FISCAL UPDATE February 15, 1999

 Legislative Fiscal Bureau (515) 281-5279 FAX 281-8451

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SETTLEMENT - STATE POLICE OFFICERS COUNCIL (SPOC)

**SPOC Agreement** The State of Iowa and the SPOC labor union have come to an initial agreement over wages and benefits for FY 2000 and FY 2001. The agreement, pending ratification by the union membership, provides the following:



 **FY 2000**

1. A 2.65% across-the-board increase in base wages for all members (included in base).
2. Change from a six-step pay plan to an eleven-step pay plan. Individuals who are off step on the new pay plan will be moved to the next highest step. In the first year there will not be step increases for employees on their review dates.
3. The average increase for an individual employee will be 3.30%.

 **FY 2001**

1. A 3.00% across-the-board increase in base wages for all members (included in base).
2. Step increases for employees not at the top of their pay range (this will include all employees under the revised pay plan).
3. The average increase for an individual employee will be 6.50%.

**Eleven-Step Pay Plan** The pay plans will change from six steps to eleven steps. Under the current six-step plan, each step is worth 4.7%. Under the new eleven-step plan, each step will be worth 3.5%. The new plan will increase the maximum salaries for individual job classifications by approximately 16.0%. Under the current six-step plan, 66.0% of employees covered under SPOC are at the top of their salary range.

**Estimated Cost** The estimated cost of this proposal is still being determined. The LFB will continue to update the members of the General Assembly as additional information on other bargaining units becomes available.

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STAFF CONTACT: Glen Dickinson (Ext. 14616)

House Education Committee Approves Iowa Early Intervention Program

**HSB 77** On February 10, the House Education Committee approved HSB 77, as amended. This legislation will provide $10.0 million per year for FY 2000 through FY 2002. The intent of the legislation is to provide school districts with resources to begin reducing class size for grades kindergarten through third grade to a State goal of 17 students per class. Other objectives of the legislation include improving student reading skills and increasing communication and accountability regarding student performance.



Classroom size

STAFF CONTACT: Mike Lipsman (Ext. 17799)

Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee

**Admin./Regulation** The Administration and Regulation Appropriations Subcommittee met on February 9 and 10.

**Governor’s Office** On February 9, John Norris, Chief of Staff for the Office of the Governor, presented the Office of the Governor’s budget request for FY 2000 and the Office of State-Federal Relation’s budget request for FY 2000.

**Additional Support Costs** The Governor is recommending an increase of $68,400 (4.1%) compared to estimated FY 1999 for the Office of the Governor. The Governor is recommending $90,800 for additional support costs, which include computer hardware and travel costs.



**Supplemental Request** The Subcommittee asked Mr. Norris how the Office’s budget would be affected by the vacation and sick leave pay-out for the Office’s employees that were leaving state government. Mr. Norris responded that the Office is requesting a supplemental request of $254,000 for FY 1999. This request includes $116,000 for staff vacation and sick leave pay-out.

**State/Federal Relations** Mr. Norris also presented the Governor’s FY 2000 budget recommendation for the Office of State-Federal Relations. The Governor is recommending an increase of $25,000 (9.1%) compared to estimated FY 1999. The increase is to replace Iowa Finance Authority receipts with General Fund money.

**Vacant Position** The Subcommittee asked Mr. Norris if one FTE position for the Office had been vacant all year. Mr. Norris responded that the FTE position had not been filled. The Office’s personnel expenditures for the existing two FTE positions did not allow enough funds available to fill the vacant FTE position.

**Dept. of General Services** On February 10, Richard Haines, Director of the Department of General Services, presented the Governor’s recommendations for the Department. The Governor is recommending a FY 1999 supplemental request of $67,500 for the Rental Space Division and $12,500 for an Administrative Assistant for the First Lady in the Terrace Hill Division.

