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## State Policy Update

It has been a busy two weeks at the Capitol as elected officials approach the first “funnel” of session. By March 6, bills must be reported out of committees in their chamber of origin in order to be eligible to continue in the legislative process. Those bills that are not passed out of committee will see no further action this year, with several exceptions. Exceptions include Appropriations bills, Ways and Means bills, government oversight bills, and bills from leadership. The second funnel, in which bills must be reported out of their chamber of origination, will occur on April 3. The same exceptions apply to the April 3 funnel as well.

The Senate and House have identical versions of a bill that would amend the financial need criteria for the gap tuition assistance program. Both bills have passed out of committee and have been placed on the respective calendars, making them eligible for debate. Senator Wilhelm and Representative Byrnes are the floor managers for their corresponding chambers, and will open, close, and guide debate in support of the bills. See Senate File 258 and House File 121 in the Legislation section below for more information.

## Federal Policy Update

The Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration has released [new guidance](#) on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). While the release of the Notices of Proposed Rulemaking will be delayed until spring 2015, goals and specific actions were identified in this latest guidance letter. It “specifically calls on state and local workforce boards to support sector strategies and career pathways” and “instructs states and local areas to develop partnerships across programs and agencies and with business, facilitate the development of sector strategies and career pathways.”

Do you want to get started on that development right away? AIWP’s 2015 Annual Conference will take place March 26-27, 2015 and will include a new workforce boards track! This track will feature a workshop training on developing meaningful sector partnerships led by the Woolsey Group. The Woolsey Group is a research and technical assistance firm that works with state and city policy leaders and local programs to better connect their educational training to the needs of industry.

To view the full conference agenda, click [here](#).

To register for the conference, click [here](#).

## Administrative Rule Update

The following rules will be reviewed by the Administrative Rules Review Committee during its next regular meeting on Friday, March 6, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 115 at the State Capitol.

### *Notice of Intended Action*

[ARC 1879C](#) - The State Board of Education proposes to amend Chapter 21, "Community Colleges" in Iowa Administrative Code. The amendments would clarify protocol for community college residency determinations for students, including veterans, and clarify permissible tuition rates. The amendments would also clarify the technical specialty component of the diploma and certificate programs as well as move the State Board of Education's Uniform Policy on Residency Status into administrative rule. Written comments are to be submitted to Jeremy Varner at the Iowa Department of Education by March 10, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. A public hearing will be held on March 10, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the State Board Room at the Grimes State Office Building.

### *Adopted and Filed*

[ARC 1870C](#) - The Iowa College Student Aid Commission rescinds Chapter 10, "Federal Family Education Loan Programs," Chapter 11, "State of Iowa Scholarship Program," Chapter 15, "Iowa Guaranteed Loan Payment Program," and Chapter 19, "Accelerated Career Education Grant Program" in Iowa Administrative Code. Chapter 10 concerns a program no longer administered by the Commission; Chapter 11 provides rules for a program that has not been funded since FY 2005; Chapters 15 and 19 provides rules for programs that were rescinded as a result of changes to the Iowa Code under [2014 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2257](#). The amendment is adopted and will become effective March 25, 2015.

[ARC 1871C](#) - The Iowa College Student Aid Commission amends Chapter 23, "Skilled Workforce Shortage Tuition Grant Program," in Iowa Administrative Code. The amendment clarifies the definition of "financial need" under the program. The amendment is adopted and will become effective March 25, 2015.

[ARC 1875C](#) - The State Board of Education amended Chapter 25, "Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program," in the Iowa Administrative Code. Chapter 25 revisions will incorporate the changes made to programs in [2013 Iowa Acts, House File 604](#). These include the addition of pathway navigators and regional industry sector partnerships; an increase from 200 percent of the federal poverty level to 250 percent of the federal poverty level under target populations and applicants for tuition assistance; and the addition of staff support services under eligible costs. The amendments are adopted and will become effective on March 25, 2015.

## Important Dates

- March 6**      **First Funnel**  
Final date for House bills to be reported out of House committees, and Senate bills out of Senate committees, to stay alive.
- April 3**      **Second Funnel**  
Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees, and House bills out of Senate committees, to stay alive.
- May 1**      **Target Adjournment Date**  
110th calendar day of the session and the date per-diem expenses will end.

