

The 2026 Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
91st General Assembly, 2026 Session
Week Two: January 23, 2026
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

Week two has wrapped up, and it proved to be just as busy as the first. Bills are being introduced in both chambers, with dozens of sub-committee meetings and full committees starting to advance bills for floor debate. The House held debates on the floor, moving their Carbon Capture Pipeline/Eminent Domain bill forward and sending it to the Senate for review. Legislative activity is happening at a quicker pace compared to past sessions, which is crucial to keep adjournment on track. Both chambers are addressing major issues, and early progress will help them move on to other key policies and budget bills, especially vital this year as revenue forecasts demand tough decisions.

The Senate introduced SSB-3023 which is the IDOT Omnibus bill. Division II of this bill was amended in committee adding our priority language which will change vehicle accident report language, raising the reporting threshold from \$1,500 to \$5,000 of accident damage. In addition, reports to the IDOT will now be filed electronically. The new bill number is SF-2088.

The House introduced their property tax reform bill this week, HSB-596, outlining the caucus priorities. As with all issues this legislation will have to find compromises with the Senates bill if there is any chance of making it to the Governor's desk. Here is a summary of House bill:

- Imposes a 102% annual cap on aggregate property tax revenue growth for most local governments, excluding new valuation and debt service levies, effective for FY 2027 and beyond.
- Creates a new residential property tax exemption (up to \$25,000 in taxable value per property), beginning with assessment year 2026, but excludes school district levies from this exemption.
- Requires property tax notices to be clearer, more detailed, and provided to all taxpayers by mail, including disclosures about all special taxing districts; mandates specific content and plain language.

- Eliminates the ability of local governments to exceed levy caps via state board appeals for the new 102% limitation.
- Expands councils of government duties to include assistance with consolidation, sharing, or regionalization of local government services.
- Mandates that, effective July 1, 2026, all city and county general obligation bonds (for both 'essential' and 'general' purposes) must be approved by voters at 60% threshold—removes administrative approval and petition/referendum options.
- Applies similar voter-approval bond requirements to school districts for bonds payable from Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) funds issued on/after July 1, 2026.
- Removes statutory language allowing certain bonded indebtedness to proceed without election or through petition-triggered referenda; ensures direct voter approval is required in all major cases.

One final note. The ISPA Legislative Breakfast will be held on January 29th from 7:30-9:00 AM. This event will take place in the Legislative Dining room in the basement of the Capitol. Please reach out to your local legislators inviting them to this event along with the time and location. Look forward to seeing you all next week.

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