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Federal Policy Update

Angie Arthur, Region 11, attended the National Skills Coalition's 2015 Skills Summit in Washington D.C. this week on behalf of AIWP and the Central Iowa Workforce Investment Board. She met personally with the offices of Sen. Grassley, Rep. Young, Rep. Loeb sack, and Doug Hoelscher, the Director of the Iowa Office of State-Federal Relations. In these meetings, Arthur advocated for fully funding adult education, training, and PELL grants. Materials and resources from the 2015 Skills Summit can be found [here](#).

The National Skills Coalition has published an in-depth analysis of President Obama's 2016 Budget. The budget is focused on "middle-class economics", which includes initiatives to increase access to middle-skill credentials. National Skills Coalition CEO Andy Van Kleunen praised the budget, stating, "This is a robust, jobs-driven budget that would be a game changer if implemented." The in-depth analysis can be found [here](#).

State Policy Update

On February 11th, AIWP hosted their 2015 legislative breakfast at the State Capitol in Des Moines. Forty-one stakeholders and representatives from thirteen regions across the state met with legislators to advocate for a variety workforce issues, including WIOA implementation and supporting rapid re-employment. The legislative breakfast was attended by 38 Senators and Representatives from fifteen regions.



L-R: Bob Ryan, Janet Fife-LaFrenz, Sen. Courtney (Regions 9 and 16), and Deb Dowell.



L-R: Sen. Dolecheck (regions 13 and 14), Barb Devore, and Jolene Griffith.



With Director Townsend are Cheryl Johnson, Angie Arthur, and Deb Dowell.



L-R: Pam Woolridge, Kerry Ogden, Fred Scoville, Awo Fiamor, Rep. Hall (Region 12), and Mary Ayala.

Administrative Rule Update

Rules proposed by the Economic Development Authority in regards to the Apprenticeship Training Program have been adopted and will become effective on February 25, 2015. The **Apprenticeship Training Program** was established in 2014 through [House File 2460](#) to provide up to \$3 million in training grants for apprenticeship training programs. The rules for implementation of the program were adopted by the Economic Development Authority Board on December 19, 2014. Prior to being adopted, comments were received. The comments were generally supportive and most questions concerned the formula for distribution of the funding. The rules can be found [here](#).

Amendments to Chapter 31, **Economic Development Region Initiatives** were [adopted as an emergency rule](#). These changes are minor and are adopted to address comments made by the Administrative Rules Committee during its review of [ARC 1626C](#), a more substantial amendment to Chapter 31. The changes under ARC 1626C amended the “definition of an economic development region to allow more flexibility in assembling a region; make changes to the application process; eliminate references to the repealed Grow Iowa Values Fund; and replace references to the Department with references to the Authority.” Both sets of amendments are intended to implement sections of the Iowa Code as amended by [Senate File 2359](#), among the 2014 Iowa Acts.

Special Election Update

The special election for House District 23 was held on Tuesday, February 10th to fill the seat vacated by Sen. Mark Costello. Republican David Sieck defeated his opponent, Democrat Steve Adams, with 72% of the vote. Costello won a special election in December to fill the vacant Senate District 12 seat vacated by U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst. This was the final of three special elections for the first year of the 86th General Assembly.

The 2015 list of legislators by workforce region has been updated to reflect the outcomes of the special elections, which can be found [here](#).

Skills2Compete Coalition Policy Agenda

The Iowa Skills2Compete 2015 Workforce Policy Agenda can be found [here](#). AIWP is a member of this coalition.

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 39](#) and House File 73 - Amends that employer has burden to establish deduction from employees' wages is 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. Senate sponsors are Bisignano, Bolkcom, Dotzler, Seng, Dvorsky, Hogg, Soddors, Quirmbach, Kinney, Bowman, Petersen, Wilhelm, Taylor, Horn, Dearden, Courtney, Brase, Gronstal, Jochum, Schoenjahn, and Ragan. House sponsors are Hunter, Kelley, Staed, McConkey, Hanson, Gaskill, Kearns, T. Taylor, Bennett, Anderson, Abdul-Samad, Mascher, Wessel-Kroeschell, Oldson, and Steckman. Introduced, referred to Senate's Labor and Business Relations Committee and House's Labor Committee. Senate subcommittee reassigned: Dotzler, Bertrand, and Courtney (removed Whitver). House subcommittee: Forristall, T. Taylor, and Watts.

[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. In Economic Growth. Assigned to subcommittee with Dotzler, Chelgren, and Taylor.

[Senate File 182](#) - This would spread out all the Iowa opportunity scholarship payments a qualified student may receive while enrolled in an eligible four-year postsecondary institution. Sponsored by Sinclair. In Education. Assigned to subcommittee with Quirmbach, Dvorsky, and Sinclair.

