

SF 579 - Prevents cities from expanding upon the Iowa civil rights code.
 SF 579 blocks cities / municipalities from enacting local ordinances expanding the civil rights code beyond what the statewide civil rights code provides; nullifies the ordinances passed in Ames, Iowa City, etc. to protect trans people after removal from the state civil rights code by SF 418 last year. Trans people can now be legally discriminated against anywhere in Iowa regardless of what the city has to say about it; this could also easily be expanded to other groups entirely at the whim of the Iowa state legislature.
 Status - Passed and is now Iowa law.

HF 2513 - Prevents employment of international students by colleges and universities.
 HF 2513 would prevent universities & colleges from entering contracts of employment with "citizens of federally designated foreign adversaries and state sponsors of terrorism holding certain visas". Includes China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Venezuela, and potentially Syria, but could be expanded. This would effectively prevent many future international students from being employed by the university. Unclear if this currently applies to existing international university employees, but could be expanded to include them.
 Status - Passed Iowa House of Representatives with a 68-27 vote; currently in Iowa Senate.
HF 2102 - Makes Iowa driver's license exams English-only.
 HF 2102 would prohibit driver's license examinations from being administered in any language other than English. This

HF 2711 - Removes affirmative action from Iowa state law.
 The bill adds similar language to foster parent licensing considerations, court-ordered custody considerations during a dissolution of marriage, prospective adoptive parent considerations, and exemptions to the definition of child endangerment." In short, this bill would allow the disproven and cruel practice of conversion therapy to be used against transitioning kids with no legal repercussions. While conversion therapy is not currently explicitly banned under Iowa state law, cities such as Davenport do have local ordinances banning it; by explicitly legalizing conversion therapy, HF 2557 would likely nullify such local ordinances if passed.
 Status - Passed Iowa House of Representatives with a 65-31 vote; currently in Iowa Senate.
HF 2711 - Removes affirmative action from Iowa state law.

would make it extremely and unnecessarily difficult for non-English-speaking Iowa residents to obtain a driver's license, particularly non-English-speaking senior citizens who are retaking exams due to medical concerns and immigrants from non-English-speaking countries.
 Status: Passed Iowa House of Representatives with a 58-30 vote; currently in Iowa Senate.
HF 2557 - Explicitly allows conversion therapy and exempts it from the definition of child abuse.
 HF 2557 "exempts from the definition of child abuse ... referring to the child with titles or pronouns consistent with the child's sex, seeking and consenting to a mental health service for a child for the purpose of helping the child live a life consistent with the child's sex, making mental health or medical decisions based on the child's sex, and declining to consent to gender transition

Recent Iowa Legislation



Links:



DEI. This led to the closure of, for example, the Center for LGBTQIA+ Student Success at ISU. If passed, HF 2488 would further expand this to private colleges that participate in Iowa's tuition grant program.

Status: Passed Iowa House of Representatives with a 57-34 vote; Senate subcommittee recommends indefinite postponement.

HF 856 - Prevents public entities from establishing DEI offices.

HF 856 disallows any state or public entity (cities/counties, agencies, departments, etc) from funding or promoting any material supporting DEI initiatives as the official position of the public entity. Essentially, it is an extension of SF 2435 to entities other than universities.

Status: Passed and is now Iowa law.

HF 2711 "strikes numerous provisions from Iowa law that require or reference affirmative action, race, gender, or citizenship in state employment, contracting, and educational programs. It removes the obligation to develop affirmative action plans, report on minority or gender representation, and utilize minority, women's, or disadvantaged business enterprises." While the bill is largely redundant as most DEI programs in Iowa have already been banned or discontinued, HF 2711 still serves to underscore how unwelcome minorities are in Iowa in 2026.

Status: Passed Iowa House of Representatives with a 64-29 vote; currently in Iowa Senate.

HF 2488 - Bans private colleges from establishing DEI offices.

SF 2435, signed into law in May 2024, already banned public universities from establishing offices related to