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# 2025 IOWA LEGISLATIVE REPORT: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



**PUBLIC SCIENCE  
COLLABORATIVE**  
*Data + Strategy for Action*



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## Executive Summary

Iowa State University's [Public Science Collaborative](#) (PSC) created this report to guide individuals and organizations working in the substance use and behavioral health space as they navigate and monitor Iowa's legislature. This report is the first in an annual policy series that summarizes legislation from the prior session and previews the upcoming session.

This report will be useful to a wide range of organizations, especially those working in substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery. For more up-to-date information on substance and behavioral health legislation, check out the Public Science Collaborative's [Iowa Legislative Bill Tracker](#). For questions, information, or feedback about this report or the Public Science Collaborative, please reach out to Dr. Shawn Dorius at [sdorius@iastate.edu](mailto:sdorius@iastate.edu).

## Why This Report Matters

We recognize that it can be difficult to follow the Iowa Legislature and maintain awareness of every piece of legislation relevant to your work. This may be especially true for non-profit organizations and other groups in the behavioral health sector, where legislative awareness and advocacy is a competing priority with the on-the-ground work that happens with clients and communities. However, what happens in the legislature can have significant impacts for local organizations. This report will help streamline legislative advocacy efforts of substance use and behavioral health organizations by building a better understanding of relevant policy work.

## How to Use This Report

The first section of the report gives an overview of the status of the legislature heading into 2026, including the legislative process, composition, and timeline. For a deeper dive into how the legislature works, PSC recommends its [Legislative Advocacy Toolkit](#), which gives more details on the legislative process, how individuals and groups can get involved and reach out to legislators, and a glossary of terms related to the Iowa legislature.

The second section provides a retrospective look at substance and behavioral health legislation considered in the 2025 legislative session. We provide a summary of 21 pieces of legislation from 2025, detailing how far each reached in the legislative process, followed by a brief description of the details of the bill, information about sponsors, and a list of lobbyist declarations. This information will help readers understand legislative context, potential partners, and interested parties in the substance use and behavioral health policy space.

Readers of this report can:

- **Learn about relevant legislation.** See what topics came up in 2025 that are related to your organization's work and help anticipate what will come up in the 2026 session.
- **Plan an engagement strategy.** Use this report to identify specific pieces of legislation to stay aware of and specific legislators or committees who are doing work in this space.
- **Identify opportunities.** See which of your legislative priorities have not been discussed in the legislature, and consider ways to ensure that they are discussed in the future.

# 2026 Iowa Legislature

Iowa’s legislature is split into two chambers, the Iowa Senate and the Iowa House of Representatives, similar to the organization of many state legislatures and the U.S. Congress. The Iowa Senate is comprised of 50 state Senators, and the Iowa House has 100 state Representatives. Senators are elected to four-year terms, and Representatives serve two-year terms. The Iowa Legislature website has a [useful tool](#) to help you find your own Senator and Representative.

Iowa’s 2026 legislative session starts on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This is the second year of the 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, the two-year period between legislative elections, with the 2025 session being the first year of the 91<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. The session will end when business is finished, typically in late April or May.

## Legislative Process

Legislation in Iowa undergoes an eight-step process starting with introduction and finishing when a bill is signed by the governor. The table below gives a short overview of each step. Explore the Public Science Collaborative’s [Policy Advocacy Toolkit](#) for a more in-depth overview of the legislative process.



**Step 1: Bill Introduction.** Legislators can introduce bills in either the Senate or the House. The Governor and state agencies can also introduce bills. Bill sponsors are the legislators who put their name on a piece of legislation when it is first introduced. A bill can have just a single sponsor or many.



**Step 2: Committee Assignment.** After introducing a bill, it is sent to a committee for consideration. Committees are oriented by topics. For instance, the education committee handles education-related proposals. The Iowa Senate currently has 17 committees, and the House has 20.



**Step 3: Subcommittee Review.** Legislation is assigned to a 3-person subcommittee, which reviews the proposed bill and holds public meetings to gain feedback from interested groups and individuals. Subcommittees may choose to recommend further consideration or suggest that a bill not be moved forward.



**Step 4: Committee Review.** A committee reviews the bill further to decide whether to advance the bill to a chamber floor, add any amendments, or take no action. Legislation is often renumbered at this stage.



