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2009 Legislative Session Preview

The 2009 legislative session is not going to be an easy one for Iowa's newly elected legislators. It could also prove to be one of the toughest for Iowans with disabilities as the State struggles to reduce spending in the face of a weakening economy and growing unemployment.

It is pretty easy to predict the hot topics in the Legislature this year – budget and flood recovery. Legislative leaders say their goal for the year is to put together a budget that spends less money while still providing assistance to flood-affected families, businesses and communities.

Some legislators say they will try to repeal Iowa's year-old smoking ban. Others want to make changes to Iowa's sex offender law to improve enforcement and make kids safer. Another group wants to take another run at a gas tax increase to help pay for bridges and roads. Yet another group of legislators say they will work on bills that would give cities other ways to raise money and reduce property taxes, such as fees and local option

income taxes. But don't get too excited about these efforts; legislators say the chances of these things passing are pretty slim.

The legislative session begins on Monday, January 12. Legislative leaders shortened the session by 10 days to save money – so legislators will be in Des Moines for only 100 days this year. April 21 will be the 100th-day of session. That leaves just four short months to finish up the budget and any other work. A full schedule of the session will be in the next issue of *infoNET*.

The following articles highlight some of the issues you might expect the Legislature to discuss this year that may affect people with disabilities.

Managing the Budget: *Job One*

Economies throughout the world are in trouble. This is not just an Iowa problem, or a US problem. It is a global one. Forty-three other states have said they are in budget trouble and facing revenue losses. Iowa is faring pretty well compared to many states like California with billion-dollar shortfalls. But that doesn't make the job ahead for Iowa's legislators any easier.

The first job legislators will be faced with this year is balancing the budget – both the one for this year (called “fiscal year 2009” or “FY2009”) and the one for the year ahead (FY2010, which begins in July).

The Governor announced last month that the state was taking in less money than predicted – and the budget the Legislature set last year was based on those earlier predictions.

The Governor took action immediately, initially cutting spending by \$77 million out of the current year budget by not filling job vacancies, transferring unused funds and stalling the creation

of new programs. Unfortunately, the gap predicted was much larger (\$99.5 million) and growing.

On December 22, Governor Culver signed [Executive Order 10](#) requiring an across-the-board (ATB) cut of 1.5% on all state spending, effective January 1. This means all state spending will be reduced by 1.5%, saving another \$91.4 million. The Governor hopes that this cut, combined with the \$77 million earlier reduction, will be enough to balance Iowa's budget for the current fiscal year.

Budget estimates also reduced the FY 2010 budget year forecasts by another \$132.6 million. That means lawmakers will need to further reduce their spending in the budgets they set this session for FY2010, which begins in July. This will be tough since there are more than \$800 million in automatic increases to the budget – mostly in Medicaid and education.

Flood Recovery: Priority One

While balancing the budget will be job one, the top priority among legislators is finding ways to continue to support flood recovery. Getting families into homes, businesses back in operation, jobs back online, and communities back in shape is no easy task. While federal money is on its way, it takes time and still requires state and local matches.

Linn County legislators will be lobbying hard to get help for Cedar Rapids, the city that had the most damage. But recovery takes money, and as we have seen from the discussion above, there isn't a lot of that to spare these days.

Legislators will also need to worry about the loss of property tax base in these communities. Cities and counties get money to provide local services from property taxes – taxes on homes and businesses. If those homes and businesses washed away in the floods, cities and counties won't be able to tax them. They will have less money for city and county government operations – and that impacts everything from public safety to library services to public transportation to county-

MORE ABOUT Revenue Estimates



A group of state economists make up Iowa's Revenue Estimating Conference (REC). They predict how much money the state can expect to collect each year, and revise this prediction quarterly based on what is actually going on.

The REC met on December 12 and lowered the current budget year (FY 2009) estimates to \$5.991 billion, a drop of .5% compared to last year. That means the state has nearly \$100 million less to spend on services and programs for the rest of this year.

At the same time, the REC changed the official FY 2010 revenue estimate by .4%. The REC now says revenues will reach only \$5.969 billion next year, a further drop of .4%.