## Legislation

[Senate File 270](#) (successor to [Senate File 39](#)) - Amends that an employer the has burden to establish that a deduction from employees' wages are lawful, and amends the burdens of the employer with regards to notification by workforce development, method used to calculate wages, and maintaining proper payroll records. Sponsored by Labor and Business Relations Committee. Passed Senate and referred to House Labor Committee; assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Hunter, and Watts. [House File 73](#) is the companion bill. House sponsors are Hunter, Kelley, Staed, McConkey, Hanson, Gaskill, Kearns, T. Taylor, Bennett, Anderson, Abdul-Samad, Mascher, Wessel-Kroeschell, Oldson, and Steckman. Assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, T. Taylor, and Watts.

[Senate File 269](#) (successor to [Senate Study Bill 1151](#)) - Would increase the state minimum hourly wage to \$8.00 as of July 1, 2015 and to \$8.75 as of July 1, 2016. Sponsored by Labor and Business Relations Committee. Passed Senate and referred to House Labor Committee; assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Hunter, and Watts.

[Senate File 258](#) (successor to [Senate Study Bill 1056](#)) and [House File 121](#) (successor to [House Study Bill 12](#)) - Amends the financial need criteria for the gap tuition assistance program. Would give first priority to persons earning incomes between 150 and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, would give second priority to persons earning incomes below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and states that a person who is eligible for WIA or WIOA is ineligible for tuition assistance unless the funds have been fully expended by a workforce region. Sponsored by Education Committees. Placed on Senate calendar with Wilhelm as floor manager and placed on House calendar with Byrnes as floor manager.

[Senate File 234](#) (successor to [Senate File 110](#)) - Would establish an Iowa employment rides initiative and related fund in the economic development authority. Sponsored by Economic Growth Committee. Passed Senate with Sen. Mathis as floor manager and referred to House Transportation Committee.

[Senate File 182](#) - Would spread out all the Iowa opportunity scholarship payments a qualified student may receive while enrolled in an eligible four-year post-secondary institution. Sponsored by Sinclair. Referred to Education Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Quirnbach, Dvorsky, and Sinclair.

[Senate File 144](#) and [House File 354](#) - Would establish a refugee family support services pilot program and makes appropriations. It would increase the amount transferred to DHS from an appropriation within the Iowa Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund to the Department of Education for an organization to provide resources and support services for international refugees for FY 2014-2015. Sponsored by Sen. Petersen and Representatives Anderson, Hunter, Oldson, Ourth, Staed, Gaskill, Smith, and McConkey. Referred to Senate Human Resources Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Dotzler, Johnson, and Taylor. Referred to House Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Heaton, Oldson, and Sexton.

[Senate File 108](#) - Would create a tax credit for apprenticeship sponsors employing an apprentice working in the construction trade at Iowa worksites. The credit would be available against the individual and corporate income tax for a portion of the wages paid to apprenticeships in the construction trade trained through an apprenticeship program. Sponsored by Dotzler. Referred to Economic Growth Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Dotzler, Chelgren, and Taylor.

[Senate File 74](#) - Would amend the state child care assistance program eligibility and waiting list guidelines by giving eligible families with a special needs child wait list priority over eligible families who are employed or participating in a training or education program, and would increase the income eligibility from 145 percent of the federal poverty level to 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Sponsored by Quirnbach. Referred to Human Resources Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Bolkom, Dotzler, and Garrett.

[Senate Study Bill 1239](#) - Study bill relating to statewide assessments of student progress utilizing core academic indicators. Provides for the July 1, 2016, repeal of a provision requiring that the Iowa assessments be used to measure student progress toward college and career readiness. Sponsored by Education Committee. Assigned to subcommittee with Quirnbach, Dvorsky, Hart, Sinclair, and Schultz.

[Senate Study Bill 1236](#) - Study bill for an act relating to school attendance requirements and school attendance support programs and funding, and including applicability provisions. This would add alternative programs for secondary school pupils and programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention to a provision that establishes supplementary weighting for programs serving at-risk pupils and alternative school pupils in secondary schools. It also expands definitions of returning dropouts and potential dropouts for program plans, budgets, funding usage, and supplemental amounts purposes. It also expands the definition of "potential dropouts" to include children

toward whom harassment or bullying is directed and adds harassment and bullying prevention programs, training, and initiatives to the list of appropriate uses of funding. Sponsored by Education Committee. Assigned to subcommittee with Quirnbach, Hogg, and Johnson.