**Step 5: Floor Debate.** Bills approved by committees are eligible to be voted on by the full Senate or House chamber, debate occurs and a full vote is taken with a majority needed to pass the bill.



**Step 6: Referral to the Other Chamber.** Once a bill passes in one chamber, it is sent to the other chamber for consideration. The other chamber completes steps 2-5 and may consider amendments to the bill.



**Step 7: Additional Actions.** The Senate and the House must vote to approve the same bill language in order for it to proceed to the final step. As a result, a bill may pass back and forth multiple times between the two chambers.



**Step 8: Governor’s Consideration.** A bill that has been approved by both the House and the Senate goes to the Governor. The Governor can choose to sign the bill into law or veto it. Vetoes are rare, but a vetoed bill can be returned to the House and Senate for a possible veto override, which requires a two-thirds majority vote.

## Legislature Composition

The Republican Party currently holds a trifecta, maintaining control of the Iowa House, Senate, and Governorship. At the time of writing, the Iowa House has 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats (see Figure 1). The Iowa Senate has 33 Republicans, 16 Democrats, and one vacancy, as shown in Figure 2. The Senate falls just short of the two-thirds majority needed for a veto-proof Republican majority, and the House has just enough Republican seats for a two-thirds majority. See Table 1 for a list of House and Senate leadership as of December 2025.

Figure 1: Iowa House Composition

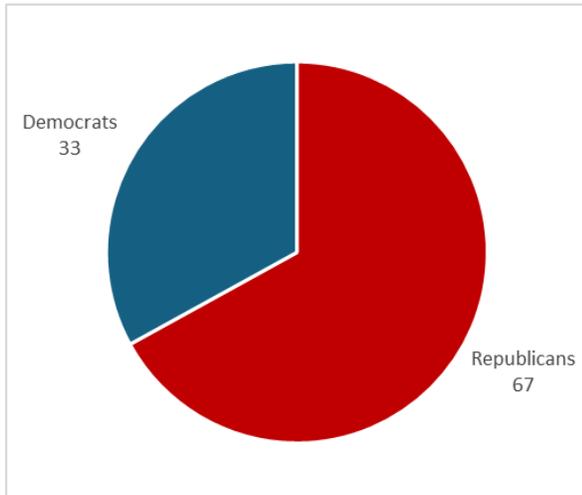


Figure 2: Senate Composition

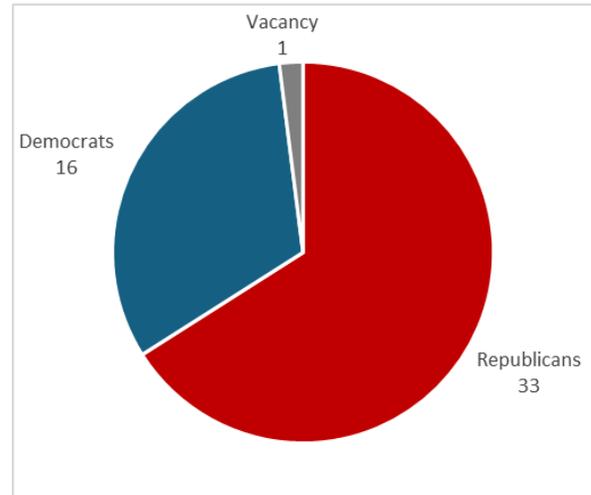


Table 1: Iowa Legislative Leadership

House Leadership		Senate Leadership	
Speaker of the House	Pat Grassley (R)	President of the Senate	Amy Sinclair (R)
Majority Leader	Bobby Kaufmann* (R)	Majority Leader	Mike Klimesh* (R)
Minority Leader	Brian Meyer* (D)	Minority Leader	Janice Weiner (D)

\*Legislators with an asterisk are new to their current roles

## Important Dates

Look at the [Session Timetable](#) for the 2026 legislative timeline. Refer to Figure 3 and Table 2 below for several key dates.

