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## State Policy Update

The second “funnel” of session occurred last week. Bills needed to be reported out of committees in the chamber from which they did **not** originate. In order to advance, the Senate bills needed to be reported out of House committees and House bills needed to be reported out of Senate committees, with exceptions for appropriations bills, ways and means bills, government oversight bills, and bills from leadership.

**Highlighted bills that advanced:**

The Iowa Employment Rides Initiative ([Senate File 234](#)) has passed the House Transportation Committee.

The Refugee Pilot Program ([Senate File 369](#) and [House File 354](#)) has been assigned to subcommittees in both chambers’ respective Appropriations Committees.

A House bill ([House File 421](#)) that proposes expanding the qualifications required to teach as a career and technical education instructor at a community college has passed both chambers and is onto the Governor.

**Bills that did not advance:**

The bills ([Senate File 258](#) and [House File 121](#)) amending the financial need criteria for gap tuition assistance did not advance.

A Senate bill that would have increased the state minimum wage to \$8.00/hour on July 1, 2015 and to \$8.75/hour on July 1, 2016 ([Senate File 269](#)) did not pass out of a subcommittee in the House Labor and Business Relations Committee.

A Senate bill ([Senate File 270](#)) relating to wage payment collection did not pass out of the House subcommittee.

A bill ([Senate File 429](#)) that would have changed the requirements for statewide assessments did not pass out of the Senate.

A bill ([Senate File 432](#)) that would amend the duties of the College Student Aid Commission did not pass out of the Senate.

A House bill ([House File 346](#)) that would have made changes to Iowa’s dropout prevention law did not pass out of a Senate Education subcommittee.

A bill that would have provided for a waiver of eligibility requirements to receive a high school equivalency diploma ([House File 559](#)) did not pass out of committee.

The Governor’s proposed Capital Enrichment Advisory Plan ([House File 590](#)) did not pass out of the House Economic Growth Committee.

More information regarding bills that are still active can be found in the “[Legislation](#)” section of this update.

## Federal Policy Update

### WIOA Implementation

Last week, the Departments of Labor (DOL) and Education (ED) posted the five notices of proposed rulemaking in regards to WIOA implementation. The proposed rules cover jointly administered activities, DOL-administered WIOA provisions, Adult Education and Family Literacy, and the Rehabilitation Act. Read the initial analysis provided by National Skills Coalition (NSC) [here](#).

NSC also will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, April 22 at 12:00 p.m. to cover key provisions in the five notices of proposed rulemaking. They will discuss how the regulations address sector partnerships, career pathways, cross-program data and measurement, and job-driven investment. [Register here](#).

### FY16 Budget

The budget discussions at the federal level continue. Both the House and Senate have passed budget resolutions, in addition to [President Obama's budget request](#). The House budget resolution calls for \$759B in cuts to non-defense discretionary spending, freezing Pell awards, consolidating job training programs, and block-granting SNAP. The Senate budget resolution calls for \$236B cuts in non-defense discretionary spending, as well as cuts to Pell awards and SNAP.

The House and Senate budgets are non-binding, but they are used in the reconciliation process to negotiate a budget conference report. After the two budgets are reconciled into one concurrent budget resolution, it will move on to Appropriations Committees.

## Important Dates

### May 1

#### Target Adjournment Date

110th calendar day of the session and the date per-diem expenses will end.

## Legislation

[Senate File 369](#) (successor to [Senate File 144](#)) and [House File 354](#) - Would establish a refugee family support services pilot program and make 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 to international refugees for FY 2014-2015. Sponsored by Senator Petersen and Representatives Anderson, Hunter, Oldson, Ourth, Staed, Gaskill, Smith, and McConkey. Passed Senate Human Resources Committee with amendment, referred to Senate Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Ragan, Dvorsky, and Segebart. Referred to House Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Heaton, Oldson, and Sexton.

**[Senate File 344](#)** (successor to [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 Senator Dotzler. Passed Senate Economic Growth Committee; referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Dotzler, Anderson, and Bolckcom. Fiscal note published.

**[Senate File 234](#)** (successor to [Senate File 110](#)) - Would establish the Iowa Employment Rides Initiative and related fund within Economic Development Authority. Sponsored by Senate Economic Growth Committee. Passed Senate with amendment and passed House Transportation Committee.

**[Senate File 111](#)** - Increases the amount of the tuition tax credit from 25 percent of the first \$1,000 paid for tuition and textbooks to 50 percent of the first \$1,000 paid. Sponsored by Senator Zaun. Companion bill [House File 298](#) did not pass first funnel. In Senate Ways & Means subcommittee with Bolckcom, Feenstra, and Quirmbach.

**[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 both House and Senate unanimously, onto the Governor for signature.

**[House File 248](#)** - Would appropriate funds for the state budget contingent upon the failure to include certain appropriations in bills passed by the general assembly by certain dates. Sponsored by Representatives Hein, Klein, Kaufmann, Grassley, Wills, Cownie, Maxwell, Paustian, Drake, Deyoe, Landon, and Hagenow. Referred to House Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Rizer, Rogers, and T. Taylor.

**[House File 191](#)** - Would provide a state individual income tax credit equal to 25 percent of the federal American opportunity tax credit provided in section 25a(i) of the Internal Revenue Code. Sponsored by Representative Wessel-Kroeschell. Referred to Ways & Means Committee.

**[House File 190](#)** - Would allow taxpayers to deduct from the computation of net income for purposes of the individual income tax the qualified tuition and related expenses of postsecondary education to the extent not otherwise deductible under federal or state law, and without amount or income limitations. Sponsored by Wessel-Kroeschell. Referred to House Ways & Means Committee.

**[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 Representative Wessel-Kroeschell. Referred to House Appropriations Committee and assigned to subcommittee with Dolecheck, Stutsman, and R. Taylor.

**[Senate Study Bill 1262](#) and [House File 630](#) (successor to [House Study Bill 177](#)) - **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 House Appropriations subcommittee with new number, and placed on Appropriations calendar. In Senate Appropriations subcommittee with Ragan, Bolckom, and Garrett.**

**[Senate Study Bill 1178](#) and [House Study Bill 236](#) - **Governor's bill.** Would create a student debt reduction organization tax credit available against the individual and corporate income tax, providing for the exclusion of student debt reduction grants from the individual income tax, and including retroactive and other applicability provisions. In House Ways & Means and assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Baltimore, and Setckman. In Senate Ways & Means and assigned to subcommittee with Bolckom, Feenstra, and McCoy.**

### 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.