[Senate Study Bill 1229](#) - Study bill relating to the obligations of a child in being eligible for a postsecondary education subsidy. Sponsored by Judiciary Committee. Assigned to subcommittee with Sodders, Hogg, and Shipley.

[Senate Study Bill 1138](#) - Would raise the maximum compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18. Sponsored by Education Committee. Assigned to subcommittee with Quirnbach, Dvorsky, and Schultz.

[Senate Study Bill 1114](#) and [House Study Bill 136](#) - **Governor's Bill. Center for Human Capital Enrichment Plan.** Proposes the establishment of a human capital enrichment advisory council and operations teams with the purpose of implementing better alignment of education, workforce, and economic development policies through the collaboration of representatives from the public and private sectors. Referred to Economic Growth Committees. Assigned to Senate subcommittee with Bisignano, Sodders, and Anderson. Passed House subcommittee with Deyoe, Isenhardt, and Jorgensen.

[Senate Study Bill 1100](#) - Proposes expanding the definitions of returning dropouts and potential dropouts for purposes of prevention programs and services. Proposed Education Committee bill. Subcommittee reassigned to Quirnbach, Hogg, and Johnson (removed Wilhelm and Sinclair).

[Senate Study Bill 1053](#) and [House Study Bill 10](#) - Would amend the duties of the College Student Aid Commission, including eliminating provisions requiring the Commission to develop and implement a program to assist criminal offenders in applying for higher education assistance. Proposed College Student Aid Commission bill. In Education. Assigned to Senate subcommittee with Quirnbach, Dvorsky, and Sinclair. Passed House subcommittee with Forristall, Stanerson, and Winckler.

[House File 421](#) (successor to [House File 215](#)) - Would expand the qualifications required to teach as a community college instructor in the subject area of career and technical education. Sponsored by Education Committee. Placed on House calendar with Rep. Byrnes as floor manager.

[House File 412](#) - Would require certain employers to provide leave for school conferences and classroom activities, providing penalties, and including applicability provisions. Sponsored by Berry, Staed, Ourth, Steckman, Thede, Hunter, T. Taylor, H. Miller, Stutsman, Kearns, Anderson, Beringer, Gaskill, Kressig, Winckler, Lensing, Wolfe, Bennett, Wessel-Kroeschell, and Kelly. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Jorgensen, Forristall, and Steckman.

[House File 346](#) (successor to [House Study Bill 61](#)) and [Senate Study Bill 1074](#) - Would make changes relating to at-risk programs, alternative programs and alternative schools, and returning dropout and dropout prevention programs and funding for the schools and programs. Sponsored by Education Committees. Placed on House calendar with Rep. Dolecheck as floor manager. Assigned to Senate subcommittee with Quirnbach, Hogg, and Johnson.

[House File 242](#) - Would require community colleges and regents universities to review the sex offender registry, child abuse registry, or dependent adult abuse regarding an instructor or prospective instructor for a course in which one or more high school students are or likely will be enrolled under the senior year plus program, and in which the instructor will have personal contact with such students. Sponsored by Mascher. Referred to Education committee and assigned to subcommittee with Fry, Mascher, and Mommsen.

[House File 241](#) - Would raise the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 and includes authorization of the DOT to reinstate a license upon receipt of proof of high school graduation from a person whose intermediate or full driver's license was suspended or revoked because the person was truant. Sponsored by Mascher. Referred to Education Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Highfill, Mascher, and Stanerson.

[House File 240](#) - Would establish maximum full-time teaching loads for community college career and technical course instructors. Sponsored by Byrnes. Referred to Education Committee. Passed subcommittee with Byrnes, Cohoon, and Koester.

[House File 177](#) - Relates to state child care assistance program eligibility and waiting list guidelines. Would increase the waiting list income eligibility from 145 percent of the federal poverty level to 185 percent of the federal poverty level. Sponsored by Mascher. Referred to Human Resources Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Fry, Stanerson, and Winckler.

[House File 141](#) - Would mandate drug testing of applicants for and certain recipients of assistance under the family investment program. Sponsored by Wills, Klein, Baudler, Watts, Jones, Branhagen, Holt, Heartsill, Fisher, Salmon, Nunn, and Kooiker. Referred to Human Resources Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Heaton, Abdul-Samad, and Wills.

