

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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Appropriations

How Many Reports Does the Legislature Get Each Year?

One of the sentences frequently heard in the Iowa State Capitol towards the end of a legislative session is “Can we get a report on that?” Often that wish is granted, as new laws and budget bills contain requests for all types of reports. This leads to another question - just how many reports are required to be filed with the General Assembly each year?

The number of reports varies each year, as some requests are for a one-time review while others are ongoing. But annually, the number of reports adds up to a very large figure. In Fiscal Year 2025, 553 reports were required to be filed. That amount was down from the 591 reports in Fiscal Year 2024.

Since these reports are being produced by state agencies, one might assume that they are all properly filed with the repository of this information – the Legislative Services Agency. That’s not the case, however. Are the entities required to file reports following that requirement? In Fiscal Year 2023, agencies filed 86.1 percent (483 of 561) of the reports required that year. That’s the best year of the past five. For Fiscal Year 2025, the compliance rate had fallen to 75 percent. As of last week, 138 of the 553 of FY 2025’s required reports were still unaccounted for.

Some agencies are much better at filing their reports than others. The Board of Regents and the Department of Education have been required to file over 30 reports each year since 2021 and they have filed each and every one of them. Smaller agencies, like the State Public Defender’s Office and the Iowa PBS, also have perfect records when it comes to filing required reports. But then there are other offices and agencies who have different results. One would expect the State Auditor’s Office to be a leader in fulfilling their legal responsibility to submit their reports to the Legislature. But that is not the case.

Each year, the Auditor is required to file four reports with LSA:

- Targeted Small Business Compliance [as required by Iowa Code section 11.26]
- Municipal Compliance (audits of small communities) [as required by Code section 11.6 (11)b]
- Training and Technologies Expenditures Using Potential Reversion Money [as required by Code section 8.62]
- Audit of Iowa Workforce Development [as required by 2011 Acts, chapter 130.62]

Of these four reports, only the Targeted Small Business Compliance report has been filed with LSA in the last five years. The last time that the report on audits of smaller communities was filed was in January 2019, just as Auditor Sand was taking office. Since then, there has been no filing of how many of these audits have been completed or how much they cost. This is surprising since the State Auditor has claimed that the fee structure for his audits is insufficient.

Auditor Sand is not the only state auditor to fail to submit the audit of Iowa Workforce Development to LSA. While the Legislature mandated that audit in 2011, it has never been filed with LSA. This requirement was established in

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session law. Since there was no deadline date put in the provision, the requirement remains in effect for each year since. Maybe one year, it will be filed.

The training and technologies expenditures report is one that appears to be a problem for many in state government. This requires agencies to report to the legislature the amount of money they used for training and technology projects that would have been reverted back to the General Fund if unused. While a number of agencies are required to file the report, many have failed to submit it over the past five years. The lack of compliance may prompt a further examination of its source - Iowa Code section 8.62.

The State Auditor is not alone in having accountability issues with required reports. Since the 2019 session, the Iowa Veterans Home has been required to file with LSA a monthly expenditure report. None of these are in LSA online database of reports. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission is required to file its annual report with LSA. Since 2021, these reports have yet to be filed.

Some agencies have required reports that have not been filed due to the fact that programs are no longer operating. Several agencies are required by statute to file reports relating to the I-Jobs program, including the Iowa Finance Authority. That program is long gone, but the report requirements remain in the Code since the state will be paying off the bonds issued for that folly until the mid 2030's.

Examining the list of required reports raises another question – are they actually necessary? Some reports do provide valuable information to legislators, staff, and concerned citizens. But others have turned into busy work for agencies who could be putting their staff to better use. Of course that assumes the agencies are actually following the law and doing the report. The lack of accountability of certain agencies for failure to submit reports along the need for other reports are issues for the 2026 session.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Agriculture

IDALS--449 Century and Heritage Farm Families Honored at the 2025 Iowa State Fair

On Thursday, August 14, 2025, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issue a press announcing that Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and Iowa Farm Bureau Federation President Brent Johnson honored 449 Iowa farm families with Century or Heritage Farm designations at the 2025 Iowa State Fair. The program celebrates farms that have been owned by the same families for 100 and 150 years, respectively. This year, [246 Century Farms](#) and [203 Heritage Farms](#) were recognized during ceremonies in the historic livestock pavilion on the Iowa State Fairgrounds. To date, more than 21,000 [Century Farms](#) and 2,000 [Heritage Farms](#) have been recognized throughout Iowa. The Century Farm program began in 1976 as part of the Nation's Bicentennial Celebration. The Heritage Farm program began in 2006

To search the database of Century and Heritage Farm recipients, visit [the Department's website](#). High quality photos of the recipients will be available within one month of the ceremony on the [Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Flickr page](#).

ISU Extension & Outreach--New Report Unpacks Foreign Interest and Land Leases in Iowa Farmland

On Thursday, August 7, 2025, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach issued a press release noting that as foreign interest in U.S. farmland has grown in recent years, new research-backed insights are available in the [July](#)

[edition of Ag Decision Maker](#) for landowners hoping to stay informed on this evolving topic. The article, “[Foreign-held farmland in the United States and Iowa: scale, use, and ownership trends](#),” provides timely updates not only on foreign interest but also on ownership and lease agreements across Iowa and the U.S.

Due to Iowa’s strict regulations on corporate and foreign ownership of agricultural land, foreign-owned acreage in Iowa is minimal (less than 2%), making leases the primary form of land interest in the state. The latest findings also indicate that the majority of these leases are energy-related leases, particularly for wind turbines. This land is often still actively farmed, while energy companies lease the space for turbine infrastructure. According to the article, foreign-held agricultural land in the U.S. has grown by 2.6 million acres per year since 2017, up by about 600,000 acres annually between 2012–2017. Still, this growth is primarily tied to energy leases rather than outright land sales.

The top Iowa counties with foreign interest in 2023, in order of total foreign acres, are: Poweshiek, Dickinson, Mitchell, Washington, Page, Davis, Pocahontas, Webster, Cherokee and Taylor counties. While foreign ownership is low in Iowa due to strong legal protections, foreign leasing activity — especially for renewable energy — continues to rise.

For more information, [read the full report](#).

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Commerce

Attorney General Joins Coalition to Help Restore America’s Energy Independence and Lower Energy Prices

The following was provided by the Attorney General on August 12th:

Attorney General Brenna Bird joined a coalition of 28 attorneys general asking the Environmental Protection Agency to eliminate the harmful Biden-Harris greenhouse-gas emissions standards for power plants. The Biden-era rule jeopardizes America’s energy independence and threatens to skyrocket prices for American families.

