

IOWA TRANSPARENCY NEWSLETTER



Iowa General Assembly Cost of Sponsored Legislation

In an effort to bring more transparency to spending or potential spending of your tax dollars, Public Interest Institute (PII) is bringing you the totals from Iowa Bill Tally. In May, PII brought you the Iowa Vote Tally results from the 83rd General Assembly. This month we are focusing on the results of Iowa Bill Tally. Iowa Bill Tally is different from Iowa Vote Tally in that it takes a look at legislation that is proposed with a fiscal impact associated with it; whereas, Iowa Vote Tally looks at passed legislation of the session with the fiscal impact associated with it.

We bring this information to you to make you aware of bills that are proposed in the Iowa Legislature. It is important to have a clear understanding of the issues being discussed in Des Moines and the impact they will have on taxpayers if they are signed into law. While the majority of the bills proposed

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Total Cost of Legislation Sponsored by Members of Iowa Senate - 2010

LastName	FirstName	Party	District	Total Cost
Kreiman	Keith A.	D	47	\$752,400
Quirnbach	Herman C.	D	23	\$752,400
Bartz	Merlin	R	6	\$606,000
Bolkcom	Joe	D	39	\$606,000
Dotzler, Jr.	William A.	D	11	\$606,000
Hatch	Jack	D	33	\$606,000
Ragan	Amanda	D	7	\$606,000
Schmitz	Becky	D	45	\$606,000
Wilhelm	Mary Jo	D	8	\$606,000
Boettger	Nancy J.	R	29	\$420,400
Hartsuch	David	R	41	\$274,000
Johnson	David	R	3	\$274,000
Seymour	James A.	R	28	\$274,000
Hogg	Rob	D	19	\$246,400
Horn	Wally E.	D	17	\$246,400
Jochum	Pam	D	14	\$246,400
Hancock	Tom	D	16	\$146,400
Kettering	Steve	R	26	\$146,400
Noble	Larry	R	35	\$146,400
Schoenjahn	Brian	D	12	\$146,400
Sodders	Steve	D	22	\$146,400
Ward	Pat	R	30	\$146,400
Warnstadt	Steve	D	1	\$146,400
Zaun	Brad	R	32	\$146,400
Fraise	Gene	D	46	\$132,000
Appel	Staci	D	37	\$100,000
Dandekar	Swati	D	18	\$100,000
Dvorsky	Robert E.	D	15	\$100,000
Feenstra	Randy	R	2	\$100,000
Hahn	James F.	R	40	\$100,000
Heckroth	Bill	D	9	\$100,000
Houser	Hubert	R	49	\$100,000
Reynolds	Kim	R	48	\$100,000
Stewart	Roger	D	13	\$100,000
Hamerlinck	Shawn	R	42	\$0
McCoy	Matt	D	31	\$0
Seng	Dr. Joe M.	D	43	\$0

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Dr. Don Racheter,
President

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**Total Cost of Legislation Sponsored by Members of
Iowa House of Representatives - 2010**

LastName	FirstName	Party	District	Total Cost
Hunter	Bruce	D	62	\$2,242,000
Wessel-Kroeschell	Beth	D	45	\$1,763,000
Abdul-Samad	Ako	D	66	\$1,720,841
Mascher	Mary	D	77	\$1,720,841
Baudler	Ciel	R	58	\$1,679,000
Heaton	Dave	R	91	\$1,679,000
Olson	Tyler	D	38	\$1,679,000
Smith	Mark	D	43	\$1,679,000
Alons	Dwayne	R	4	\$1,633,000
Berry	Deborah	D	22	\$1,633,000
Forristall	Greg	R	98	\$1,633,000
Heddens	Lisa	D	46	\$1,633,000
Jacoby	David	D	30	\$1,633,000
Miller	Linda	R	82	\$1,633,000
Petersen	Janet	D	64	\$1,633,000
Soderberg	Chuck	R	3	\$1,633,000
Steckman	Sharon	D	13	\$1,633,000
Thede	Phyllis	D	81	\$1,633,000
Upmeyer	Linda	R	12	\$1,633,000
Schulte	Renee	D	37	\$1,157,841
Koester	Kevin	R	70	\$1,111,841
Horbach	Lance	R	40	\$655,000
Huser	Geri	D	42	\$655,000
Olson	Rick	D	68	\$655,000
Burt	Kerry	D	21	\$609,000
Chambers	Royd	R	5	\$609,000
Cownie	Peter	R	60	\$609,000
Grassley	Pat	R	17	\$609,000
Kearns	Jerry	D	92	\$609,000
Tymeson	Jodi	R	73	\$609,000
Van Engelenhoven	Jim	R	71	\$609,000
Watts	Ralph	R	47	\$609,000
Winckler	Cindy	D	86	\$609,000
Willems	Nate	D	29	\$133,841
Taylor	Todd	D	34	\$87,841
Anderson	Rich	R	97	\$46,000
Ford	Wayne	D	65	\$46,000
Helland	Erik	R	69	\$46,000
Mertz	Dolores	D	8	\$46,000
Oldson	Jo	D	61	\$46,000
Palmer	Eric	D	75	\$46,000
Schultz	Jason	R	55	\$46,000
Swaim	Kurt	D	94	\$46,000
Kaufmann	Jeff	R	79	(\$475,159)
Lensing	Vicki	D	78	(\$475,159)
Struyk	Doug	R	99	(\$475,159)
Beard	John	D	16	(\$521,159)

