

INA Legislative Update

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For the past several years, Governor Kim Reynolds and legislative Republicans have talked about shrinking government. It started with a review of all of the state's licensing functions. Last year legislators passed the Governor's expansive plan to reorganize state government agencies, turning 37 cabinet-level agencies into 16. Governor Reynolds announced earlier this year that she would be convening a "State Boards & Commissions Review Committee" to examine 259 different committees, commissions, boards, and councils to determine if more efficiency could be gained by eliminating duplicative bodies or combining entities with similar or complimentary missions. It is also hard to recruit members for boards and commissions, and several have had long vacancies or low citizen attendance.

The stated goal of this group is to:

- Reduce the number of state boards and commissions.
- Improve oversight structure of boards and commissions.
- Identify redundancies, efficiencies, and opportunities for streamlining.
- Improve citizen engagement on boards and commissions.

That review committee met shortly for the first time in June and divided itself into six subcommittees:

1. **Licensing Subcommittee:** Larry Johnson (Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals Director) & Nate Ristow (the Governor's Administrative Rules Coordinator) will lead this group's efforts to review all licensing boards and commissions under the DIAL umbrella.
2. **State Government Subcommittee:** David Faith (Deputy Attorney General) & Jacob Nicholson (Governor's Chief Operating Officer) will lead this review of boards and commissions in statewide offices, judicial and executive branches, independent entities (like Iowa Public Information Board, Iowa Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board), Board of Parole, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy, Iowa Communications Network, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation, Department of Administrative Services, and Homeland Security/Emergency Management.
3. **Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee:** Larry Johnson (DIAL Director) & Jacob Nicholson (Governor's COO) will also team up to review the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.
4. **Workforce, Labor, Education Subcommittee:** Nate Ristow (Governor's Rules Coordinator) & Barbara Sloniker (Siouxland Chamber of Commerce Vice President) will analyze the Regents institutions, non-cabinet entities (like the Public Employee Relations Board), Iowa Workforce Development, Department of Education, and Department for the Blind.
5. **Economy & Finance Subcommittee:** Kraig Paulsen (Iowa Department of Management Director) & Barbara Sloniker (Siouxland Chamber) will review other non-cabinet entities like the Iowa Utilities Board and IPERS, as well as the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Finance Authority, Department of Revenue, Department of Management, and Department of Insurance and Financial Services.
6. **Human Services Subcommittee:** This final subcommittee will be led by Kraig Paulsen (DOM Director) and David Faith (Deputy AG), tasked with reviewing all the boards and commissions under the newly merged Department of Health and Human Services as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The full committee includes (the four legislators are non-voting):

- Kraig Paulsen (Director, Department of Management)

- Jacob Nicholson (COO, Governor's Office)
- Nate Ristow (Administrative Rules Coordinator, Governor's Office)
- Larry Johnson (Director, Department of Inspections, Appeals & Licensing)
- David Faith (Deputy Attorney General)
- Sen. Jason Schultz (R-Schleswig - Senate State Government Chair)
- Rep. Jane Bloomingdale (R-Northwood - House State Government Chair)
- Sen. Janice Weiner (D-Iowa City - Senate State Government Committee)
- Rep. Adam Zabner (D-Iowa City - House State Government Committee)

The committee plans to have recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by September 30 to determine if the boards and commissions reviewed should be kept, combined, reduced, reorganized, or eliminated altogether.

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- Board Responses
- Explanation of Subcommittee Process
- Subcommittee Assignments