

FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Boards and Commissions Review Committee met on September 25, 2023, at 10 a.m. 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. The Committee previously met on the following dates in 2023: June 26, August 29, and September 6.

Topics Discussed. Each subcommittee provided an update to the subcommittee’s original recommendations from the meeting on August 29, 2023. These recommendations included whether a board or commission should be eliminated, be merged, continue as is, or be modified in some way. The figure below illustrates how Committee recommendations for the boards and commissions have changed since the August 29, 2023, meeting. Boards and commissions are listed at the intersection of the original recommendation and the revised recommendation category.

		Original Recommendation			
		Eliminate	Continue as is	Reorganize/Other Changes	Consolidate/Merge
Revised Recommendation	Eliminate				Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Technical Advisory Committee, Tourist Signing Committee
	Continue as is	Board of Nursing Home Administrators, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, Mid-America Port Commission, Commission on Uniform State Laws		Child Development Coordinating Council	State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council
	Reorganize/Other Changes	Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service	Property Assessment Appeal Board, State Board of Regents		
	Consolidate/Merge	Board of Athletic Training	State Board for Career and Technical Education, Transportation Commission, Medical Assistance Advisory Council, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council	State Board of Education, Dual Party Relay Council	

The Committee approved final corrections to the report. The final general findings and recommendations of the Committee consist of the following:

Findings.

- Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process.
- The number of boards and commissions in Iowa will continue to grow without a meaningful mechanism to review their effectiveness.
- The current structure of advisory boards is inefficient and ineffective.
- 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 many of its 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 true enforcement of sunrise and sunset provisions.
- Reform the structure of advisory boards to create stronger channels for citizen input and facilitate meaningful perspective for policymakers.
- Modernize Iowa's open meetings laws to allow virtual or hybrid meetings more easily, which will expand public participation.
- Remove arbitrary meeting requirements and allow boards and commissions to convene only as truly needed.
- Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the gender-balance requirement.
- Increase engagement on identified critical boards and commissions by compensating members for their more than "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 while continuing to protect the health and safety of Iowans.
- Consolidate, merge, eliminate, or otherwise reorganize Iowa's boards and commissions to allow State government to better serve its citizens.

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

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