

***LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

**Week 11**

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**State Revenue Estimates Reduced**

The State Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) met last earlier this month and lowered expected FY 17 revenues by $105.9 million. That comes after the REC had already previously lowered expected FY 17 revenues in December by $117 million. Gov. Branstad has proposed using money in the state’s Cash Reserve Fund to make up for this second reduction in state revenues. If that happens, $131 million will need to be borrowed and paid back. The $25 million difference is due to the use of $25 million in non-recurring funds to help patch the hole left in December when the REC first lowered the revenue level.

**Bills of Interest**

[**HF581**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%20581&ga=87)**– Search Warrant Confidentiality**

HF 581 makes the information used to secure a search warrant a confidential record until the officer has executed the warrant and filed a return of service with the court. Further, the information used to secure a search warrant would also be a confidential record in acquittals, dismissals or deferred judgments. The records could be circulated only to peace officers, magistrates and court employees, and only in the course of their official duty.

HF 581 was approved by the House by a vote of 93-0 and now goes to the Senate.

[**HJR1**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HJR%201&ga=87) **– Electronic Searches**

HJR 1 proposes an Iowa constitutional amendment to deem that a person’s electronic communications are secure against unreasonable searches and that searches must be based on a warrant issued for probable cause.

HJR was approved by the House by a vote of 94-0. It moves to the Senate for further consideration.

[**SF445**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20445&ga=87) **– Law Enforcement Privilege**

SF 445 establishes a law enforcement privilege by allowing certain law enforcement officers to assert privilege when testifying in criminal trials over some procedural and other matters, including personal family information. The bill also establishes procedures to consider whether such information is privileged.

TheSenate approved SF 445 by a vote of 49-0, and it now moves to the House for consideration.

[**HF579**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=HF%20579&ga=87) **– Cocaine and other Penalties**

HF 579 makes various sentencing changes to Iowa law including:

**Cocaine:** Increases the amounts of cocaine base to trigger certain felony penalties: up to 20 grams for Class C felonies; 20-100 for Class B (25 years); 100 for Class B (50 years).

**Sentences**: Does not require certain Class C drug offenders to serve a mandatory minimum if the offender has not been convicted of a forcible felony. Allows a court to impose a standard sentence without a mandatory minimum if the court finds a compelling reason that not imposing a standard injustice would be a substantial injustice and that a sentence other than a standard sentence is not needed to protect the public.

**Attempted Murder Police:** Does not allow an offender convicted of attempted murder of a police officer to earn good time or early release and requires such an offender to serve 100% of the sentence.

HF 579 was approved by the House by a vote of 97-0; it now moves to the Senate for consideration.

[**SF434**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20434&ga=87) **– Juvenile Records**

SF 434 establishes alternative grounds for sealing a juvenile delinquency adjudication if the juvenile who was adjudicated for an offense that would be a felony or an aggravated or serious misdemeanor completes military service with an honorable discharge.

The Senate approved SF 434 by a vote of 28-21; it now goes to the House for consideration.

[**SF448**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20448&ga=87)**– Salvage Insurance Titles**

SF 448 allows an insurer to be issued a salvage certificate of title without giving up the original title if the insurer has an agreement to take possession of the vehicle and 30 days have passed since the effective date of the agreement. Further, the insurer must attempt to contact the previous owner or lienholder by certified mail.

The Senate approved SF 448 by a vote of 49-0; it now moves to the House for consideration.

[**SF220**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20220&ga=87) **– Traffic Cameras**

SF 220 prohibits local governments from placing automated traffic law enforcement devices without self-certifying the need for such devices. DOT would be prohibited from using such devices. Further, the bill requires the placement be done pursuant to DOT rules, and includes high-risk or high-crash areas. SF 220 also permits residents to petition for a vote on the operation of traffic cameras. The bill limits fines and requires the funds collected, less the costs, be used for secondary road maintenance or street construction.

The Senate approved SF 220 by a vote of 31-18; it now moves to the House for consideration.

[**SF234**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20234&ga=87) **– Electronic Communications while Driving**

SF 234 prohibits texting, viewing, sending, or reading electronic communications while driving and makes such violations a primary offense

The Senate approved SF 234 by a vote of 43-6; it now moves to the House for consideration.