

**The 2025 Iowa Legislative Report**  
**Iowa State Police Association**  
**91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, 2025 Session**  
**Week Nine: March 14, 2025**  
**Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists**

As in years past, the week following the first funnel deadline is relatively slow at the Iowa State Capitol. Both chambers spend a lot of time in caucus to review bills that have survived the funnel deadline to determine which ones are ready for floor debate. They will focus on the “non-con” bills where we will see nearly unanimous support.

Progress was made on many of our priority bills as we continued to fine tune amendments. The next couple of weeks will determine the fate of these priority bills as they must move through the process and survive the second funnel deadline, which is April 4<sup>th</sup>. The second funnel is the final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees.

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) met Thursday to issue its March revenue estimate. The REC lowered its estimate from FY 2025 to \$9.13 billion, an overall revenue decline of about 6% from the previous year and reduced the FY 2026 revenue estimate to \$8.7 billion.

The budget proposed by Governor Reynolds in January was \$9.4 billion and will use money from the reserve funds. Kraig Paulsen, the director of DOM and a member of the panel, said that the reductions are from tax rate cuts and were not unexpected. He said that “Iowa is in a great financial position” to deal with any revenue declines.

Here are the bills we are tracking this session:

**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 committee.**
- **Passed Senate 47-0**

#### **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**

#### **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**

**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 committee**
- **Passed House 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.
- **Both bills passed out of their respective committees.**

**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 Senate 47-0**

**HF-699-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**

**HF946-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**

**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**

**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**

**HF-937-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**

**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 committee**

**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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

**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.
- **Died in 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-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**

**HSB-187-Undecided** Law enforcement in immigration programs

- **Passed subcommittee**
- **Died in 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-289-Undecided** 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

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](mailto:jeff.g.smith@outlook.com)  
712-320-2679

**Maggie Smith-Fitzgerald**  
[maggiesmithfitz@outlook.com](mailto:maggiesmithfitz@outlook.com)  
515-314-3335

**Matt Fitzgerald**  
[Mdfitz7575@gmail.com](mailto:Mdfitz7575@gmail.com)  
515-313-5874