

July 17, 2015

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## State Policy Update

Governor Branstad signed the Economic Development Appropriations bill ([Senate File 499](#)) and utilized his item-veto authority to maintain the status quo on state employee classifications. More detail on this legislation in regards to the areas that AIWP follows can be found below in the "Legislation" section. Click [here](#) to view his veto message. The LSA's analysis on the enacted language can be found [here](#).

The Education Appropriations bill ([House File 658](#)) was signed into law with no item-vetoes. More detail on this legislation in regards to the areas that AIWP follows can be found below in the "Legislation" section.

## Federal Policy Update

## Federal Budget

The Senate Appropriations Committee has approved their FY16 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) appropriations bill ([S.1695](#)) and it has been placed on the Senate Calendar. The bill would reduce funding for WIOA programs by almost 10 percent, in addition to several other funding cuts to education and training programs.

The House Labor-HHS appropriations bill ([H.R.3020](#)) has been placed on the Union Calendar. The House bill would provide level funding for WIOA programs, includes \$3.2 million for WIOA technical assistance, increases the governor's reserve to 11% (up from 10% in 2015), but would also reduce overall funding for the Department of Labor (DOL) by \$196 million.

FY16 begins October 1, 2015, so Congress must pass a budget by September 30 to fund the government. The National Skills Coalition's analyses for both appropriations bills are available [here](#) and [here](#).

New Legislation Introduced to Enact *America's College Promise*

Both the House and Senate have introduced legislation to enact President Obama's proposal to offer two years of community college tuition-free for qualifying students. Identical versions were introduced in the Senate ([S.1716](#)) and House ([H.R.2962](#)) by Sen. Tammy Baldwin (WI), Sen. Cory Booker (NJ), Sen. Sherrod Brown (OH), and by Rep. Robert Scott (VA-3). The legislation would establish a federal grant program for states and Indian tribes to apply for funding up to 75 percent of in-state, public tuition for eligible students pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree or training program for a postsecondary credential. The National Skills Coalition provides greater detail [here](#).

## Webinar Opportunity: 2015 State Policy Legislative Round-Up

The National Skills Coalition will be hosting a webinar to provide an overview and expert analysis on state legislative actions from 2015. The speakers are:

- » Bryan Wilson, State Policy Director, National Skills Coalition
- » Brooke DeRenzis, Senior State Policy Analyst, National Skills Coalition
- » Elizabeth Creamer, Advisor for Workforce Development Secretary of Commerce and Trade Office of Governor Terence R. McAuliffe
- » Andrea Ferstan, Director of Education and Jobs Greater Twin Cities United Way

The webinar will occur Tuesday, July 28 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m CT. Register for the webinar [here](#).

### Important Dates

#### May 1st

Target adjournment date (110th calendar day of session).

#### June 5th

Session adjournment

#### July 2nd

Governor completed action on bills

### Legislation

**Senate File 499** (successor to [SSB1281](#)) - **Economic Development Appropriations bill**. Funds the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), Board of Regents (BOR), and Regents institutions. Highlights with conference committee report updates:

- » Funds the **Workforce Development Fund** at \$6 million. \$3 million would be allocated to both the **Apprenticeship Program** and the **Job Training Program** within IEDA. This would be a \$250,000 increase in the Apprenticeship Program funding for Estimated FY 2015.
- » **Iowa Employment Rides Initiative: *New program and fund***. Establishes the Iowa Employment Rides Initiative at the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Iowa Rides Fund in the State Treasury. Enables the DOT to award grants up to \$150,000 to various public transit systems with at least a dollar-for-dollar matching requirement. Requires IEDA to make a new transfer of \$100,000 to DOT deposit in the Iowa Rides Fund.
- » **High Quality Jobs Program**: Maintains the current funding level of \$16.9 million to IEDA (with no more than \$1 million for the Main Street Iowa Program). From the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.
- » **Total amount for IWD Field Office Operations: \$11,195,497**
  - \$9,179,413 from the general fund to IWD for field offices.
    - Allocates \$150,000 to the State Library for licensing the Learning Express Library.