The December estimate is important because, by law, the Governor and Legislature must use this number as the basis for building the next year's budget. At the same time, lawmakers will have to deal with \$800 million in spending increases already approved (called "built-in" increases). These include things like K-12 education, property tax relief for counties, state employee salaries, and Medicaid.

State law does not allow deficit spending (spending more than what you take in). That is why the Governor ordered a series of mid-year cuts totaling nearly \$170 million – to get the state in a position to balance the budget at the end of the budget year on June 30, 2009.

It is important to note the state has maintained a Cash Reserve Fund and an Economic Emergency Fund. Every year, the state has spent only 99% of what it takes in, moving the remaining 1% to these "rainy day" funds. These funds can be used for disaster recovery and economic emergencies, but legislative action is required to do this. That means legislators have the option to tap into the approximately \$600 million sitting in these funds to help fill funding gaps.

The Governor will submit his FY 2010 budget (for the year beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010) during his Condition of the State address on Tuesday, January 13. It will by law have to meet the new December REC estimates, spending .4% less than the adjusted (after cuts) FY 2009 budget.

funded mental health and disability services. With fewer homes and businesses to tax, the burden will shift to others or these communities will have to live with less money.

So far, almost \$1.3 billion in state and federal aid has gone out to families, businesses, and communities (\$85 million of this was used for the state's Jumpstart Iowa Initiative). Nearly 40,000 Iowans have filed for assistance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

You can read more about flood recovery efforts at the Governor's Rebuild Iowa Office website: <http://www.rio.iowa.gov/>.

Those needing assistance with disaster recovery can find help at the State's Flood Resource Center: <http://www.flood2008.iowa.gov/>.

Area Education Agencies Face Scrutiny

The agencies that oversee special education in Iowa will be up for review when the Legislature gets back to town this month.

Iowa's ten Area Education Agencies (AEAs) have been the subject of an extensive investigation by the *Des Moines Register*, which found the system is now costing taxpayers millions of dollars more today than it did five years ago, when the agencies were reorganized after they faced budget shortfalls and falling enrollments.

AEAs were created in 1975, and while they serve fewer students and school districts now, their responsibilities have grown to include providing special education, teacher training, and library services to Iowa's school districts. According to the *Des Moines Register*, AEAs now have 95 administrators, nearly four times as many as they did five years ago prior to reorganization. Several of those administrators are paid more than the Governor himself, and some have more than doubled their salaries in the last five years. AEAs are expected to spend about \$377.8 million in 2009, a 51% increase from the \$250 million spent in 1999.

Supporters say AEAs provide a valuable service to schools, teachers, and children with special needs and their families. Critics say they want less spending on administration and more on direct services. Legislative leaders are calling for a review of the agencies and their budgets, particularly since educational spending will need to be cut this year in order to balance the budget.

Legislators will want to make sure taxpayer money is being spent well, so expect a lively discussion on the services provided by AEAs, how the money is spent, and how services can best be delivered. The discussions will probably start in the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education.

Who should be concerned? Children receiving special education services and their families may wish to weigh in on this discussion with their legislators. We have heard from some parents that the quality of special education services varies across the state, so it is important that you give your legislators that local perspective.

For More Information: You can read more about the DSM Register investigation, and the reactions of parents with special needs, online at: www.infonetowa.com/current_issue/issues_and_policy_briefs.php.

County MH/DS System in Trouble

Counties have submitted their end of year reports to the Iowa Department of Management, and the numbers do not look good. These reports are the first sign of big trouble in the county-managed Mental Health/Disability Services (MH/DS) Funding system.

According to this report, more than half of Iowa's 99 counties closed out the FY 2008 budget year in June in real trouble, with less than 10% of their budgets in reserve.

Budget experts say counties need around 15-20% of their funds in reserve (depending on their budget size) for cash flow purposes and to guarantee services are not interrupted. Counties are expecting to end the current budget year (FY

2009, which they are now halfway through) in an even worse financial situation.

