

Iowa Code Chapter 2A (Legislative Services Agency)

2A.1 Legislative services agency created — services — legislative privileges — nonpartisanship and nonadvocacy.

1. A legislative services agency is created as a nonpartisan, central legislative staff agency under the direction and control of the legislative council. The agency shall cooperate with and serve all members of the general assembly, the legislative council, and committees of the general assembly.

3. The legislative services agency shall provide services to the general assembly in such a manner as to preserve the authority of the senate and the house of representatives to determine their own rules of proceedings and to exercise all other powers necessary for a separate branch of the general assembly of a free and independent state, and to protect the legislative privileges of the members and employees of the general assembly. In providing services to the general assembly, the legislative services agency shall adhere to all applicable policies of the general assembly and its constituent bodies relating to public access to legislative information and related confidentiality restrictions.

4. The director and all other employees of the legislative services agency shall not participate in partisan political activities and shall not be identified as advocates or opponents of issues subject to legislative debate except as otherwise provided by law or by the legislative council.

2A.4 Specific services — public policy recommendations restricted.

The legislative services agency shall provide the following specific services:

1. Preparation of legal and legislative analysis of any governmental matter upon the proper request of members and committees of the general assembly. Such analysis shall not contain any public policy recommendations. Such legal analysis shall be provided through the exercise of an attorney-employee's independent, professional judgment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL RULES

Submission of Prefiled Proposed Bills. Prefiled proposed bills and resolutions of state departments and agencies shall be submitted to the Legislative Services Agency no later than 45 days prior to the convening of the regular session in January (most often the Friday after Thanksgiving). However, if that day is a state holiday, the deadline is the following Monday. The proposals shall be in bill draft or resolution form or shall be as specific as possible as to the Code changes desired. The Legislative Services Agency will review the proposal, make suggestions as to nonsubstantive changes or corrections, confer with the department or agency representative in regard to the proposal, prepare an objective explanation for the bill, and prepare the bill in final form. Once the bill is in final form, the Legislative Services Agency, not the department or agency, will submit the bill in proper form to the presiding officer of the two houses for referral to the proper standing committee. Prefiled and predrafted bills and resolutions requested by legislators will, however, receive priority consideration by the Legislative Services Agency over departmental and agency bills and resolutions. Proposed bills and resolutions submitted by departments and agencies after the deadline, will not be assigned to a staff member unless a legislative sponsor is obtained.