

**The 2026 Iowa Legislative Report**  
**Iowa State Police Association**  
**91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, 2026 Session**  
**Week Five: February 13, 2026**  
**Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists**

Week five marked the conclusion of another productive week at the State House. Similar to the previous week, both Chambers advanced numerous bills through subcommittees and full committees in preparation for the upcoming first funnel deadline. This week, a total of 259 subcommittee meetings were scheduled, alongside 423 bills slated for consideration in full committee. While certain bills were removed from the schedule for various reasons, the numbers reflect the substantial legislative activity witnessed during this period.

One of our priority bills was moved through subcommittee in the House this week. HSB-716, Waiver of Resident Tuition at Community Colleges for Dependents of First Responders, was passed unanimously and is now eligible for full committee consideration. This bill creates the 'Iowa First Responder Dependent Education Act', requiring Iowa community colleges to provide resident tuition waivers for eligible dependents of first responders (law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical care providers). Eligible dependents must meet admission requirements, enroll in a qualifying program, and verify their parent's or guardian's active first responder status. The waiver covers tuition remaining after other applicable grants and scholarships. Recipients must remain Iowa residents for at least five years after graduation, or else repay a prorated amount, with exceptions for death, disability, or good cause. The bill mandates compliance by political subdivisions and outlines procedures for monitoring and repayment. We expect this bill to be considered in the full House Public Safety Committee next week and ultimately clearing the first funnel deadline. IPOA, the Professional Fire Fighters and the Sheriff's and Deputies all spoke in favor of this bill at the House subcommittee hearing.

We now have two License Plate Reader (LPR) bills active in the Legislature. HF-2161, passed subcommittee, and HSB-723 which had a subcommittee meeting scheduled for Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> but was cancelled. No meeting has been scheduled as of the date of this newsletter. Below is a comparison of the two bills:

### **Similar or Overlapping Provisions**

1. **Limits on Data Retention:** Both bills seek to limit the time license plate data may be retained (HSB723: 72 hours; HF2161: access after 24 hours is restricted).

2. **Access Controls:** Only certain legal bases allow further retention/access (warrant, subpoena, urgent law enforcement needs, owner consent, stolen vehicle, Amber Alert).
3. **Severe Restrictions on Data Sharing:** Both prohibit dissemination of ALPR data to non-governmental or out-of-state third parties, with narrow exceptions.
4. **Law Enforcement Exceptions:** Both bills allow exceptions for urgent, specific law enforcement circumstances.
5. **Emphasis on Privacy:** Each bill stresses the need to protect individuals' privacy and prevent misuse of ALPR-derived information.

## Different Legislative Approaches

1. **HSB723 (State Intelligence & Data Security Focus):**
  1. Treats ALPR data as part of broader "intelligence data."
  2. Focuses on controlled sharing, privacy, and ensuring that collection/sharing do not outpace the legal or ethical frameworks.
  3. Explicitly targets transparency and accountability for vendor/agency relationships.
2. **HF2161 (Operational Restrictions & Civil Liberties Focus):**
  1. Mandates local democratic approval for ALPR adoption.
  2. Targets potential civil liberties issues (bans facial recognition, protects religious sites).
  3. Creates a deterrence framework with misdemeanor/aggravated misdemeanor penalties for misuse.

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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