**Governor’s Recomm.** The Governor is recommending the following for FY 2000:



1. An increase of $49,000 for an Administrative Assistant for the First Lady in the Terrace Hill Division.
2. A decrease of $120,000 to shift 2.0 FTE positions from Design and Construction in the Property Management Division to the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund.
3. A decrease of $47,000 for the Department to cease cleaning of cafeterias at the Capitol Complex.
4. A decrease of $32,000 for the Department to cease after-hours carpet cleaning at the Capitol Complex.

**Information Requested** The Department was requested to provide responses to the following:

1. Why was the salary recalculated for the Volunteer Coordinator at the Terrace Hill Division?
2. Why did the Department revert $172,000 in FY 1998 instead of diverting the reverted funds for routine maintenance at the Capitol Complex?
3. How was the Department able to hire an Administrative Assistant for the First Lady for FY 1999?
4. The breakdown of the salary and support costs for the Administrative Assistant for the First Lady.
5. The police log of incidents in the Capitol Complex over the last 12 months.
6. Investigate contract negotiations on cafeteria cleanup and report back to the Subcommittee by February 20 as to the feasibility of the Governor’s recommendation of the cafeteria cleanup issue.

**Foster Care Review Board** On February 10, Jerry Foxhoven, Board Chairperson, and Harriet Vande Hoef, Vice Chair for the Foster Care Review Board, gave a presentation to the Subcommittee of projected costs for a five-year statewide implementation plan. The plan indicates that for each dollar spent, 55 cents would be from State funds and 45 cents would be from federal funds.

STAFF CONTACT: Shawn Snyder (Ext. 16765) Ron Robinson (Ext. 16256)

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

**Agric./Natural Resources** The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee met on February 9, 10, and 11.

**Dept. of Ag./Land Stwdshp.** On February 9, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship presented their budget requests for FY 2000. Patty Judge, Secretary of Agriculture, introduced the Division Directors who detailed the requests for their Division.

#### FY 2000

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**Budget Presentation** On February 10, Sherry Weikum and Deb Kozel, Legislative Fiscal Bureau, presented the Department’s budget requests and the Governor’s recommendations for the FY 2000 budget.

**Environmental Issues** On February 11, Ken Choquette, Department of Public Health, discussed environmental health issues related to water quality.

STAFF CONTACT: Deb Kozel (Ext. 16767) Sherry Weikum (Ext. 17846)

Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee

**Economic Development Sub.** The Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee held meetings on February 9, 10, and 11.

**Presentations** On February 9, the Subcommittee heard testimony covering the following subjects:

#### FY 2000

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1. Richard Moore, Chairman of the Public Employment Relations Board, presented the FY 2000 budget request and an overview of the Board’s purpose.
2. Brett Mills, Deputy Iowa Treasurer, discussed the Linked Investment for Tomorrow (LIFT) Program.
3. David Lyons, Director of the Department of Economic Development, discussed the liquidation of the Iowa Capital Corporation. Mr. Lyons announced that the Department has received a check for $1.0 million, with the potential of up to $1.6 million in future payments.
4. Angela Burke Boston, from the Iowa Insurance Commissioner’s Office, briefed the Subcommittee on the liquidation of the Iowa Seed Capital Corporation. Ms. Boston, along with Andy Anderson of the Attorney General’s office and Steve Miller of the Treasurer’s Office, stated that the Corporation has a cash balance of nearly $1.7 million, of which, $700,000 may be retained to cover liquidation costs. Jude Conway, the private manager hired to administer the liquidation, stated that investments remaining in the Corporation’s portfolio are currently carried at a value of $2.9 million; however, the value in cash after liquidation cannot be estimated until the portfolio is evaluated.

**Workforce Development** On February 10, Deb Dessert, Acting Director of the Department of Workforce Development, provided an overview of the Department’s purpose and FY 2000 budget request.

**Business Development**  On February 11, Bob Henningsen, Division Administrator of the Department of Economic Development’s Business Development Division, presented an overview of the Division’s purpose and FY 2000 budget request.

