

LET'S TALK

TOURISM



Iowa Legislative Report

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ACTION ALERT!

School Start Date Bills Will Die This Week Without Your Help

A subcommittee meeting was held on [HF 589](#) but no further action has yet been taken. This legislation would change the earliest school start date to the 4th Monday in August and would not allow waivers for the new date. This bill will die with the funnel deadline if it is not passed out of the House Education Committee prior to this coming Friday! Rep.

Roger Wendt of Sioux City, a supporter of the bill and retired teacher and principal who's chairman of the House Education Committee, said this week that his committee doesn't have the votes to pass the bill.

In the Senate, a new school start date bill - [SE](#)

The persistent cold weather and Punxsutawney Phil's dire prediction did nothing to slow the pace inside the Capitol Building. Bills continue to be introduced at a frenetic pace, reaching 947 by close of business Friday. They will no doubt continue to be introduced through this week as Friday, February 12th - the first funnel deadline - closes in, killing all legislation not related to taxes and spending that has not yet been reported out by a committee.

Monday, February 8th will mark the 29th Session Day of the 80-day session - over one-third of the way to the finish line. The shortened session has included several night debates already, something that normally doesn't occur in a regular 100- or 110-day session until the last couple of weeks. While the target adjournment date will arrive much sooner, it is already clear that legislators, lobbyists and staff will be running on empty by the time we arrive there.

A flurry of legislation will fly this week during the first funnel, however the emphasis will be on sending a massive government reorganization bill to the Governor. Cost saving predictions on the bill are all over the place and made harder to predict by the number of amendments being considered for the legislation. Enactment of the reorganization bill, coupled with the recently passed Race to the Top education bill and a \$60 million early retirement bill, will set the stage for the Friday release of "budget targets" for the legislative Appropriation subcommittees. That is

[2187](#) - was introduced by Senators Dotzler, Dearden, Kapucian & Wieck. This bill also would get rid of the waivers and move the earliest school start date to the 4th Monday in August. Though it was just introduced this week, this bill too will die with Friday's funnel deadline if it is not approved by the Senate Education Committee **THIS WEEK!**

Supporters of this legislation need to have as many people E-MAIL their legislators this week as possible!!

Quick Links

[Grassroots Action Center](#)

[Bill Tracker](#)

[TFI Website](#)

[State Legislative Website](#)

→ **Public Hearing at the Capitol**

There is a public hearing at the Iowa Capitol building from 10 AM to noon on Monday Feb. 8 on the massive government reorganization bill. The bill

when the number-crunching really begins!

→ **The Governor's Budget**

On January 27th, Governor Culver released his budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2011. You can view the Legislative Service Agency's (LSA) summary of the Governor's Budget [HERE](#), but below are some highlights from the LSA report:

- The Governor is recommending FY 2011 General Fund appropriations of \$5.662 billion and deducts \$341.0 million of savings from reorganization and efficiencies for a net appropriation amount of \$5.321 billion.
- This is an increase of \$21.6 million (0.4%) when compared to the Governor's revised net FY 2010 (including the Governor's FY 2010 adjustments).
- This is an increase of \$71.5 million (1.4%) when compared to the estimated net FY 2010 (enacted appropriations reduced by the 10.0% Across the Board Cut).
- The Governor is also recommending revenue adjustments of \$34.8 million, including a reduction of \$52.5 million in tax credits. The Governor does not specify which tax credits should be reduced or eliminated.
- The Governor's expenditure limitation is \$5.382 billion and the recommended net appropriations are \$61.6 million less than the expenditure limitation.
- The Governor's projected General Fund surplus is \$117.3 million for FY 2011.
- The Governor does not include a recommendation to fund collective bargaining in FY 2011. The estimated General Fund need in FY 2011 is \$85.7 million (\$143.5 million from all funds). In FY 2010, the Governor did not recommend, and the General Assembly did not appropriate, funds for collective bargaining costs.
- The Governor includes a reduction of \$341.0 million on the FY 2011 General Fund balance sheet to reflect reduced General Fund appropriations associated with the implementation of efficiencies identified in the Iowa Efficiency Review Report completed by Public Works LLC. The Governor's budget recommendation relating to the \$341.0 million, does not identify reductions to individual appropriation line-items. The \$341.0 million savings also includes non-General Fund revenue increases attributable to the General Fund. Additional information on the Iowa Efficiency Review Report recommendations is provided in



addresses many issues such as closure of mental health institutes and moving the Empowerment program to the Department of Education.

