

# **Iowa House of Representatives**

## **State Representative Cecil Dolecheck**

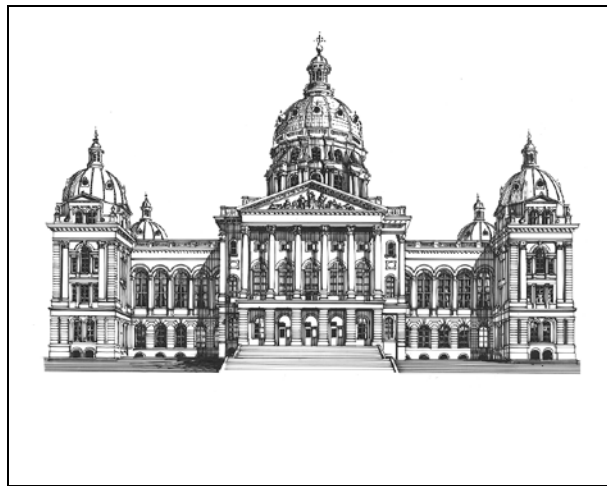
### **Dolecheck's Details**

Address: State Capitol, Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: 515-281-3221 Seat 65

E-Mail: [cecil.dolecheck@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:cecil.dolecheck@legis.state.ia.us)

**For the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**



### **Governor Branstad's Budget**

Although this has been a busy week at the Capitol with committee meetings and a host of visitors, no doubt the highlight was the Governor's budget message. It was delivered this morning to a joint session of the House and Senate.

#### **Highlights:**

- Under the Iowa Constitution, the Governor proposes a budget and the Legislature approves a budget. The release of the Governor's proposal is a starting point for the development of budget targets.
- When the FY 2011 budget is adjusted for all general fund expenditures, it spends \$6.3 billion. The Governor's recommendation for FY 2012 is just over \$6.1 billion, or a decrease of \$185 million compared to adjusted FY 2011.
- The Governor promised to cut the budget and create jobs. His budget request does both as most agencies are cut by 6 % and he proposes to reduce the corporate income tax and reduce commercial property taxes.
- This is the first budget proposal in five years to align ongoing revenue with ongoing spending and it does it in the first year(FY 2012).
- In addition to the supplemental appropriations for indigent defense and mental health in HF 45, the Governor proposes \$21 million of supplemental appropriations to backfill health and public safety cuts that were part of Culver's \$84 million in cuts at the end of December just before he left office.
- The Governor recommends changing the corporate income tax from a graduated system of 6%, 9%, and 12% to a flat 6%. This reduces corporate income tax revenue by roughly \$200 million per year once it is fully implemented.
- In order to replace the revenue lost by reducing the corporate income tax, the Governor increases the tax on casino profits from the current rate of 22% to 36%. This generates \$200 million per year in new revenue.
- The Governor proposes that new corporate property be taxed at 60% of value and existing corporate property be reduced to 60%(from the current 100%) over the next 5 years. He proposes making up one-half of the \$500 million reduction in revenue and local governments will be forced to make up the other half.
- The Governor does not propose any funding for the Culver salary increases. The agencies must give raises (15% over 2 years) but they have to fund the raises within the money they are appropriated for operations.

## **Requiring Voter IDs Protects Iowa Elections**

This afternoon we will be debating a bill that will bring Iowa one step closer to secure elections. House File 95 requires photo IDs for all voters—including election-day registrants and in-person absentee voters. Specifically, all voters are required to show a photo ID that was either issued by the United States Government or the state of Iowa. This issue was one of newly elected Secretary of State, Matt Schultz's priorities.

Typical US Government IDs include passports, military IDs, tribal identification, and federal employee cards. Proper identification issued by the state of Iowa would include driver's licenses, non-operator's licenses, or state employee badges. A requirement of any of these pieces of identification is that they have an expiration date and that they are either not expired or expired after the most recent general election.

In order to aid voters in obtaining proper identification for voting purposes, certified copies of birth certificates will be available at no charge at all county recorder's offices as well as at the Iowa Department of Public Health. The requester must execute an affidavit saying they are requesting the copy of their birth certificate for voting purposes. The voter will then be able to go to the Department of Transportation and get a free photo identification card for voting purposes.

The purpose of House File 95 is to protect the integrity of Iowa elections. Asking voters to provide proof of identity will ensure that only votes properly cast are counted. The bill provides for situations in which a provisional ballot would be proper. House File 95 is modeled after Indiana's photo ID law. That law was challenged and eventually upheld by the United States Supreme Court in 2008 in *Crawford v. Marion County Election Board*.

### **Must See**

The Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition gave me the opportunity last night to watch the premier showing in Iowa of a new movie called "The Genesis Code". It is a thought provoking family movie that puts science and creation on the same page and I would highly recommend seeing the movie when it hits the screens in our area.

What do you think? Email me your thoughts. My e-mail address is :

[cecil.dolecheck@legis.state.ia.us](mailto:cecil.dolecheck@legis.state.ia.us)

House Visitors include : Adams County Ambassadors, Matt Thompson and SWCC students, Kelly Tobin of New Market, Ag instructor Brandi Merrick and FFA students from Red Oak. I had the opportunity to meet with my area Hy-Vee managers at their headquarters in West Des Moines.

Information about my legislative forum schedule, past newsletters and biography can be found at [www.iowahouserepublicans.com/members/cecil-dolecheck](http://www.iowahouserepublicans.com/members/cecil-dolecheck)

The number for the House switchboard is (515) 281-3221, Seat 65