

March 28, 2014

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The Iowa Apprenticeship and Job Training Act proposed by the Branstad administration, [HF 2407](#), continues to advance in the House. It changes the state's job training and apprenticeship programs by bringing the process under the Iowa Economic Development Authority, rather than going through community colleges. The [fiscal note](#) prepared by the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) summarizes the changes this bill makes to the existing program and provides background. [A Des Moines Register](#) article earlier this month explored multiple perspectives on this apprenticeship proposal. There is also a Senate version, [SF 2317](#), that continues the current process through community colleges.

All fiscal notes for bills are posted on the [LSA Publications](#) webpage of the Legislature's website. These can be helpful in understanding the impacts of proposed legislation, as can Appropriation Bill Analyses.

The Economic Development budget bill, which includes Iowa Workforce Development funding, has been introduced as HF 2460 (see details in Legislation section).

The Legislature is expected to finish its work and adjourn in the next couple of weeks.

Federal Policy Update

Congress is setting funding priorities for the next year. [Click here](#) for information from the National Skills Coalition about asking your senator to invest in job training, and [here](#) for similar information about representatives. [NAWDP also has information](#) about reaching out to your members of Congress.

Important Dates**APRIL 22****TARGET ADJOURNMENT DATE**

(100th calendar day of session)

Legislation

[Senate File 2317](#) (Formerly [SSB 3052](#)) Relates to changes to the **job training program** and fund under Code chapter 260F and establishes an **apprenticeship program** under new Code chapter 260J, and makes appropriations. General difference from House version of Iowa Apprenticeship and Job Training Act is that the Senate version puts these job training and apprenticeship programs under the Department of Education instead of the Economic Development Authority (see HF 2407 below). Sponsored by Economic Growth. Introduced, placed on calendar. Economic Growth Committee report, approving bill. Referred to Appropriations. Subcommittee, Dotzler, Chapman, and Dvorsky.

[Senate File 2292](#) (Formerly [SF 2076](#)) Establishes an Iowa Employment Rides initiative in the Department of Transportation to provide funds to public transit systems for programs and services that provide employment transportation to Iowans. Appropriates \$1 million per year for the next three fiscal years, to be distributed on a competitive grant basis. Sponsored by Transportation. Introduced, placed on calendar. Transportation Committee report, approving bill. Referred to Appropriations. Subcommittee, Mathis, Dvorsky, and Kapucian.

[Senate File 2251](#) (Formerly [SF 2143](#)) Relates to state child care assistance program eligibility and application provisions. The Senate's original bill revises the 28-hour-per-week employment requirement to apply to a combination of employment and participation at a satisfactory level in an approved training or education program for 28 hours per week in the aggregate; amends two of the waiting list requirements that are based upon income and employment for at least 28 hours per week or participation in an educational program; and other provisions. **After it passed the Senate, the House amended the bill to narrow it to a pilot project for state child care assistance program eligibility requirements in Hamilton, Lee, Pottawattamie, and Scott counties**, in which the program's eligibility requirements based upon income and employment for at least 28 hours per week or participation in an educational program are revised for two income eligibility groups (families with income at or below

100% poverty or 101-145% poverty). The 28-hour-per-week employment requirement is revised to apply to a combination of employment and participation at a satisfactory level in an approved training or education program for 28 hours per week in the aggregate. Now the House has passed this amended bill and sent it back to the Senate.

Sponsored by Human Resources. Introduced, placed on calendar. Committee report, approving bill. [Fiscal note](#). Passed Senate, ayes 48, nays none. Messaged to House. Read first time, referred to Human Resources. Subcommittee, Heaton, Costello, and Dawson. Passed subcommittee. [Fiscal note](#). Committee report, recommending amendment and passage. Committee amendment [H-8106](#) filed and adopted. Passed House, ayes 96, nays 2. [Explanation of vote](#) from absent member. Messaged to Senate with amendment.

[Senate Study Bill 3198](#) **Governor's proposed budget bill** with FY 2015 appropriations to the Department of Cultural Affairs, Economic Development Authority, Public Employment Relations Board, and Iowa Workforce Development. Includes: \$9,179,413 from the general fund to IWD for field offices; strikes language about allocating funds to operate three satellite field offices projected to serve the most people from the offices located in Decorah, Fort Madison, Iowa City, or Webster City. \$1,627,084 from the Special Employment Security Contingency Fund and \$633,000 from interest earned on the unemployment compensation reserve fund to IWD for field offices. \$284,464 for an offender reentry program (partnership of IWD and Dept. of Corrections). \$451,458 to IWD for an employee misclassification program (to enhance efforts to investigate employers than misclassify workers).