- **24 counties ended their FY 2008 budget year with a negative balance** – these counties had no money left at the end of the year but still had bills to pay. These counties are considered in crisis – they may face service reductions and/or waiting lists if they have not already. These include Adair, Audubon, Boone, Butler, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clayton, Fayette, Greene, Hancock, Jones, Kossuth, Marion, Montgomery, O’Brien, Osceola, Polk, Pottawattamie, Taylor, Union, Warren & Washington counties. *Linn County was not able to report because county government was relocated during the floods and still not back to full functioning.*
- **25 counties ended their FY 2008 budget year with less than 10% of their budget in reserve.** These counties are considered in real trouble and could face service reductions or waiting lists, depending on how close they are to 0%. These counties include Adams, Allamakee, Appanoose, Benton, Black Hawk, Calhoun, Cass, Cedar, Clay, Clinton, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Guthrie, Hardin, Howard, Lee, Madison, Mills, Mitchell, Page, Scott, Shelby, Tama, and Wright counties.
- **22 counties ended their FY 2008 budget year with an ending fund balance between 10-15%.** These counties are on the edge – they may be able to sustain services if state money gets to them. However, because the state money goes first to those counties with the lowest ending fund balances, it is unlikely there will be enough money to go around. Without state assistance, this group of counties may run into trouble quickly. These counties include Buchanan, Carroll, Dallas, Dickinson, Emmett, Floyd, Hamilton, Harrison, Ida, Johnson, Louisa, Lucas, Lyon, Monona, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Poweshiek, Sac, Sioux, Van Buren, Wapello & Winnebago counties.
- **Six counties ended their FY 2008 budget year with an ending fund balance of 16-20%,** an amount still considered to be a sound reserve. They are Humboldt, Jackson, Monroe, Ringgold, Wayne & Woodbury counties.
- **Of the remaining counties, 15 have balances of 21-30%** (Buena Vista, Crawford, Des Moines, Franklin, Fremont, Grundy, Henry, Iowa, Jefferson, Mahaska, Muscatine, Pocahontas, Story, Webster & Worth), **4 have balances between 31-40%** (Bremer, Jasper, Marshall & Winneshiek), **and two have balances in excess of 40%** (Davis & Keokuk).
- **Counties spent a total of \$320 million on services to persons with mental retardation, mental illness and developmental disabilities in the 2008 budget year.** Counties ended their FY 2008 budget year with a total of \$23 million in the bank statewide – less than 7% of their overall budgets.
- **Counties continue to point to their efficiency in delivering these services,** using less than 3% of the overall amount spent for administrative costs. In contrast, state agencies typically request 10-15% for administration when new programs are created.
- **The numbers are growing – at the end of the 2007 budget year, 19 counties had a negative ending fund balance, 28 were under 10%, 18 were between 10-15%, and 13 were between 16-25%.**
- **The news just keeps getting worse – the 1.5% across-the-board cut means another \$2.6 million from the county MH/DS system.** In order to bring spending in line with new budget estimates, the Governor cut all state spending by 1.5%. That means the state share of spending on the county-managed MH/DS system will be reduced this year by \$2.6 million (when you include property tax relief, allowed growth, and community services funding). This cut means the 71 counties with FY 2008 ending fund balances less than 15% may be in serious trouble. Counties are currently not allowed to raise additional money locally

through property taxes – so they have little choice in how they deal with these cuts.

Legislative leaders say they are at a critical crossroads in the MH/DS system. Look for the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services to discuss giving counties the option to increase their local levies if the state fails to provide sufficient funds, ways to encourage more regionalization of services (multi-county service areas), alternative funding models similar to the school aid formula, changing the populations and services mandated, and a state take-over of the system.

It is important to remember in these discussions that the bottom line problem is one of money – there is simply not enough money to meet demand for services. Who delivers those services does not matter – more money will be needed to meet the need, no matter who delivers the services or how they are delivered.

Who should be concerned? *Anyone currently on a county waiting list for services or currently being served, young people with disabilities getting close to transitioning to the adult system, and service providers and family members. Innovative cost-saving programs that are not mandated (like mobile crisis) may be at risk – so if you are currently receiving these services, let your legislators know how important they are to you. You still have time to make a difference in this discussion!*

For More Information: *A county-by-county breakdown of FY 2008 fund balances is available: www.infonetiowa.com/current_issue/issues_and_policy_briefs.php. We will continue to post new information on this situation when available.*

Medicaid Waivers Face Shortfalls

County-funded services are not the only Mental Health/Disability Services (MH/DS) at risk when budgets start to crumble. Medicaid Home & Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers are facing shortfalls as well, and nearly all of them already have long waiting lists.

