

# IOWA POLICE JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE IOWA STATE POLICE ASSOCIATION

## Legislative Update

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The 2014 session of the 85th General Assembly (second session) adjourned sine die at 8:50 a.m. on Friday, May 2, 2014. The Iowa House had adjourned a day earlier at 5:54 a.m. Final adjournment marked the 110th day of the 2014 session — 10 days beyond the date on which lawmakers stopped receiving per-diem payments to offset their expenses while serving in Des Moines and even more days past when lawmakers had hoped to adjourn. Democrats and Republicans alike convened in January talking about an early end to the session — maybe even sometime in March. Lawmakers have remained in session past the expiration of their per-diems every year since 2010.

This session was unusually busy for the Association. The *great* news is that we did not have to fight about our pension system with the cities this year. Several key members of the House and Senate put enormous time and energy into studying and comparing the pension systems. After several meetings and much deliberation, it was decided that no bill would move forward on pensions this year.

Please thank your own Senator and Representative *and* the members of the Public Retirement Systems Committee: Senators [Thomas G. Courtney](#) (D, District 44), Co-Chair, [Jeff Danielson](#) (D, District 30), [Tim L. Kapucian](#) (R, District 38), [Matt McCoy](#) (D, District 21), [Roby Smith](#) (R, District 47) and House Members [Dawn E. Pettengill](#) (R, District 75), Co-Chair, [Jack Drake](#) (R, District 21), [Vicki S. Lensing](#) (D, District 85), [Mark S. Lofgren](#) (R, District 91) and [Mary Mascher](#) (D, District 86). We have hot-linked their names so you can drop a note thanking them for their leadership on this issue. You can also find their contact information at [www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators).

We very much appreciated all the contacts you personally made to your legislators, as well — thanks for making us successful on the pension issue.

The session was notable for several other bills which have been detailed in the [weekly reports](#). Because of the lack of pension activity, there was a lot of work done on policy bills. You can find details on these bills at [www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation](http://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation).

Bills that were sent to the Governor and are awaiting signature include: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (HF 2289), Human Trafficking (SF 2311), Commitment of Sexually Violent Predators (SF 2211), Contagious Disease Transmission (SF 2297), Medical Cannabidiol (SF 2360),

Search Warrants for GPS Unite (HF 475), Mutual Aid Agreements in Times of a Disaster or Emergency (SF 2305) and Notification Requirements for a Security Breach of Personal Information (SF 2259). Also sent to the Governor were New Precursor Substances (HF 159), Minor's School License for Extracurricular Activities (SF 2228), Underage Consumption and Social Host (SF 2310), Consumer Credit Protection for Kids and Protected Consumers (HF 2368) and a Prohibitions of E-cigarettes for Minors (HF 2109).

In terms budget items, the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy received \$1million. DPS received a total of \$92.66 million, broken down as: Administration (\$4.18 million), DCI (\$13.63 million), Crime Lab (\$302,345), Narcotics Enforcement (\$6.92 million), Undercover Funds (\$109,042), Fire Marshal (\$4.59 million), State Patrol (\$61.67 million), Sick Leave (\$279,517), Fire Fighter Training (\$825,520) and Silver Alert Training (\$25,000). DHR: CJPJ (\$1.1 million). DHS/EM: Homeland Security/Emergency Management (\$2.63 million). Other Funds: DOJ Consumer Advocate (\$3.14 million). DPS: Gaming Enforcement (\$10.9 million). The appropriations bill (HF 2450) also states the intent that the State Patrol hire more troopers.

The Governor has 30 days after session to take final action (sign, veto or item veto) all bills. In our next report, we will include information on what was signed and the effective dates. If you have questions, please contact us.

It is not too early to start acquainting yourself with the legislative candidates in your area. Many legislative districts are having primary elections on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you do not know the state Senate and House candidates in your district, go to the state website: <http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/2014/primary/candlist.pdf>. If you are unsure about what legislative district you are in, go to the state website called Find Your Legislator where you can enter your address or look at the district maps: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>. If you still are not sure, please feel free to call one of us and we would be happy to help.

Many legislators are retiring and there will be several new faces in both the House and the Senate, and it is important they hear from you during their campaigns. The Association had a very successful session because many of you attended local legislative forums and established personal relationships with your legislators. Ask legislative candidates to spend a few hours on the job with you to see what it involves, or invite them to meet you for a cup of coffee to discuss their interests and yours. Make sure you know them and have contact with them this summer and fall before legislative session even begins. *All politics is local* and there is no substitute for those personal relationships in the district. Remember you are also their constituents and they are interested in your views and concerns.

In closing we want to thank the Board of Directors and the Association Members for another good year of working with all of you. We are proud to represent the Iowa State Police Association. If you have questions, please contact us.

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