

Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
90th General Assembly, 2023 Session
Week 1: January 13, 2023
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

The Iowa Legislature kicked off the 2023 Legislative session and the first year of the 90th General Assembly on Monday, January 9th. The first week, as usual, consists of the Governor and Legislative Leadership speeches along with the state of the Iowa National Guard and Judiciary. This year is the first year of the 90th General assembly so there was also swearing in ceremonies in both Chambers that included over 50 new legislators. The high number of new members is due to the State's redrawing of the legislative maps which takes place every ten years.

The workload in the first week as it is in most years was light. All the committees met but most of them merely approved committee rules and made introductions of the members. Only a couple committees introduced bills. One was Education where both the House and the Senate introduced the Governor's voucher bill that failed to make it to her desk last session. This bill is sure to create a lot of debate in both chambers. Another was in the Senate where a subcommittee was scheduled then postponed until a later date. That bill happened to be a bill that we registered opposed to.

SSB-1001 is a bill that deals with the age of Police and Firefighters mandatory retirement. The codes change will take away the statewide mandatory retirement age of 65 and leave each city council to determine what age, above 65, is appropriate. This bill, if approved, would be effective upon enactment. ISPA has registered opposed to this bill.

There were three other bills filed this week that warrant monitoring although that determination has not been decided as of the date of this newsletter. Those three are as follows:

SF-28 is a bill that would require seatbelts to be worn by all adults in a vehicle regardless of whether they are in the front or back seat. It also further defines regulations for minors.

SF-48 is a bill that would allow window tinting of vehicles as long as they have specific medical conditions where a person is sensitive to light. This is much more specific than window tinting bills over the last couple of years but still needs a thorough review by our members.

SF-60 is a bill that would ban the use of electronic devices while driving a vehicle.

It is safe to say that there will be many more bills filed in the coming months that will require our attention and we will update you as they come forward.

The 411 bill that we worked on last session is one of our top priorities for the 2023 legislative session. We are currently drafting a bill that includes our priorities and takes into account the many discussions that have taken place in the interim. We expect that bill to be available for review in the next couple of weeks.

Feel free to reach out to any of us for further clarification or if you have any questions. All of us at Fitzgerald, Smith, and Associates look forward to representing ISPA at the state Capitol this year.

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