

FISCAL UPDATE

February 20, 2008

Legislative Services Agency

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<http://staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb>

STATE APPEALS BOARD ACTION

State Appeals Board

The State Appeals Board approved January settlement and judgment actions on February 4. The funds are provided from the State General Fund. These included:

- Regents – University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, \$685,000 for five medical negligence settlements and attorney fees.
- Regents – University of Northern Iowa, \$33,500 for a personal injury and property damage settlement.
- Iowa Lottery, \$1.3 million for two TouchPlay settlements.
- Department of Corrections, \$115 for court costs.

Year-to-date Appeals Board expenditures for FY 2008 are \$4.3 million.

STAFF CONTACT: Deborah Helsen (Ext. 16764) Sue Lerdal (Ext. 17794)

GOVERNOR SIGNS SCHOOL AID ALLOWABLE GROWTH BILL

Allowable Growth Rate

The Governor signed HF 2140 (School Aid Allowable Growth Rate Act) on February 12. The Act increases the FY 2010 State cost per pupil by 4.0% compared to the FY 2009 State cost per pupil. The result will increase each school district's cost per pupil by \$222 and establish the FY 2010 State cost per pupil at \$5,768.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of HF 2140 will be an estimated total cost of \$2.349 billion to the State General Fund. The overall impact of HF 2140 is provided in the following table:

	Preschool State Aid	Total State Aid*	Property Tax**	Property Tax Adjustment Aid (Included in the Total State Aid)	Number of Districts Receiving Prop. Tax Adj. Aid	Budget Adjustment	Number of Districts Receiving Budget Adj.
FY 2010	\$ 33.3	\$ 2,349.2	\$ 1,213.4	\$ 24.0	86	\$ 9.6	112
FY 2009	\$ 17.1	\$ 2,236.6	\$ 1,168.4	\$ 18.0	71	\$ 12.4	158
Change	\$ 16.3	\$ 112.6	\$ 45.1	\$ 6.0	15	\$ -2.9	-46

*Total State aid includes preschool State aid and property tax adjustment aid.
**Property tax includes budget adjustment amount.
Changes may not add due to rounding.

Additional Information

Additional information, including estimates by school district for FY 2009 and FY 2010, is located at: http://staffweb.legis.state.ia.us/lfb/docs/k-12_ed/k-12_ed.htm. For additional information, contact the Legislative Services Agency.

STAFF CONTACT: Shawn Snyder (Ext. 17799)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, OPEN MEETINGS, AND PUBLIC RECORDS STUDY COMMITTEE

Sunshine Laws

The Freedom of Information, Open Meetings, and Public Records Study Committee a final meeting on February 7, 2008. The Committee was charged with reviewing and recommending changes to Iowa's open meetings and public records laws, also known as freedom of information or "sunshine" laws. The Committee discussed and approved a bill that addresses problems inherent in existing statutes and voted to submit it to leadership. The bill is Senate Study Bill 3164 and is assigned to the Senate State Government Standing Committee.

New Board

The bill creates a new five-member Iowa Public Information Board. Members of the Board are eligible to receive per diem costs and actual and necessary expenses. The Board will be authorized to hire staff, including a director, legal counsel, and other necessary staff. Expectations are that the Board will be included in the Administration and Regulations Appropriations Subcommittee, similar to the Ethics and Campaign Finance Disclosure Board.

Increased Damages

The bill increases the range of damages for violations of the open meetings law by a State governmental body or its members. The minimum amount of damages is increased from \$100 to \$1,000 and the maximum is increased from \$500 to \$2,500.

More Information

For more information, the study committee's materials are on the web site at: http://www.legis.state.ia.us/scripts/docmgr/docmgr_comdocs.dll/showtypeinterim?id=true&type=ih&com=216

STAFF CONTACT: Marcia Tannian (Ext. 17942) Douglas Wulf (Ext. 13250)

RECENT FISCAL SERVICES PUBLICATIONS

Recently Published

The Fiscal Services Division has recently published the following documents:

Fiscal Notes

[HF 2233](#) – Web Search Portal Business – Shawn Snyder (1-7799)
[SF 2136](#) – Real Estate Broker Trust Account Transfer – Ron Robinson (1-6256)
[HF 2197](#) – Textbook Savings – Dwayne Ferguson (1-6561)
[HF 2080](#) – Conservation Tax Credits – Jeff Robinson (1-4614)
[SF 2123](#) – Internal Revenue Code Update – Jeff Robinson (1-4614)
[HF 2195](#) and [SF 2130](#) (companion bills) – Enterprise Zone – Prison Population with Bio-Fuel Projects – Ron Robinson (1-6256)
[SF 2110](#) – Home and Community Based Services Reimbursement – Jess Benson (1-4611)
[HF 2021](#) – Fitness Club Membership Tax Credit – Jeff Robinson (1-4614)
[HF 898](#) – Bingo Sales and Use Tax – Shawn Snyder (1-7799)

STAFF CONTACT: Mary Shipman (Ext. 14617)

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Subcommittee Meetings

Appropriations Subcommittees are currently meeting. The Fiscal Services Division provides staff for these meetings and maintains a web site for each Subcommittee. The Subcommittee web sites provide the following information:

- Subcommittee members, minutes, agendas, and staff contacts.

- Materials distributed. Copies of all materials distributed are posted. This includes Fiscal Services documents, such as spreadsheets and materials handed out by presenters, as well as a variety of reports submitted by departments.

To access the Subcommittee web sites, go to the General Assembly web site (<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/>), click on Committees, and scroll down to Joint Appropriations Committees.

Subcommittee Contacts

The Fiscal Services Division staff contacts and web site location for each Subcommittee are as follows:

Administration and Regulation: Deborah Helsen (1-6764) and Dave Reynolds (1-6934)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=32>

Agriculture and Natural Resources: Deb Kozel (1-6767)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=33>

Economic Development: Ron Robinson (1-6256)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=34>

Education: Robin Madison (1-5270) and Dwayne Ferguson (1-6561)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=35>

Health and Human Services: Jess Benson (1-4611), Sue Lerdal (1-7794), and Mary Shipman (1-4617)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=37>

Justice System: Jennifer Acton (1-7846) and Beth Lenstra (1-6301)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=38>

Transportation and Infrastructure: Mary Beth Mellick (1-8223) and Marcia Tannian (5-2062)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=40>

Standing Committees

Fiscal Services also has staff dedicated to the following:

Education - School Foundation Aid: Shawn Snyder (1-7799) and Dwayne Ferguson (1-6561)

Oversight: Marcia Tannian (5-2062) and Doug Wulf (1-3250)

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=41>

Ways and Means: Jeff Robinson (1-4614), Shawn Snyder (1-7799), and Dwayne Ferguson (1-6561)

STAFF CONTACT: Mary Shipman (Ext. 14617)

This document can be found on the LSA web site:
<http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Fiscal/fiscupdt/>