



## **Department of Public Safety Efficiency Considerations**

### **Consolidation of Boards and Commissions**

- There are currently six boards over three departments that review and recommend policies related to the construction of a home or building. Those boards are as follows:
  - State Fire Marshal's Office - Building Code Advisory Council, Electrical Examining Board, and Fire Extinguishing System Contractors and Alarm Systems Advisory Board,
  - Department of Public Health - Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board, and
  - Workforce Development - Boiler and Pressure Vessel Board and Elevator Safety Board.
- These boards are required to be balanced according to gender and political affiliation, with location and diversity being considered. Because of these mandates, one person may serve on two or three boards to meet the requirements for appointment.
- Consolidation into one or two boards would improve efficiency and create a multi-disciplined board that could operate efficiently and effectively with oversight of the entire building process.

### **Periodic Fee Review**

- The Department oversees programs and the issuance of licenses that include a fee structure originally designed to ensure these programs were self-funded. These statutory fee structures, however, have remained stagnant and no longer cover the expenses incurred to implement the programs. Many of these fees have not been reviewed for over ten years and in some areas the fees have not been modified since the programs' creation over 35 years ago. Examples include:
  - Alarm System and Fire Extinguish Contractors,
  - Building Code Review,
  - Private Investigation/Private Security/Bail Enforcement (PIPSBE), and
  - Weapons Permits.

### **Criminal History**

- Iowa's criminal history records system is 17 years old and can no longer be feasibly upgraded or supported. Multiple areas of the system require manual data entry and redaction, increasing the potential for error and turnaround time. Additionally, the antiquated system cannot be adapted to legislative changes.

### **Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)**

- The current UCR program struggles to migrate crime reporting data from various records management systems utilized by local law enforcement agencies to the current mainframe housed by DPS. This creates a burden on DPS staff and forces local law enforcement to manually report their data.
- The acquisition of a modern data collection system will allow DPS, and the agencies it serves, to ensure timely and accurate crime data processing.

### **Licensing Website**

- A shared state licensing website would allow departments to share the burden of funding and maintaining a shared system, while providing greater accessibility to the public.