“The Obama and Biden-Harris administrations used the EPA to try to regulate the coal industry out of existence to support climate extremism,” said Attorney General Bird. “I’m thankful the Trump Administration is taking bold action to restore America’s energy independence, and lower energy prices for Iowans.”

President Obama’s EPA tried to use aggressive emission rules to force coal-fired power plants into retirement. The Supreme Court shut him down. President Biden doubled down on trying to weaponize the Clean Air Act—and now President Trump is putting a stop to it.

“The proposed rule will restore the Clean Air Act to its proper meaning and help States secure affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible energy for everyone,” the comment letter explains.

Iowa also joined a 25-state letter supporting Administrator Zeldin’s efforts to end the Biden-era MATS rule and provide inexpensive, reliable energy for Americans.

Iowa joined the West Virginia-, Indiana-, and Kentucky-led letter, along with Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming.

Read the letter [here](#).

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Economic Growth

Small Town Businesses Receive Grants

Last week, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Board approved awards for a manufacturing expansion in Mount Pleasant and a quality of life project in Keosauqua. The board also awarded a grant for BioMADE, a U.S. Department of Defense Manufacturing Innovation Institute, to establish a bioindustrial manufacturing scale-up facility.

ContiTech—Mount Pleasant

ContiTech USA, LLC, part of a sector of the rubber and plastics manufacturer Continental AG, produces air spring and anti-vibration systems, coated fabrics, conveyer and drive belts, hoses, and more. The company plans to construct a state-of-the-art compounding center, which includes production, warehouse, and office space. The project represents a \$65 million capital investment and is expected to create 50 jobs incented at a qualifying wage of \$21.50 per hour. The board awarded the company a \$1 million forgivable loan and tax benefits through the High Quality Jobs (HQP) program.

Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)—Keosauqua

The City of Keosauqua and Engage Keosauqua, Inc. were awarded \$144,000 through the CAT program for the creation of a new sports area to revitalize recreation opportunities in the community. The project will construct courts for tennis, pickleball, basketball, and bocce ball, offering new amenities for residents and visitors. The total project cost is \$481,761.

BioMADE—Boone

The Iowa State University Research Park, in partnership with Iowa State University (ISU) and BioMADE, a U.S. Department of Defense Manufacturing Innovation Institute, was awarded a \$10 million grant to advance biomanufacturing and enhance Iowa crop values with the establishment of a multi-user fermentation scale-up facility at ISU's BioCentury Research Farm in Boone. Lack of access to scale-up fermentation facilities in the country limits the advancement of fermentation-based technologies. The facility and its hands-on training and support will enable the commercialization of biomanufactured products, create demand for Iowa feedstocks, and attract established companies and startups much earlier in their development cycle.

(Contact: Kristi Kiouss 2-5290)

Education

Iowa Department of Education Seeks Feedback

Members and constituents have the opportunity to provide necessary feedback to the Department in two ways. The first, apply to be on the Social Studies Standards Review Committee and make sure that Iowa's standards are truly the best, follow the specifics and intent of House File 2545 passed in 2024 and prevent any more left-wing political slant into any curriculum standards. The second, provide feedback on Iowa's Unified Allocation Plan. House Republicans want to ensure that all interested parties, not just education insiders and liberal political activists, are submitting their input so the feedback is well-rounded and fair.

Department Seeks Members for Social Studies Standards Review Committee

The Iowa Department of Education is now accepting applications from individuals who are interested in serving on the final review committee for the state's social studies standards. Educators, content specialists, administrators, family

members, industry and community partners and representatives from higher education institutions are encouraged to apply.

The committee is responsible for reviewing public comments and making final recommendations that will help determine Iowa's social studies standards. Iowa's standards for social studies outline what students must learn to be prepared for success as they progress each year and after high school.

State law requires an ongoing review of the state's academic standards to ensure that current content aligns with best practices.

Two committee meetings will be held at the Grimes State Office Building in Des Moines on Oct. 14 and Oct. 30. A commitment to attend all meetings is required to participate on the committee.

A final proposal on the social studies standards will be presented to the State Board of Education for consideration. If adopted, the revised standards will be required of school districts as a matter of state law.

[Applications for the review committee](#) will be accepted through Sept. 14.

Iowa's academic standards provide a set of common expectations for school districts statewide while allowing for decisions regarding curriculum and how it is delivered to be made locally. The standards establish what students must learn to be prepared for success after high school. Local schools and educators continue to set and oversee curriculum and instruction decisions.

(Info from Iowa Department of Education)

Public Comment Period for Iowa's Unified Allocation Plan is Now Open

The Iowa Department of Education is seeking public comment on Iowa's Unified Allocation Plan.

Iowa's first-in-the-nation Unified Allocation Plan proposes to align Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) programs and resources to state and local education priorities. It is intended to bolster school improvement efforts informed by accountability and assessment and support Iowa school districts' focus on how to best serve students who are most in need of support.

The Unified Allocation Plan is based on comment and input received by the Department from the public, public school districts, public charter schools, nonpublic schools and area education agencies. The proposed plan is intended to better assist education leaders as they implement and ensure compliance with the numerous programmatic and fiscal requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Any Iowan who is interested in sharing input is encouraged to review the proposed [Unified Allocation Plan](#) and provide feedback through the [Department's statewide survey](#).

Gathering public input from Iowa's education stakeholders is an important step in further developing the Unified Allocation Plan. The public comment period is now open through Aug. 29.

Iowa's first-in-the-nation Unified Allocation Plan proposes to:

- Align ESEA programs and resources to Iowa's **state and local education priorities**,
- Bolster school improvement efforts informed by **accountability and assessment**, and
- Support school districts' focus on best serving **students most in need of support**.

The five articulated requests are based on continuous comment and input received by the Department from the public, public school districts, public charter schools, nonpublic schools, and area education agencies as education leaders

implement and ensure compliance with the numerous programmatic and fiscal requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA).

To better support students, families, educators, schools, and communities, the Department seeks to implement its unified allocation plan through a combination of waivers, modernized administrative interpretations, and administration flexibilities:

- Allow **state administrative and state activities set-aside funds to be consolidated** based on existing statutory formulas;
- Allow **school district formula and competitive funds to be consolidated** based on existing statutory formulas utilizing expanded transferability flexibilities;
- Allow the Department to calculate and retain the **equitable participation proportionate share** in all relevant ESEA programs for school districts and nonpublic schools that opt in through meaningful consultation to provide equitable services to nonpublic school students and teachers through a third-party provider(s);
- Explore opportunities to best support school districts in **prioritizing schools most in need of support through** revised USED administrative interpretation;
- Modernize **supplement, not supplant** implementation across multiple ESEA programs through revised USED administrative interpretations.