**Next Week** The tentative agenda for the week of February 15 includes:

1. February 16: Department of Economic Development’s Tourism and International Divisions.
2. February 17: Department of Workforce Development’s Labor Division and the federal Workforce Development Act.
3. February 18: Iowa Finance Authority and the Department of Economic Development Community and Rural Development Division.

STAFF CONTACT: Jeff Robinson (Ext. 14614)

Education Appropriations Subcommittee

**Education Subcomm.** The Education Appropriations Subcommittee held three meetings during the week of February 8. The Subcommittee heard the following presentations:



**Univ. of Northern Iowa** President Robert Koob presented the strategic plan and budget request for the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). The University requested $86.2 million and 1,425.8 FTE positions for FY 2000. This is an increase of $3.1 million and 25.9 FTE positions compared to estimated FY 1999. The Governor recommended $84.1 million and 1,410.9 FTE positions, which is an increase of $1.0 million and 12.5 FTE positions compared to estimated FY 1999. The table below compares the University’s new funding requests, compared to the amounts recommended by the Board of Regents and the Governor.

**Social Work Program** Some members of the Subcommittee indicated concern that the University’s request to create a master’s degree program for Social Work would be duplicative of programs at the University of Iowa (SUI) in Iowa City and St. Ambrose University in Davenport. President Koob responded that the focus of the UNI program would be toward practical (clinical) application. The SUI program is focused more towards students pursuing a doctorate degree. President Koob also indicated that UNI has the largest undergraduate enrollment in social work and a need to provide advanced study for these students. The University also plans to offer the degree program over the Iowa Communications Network.



**College Student Aid Comm.** Gary Nichols, Director of the College Student Aid Commission, presented the Commission’s budget. The Commission requested $57.9 million and 5.4 FTE positions for FY 2000 from the General Fund. This is an increase of $4.3 million and a decrease of 0.01 FTE position compared to estimated FY 1999. The Commission also requested $5.4 million and 34.6 FTE positions from the Stafford Loan Fund for administration. The Governor recommended $59.2 million and 5.4 FTE positions for the Commission for FY 2000, which is an increase of $5.6 million and a decrease of 0.01 FTE position compared to estimated FY 1999. The Governor did not make a recommendation regarding funding for administration from the Stafford Loan Fund. The Governor stated that funding for administration from the Fund is regulated by the federal government and an appropriation is not necessary.

**Iowa Tuition Grant Program** John Hartung, President of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, discussed the Iowa Tuition Grant Program and the impact the Program has had on independent college and university tuition rates in Iowa. The Subcommittee also heard from Fred Moore, President of Buena Vista University, regarding faculty qualifications at the University’s satellite centers.

**Natl. Guard Tuition Asst.** Brigadier General John Tymeson updated the Subcommittee on the National Guard Tuition Assistance Program. The Commission requested, and the Governor recommended, an increase of $166,000 for total funding of $1.0 million for the Program in FY 2000.



**Iowa State University** President Martin Jischke presented the budget request for Iowa State University. The University requested $253.7 million and 33.7 FTE positions for FY 2000. This is an increase of $9.3 million and 46.5 FTE positions compared to estimated FY 1999. The Governor recommended $247.3 million and 4,626.0 FTE positions, which is an increase of $3.0 million and 22.3 FTE positions compared to estimated FY 1999. The table on the following page compares the University’s new funding requests, compared to the amounts recommended by the Board of Regents and the Governor.

**Center of Excellence** Much of the Subcommittee discussion centered on the University’s request to fund a Center of Excellence for Plant Science. The University requested $5.0 million for the Center, the Board recommended $3.0 million, and the Governor recommended $2.0 million. President Jischke responded that the ISU goal is $10.0 million of State funding each year for two years. The University would use the funding to gather world class scientists in plant science research and leverage additional funds (federal and private). Some subcommittee members indicated concern about the level of funding necessary and the correlation or duplication of other private or public research.

