

The 2025 Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
91st General Assembly, 2025 Session
Week Ten: March 21, 2025
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

Week ten has concluded with most of the time spent debating bills on the floor. This process also involves caucus discussions, where legislators spend hours examining issues with bills to prepare them for floor debate. They work to understand areas of concern within individual bills, which may be resolved with amendments, or through discussion and debate. Legislators must agree on the bill itself and any filed amendments from both parties. These caucus sessions can be lengthy as members determine how they intend to vote on behalf of their districts.

Next week, leadership will focus on advancing priority bills before the second funnel deadline in two weeks. This week's floor debate is not limited by rule, allowing all bills in both chambers to be considered. As Appropriation and Ways & Means bills are exempt from the funnel deadlines, the focus this coming week will be on policy bills subject to the second funnel deadline.

Progress is being made on our priority bills and amendments. With numerous bills up for consideration, it is important to keep each chamber's leadership informed about priorities. The next two weeks will be crucial for refining language that will secure majority votes and survive the second funnel deadline.

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 37-9**
- **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.
- **Passed House committee**
- **Passed Senate 47-1**

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**
- **Passed House subcommittee**

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**

We have removed the bills that died in the first funnel week. Please refer to previous newsletters if you want to review those bills no longer eligible for consideration.

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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