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## State Policy Update

The second funnel of the legislative session will occur at the end of next week. This deadline requires that by April 3, bills must be reported out of committees in the chamber from which they did not originate. In other words, Senate bills need to be reported out of House committees and House bills need to be reported out of Senate committees. However, like the first funnel, there are exceptions to this deadline, which include appropriations bills, ways and means bills, government oversight bills, and bills from leadership.

Usually at this point in session, progress is slow with party caucuses, negotiating behind the scenes, and lengthy floor debates. This year is no different from usual. It does not appear likely that the scheduled adjournment date of May 1st will be met.

## Federal Policy Update

The Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration has released a new guidance letter regarding the Youth Program in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The letter provides guidance on the requirement that 75 percent of youth funds must be spent on out-of-school youth, how to recruit and engage out-of-school youth, and clarifies when the youth formula funds should be fully implemented.

To read the summary from the National Skills Coalition, [click here](#).

To access the full guidance letter, [click here](#).

## Important Dates

## 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 432](#) (successor to [Senate Study Bill 1053](#)) - Would amend 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. Companion bill [House Study Bill 10](#) did not pass first funnel. Passed Senate Education Committee and placed on Senate calendar with Senator Quirmbach as floor manager.

**[Senate File 429](#)** (successor to [Senate Study Bill 1239](#)) - Would strike a requirement that the state board's rules provide that for the school year beginning July 1, 2016, and each succeeding year, all students (grades 3-11) shall be administered an assessment during the last quarter of the school year that assess student progress on the core academic standards. Would require that the assessment used after July 1, 2016 provide valid, reliable, and fair measures of student progress toward college or career readiness. Sponsored by Senate Education Committee. Passed Senate Education Committee and placed on Senate calendar with Senator Quirnbach as floor manager.

**[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 Bolkom. [Fiscal note](#) published.

**[Senate File 270](#)** (successor to [Senate File 39](#)) - Amends that an employer has the burden to establish that a deduction from employees' wages are 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. Sponsored by Senate Labor and Business Relations Committee. Companion bill [House File 73](#) did not pass first funnel. Passed Senate and referred to House Labor Committee; assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Hunter, and Watts.

**[Senate File 269](#)** (successor to [Senate Study Bill 1151](#)) - Would increase the state minimum hourly wage to \$8.00 as of July 1, 2015 and to \$8.75 as of July 1, 2016. Sponsored by Senate Labor and Business Relations Committee. Passed Senate and referred to House Labor Committee; assigned to subcommittee with Forristall, Hunter, and Watts.

**[Senate File 258](#)** (successor to [Senate Study Bill 1056](#)) and **[House File 121](#)** (successor to [House Study Bill 12](#)) - Amends the financial need criteria for the gap tuition assistance program. Would give first priority to persons earning incomes between 150 and 250 percent of the federal poverty level, would give second priority to persons earning incomes below 150 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. Sponsored by Education Committees from both chambers. Senate version passed and sent to House; House rejected file. House version remains on House calendar with Representative Byrnes as the floor manager.

[Senate File 234](#) (successor to [Senate File 110](#)) - Would establish an Iowa Employment Rides Initiative and related fund in Economic Development Authority. Sponsored by Senate Economic Growth Committee. Passed Senate with amendment and assigned to subcommittee of Best, Carlson, and Finkenauer within the 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 Bolkom, Feenstra, and Quirmbach.

[House File 590](#) (successor to [House Study Bill 136](#)) - **Governor's bill. Center for Human Capital Enrichment Plan.** Proposes renaming the workforce development board "the human capital enrichment board," modifying the membership and duties of the board, and creating a human capital enrichment 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. Companion bill [Senate Study Bill 1114](#) did not pass first funnel. Passed House Economic Growth Committee and placed on House calendar with Representative Deyoe as floor manager. Amendments [H-1085](#) and [H-1134](#) have been filed.

[House File 559](#) (successor to [House File 462](#)) - Would provide for a waiver of eligibility requirements to receive a high school equivalency diploma from Department of Education. Sponsored by Representatives Wessel-Kroeschell and Jorgensen. Passed House Education Committee and placed on House calendar with Representative Sieck as floor manager.

[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 House with Representative Byrnes as floor manager and referred to Senate Education committee. Passed Senate Education subcommittee with Hart, Behn, and Kinney.

[House File 346](#) (successor to [House Study Bill 61](#)) - Would make 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. Sponsored by House Education Committee. Companion bill [Senate Study Bill 1074](#) did not pass first funnel. Passed House with Representative Dolecheck as floor manager and referred to Senate Education Committee. Assigned to Senate Education subcommittee with Quirmbach, Hogg, and Johnson.

[House File 248](#) - Would appropriate money for the state budget contingent on 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 Study Bill 177 - Governor's bill.** A study bill for appropriating 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. In House Appropriations subcommittee with Rizer, Rogers, and Running-Marquardt. In Senate Appropriations subcommittee with Ragan, Bolkcom, and Garrett.

**Senate Study Bill 1178 - 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. Referred to Senate Ways & Means and assigned to subcommittee with Bolkcom, 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.