Recognizing Iowa's strong focus on accountability for student outcomes, the Department's plan continues to rely upon its 2024 USED-approved ESSA State Plan and statewide school performance accountability system. The Iowa School Performance Profiles utilize all student achievement data and the disaggregated achievement data of student groups from annual assessments to inform school designations and comprehensive support and improvement investments. The Department remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the civil rights protections in ESEA, including requirements for school districts to provide specific services and supports to student groups, including students who are English learners, migratory, considered neglected and delinquent, and experiencing homelessness. Under this proposal, school districts' consolidated application to the Department would articulate their ESEA services and supports plans to meet the needs of all students, including the submission of each school districts':

- Lau Plan to support students who are English Learners;
- Migratory liaison,
- Foster care/neglected and delinquent liaison;
- Partnerships with State-run institutions and residential facilities that support education continuity and successful transitions;
- Homeless liaison; and
- Partnerships with community-based organizations, especially in the provision of out-of-school programming.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this preliminary update based on the Department's proposal, which may be revised based on USED's review and feedback. The Department will continue to provide additional opportunities for the public and education stakeholders to provide comment throughout the review and revision process. Informed by Iowa's educators and families, the Department looks forward to continuing to partner with the U.S. Department of Education to meet the needs of all learners and to realize the purpose of these ESEA programs.

(Info from the Iowa Department of Education)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Nuances of CIWW Nitrate & Capacity Issues

Since the start of summer, Central Iowa Water Works (CIWW) and Polk County political functionaries have started and continue to agitate for greater regulatory control of farming and ag land drainage to reduce in stream levels of nitrates exceeding CIWW nitrate removal capacity. With the onset of the first heat wave in June and just as reoccurring heavy rains started to fall in the Des Moines and Raccoon rivers basins, CIWW announced its first ever lawn watering ban on its account that the water provider was having water treatment (nitrate removal) capacity issues. The federal drinking water nitrate maximum contaminant level (mcl) of 10mg/liter (10 parts per million). The summer flush of Iowa farmlands in both the Raccoon and Des Moines river basins generated in river nitrate levels well above the mcl (as high as 17ppm). Historically, Des Moines Water Works, now a primary component of CIWW met the mcl standard when river nitrate levels were above safe drinking water levels by utilizing its nitrate reverse osmosis equipment, blending in both surface stored water from Moffet reservoir, and Jordan aquifer well water. However, the nitrate treatment equipment has not significantly been expanded since 1991, and the overall demand for drinking water supply has essentially doubled to tripled.

Since planning for the existing nitrate treatment equipment began in the late 1980s, overall Des Moines metro area has increased by more than 60%. Furthermore, with the formulation of the CIWW and the addition of adjoining rapidly growing suburbs of Des Moines instead of serving just Des Moines' roughly 200,000 population; the interconnected capacity of CIWW now exceeds a half million. Complication blending of other water sources to meet mcl standards is that the concentrated population growth in the Des Moines metro area is stressing the Jordan aquifer through creation of significant lowering levels of water wells (cones of depression) that cause regional water treatment plants composing of CIWW to repeatedly deepen wells to below the cone of depression and/or add new well fields away from existing wells. Demand side of the water supply equation has been sharply increased by growth of water intensive industries, most notably in the Des Moines metro area of server farms that utilize water for computer cooling purposes and the proliferation of business campuses that frequently have large lawns that are irrigated to keep them green through the summer. The server farms can utilize from 250,000 gallons to 5-million gallons a day, with highest use occurring on hot humid days.

The Des Moines metro area water supply entities/CIWW have implemented some practices to meet water blending needs during high nitrate river flows such as treating water during low demand periods and storing that 'excess' water in the Jordan aquifer near their extraction wells and also storing lower nitrate containing water in Moffet reservoir. The water utility has also encouraged alternate day lawn watering and implemented three-level water pricing for homeowners that essentially doubles the price for water used to water homeowners lawns. Somewhat surprisingly, non-residential water prices are functionally about 60% of what typical homeowner pay and is a flat rate that is less than one-half what homeowners pay when they water their lawns. This year's water ban did produce immediate usage drops of 20-30-million gallons a day (from ~70-million/day to 40-50-million gallons a day). About 20,000 gallons is required to provide 0.75-inches of water to an acre. CIWW has embarked on a ~\$350-million expansion that includes a doubling of the capacity of the Saylorville plant (10-million gallons a day expansion), expanding the Grimes water plant, and constructing a 12-million gallons a day treatment expansion in Des Moines' west side with a cumulative increase water treatment of 34.2-million gallons a day. Additionally, the initiative will add two additional aquifer storage operation in the CIWW region.

In late June, CIWW released its report on situation/condition of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers waters and touted that a large proportion (~80%) of the nitrates in the river were coming from Iowa agricultural land. It inferred that this excessive level was coming from both over-and/or mistimed fertilization, or ag field subsurface drainage. The report suggested that increased regulation of fertilizer application and agland field drainage could resolve the nitrate water problem. The report was fairly quiet and vague about what it might cost farmers to comply with the new regulations and reduction in field drainage. It should be appreciated that Des Moines regional water supply demands only about 1%-2% of the typical surface flows of the combined Des Moines and Raccoon rivers.

Timely and effective farmland drainage likely protects from 20-30% yield losses from over saturated fields in North Central Iowa landscape. Farm fields in Iowa with annual row crops typically generate harvests of \$750-\$1100/acre. Timely and adequate fertilization support the top end ~20% to 30% of potential crop production. Agronomists [recognize](#) that optimal corn yields (180-220 bushel of corn per acre) requires soil nitrate levels of 38-45 part per million in the primary root zone. While typically 1/3 of applied nitrogen fertilizer descends below one foot, with normal rainfall, and is available to the growing crops, however with excessively wet circumstances it can drain away into surface streams.

The CIWW report is essentially silent about the process of soil nitrate storage and recycling as growing annual row crops have 20-30% of total plant nutrients in the root zone, which start to decay and recycle when the plant dies in the fall. Conversely, as summer progressing the amount of field nitrogen that is incorporated into corn plants soars from ~19-lbs/acre when the corn plant is 30-inches tall (V9) that amounts to 5ppm; to 116-lbs/acre 29-ppm when the plant is (V15) more than 60-inches tall. Even more nitrogen from the soil is incorporated into the grain during fill.