Figure 3: Critical Dates from the 2026 Legislative Timeline



Table 2: 2026 Legislative Date Descriptions

January 12 <sup>th</sup> : Start of Session	Iowa’s annual legislative session starts on the second Monday of each year, as written in the Iowa Constitution.
January 23 <sup>rd</sup> : Draft Bill Requests	This is the final day for requests for the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) to draft bills. The LSA is made up of nonpartisan staff who assist legislators in various ways, including in drafting legislation.
February 20 <sup>th</sup> : “First Funnel”	The First Funnel is the deadline for Senate and House bills to be reported out of their respective chamber’s committees.
March 20 <sup>th</sup> : “Second Funnel”	The Second Funnel is the deadline for Senate and House bills to be reported out of the opposite chamber’s committees.
March 30 <sup>th</sup> : Limited Debate	After this date, only certain bills and resolutions are eligible for consideration. See the <a href="#">Session Timetable</a> for a full list.
April 21 <sup>st</sup> : 100 <sup>th</sup> Day	The 100 <sup>th</sup> calendar day of the legislative session is the final day that legislators receive per diem expenses. This serves as an informal target for the legislature to work on closing businesses.

## 2025: Substance and Behavioral Health Legislation

The Public Science Collaborative identified 21 pieces of legislation from the 2025 Iowa legislative session dealing directly with substance use or behavioral health. Among those, five were signed into law by Governor Reynolds, one additional bill was passed by a single legislative chamber, and four additional bills were passed by legislative committees.

Table 3 provides a summary of the substance and behavioral health legislation introduced in 2025, including how far each made it in the legislative process. The bills are separated into the categories of Alcohol, Tobacco and Vaping, Other Substances, and Behavioral Health. Within each category, the bills are ordered by how far the bill has progressed in the legislative process. That is, bills that were passed and signed by the governor are listed first, and bills that were introduced but did not reach any other steps are listed last.

Following the summary table, detailed information is provided on each individual bill. These are ordered in the same way as the table. Additional details include a description of the bill, the bill’s sponsor(s) or original sponsor(s) of precursor legislation, committee assignments, and a list of lobbying organizations’ most recent declarations either for, against, or undecided on the particular bill. There are also embedded links to the sponsoring legislators, assigned committees, and specific bill information.

Table 3: Substance Use and Behavioral Health Legislation Summary

Category	Legislation	Subcommittee Recommendation	Passed by Committee	Passed by One Chamber	Passed by Both Chambers	Signed by Governor
Alcohol	Alcohol Licensure	X	X	X	X	X
	Direct Shipment of Liquor	X	X			
	Alcohol Sale, Possession, and Consumption on Public School Properties	X	X			
	Dramshop Liability Insurance	X	X			
	Voluntary Exclusion Program	X				
	Minimum Unit Pricing					
Tobacco and Vaping	Cigarette and Tobacco Permitting	X	X	X	X	X
	Taxation of Vaping Products	X	X			
	Heated Tobacco Products	X	X			
	Smoking on Gaming Floors	X	X			
Other Substances	Opioid Settlement Fund	X	X	X	X	X
	THC Drinks, Open Containers	X	X	X	X	X
	Fentanyl, First Degree Murder	X	X	X		
	Drug Interdiction Program	X	X			
	Drug Test Strips	X	X			
	Kratom Regulation and Labelling	X				
	Kratom as a Controlled Substance					
	Drug Paraphernalia Penalties					
	Marijuana Possession					
Behavioral Health	Youth Behavioral Health Services	X	X	X	X	X
	988 Emergency Service Fund					

# Alcohol Legislation

## HF 470/SF 610: Alcohol Licensure

**Status:** Signed into law by Governor

**Original Sponsors (HSB 79/SSB 1089):** Department of Revenue

**Committee Assignments:** [House Committee on State Government](#); [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#)

**Description:** HF 470 & SF 610 modify the definitions of canned cocktails and mixed drinks or cocktails. The legislation also allows alcoholic beverages of all types to be carried as open containers between appropriately licensed premises that are adjacent to each other (if agreed upon by each licensee). This was previously allowed for open containers of wine, and is expanded to include beer, liquor, and other alcoholic beverages.

**Link (HF 470):** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF470>

**Link (SF 610):** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF610>

Table 4: HF 470/SF 610 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Distillers Alliance	For
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowa Wine Growers Association	For
Wine Institute	Undecided
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	Undecided
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided
Revelton Distilling Company	Undecided
Iowa Wholesale Beer Distributors Association	Undecided
Republic National Distributing Company	Undecided
Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits	Undecided
Iowa Brewers Guild	For

