



ADVOCACY HOTLINE

State Legislative News for Library Advocates

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ACTION ALERT

Be talking with
your
legislators!!

E-mail them
about the
importance of
funding library
services!!

Tell them about
your increased
usage
numbers!!

Tell them about
the importance
of having
teacher
librarians in
every school
district!!

They will begin
making budget
decisions in the
days ahead.

Funnel Week is upon us already!

Normally, you aren't reading about the first funnel week until the 3rd or 4th biweekly update. That's what happens when a session is shortened to 80 days and the target adjournment is moved from the end of April to the end of March. If you think legislators are getting an easy ride with a shortened session, think again. This session has already had roughly the same number of night floor debates as the entire last session, meaning the days are very long at the Capitol at this early point in the session.

What does funnel week mean? It means all non-tax and spending bills need to be passed out of committee by the end of this week or they are dead for the year. You would think that this would mean the bill introductions were tapering off, but not so. As of Friday, 947 bills had been introduced, including 104 in a single day last week. This will continue through the week and into next week, when some bills will still trickle in even though they are dead the moment they are read in on the House Floor.

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 when the number-crunching really begins!

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 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](#).

Wondering how State Revenues are Coming In?

The Legislative Services Agency conducts a monthly analysis that is posted on the General Assembly's website.

Teacher Librarians

Senator McKinley last week introduced a bill - [SF 2104](#) - to lessen the financial burden on school districts by suspending a number of state-imposed mandates. One of the proposals included suspending the teacher librarian requirement for school districts until 2012. While this bill is unlikely to survive the funnel, there is a possibility the Legislature could take actions to help school districts that are having trouble paying their bills by allowing such a suspension.

It is imperative that members of the library community continue to talk with legislators about the importance of teacher librarians to the education of Iowa's children!

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.

More recently, they have begun posting a General Fund Monthly Memo Video Edition to the website. The videos are available [HERE](#).

Lobbyist Reporting

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

House File 2109, which was approved on a 50-0 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 legislation stems from the Iowa Pharmacy Association filing a report about a \$2,926 legislative reception five months late last year. The late filing came to light because a legislator was arrested for drunken driving, hours after attending the legislative reception.

- 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 the section of this report entitled "Government Reorganization."

Libraries and the Governor's Budget

Considering the \$1 billion budget gap, the Governor's budget proposal isn't as harsh for libraries as it could have been. The Governor's Budget proposal, with specific regard to libraries:

- Leave the State Library at its current (post-10% Across-The-Board cut) level for FY11
- Leave the Library Service Areas at their current (post-10% Across-The-Board cut) level for FY11
- Restore Enrich Iowa GENERAL fund appropriation back to pre-10% Across-The-Board cut for FY11
- Cut \$500,000 in the Infrastructure (RIIF) Budget from Enrich Iowa for FY11, which would result in a 21.78% cut of the total Enrich Iowa program
- The Governor also calls for restoring/backfilling the Enrich Iowa 10% cut this year (FY10).

The Legislature will use these numbers as a guide when putting together the state's budget.

Your Lobby Team

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