Earlier studies have indicated that while a typical acre of Iowa farmland has over 10,000-lbs of overall nitrogen, only a couple of percent is available at any one time to growing crops. Farmers fertilize their field to supplement available soil nitrogen and to sustain soil organic matter. If crops remove more nitrogen that is available/applied, over time the long-term nitrogen stored in organic matter will be consumed by the crops and the soil quality will decline, with degradation of soil tilth that is essential to resisting soil erosion, storing soil moisture, and aiding absorption of rain.

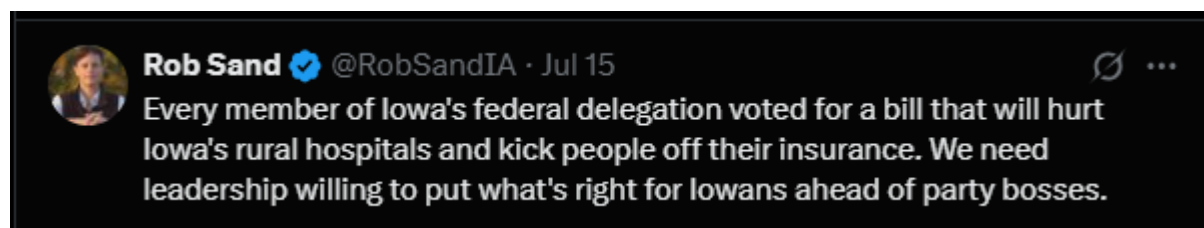
(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Health and Human Services

Keep Rob Sand Away from Iowa Medicaid

The national media and DC Democrats are the only ones spreading falsehoods about Medicaid changes in the One Big Beautiful Bill (can be found [here](#)). State Auditor Rob Sand doesn't appear to have even a basic understanding of fundamental principles of the Iowa Medicaid program.

On one day, Rob Sand will push frightening talking points that the One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB) will be a disaster to rural hospitals:



And literally the next day, Rob Sand will say he is going to repeal Medicaid managed care in Iowa.



The irony is that hospital state directed payments – the very thing that Rob Sand is saying was cut in the OBBB – can only exist in states, like Iowa, with Medicaid managed care (what Sand calls privatized Medicaid). The federal regulations regarding hospital state directed payments ONLY show up in the managed care federal regulation chapter – [42 C.F.R. 438](#). **If Iowa were to repeal Medicaid managed care, as Rob Sand repeatedly says he will do if elected Governor, Iowa’s hospitals will lose \$947 million annually.**

Another hypocritical aspect of Democrats fairytales about Medicaid in the OBBB – every single Democrat in the Iowa House ([May 13, 2025 vote on HF1049](#)) and Senate ([May 14, 2025 vote on HF1049](#)) voted AGAINST codifying Iowa’s hospital directed program into Iowa law, jeopardizing the very thing they publicly bash in OBBB!

Of course, the “media” will continue to perpetuate every Democrat talking point without fact checking a single claim, but working Iowans and taxpayers know the long-term benefits OBBB has to their pocketbooks and will only help their rural communities.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Higher Education

Evaluating the Regents’ Minority and Women Educators Enhancement Program After 36 Years

In 1989 a Democrat controlled legislature and Republican Governor Terry Branstad implemented the Regents’ Minority and Women Educators Enhancement Program. The program was intended to “assist in the recruitment and retention of faculty that more adequately represents the diverse cultural, racial, and ethnic makeup of society and to improve the education of all students.”

As stated in Code Ch. 262.81, the legislative intent reads, “The general assembly recognizes that educational programs designed to enhance the interrelation and cooperation among cultural, racial, and ethnic groups in society require the contribution and active participation of all ethnic and racial groups. The general assembly also recognizes that failure to include minority representation at the faculty level at the state universities contributes to cultural, racial, and ethnic isolation of minority students and does not reflect the realities of a multicultural and diverse society.”

According to Code Ch. 262.82, “the program shall include but is not limited to the creation of faculty positions in all areas of academic pursuit.”

Additionally, “the board of regents shall also establish a program to create faculty opportunities for women educators at the universities under the board’s control. The program shall include but is not limited to the creation of faculty positions in targeted shortage areas. The board of regents shall also develop and implement, in consultation with appropriate faculty representatives, tenure, promotion, and hiring policies that recognize the unique needs of faculty members who are principal caregivers to dependents.”

After 36 years, it is reasonable to ask if this program has accomplished its goal. If it has accomplished its goal of the hiring more women and minorities for faculty positions, then should the universities be relieved of this mandate? Along that line of inquiry, it is reasonable to ask what metric is used to determine the ultimate success of the program? In other words, how do the universities, not to mention Iowa taxpayers, know when the program completed its intended purpose?

Furthermore, it is also reasonable to ask if the program, as well-intentioned as it may have been, *might* run afoul of discrimination laws by mandating preferential treatment based on certain characteristics. In this case: sex, race and ethnicity.

A July 29, 2025, memo from the U.S. Department of Justice to all federal grant recipients (the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa are federal grant recipients) states “Grant preferential treatment based on protected characteristics” as an unlawful practice.

The memo states, “Preferential treatment occurs when a federally funded entity provides opportunities, benefits, or advantages to individuals or groups based on protected characteristics in a way that disadvantages other qualified persons, including such practices portrayed as "preferential" to certain groups. Such practices violate federal law unless they meet very narrow exceptions.”

What constitutes unlawful use of preference in hiring practices? The memo reads: “Unlawful use of protected characteristics occurs when a federally funded entity or program considers race, sex, or any other protected trait as a basis for selecting candidates for employment (e.g., hiring, promotions), contracts (e.g., vendor agreements), or program participation (e.g., internships, admissions, scholarships, training).”

The Regents’ Minority and Women Educators Enhancement Program

Data goes back to September of 1995 on the legislative website regarding the demographics concerning women and minorities in the total workforce at the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa. The latest report include data from October of 2024.