Medicaid is currently running a \$31 million deficit – that means Medicaid doesn't have enough money in the current budget to meet demand. At the same time, Medicaid is being forced to trim another \$9.7 million in costs comply with the 1.5% across the board cut. That may mean more waiting lists, or fewer people served.

Legislators say they will continue to look for ways to streamline waiver services, but moving forward on a combined waiver with uniform services means more money in a time when legislators will be looking for cuts in Medicaid. While no one wants to lose momentum, it is doubtful legislators will be able to make progress in this area until the budget turns around.

There is a small light at the end of this tunnel – Congress is considering passing an enhanced Medicaid match when they reconvene this month, so each state or county dollar spent on eligible MH/DS services would bring in a few more federal dollars. That means more money in the system, but it may not be enough to avoid reductions and waiting lists.

Who should be concerned? *Anyone receiving waiver services, or on a waiver waiting list should be concerned. The Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services will discuss waiver options when the Legislature returns this month.*

For More Information: *A chart of what the 1.5% cut means to services and programs administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) is available online at: www.infonetiowa.com/current_issue/issues_and_policy_briefs.php.*

Keeping Commitments to Health Care Reform

Legislative leaders say that bad budgets cannot stop them from keeping the commitments they made to reform Iowa's health care system. Legislative leaders say health care reform will remain a top priority, although most of the effort is in planning stages right now.

Several advisory committees have been meeting over the last year to begin efforts to make Iowa a national laboratory on health care reform. Committees are working hard on various aspects of the reform – chronic disease management, medical homes, and electronic health records to name a few.

Legislative leaders say they will work hard to live up to their commitment to expand access to the state children's health insurance program (*hawk-i*). Last session, legislators expanded health care coverage in the program to children whose parents earn up to 300% of the federal poverty level (*about \$63,000/year for a family of four*) effective July 1, 2009. This increase from 250% to 300% will need to be funded in the FY 2010 budget year, and legislators say they want to find a way to do this.

With Democrats controlling the White House and Congress, lawmakers feel pretty sure that national health care reform is on the way. They want Iowa to be ready to pave the way for national reforms.

New Committee Assignments for 2009

Every two years, legislative leaders appoint new members to the committees that review law changes (standing committees) and decide how to spend the state's budget (appropriations subcommittees). The new committee assignments for the 2009-2010 legislative sessions have been done. You may notice some committees have changed a lot, while others may have only one or two new members.

Since space is limited, we only included the committees that routinely address issues of concern to persons with disabilities. You can see a full list of committee assignments at: www.infonetiowa.com/advocate/legislative_resources.php or you can ask for one to be sent to you by calling 515/281-5129.

Names in italics are new to the committee

*A * means this is a new position for the person*

Human Resources Committee – *This standing (policy) committee deals with law and program changes dealing with disability policy, health care, human services, child welfare, and health care professionals. The House and Senate each have one of these committees, but they meet separately.*

Senate Human Resources Committee

Democrats

1. Sen. Amanda Ragan – Chair
2. Sen. Becky Schmitz– Vice Chair
3. Sen. Joe Bolkcom
4. Sen. Bill Dotzler
5. Sen. Jack Hatch
6. Sen. Keith Kreiman
7. Sen. Herman Quirmbach
8. *Sen. Mary Jo Wilhelm*

Republicans

9. Sen. David Hartsuch – Ranking Member*
10. *Sen. Merlin Bartz*
11. Sen. Nancy Boettger
12. Sen. David Johnson
13. Sen. Jim Seymour

House Human Resources Committee

Democrats

1. Rep. Mark Smith –Chair
2. *Rep. Deborah Berry –Vice Chair**
3. Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad
4. Rep. Lisa Heddens
5. Rep. Bruce Hunter
6. Rep. Mary Mascher
7. Rep. Tyler Olson
8. Rep. Janet Petersen
9. *Rep. Sharon Steckman*
10. *Rep. Phyllis Thede*
11. *Rep. Roger Wendt*
12. Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell

Republicans

13. Rep. Linda Miller – Ranking Member*
14. *Rep. Dwayne Alons*
15. *Rep. Clel Baudler*
16. Rep. Greg Forristall
17. Rep. Dave Heaton
18. *Rep. Kevin Koester*
19. *Rep. Renee Schulte*
20. Rep. Chuck Soderberg
21. *Rep. Linda Upmeyer*

Commerce Committee – *This standing (policy) committee deals with insurance issues, such as bills introduced over the last several years to require health insurance to pay for the cost of prosthetics, specialized food formulas for kids with disabilities, diabetes supplies, and mental health and substance abuse treatment. The House & Senate both have commerce committees, but they meet separately.*

Senate Commerce Committee

Democrats

1. Sen. Steve Warnstadt – Chair
2. Sen. Bill Heckroth – Vice Chair
3. Sen. Joe Bolkcom
4. Sen. Tom Courtney
5. *Sen. Swati Dandekar*
6. Sen. Matt McCoy
7. Sen. Rich Olive
8. Sen. Tom Rielly
9. *Sen. Becky Schmitz*
10. Sen. Roger Stewart

Republicans

11. *Sen. Ron Wieck – Ranking Member**
12. Sen. Jerry Behn
13. *Sen. David Hartsuch*
14. Sen. Steve Kettering
15. Sen. Pat Ward

House Commerce Committee

Democrats

1. Rep. Janet Petersen – Chair
2. Rep. Bob Kressig –Vice Chair
3. Rep. McKinley Bailey
4. Rep. Dave Jacoby
5. Rep. Doris Kelley
6. Rep. Jo Oldson
7. *Rep. Donovan Olson*
8. *Rep. Tyler Olson*
9. Rep. Brian Quirk
10. *Rep. Mike Reasoner*
11. Rep. Nathan Reichert
12. Rep. Paul Shomshor
13. *Rep. Dick Taylor*

Republicans

14. Rep. Chuck Soderberg – Ranking Member
15. *Rep. Erik Helland*
16. Rep. Steve Lukan
17. Rep. Dawn Pettingill
18. *Rep. Christopher Rants*
19. Rep. Tom Sands
20. *Rep. Kent Sorenson*
21. Rep. Doug Struyk
22. *Rep. Nick Wagner*
23. *Rep. Matt Windschidtl*

Education Committee – *This standing (policy) committee deals with educational policy, including issues related to special education. The House & Senate Education Committees meet separately.*

Senate Education Committee

Democrats

1. Sen. Becky Schmitz –Chair*
2. Sen. Brian Schoenjahn –Vice Chair*
3. Sen. Staci Appel
4. Sen. Daryl Beall
5. *Sen. Bob Dvorsky*
6. Sen. Bill Heckroth
7. Sen. Keith Kreiman
8. Sen. Herman Quirmbach
9. *Sen. Steve Soddors*
10. *Sen. Mary Jo Wilhelm*

Republicans

11. Sen. Nancy Boettger – Ranking Member
12. *Sen. Randy Feenstra*
13. *Sen. Shawn Hamerlinck*
14. Sen. David Johnson
15. Sen. Steve Kettering

House Education Committee

Democrats

1. Rep. Roger Wendt – Chair
2. *Rep. Gene Ficken –Vice Chair**
3. Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad
4. Rep. Polly Bukta
5. Rep. Dennis Cohoon
6. *Rep. Wayne Ford*
7. Rep. Lisa Heddens
8. Rep. Doris Kelley
9. *Rep. Mary Mascher*
10. Rep. Eric Palmer
11. *Rep. Sharon Steckman*
12. *Rep. Phyllis Thede*
13. *Rep. Nate Willems*

Republicans

14. Rep. Mike May – Ranking Member
15. *Rep. Peter Cownie*
16. Rep. Cecil Dolecheck
17. Rep. Greg Forristall
18. *Rep. Kevin Koester*
19. Rep. Linda Miller
20. Rep. Scott Raecker
21. *Rep. Renee Schulte*
22. *Rep. Annette Sweeney*
23. *Rep. Jodi Tymeson*

Transportation Committee – *This standing (policy) committee deals with transportation issues, like public transit and accessible parking laws. The House & Senate Transportation Committees meet separately.*

