



End of Legislative Session Report 2024

The 2024 Iowa Legislative session adjourned sine die on April 20th, 2024, four days after the expected 100-day timeframe. The 2024 Iowa legislative session was marked by significant developments across different policy areas. This year, the session emphasized reforms in education, tax policy, health and social services, and government operations, alongside adjustments in other specific areas such as vehicle registration and public records management.

Key legislative actions included substantial tax cuts, setting Iowa's personal income tax to a new low of 3.8% starting in 2025, and significant educational reforms through adjustments in the Area Education Agencies and increasing teacher salaries. The session also saw the consolidation of health and social services to improve the effectiveness and coordination of these crucial services.

Efforts to streamline government operations were evident in the reduction and restructuring of state boards and commissions. This move is intended to reduce bureaucracy and increase the efficiency of governmental processes. Additionally, there were changes to the publication requirements for official notices, aiming to enhance public access and transparency.

The Iowa County Recorder Association monitored existing legislative developments this year while preparing for new legislative initiatives for the 2025 session. Key bills that passed include those affecting tax policies and compensation structures for county officials, with a notable bill modifying the income tax rate and eliminating the compensation board.

Legislation Signed into Law

SF 2442 Tax Omnibus Act. Effective date: 01/01/2024, 07/01/2024, 07/01/2025

Senate File 2442, proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means consists of nine divisions and modifies the individual and alternate income tax rates, withholding credits, franchise tax deductions, and property tax procedures; changes methods of determining compensation of county officials, makes contingent transfers from the Taxpayer Relief Fund (TRF); and makes corrections to the Iowa Code.

Division V – Compensation of Elected County Officials would require the following:

- Requires a majority vote from a board of county supervisors to change the compensation schedule of elected county officials if a compensation board does not exist.
- Allows a board of county supervisors to dissolve or create a county compensation board upon a majority vote of the members of the board and requires the board of supervisors to annually prepare and review a compensation schedule if a compensation board does not exist.
- Requires the salary of a county sheriff to be comparable to salaries paid to professional law enforcement administrators and command officers of the State Patrol, the Division of Criminal



Investigation of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and city police chiefs in cities of a similar population to the population of the county.

- Requires a county compensation board to provide documentation to the board of supervisors demonstrating how the compensation board determined its recommended compensation schedule.
- Allows a board of supervisors to set compensation of a position at less than compensation provided in the current compensation schedule if the position is reduced to part-time.

Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 1st of May 2024.

SF2423 An act relating to snowmobile registration and nonresident user permits. Effective date: 07/01/2024

Senate File 2423 (formerly SF2155) focuses on modifying snowmobile registration and nonresident user permit requirements in Iowa. It will eliminate the user permit requirement for Iowa residents operating snowmobiles and combine the user permit requirements and the annual snowmobile registration fee into a single fee of \$30. Nonresidents are required to obtain a nonresident user permit for \$15 and display a permit decal on their snowmobiles. The act will streamline the process and adjust fees, contributing to the support of snowmobile programs within the state through a special snowmobile fund.

Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 1st of May 2024.

SF 2331 An act relating to publication requirements for official publications and including effective date provisions.

(Formerly SSB 3107.) **Effective date: 04/10/2024, 07/01/2024, 07/01/2025.**

Senate File 2331, initiated by the Committee on Technology, amends publication requirements for official notices and introduces effective date provisions.

The Act mandates free public access to notices on newspaper websites, establishes a statewide public notice internet site for publishing notices, and outlines requirements for this site. It specifies procedures for timely publication and resolution of disputes regarding publication. Minutes of a meeting or proceedings shall be published in an official publication within 15 days after the meeting. The Act also states specific requirements for newspapers that are used for official publication. The newspaper must have been in circulation for at least one year, have a list of subscribers who have paid or promised to pay and devote a part of its publications to public notices.

Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 10th of April 2024.



SF 2389 An act relating to commercial transactions, including control and transmission of electronic records and digital assets. (Formerly SF 540, SSB 1177.) Effective date: 07/01/2024.

It amends various aspects of the Uniform Commercial Code to include provisions for controllable electronic records, establishing definitions, scope, and governance related to these records. The legislation aims to modernize and clarify the legal framework for electronic transactions and digital assets, ensuring they are handled with the same legal process as traditional assets. This means that certain electronic records previously excluded from being considered digital assets, such as electronic records representing an interest in specific physical or tangible property (chattel) or a lease of such property, are no longer excluded.

Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 10th of April 2024.

HF 2015 An act relating to special landowner deer hunting licenses. Effective date: 07/01/2024.

