

The 2025 Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
91st General Assembly, 2025 Session
Week Fourteen April 18, 2025
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

Most of the legislative work this week consisted of floor debate, where legislators considered bills on a wide array of topics and tackled a number of priority issues. Thirty-eight bills reached final passage this week. Besides floor work, each chamber held Appropriations and Ways and Means standing committees, where these committees continued to make progress on spending and tax bills.

We continue to await progress on the annual appropriations bills that fund state departments and programs in the upcoming fiscal year. So far, the only movement we've seen is for the Transportation Appropriations bill ([SF628](#)), which passed through Senate appropriations this week. Legislators often act on this bill first, as there is typically more agreement on this topic. In order to wrap up Legislative work for the year, the House and Senate must begin budget discussions soon, as final adjournment is contingent on a budget being passed. The Revenue Estimating Conference in March projected a nearly 6% decline in state revenues for the next fiscal year. This puts extra pressure on budget chairs to formulate the state's budget while keeping expenditures under 99% of projected revenue, as required in Iowa. The session is expected to end on May 2.

Here are the bills we are tracking this session:

HSB-329-For A bill for an act providing for a waiver of tuition and mandatory fees at regents' institutions and community colleges for peace officers and their legal dependents and making appropriations.

- Establishes a tuition waiver program for peace officers and their legal dependents at community colleges and regents' institutions in Iowa.
- Eligibility for peace officers includes residency, certification, admission requirements, and pursuing a law enforcement-related degree.

- Legal dependents must agree to reside in Iowa for five years after graduation or repay the waiver amount.
- Waivers last for up to five years at regents' institutions and three years at community colleges.
- Creates a peace officer tuition waiver reimbursement fund to reimburse institutions for the cost of waivers.
- Referred to Ways & Means committee
 - Passed subcommittee

HF-549-Undecided Officer involved shooting

- Establishes a review process for officer-involved shootings resulting in death or serious bodily injury.
- Mandates county attorneys to review evidence and provide a written opinion and charging decision.
- Requires a report detailing the review results to be provided within 180 days.
- Allows for the case to be referred to an independent county attorney, attorney general, or special prosecutor in case of conflict of interest.
- **Passed House 96-0**
- Passed Senate committee

SF-311/HF-641-Undecided Civil Service Employees

- Prohibits cities with a civil service commission from establishing citizen review boards for officer conduct.
- Requires cities with populations over 50,000 to have between five and seven civil service commissioners.
- Modifies standards for employee removal, discharge, demotion, or suspension to require just cause and a preponderance of evidence.

- Establishes new procedures for appeals to the civil service commission and district court, including the right to attorney fees for prevailing employees.
- The bill takes effect immediately upon enactment.
- **Passed Senate 37-9**
- **Passed House 81-12**
- **Messaged to the Governor for her signature**

SF-137-Unclassified Officer training short course

- Modifies educational requirements for law enforcement training applicants.
- Removes the requirement for the educational institution to be located in Iowa.
- Maintains the need for accreditation of the educational program.
- Applies to individuals who are not currently certified as law enforcement officers.
- **Passed Senate 47-0**
- Passed House committee 23-0

HF-1023-For A bill for an act relating to benefits for members of the Iowa public employees' retirement system who are employed in a protection occupation.

- Increases the applicable percentage for retirement benefits from 0.375% to 0.625% for each additional calendar quarter of service beyond 22 years, with a new maximum of 20 additional percentage points for those retiring on or after July 1, 2025.
- Allows members to retire at age 50 with at least 22 years of eligible service, instead of the previous requirement of age 55.

- Establishes a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 1.5% annually for members retiring on or after July 1, 2025, subject to specific eligibility criteria.
- Retired members must have 22 years of eligible service and be at least 50 years old to qualify for the COLA.
- Members receiving the COLA will not be eligible for retirement dividends under section 97B.49F.
- Passed committee
- Referred to Ways & Means committee
 - Passed W & M committee 24-0

HF-969-For A bill for an act concerning retirement and employment benefits associated with cancer and making appropriations.

- Public employers must provide cancer screening examinations to full-time fire fighters, police officers, and emergency medical services providers starting July 1, 2025.
- Screenings are required within three years of employment and every three years thereafter.
- Political subdivisions can be reimbursed by the state for the costs of these screenings, up to \$1,250 per eligible employee every three years.
- Eligible employees are not required to pay any copayment, deductible, or out-of-pocket expenses for the screenings.
- The definition of 'cancer' is expanded to include a broader range of diseases, increasing access to disability and death benefits.
- **Passed House 96-0**
- **Passed Senate 46-1**
- **Messaged to the Governor for her signature**

HF-904-For A bill for an act relating to motor vehicle accident reports, including the amount of property damage necessary for a report and the period in which a law enforcement officer must forward a report to the department of transportation.

- Increases the property damage threshold for required accident reports from \$1,500 to \$7,500.
- Removes the 24-hour reporting requirement for law enforcement officers after investigating an accident.
- Maintains that reports are not required if the accident is investigated by a law enforcement agency.
- Aims to reduce the administrative burden on drivers and law enforcement regarding accident reporting.
- **Passed House 94-3**
- Passed Senate Transportation committee

SF-22/HF-827(these bills are similar but not companions)-For Hands Free

- Prohibits hand-held electronic device use while driving.
- Allows voice-activated or hands-free use.
- Increases fines for violations from \$45 to \$100.
- Preempts local laws on electronic device use while driving.
- Establishes penalties for repeat offenders, including license suspension.
- **Passed House 84-11**
- **Passed Senate 47-1**
- **Signed by the Governor**

SF-397/HF-177-For Assaults on correction officers

- Increases penalties for assaults against designated public service workers from aggravated misdemeanors to class 'C' and 'D' felonies.
- Introduces a minimum term of seven days for certain assault convictions, with no eligibility for suspension of the minimum sentence.
- Includes saliva in the definition of bodily fluids for inmate assaults, expanding the scope of what constitutes an assault in correctional facilities.
- Classifies assaults causing bodily injury or mental illness as class 'D' felonies.
- Clarifies that any other assault against public service workers is an aggravated misdemeanor.
- **Passed House 91-2**
- **Passed Senate 47-0**
- **Signed by the Governor**

If you have any questions regarding bill status, procedural processes or simply curious as to the general tone from week to week, please reach out to us anytime.

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