## SF 245/HF 993: Direct Shipment of Liquor

Status: Passed by Committee

### Original Sponsors (SF 245 & HF 140):

- [Sen. Tom Shipley](#) (R), District 9 – Adams County
- [Rep. Megan Jones](#) (R), District 6 – Clay County
- [Rep. Michael Sexton](#) (R), District 7 – Calhoun County
- [Rep. Brian Lohse](#) (R), District 45 – Polk County
- [Rep. Joshua Meggers](#) (R), District 54 – Grundy County
- [Rep. Derek Wulf](#) (R), District 76 – Black Hawk County
- [Rep. Heather Hora](#) (R), District 92 – Washington County
- [Rep. Jacob Bossman](#) (R), District 14 – Woodbury County
- [Rep. Taylor Collins](#) (R), District 95 – Des Moines County
- [Rep. John Wills](#) (R), District 10 – Dickinson County
- [Rep. Jon Dunwell](#) (R), District 38 – Jasper County
- [Rep. Craig Johnson](#) (R), District 67 – Buchanan County

**Committee Assignments:** [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#); [House Committee on Ways and Means](#); [House Committee on State Government](#)

**Description:** This legislation would create a new direct shipper liquor license for alcoholic liquor. Holders of this license would be allowed to ship alcoholic liquor directly to purchasers for retail sales. Under current law, wine is the only type of alcohol available for direct shipping.

**Link (SF 245):** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF245>

**Link (HF 993):** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF993>

Table 5: SF 245/HF 993 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	For
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Against
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowa Wholesale Beer Distributors Association	Against
Iowa Wine Growers Association	For
Molson Coors Beverage Company USA LLC	Against
Republic National Distributing Company	Against
Revelton Distilling Company	For
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits	Against
Templeton Rye Spirits, LLC	For
Wine Institute	Undecided

# HF 769: Alcohol Sale, Possession, and Consumption on Public School Properties

Status: Passed by Committee

Original Sponsor (HF 69): [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R), District 8 – Webster County

Committee Assignment: [House Committee on State Government](#)

**Description:** This legislation would allow school boards to permit the sale, possession, and consumption of alcoholic beverages on public school properties for non-school functions. It would require the school grounds where alcohol will be sold and consumed to be covered by a temporary five-day retail alcohol license. The license would need to be held by someone other than the school board. Currently, this is allowed on private school property, but not public school property.

Link: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF769>

Table 6: HF 769 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Rural School Advocates of Iowa	Undecided
School Administrators of Iowa	Undecided
Urban Education Network of Iowa	Undecided
Iowa Association of School Boards	Undecided
Revelton Distilling Company	For
Wine Institute	For

## SF 584: Dramshop Liability Insurance

**Status:** Passed by Committee

**Original Sponsor (SSB 1193):** [Senate Committee on Commerce](#), Chairperson [Mike Boussetot](#)

**Committee Assignment:** [Senate Committee on Commerce](#)

**Description:** SF 584 would remove the requirement for alcohol retailers to hold specific dramshop liability insurance. It would instead require licensed alcohol retailers to submit proof of commercial general liability insurance.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF584>

Table 7: SF 584 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Americans For Prosperity	For
Iowa Restaurant Association	Undecided
Iowa Alliance of Surety Companies	Against
Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers	Against
Wine Institute	Against
Iowa Association for Justice	Against
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Independent Insurance Agents of Iowa	Against
Revelton Distilling Company	Undecided
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided
Iowa Defense Counsel Association	Undecided
Molson Coors Beverage Company USA LLC	Against
Iowa Wine Growers Association	For
Iowa Wholesale Beer Distributors Association	Against
Republic National Distributing Company	Against
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits	Against
Iowa Brewers Guild	Undecided
Mothers Against Drunk Driving	Against
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	For

## SF 405: Voluntary Exclusion Program

**Status:** Recommended by Subcommittee

**Sponsor:** [Sen. Doug Campbell](#) (R), District 30 – Cerro Gordo County

**Committee Assignment:** [Senate Committee on State Government](#)

**Description:** SF 405 would require the Department of Revenue to establish a process allowing individuals to voluntarily exclude themselves from retail alcohol purchases, for terms of either five years or life. Similar programs already exist for wagering and gambling in Iowa.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF405>

*Table 8: SF 405 Lobbyist Declarations*

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Restaurant Association	Undecided
Iowa Wine Growers Association	Undecided
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	Undecided
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided
Molson Coors Beverage Company USA LLC	Undecided
Wine Institute	Undecided
Iowa Wholesale Beer Distributors Association	Undecided
Republic National Distributing Company	Undecided
Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits	Undecided

