

February 24, 2022

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## Appropriations

### Gaming Tax Revenue Expected to Decline Due to New Gaming in Nebraska

When Nebraska voters passed a referendum in November 2020 to allow casino wagering in the Cornhusker State, it was widely understood that this action would have a negative impact on western Iowa casinos and the state's gaming tax revenues. Just what that impact will be is becoming clearer.

In December, 2021 the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission received reports from two different consultant groups examining the socioeconomic impact of gambling on Iowa and a market analysis of the state's existing casinos. Both studies found that there would be significant impact on the four casinos in communities that border Nebraska.

The bigger impact would be felt in Council Bluffs, where three casinos currently operate. The Ameristar, Harrah's, and Horseshoe casinos could expect to see a 35-45 percent reduction in revenue and tax payments to the state according to the two casinos. The patronage at these casinos includes a large percentage of Nebraskans, with one estimate being that 80 percent of customers coming from the west side of the Missouri River. Current plans in Nebraska call for casinos to be built on the west side of Omaha and in Lincoln.

The Hard Rock casino in Sioux City would also be impacted by the construction of a casino in South Sioux City, Nebraska. The two studies project that the Hard Rock could lose anywhere between 18 and 42 percent of their revenue when that casino is operational.

Why is this such a concern for Iowa and the state's Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund? The three Council Bluffs casinos generate a disproportional amount of the gaming tax collected. In Fiscal Year 2021, the state collected \$314.5 million in gaming tax. The three Council Bluffs casinos paid \$83.1 million, which mean those casinos generate 26.4 percent of the state's gaming tax revenue. The Hard Rock casino in Sioux City paid almost \$17 million in gaming tax in FY 2021.

Iowa's casinos have experienced an increase in wagering since Governor Reynolds reopened the casinos in the late spring of 2020. That growth has produced a one-time bubble of approximately \$60 million in RIIF funding, as gaming tax collections in FY 2021 and FY 2022 have been higher than projected by the state's Revenue Estimating Conference. But that growth has leveled off and gaming tax collections starting to work its way back down to pre-pandemic levels.

Last year, the Legislature decided to phase out the collection of gaming tax on promotional play incentives at casinos. This will reduce gaming tax by \$25 million when fully implemented in Fiscal Year 2027. The arrival of casinos in Nebraska will further that decline in gaming tax revenue. Using the average amount of gaming tax deposited into the RIIF in FY 2018 thru 2020, the annual amount was \$161.1 million. If the impact of the Nebraska casinos is at the

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lower end of the socioeconomic studies' projections, the amount of gaming tax going to RIIF could decline to \$101.8 million in FY 2027.

When the Nebraska casinos actually come on line is still unclear, but when it does they will have a big impact on Iowa's gaming tax revenue and the amount of money that can be spent on infrastructure projects.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

## Agriculture

### Iowa's Economy Benefited as Biofuel Production Rebounded in 2021

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) issued a press release touting that a new study released today finds rebounding biofuels production in 2021 provided a strong boost to Iowa's economy. The study, authored by John Urbanchuk of ABF Economics and commissioned by the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA), found the production of ethanol and biodiesel accounts for over \$5 billion in state GDP, supports nearly 46,000 jobs throughout the economy, and boosts Iowa household income by more than \$2.6 billion. All three metrics are up since 2020's COVID downturn.

In 2021 Iowa ethanol production hit an all-time record high of 4.4 billion gallons while biodiesel production decreased only slightly to 340 million gallons in response to market and supply-chain challenges. "Continued growth and expansion of the renewable fuels industry through new technologies and feedstocks will enhance the industry's position as the original creator of green jobs and will ensure America's ability to maintain and expand energy independence," the study concluded. "Further, policy and regulatory actions taken by Iowa, and other Midwestern states, to boost the use of biofuels locally, particularly statewide use of E15, will provide a buffer from the uncertainty of federal policy and export demand." To view the full study, [click here](#).