The workforce is broken down into the following categories:

- Executive, Administrative, Managerial staff
- Tenured and tenure-track faculty
- Non tenured track faculty
- Professional and Scientific staff
- Secretarial and clerical staff
- Technical and Paraprofessional staff
- Skilled Crafts staff
- Service and Maintenance Staff

University of Iowa	1995					2024				
	Total Workforce	Female	% Female	Minority	% Minority	Total Workforce	Female	% Female	Minority	% Minority
Executive, Managerial, Administrative	265	74	27.9	20	7.5	421	212	50.4	65	15.4
Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	1645	367	22.3	187	11.4	1275	466	36.5	336	26.4
Non-Tenure Track Faculty	341	132	38.7	76	22.3	1567	830	53.0	346	22.1
Professional and Scientific Staff	5194	3601	69.3	251	4.8	13255	9703	73.2	1502	11.3
Secretarial and Clerical Staff	2707	2304	85.1	69	2.5	924	704	76.2	146	13.8
Technical and Paraprofessional Staff	547	341	62.5	21	3.8	1047	810	77.4	240	22.9
Skilled Crafts	455	37	8.1	15	3.3	236	10	4.2	15	6.4
Service and Maintenance Staff	1859	1022	55.0	148	8.0	2463	1424	57.8	897	36.4
Total Workforce	13013	7878	60.5	787	6.0	21188	14159	66.8	3547	16.7
Total Increase from 1995 to 2024						+8175	+6281	+6.3	+2760	+10.7

At the University of Iowa, the total workforce numbers have rising dramatically from 13,013 in 1995 to 21,188 in 2024. 8,175 new workforce positions have been filled. Comparing those new positions with the rise in total female and total minority workforce numbers it is obvious to see the U of I has been focused on hiring more women and minorities in nearly all positions, not just faculty, since 1995. The U of I's total percentage of workforce has risen from 60.5% female to 66.8% female and 6.0% minority to 16.7% minority.

Interestingly, there has been a meteoric rise in the number of Professional and Scientific staff since 1995 with the total number increasing from 5,194 to 13,255. That is an increase of 8,061 jobs. Women gained 6,102 new spots in this category while minorities gained 1,251. Already at 69.3% female in 1995, it is now 73.2% female. Minorities went from 4.8% to 11.3%

However, a more striking change has occurred in the Executive, Managerial and Administrative category. The total number has risen from 265 to 421. Total female numbers have jumped from 74 to 212 with the corresponding percentages going from 27.4% to 50.4% of all Executive, Managerial and Administrative jobs. Minority numbers have more than tripled going from 20 to 65 with the total percent doubling from 7.5% to 15.4%.

Referring to the direction the Iowa Code gives the Board of Regents in ch. 262.82, it does not take long to notice that the program is focused, although clearly not limited to, *faculty*.

Tenure and Tenure-Track Faculty total numbers went *down* overall from 1,645 to 1,275. However, the number of female Tenure and Tenure-Track Faculty positions went up from 367 to 466. Non-Tenure track faculty total numbers went up from 341 to 1,567. In 1995 Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty outnumbered Non-Tenure Track Faculty by almost 5 to 1. Now Non-Tenure Track faculty outnumber Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty. Female Non-Tenure Faculty rose from 132 to 830 while minority numbers rose from 76 to 320. Female Non-Tenure Faculty rose from 38.7% to 53.0% while the minority percentages remained nearly flat from 22.3% to 22.1%.

Has the University of Iowa fulfilled the charge it was given in ch. 262.81 and 262.82 to create faculty positions for women and minorities?

The answer to that is an emphatic “yes.” In fact, the U of I has gone beyond what the Iowa Code required. In 1995, 60.5% of the University of Iowa's total workforce was female. In 2024 that percentage has risen to 66.8%. There has been a massive increase in female roles in Executive, Managerial and Administrative roles. The number of minorities in these roles has doubled. A significant increase has also occurred in Non-Tenure Track Faculty roles for women. Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty roles for women and minorities has increased. This is especially notable because the total number of Tenure and Tenure Track positions has decreased.

Iowa State University	1995					2024					
	Total Workforce	Female	% Female	Minority	% Minority	Total Workforce	Female		% Female	Minority	% Minority
Executive, Managerial, Administrative	261	68	26.1	15	5.7	321	173		53.9	31	9.7
Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	1275	273	21.4	132	10.4	1070	357		33.4	350	32.7
Non-Tenure Track Faculty	301	155	51.5	32	10.6	623	333		53.5	114	18.3
Professional and Scientific Staff	2086	948	45.4	238	11.4	3446	1938		56.2	633	18.4
Secretarial and Clerical Staff	1169	1078	92.2	33	2.8	422	364		86.3	29	6.9
Technical and Paraprofessional Staff	224	99	44.2	7	3.1	380	173		45.5	31	8.2
Skilled Crafts	320	18	5.6	6	1.9	113	7		6.2	6	5.3

Service and Maintenance Staff	682	343	50.3	46	6.7	632	270		42.7	102	16.1
Total Workforce	6318	2982	47.2	509	8.1	7007	3615		51.6	1296	18.5
Total Increase from 1995 to 2024						+689	+633		+4.4	+787	+10.4

At Iowa State University the increase in total workforce has been far less dramatic than at the University of Iowa. ISU's total workforce is up 689 from 6,318 to 7,007. Female employees have risen by 633 going from 2,982 to 3,615 or 47.2% to 51.6%. Minority employees have more than doubled from 509 to 1,296 or 8.1% to 18.5%.

The most striking increase in roles for women has been in the Executive, Managerial and Administrative category seeing total numbers go from 68 women in these roles in 1995 to 173 in 2024 which is a percentage increase from 26.1% to 53.9%. The most notable increase for minorities roles has occurred in the Tenure and Tenure Track category. Total numbers increased from 132 to 350 for minorities in these jobs while the percentage increase tripled from 10.4% to 32.7%.

Women saw significant increases in opportunities in Tenure and Tenure Track positions as well as Professional and Scientific Staff jobs. Total Tenure and Tenure Track numbers increased from 273 to 357 or 21.4% to 33.4%. While Professional and Scientific numbers increased from 948 to 1,938 or from 45.4% to 56.2%.

The Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty numbers are especially interesting because the total number went down from 1,275 to 1,070 while the totals for women (+84) and minorities (+218) went up.

Has Iowa State University fulfilled the charge it was given in ch. 262.81 and 262.82 to create faculty positions for women and minorities?

Again, the answer to that is an emphatic "yes." Iowa State has also gone beyond what it was charged with doing by increasing roles for women and minorities beyond faculty positions. Like the U of I, the increase in Executive, Managerial and Administrative spots at Iowa State is remarkable jumping from 68 to 173 for women and doubling for minorities. 53.9% of these roles are now held by women.

