

Government Reorganization To Save \$265 Million

The Iowa House of Representatives gave final approval to another piece of the government reorganization effort that will save taxpayers \$265 million next year.

The reorganization savings will help balance the state budget while maintaining key priorities in education and job creation.

Senate File 2088 is a result of the work of the Legislative interim committee charged with finding efficiencies in state government that would 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

- Increasing the span of control between employee and managers to 15:1 by July 2011.
- Expanding LEAN 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. The bill requires 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 Piece

SF 2088 is one piece of the total package that will save money for Iowa taxpayers. Other pieces include savings made through the Governor's Executive Order #20 and Senate File 2062, the Early Retirement Incentive program. Adding the changes and efficiencies made by SF 2088, total savings to Iowa taxpayers stand at \$265 million.

The bill, which was approved on a 98-1 vote, has already been approved by the Senate and is now headed to the Governor for his signature.