

House Unanimously Passes Government Reorganization

Another piece of a massive state government reorganization plan was approved by the Iowa House this week bringing the total savings for Iowa taxpayers to \$272 million next year.

The bill, Senate File 2088, is the result of work by the Legislative interim committee charged with finding efficiencies in state government that will deliver services to Iowans in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. The bill also incorporates some of the Governor's cost saving and efficiency recommendations.

Some of the areas addressed in the bill include:

E-Government Solutions

- Consolidating information technology (IT) planning and operations.
- Consolidating state e-mail systems.
- Consolidating wireless equipment purchasing and service contracts.
- Negotiating a statewide IT service contract.
- Negotiating a statewide IT and office equipment maintenance contract.

Internal Changes within State Government

- Increasing the span of control between managers and employees to 15:1 by July 2011.
- Expanding efficiency programs throughout state government to include identifying and quantifying cost-savings.
- Eliminating certain boards and commissions and developing criteria to consider before the Legislature creates any new commission.
- Implementing more web-based training for internal and external customers.

Efficiency Review

One important piece of this legislation will ensure that state government programs are reviewed regularly by providing that a committee be appointed every two years to take an in-depth look at state government and bring recommendations to the General Assembly.

Bill is Only One Area that will Generate Savings

SF 2088 is one piece of the legislation to be passed that will save money for Iowa taxpayers. Other pieces, either passed by the General Assembly or put into effect by the Governor through his Executive Order #20 include: Senate File 2062, the Early Retirement Incentive program, estimated to save \$57.4 million; and the Governor's executive order estimated to save \$88 million. Adding the changes made by Senate File 2088, total savings stand at \$272 million.

Since the House amended the Senate File, the bill must now return to the Senate for approval of the changes before going to the Governor for his signature.