[House File 132](#) - Relating to school district funding for at risk-pupils and dropout prevention programs. Sponsored by Steckman. Referred to Education Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Dolecheck, Mommsen, and Steckman.

[House File 75](#) - Would direct the board of directors of a community college and the State Board of Regents to adopt policies relating to an additional classification of students for purposes of determining tuition and fees that provide equal opportunity for granting resident status to certain individuals. Sponsored by Hunter, Kelly, Staed, Hall, Kearns, T.

Taylor, Smith, Bennett, Lensing, Anderson, Abdul-Samad, Winckler, Mascher, Wessel-Kroeschell, Oldson, and Steckman. Referred to Education Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Highfill, Brown-Powers, and Fry.

[House File 72](#) - Proposes increasing penalties for employers willfully misclassifying employees for unemployment compensation contribution purposes. Sponsored by Hunter, Kelley, Staed, McConkey, Hall, Hanson, Gaskill, Kearns, T. Taylor, Smith, Anderson, Abdul-Samad, Mascher, Wessel-Kroeschell, Oldson, Prichard, and Steckman. Referred to Labor and assigned to subcommittee with Jorgensen, Forristall, and Kearns.

[House File 71](#) - Proposes an increase to the state minimum hourly wage and would provide subsequent increases by the same percentage as the increase in federal social security benefits. Sponsored by Hunter, Kelley, Staed, McConkey, Gaskill, Kearns, T. Taylor, Smith, Lensing, Anderson, Abdul-Samad, Winckler, Mascher, Wessel-Kroeschell, Oldson, Dawson, and Steckman. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Hunter, and Watts. Rule 60 (withdraw the bill from the committee and place on the calendar) was invoked and withdrawn by Hunter.

[House File 63](#) - Would direct the College Student Aid Commission, in collaboration with the Board of Regents, to commission an independent study of student debt at Iowa's public postsecondary institutions and the impact of student debt on Iowa's citizens and economy. Sponsored by Wessel-Kroeschell. Referred to Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Dolecheck, Stutsman, and R. Taylor.

[House File 46](#) - Proposes that an individual has a right to engage in lawful occupation free from any substantial burden imposed by an occupational regulation unless the government demonstrates a compelling interest. Sponsored by Pettengill. Referred to State Government and assigned to subcommittee with Highfill, Branham, and T. Taylor.

[House File 41](#) - Would require employers to provide an employee with meal and rest periods. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Jorgensen, Forristall, and Hunter.

[House File 40](#) - Proposes various modifications to Code chapter 94A, which provides for regulation of employment agencies in this state by the labor commissioner. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Sheets, and Steckman.

[House File 39](#) - Proposes a study of the economic, fiscal, and social impact of the living wage in Iowa. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Running-Marquardt, and Sheets.

House File 36 - Would create a worker shortage loan forgiveness program to be administered by the College Student Aid Commission. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Education Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Highfill, Staed, and Stanerson.



[House File 22](#) - Would require certain weekly workers' compensation benefits to be calculated by including an employee's overtime and premium pay, and to include an annual cost-of-living adjustment. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Sheets, Kooiker, and McConkey.

[House File 20](#) - Would prohibit employment discrimination based on an individual's status as unemployed. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Fry, Gassman, and Taylor.

[House File 19](#) - Proposes that paid time off is added to the definition of "wages" and employer must pay all earned wages to an employee that is suspended or terminated, upon request. Additionally, employers shall not adopt a policy or practice to deny payment for paid time off. Sponsored by Hunter. Referred to Labor Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Watts, Holt, and Kearns.

[House Study Bill 177](#) - **Governor's Bill.** A study bill for appropriating federal funds made available from federal block grants and other nonstate sources, allocating portions of federal block grants, and providing procedures if federal funds are more or less than anticipated or if federal block grants are more or less than anticipated. In Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Rizer, Rogers, and Running-Marquardt.

[House Study Bill 59](#) - Would allow for regents universities and private institutions to participate in the concurrent enrollment program, allows school districts to receive supplementary weighting under the concurrent enrollment program and the senior year plus program for sending resident students to eligible postsecondary institutions for college-level courses. Proposed Education Committee bill. Passed subcommittee with Highfill, Fry, and Winckler.

## 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 Natalie Koerber at [nkoerber@sppg.com](mailto:nkoerber@sppg.com) or 515-237-0338.