STAFF CONTACT: Paige Piper/Bach (Ext. 17942) Mary Shipman (Ext. 14617)

Health and Human Rights appropriations Subcommittee



**Alliance on Subs. Abuse** On February 9, Dale Woolery, Acting Director of the Governor’s Alliance on Substance Abuse, presented the budget to the Health and Human Rights Appropriations Subcommittee. The topics discussed included:

* The Governor’s proposal to move the Governor’s Alliance on Substance Abuse to the Department of Public Safety.
* The grant writing process for federal funds.
* The success rate of the enforcement, prevention, and treatment programs funded by the Alliance through federal grants, such as the Byrne grant and STOP Violence Against Women grant.

**Elder Affairs Issues** On February 10, the Subcommittee heard a presentation on Case Management from Betty Grundquist of the Department of Elder Affairs; Donna Harvey and Patty Eusch of Association of Area Agencies on Aging; and Jackie Butler, Linda Truax, and Janelle Stringham, on behalf of Public Health Nurses. Services were explained and the need for increased funding was discussed.



**Health Services** The Governor has recommended an increase of $250,000 for essential health services. The nurse representatives requested the Subcommittee consider an additional $2.0 million to be divided among the counties, stating that 1) the demand for public health nursing services has increased, and 2) there is a cost savings to the State by maintaining the elderly in their homes for as long as possible.

**Methamphetamine** On February 11, the Committee heard presentations on methamphetamine. Presenters and topics included:

* Dale Woolery, Governor’s Alliance on Substance Abuse - Statewide statistics regarding the use and manufacture of methamphetamine.

* Amanda, a recovering methamphetamine user - What it was like to be a user and how hard it is to recover from methamphetamine.
* Dr. Dennis Weis, Powell Chemical Dependency Center - Medical facts about methamphetamine.
* Janet Zwick, Department of Public Health - Recommendations on how to fight methamphetamine, as suggested in a report required by House File 2348 (FY 1999 Department of Human Services Institutions and Services- Miscellaneous Provisions Act).
* Art Schut, Iowa Substance Abuse Director’s Association - Closing remarks and expressing the concern that stiffer sentences would not be an effective deterrent to methamphetamine use.

**Committee of the Whole** Following the presentations, members of the Subcommittee supported a proposal for this presentation to be given in front of a Committee of the Whole.

STAFF CONTACT: Jennifer Dean (Ext. 14613) Valerie Thacker (Ext. 15270)

Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

**Human Services Sub.** The Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee met the week of February 8 and conducted the following business:

**Methamphetamine** Methamphetamine Issues:

1. Heard testimony from the representatives of the Governor’s Alliance for Substance Abuse regarding methamphetamine. Discussion included:
2. Transitional options upon completion of a treatment program.
3. Cooperation by businesses to control purchases of over the counter ingredients used to make methamphetamine.
4. The number of beds available for treatment in private/non-profit entities.
5. Drug testing by school districts.
6. Use of funds available to cities from the sale of alcohol products for prevention and treatment of drug usage.

1. Received a presentation regarding a proposed cooperative methamphetamine treatment program between the Department of Corrections and the Mental Health Institute at Mount Pleasant. Discussion included:
2. Sentencing alternatives to incarceration.
3. The recidivism rate at the existing dual diagnosis unit at the Mental Health Institute at Mount Pleasant.
4. Possible increase in the number of community-based beds and possible designation of a certain number of beds for women.
5. The spiritual component for incarceration recently approved by the Board of Corrections and the possibility of expansion into the community-based corrections arena.
6. Heard testimony from representatives of the Consortium for Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation at the University of Iowa. Discussion included:
7. The effect of a combination of amphetamines and depressants.
8. Conclusions from a study regarding the genetic link to behavior by persons who were adopted.
9. Separation of research and treatment of substance abuse.