Iowa is the nation's leader in renewable fuels production with 42 ethanol refineries capable of producing 4.5 billion gallons annually – including 34 million gallons of annual cellulosic ethanol production capacity – and 11 biodiesel facilities with the capacity to produce 410 million gallons annually.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

## Commerce

### House Commerce First Funnel Survivors

The first legislative funnel came and went last week on February 18th. Unless a bill has been assigned to the Appropriations, Ways and Means, or Government Oversight committee, it must pass out of a committee to receive further consideration this legislative session. The following are some of the bills to survive the first legislative funnel in the Commerce Committee.

#### **HSB 689 – Travel Insurance**

This bill is model legislation to ensure that travel products will continue to be offered to customers in a manner that provides a seamless consumer experience

Status: Passed House Commerce Committee

#### **HF 2155/HSB 546 – Preneed Sellers**

This bill updates requirements and safeguards for funeral and cemetery services sales

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2217/HSB 547 – Insurance Holding Companies**

This bill is model NAIC legislation that creates framework and protections to review the solvency of insurance holding companies.

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2219/HSB 587 – Life Insurance Investments**

This bill allows for limited investment of life insurance funds in foreign jurisdictions

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2299/HSB 588 – Fire Appraisals**

This bill clarifies use of an appraisal when there is a loss. The appraisal can only be used to identify the amount of loss, not the cause of loss or whether the loss is covered by the insurance policy

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2297/HSB 585 – Insurance Mandates - Medicaid**

This bill exempts Medicaid and hawk-I programs from state insurance mandates.

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2330/HSB 637 – Electronic Delivery of Health Insurance Documents**

This bill allows for the electronic delivery of some health insurance documents and allows for individuals still opt for the paper version of their documents

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2384/HSB 623 – PBM Reimbursement**

This bill provides a framework for pharmacy prescription drug reimbursements from pharmacy benefit managers

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2379/HSB 649 – Beer Distribution Parity**

This bill allows for restaurants and bars to make limited retail beer purchases for resale, just like wine.

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2387/HSB 686 – Catalytic Converters**

This bill requires signed statement of ownership to sell catalytic converters to a scrap metal dealer.

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2399/HSB 650 – Prior Authorization for Healthcare Services**

This bill establishes that prior authorization cannot be revoked after care is given and authorization must be valid for at least 90 days from issuance

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2411/HSB 668 – Work Comp, Prosthetics**

This bill allows for subsequent prosthetics to be covered by work comp insurance if medically necessary.

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2401/HSB 687 – Online Marketplace Disclosures**

This bill sets a framework for disclosure of high-volume third-party seller information who use online marketplaces

Status: House Calendar

**HF 2408/HSB 688 – Third Party Delivery Services**

This bill requires an agreement between a restaurant and food delivery service before food may be delivered and establishes food safety requirements for third party delivery service.

Status: House Calendar

(Contact: Ben Gentz, 1-3452)

## Economic Growth

### February Economic Development Board Awards

Last week the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Board approved awards for four Iowa companies, which will assist in the creation of 131 jobs and result in \$487 million in new capital investment for the state. These projects are located in Fort Dodge, Sioux City, Waterloo and Buena Vista County.

#### **Cargill—Fort Dodge**

The company plans to modernize equipment at the Fort Dodge facility that will expand value-added corn production for the food ingredient market. They will also implement a job training initiative to increase skills and wages for employees. The \$48.3 million capital investment project was awarded tax benefits through the High Quality Jobs (HQJ) program.

#### **Cold-Link Logistics—Sioux City**

Cold-Link Logistics Sioux City, LLC is a full-service third-party logistics provider, offering blast freezing, freezing, cooling and other general food-related storage services. The company plans to construct operations on 40 acres with approximately 185,000 square feet of space for cold storage, office, parking and other related site needs. The project represents a capital investment of nearly \$58 million and was awarded tax benefits through the Targeted Jobs Withholding program. It is expected to create 60 jobs, of which 56 are incented at a qualifying wage of \$23.06 per hour.

