

STATE GOVERNMENT

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2010

REORGANIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

Three actions taken by the Legislature and the Governor are estimated to save Iowa taxpayers \$265 million. Senate File 2088 is a result of the work of the Legislative interim commission 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.

This bill, an early retirement program for state employees, and the Governor's executive order will help balance the state budget while maintaining key priorities in education and job creation.

SF 2088 - signed by Governor; various effective dates

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

SF 2062 establishes an early retirement incentive program for state employees in the Executive Branch of state government. Employees eligible to participate in the program must be at least 55 years old and file a completed application for benefits with the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) to begin receiving retirement benefits no later than July 2010. Employees must submit an application by April 15, 2010, waive all rights to re-employment by the state, and leave state employment by June 24, 2010.

SF 2062 signed by Governor; effective February 10, 2010

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

Makes changes to three of the four public employees' pension systems. Changes to the Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System (IPERS) include changing the final average salary from the high three years to the high five years, increasing the age reduction penalty from 3% to 5% per year, and changing the vesting requirements from 4 years to 7 years. These are effective July 1, 2012. Changes are also made to the Peace Officers' Retirement System and the Municipal Fire and Police Officers' Retirement System.

HF 2518 – to Governor; various effective dates

ELECTION LAW CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2011, any candidate or committee involved in a county, city, school, or other political subdivision election that accepts monetary or in-kind contributions in excess of \$2,000, or incurs indebtedness in excess of \$2,000 in the aggregate in a calendar year, to expressly advocate for or against a clearly identified candidate or ballot issue is required to file all statements and reports electronically by 4:30 p.m. of the day the filing is due.

SF 2128 – signed by Governor; effective 7-1-10

**CORPORATE CAMPAIGN
FINANCE REGULATIONS**

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Citizens United v FEC* that corporations are persons and, as such, have a right to participate in elections. This bill is a means to regulate corporate involvement in campaigns. A corporation cannot use its treasury to pay for an independent expenditure without the approval of a majority of the board of directors or similar leadership body. The authorization must occur in the same year as the expenditure and must expressly indicate whether the expenditure is to advocate for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or a ballot issue. Any material or ads produced by the corporation must include the “paid for by” attribution, the name and address of the corporation, and the name and title of the chief executive officer.

SF 2354 – Signed by Governor, effective 4/8/10

GENETIC TESTING

This bill bans genetic testing without written permission from the individual, bars release of that information without written consent, and insurance companies cannot discriminate based on the results of genetic testing. Many individuals in a family with a history of certain diseases would consider testing if they were not afraid of the consequences. Many women refuse to be tested for a genetic marker that indicates a propensity for breast cancer for fear that their insurance company would consider cancer a pre-existing condition and not cover cancer in the future.

SF 2215 - to Governor, effective July 1, 2010

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

- HF 788 Requires holders of certain liquor licenses to be responsible for criminal activity in areas adjacent to the licensed premises. (to Governor- effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2531 Allows raffle tickets to be purchased with debit cards. (to Governor, effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2531 Directs the Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Board to allow a person, not previously licensed in any jurisdiction, to take the State master licensing examination until September 30, 2010. (to Governor – effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2531 Allows bingo to be conducted without a license if the prizes are donated and there is no admission fee charged. (to Governor – effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2376 Requires the Iowa Association of School Boards to follow the requirements of the open meetings and open records laws. Also, requires IASB to post certain information on its internet site. (to Governor; July 1, 2010)