#### FY 2000

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**FY 2000 Budget** The Subcommittee received information from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau regarding the FY 2000 Department budget request and the Governor’s budget recommendations for the State Hospital-Schools and the Mental Health Institutes.

**Net Budgeting** The Subcommittee heard testimony from representatives of the Department of Human Services and the State Hospital-Schools regarding net budgeting at the State Hospital-Schools and the Mental Health Institutes. Discussion included:

1. Improvements in the financial billing process to the counties for services and per diem costs.
2. The process to determine legal settlement, which is identifying whether a county is responsible for the cost of a person who may not be a resident of a particular county.
3. Net budgeting and reviewing the option to allow funds to carry over for the State Hospital-Schools in lieu of reverting funds to the State General Fund.

**Hospital-Schools** Parents’ Associations of the State Hospital-Schools at Glenwood and Woodward presented testimony. Discussion included:

1. Concerns regarding media exaggerations of the possible closure of the State Hospital-Schools and the effect upon staff morale.
2. Possible improvements in the placement process and length of time when determining the appropriate setting for children and adults with special needs.
3. Impact when private providers do not accept or require removal of a person with special needs from a facility and the State becomes the provider of last resort.
4. Development of services by the State Hospital-Schools to permit persons with special needs to remain in the home or be discharged from the Schools to an independent living arrangement.
5. The role of community support within the two communities of the State Hospital-Schools.

**Legal Investigations** The Subcommittee received information from representatives of the Department of Human Services and the Department of Inspections and Appeals regarding the status of legal investigations at the two State Hospital-Schools. Discussion included:

1. Changes in the staffing and supervision roles.
2. Possible occurrences of similar investigations in community-based facilities.
3. The process undertaken by the Department of Inspections and Appeals regarding the investigations.
4. Cooperation between the two Departments when incidents warranting investigation occur.
5. Impact of recent investigations upon the net budgeting process.



**Sexual Predator Program** The Subcommittee received information regarding the Sexual Predator Commitment Program by a representative of the Department of Human Services. Discussion included:

1. Start-up costs compared to future annualized costs of treatment for committed persons.
2. Status of persons in the Program as of February 9 and the probability of expending $761,000 between March and July for treatment costs. No persons have yet been committed to the treatment program.
3. The three components of treatment of committed persons: (1) the thinking process, (2) therapy and counseling, and (3) medical/psychiatric treatment.
4. The need for the psychiatric component to be equivalent to the treatment received at a State Mental Health Institute to be constitutional.
5. Possible court challenges to the Iowa statute.



**Juvenile Justice Issues** On February 10, the Subcommittee heard testimony from representatives of the juvenile justice community. Discussion included:

1. The foster group care funding allocation and the transfer process between judicial districts for a portion of the funding.
2. The number of children awaiting placement in a group care setting.
3. Suggested programs for juvenile girl treatment and aftercare and the estimated costs and increases in the number of available beds for treatment.
4. Separation of boot camp funding from group foster care funding.
5. Costs to counties due to use of detention centers before placement of a child in a group care setting.

**Training School at Eldora** The Subcommittee received information from a representative of the State Training School at Eldora. Discussion included:

1. Parental resources being inadequate to make seeking reimbursement for costs incurred at the School cost-effective.
2. The need for aftercare for residents of the School discharged when between 16 and 18 years of age.
3. Recidivism rates.
4. The need for improvement in family situations while the residents are receiving care at the School.