## HF 830: Minimum Unit Price of Liquor

**Status:** Introduced

**Sponsors:** [Rep. Austin Baeth](#) (D), District 36 – Polk County; [Rep. Hans Wilz](#) (R), District 25 – Wapello County

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on State Government](#)

For example, under this legislation, if a unit with 100 mL of alcohol has a manufacturer’s price of \$2.50 (\$0.45 per 18 mL), which would fall below the minimum unit price, the Department of Revenue would instead use a price of \$2.78 (\$0.50 per 18 mL) for the purpose of setting a markup to sell to alcohol retailers.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF830>

*Table 9: HF 830 Lobbyist Declarations*

Organization	Declaration
Central City Liquors, Inc.	Against
Steven Mark Ebelsheiser	Against
Iowa Restaurant Association	Against
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	Undecided
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided

## Tobacco and Vape Legislation

### SF 612: Cigarette and Tobacco Permitting

**Status:** Signed into law by Governor

**Original Sponsor (SSB 1153):** Department of Revenue

**Committee Assignments:** [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#); [House Committee on Ways and Means](#)

**Description:** This law clarifies administrative procedures for approving tobacco-related retail permits. Cities and counties approve these permits, but the Department of Revenue is the issuer of tobacco permits, on behalf of cities and counties.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF612>

Table 10: SF 612 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
KWIK Trip, Inc.	Undecided
Iowans For Alternatives To Smoking And Tobacco	Undecided
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
City of Cedar Rapids	Undecided
Linn County Board of Supervisors	Undecided
Urban County Coalition	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided
FUELlowa (PMCI)	Undecided
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided

## SF 638: Taxation of Vaping Products and Nicotine Pouches, Iowa Cancer Research Fund

**Status:** Passed by Committee

**Original Sponsor (SSB 1137):** [Senate Committee on Health and Human Services](#), Chairperson [Mike Klimesh](#)

**Committee Assignment:** [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#)

**Description:** This bill would add new taxes to vapor products and alternative nicotine products, such as nicotine pouches. The tax would be 10% of the wholesale price. These products are not currently subject to any special tax beyond the standard sales tax, unlike tobacco products, which have an excise tax of 22%. The revenue created by the excise tax on vaping and alternative nicotine products would go to a new Iowa Cancer Research fund also created by the legislation, overseen by the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF638>

Table 11: SF 638 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	For
Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners	For
Iowa Nurse Practitioners Society	Undecided
Iowa Nurses Association	Undecided
Iowa Primary Care Association	Undecided
PMI US Corporate Services Inc. and Affiliates	Against
American Lung Association	Undecided
Altria Client Services LLC and its Affiliates	Against
Iowans For Alternatives To Smoking And Tobacco	Against
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided
Iowa Society of Certified Public Accountants	Undecided
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Americans For Prosperity	Against
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)	Undecided
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy	For
American Heart Association	Undecided
Philip Morris International	Against
RAI Service Co.	Against

## HF 1035: Heated Tobacco Products

**Status:** Passed by Committee

**Original Sponsor (HSB 321):** [House Committee on Ways and Means](#), Chairperson [Bobby Kaufmann](#)

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Ways and Means](#)

**Description:** This bill expands the definition of cigarettes to include heated tobacco products for most purposes in Iowa code. However, it exempts heated tobacco products from the excise tax of cigarettes (6.8 cents per unit) and instead would implement a 3.4 cents per unit excise tax for heated tobacco products. Heated tobacco products are defined in the legislation as a product that contains tobacco and produces an inhalable aerosol, but heats rather than burns the tobacco. See the [CDC Heated Tobacco Products](#) page for more information.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF1035>

Table 12: HF 1035 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Grocery Industry Association	Undecided
Americans For Prosperity	For
Altria Client Services LLC and its Affiliates	Against
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided
RAI Service Co.	Against
PMI US Corporate Services Inc. and Affiliates	For
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
City of Cedar Rapids	Undecided
Linn County Board of Supervisors	Undecided
Urban County Coalition	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowans For Alternatives To Smoking And Tobacco	Undecided
American Lung Association	Against
Philip Morris International	For

## HF 781: Smoking on Gaming Floors

**Status:** Passed by Committee

**Original Sponsor (HSB 148):** [House Committee on Commerce](#), Chairperson [Shannon Lundgren](#)

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Commerce](#)