University of Northern Iowa	1995					2024				
	Total Workforce	Female	% Female	Minority	% Minority	Total Workforce	Female	% Female	Minority	% Minority
Executive, Managerial, Administrative	112	27	24.1	12	10.7	81	40	49.4	6	7.4
Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	558	198	35.5	56	10.0	301	142	47.2	69	22.9
Non-Tenure Track Faculty	74	54	73.0	6	8.1	79	55	69.6	7	8.9
Professional and Scientific Staff	378	176	46.6	37	9.8	653	304	55.7	72	11.0
Secretarial and Clerical Staff	285	280	98.2	18	6.3	177	166	93.8	15	8.5
Technical and Paraprofessional Staff	24	13	54.2	3	12.5	18	4	22.2	4	22.2
Skilled Crafts	85	3	3.5	8	9.4	41	1	2.4	1	2.4
Service and Maintenance Staff	250	146	58.4	51	20.4	219	103	47.0	46	21.0
Total Workforce	1766	897	50.8	191	10.8	1569	875	55.8	220	14.0

Total Increase from 1995 to 2024						-197	-22	+5.0	+29	+3.2
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The University of Northern Iowa has seen different trendlines in regard to workforce than Iowa or Iowa State. Total workforce numbers are *down* by 197. However, the percentages for women and minorities have increased. Women are up 5% and minorities are up 3.2%.

When it comes to Executive, Managerial and Administrative roles for women, UNI is extremely similar to Iowa and Iowa State. While the total workforce in this area is down from 112 to 81, the number of women in these roles has increased from 27 to 40. Half of UNI's leaders are women.

That similarity holds with Tenure and Tenure Track positions as the total numbers are down by 257 but percentages for women and minorities are up. Positions in this category for women dropped from 198 to 142 with the percentage rising from 35.5 to 47.2. For minorities, total numbers went up from 56 to 69 with the percentage rising from 10% to 22.9%.

Non-Tenure Track Faculty total numbers were near flat. Roles for women were flat going from 54 to 55 with the percentage dropping from 73% to 69.6%. Minorities saw their numbers go from 6 to 7.

The outlier was Professional and Scientific jobs increasing from 378 to 653. Women and minorities were beneficiaries of this increase. Roles for women increased from 176 to 304 or 46.6% to 55.7% and roles for minorities rose from 37 to 72 or 9.8% to 11%.

Has the University of Northern Iowa fulfilled the charge it was given in ch. 262.81 and 262.82 to create faculty positions for women and minorities?

Despite the challenges of a shrinking workforce, UNI has increased its total percentage of women from 50.8% to 55.8% and its total number of minorities from 10.8% to 14%. Once again, the answer is "yes."

For additional context to this information, included below are a comparison of the data from the three universities with their enrollment data.

Total enrollment:

	1995	2024
University of Iowa	27,597	32,199
Iowa State University	24,431	30,432
University of Northern Iowa	12,802	9,283

Iowa's numbers are up 4,602, Iowa State's are up 6,001, while UNI's are down 3,519.

For comparison, in 1995 Iowa had 27,597 students and 13,013 in their total workforce. In 2024, Iowa had 32,199 students and 21,188 in their total workforce.

In 1995 Iowa State had 24,431 students and 6,318 in their total workforce. In 2024, Iowa State had 30,432 students and 7,007 in their total workforce.

In 1995 UNI had 12,802 students and 1,766 in their total workforce. In 2024, UNI had 9,283 students and 1,569 in their total workforce.

Female enrollment at Iowa has grown from 14,233 or 51.5% in 1995 to 17,658 or 54.8% in 2024. Female enrollment at ISU has grown from 10,505* or 43% in 1995 to 13,668 or 44.9% in 2024. Female enrollment at UNI has gone from 7,412** or 57.9% in 1995 to 5,909 or 63.7% in 2024.

Minority enrollment at Iowa has grown from 2,537 or 9.2% in 1995 to 6,165 or 19.2% in 2024. Minority enrollment at ISU has grown from 1,625 or 6.7% in 1995 to 4,914 or 16.1% in 2024. Minority enrollment at UNI has grown from 567 or 4.4% in 1995 to 1,270 or 13.7% in 2024.

Another perspective:

University of Iowa	1995		2024	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Female Total Workforce	7878	60.5	14159	66.8
Female Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	367	22.3	466	36.5
Female Non Tenure Track Faculty	132	38.7	830	53.0
Female Enrollment	14233	51.5	17015	54.8
Iowa Total Female Population	1,412,013	50.8	1,587,866	49.9

University of Iowa	1995		2024	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Minority Total Workforce	787	6.0	3547	16.7
Minority Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	187	11.4	336	26.4
Minority Non Tenure Track Faculty	76	22.3	346	22.1
Minority Enrollment	2537	9.2	6195	19.2
Iowa Total Minority Population	112991	4.1	552168	17.3

Iowa State University	1995		2024	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Female Total Workforce	2982	47.2	3615	51.6
Female Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	273	21.4	357	33.4
Female Non Tenure Track Faculty	155	51.5	333	53.5
Female Enrollment	10505	43.0	13668	44.9
Iowa Total Female Population	1,412,013	50.8	1,587,866	49.9

Iowa State University	1995		2024	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Minority Total Workforce	509	8.1	1296	18.5
Minority Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	132	10.4	350	32.7
Minority Non Tenure Track Faculty	32	10.6	114	18.3
Minority Enrollment	1625	6.7	4914	16.1
Iowa Total Minority Population	112991	4.1	552168	17.3

University of Northern Iowa	1995		2024	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Female Total Workforce	897	50.8	875	55.8

Female Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	198	35.5	142	47.2
Female Non Tenure Track Faculty	54	73.0	55	69.6
Female Enrollment	7412	57.9	5909	63.7
Iowa Total Female Population	1,412,013	50.8	1,587,866	49.9

University of Northern Iowa	1995		2024	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Minority Total Workforce	191	10.8	220	14.0
Minority Tenure and Tenure Track Faculty	56	10.0	69	22.9
Minority Non Tenure Track Faculty	6	8.1	7	8.9
Minority Enrollment	567	4.4	1270	13.7
Iowa Total Minority Population	112991	4.1	552168	17.3

*Based on 43% female enrollment figure reported by ISU

**Based on 57.9% female enrollment figure reported by UNI

(Contact: Jeff Mitchell 1-5137)

Labor

Iowa's Unemployment Rate Holds at 3.7 Percent in July

Iowa's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.7 percent in July. Iowa's jobless rate was 3.1 percent one year ago. The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 4.2 percent in July.

The total number of unemployed Iowans increased to 64,900 in July from 63,700 in June.

