

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD

\$20,000 Funding Request

Word-Searchable Database System

The Public Employment Relations Board is responsible for implementing and effectuating the provisions of the Public Employment Relations Act, Iowa Code Chapter 20. The Act affects a statewide constituency of state, county, city, K-12 school district, and AEA public employers and public employees as well as employee organizations certified by PERB.

In fulfilling its statutory obligations under Chapters 17A and 20 to index and make its final decisions available to the public and to collect and make available information relating to the terms and conditions of public employment, PERB has pursued a search and retrieval database system for use by its constituents and the public at large. The word-searchable database will consist of PERB and court decisions, collective bargaining contracts, fact-finding, interest arbitration and grievance arbitration awards.

For FY '09, PERB's budget request seeks additional funding of \$20,000 to complete the development of this database system and secure hosting, maintenance, and updating services for the entire fiscal year. These funds were not included in PERB's initial budget submission in October, 2007 because the Board had not yet located a provider capable of fulfilling the project's requirements and was thus unable to accurately assess its costs.

This search and retrieval database system will be accessible to constituents and all members of the public through the PERB website. This system will serve as an index, allow electronic access to these documents, and provide search functions to facilitate research by any user.

The PERB database will be a one-stop, user-friendly and independent source for public employment-related information and will provide a more efficient method of research than presently exists. For constituents, it will eliminate the labor-intensive efforts required in contacting and researching numerous sources. It will also allow constituents to eliminate their own duplicative information-collection systems, as many do for collective bargaining contracts.