

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Report on Legislative Session
Date: March 6, 2000

Recommended Action:

Receive report on the 2000 Legislative Session, and by general consent, the recommendations of Board positions on proposed legislation.

Executive Summary:

During the legislative session, two “funnel” dates are set. February 25 was the final date for House bills to be reported out of House committees and Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees. March 17 is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills to be reported out of Senate committees. Bills referred to the Appropriations and the Ways and Means Committees are exempt. A number of bills of concern to the Regents were eliminated as a result of the February 25 date. However, some of these bills have been re-introduced as new bills.

Regent institutions made presentations to the Education Appropriations Subcommittee on the following dates: the University of Iowa on February 15 and the special school superintendents on February 16. Also on February 16, the university presidents presented capital requests for FY 2001 to the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Subcommittee.

The Republican leaders released their budget targets March 1. These targets, as set forth on the next page, differ from the Governor’s recommendations in various areas. Budget subcommittees will prepare specific funding amounts within these targets. At this time, it is not known how the education funding target will impact the Regent institutions. An update will be provided at the Board meeting.

Joint Republican Budget Targets for FY 2001

	FY 2000	FY 2001	Tobacco Funds	Increase (Decrease)
Administration & Regulation	\$90,685,367	\$87,685,367		(\$3,000,000)
Agriculture & DNR	\$44,079,251	\$42,079,251		(\$2,000,000)
Economic Development	\$42,958,988	\$36,758,988		(\$6,200,000)
Education	\$948,778,694	\$965,778,694		\$16,800,000
Health & Human Rights	\$95,082,788	\$87,582,788	\$20,345,394	\$12,845,394
Human Services	\$791,914,776	\$799,914,776	\$24,900,000	\$32,900,000
Justice System	\$357,488,813	\$357,908,813	\$610,000	\$1,030,000
Judicial Branch	\$112,437,900	\$113,717,900		\$1,280,000
Transportation	\$3,924,672	\$3,137,000		(\$787,672)
Oversight	\$23,577,458	\$21,577,458		(\$2,000,000)
Standings	\$2,258,926,311	\$2,322,926,311		
Salary Bill	\$0	\$41,758,830		
Total	\$4,769,855,018	\$4,880,126,176	\$45,855,394	\$156,126,552

Governor's General Fund Budget

Total	\$4,777,605,433	\$4,830,630	\$116,025,097
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The Board Office and the legislative liaisons track all bills which may have an impact on the Regent institutions. The status of the high priority bills are described in this memorandum. Several bills of particular interest for the Board include:

SF 2262 – Loan/Grant Programs – Income Tax Credits for Teachers and Engineers

This bill provides for refundable credits under the individual income tax for certain teachers and engineers filling critical jobs in the state and includes effective and retroactive applicability date provisions.

Sponsor: Shearer

Current Status: Ways and Means Subcommittee: Johnson, Bolcom, and Hedge

Regent Position: Recommend Monitor

SF 2274 – Declare Executive Order Related to Equal Opportunity Null and Void

This bill declares null and void gubernatorial executive orders relating to equal opportunity and affirmative action in state employment and uniform procedures for the waiver of administrative rules.

Sponsor: Iverson
Current Status: Passed Senate on March 1
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

SF 2302/HF 2476 – Public Health Issues

This bill relates to programs and public health issues under the purview of the Iowa Department of Public Health. It eliminates the requirement of the Department to develop and establish area health education centers.

Sponsor: Human Resources.
Current Status: Placed on calendar
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

SF 2328 – Reports of Assault and Sexual Abuse on University Campuses

This bill adds provisions to Code chapters relating to Regent institutions and community colleges to require that reports of assault, sexual abuse, and other crimes that occur on the campuses be reported to municipal or county law enforcement for enforcement purposes and to the department of public safety for statistical compilation.

Sponsor: Education
Current Status: Placed on calendar
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

SF 2370 – State and Local Land Management Planning

This bill makes changes to the law relating to state and local land management planning and development. It establishes the state strategic development council, which is to oversee planning by state agencies involved in major public projects and prepare a state strategic development plan to be implemented by state agencies involved with major public projects.

Membership on the council is composed of representatives of the governor's office, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Corrections, the Department of General Services, and the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture. Also, members on the council are to include the state historic preservation officer, a representative of the Board of Regents, and four members of the General Assembly.

Sponsor: Local Government.

Current Status: Placed on calendar

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

SF 2395 – Information Technology Department

This bill establishes the Information Technology Department with an information technology council and sets forth definitions, powers, duties, and specific divisions of the department. It also stipulates that the Iowa Communications Network shall not be subject to the jurisdiction or control of any other state agency.