The total number of working Iowans increased to 1,672,600 in July. This figure is 600 higher than June and 11,000 higher than one year ago. Meanwhile, Iowa's labor force participation rate held steady at 67.4 percent.

"Iowa's economy in July saw the unemployment rate hold steady. 600 more Iowans were employed than the previous month and businesses added several hundred jobs," said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. "The fact that 11,000 more Iowans are working than the same time a year ago is a good sign given the job losses we've seen in manufacturing. There remain over 50,000 open jobs on IowaWORKS.gov, which means significant opportunities exist for Iowans who are looking for a new or next great job."

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment

Iowa's business establishments added 300 jobs in July, elevating total nonfarm employment to 1,591,500. This minor increase comes in the wake of losses totaling 7,300 over the prior two months. Private industry was responsible for the gains this month as government (-900) decreased largely at the local level. Following this slight monthly increase, total nonfarm employment is down 3,600 jobs over the past 12 months. Private service industries continue to fuel this loss. Education services led all sectors in jobs added in July (+2,600). This sector pared 3,300 jobs over the prior two months and has shown little trend annually. Education is down slightly versus last July (-400). Leisure and hospitality added 1,400 jobs. Gains were nearly even between arts, entertainment, and recreation (+600) and accommodations and food services (+800). The gains could be attributed in part to shifting seasonality following weak seasonal hiring in June. Manufacturing increased in both durable and non-durable goods in July, adding a total of 600 jobs. This is the first monthly increase for manufacturing since a gain of 300 jobs in March.

On the other hand, trade industries – retail and wholesale – collectively lost 1,900 jobs since June. Wholesale trade has fared worse with losses outpacing retail by a 2:1 margin in July. This sector has lost 3,800 jobs since February. Professional and business services shed 1,000 jobs. Most of these losses were from administrative support and waste management service industries.

Annually, total nonfarm employment is down 3,600 jobs. Manufacturing leads all sectors in jobs shed (-5,400). Durable goods factories are responsible for virtually all jobs shed. Non-durable goods factory payrolls are little changed since last July. Professional and business services is down 4,900 jobs and leisure and hospitality is down 4,400 jobs despite an increase this month. Health care and social assistance leads all sectors in jobs added (+6,400). Prior to this month, this sector last shed jobs in September. Construction is up 4,700 jobs versus last July. This sector showed little change since June; however, this sector is up 6,500 jobs since January.

(Info from Iowa Workforce Development)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Natural Resources

DNR Announce New Deer Tag Option Available for Disabled Veterans

On Tuesday, August 19, 2025, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources issued a press release announcing that tags for the 2025-26 deer season went on sale August 15, 2025, and new this year, is a disabled veterans deer tag, which was signed into law during the last legislative session. To qualify for the new tag, hunters must be a resident of Iowa and have served in the armed forces of the United States on federal active duty and were disabled during their military service (service-connected disability). Hunters will be issued one any deer tag valid or any established firearm season, if eligible. The fee is \$33, and hunters are required to use the method of take for the season hunted. Applicants will need to provide a copy of DD214 or higher, a copy of current letter provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs which indicates they are entitled to a service connected disability rating, and a copy of Hunter Safety Certificate, if required or not already on the customer's account, and submit the [Iowa Resident Disabled Veterans Lifetime Licenses and Tags application](#), available online.

Those who already have a service related disability application on file do not need to submit and new application to qualify for this new license. Currently, around 20,000 Iowans have designation. Once application has been processed, they may purchase a deer license online or at any vendor that sells Iowa hunting and fishing licenses. This disabled veteran tag has different requirements and application than that of the established severely disabled deer hunter season. For more information, go to our listing of [Hunting Licenses and Applications](#).

DNR Announces Course on Chronic Wasting Disease Set for September

On Monday, August 18, 2025, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release touting the Chronic Wasting Disease Ambassadors which is a collaborative education program between DNR and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach that seeks to help Iowans address the challenge of chronic wasting disease. The goal of the program is to develop a small, connected, and well-educated network of local leaders to effectively communicate about the management and mitigation of chronic wasting disease. *Registration is open for courses in Waterloo and Marshalltown in September.* In Waterloo, the course will be offered over three nights at the Black Hawk County Extension office, 3420 University Ave. # B, in Waterloo, on September 2, 9 and 16, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. Dinner is included. In Marshalltown, the course will be offered over three nights at the Marshall County Extension office, 2608 S 2nd St., in Marshalltown, on September: 3, 10 and 17, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. Dinner is included. Class size is between 12-25 participants. [Online Registration: Chronic Wasting Disease Ambassadors Program](#)

The course is taught through in-person instructions, demonstration, and networking, and in short online lessons between class sessions that allow ambassadors to learn at their own pace. It covers everything from the basics of

chronic wasting disease ecology to the science of science communication. The program comprises about eight hours of learning and networking with ISU and DNR educators and other concerned community members.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Public Safety

Governor Reynolds Authorizes Iowa National Guard to Assist with Immigration Enforcement

President Trump has worked hard to ensure federal immigration laws are enforced, but with borders left wide open during the Biden administration the Federal Government cannot do it alone. That's why Iowa, along with 20 other states, will be using National Guard soldiers to provide support to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials who are working hard to clean up a national problem.

Governor Kim Reynolds has authorized the deployment of 20 National Guard soldiers who will be stationed in the state to provide "administrative and logistical support" for ICE officials in Iowa enforcing federal immigration laws. The soldiers will not be involved in the apprehension or detention of any individuals, instead they will be in clerical and administrative roles. By taking on these tasks, National Guard soldiers will be freeing up ICE officers to remove illegal immigrants from the state.

The National Guard action has been authorized as a supportive federal Title 32 mission. This means the deployment will be under state control but paid for with federal dollars. This deployment is scheduled to last through November.

(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)

State Government

Iowa's Pension Systems

Iowa has four public retirement systems to provide retirement benefits to public employees in the state. Each of these funds has slightly different requirements, benefit payment structures, and other terms and conditions. Each retirement fund has its own governing board to make investment policy decisions and to administer the fund.

Every year each retirement system has an actuarial valuation performed in order to measure the assets and liabilities of the system, determine the funded status of the fund, determine the actuarial contribution rates if necessary, analyze the actual performance versus the expected performance of the last fiscal year, and report on trends and analyze risks to the fund. These reports take a record of the system at the end of each fiscal year to compile the actuarial calculations in comparison to the same date the previous year.