- IWD would be required to allocate at least \$1,130,602 to the operation of three satellite field offices projected by IWD to serve the most people from the offices in Decorah, Fort Madison, Iowa City, and Webster City.
  - \$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.
- » IWD shall require a unique identification login for all users of workforce development centers operated through electronic means.
- » \$358,464 for the **Offender Reentry Program** to provide offenders with employment skills; IWD to partner with Department of Corrections to provide staff.
- » \$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 issue a request for proposal by Sept. 1, 2015, and to testify upon request of the joint economic development appropriations subcommittee about the expenditure of these funds. Appropriated from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund.

Sponsored by Senate Appropriations Committee and passed Senate (26-24). Passed House (57-42) with amendment [S-3159](#). Senate refused to concur with amendment, House insisted. Conference committee members have been appointed: Representatives Deyoe, Baxter, Hanusa, Running-Marquardt, Finkenauer; Senators Dotzler, Bisignano, Hart, Schneider, and Smith. Conference committee report filed and adopted in House and Senate, which included that the House recedes from its amendment [S-3159](#). Passed Senate, ayes 27, nays 23. Passed House, ayes 83, nays 8. [Item-vetoed](#); **signed by Governor on July 2.**

[House File 658](#) - **Education Appropriations bill.** Funds the College Student Aid Commission, Department for the Blind, Department of Education, and State Board of Regents. Highlights:

- » Appropriates \$40.3 million from the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF) for FY 2016. This is no change compared to estimated FY 2015.
- » Vocational Technical Tuition Grant: \$2.25 million to College Aid Commission. No change compared to estimated FY 2015.
- » **Vocational Education to Secondary Schools:** \$2.63 million to Department of Education. No change compared to estimated FY 2015.
- » **Jobs for America’s Grads:** Both House and Senate proposed \$700,000, matching estimated FY 2015 appropriation.
- » Early Literacy Warning System: *New appropriation* for FY2016 \$2 million.
- » **High Need Schools:** *New appropriation* of \$10 to Department of Education for High Needs Schools in FY17.
- » Iowa Tuition Grant (Nonprofit): Matches current funding level at \$48.41 million.

- » Iowa Tuition Grant (For-Profit): Matches current funding level at \$1.97 million.
- » Community Colleges General Aid: Matches current funding level at \$201.27 million.
- » **Gap Tuition Assistance Program:** Changes statute regarding eligibility and priority status, including under WIOA. This is almost identical to the language proposed in [SF258](#). The only difference is that [SF258](#) included approved applicants for SNAP as meeting the financial need requirements for this program.
- » Iowa Tuition Grant: Increases the cap on the maximum award from \$5,000 to \$6,000.
- » All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program: Changes code to permit qualified students the scholarship for up to two academic years of undergraduate study or its equivalent.

Sponsored by House Appropriations Committee. Passed House (55-42) with amendments [H-1276](#), [H-1277](#), [H-1293](#), [H-1296](#), [H-1297](#), and [H-1298](#). Passed Senate (26-23) with amendment [H-1339](#). House refused to concur with Senate amendment [H-1339](#). Conference committee members have been appointed: Senators Schoenjahn, Horn, Kraayenbrink, Quirnbach, and Sinclair; Representatives Dolecheck, Nunn, Forristall, Winckler, and Bearinger. Conference committee report filed and adopted in House and Senate, which included that the Senate recedes from its amendment [H-1339](#). Passed House, ayes 53, nays 39. Passed Senate, ayes 28, nays 22. **Signed by Governor on July 2.**

[House File 630](#) (successor to [House Study Bill 177](#)) and [Senate Study Bill 1262](#) - Governor's bill. Would appropriate 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. Passed unanimously by both chambers, **signed by Governor Branstad on May 15, 2015.**

[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 House Education Committee. Passed unanimously by both chambers, **signed by Governor Branstad on April 17, 2015.**

### 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.