**Description:** Under current Iowa law, gaming floors (such as at casinos) are exempted from the Smokefree Air Act. This bill would remove that exemption and would place gaming floors under the same smoking prohibitions of the act.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF781>

Table 13: HF 781 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
CAFE Iowa Citizen’s Action Network (Clean Air for Everyone)	For
American Heart Association	For
Iowa Gaming Association	Against
Iowa State Association of Counties	For
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
City of Cedar Rapids	Undecided
Linn County Board of Supervisors	Undecided
Churchill Downs Incorporated	Against
Boyd Gaming & Dubuque Diamond Jo & Diamond Jo Worth	Against
Penn Entertainment/Ameristar	Against
Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition	For
Americans for Nonsmokers’ Rights	For
Iowa West Racing Association	Undecided
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing	Undecided
Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino	Undecided
Elite Casino Resorts, LLC	Undecided
Q Casino	Undecided
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	For
Cigar Association of America, Inc.	Against

## Other Substance Legislation

### HF 1038: Opioid Settlement Fund

**Status:** Signed into law by Governor

**Original Sponsor (HSB 331):** [House Committee on Appropriations](#), Chairperson [Gary Mohr](#)

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Appropriations](#)

**Description:** After several years of debate, the Iowa legislature reached an agreement on disbursing money in the state opioid settlement fund. This fund includes money from legal settlements with opioid manufacturers. In Iowa, opioid settlement dollars are split evenly between the state and counties across the state. As of June 2025, the state fund had more than \$56 million on hand.

This legislation appropriates \$29 million from the fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, intended for several specific projects across the state in substance use treatment and recovery. Moving forward, it also appropriates 75% of the remainder of the fund to the Department of Health and Human Services and 25% of the fund to the Office of the Attorney General, for each fiscal year. The behavioral health district administrative service organization will propose uses of the funds to be reviewed by the department and the office.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF1038>

Table 14: HF 1038 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
FFF Enterprises, Inc.	For
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided
Integrated Telehealth Partners	Undecided
Polk County - Board of Supervisors	Undecided
Iowa Association of Rural Health Clinics	Undecided
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided
Iowa Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners	Undecided
Iowa Nurse Practitioners Society	Undecided
Iowa Nurses Association	Undecided
Iowa Psychological Association	Undecided
League of Women Voters of Iowa	Undecided
Lutheran Services in IA, Inc.	Undecided
Rosecrance Health Network and its affiliate Rosecrance Jackson Centers	Undecided
Iowa Board of Regents	Undecided
Iowa Catholic Conference	Undecided
Iowa ACEs 360	Undecided
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
Linn County Board of Supervisors	Undecided
MH/DS of East Central Region	Undecided
Urban County Coalition	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided

## HF 181/SF 392: Open Containers and THC-Infused Beverages

**Status:** Signed into law by Governor

**Original Sponsor (HSB 29/SSB 1098):** Department of Public Safety

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Public Safety](#); [Senate Committee on Judiciary](#)

**Description:** HF 181/SF 392 would extend current open container laws to apply to beverages containing THC. Currently, the law only applies to alcoholic beverages. Under the proposed law, operators of vehicles would not be allowed to have access to open containers of either alcoholic beverages or THC-infused beverages.

**Link (HF 181):** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF181>

**Link (SF 392):** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF392>

Table 15: HF 181/SF 392 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
MedPharm Iowa	Undecided
State Police Officers Council	For
Iowa HEMP Coalition	Undecided
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy	For
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	For
Iowa Association for Justice	Undecided
Iowa Wholesale Beer Distributors Association	Undecided
Iowa Brewers Guild	For
Iowa Peace Officers Association	Undecided
Iowans for Medical Marijuana	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided
Wine Institute	For
Iowa Dept. of Public Safety	For
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided

## HF 792: Fentanyl, First Degree Murder

**Status:** Passed by House

**Original Sponsor (HF 365):** [Rep. Jon Dunwell](#) (R), District 38 – Jasper County

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Public Safety](#)

**Description:** This bill would allow someone to be charged with murder in the first degree if they cause the death of another person by delivering, dispensing, or providing fentanyl or a substance related to fentanyl. The bill does not contain any exception for those who unknowingly provide fentanyl to the deceased.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF792>