**Local Funding Issues** On February 11, the Subcommittee:



1. Received information from a representative of the Iowa State Association of Counties regarding the Property Tax Relief Fund for mental health expenditures.
2. Heard testimony from a representative of the Iowa Farm Bureau regarding additional property tax relief in other local expenditure categories in lieu of mental health expenditures and availability of fund balances to reduce property taxes on the local level without additional funding.
3. Received from Representative Carroll, a history of local mental health expenditures and State participation through the Property Tax Relief Fund and expenditure growth allocation.
4. Received information from representatives of the State County Management Committee regarding an 11.0% growth recommendation for mental health property tax for FY 2001.
5. Received testimony from county Central Point Coordinators regarding possible improvements in the local funding process. Discussion included:
6. Permitting disabled individuals to buy into the Medicaid Program for health care coverage when returning to work.
7. Changes in the Iowa Plan to expand coverage for certain individuals currently not included.
8. The need to improve the salaries of direct care staff and other staff in facilities providing care to those individuals eligible for assistance.
9. The inclusion of funding for legal settlement in the existing Risk Pool under the mental health expenditure component.
10. Received information from a representative of Governor Vilsack’s office regarding the Governor’s recommendation for the mental health growth allocation of 1.57% for FY 2001.

**More Information** Additional information is available upon request.

STAFF CONTACT: Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794) Deb Anderson (Ext. 16764)

Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

**Justice System Subcom.** The Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee heard presentations from the Departments of Corrections and Public Safety during the week of February 8.

**Dept. of Corrections Issues** The major issues discussed by the Department of Corrections included:



1. Conclusion of the discussion of the Governor’s recommendations for the Department of Corrections.
2. Pay-for-Stay Program. The Department has requested a supplemental appropriation to offset the revenue shortfall from the private sector inmate employment portion of the Pay-for-Stay Program. The Department has also changed the method of collecting the institutional monthly fees. A 6.0% surcharge will be added to canteen purchases, and the $5 monthly fee has been eliminated.
3. Telephone Rebate Fund revenues and expenditures. The Department has been receiving approximately $200,000 per month in telephone rebates in FY 1999. Expenditures have been made for educational supplies, preventative health care, computer lab equipment for educational uses, law library materials, and other such items.
4. The operation of the Iowa Prison Industries.
5. The failure to comply with legislative intent language regarding establishment of advisory councils by the Prison Farms.

**Public Safety Issues** The major items discussed by the Department of Public Safety included:



1. The Governor’s recommendation for an increase of $11.1 million (22.6%) and 30.0 (3.2%) FTE positions. Major increases include:
2. $9.2 million to complete the transfer of funding for the State Patrol to the General Fund.
3. $980,000 and 13.0 FTE positions for the Governor’s Methamphetamine Lab Response Team.
4. $186,000 and 3.0 FTE positions to continue funding for State Troopers formerly funded through the federal Community Oriented Policing Grant (COPS).
5. $81,000 and 2.0 FTE positions for criminalists to improve turn-around times for drug analyses.
6. $506,000 and 6.0 FTE positions for the Division of Narcotics Enforcement to add agents for drug enforcement.
7. $24,000 for the Fire Marshal to update the Administrative Code in regard to building codes.
* The methamphetamine problem, locations of meth labs, distribution of officers trained to deal with the drug, methods of detection, and related issues.



* The Fire Marshal’s response to the Subcommittee’s request concerning staffing needed to meet statutory duties and alternative methods for providing inspections.
* The transfer of the Office of the State Medical Examiner from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Public Health.
* The Sex Offender Registry. Opinions were expressed questioning the effectiveness of the Program, and support was offered for maintaining the Program. Director Westfall described the operation of the system and the options being examined by the Department.

STAFF CONTACT: Dwayne Ferguson (Ext. 16561) Christina Schaefer (Ext. 16301)

Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee

**Trans., Infra., & Capitals** The Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee met the week of February 8 and heard presentations from the following:

**Veterans Affairs** The Veterans Affairs Commission presented their FY 2000 request for infrastructure funding, which includes:

1. $620,000 for routine maintenance at the Veterans Home. The Governor did not recommend funding for routine maintenance for FY 2000.



