

January 17, 2014

**IN THIS ISSUE**[Important Dates](#)[Legislation](#)[Committee Assignments](#)**QUICK LINKS**[Iowa Legislature](#)[AIWP](#)**2014 Legislators**

The 2014 session of the 85th Iowa General Assembly began on Monday, Jan. 13. The balance of power in the chambers remains the same, with Republicans controlling the House 53-47 and Democrats controlling the Senate 26-24.

There are two new legislators this session and one who switched chambers. Julian Garrett, R-Indianola, moved from the House to the Senate after winning a special election to fill the Senate District 13 seat left vacant by Kent Sorenson's resignation. Stan Gustafson, R-Cumming, fills Garrett's House District 25 seat. Brian Meyer, D-Des Moines, replaces former House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy for District 33; McCarthy took a position in the Iowa Attorney General's office.

The [Legislators page](#) online has bios, contact information, and photos for all legislators. Click on "Senators" or "Representatives" in the left-side menu to see a list and links to details about each person. A new filtering option lets you change the list you're viewing, to sort by party and/or chamber. [Click here for an updated list of legislators by workforce regions.](#)

**Session Outlook**

Legislative leaders say they expect this to be a relatively short session. After passing major bipartisan efforts last session, they are likely to accomplish the necessary business as efficiently as possible and adjourn to focus on elections this fall. The target adjournment date, when per-diem expense payments end, is April 22. Both parties have named building a skilled workforce as one of their top priorities this session.

**Governor's Proposals**

In his [Condition of the State](#) address and his [budget recommendations](#), Governor Terry Branstad proposed multiple workforce-related initiatives.

- » He proposes an Iowa Apprenticeship and Job Training Act with a \$1 million appropriation (according to a Governor's Office press release, this would triple funding for apprenticeships under the existing 260F worker training program).

- » He plans to introduce legislation creating a Digital and Vocational Literacy Training Program within Iowa Workforce Development, with \$1.4 million annually, “to assist individuals in developing the ability to locate, organize, understand, evaluate, and analyze information using digital technology” with training provided at locations across Iowa.
- » He proposes a Home Base Iowa Initiative to market Iowa as a place for military veterans to live after they leave service. This would be a “public-private partnership that will raise private funds to support national targeted marketing efforts to veterans.” In the Home Base Iowa Business component, businesses would pledge to hire a specific number of veterans, post jobs on the Home Base Iowa website, and become members of the Skilled Iowa program. There is also a Home Base Iowa Community. The proposal includes \$1 million for IWD to study and implement linking military occupational education, training and service to existing state licensing requirements, and \$1 million for IWD to award a grant to a nonprofit veterans service organization to market Iowa to veterans. The Governor also wants a policy granting automatic in-state tuition at community colleges for veterans, their spouses, and dependents. (The Regents universities already have this policy.)

### **Budget Links**

[Summary of Governor’s Budget Recommendations](#)

[Summary of FY 2015 Budget and Department Requests](#)

### **Important Dates**

<b>JANUARY 13</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF SESSION</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 5</b>	<b>AIWP LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST</b> 7:00-9:00 a.m. Legislative Dining Room (Ground Floor of the Capitol)
<b>FEBRUARY 21</b>	<b>FIRST FUNNEL</b> Final date for House bills to be reported out of House committees, and Senate bills out of Senate committees, to stay alive.

**MARCH 14****SECOND FUNNEL**

Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees, and House bills out of Senate committees, to stay alive.

**APRIL 22****TARGET ADJOURNMENT DATE**

(100th calendar day of session)

**Legislation**

[House File 2024](#) Provides for a task force to develop common statewide service delivery districts. Introduced, referred to State Government. Sponsored by Heartsill.

[House File 2011](#) Increases the state minimum hourly wage and to provide subsequent increases by the same percentage as the increase in federal social security benefits. Introduced, referred to Labor. Subcommittee, Forristall, Murphy, and Watts. Sponsored by Murphy, M. Smith, Mascher, T. Taylor, R. Olson, Meyer, Gaskill, Staed, Kearns, Ourth, Anderson, Thede, H. Miller, Wolfe, Dawson, Steckman, Hunter, Stutsman, Wessel-Kroeschell, Lensing, and Hanson.

[House Study Bill 512](#) Allows private employers to grant a preference in hiring and promotion to veterans and certain spouses. Proposed Committee on Veterans Affairs bill by Chairperson Alons. Subcommittee, Stanerson, Costello, and Staed.

**Committee Assignments**

[Click here](#) to view members of workforce-related committees and their corresponding workforce development region.

This update is a bi-weekly publication intended to share information and resources regarding legislative activities, events, and bills related to workforce issues in Iowa. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Stacie Bendixen at [sbendixen@sppg.com](mailto:sbendixen@sppg.com) or 515-237-0338.