

**IOWA PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

***LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

**January 9 – 20, 2017**

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The legislature kicked off on Monday, January 9, 2017. The first week was filled with speeches by legislative leaders, the Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. Additionally, policy and budget committees held organizational meetings to begin their work. Week two was a shortened week, as government offices were closed to observe the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. However, committee members began their working holding subcommittees and sorting through various bills that have already been filed.

Because revenues are lower than anticipated, the legislature will be forced to cut money from the existing fiscal year. This is called a de-appropriations bill. Revenues for the 2018 fiscal year are also forecasted to grow at a smaller rate than predicted. This will require significant budget cutting and mean there is less money for new projects.

The legislative session is scheduled to last 110 days – with an anticipated conclusion of April 28, 2017. However, as in past years, session can continue well past the statutory deadline, although lawmakers will not be paid their per diem rates.

**Senate Introduces Bill Making Texting a Primary Offense**

SSB 1002 eliminates the provision that prohibits a peace officer from stopping or detaining a person solely for a violation of Code section 321.276, which relates to texting while driving. Under current law, the offense is not a moving violation, and therefore cannot be considered for purposes of administrative suspension of a driver’s license or for establishing habitual offender status. While the current bill makes texting a primary offense, legislators have indicated support for broadening the bill to prohibit use of handheld electronic devices for any purpose. This broader version makes the law enforceable and is supported by IPOA along with a broad coalition of law enforcement, insurance, and cell phone providers.

**Bills of Interest**

[SF 111](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF111&ga=87)- A bill for an act prohibiting persons from intentionally blocking the movement of traffic on certain highways, and providing a penalty.

[SF 87](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF87&ga=87)- A bill for an act relating to carrying weapons on school grounds by a certified peace officer or a reserve peace officer.

[SF 75](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF75&ga=87) - A bill for an act relating to the disclosure of mental health information to law enforcement professionals.

[SF 56](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF56&ga=87)/ [HF 40](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF40&ga=87) - A bill for an act prohibiting the use of automated or remote traffic law enforcement systems, requiring removal of existing systems, and including effective date provisions.

[SF 45](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF45&ga=87) - A bill for an act providing for the development of a mandatory defined contribution pension plan for certain public employees.

[HF 34](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF34&ga=87) - A bill for an act concerning motor vehicle-related violations that result in serious injury or death and are committed while the operator has a denied, canceled, suspended, revoked, or barred driver’s license, and providing penalties.

[HF 13](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF13&ga=87) - A bill for an act relating to an application for and the issuance of a search warrant by electronic means.

[SSB 1007](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SSB1007&ga=87) - A bill for an act relating to certain public offenses committed against a person because of the person’s employment as a law enforcement officer, and providing penalties.

[HJR 1](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HJR1&ga=87) - A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to searches and seizures of electronic communications and data.