Total Cost of Legislation Sponsored by Members of Iowa House of Representatives - 2010

LastName	FirstName	Party	District	Total Cost
Cohoon	Dennis	D	88	(\$521,159)
Drake	Jack	R	57	(\$521,159)
Frevert	Marcella	D	7	(\$521,159)
Gaskill	Mary	D	93	(\$521,159)
Isenhart	Charles	D	27	(\$521,159)
Pettengill	Dawn	R	39	(\$521,159)
Quirk	Brian	D	15	(\$521,159)
Raecker	J. Scott	R	63	(\$521,159)
Rants	Christopher	R	54	(\$521,159)
Roberts	Rod	R	51	(\$521,159)
Running-Marquardt	Kristen	D	33	(\$521,159)

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were not signed into law, they do give you, the taxpayer, an idea of what is being looked at by our Representatives and Senators.

With this being an election year, it is important to arm yourself with all the information you can about your State Senators and State Representatives. Iowa Vote Tally and Iowa Bill Tally are two great tools to educate yourself about where your Legislator stands on fiscal bills. If you will remember, Iowa Vote Tally tracks the actual votes; whereas Iowa Bill Tally tracks

the sponsorship of bills. Since all the bills tracked in Iowa Bill Tally this year were sponsored by the Committees rather than individuals members, this has required us to change the approach we used this year in assigning the sponsorship of the bills.

If a member is not on a committee that proposed any legislation with a fiscal impact associated with it, then the member is not listed in the list of Legislators. As you can see, this year we have 37 State Senators and 58

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State Representatives who have their name assigned to various legislation. The entire fiscal amounts for the wished-for legislation came from the Fiscal Notes on the Iowa Legislative website. You can see all this information at <http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/fiscalnotes/>.

Iowa Bill Tally includes eight bills from the Senate that were introduced. PII takes the information from the Senate Journals from the committee meetings to assign the bills. If a member is absent or voted "NO" at the committee meeting, the cost of the legislation is not assigned to him or her; only members voting "YES" have the cost of the legislation assigned to them. Since all the bills this year with fiscal amounts were sponsored by committee, this is the most accurate way we have to assign the cost of the legislation to the Senators who supported a proposed bill.

The House had nine bills introduced that had a fiscal impact associated with them. From the information available in the

Bill Tally Methodology

Bill Tally measures the potential fiscal impact of legislation introduced during the 2010 Second Session of the 83rd Iowa General Assembly, should it have been adopted. Information on sponsored legislation was obtained from the Iowa General Assembly web pages for each individual Legislator. Only legislation with fiscal impact was included. All fiscal amounts were obtained from the Iowa Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

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House Journals, PII had to take a slightly different approach in assigning the House Files. Unlike the Senate, the House Committees did not vote on legislation when it was assigned to a committee. As a result we have assigned the bills to all the members of the committee to which a bill was assigned. The House Journal reports that the Committee had the first reading and placed the bill on the calendar without a recorded vote.

Iowa Bill Tally is not an exact system, but it is a way to convey to you, the voters, what is being proposed in Des Moines and the impact these bills could have on the budget if passed. Ideally, we would prefer to assign the

bills to individual Legislators, but in this case it is not possible. We hope that you will use this information to have a discussion with your State Senator and State Representative about what was proposed last session. This information makes you a more informed voter and more importantly a more informed taxpayer.

*Jennifer L. Crull is an
IT Specialist with
Public Interest Institute.*

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In the Public Interest.

Watch the opinion section of your local paper for these commentaries on public policy issues and if you don't see *In the Public Interest*, contact your local editor and request he or she publish *In the Public Interest.*

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