[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. Introduced, referred to Labor. Assigned to subcommittee with Watts, Holt, and Kearns.

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

[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. Introduced, referred to Labor. Assigned to subcommittee with Sheets, Kooiker, and McConkey.

[House File 36](#) - Would create a worker shortage loan forgiveness program to be administered by the College Student Aid Commission. Sponsored by Hunter. Introduced, referred to Education.

[House File 38](#) - Would require contractors to pay workers the same hourly wage plus fringe benefits for public improvements costing more than \$25,000. Allows the per-hour wage rate to be based on what is normally paid in the area by contractors for similar projects. Sponsored by Hunter. Introduced, referred to Labor. Assigned to subcommittee with Jorgensen, Forristall, and Hunter.

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

[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. Introduced, referred to Labor. Assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Sheets, and Steckman.

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

[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. Introduced, referred to State Government. Assigned to subcommittee with Highfill, Branhagen and T. Taylor.

[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. Introduced, referred to Appropriations. Assigned to subcommittee with Dolecheck, Stutsman, and R. Taylor.

[House File 71](#) - Proposes an increase 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. Introduced, referred to Labor. Assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Hunter, and Watts. Rule 60 invoked (to withdraw bill from committee and place on the calendar), withdrawn.

[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. Introduced, referred to Labor. Assigned to subcommittee with Jorgensen, Forristall, and Kearns.

[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. Introduced, referred to Education.

[House File 132](#) - Relating to school district funding for at-risk pupils and dropout prevention programs. Current code provides additional funding for school districts to develop or maintain programs for at-risk pupils, including alternative schools, through supplemental weighting. Sponsored by Steckman, referred to Education. Assigned to subcommittee with Dolecheck, Mommsen, and Steckman.

[House File 215](#) - Relating to the qualifications for community college career and technical education instructors. Would require career and technical education instructors to have a baccalaureate or graduate degree in field related to teaching area or must have special training and at least 6,000 hours of recent and relevant work experience in the occupational area. Sponsored by Byrnes. In education. Assigned to subcommittee with Byrnes, Cohoon, and Dolecheck.

[House File 240](#) - Establishment of maximum full-time teaching loads for community college career and technical course instructors. Would authorize community college career and technical course instructors to carry a full-time teaching load of generally not more than 35 credits/week. Additional teaching assignment may be added if the instructor and the community college administration mutually consent to the additional assignment and does not exceed 40 hours/week. Sponsored by Byrnes. In Education.

[House File 241](#) - Would raise the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18 and includes authorization of the department of transportation 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. In Education.

[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. In Education.

[Senate Study Bill 1053](#) and [House Study Bill 10](#) - Amends 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. Senate subcommittee: Quirnbach, Dvorsky, and Sinclair House subcommittee: Forristall, Stanerson, and Winckler. Passed House subcommittee.

[Senate Study Bill 1056](#) and [House Study Bill 12](#) - Amends one of the financial need criteria for the gap tuition assistance program, prioritizes persons earning incomes between 150 and 250 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. Proposed Department of Education bill. Passed out of Senate subcommittee; amended and passed as House Education Committee bill (amended language not available yet, but will be included in next update.)

[Senate Study Bill 1074](#) and [House Study Bill 61](#) - Makes 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. Department of Education bill. In education. House subcommittee: Dolecheck, Jorgensen, and Steckman. Senate subcommittee: Quirnbach, Hogg, and Johnson.

[Senate Study Bill 1114](#) and [House Study Bill 136](#) - **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. Proposed Governor bill. Referred to Economic Growth. Senate subcommittee: Bisignano, Soddors, and Anderson. House subcommittee: Deoyoe, 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. Assigned to subcommittee with Quirnbach, Wilhelm, and Sinclair (Hogg and Johnson were added to the subcommittee).

[Senate Study Bill 1138](#) - Raises the maximum compulsory school attendance from 16 to 18. Proposed Education Committee bill. Assigned to subcommittee with Quirmbach, Dvorsky, and Schultz.

[Senate Study Bill 1151](#) - Would increase the state minimum hourly wage to \$8.00 as of July 1, 2015 and \$8.75 as of July 1, 2016. The bill also increases the state minimum hourly wage for employees employed for less than 90 days to \$7.10 as of July 1, 2015 and \$7.85 as of July 1, 2016. Proposed Labor and Business Relations Committee bill. Assigned to subcommittee with Bisignano, Bertrand, and Dotzler.

[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. Assigned to subcommittee with Highfill, Fry, and Winckler. Passed subcommittee.

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 or 515-237-0338.