Table 16: HF 792 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided

## HF 934: Drug Interdiction Program

**Status:** Passed by Committee

**Original Sponsor (HSB 290):** [House Committee on Public Safety](#), Chairperson [Mike Vondran](#)

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Public Safety](#)

**Description:** This legislation would appropriate \$1.2 million for FY 2025-2026 to the Department of Public Safety for the creation of a drug interdiction program. The drug interdiction program is intended to combat drug trafficking within Iowa.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF934>

Table 17: HF 934 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
State Police Officers Council	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided

## HF 699: Drug Test Strips and Other Drug-Checking Equipment

**Status:** Passed by Committee

**Original Sponsors (HF 487):** [Rep. Brian Lohse](#) (R), District 45 – Polk County; [Rep. Brett Barker](#) (R), District 51 – Story County

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Health and Human Services](#)

**Description:** This legislation would add fentanyl and other drug test strips to the exemption list for drug paraphernalia, as well as other equipment owned by harm reduction organizations for the purposes of testing such test strips. Under current law, fentanyl test strips are included as drug paraphernalia, and anyone in possession of them can be charged with a simple misdemeanor. The bill would also allow state or state-administered funds to be used for drug-checking activities.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF699>

Table 18: HF 699 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Personal Interest-Matt Chapman	For
Iowa Psychiatric Physicians Society	For
Iowa Independent Physician Group	For
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	For
Iowa County Attorneys Association	For
Iowa Medical Society	For
Iowa Pharmacy Association	For
Iowa Faith and Freedom Coalition	For
The Family Leader Foundation	Withdrawn
Linn County Board of Supervisors	For
Mindspring Mental Health Alliance	For
Iowa Peace Officers Association	For
Iowa Public Health Association	For
Iowa State Police Association	For
Iowa Dept. of Public Safety	Undecided

## HF 612: Kratom Regulation and Labelling

**Status:** Recommended by Subcommittee

**Sponsors:** [Rep. Cindy Golding](#) (R), District 83 – Linn County; [Rep. Brett Barker](#) (R), District 51 – Story County

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Public Safety](#)

**Description:** HF 612 would create several new chapters that regulate the sale of kratom in Iowa. Many of these are around the registration, manufacture, and labeling of kratom products, in addition to preventing use by youth, and setting penalties for violating these standards. Several of the youth-targeted standards include preventing kratom products that have labeling resembling existing candy products or other aspects that are “attractive to children,” as well as adding labels that the product should not be used by individuals under 21 years of age and setting penalties for providing kratom products to individuals under 21 years of age.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF612>

Table 19: HF 612 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided
Casey’s General Stores	Undecided
American Kratom Association	For
Iowa Department of Health and Human Services	Undecided
Blank Childrens Hospital	Undecided
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy	Undecided
Botanicals for Better Health and Wellness	Undecided
FUELlowa (PMCI)	Undecided
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided

## SF 367: Designating Kratom as a Controlled Substance

**Status:** Introduced

**Sponsor:** [Sen. Mark Costello](#) (R), District 8 – Mills County

**Committee Assignment:** [Senate Committee on Judiciary](#)

**Description:** This bill would add kratom as a Schedule I controlled substance in the state of Iowa.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF367>

Table 20: SF 367 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council	Undecided
Botanicals for Better Health and Wellness	Against
American Kratom Association	Against
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	For
Iowa Medical Society	Undecided
Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing	Undecided
Iowa Peace Officers Association	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy	Undecided

## HF 84: Drug Paraphernalia Penalties

**Status:** Introduced

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Zach Dieken](#) (R), District 5 – O'Brien County

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Public Safety](#)

**Description:** This bill would modify penalties for knowingly manufacturing, selling, or possession drug paraphernalia. Under current law, the penalty is a simple misdemeanor, which can include up to 30 days of jail time and a fine between \$105 and \$855. This legislation would change the penalty to a scheduled violation with a standard fine of \$260.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF84>

Table 21: HF 84 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council	For
Iowa State Bar Association	For
Iowa Association for Justice	For
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided
Iowa Dept. of Public Safety	Undecided

