

2023 ISPA Legislative Day

On February 7 the Iowa State Police Association Executive Board hosted our annual legislative breakfast. Every year we are amazed at how many legislators stop by and engage in meaningful conversations with us. This year we discussed the needed changes in the 411 pension system including:

- Changing the definition of a member in good standing
- Including cumulative injuries to be covered as workplace injuries
- Clarifying the city is responsible for all necessary medical care for work-related injuries
- Allowing police and firefighters to apply for disability benefits when work-related injuries are discovered after retiring
- Working to reduce the burden of proof for PTSD to be considered work-related

After the breakfast concluded we moved on to individual meetings with the leadership in both houses and both political parties. During these more personable encounters, our board gets a chance to provide more detail about why these changes are necessary and receive direct feedback on where our legislators stand with any barriers to getting the bill onto the floor of both chambers.

Immediately following the individual meetings, our bill went before a subcommittee that was chaired by Senator Cournoyer from Scott County alongside voting members Senator Boulton from Polk County and Senator Webster also from Scott County. During the first subcommittee meeting our bill was tabled and the Senators asked us to work with The Iowa Metropolitan Coalition and League of Cities to find some common ground. After a productive meeting with all the interested parties on February 13, a second subcommittee was convened on February 14th and our bill passed through the subcommittee. The next step is to finalize some specific language and have it assigned to a committee. The bill needs to pass through committee before the first funnel date, which is March 3rd.

A big thank you to our lobbyist for helping us push our bill forward and talk to the right legislators to keep it moving in a positive direction. There is a lot of optimism this year that we will be able to push it all the way over the finish line. Please be watching your email inboxes for weekly updates about our 411 bill as well as the other bills moving through the process that we are monitoring and registering for.