

State Government to Become More Efficient, Save Money

As a result of the Legislative Government Efficiency Commission and Governor Culver's Executive order, Iowans will begin to see more efficiency in services provided by state government. Some of these efficiencies will also result in a savings of taxpayer dollars over the next five years.

Both the Legislative Commission and the Governor's office began the process of reviewing state government last spring. It was their intent to make changes that would provide Iowans greater and more efficient access to state government services and save taxpayer dollars.

The Governor's Executive Order #20 began the process, and legislation to be passed by the House and Senate in the 2010 Legislative Session will continue the process by making necessary changes in the Iowa Code.

This is a work-in-progress and it will take a few years to implement fully the changes. The savings will not be apparent within the next few months, but projections show that a savings of as much as \$1.7 billion over the next five years may be realized through the implementation of the changes.

Iowans may more readily notice changes in how state government operates by changes that will provide more services to Iowans electronically, or through other changes that will streamline processes.

Some of the changes include:

Delivering Government Services More Efficiently

- Eliminating the least efficient print shops.
- Consolidating administrative functions in the Department of Human Services
- Consolidating state agency mailrooms, and modifying mail delivery policies.
- Expanding the use of state garages to reduce the cost of contracted private garages.
- Conducting energy efficiency retrofits for state buildings.
- Improving the coordination of law enforcement at state parks and increasing volunteer and intern programs at state parks.
- Requiring all executive branch agencies to participate in consolidated purchasing.
- Establishing a workgroup/ consortium to collaborate on best practices to implement the best cost savings and savings for the state.

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.

Managing State Assets

- Reducing the state vehicle fleet and changing mileage and vehicle take-home policies.
- Consolidating the Department of Natural Resources offices in Des Moines.

Internal Changes within State Government Designed to Save Taxpayer Dollars

- Increase the span of control with managers vs. employees.
- Expand LEAN programs throughout state government to include identifying and quantifying cost-savings.
- Eliminate certain boards and commissions and developing criteria to consider before the Legislature creates any new commission.
- Provide incentives to develop and implement more web-based training for internal and external customers.

Review of State Government Every Five Years

Implementation of these changes will not end this process. Language approved by the Legislative Commission requires an in-depth review of state government every five years.