1. $735,000 for various infrastructure improvements to facilities at the Veterans Home. The Governor did not recommend funding for infrastructure directly for the Veterans Home. The Commission receives a portion of the Department of General Services’ annual major maintenance appropriation for facility improvements.
2. $2.4 million for expansion of the food preparation and dining room areas at the Iowa Veterans Home. The Commission was appropriated $500,000 in FY 1997 and $1.4 million in FY 1998 for design costs and to begin construction of the project. The total cost of this project is estimated at $12.4 million. Of this, $8.3 million will be funded through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This appropriation would fulfill the State’s 35.0% match requirement. The Governor did not recommend funding for the dining expansion in FY 2000 due to anticipated delays in federal funding for the project.

**General Services** The Department of General Services presented their FY 2000 request and Governor’s recommendations for infrastructure funding, which is summarized on the following table.



**Major Maintenance** The Department estimates that there are $85.0 million in major maintenance needs to State facilities located throughout the State. This estimate includes all State agencies except for facilities under the purview of the Board of Regents, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Defense, and the Department of Natural Resources. The Department also discussed the progress of Capitol Complex renovation projects.

**Skills 2000 Program** Representatives of the Skills 2000 Program presented the Program concept to the Subcommittee. The Program is designed to address the shortage of skilled and trained workers in Iowa through the development of a cooperative education program between community colleges and private business and industry. The presenters stated that the Skills 2000 proposal would require State funding for both operations and infrastructure. Specific dollar amounts were not discussed with the Subcommittee members.



**Department of Agriculture** The Department of Agriculture discussed issues related to the closing of agriculture drainage wells and development of alternative drainage outlets. The Department stated that it will cost an estimated $41.0 million to close all drainage wells in the State and to develop alternative drainage outlets under current law. This cost may increase by an estimated $20.0 million depending on whether or not certain federal requirements must be met. The Department received two appropriations totaling $3.0 million in FY 1997 and FY 1998 to begin closing wells in Pocahontas and Wright Counties. No funding was requested or recommended for FY 2000.

**Soil Conserv. Program** The Department also discussed the funding recommendations for the Soil Conservation Cost Share Program and the Watershed Protection Program. The Governor is recommending $7.0 million from the proposed Recreation, Environment, Arts, Cultural, and Heritage (REACH) Fund for the Soil Conservation Cost Share Program for FY 2000. This Program was funded from the General Fund in FY 1999 at $6.5 million.

**Watershed Protection** The Governor is also recommending $1.4 million from the Recreation, Environment, Arts, Cultural, and Heritage (REACH) Fund for a Watershed Protection Program to improve water quality protection, flood control, and soil conservation in Iowa.

**Public Defense** The Department of Public Defense presented the Governor’s FY 2000 recommendation for major maintenance of National Guard Facilities throughout the State. The Governor is recommending $680,000 for FY 2000, which is approximately the same level of funding the Department has received over the last several years.



**Dept. of Transportation** The Department of Transportation presented the Governor’s FY 2000 recommendations for funding of the Recreational Trails Program and the Commercial Service Airport Infrastructure Program. The Governor is recommending $2.0 million from the Recreation, Environment, Arts, Cultural, and Heritage (REACH) Fund for the Recreational Trails Program and $1.0 million from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund for the Commercial Service Airport Infrastructure Program. Funding for both programs is the same as was appropriated in FY 1999. However, in FY 1999, $55,000 of the Commercial Service Airport appropriation was diverted to the Harlan Airport for the purchase of a Weather Observation System.

**Dept. of Natural Resources** The Department of Natural Resources presented an overview of the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Program, which the Governor is recommending funding of $15.0 million in FY 2000 and $20.0 million in FY 2001 from the Recreation, Environment, Arts, Cultural, and Heritage (REACH) Fund. The REAP Program was appropriated $9.0 million from the General Fund in FY 1999.