#### **Hydrite Chemical—Waterloo**

Established in 1929, Hydrite Chemical Co. is one of the largest manufacturers and distributors of chemical products in the U.S. The company plans to expand the Waterloo plant, including a 13,500 square foot office, 9,600 square foot maintenance shop and a 10,000 square foot tanker wash and chemical loading facility. They also plan to expand the transportation fleet and warehouse space. The project represents a \$21.3 million capital investment and is expected to create 20 jobs at a qualifying wage of \$20.01 per hour. The board awarded tax benefits through the HQJ program.

#### **Platinum Crush—Buena Vista County**

Platinum Crush, LLC plans to develop a soybean crushing facility near Alta in Buena Vista County. The company predicts the facility will crush 38.5 million bushels of soybeans annually when fully operational in 2024. The facility will also produce soy oil that can be used for a variety of applications, including livestock feed, the human food industry and renewable biodiesel. The project is expected to create 51 jobs at a qualifying wage of \$22.63 per hour and was awarded tax benefits through the HQJ program. It represents a capital investment of nearly \$360 million dollars.

(Contact: Kristi Kiious, 2-5290)

## Education

### House Republicans Advance Bills to Help Teacher Shortage

House Republicans have heard from all parts of the state that schools are experiencing staffing issues. It doesn't matter if it's a rural area or an urban area, teachers are in high demand. House Republicans have multiple bills that survived the first funnel week and advanced out of education committee. These range from removing assessments students who are graduating from a teacher prep program are required to take prior to being able to apply for licensure, opening up eligibility for the Teach Iowa Scholar program, two alternative teacher licensure programs to get teachers into the workforce quicker, and a permanent teacher license for those with Master's degrees or higher. These bills

remove barriers for teachers and potential teachers, save teachers and potential teachers money, get teachers into the workforce quicker, and demonstrate a commitment to helping parents and students.

**House File 2081/House Study Bill 520—Elimination of Praxis/Ed TPA Standardized Assessments**

This bill removes the requirement for practitioner preparation students to take and pass the Praxis II or edTPA Exam prior to being eligible for licensure. This bill also strikes language relating to the Praxis I test being administered prior to entering into a teacher prep program.

**House File 2083/House Study Bill 519—Teach Iowa Scholar Eligibility**

This bill removes the requirement that an applicant must be in the top 50% of their class to receive the Scholarship. This bill also states that 50% of the awards shall go to applicants who are teaching in small districts with 1,000 students or less and 50% of awards shall go to applicants who are teaching in large districts with more than 1,000 students.

**House File 2421/House Study Bill 632—Alternative Teacher Licensure**

Creates an alternative teacher licensure path for those who have at least a bachelor's degree and three years of work experience to apply for a teacher intern license while completing additional coursework. Upon meeting requirements, an initial teacher license is granted at the recommendation of the school they are an intern at.

**House File 2085—Alternative Teacher Certification Program**

This bill creates an alternative licensure program and lays out specific requirements that must be met for in-state versus out-of-state programs. An applicant would receive a temporary initial teaching license for one year prior to applying for a standard initial license.

**House File 2398/House Study Bill 656—Permanent Teacher Licensure**

Creates a permanent teacher license for those who have a master's or doctoral degree where there are no renewal requirements.

*(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)*

## Environmental Protection

### House Passes Repeal of UST Board, Transfer of Residual UST Funds to DNR Tanks Fund

On Wednesday, February 23 the House passed House File 2337. The measure shifts remaining Underground Storage Tank (UST) functions to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and creates a DNR managed 'Iowa Tank Fund' within the state treasury under the control of DNR. The bill provides that any moneys credited to the Iowa comprehensive petroleum underground storage tank fund on and after July 1, 2023, are transferred to the department for deposit in the Iowa Tanks fund. , DNR is directed to administer the fund to implement the Iowa Tanks fund financing program to distribute financial assistance for work conducted by eligible entities. HF 2337 will allow claimants who has previously received assistance under the Iowa tanks fund or the Iowa comprehensive petroleum underground storage tank fund to receive reimbursement—

- from the Iowa tanks fund for all or part of the costs of corrective action for a petroleum release,
- for additional assessment and corrective action arising out of releases from sites for which a certificate of no further action has been issued, and
- for reimbursement of permanent closure of an underground storage tank system.

