



Nick's News from the  
*Iowa House of Representatives*  
 State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Third General Assembly*  
 Week 11: March 23-26

**Nick Wagner**  
 State Representative HD36  
 Address: State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319  
 Phone: (515) 281-7479  
 E-Mail: [nick.wagner@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:nick.wagner@legis.state.ia.us)  
 Website: [www.WagnerforIowa.com](http://www.WagnerforIowa.com)

**Eleventh Week of the 83rd General Assembly**

**REC Drastically Reduces Revenue Estimates**

In last week's newsletter I mentioned that the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) was going to meet on March 20 to look at what the state revenue projections were going to be for both 2009 and 2010. The REC met and they decreased the 2009 revenue estimate by \$130 million. The estimated ending balance after the de-appropriations bill was \$30 million so now the state is back in the red for 2009. This deficit will have to be adjusted through decreases in spending in 2009, which is not feasible since we are already in the last quarter, or by using existing cash reserves.

For 2010, the estimated revenue was decreased by \$270 million. The Governor's request was to decrease the estimate by only \$220 million but David Underwood, the private sector REC member, favored a decrease of \$320 million. The three members of the REC split the difference and set the decrease at \$270 million. This reduction leaves our 2010 budget, which we are currently working on and begins in July, with a projected deficit of \$828 Million based on the 2009 budget. \$477.2 Million of the projected deficit is due to built in spending increases from prior years such as allowable growth for education, property tax credits, Medicaid, and other items. The current target budget released is \$5,803 Million, and exceeds the allowable expenditure limitation by \$105 Million.

As we work on the budget I'll continue to look for areas where we can cut state spending and fight to protect tax payers. Now more than ever we must establish our priorities and make sure that the programs and areas we fund are in line with those priorities and are effective use of tax dollars.

The chart on page 3 of the newsletter is from the Legislative Service Agency. The red circle (top) is the allowable spending limit based on the REC projection and the 99% spending limit which states that the state can only spend 99% of projected revenues. The yellow circle (2<sup>nd</sup> from top) is the appropriation, or spending in 2009. The orange circle (3<sup>rd</sup> from top) is the built in spending referenced before, and the purple circle (bottom) is the total projected deficit. The options to eliminate the deficit are to increase revenue, or reduce spending. One option is to also cut ongoing spending and backfill those cuts with federal stimulus dollars. The problem with this option is that it creates a hole for the future when the federal stimulus dollars run out.

**Congratulations to IMAGINE8**

IMAGINE8 hit a milestone this past week with the submission of 1500 idea submissions! Congratulations to all of those who have participated and submitted ideas! This is an outstanding accomplishment and look forward to following the progress in the future.

According to IMAGINE8 leader Jill Hanna, Selection Committee Interviews have been completed and an official announcement will be made on Friday, March 27. There were 40-45 very qualified applicants. The committee will be comprised of 22 people, of all different ages and backgrounds.

Idea submissions are still being taken until Friday, March 27th to submit ideas. In April the Selection Committee will be narrowing the ideas down to the top 100. On May 5th from noon until 2pm and May 7th from 6pm until 8pm the community is invited to Marion City Hall to vote to narrow the number of ideas from 100 to 30. Citizens will also be able to vote online from May 1 through May 9. ([www.imagine8marion.org](http://www.imagine8marion.org))

From May 10 through June 1 the Selection Committee will narrow the top 30 ideas down to the final 8 ideas. These ideas will become "The Great 8" and will be unveiled on June 4, at the first Marion by Moonlight event.



**Bills Passed:**

HF 122	HF 726	SF 311
HF 180	HF 758	SF 320
HF 278	HF 759	SF 343
HF 314	HF 762	SF 344
HF 375	HF 776	SF 367
HF 400	HF 801	SF 393
HF 475	SF 119	SF 413
HF 481	SF 154	SF 416
HF 503	SF 159	SF 433
HF 552	SF 199	SF 434
HF 580	SF 224	SF 435
HF 682	SF 226	SF 446
HF 687	SF 266	SF 452
HF 703	SF 268	SF 456
HF 708	SF 280	SF 432
HF 722	SF 283	

**For a full text of these bills and any others please visit:**

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us>

If you would like updates on legislation that is of interest to you, please visit the Iowa General Assembly Bill and Code Watch website at:

<https://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/secure/default.asp?Category=BillWatch&Service=BWSignIn>

This site will help you stay informed on bills scheduled for action on the House and Senate floors. There is no subscription or monthly fee. In order to function, the Bill Watch system must have JavaScript enabled in your browser.



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### Transparency Bill Clears House

This week in the House we passed a lot of bills in an effort to get the calendar cleared for the upcoming budget work. One bill that passed the House moves toward increased transparency in government. HF 801 requires, by January 1, 2011, the Department of Administrative Services to create a searchable budget database.