STAFF CONTACT: David Reynolds (Ext. 16934)

OVERSIGHT AND COMMUNICATIONS APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

**Oversight & Commun. Sub.** The Legislative Oversight and Communications Appropriations Subcommittee met February 9, 10, and 11.

**IOWAccess** On February 9, the Committee met with Dave Arringdale, Acting Director, Information Technology Services (ITS), to discuss IOWAccess. The IOWAccess Network is the official website for the State of Iowa. The goal of the Network is to create an electronic gateway to Iowa's government, communities, and industries. The ITS has contracted with Iowa Interactive to provide these services. Kent Hiller, Director of Iowa Interactive, spoke with the Subcommittee about funding models used in other states to support web development activities.

**Digital Commerce** The Committee heard from Janet Huston, Department of General Services, about digital signature and electronic commerce. Ms. Huston discussed the legislation proposed last year and potential changes to that legislation.

**Trends in Other States** On February 10, the Committee met with Tom Davies, Vice President of Federal Sources, Inc., who discussed recent information technology trends in other states. The presentation covered the following topics: information technology governance, digital signatures and electronic commerce, and business re-engineering.

**Regents Peer Review** On February 11, the Committee met with the Board of Regents. David Dobbins, Associate Director of Information Technology Services, University of Iowa, discussed the peer review process that is being utilized by the Regent Institutions to monitor the Year 2000 progress. The Committee listened to presentations by each institution regarding their current Year 2000 remediation status.

STAFF CONTACT: Glen Dickinson (Ext. 14616) and Doug Wulf (Ext. 13250)

IOWA VETERANS HOME CAPACITY UPDATE



**Veterans Home Capacity** The Legislative Fiscal Bureau continues to gather data on the capacity of the Iowa Veterans Home. The following table illustrates capacity statistics since the last update. The Scheduled Admissions number refers to individuals on the waiting list scheduled for admission.

| **Date** |  | **Bed Capacity** |  | **Waiting List** |  | **Scheduled Admissions** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 11/4/98 |  | 768 |  | 62 |  | 20 |
| 11/18/98 |  | 768 |  | 65 |  | 16 |
| 12/16/98 |  | 768 |  | 58 |  | 13 |
| 12/30/98 |  | 768 |  | 53 |  | 8 |
| 1/20/99 |  | 768 |  | 48 |  | 5 |
| 2/3/99 |  | 768 |  | 54 |  | 11 |

STAFF CONTACT: Valerie Thacker (Ext. 15270)

Iowa Communications Network (ICN) Video Classrooms



**ICN Classrooms** The Iowa Communications Network (ICN) added five interactive video classrooms during the first half of February at Nora Springs-Rock Falls High School in Nora Springs, Xavier High School in Cedar Rapids, Wilton High School, Hinton High School, and Waverly Public Library. This brings the total number of classrooms to 643. The total number of classrooms that will be included in the Network at the end of the Part III build out is estimated at over 700. This will include multiple classrooms at several authorized sites. The table below presents the current distribution of sites by type of authorized user.

**IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**

# Full-Motion Interactive Video Classrooms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Area Education Agencies | 16 |
| Community Colleges | 94 |
| K-12 School Districts | 345 |
| Other Education | 4 |
| Libraries | 19 |
| Medical Facilities | 8 |
| Private Colleges | 17 |
| Regents Institutions | 25 |
| National Guard | 56 |
| State Agencies | 42 |
| Federal | 14 |
| Miscellaneous | 3 |
| Classrooms Total | 643 |

**Website** This information is updated weekly and is available on the Internet at <http://www.icn.state.ia.us/about/clickmap/clickmap.htm>**.** If you would like a copy of the full list of sites and their locations and do not have access to the Internet, you may contact the LFB and request a copy.

STAFF CONTACT: Douglas Wulf (Ext. 13250)

**LFB INTERNET ADDRESS** Visit the LFB website located at [***http******://staffweb.le******gis.state.ia.us/lfb/***](http://staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb/)

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 **Website**