HF 2337 makes the following fiscal actions—

- specifies allocations from the Iowa Tank Fund of—

- at least \$4 million to permanently close/remove tanks where a new release has been discovered at a site that had been previously issued certificate of no further action, and
- no more than \$150,000 per fiscal year to DNR for administrative cost for this program.
- The bill creates a standing appropriation for motor fuel testing to IDALS of \$250,00 of general fund monies per year starting in fiscal year 2024 (Beginning July 1, 2023) for the sole and exclusive purpose of inspecting fuel quality at pipeline terminals and renewable fuel production facilities including salaries, support, maintenance and miscellaneous purposes.

The measure further directs and empowers the Environmental Protection Commission to adopt rules for: (a) program eligibility, (b) investigating and settling claims made against the fund, (c) appeal procedures, community remediation, prioritization of fund moneys, (d) funding for tank operator training, additional assessment and (e) corrective action arising out of a release at a site for which a no further action certificate has been issued, and reimbursement for the permanent closure of an underground storage tank system.

*(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)*

## Human Resources

### Transparency for Temp Staffing Agencies in Health Care

This week, the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously passed House File 2371 to ensure that Iowa's taxpayer funds are not being gouged by temporary staffing agencies charging health care entities unnecessarily high costs. The state has entered into these agreements on behalf of hospitals when staffing was difficult this winter, and the state also pays for at least half of nursing home beds in Iowa through Medicaid.

The bill provides transparency in pricing by requiring these temp health staffing agencies report quarterly a detailed list of the average amount charged to the health care entity for each agency worker category, and average amount paid by the agency to the agency workers for each worker category. The bill also requires these health care employment agencies to register with the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals, and requires DIA to investigate complaints against these agencies. Importantly, this bill requires agency workers to be qualified and meet health regulation requirements for the health care setting they are working in. Lastly, this bill prohibits non-competes, as it has been seen that these agencies are using these for even CNA positions.

House Republicans look forward to supporting Iowa's hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care providers, and ensuring lower health care costs by passing this bill on the floor.

*(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)*

## Information Technology

### House Information Technology First Funnel Survivors

The first legislative funnel came and went last week on February 18th. Unless a bill has been assigned to the Appropriations, Ways and Means, or Government Oversight committee, it must pass out of a committee to receive further consideration this legislative session. The following are some of the bills to survive the first legislative funnel in the Information Technology Committee.

#### **HF 2288/ HSB 53425 – Essential Corporate Purpose - Cybersecurity**

This bill adds cybersecurity costs to the essential corporate purpose and essential county purpose definition.

**Status: House Calendar**

**HF 2459/ HSB 621 – Joint Financing of Telecommunications and Essential Corporate Purpose for Conduit**

This bill would allow municipalities to join together and jointly finance a telecommunications utility. This adds efficiencies, both for raising funds and deploying resources so more Iowans can have access to internet. It also adds conduit for broadband to definition of essential corporate purpose.

**Status: House Calendar**

**HF 2296/ HF 2035 – Essential Corporate Purpose - Cybersecurity**

This bill requires nondiscriminatory access to public conduit for broadband deployment.

**Status: House Calendar**

**HF 2302/ HSB 555 – Affirmative Defense - Cybersecurity**

This bill creates a framework for the use of an affirmative defense in the event of a cybersecurity breach.

**Status: House Calendar**

**HF 2361/ HSB 669 – Cybersecurity Simulation Training**

This bill establishes a cybersecurity simulation training center at ISU to support training to defend and mitigate cyber threats and attacks.

**Status: House Appropriations Committee**

**HF 2460/HSB 556 – Internet Exchange Point**

This bill requires a feasibility study regarding the construction and installation of internet exchange points in Iowa.

**Status: House Calendar**

**HF2506/ HSB 674 – Consumer Data Privacy**

This bill establishes consumer rights for personal data and sets requirements for how businesses handle consumer's personal data.