[Senate Study Bill 3167](#) **Governor's proposed budget bill** with FY 2015 appropriations for departments including Education, Workforce Development, and Economic Development Authority. Highlights: \$5.5 million to community colleges for adult education and literacy programs; \$5 million for Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) fund; \$2 million for Gap Tuition Assistance Fund; \$1.5 million for Statewide Work-Based Learning Intermediary Network Fund; \$200,000 for a Workforce Preparation Outcome Reporting System; \$100,000

to develop a long-term sustained program to train unemployed and underemployed central lowans to advance to higher-paying jobs with full benefits. Subcommittee, Dvorsky, Chapman.

[House File 2460](#) (Formerly [HSB 683](#) and [SSB 3212](#)) **Economic/ Workforce Development budget bill.** Makes FY 2015 appropriations to the Department of Cultural Affairs, Economic Development Authority, Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Finance Authority, Public Employment Relations Board, Board of Regents and Regents institutions. Highlights:

- » Within the Economic Development Authority's appropriations: Notwithstanding other pending apprenticeship and job training program legislation, appropriates \$3 million for the job training program and \$2.75 million to the apprenticeship program.
- » \$9,179,413 from the general fund to IWD for field offices (same as governor's proposal)
 - \$150,000 of that to State Library to license an online resource that prepares people to succeed in the workplace through improving jobs skills and vocational test-taking abilities
 - At least \$1,130,602 of that for the operation of 3 satellite field offices projected by IWD to serve the most people from the offices in Decorah, Fort Madison, Iowa City, or Webster City (different from governor's proposal, which strikes this language)
- » \$1,766,084 from Special Employment Security Contingency Fund to IWD for field offices
- » \$400,000 from Unemployment Compensation Reserve Fund to IWD for field offices
- » **Total amount for IWD field offices: \$11,345,497**
- » \$358,464 for an offender reentry program to provide offenders with employment skills; IWD to partner with Department of Corrections
- » \$100,000 to IWD "to develop a long-term sustained program to train unemployed and underemployed central lowans with skills necessary to advance to higher-paying jobs with full benefits." Requires IWD to begin a Request for Proposals process by Sept. 1, 2014, and to testify upon request of the joint economic development appropriations subcommittee about the expenditure of these funds.

Sponsored by Appropriations. Introduced, placed on Appropriations calendar.

[House File 2407](#) (Formerly [HSB 541](#)) **Iowa Apprenticeship and Job Training Act.** Makes changes to the job training program and fund under Code chapter 260F and makes appropriations. General difference from Senate bill regarding job training and apprenticeship programs is that the House version puts these programs under the Economic Development Authority, while the Senate version transfers to the Department of Education. (See SF 2317 above.) Sponsored by Economic Growth. Introduced, referred to Ways and Means. Subcommittee, Baltimore, Byrnes, and Thomas. Passed subcommittee. [Fiscal note](#).

[House File 2343](#) Establishes an Iowa Employment Rides Initiative in the Department of Transportation and makes an appropriation. Sponsored by Lundby, Staed, Gaskill, Kaufmann, Kearns, Murphy, Jacoby, Ourth, Thomas, Isenhardt, Steckman, Forbes, Stutsman, Winckler, Wessel-Kroeschell, Byrnes, Moore, T. Olson, Thede, and Berry. Introduced, referred to Transportation. Subcommittee, Kaufmann, Landon, and Stutsman.

[House File 2316](#) (Formerly [HSB 613](#)) Relates to workforce services for veterans. Appropriates \$1 million to Iowa Workforce Development to fund research linking military occupational education, training, and service to existing licensing requirements in Iowa and to support additional demand for workforce development services for veterans. Also appropriates \$1 million to Iowa Workforce Development to provide a grant in that amount to a nonprofit workforce services organization administered by a state agency to pay for expenses of marketing Iowa to veterans through public-private partnerships. Sponsored by Veterans Affairs. Introduced, referred to Appropriations. Subcommittee, Worthan, Deyoe, and Running-Marquardt.

[House File 2224](#) (Formerly [HSB 615](#)) Requires reporting on certain educational credits awarded to veterans. Sponsored by Veterans Affairs. Introduced, referred to Education. Subcommittee, Stanerson, Hanson, Hanusa. Passed subcommittee. Committee report, recommending passage. Amendment [H-8045](#) filed. Referred to Veterans Affairs.

[House File 2199](#) (Formerly [HSB 601](#)) Conforms the voluntary shared work program under the state unemployment insurance law to the requirements of the federal Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. Sponsored by Labor. Introduced, placed on calendar. Fiscal note. Passed House, ayes 98, nays none. Explanation of vote. Messaged to Senate. Read first time, referred to Labor and Business Relations. Subcommittee, Brase, Anderson, and Dotzler. Committee report, recommending passage. Passed Senate, ayes 46, nays none. Reported correctly enrolled, signed by Speaker and President. Sent to and **signed by Governor**.

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 or 515-237-0338.