

The 2025 Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
91st General Assembly, 2025 Session
Week Eight: March 7, 2025
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

The Legislature wrapped up the first funnel week Thursday, with House and Senate committees passing out fifty bills. The House will return on Friday morning to read in more successor bills, the Senate adjourned until Monday. Bill introductions should continue to be heavy on Monday and Tuesday until both chambers have caught up with the committee action. The first funnel deadline is a legislative imposed rule used to filter out bills lacking sufficient support from the chamber to continue forward this legislative session. Ways and Means bills as well as Appropriation bills are “funnel proof”, all other committee bills must pass through full committee to stay alive. We now will reset and refocus on our monitored bills that are still alive in preparation of the second funnel deadline on April 4th.

Next week, the two chambers will focus on floor debate. Most bills that move through the chamber are “non-cons” and already are agreed to between the two chambers. Those bills usually move first, saving the more controversial bills for later allowing time for more discussion and possible amendments. With both Chambers in debate next week, we will focus on restating our priority bills with the members and working on amendments.

Here are the bills we are tracking this session:

SF-22/HSB-64 (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.
- **Both bills passed out of their respective committees.**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

SF-33-For SLIP

- Defines eligible law enforcement officers and retirement systems.
- Provides cash payment for accrued sick leave upon retirement or death.
- Allows use of sick leave value for health insurance premiums.
- Excludes officers under collective bargaining agreements.
- Forfeiture of sick leave benefits upon reemployment with previous employer.
- **Passed subcommittee**
- **Died in funnel**

HF-46-Opposed Motorcycle Profiling Training

- Mandates training on motorcyclist profiling for law enforcement officers.
- Defines motorcyclist profiling and prohibits its use in law enforcement actions.
- Requires local agencies to adopt policies against motorcyclist profiling.
- Establishes annual reporting on training requirements and substance.
- Includes in-service training requirements for all law enforcement officers.
- **Passed committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

SF-397 (Formerly SSB-1058/HF-177 (Formerly HSB-24)-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 committee.**
- **Passed Senate committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HF-322-Opposed The Iowa Stop Squatters Act

- Allows real property owners to submit complaints to law enforcement for the immediate removal of unauthorized occupants under specific conditions. These conditions include the owner or their authorized agent notifying the unauthorized person of their lack of permission to be on the property, and the unauthorized person not being a current or former tenant or an immediate family member.
- Law enforcement is required to investigate the complaint and, if valid, direct the unauthorized occupant to vacate the property. The act also introduces penalties for unauthorized occupants who fail to vacate after being notified, categorizing the offense based on the amount of property damage caused. Additionally, it holds property owners accountable for submitting false complaints.
- **Passed subcommittee**
- **Died in funnel**

HSB-104-Opposed Homeland Security and Emergency Management department bill.

- Under current law, money collected due to the imposition of the emergency communications service surcharge are deposited in the 911 emergency communications fund.
- Moneys remaining in the 911 emergency communications fund after paying all obligations may first be used to provide grants to public safety answering points agreeing to consolidate.
- The bill eliminates this distribution option.
- **Subcommittee tabled the bill**
- **Died in funnel**

HF-699 (Formerly HF-487)-For Drug paraphernalia and testing equipment

- Exempts hypodermic needles and syringes for lawful purposes from the definition of drug paraphernalia.
- Adds exemptions for fentanyl test strips, xylazine test strips, and other drug-checking equipment.
- Defines 'drug checking' and 'drug-checking equipment' to facilitate harm reduction services.
- Allows individuals to possess and use drug-checking equipment without legal penalties.
- Prohibits the use of drug-checking analysis results in criminal investigations or as evidence in court.
- **Passed committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HSB-265-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**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HF-549 (Formerly HF-42)-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 committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HF-766-Undecided Window Tint

- Establishes a minimum transparency standard of 70% light transmittance for front windshields.
- Sets a minimum transparency standard of 50% light transmittance for side windows adjacent to the driver.
- Removes the Department of Transportation's authority to adopt rules regarding window transparency standards.
- Exempts law enforcement vehicles from these tinting regulations when used for official duties.
- Imposes a scheduled fine of \$70 for violations of the new window tinting standards.
- **Passed committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

SSB-1019-Undecided Window Tint

- **Passed subcommittee**
- **Died in funnel**

HF-71-Undecided Traffic stop quotas

- Prohibits quotas for traffic stops and citations by peace officers.
- Applies to all political subdivisions and state agencies in Iowa.
- Aims to prevent biased policing practices.
- Reinforces public safety as the primary focus of traffic enforcement.
- **Subcommittee tabled**
- **Died in funnel**

SF-311 (Formerly SSB-1010)/HF-641 (Formerly HSB-82)-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 committee**
- **Passed House committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

SF-137-Undecided 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 committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HSB-285-Opposed A bill for an act relating to the enforcement of immigration laws, and providing penalties.

- 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 committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HSB-187-Undecided Law enforcement in immigration programs

- **Passed subcommittee**
- **Died in funnel**

HSB-266-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 committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

SF-272/HF-267-Undecided Employee benefits and cancer presumption

- **Passed Senate subcommittee**
- **Introduced to House State Govt committee**
- **Both bills died in funnel**

HSB-264-Undecided A bill for an act relating to the revocation or suspension of law enforcement officer certification.

- Amends the grounds for revocation or suspension of law enforcement officer certification.
- Certification may be revoked if the officer is discharged for good cause.
- Certification may also be revoked if the officer leaves under circumstances warranting discharge while disciplinary action is pending.
- Establishes that no other grounds for revocation actions may be maintained.
- Pending actions not aligned with the new criteria shall be dismissed.
- **Passed committee**
- **Survived 1st funnel**

HSB-289-Uncolced A bill for an act relating to the Iowa law enforcement academy council including the revocation or suspension of certifications of law enforcement officers and reserve peace officers, and administrative investigations under the peace officer, public safety, and emergency personnel bill of rights, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

- Passed subcommittee
- Died in funnel

HSB-297-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 committee
- Survived 1st funnel

HF-749-Monitoring but not registered A bill for an act providing an early retirement option under the municipal fire and police retirement system.

- Introduced to State Govt committee
- Died in 1st funnel

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.

Jeff Smith

jeff.g.smith@outlook.com

712-320-2679

Maggie Smith-Fitzgerald

maggiesmithfitz@outlook.com

515-314-3335

Matt Fitzgerald

Mdfitz7575@gmail.com

515-313-5874