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**STATE OF IOWA
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL BUREAU**

State Capitol
Des Moines, Iowa
50319

Memorandum

To: Members of the Legislative Fiscal Committee

From: Ron Robinson and Mary Beth Mellick

Date: September 30, 2003

Re: Response to Fiscal Committee Question

This is in response to an inquiry by Representative Shoultz at the Fiscal Committee meeting on September 23, inquiring if the General Services Enterprise evaluates the fuel efficiency of vehicles within the vehicle fleet. For approximately the last 10 years, since passage of the federal Clean Air Act of 1990 and the Energy Policy Act of 1992, the General Services Enterprise has been performing the following functions in regard to increasing motor vehicle fuel efficiency:

Per Section 18.115, Code of Iowa, the State Fleet Administrator:

1. Purchases vehicles that are equal to or exceed the federal CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards.
2. Keeps records of the total number of miles State-owned vehicles are driven and the per-mile cost of operation of each vehicle.
3. Compiles, monthly, the costs and mileage of State-owned vehicles, and keeps a cost history for each vehicle.
4. Ensures that all state-owned vehicles operate on gasoline of at least a 10.0% ethanol blend.
5. When assigning vehicles to agencies, selects vehicles that maximize the number of passengers by vehicle size (i.e., if one or two people traveling, the smallest vehicle is assigned).

6. Reports compliance with CAFE standards to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) annually.

The State Fleet Administrator has indicated that he performs the statutory tasks which may increase fuel efficiency. In regard to tracking miles per gallon, prior to four years ago, each State agency recorded miles per gallon manually, and submitted the forms to the State Fleet Administrator. The Administrator was then able to track miles per gallon per state fleet to determine fuel efficiency. Since then, the manual recording had been eliminated, and agencies enter the information electronically. Due to coding inconsistencies and the fact that the State does not enforce coding requirements for E-85 fuel, the data is considered incorrect. The State Fleet Administrator continues to track miles per gallon, but does not deem the data accurate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ron Robinson at 281-6256 or Mary Beth Mellick at 281-8223.