
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Boards and Commissions Review Committee met on August 29, 2023, at noon in Room 103 of the State Capitol.

Background. The Boards and Commissions Review Committee was created in [Senate File 514](#) (State Government Alignment Act) to study the efficiency and effectiveness of each board, council, commission, committee, or other similar entity of the State that has been established by the Iowa Code. The Committee includes six voting members and four nonvoting members.

Topics Discussed. Each subcommittee presented its recommendations for its assigned areas that were assigned at the first meeting on June 26, 2023. These recommendations included whether a board or commission should be eliminated, be merged, continue as is, or be modified in some way. Chairman Paulsen gave his comments on the preliminary general findings and recommendations of the committee, which consist of the following:

Findings.

- Iowa's administrative state will continue to grow without an effective mechanism to review boards and commissions.
- The current organization of advisory boards is neither effective nor efficient.
- Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process.
- Part-time boards and commissions are rarely well-positioned to manage the core functions of Executive Branch agencies.
- Iowa requires a license or certification for too many occupations, and its standards across all license types are inconsistent, inefficient, and unequal.

Recommendations.

- Establish an ongoing review process for all boards and commissions, including meaningful enforcement of sunrise and sunset provisions.
- Allow more meaningful perspective for public officials by streamlining the structure of advisory boards.
- Modernize Iowa's open meetings laws and expand public participation by more easily allowing virtual or hybrid meeting options.
- Allow boards and commissions to convene only as truly needed by removing arbitrary meeting requirements.
- Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement.
- Increase engagement on identified critical boards and commissions by compensating members for their part-time work.
- Clarify the budget and rulemaking roles of a part-time board or commission that oversees a full-time Executive Branch agency.
- Implement clear, consistent, and efficient licensing standards to reduce barriers to entry into the workforce.

These preliminary general findings and recommendations, as well as the subcommittee recommendations for each board or commission, can be found [here](#).

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be a public hearing and is set for Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at noon in Room 103 of the State Capitol.

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