



## Iowa Legislative Bulletin

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### BILL TRACKING

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### Health Reform Exchange Bill Introduced

A bill to create an Iowa health insurance exchange was introduced in the Senate Monday but will go nowhere unless the governor takes some initiative to assist with the effort, a key Democrat behind the effort said.

State insurance exchanges are a key part of President Barack Obama's national health reform law. The law passed in 2010 but its provisions won't be fully implemented until 2014. [MORE](#)

### Minimum Wage Hike Pushed

Sen. Tom Courtney, D-Burlington, believes that minimum-wage earners in Iowa deserve a raise. Courtney, who led the charge to get the state's minimum hourly wage increased to \$7.25 on Jan. 1, 2008, has introduced a measure this session aimed at boosting that threshold to \$8.75 beginning next July 1 and to \$10 per hour on Jan. 1, 2013.

The Burlington Democrat said Monday that anyone currently earning the hourly minimum is making a little more than \$14,000 a year - a level which is not enough to live on. "I'm not naïve enough to think I'll get this passed this year," he said, especially since Republicans control the Iowa House and the governorship. However, he said it took multiple years to get the measure approved last time so he's hoping he is laying the groundwork for future legislative approval.

Courtney noted that he would be helping the governor achieve his 2010 campaign goal of raising Iowans' personal income by 25 percent since his phased-in approach would increase minimum-wage earners income by slightly more than that stated goal. He said he wouldn't have a problem stretching out the increase over a longer period of implementation if that helped get Senate File 2040 signed into law.

Opponents traditionally argue that small businesses, especially in small towns, are hurt when the state mandates increases in the minimum wages that they pay their employees.

### Governor's property tax reform heard in committee; Opposition from cities remains

Reactions to Gov. Terry Branstad's version of commercial property tax reform today were largely the same as those heard on a competing House Republican proposal.

In short, businesses like it, but cities, counties and school districts

## Retention

[SF 2042 -Health Benefit Marketplace](#)

[SF 2046 -Property Tax Exemptions](#)

## Quick Links

### Iowa Legislature

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have concerns. [MORE](#)

## BILL TRACKING- Industry Bills

[HF 2078 STATUTE OF REPOSE](#) (Helland) (Commerce)  
Introduced into the House this week. See SF 2031

## BILL TRACKING- General Bills

[HSB 547 ROAD FUNDING](#) (Transportation) [Tjepkes](#) (C),  
[Cphoon](#), [Iverson](#), [Lykam](#), [Worthan](#)

**Fees:** Increases the fee for new registration to 6%. Increases the registration fee for hybrids and mixed-fuel vehicles by \$50 a year and for plug-in electrics and alternative fuel vehicles by \$100 a year. Credits fees from motor vehicle operator registration fees to RUTF. **Costs:** Prohibits appropriations for operational costs for the DOR, Treasurer, DOM & DIA from the RUTF. Strikes the appropriation to the Living Roadway Fund. **Taxes:** Raises the fuel tax, other than for biodiesel, by 4 cents on May 2013 and by another 4 cents on May 2014. **Reports:** Requires reports on the sufficiency of the RUTF to meet road needs and on alternative funding mechanisms, every two years, instead of five. Requires an annual meeting of the DOT and cities and counties on the public road system.

[SF 2042 HEALTH BENEFIT MARKETPLACE](#) [Hatch](#)  
(Commerce)

Establishes a health benefit marketplace to allow individuals and small businesses (fewer than 50 employees) to purchase qualified health benefit plans. Establishes the benefit marketplace as a non-profit corporation. Sets the board, makes definitions, and includes implementing provisions.

[SF 2046 PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS](#) [Hogg](#) (Ways & Means)

Establishes a property tax exemption for improvements that meet energy efficiency standards (2% for LEED Silver status, 5% for LEED Gold status, 10% for LEED Platinum status). Limits the exemption to five years. Requires the taxpayer to file for the exemption with the assessor using forms developed by DOR. Only requires the taxpayer to file once for the five-year period.

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