## HF 78: Marijuana Possession

**Status:** Introduced

**Sponsor:** [Rep. Megan Jones](#) (R), District 6 – Clay County

**Committee Assignment:** [House Committee on Public Safety](#)

**Description:** HF 78 would create a new category for marijuana possession penalties, intended for possession of small amounts of marijuana. Under the bill, conduct involving less than a half ounce of marijuana, if it is not intended for sale, is punishable with a simple misdemeanor, with a scheduled fine of \$500. Under current law, penalties can range from an aggregated misdemeanor up to a class “B” felony, depending on other factors.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=HF78>

Table 22: HF 78 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Iowa Integrated Health Planning and Advisory Council	For
City of Des Moines	For
Iowa Association for Justice	For
Iowa Peace Officers Association	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Iowans for Medical Marijuana	For
Iowa Behavioral Health Association (IBHA)	Undecided
Iowa Mental Health Advocacy	Undecided
Iowa County Attorneys Association	Undecided
American Civil Liberties Union of Iowa (ACLU-IA)	For
VALOR Iowa	For
Iowa Dept. of Public Safety	Undecided

# Behavioral Health Legislation

## SF 474: Youth Behavioral Health Services

**Status:** Signed into Law by Governor

**Original Sponsor (SSB 1120):** Department of Health and Human Services

**Committee Assignment:** [Senate Committee on Health and Human Services](#)

**Description:** SF 474 has many provisions regarding youth services, including substance use treatment, foster care facilities, mental health services, and other health services. The most notable provisions regarding behavioral health are provisions that relax substance use treatment licensing requirements for psychiatric medical institutions for children that also maintain or conduct such substance use treatment or rehabilitation programs. Similarly, the bill requires expedited approvals for applicants to simultaneously receive licenses for substance use disorder treatment programs and childcare foster facilities, as a comprehensive residential care facility.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF474>

Table 23: SF 474 Lobbyist Declarations

Organization	Declaration
Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance	Undecided
Iowa Police Chief Association (FKA Iowa Police Executive Forum)	Undecided
Ellipsis	Undecided
Iowa State Association of Counties	Undecided
Orchard Place	For
Coalition for Family and Children’s Services in Iowa	For
Iowa Occupational Therapy Association	Undecided
National Alliance on Mental Illness - Iowa	Undecided
National Association of Social Workers, Iowa Chapter	Undecided
Brain Injury Association of Iowa	Undecided
Iowa State Bar Association	Undecided
Elevance Health, and its Affiliates dba Anthem, Inc.	For
Woodward Academy	For
Iowa ACEs 360	Undecided
Iowa Board of Regents	Undecided
Molina Healthcare, Inc.	Undecided
Linn County Board of Supervisors	Undecided
MH/DS of East Central Region	Undecided
Urban County Coalition	Undecided

## SF 438: 988 Emergency Service Fund

Status: Introduced

### Sponsors:

- [Sen. Janice Weiner](#) (D), District 45 – Johnson County
- [Sen. Molly Donahue](#) (D), District 37 – Linn County
- [Sen. Bill Dotzler](#) (D), District 31 – Black Hawk County
- [Sen. Cindy Winckler](#) (D), District 49 – Scott County
- [Sen. Claire Celsi](#) (D), District 16 – Polk County
- [Sen. Thomas Townsend](#) (D), District 36 – Dubuque County
- [Sen. Art Staed](#) (D), District 40 – Linn County
- [Sen. Janet Petersen](#) (D), District 18 – Polk County
- [Sen. Herman Quirmbach](#) (D), District 25 – Story County

**Committee Assignment:** [Senate Committee on Health and Human Services](#)

**Description:** This bill would create a dedicated fund with money to support the operations of 988 suicide and crisis services. It would appropriate \$3 million to the fund beginning in fiscal year 2026 and continuing for future fiscal years.

**Link:** <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=91&ba=SF438>

This bill does not have any lobbyists registered with declarations for, against, or undecided.

## Resources

Please refer to the list of additional resources below. For more up-to-date information on substance and behavioral health legislation, check out the Public Science Collaborative's [Iowa Legislative Bill Tracker](#). For questions, information, or feedback about this report or the Public Science Collaborative, please reach out to Dr. Shawn Dorius at [sdorius@iastate.edu](mailto:sdorius@iastate.edu).

- [Iowa Legislative Advocacy Toolkit](#)
- [Iowa Legislature Website](#)
- [Find Your Legislator](#)
- [Find Legislation](#)
- [2026 Iowa Legislative Session Timetable](#)
- [Daily Meeting Calendar](#)
- [Other Schedules and Calendars](#)