The legislation proposes that both resident landowners and tenants, or their family members, be annually issued two free deer hunting licenses: one for antlered or any sex deer, and one for antlerless deer only. These licenses will be valid on the farm unit to which the application pertains. The owners or tenants do not need to reside on the farm unit to qualify for these licenses, which can be used during any bow or firearm deer hunting season. Moreover, these licenses can be utilized in two different hunting seasons without designating a season of use beforehand. A nominal fee of one dollar per license is also required, which will be appropriated for deer herd population management and supporting the "help us stop hunger" program.

Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 10th of April 2024.

HF 2249 An act relating to trapping by persons under the age of sixteen. (Formerly HSB 602.) Effective date: 07/01/2024. House File 2249 focuses on regulations related to trapping by minors under sixteen years of age. The legislation specifies that minors under sixteen do not need a hunting or fur harvester license to trap fur-bearing animals or hunt game if they are accompanied by a parent, guardian, or another authorized adult who has a valid license for these activities. Each minor engaged in these activities must be directly supervised by one licensed adult. However, for hunting deer or wild turkey, minors must possess appropriate hunting licenses based on their residency status. This provision overrides certain restrictions found in section 483A.31 of the Code.

Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 19th of April 2024.

HF2237 An act relating to the operation of all-terrain and off-road utility vehicles on state park road systems. Effective date: 07/01/2024. The Act pertains to the operation of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and off-road utility vehicles within Iowa's state parks. The legislation allows ATVs to be driven on state park road systems and in any areas within state parks where motor vehicles that are required to be registered under Chapter 321 can operate. This expands the accessibility of state parks to ATV and off-road utility vehicle operators, aligning their operational rights with those of other motor vehicles.



Enrolled: The bill was signed into law by Governor Reynolds on the 1st of May 2024.

SF2430 A bill for an act relating to Correction and substitution of death certificates.

Senate file 2430 (SSB 3194), proposed by the Committee on Ways and Means, focuses on the correction and substitution of death certificates. The bill mandates the Department of Health and Human Services to allow for corrections or substitutions of a death certificate if substantiated evidence is presented within twelve months of the certificate's filing. Such corrected certificates will be marked "amended" and must comply with existing requirements for amending official and local records as outlined in specific sections of the Iowa Code.

During the subcommittee meeting, the proponents of the bill explained that the bill was introduced in support of veterans. It is intended to allow for the amendment of a death certificate within a 12-month period. Currently death certificates may be corrected within 90 days of filing, this does not give enough time for investigations. The bill was approved by the subcommittee and subsequently approved by the Ways and Means committee with an amendment from DHHS. It will be moved to the Senate for votes and approval.

Enrolled: The bill awaits the Governor's signature.

HF2539 Public Records, Education, and Enforcement (HF2062).

The bill proposes amending Section 21.6 subsection 3 paragraphs a and d of Code 2024 to increase the damages assessed against each member of a governmental body who participates in a violation of the public records law. The law has increased the court damages to between \$500 and \$2,500. A person who knowingly violates the open meeting laws will be fined between \$5,000 and \$12,000 to the State of Iowa. A court shall issue an order removing a member of a governmental body from office if that member has previously engaged in a violation of this chapter for which damages were assessed during the member's term.

Enrolled: The bill awaits the Governor's signature.



Bills That Did Not Proceed

[HF 2299](#) Open Records Request Bill.

The bill specifies that government bodies can provide requested public records in a reasonable format, without being obliged to supply them in the requester's preferred format if a comparable alternative is provided. Additionally, if a public record is available on a government body's internet site, the body is not required to provide a physical copy but must direct the requester to the online location.

During the subcommittee's discussion, there was widespread support for the bill, with title guaranty advocates expressing particular interest in an amendment. The bill was passed by the House and messaged to the Senate. The Senate held a subcommittee meeting, and an amendment was proposed by the Iowa Land Title Association.

Bill Declaration: Undecided

[HF 2514](#) and [SF 2226](#) Abolishing Compensation Board Bill (Formerly HF 2345).

The bill transfers the responsibility of setting annual compensation schedules for certain elected county officers to county boards of supervisors. Currently, this task is handled by county compensation boards. The bill also stipulates that any salary increase for elected county officers should not exceed 3% annually, based on the consumer price index. Additionally, it requires that salary increases for specific officers can only be adopted if county employees receive an annual cost-of-living pay adjustment.

[HF2514](#) advanced to the House chamber with an amendment that stipulates that the elected officials (auditor, treasurer, recorder, county attorney and supervisor) would receive the same percentage of annual increase. The bill was not supported by the Records and other associations, ISAC mobilized elected officials across the 99 counties to send e-mails to the representatives opposing the bill. As a result, the bill was not read on the House floor. Instead, the legislation was incorporated into the tax omnibus Act [SF2442](#)

Bill Declaration: Against

[HF2429](#) The Paddlecraft Bill.