Whether or not you are able to attend, feel free to check out the bill and amendments and weigh in with your legislators with your comments. The current version of the 250+ page bill can be seen by going [HERE](#).

DED Director Bret Mills

With a unanimous 47-0 vote this past Thursday, the Iowa Senate confirmed Bret Mills as director of the Iowa Department of Economic Development. Mills is the former director of the Iowa Finance Authority.

The Senate also approved Charlie Krogmeier as director of the Iowa Department of Human Services. Krogmeier, the former head of the Department of Management, was appointed after the Senate last year rejected the confirmation of Gene Gessow as human services director.

Reporting

The Iowa Senate on Tuesday night passed a package of new requirements for lobbyists and special interest groups.

the section of this report entitled "Government Reorganization."

→ Tourism and the Governor's Budget

Here is a quick summary of the Governor's budget recommendations with regard to tourism. It's not pretty, but with a \$1 billion budget gap, it is not unexpected either. You can see the Governor's budget on the website at www.governor.iowa.gov.

CAT and RECAT are level funded but funding is from a different source, lots of things are no longer funded like trails and historic preservation, and tourism funding is level funded (but it's the post-10% ATB level).

General Fund Appropriations (level funding means post-10% ATB reduction)

- Maintains level funding for Community Cultural Grants (\$273,500), County Endowment Grants (\$443,300), Historic Sites (\$493,030), Arts Council (\$1,023,712), World Food Prize (\$750,000), and Great Places (\$214,869).
- Maintains level funding for tourism marketing (\$862,028). This is down nearly \$250,000 from the \$1,107,524 appropriation in FY09.

RIF Appropriations (Infrastructure Fund)

- Eliminates Great Places RIF appropriation (\$1.7 million) and shifts to Grow Iowa Values Fund (but \$ not added to Values Fund)
- Eliminates Historical Preservation Grant Program RIF appropriation (\$1 million)
- Eliminates Community Cultural Grant RIF appropriation (\$200,000).
- Adds \$100,000 new appropriation for Battle Flag restoration
- Cuts Values Fund appropriation to \$38 million (but \$7 million from last year is available for carry-forward)
- Zeros out CAT & River CAT (\$12 million & \$10 million). Note funding is shifted (see below).
- Adds \$500,000 for Blank Park Zoo

House File 2109, which was approved on a 50-0 unanimous vote, requires sponsors of legislative receptions to pre-register, but then gives more time - - 28 days instead of five -- to file a report on spending after the reception.

The bill also changes reporting requirements so clients are on the hook for accurate, timely filing of lobbying information, rather than lobbyists. And it allows legislative ethics committees to take action without going to an independent special counsel. Legislation stems from the Iowa Pharmacy Association filing a disclosure report about a \$2,926 legislative reception five months late last year. The late filing came to light because a legislator was arrested that night for drunken driving, hours after attending the legislative reception.

- Eliminates regional sports authorities funding (\$500,000)
- Eliminates funding for water trails & low head dams (\$800,000)
- Eliminates funding for Passenger Rail Service (\$3 million)
- Eliminates funding for Recreational Trails (\$3.5 million)

Environment First Fund (another Infrastructure Fund)

- Cuts REAP down to \$12 million (\$6 million reduction from FY09 & FY10 levels)
- Eliminates county fair improvements (\$1.6 million)
- Adds \$12 million appropriation for CAT from another fund (shifted from RIIF, so level funded)
- Adds \$10 million appropriation for River CAT from another fund (shifted from RIIF, so level funded)

The Legislature will now start assembling the state budget and will use the Governor's proposal as a guide and a suggestion.

Wondering...

...how State Revenues are Coming In?

The Legislative Services Agency conducts a monthly analysis that is posted on the General Assembly's website. More recently, they have begun posting a **General Fund Monthly Memo Video Edition** to the website. The videos are available [HERE](#).

Your Capitol Team

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