Legislative oversight of these funds includes the Public Retirement Systems Committee, a statutory committee composed of 10 legislators, 5 senators (3 from the majority party and 2 from the minority party) and 5 representatives (3 from the majority party and 2 from the minority party). The committee is required to continuously survey pension and retirement developments and periodically review the state's policy and standards in view of these developments and changing economic and social conditions.

Iowa Public Retirement System (IPERS)

IPERS is the largest public retirement system in Iowa. Membership in IPERS is broken into three categories: "Regular

Members” who are public employees in the state of Iowa, “Protection Occupation” are generally public safety officers or fire fighters who are employed by an IPERS employer, and “Sheriffs and Deputies”.

Regular Members

Regular Membership of IPERS is the largest group of the public retirement systems and are most state, county, and city employees, public education system employees, public health system employees, and magistrates.

Protection Occupation

Conservation officers, airport fire fighters, correctional officers, county jailers, county attorney investigators, emergency medical service (EMS) providers, peace officers and fire fighters not covered by Iowa Code chapter 411, High Risk Unit officers, and insurance fraud investigators.

Sheriffs and Deputies

County sheriffs and deputy sheriffs.

Peace Officers’ Retirement System (PORS)

The Peace Officers’ Retirement System is composed of members from the Department of Public Safety that includes the Division of Criminal Investigation, Division of Narcotics Enforcement, Division of Intelligence, and Iowa State Patrol Division.

Municipal Fire & Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI or 411)

MFPRSI is also commonly referred to as the “411 system” as Iowa Code Chapter 411 created the fund. The system for 49 municipal police and firefighters in cities whose population was over 8,000 before the 1990 census. Those cities are listed below:

Ames, Ankeny, Bettendorf, Boone, Burlington, Camanche, Carroll (police only), Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Centerville, Charles City, Clinton, Clive (police only), Council Bluffs, Creston, Davenport, Decorah, Des Moines, DeWitt (police only), Dubuque, Estherville (police only), Evansdale (police only), Fairfield, Fort Dodge, Fort Madison, Grinnell, Indianola (police only) Iowa City, Keokuk, Knoxville (police only), LeMars (police only), Maquoketa (police only), Marion, Marshalltown, Mason City, Muscatine, Newton, Oelwein, Oskaloosa, Ottumwa, Pella (police only), Sioux City, Spencer, Storm Lake, Urbandale, Waterloo, Waverly (police only), Webster City, West Des Moines

Judicial Retirement System

Comprised of Supreme Court, Appeals Court, District Court, District Associate, Associate Probate, and Associate Juvenile Judges.

Comparing the systems benefit requirements

	IPERS REGULAR	IPERS Sheriffs & Deputies	IPERS Protection Occupation	MFPRSI (411)	PORS	JUDICIAL
Vesting Period	7 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years	4 Years
Retirement Based On	Highest 5 years	Highest 3 years	Highest 3 years	Highest 3 years	Highest 3 years	Highest 3 years
Maximum Service Retirement Benefit/ Years of Service	65%/35	80%/30	72%/30	82%/30	88%/32	65%/20
Cost of Living Adjustment	No*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No

* Pre-July 1990 retirees receive an annual payment equal to a monthly benefit payment. There are approximately 1,000 members who receive this payment.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

State Aviation Program for FY 2026 Approved by Transportation Commission

At its August meeting, the Iowa Transportation Commission approved this year's version of the State Aviation Program. The annual program of funding to Iowa airports will provide \$9.7 million in state funding for improvement projects this fiscal year.

The State Aviation Program is comprised of three separate initiatives: the Airport Improvement Program, the General Aviation Vertical Infrastructure Program, and the Commercial Service Vertical Infrastructure Program.

The Airport Improvement Program is the largest of the three grant programs. It is funded with the proceeds from aircraft registration fees and aviation fuel taxes. This year, the program is distributing \$6.3 million in funding. Just over \$1 million in funding for aviation safety and aviation planning and development efforts were approved, as well as \$5.3 million of improvement projects located at 25 of Iowa's commercial and general aviation airports.

The two vertical infrastructure grant programs are funded via appropriations from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund. This year's bill provided \$1 million for projects at four general aviation airports and \$1.9 million for projects at eight of Iowa's commercial service airports.

A list of all the approved projects can be found here on the DOT's website:

<https://iowadot.gov/media/11991/download?inline>

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Ways & Means

Senate File 657—Newly Created Research and Development Tax Credit is Focused and Narrow

This article will focus on Research and Development Tax Credit changes in Divisions XIII and XIV. Division XIII of Senate File 657 repeals the current research activities tax credit starting with tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2026. It repeals the tax credit from the Code on January 1, 2027, due to the ability of the taxpayer to credit any overpayment in tax liability in the following tax year.

Division XIV of Senate File 657 creates a new Research and Development Tax Credit that is much narrower than its predecessor. The credit is available to businesses primarily engaged in advanced manufacturing, bioscience, insurance and finance, and technology innovation. It further limits the credit to the following sectors of those businesses: second-generation food innovation, food ingredients and supplements, crop protection, hybrid seed technologies, diagnostic analytics and immunotherapies, chip technologies and microelectronics, medical equipment and supplies, software technology, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, consumer products, and any additional sectors included by the authority by rule.

The division provides that a business is required to submit a preapplication for the credit to IEDA to determine whether the business is primarily engaged in an eligible sector and is actively engaged in qualified research and development. A business must be certified by IEDA to be eligible for the credit. A business becomes a qualified business if it has been certified, and a qualified business may remain certified for up to five years. A qualified business may reapply for certification in additional five-year increments.

Every year after becoming a qualified business during the five-year period, the credit requires the qualified business to submit an application to IEDA for the tax credit based on the amount of eligible expenditures that were made during the previous tax year. A business must submit the application to the authority by January 31 of each year the business is certified to be a qualified business. IEDA may approve a tax credit in the form of a tax credit certificate issued to the qualified business up to an amount equal to 3.5 percent of the amount of the qualified business's eligible expenditures.

Any tax credit in excess of the qualified business's tax liability is refundable. In lieu of claiming a refund, the taxpayer may elect to have the overpayment shown on the taxpayer's final, completed return credited to the tax liability for the following tax year. The credit is not transferable. The maximum amount of research and development tax credits the authority may issue each fiscal year shall not exceed \$40 million.

The division requires a qualified business claiming the credit to annually report to IEDA the following: the total amount of investment made in research and development; the location in this state where the research and development occurred; and the number of jobs created, wages paid, and employee residence locations.

For the next newsletter this article will focus on the new Sustainable Aviation Fuel Production Tax Credit in Division XV of the bill.

(Contact: Kristi Kiious 2-5290)