**Status: House Calendar**

**HF 2461/ HSB 645 – Ransomware Crimes**

This bill prohibits use of ransomware in cyberattacks and sets penalties for a violation of the law

**Status: House Calendar**

*(Contact: Ben Gentz, 1-3452)*

## Judiciary

### Wide Variety of Bills Advance Out of House Judiciary Committee

The House Judiciary Committee passed an assortment of bills out of committee covering areas including religion, child abuse, adoption, abuse, and court reform. Below are a few of the bills that are expected to be passed out of the house in the next week.

**HF 2220/ HSB 538-Anti-Semitism**

HF 2220 provides a clear definition of anti-Semitism. The definition is one adopted by the international Holocaust remembrance alliance on May 26, 2016. This definition will be used for helping determine when instances of illegal anti-Semitism actions occur.

**STATUS-House Floor**

**HF 2239/ HSB 529- Rape Shield**

Rape shield laws protect a victim of sexual assault from being questioned about past sexual experiences while testifying. HF 2239 extends that protection to depositions and post-conviction relief. It will prevent a defendant from asking intrusive questions that would not be permitted in court testimony. **STATUS-House Floor**

**HF 2372/ HF 2206- Nonconsensual Termination of Pregnancy**

HF 2372 makes it a class "D" felony to attempt to terminate a pregnancy without the mothers consent.

**STATUS-House Floor**

**HF 2385/ HSB 527- Sexual Exploitation School Counselor**

HF 2385 prohibits relationships between students and a person with authority over students in the school building. There were loopholes in current law that allowed some people who were not teachers to avoid prosecution after having an improper relationship with students

**STATUS-House Floor**

**HF 2474/ HF 2113- Public Defender Adoption**

Last year code was changed to allow a public defender to represent an indigent party in a Child in Need Of Assistance Case, family in need of assistance, delinquency and, termination of parental rights proceedings. . HF 2113 extends that law to allow the public defender to represent an indigent party who files to adopt a child who was part of any of the above actions.

**STATUS-House Floor**

**HF 2481/ HSB 636- Judicial Nomination Reform**

HSB 636, as amended makes changes to the judicial Nomination Qualification Commission. The bill expands the number of eligible judicial applicants by allowing lawyers in contiguous counties to the judicial district or sub district to apply to be a judge, allows 5 names to be submitted to the Governor for the court of appeals, and treats the selection of District Associate Judges like the selection process for other judges in the state.

**STATUS-House Floor**

**HF 2478/HSB 711- Victims**

HF 2478 ensures that victims of first offense domestic violence are covered under the victims' rights code section, 915. This allows the victims better notification of trial proceedings, and rights in criminal proceedings.

**STATUS-House Floor**

*(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)*

## Labor

### House Republicans Advance Bills to Get More People in the Iowa's Workforce

The House Labor committee passed two bills out of committee to survive the first funnel week. The first bill is part of the Governor's workforce package that is directed at making Iowa an employment destination. The unemployment system is becoming more of a re-employment system with getting more Iowans back to work more quickly. Changes in tort reform are aimed at making Iowa an employment destination the healthcare and commercial vehicle driving companies and their employees. Iowa needs more doctors and rural Iowa needs more doctors. Iowa has a trucker shortage as well and this works at getting necessary workers back, or into, the Iowa workforce.



**House File 2279/House Study Bill 631—Unemployment/Tort Reform**

Reduces unemployment weeks from 26 to 16, and from 39 to 26 weeks for plant closures. Adds a one week waiting period prior to being eligible for unemployment. Adds a definition of “misconduct.” Reduces the percentage of unemployment benefits one receives each week a person refuses a job offer. For medical malpractice, keeps a soft cap of \$250,000 for certain injuries with a hard cap of \$1 million in noneconomic damages per occurrence. For CMV drivers, limits liability to employee and incident employee was involved in. For CMV, puts a hard cap of \$1 million in noneconomic damages per occurrence. Claim for punitive damages cannot be made until after initial disclosures are completed.

**House File 2355/House Study Bill 596—IWD Bill**

Codifies that an employer shall not be responsible for unemployment overpayment if it was through no fault of their own. Makes changes to the Voluntary Shared Work Program to prevent a shared work plan from claiming a reduction of work hours based on a work week exceeding 40 hours, automatically revokes a shared work plan if the employer lays off the employee even if they are in a separate unit, and allows part-time employees to be covered

*(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)*

## Local Government

### Local Government’s Funnel Week Survivors

The House Local Government Committee passed nine bills out of committee before the first legislative funnel. These funnel week survivors will help streamline county government services. Below is a brief summary of which bill that survived the first funnel week.