The bill addresses exemptions for vessel registration, focusing on paddlecraft, and introduces a new requirement for water use permit decals. The bill defines "paddlecraft" as any human-powered vessel, such as canoes and kayaks, where paddling is the primary mode of propulsion. It exempts these vessels from certain registration requirements but mandates that paddlecraft must display a water use permit decal when used in waters under the jurisdiction of the commission. The decal, costing seven dollars plus applicable fees, is valid from January 1 through December 31 of the same year. The revenue from these decals is allocated to the state fish and game protection fund, supporting water trail development,



navigation law enforcement, and water safety promotion. Failure to display the required decal on a paddlecraft is punishable as a simple misdemeanor with a scheduled fine of twenty dollars.

The bill was introduced and moved to appropriation and a subcommittee has been assigned. Last year, the legislative team held discussions with Iowa Rivers on this bill and included language that would make the recorder's office one of the point of sales. The bill will bring added writing fees to the recorder's office since it requires that all paddlecraft (regardless of length) purchase a yearly decal.

Bill Declaration: Undecided

SF 2065 County Records Notification Bill

A bill was introduced by Senator Dickey (Des Moines County), but it is part of our legislative initiatives for next year. The subcommittee meeting was held on January 31, 2024. The subcommittee is chaired by Sen Klimesh, Sen Winckler and Sen. Lofgren. Senator Dickey was present, he presented his bill and stated that it came from a few of his constituents who were concerned about property fraud issues and the increase in property fraud advertisements. He also acknowledged being briefed by his recorder about our strategic priorities for the upcoming year, expressing his support for our initiatives.

Our lobbying team, led by Census Lo-liyong, and the Rafferty Group, represented by Bob Rafferty, presented our key priorities, including the need for a statewide fraud notification system implementation. The subcommittee, after a thorough discussion, showed a positive reception towards our proposal, proposing to hold the bill for consideration next year. The meeting saw significant attendance from our stakeholder representatives, including ILTA, IFA, ITG, ICLU, and ISBA, indicating broad interest in legislative direction.

The bill requires that county recorders must implement and administer a system to notify a person when any instrument is recorded if the person is a named party to the instrument. The notice to the involved parties must be provided within one business day by electronic mail, text message, or other similar means. To receive notifications, a person must enroll in the system. Enrollment requires submitting a signed form to the recorder, containing information determined by the recorder. Upon receipt of the completed form, the recorder must send an acknowledgment to the person by the means of notification specified in the form. The recorder is not responsible for attempting any method of contact other than the means specified in the completed form. The bill did not progress to the main local government committee.

Bill Declaration: Undecided.

SF 2328 Deer-Motor Vehicle Collision (formerly SSB 3160).

A bill for an act relating to deer hunting licenses issued because of a deer-motor vehicle collision. (Formerly SSB 3160). The bill aims to address deer hunting licenses following deer-motor vehicle collisions. The bill proposes that residents with a valid hunting license involved in such collisions can receive a free antlerless



deer hunting license and tag upon submitting a police report or insurance claim. This license and tag, valid for 15 months, can be used in a current or upcoming hunting season, with provisions for transferring the license and tag to a youth hunter or the county recorder's office for local distribution. During the subcommittee meeting, several challenges were mentioned, the committee decided to advance the bill and continue the discussions. Our lobbyist held various side conversations with DNR representatives and the subcommittee members to highlight concerns including the need for more information on the technical and management requirements. The bill was placed on the Senate calendar, no further action was taken.

Bill Declaration: Undecided

Conclusion

In conclusion, Electronic Services Systems extends its gratitude to the Iowa County Records Association for their collaborative efforts. Our advocacy this year focused on engaging with legislators and stakeholders as we prepare for the 2025 legislative agenda. The 2024 County Day was successful, providing recorders a valuable platform to interact directly with state legislators. Looking ahead to 2025, our focus will intensify on the Recorder's Modernization Initiative. We plan to bolster advocacy by participating in district meetings and enhancing engagement with stakeholders and legislators across the counties.

Dates to Note

June 2024:	Legislative debrief at ICRA Summer School (June 11-13, 2024)
July 2024:	File your 2024 General Assembly Client Report
August 2024:	Finalize your 2024 Legislative Agenda
August 2024:	ISAC Annual Conference (August 21-23, 2024)
August 2024:	Begin outreach to legislators on your 2024 Legislative Agenda
January 13, 2025:	First day of the 2025 Legislative Session
May 2, 2025:	110th Day/Per Diem Expires