

**The 2026 Iowa Legislative Report**  
**Iowa State Police Association**  
**91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, 2026 Session**  
**End of Session Policy Report: May 20, 2026**  
**Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists**

ISPA had a year of highs and lows for the 2026 session. Priority legislation was sent to the Governor after session awaiting her signature, SF 2088. This legislation had multiple changes for the Department of Transportation but as it pertains to ISPA's priorities, it raises the property damage threshold for mandatory accident reporting from \$1,500 to \$5,000. This means that drivers involved in accidents must now file a report only if the resulting property damage is \$5,000 or more, or if there is injury or death. However, if a vehicle involved in an accident does not have proof of insurance, the driver is required to file a report regardless of the amount of damage or whether there were injuries. In addition, the bill mandates that all accident reports submitted by drivers and law enforcement officers must be made electronically. While this was the only proactive policy bill that advanced to the Governor's desk this session, there were several unfriendly bills drafted that were defeated that would have had a negative impact on our ISPA members.

There were multiple bills that were introduced regarding License Plate Readers (LPR), as well as an Automatic Traffic Enforcement (ATE) amendments. While we did not have these issues in our priorities, limiting access to the tools for law enforcement to do their jobs is something that we will continue to navigate in the legislature. These bills were at the end of the session negotiations, which means these subjects will not go away. The bills did not make it to the finish line, and we will be working with other law enforcement groups to steer the legislature in the direction that will not hinder your jobs.

Another piece of legislation that did not make it to the Governor's desk was HSB 770. This was the second version of the peace officers bill of rights this session. While there were many good parts to this bill, interested parties had agreed to meet during this interim to try and get it closer to the version we would like to see specific to 80F (Iowa state law establishing the Bill of Rights and procedural

protections for officers and public safety personnel) legislation. We look forward to those conversations. One piece that was taken from this bill that all of law enforcement supported was made into its own bill, SF 2504. This new Iowa law strengthens protections for law enforcement officers placed on “Brady-Giglio” lists (which identify officers with credibility concerns). It gives officers the right to contest their placement in court, requires the government to cover their legal fees if they win, and covers both future and past cases dating back to July 1, 2021.

Most legislation takes multiple General Assemblies to move through the legislature. HF 2654, which would provide community college tuition waivers for dependents of first responders, was introduced this year and advanced past the first funnel. Although it did not move forward after that, it sparked important discussion about recruitment, retention, and the value of law enforcement in Iowa.

This was a difficult session to navigate, as the two chambers disagreed on most issues. Add in the fact that this was the Governor’s final legislative session, and the result was a chaotic environment. Against that backdrop, securing a proactive policy bill and defeating several harmful bills made this a successful session. As noted earlier, introducing our recruitment and retention bill and advancing it through the first funnel was also a positive step and, hopefully, a springboard for next session.

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