



ADVOCACY HOTLINE

State Legislative News for Library Advocates

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ACTION ALERT



Be talking NOW with your legislators about the importance of libraries!! Cuts will be . . .

Off and Running

The second session of the 83rd General Assembly started on Monday, January 11th, and they were off and running. The session has been shortened to 80 days (from the normal 100 days) in order to save money, and the big overarching issue will be balancing the current and next fiscal year's budgets.

Depending on whose estimates you are looking at, the shortfall is anywhere from \$500 million to \$1.2 billion, staggering sums of revenue, but nowhere near the shortfalls some other states are experiencing.



In order to finish business in 80 days, the Legislature has started out at very fast pace, introducing nearly 270 bills in the first week alone. At the end of the 2nd week, we reached 450 bills. They will continue to be introduced as drafters finish their work and legislators file their proposals, however no new bill requests can be filed by legislators - the bill request deadline was moved up to Friday, January 15th! Similarly, the deadlines for moving legislation out of committees - commonly referred to as "funnel deadlines" - have been moved from their normal times of the first and last weeks of March up to the second week of February (the 12th) and first week of March (the 5th) to make possible a late March adjournment.

In order to set the stage for the budget, legislators are working on a number of initiatives to alter the budget picture before the budget process begins. During the first week, the House, the Senate and Governor took quick action to enact legislation they called "Race to the Top," and education proposal that is expected to draw down \$175 million in federal money for education. They also rolled out and

made this year and the squeaky wheel will get the grease, so SQUEAK!!

began immediate review of government reorganization legislation that they hoped would create \$300 million in savings, but was later predicted to save about \$43 million.

There are a number of other cost-saving proposals in the works, and all lobbyists and interest groups have been told that nothing is off the table. That means, if you are concerned about funding for a program, you better be sharing your concerns with your legislators!!

Governor's Condition of the State

Governor Culver addressed a joint session of the legislature on Tuesday and outlined a ten point plan for the session:

1. Focus on job creation through fully funding the Iowa Power Fund and investing \$100 million in I-Jobs;
2. Achieve greater efficiency based on recommendations in the Government Efficiency Report (projected \$1 billion savings over five years);
3. Major state government reorganization;
4. Continuation of flood recovery assistance using I-Jobs funding for flood rebuilding and fully funding RIO office;
5. Consider a transfer from the RUTF of \$50 million to fund state troopers;
6. Reform Iowa tax credits with savings of up to \$55 million;
7. Continued funding of children's health insurance and preschools programs;
8. Secure \$175 million for schools to use to comply with the federal Race to the Top program;
9. Require schools to spend down reserves rather than increase property taxes; and
10. Fund 2% allowable growth for schools, appropriate \$100 million to K-12 to backfill the 2009 cut, and adequately fund community colleges, private colleges and regents institutions.

ILA Bill Tracker

As bills are introduced, ILA's lobbyists sort through them and identify issues of importance to the library community. We then log those bills into the ILA Bill Tracker so you can review them at your convenience. The link to the bill Tracker will always be very visible at the top left of the Advocacy Hotline. The ILA Bill Tracker is located at: <http://www.ialobby.com/CPCBillTracker/tabid/59/Default.aspx?cid=ILA>.

LIBRARIES ARE VITAL TO IOWANS 2010 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Libraries are vital for meeting the needs of Iowans. In difficult economic times Iowans are turning to their libraries in increasing numbers. Iowans depend on libraries for Internet access, early literacy programming, homework assistance, health care information and, especially now, resources for education, career development and job searches. To support these critical services, the Iowa Library Association asks the General Assembly to meet the following goals in 2010.

Sustain state funding to support high-quality library services for all Iowans.

Enhance Iowa's workforce by providing statewide access to high-demand databases that help Iowans prepare for a wide variety of educational and career opportunities.

Increase funding for Enrich Iowa to support the dramatic rise in Iowans' need for and use of libraries. Enrich Iowa enables resource-sharing (i.e., interlibrary loan services) to make Iowa's library system an efficient network accessible to all Iowans.

Preserve hometown governance in Iowa's public libraries by maintaining support for the local decision-making of Iowa's public library boards and avoiding costly one-size-fits-all mandates for Iowa's diverse libraries.

The Iowa Library Association is the organized voice of the Iowa library community. Its 1500 members support Iowa's public, academic, school and special libraries.

Your Lobby Team

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