

The 2025 Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
91st General Assembly, 2025 Session
Week Thirteen: April 11, 2025
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

As anticipated, both legislative chambers devoted the majority of week thirteen to caucus meetings and floor debates. Unexpectedly, the House and Senate concluded their sessions early this week, with most members departing on Tuesday afternoon. However, the Ways & Means and Appropriations committees remained active during their scheduled committee blocks, progressing a few, primarily non-contentious bills. This type of activity typically indicates that leadership is shifting focus towards appropriations for this session, as well as policy bills that are likely to gain support in end-of-session negotiations. Each chamber will present a list of priority bills alongside their budget targets, which will be crucial in determining which bills advance to the Governor's desk and which will not, along with the final allocation of state funds.

Another surprise with impacts on this legislative session happened today. Governor Reynolds announced that she will not seek reelection upon the end of her term. This came as a surprise for most and will certainly change the dynamics of end-of-session negotiations as well as the political landscape moving forward.

Governor Reynolds: "Today, I want to share a personal decision with you. One that was not made lightly, but comes with a full heart and a deep sense of gratitude, after a lot of thought, prayer and conversations with my family, I have decided that I will not seek re-election in 2026."

More details certainly will come to light in the coming weeks both as to the details of her decision as well as the potential replacement candidates as they step forward.

Here are the bills we are tracking this session:

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**
- **Passed Senate 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-137-Uncecided 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 committee 23-0**

HF-967-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**
- **Referred to Ways & Means committee**
 - **Passed W & M subcommittee**

HF-969-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 House 96-0**
- **Passed Senate 46-1**
- **Messaged to the Governor for her signature**

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 House 94-3**
- **Passed Senate Transportation 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 84-11**
- **Passed Senate 47-1**
- **Signed by the Governor**

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 91-2**
- **Passed Senate 47-0**
- **Signed by the Governor**

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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