Senate Transportation Committee

Democrats

1. Sen. Tom Reilly – Chair*
2. Sen. Daryl Beall – Vice Chair*
3. Sen. Swati Dandekar
4. Sen. Jeff Danielson
5. Sen. Tom Hancock
6. Sen. Bill Heckroth
7. Sen. Matt McCoy
8. Sen. Steve Warnstadt

Republicans

9. Sen. Larry Noble – Ranking Member
10. Sen. Jim Hahn
11. Sen. Tim Kupucian
12. Sen. Kim Reynolds
13. Sen. Brad Zaun

House Transportation Committee

Democrats

1. Rep. Brian Quirk – Chair*
2. Rep. Doris Kelley – Vice Chair
3. Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad
4. Rep. Paul Bell
5. Rep. Dennis Cohoon
6. Rep. Mary Gaskill
7. Rep. Jim Lykam
8. Rep. Larry Marek
9. Rep. Donovan Olson
10. Rep. Roger Wendt
11. Rep. Andrew Wenthe
12. Rep. John Whitaker

Republicans

13. Rep. Dave Tjepkes - Ranking Member
14. Rep. Richard Arnold
15. Rep. Chris Hagenow
16. Rep. Dan Huseman
17. Rep. Kevin Koester
18. Rep. Mike May
19. Rep. Rod Roberts
20. Rep. Nick Wagner
21. Rep. Gary Worthan

Rebuild Iowa & Disaster Recovery Committee – *This is a new standing (policy) committee created in the House and Senate. The committees will meet separately and will work on issues related to disaster recovery and rebuilding communities, roads, bridges, parks, trails, and public buildings damaged or destroyed by floods or severe storms.*

Senate Rebuild Iowa/Disaster Recovery Committee

Democrats

1. Sen. Rob Hogg – Chair
2. Sen. Bill Heckroth – Vice Chair
3. Sen. Staci Appel
4. Sen. Swati Dandekar
5. Sen. Bob Dvorsky
6. Sen. Wally Horn
7. Sen. Pam Jochum
8. Sen. Roger Stewart

Republicans

9. Sen. Shawn Hamerlinck – Ranking Member
10. Sen. Randy Feenstra
11. Sen. Jim Hahn
12. Sen. Hubert Houser
13. Sen. Kim Reynolds

House Rebuild Iowa/Disaster Recovery Committee

Democrats

1. Rep. Tom Schueller – Chair
2. Rep. Deborah Berry – Vice Chair
3. Rep. Kerry Burt
4. Rep. Geri Huser
5. Rep. David Jacoby
6. Rep. Mike Kuhn
7. Rep. Tyler Olson
8. Rep. Dick Taylor
9. Rep. Todd Taylor
10. Rep. Roger Thomas

Republicans

11. Rep. Pat Grassley – Ranking Member
12. Rep. Betty DeBoef
13. Rep. Erik Helland
14. Rep. Jeff Kaufmann
15. Rep. Dawn Pettengill
16. Rep. Tom Sands
17. Rep. Kent Sorenson

Appropriations Committee – All bills that spend money goes through these standing committees. The House & Senate committees meet separately.

Senate Appropriations Committee

Democrats

1. Sen. Bob Dvorsky – Chair
2. Sen. Matt McCoy- Vice Chair
3. Sen. Staci Appel
4. Sen. Joe Bolkom
5. Sen. Jeff Danielson
6. Sen. Dick Dearden
7. Sen. Bill Dotzler
8. Sen. Gene Fraise
9. Sen. Tom Hancock
10. Sen. Jack Hatch
11. Sen. Rob Hogg
12. Sen. Pam Jochum
13. Sen. Amanda Ragan
14. Sen. Brian Schoenjahn
15. Sen. Joe Seng
16. Sen. Steve Warnstadt

Republicans

17. Sen. Steve Kettering – Ranking Member
18. Sen. Merlin Bartz
19. Sen. Nancy Boettger
20. Sen. Randy Feenstra
21. Sen. Jim Hahn
22. Sen. David Johnson
23. Sen. Tim Kupucian
24. Sen. Larry Noble
25. Sen. Jim Seymour

