

The basic concerns of the department include income, health, housing, education opportunities, employment, transportation, nutrition, volunteer opportunities, recreational activities, spiritual well-being, and community involvement in the problems of older Iowans.

ETHICS AND CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE BOARD

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This state agency administers the Campaign Finance Disclosure Law, the Income Tax Checkoff Act, (both in Chapter 56, *Iowa Code*) and the Iowa Public Officials Act (as applicable to the state executive branch) (in Chapter 68B, *Iowa Code*). Policy is set by the six board members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate, no more than three of which may be of the same party or of the same gender. The executive director and the legal counsel are appointed by the Board and serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Campaign Finance Disclosure Law was enacted in 1973 and implemented in 1974, originally administered under the agency name "Campaign Finance Disclosure Commission". Under this law, the agency receives, monitors and audits reports of organized committees of state, legislative, county, city and school candidates, political action committees, partisan political committees, county central committees, and state political parties. The reports are available for public viewing and copying at a nominal cost. Cross-checks are made of political committee reports with candidates' reports to assure all contributions are properly reported and that all committees involved in Iowa political financial activity are properly registered. The Board's goal under these provisions is to protect and maintain the public interest in disclosure while striving not to discourage volunteers and others in the Iowa political and governmental process. To that end, the Board seeks to assist and educate persons and groups covered by the disclosure law so that full understanding of deadlines, report requirements and law prohibitions is achieved; to consistently and equitably monitor the timeliness of disclosure reports filed at all levels; to assess and collect civil penalties in accordance with administrative rules; to conduct detailed desk audits of reports with occasional field audits for full compliance; and to investigate and resolve inquires and complaints informally by voluntary compliance or by formal action. The Board is also the Iowa depository for copies of disclosure material required to be filed by federal committees with Federal Election Commission in Washington, D.C. These records are also available to the public for viewing and copying at a nominal charge.

Income Tax Checkoff Act was also enacted in 1973 and implemented in 1974 and provides that the agency cooperate with the Department of Revenue to enforce the statute and rules governing the expenditure of income tax checkoff funds by the state political parties. The fund allows any person whose state income tax liability for any taxable year is \$1.50 or more to designate \$1.50 of the tax liability to be paid over to the Iowa election campaign fund for the account of a specified political party or to be split equally between them. In the case of a joint return, \$3.00 may be so designated.

The agency's administration of the Iowa Public Officials Act (also known as the Ethics Law) as it applies to the executive branch of state government began in 1993, at which time the agency name became the "Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board". The agency's responsibilities under the Act include receiving personal financial disclosure reports from covered officials and employees, receiving reports from executive branch lobbyists and their clients, advising