The database will be available to the public at no cost and will include all of the following:

- Within the confidentially provisions, the database shall provide the identity of the entity or recipient of state expenditures.
- Amount of annual revenues and expenditures for each agency's appropriations and funds.
- Descriptive purpose for the funding or expenditure.
- Performance results associated with the agency's activities.
- Past performance results associated with the agency's activities.
- State audits or reports relating to the entity or receipt of state funds, the budget programs or activities or agency.
- Any other relevant information specified by the director.
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The bill also requires the website to provide a listing and description of special interest tax credits claimed for the individual income tax, corporate income tax, franchise tax, and insurance premiums tax. The bill then defines special interest tax credits. The cost of the tax credit is required to also be listed.

It requires the Department of Administrative Services in consultation with the Department of Revenue, for the database to include tax rates for the state for each taxing jurisdiction. The website also includes a geographical tax rate map and individual tax rate calculator.

The following Republican amendments were added to the bill to ensure the public gets the best information possible:

- Requiring additional information be provided regarding the Iowa Power Fund similar to what is required of the Grow Iowa Values Fund.
- Require the searchable database include information related to intradepartmental transfers as well as information related to transfers from one department to another made by the Governor
- Require the schedule 6 documents be a part of the searchable database website. The schedule 6 documents are a more detailed breakdown of expenditures.

I voted for the bill and believe that we need to provide more truth and transparency in government

### DNR to Host Public Meeting April 29 on Proposed Wildlife Rules

On Tuesday, March 24, 2009, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that is hosting a public meeting to discuss a number of new proposed regulations including changes to deer, waterfowl, and turkey hunting seasons and some changes to the trapping seasons. The meeting will be conducted over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on April 29, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dale Garner, chief of the DNR's Wildlife Bureau stated, "This is an opportunity for our hunters and people who support wildlife to give us some feedback on these regulations. We will go over the proposed regulations and seasons and our rational behind each change, and take comments from anyone willing to speak, then, if there is any time remaining, we will open the discussion to other topics." The subjects of this ICN public hearing are noticed of intended rule making that will be published in the April 8, 2009 Iowa Administrative Rules bulletin which will be is available online at: <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/aspx/BulletinSupplement/bulletinListing.aspx>

#### ICN Locations:

**Iowa City** Iowa City High School, 1900 Morningside Drive

**Marion** Marion Public Library, 1095 6th Avenue



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**State of Iowa**  
**Estimated Condition of the General Fund**  
 (Dollars in Millions)

	Actual FY 2008	Estimated FY 2009	Estimated FY 2010 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Funds Available:</b>			
Receipts and Transfers	\$ 6,783.2	\$ 7,087.9	\$ 6,970.2
Tax Refunds	- 674.8	- 760.0	- 821.0
School Infras. Refunds (Accrual)		- 357.5	- 401.9
Accruals	- 24.0	- 0.1	8.6
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>6,084.4</b>	<b>5,970.3</b>	<b>5,755.9</b>
<b>Expenditure Limitation</b>			<b>5,698.3</b>
<b>Estimated Appropriations and Expenditures:</b>			
Appropriations	5,898.4	6,133.0	6,049.4 <sup>2</sup>
Standing Appropriation Adjustments		18.5 <sup>1</sup>	
Supplemental Appropriations		17.3	
1.5% Across-the-Board Reduction		- 89.1	
Deappropriations		- 30.3	
Built-in Expenditures			477.2 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total Appropriations</b>	<b>5,898.4</b>	<b>6,049.4</b>	<b>6,526.6</b>
Adjustment to meet Expenditure Limitation (Spending Gap)		- 66.6	- 828.3
Reversions	- 10.4	- 12.5	- 12.5
<b>Net Appropriations</b>	<b>5,888.0</b>	<b>5,970.3</b>	<b>5,685.8</b>
<b>Ending Balance - Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 196.4</b>	<b>\$ 0.0</b>	<b>\$ 70.1</b>
<b>Appropriations/Transfers to Other Funds</b>			
Property Tax Credit Fund	\$ 99.8	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
Senior Living Trust Fund	48.3	0.0	35.1
Cash Reserve Fund	48.3	0.0	35.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 196.4</b>	<b>\$ 0.0</b>	<b>\$ 70.1</b>

Numbers may not equal totals due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> The adjustments to standings reflect changes to standing unlimited appropriations that have occurred since July 1, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> FY 2009 appropriation amount is assumed as base level for FY 2010.

<sup>3</sup> A built-in expenditure is a projected change over the previous year's enacted appropriations that are associated with a standing appropriation established by statute, an entitlement program, or a multi-year appropriation. The built-in expenditures estimate is constantly changing to reflect the most recent estimates or forecasts (such as Medicaid forecasts). The estimate could increase or decrease.

<sup>4</sup> Anticipated expenditures portion previously included in the FY 2010 Built-in estimate are not included in this estimate. Various budget proposals and anticipated use of the Federal Stimulus money will change the FY 2010 appropriation numbers.