Sponsor: Committee on State Government

Current Status: Placed on calendar

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2080/SF 2126/SF 2237/SF 2412 – Health Insurance Coverage Mandates

These bills expand required health insurance coverage for third-party payment of health care coverage costs to include:

- Biologically based mental illness treatment services (HF 2080, passed House);
- Prescription contraceptive drugs, devices, and services (SF 2126, Commerce committee recommended passage);
- Compensation of podiatrists (SF 2237, placed on calendar); and
- Biologically based mental illness treatment services and increasing the lifetime maximum benefit (SF 2412, placed on calendar).

Regent Position: Recommend Monitor

HF 2094 – Poison Control

This bill relates to the designation of a State Poison Center and makes an appropriation. It requires the Director of Public Health to designate as the State Poison Control Center a medical center, which is operating a poison control center in this state on or before July 1, 2000. The bill specifies the services and functions which the State Poison Control Center is to provide, prohibits the State Poison Control Center from contracting with a poison control center outside of the state to provide the necessary services or functions, and requires the Director of Public Health to provide necessary documentation to the State Poison Control Center designee for certification by the American Association of Poison Control Centers or other certifying organization.

Sponsor: Whitehead, Warnstadt, Mascher and Myers.

Current Status: Appropriations Subcommittee: Nelson-Forbes, Cormack and Mascher

Regent Position: Recommend Monitor

HF 2323 – Retention of Private Attorneys by the State

This bill creates new Code chapter 23B, to address the procedure for retention of private counsel by the state, which according to the definitional section of the bill includes any agency, executive board, commission, bureau, division, office, department, or authorized agent of the state. It also includes a competitive bidding process for the retention of private counsel, supervised by the Attorney General, and requiring advertisement and establishing a standard for the award of contracts.

Sponsor: Judiciary.
Current Status: Placed on calendar - amendments filed
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2430 – Tuition and Fees Charged by Regent Institutions for Foster Children

This bill provides for a study of undergraduate tuition and fees applicable to certain individuals who were placed in foster care or another out-of-home placement.

Sponsor: Education.
Current Status: Placed on calendar
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2463 – Duties of Department of Personnel

This bill makes several changes concerning the Department of Personnel and state employees. It modifies the responsibilities of the Department and adds that the Department will coordinate and manage the state's human resource information system and that it will establish and maintain a list of all employees of the executive branch of state government.

Sponsor: Committee on State Government
Current Status: Placed on calendar
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2482 – Prohibit Alcohol in Undergraduate Dormitories

This bill establishes a prohibition on the possession or consumption of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer in an undergraduate dormitory or a private or public post-secondary educational institution. The Board for the Department of Education (for Community Colleges) and the Board of Regents are directed to adopt policies to monitor the enforcement of this prohibition. The policies are to include a clear statement of sanctions to be imposed for failure to enforce the prohibition.

The College Student Aid Commission is also directed to establish sanctions for accredited private institutions that fail to enforce the prohibition on the possession or consumption of alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer in their undergraduate dormitories. The sanctions may include the denial of participation in tuition grant or other state financial aid programs by an accredited private institution.

Sponsor: Thomson, Boal, Davis, Dix, Lord, and Johnson

Current Status: Judiciary, Referred to Subcommittee:
Thomson, Raecker, and Shoultz

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2492 – Fire Service Institute

This bill relates to certain state and municipal agencies by making changes relating to the provision of and training for fire protection service and emergency medical service. This bill moves the Fire Service Institute from Iowa State University to the Department of Public Safety and allows current employees to transfer at a pay range commensurate with their duties.

All equipment owned by Iowa State University and used exclusively to conduct fire service training, classes, or business shall transfer to the Department of Public safety. The bill also requires the building and grounds known as the Fire Service Institute at Iowa State University, until July 1, 2003, be leased by Iowa State University to the Department of Public Safety at a cost not to exceed the actual cost of heating, lighting, and maintaining the building and grounds.

Sponsor: Local Government.

Current Status: Passed House March 2

Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2513 – Uniform Commercial Code

This bill adopts revisions to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code as proposed by the national conference of commissioners on uniform state laws. Article 9 governs the creation, priority, and enforcement of creditors' consensual liens. Our bond counsel, Ahlers Law Firm, has recommended that the Regents seek modification of the bill to provide for an exemption of its bonds. The proposed bill would make Regent bonds subject to the act and thus create new rights for bond holders and new responsibilities for the bond issuers.

Sponsor: Judiciary
Current Status: Placed on calendar
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

HF 2520 – Security Officers

This bill renames the security officers employed at Regent institutions from "special security officers" to "police officers."

Sponsor: Committee on Local Government
Current Status: Placed on calendar
Regent Position: **Recommend Monitor**

Pamela M. Elliott

Approved: _____
Frank J. Stork