House Appropriations Committee

Democrats

1. Rep. Jo Oldson – Chair
2. Rep. Andrew Wenthe- Vice Chair*
3. Rep. McKinley Bailey
4. Rep. Dennis Cohoon
5. Rep. Elesha Gayman
6. Rep. Lisa Heddens
7. Rep. Bruce Hunter
8. Rep. David Jacoby
9. Rep. Mark Kuhn
10. Rep. Nathan Reichert
11. Rep. Kurt Swaim
12. Rep. Todd Taylor
13. Rep. Cindy Winckler
14. Rep. Ray Zirkelbach

Republicans

15. Rep. Scott Raecker – Ranking Member
16. Rep. Dwayne Alons
17. Rep. Peter Cownie
18. Rep. Betty DeBoef
19. Rep. Cecil Dolecheck
20. Rep. Dave Heaton
21. Rep. Dan Huseman
22. Rep. Steve Lukan
23. Rep. Rod Roberts
24. Rep. Ralph Watts
25. Rep. Gary Worthan

Joint Appropriations Subcommittees – There are 8 appropriations subcommittees that work on the state's budget jointly (the House & Senate meet together). Once these subcommittees finalize their part of the budget, leaders decide whether to start the bill in the House or Senate Appropriations Committees.

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

1. Sen. Brian Schoenjahn –Co-Chair
2. Rep. Cindy Winckler – Co-Chair
3. Sen. Herman Quirmbach –Co-Vice Chair*
4. Rep. Sharon Steckman – Co-Vice Chair*
5. Sen. Nancy Boettger – Co-Ranking Member
6. Rep. Cecil Dolecheck – Co-Ranking Member*
7. Sen. Wally Horn
8. Sen. Randy Feenstra
9. Rep. Marcella Frevert
10. Rep. Gene Ficken
11. Rep. Andrew Wenthe
12. Rep. Kevin Koester
13. Rep. Mike May
14. Rep. Jim Van Engelenhoven

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Health & Human Services

1. Sen. Jack Hatch – Co-Chair
2. Rep. Lisa Heddens – Co-Chair*
3. Sen. Amanda Ragan- Co-Vice Chair*
4. Rep. Phyllis Thede – Co-Vice Chair*
5. Sen. David Johnson – Co-Ranking Member
6. Rep. Dave Heaton – Co-Ranking Member
7. Sen. Becky Schmitz
8. Sen. David Hartsuch
9. Rep. Paul Shomshor
10. Rep. Mark Smith
11. Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell
12. Rep. Linda Miller
13. Rep. Henry Rayhons
14. Rep. Renee Schulte

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation & Infrastructure

1. Sen. Matt McCoy – Co-Chair
2. Rep. Dennis Cohoon – Co-Chair
3. Sen. Steve Warnstadt – Co-Vice Chair
4. Rep. McKinley Bailey – Co-Vice Chair*
5. Sen. Jim Seymour – Co-Ranking Member*
6. Rep. Dan Huseman – Co-Ranking Member
7. Sen. Daryl Beall
8. Sen. Shawn Hamerlinck
9. Rep. Kerry Burt
10. Rep. Jim Lykam
11. Rep. Nathan Reichert
12. Rep. Chris Hagenow
13. Rep. Tom Sands
14. Rep. Matt Windschitl

2009 *infoNET* Schedule

- ✓ Issue #1 Friday, January 16
- ✓ Issue #2 Friday, January 30
- ✓ Issue #3 Friday, February 13
- ✓ Issue #4 Friday, February 27
- ✓ Issue #5 Friday, March 13
- ✓ Issue #6 Friday, March 27
- ✓ Issue #7 Friday, April 10
- ✓ Issue #8 End of Session Report
Friday, April 24 (after session ends)
- ✓ Issue #9 2009 Session Review
Friday, May 29 (30 days after session)
- ✓ Issue #10 Summer Edition
Friday, July 24
- ✓ Issue #11 Fall Edition
Friday, September 25
- ✓ Issue #12 2010 Session Preview
Friday, December 11

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www.idaction.org

Visit the ***infoNET*** website for additional information, advocacy tips, and daily updates: www.infonetiowa.org

You can contact your legislators at the Capitol beginning January 12:

515/281-3371 (Senators)
515/281-3221 (Representatives)

Senator/Representative _____
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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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