**HF 2341/HSB 662 – Foreign Vehicle Transfers**

Adds insurance companies to the exemption for the requirement of a certificate of title in order to transfer ownership of an out of state vehicle.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2357/HF 2189 – Boards of Review Meeting Dates**

Amends Iowa Code to change the requirement for the start of boards of review to starting on May to starting the first week of May.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2366/HSB 665 – Electronic Bid Submissions**

Would allow governmental entities to receive bids on public construction electronically. Currently bids have to be submitted physically.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2359/HSB 664 – Postponing and Canceling Annual Tax Sales**

Amends Iowa Code to allow county treasurers to reschedule or cancel the annual. Annual tax sales are on the third Monday of June. Currently county treasurers are only allowed to reschedule for a different date in June.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2431/HF 2005 – Regulations on Home-based Businesses**

Prohibits counties and cities from requiring a person to apply, register, or require a permit to operate a “no-impact home-based business”. Prohibits counties and cities from requiring a property being used for a home-based business from being rezoned. Limits the scope of county and city regulations allowed on home-based businesses.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2428/HF 2143 – Compensation for County Hospital Trustees**

Would allow county hospital trustees to receive compensation for their services. Currently trustees can only receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2430/HSB 666 – Restructuring Compensation Boards**

Gives county boards of supervisors the ability to dissolve county compensation boards. In place of county compensation boards, the boards of supervisors would carry out the duties of the compensation board as prescribed in code. Strikes the binding language for compensation board recommendations tying decreases across all positions and allows counties to exceed the recommendations.

Status: Placed on House Calendar

**HF 2429/HSB 708 – Qualified Veterinarian Immunity**

Protects veterinarians who in good faith report abuse of a companion animal by granting them immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability. Veterinarians who assist law enforcement in the rescue of an abused animal is granted immunity from administrative, civil, or criminal liability. Making a false report or providing false information is a misdemeanor and the veterinarian is liable for damages resulting from the false report.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HSB 719 – Sanitation Board Member Compensation**

Increases the per diem for members of the board of trustees of a combined sanitary district. Would go from \$100 per meeting to \$200. Would increase the cap on total per diem for a fiscal year from \$2400 to \$4800. Board of trustees are still allowed to set lower per diems if they choose to.

**Status: Passed out of House Local Government.**

*(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)*

## Natural Resources

### DNR Announces Learn to Hunt Program Opens Registration for Wild Turkey Workshop

On Tuesday, February 22, 2022, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release that this state agency is offering a program to teach skills needed to hunt, field dress and cook wild turkey to adults who have little to no wild turkey hunting experience. The two-part workshop, scheduled March 15 and 22, will feature knowledge and skills building sessions with instructors that will provide hands-on learning that will teach the basics.

Participants will learn basic strategies for hunting wild turkey such as proper equipment, where to hunt, safe shooting practices, and how to field dress, butcher and cook them. The courses are designed for participants 16 years of age and older. The two-part course runs from 6 to 9 p.m. on March 15 and 22, at the Olofson Shooting Range, near Polk City. The cost is \$35. Space is limited so register early. For more information and to begin the registration process, go to <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=dep4qyuab&oeidk=a07ej22wwda651f6e0f>.

*(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)*

## Public Safety

### Public Safety Committee Continues Focusing on Law Enforcement and Protecting Victims

The public safety committee spent the first half of session focusing on bills to protect victims and support law enforcement. These bills came from a variety of groups and individuals.

#### **HF 2346/ HF 2093- No Contact Order License Plate**

A person who is the subject of a protective order shall provide the identification information for any vehicle they own or operate. This includes work vehicles. This includes Make, model, year, color, license plate. This info is then provided to the person who is protected by the order.

**STATUS-House Floor**

#### **HF 2496/HSB 701- Brady-Giglio**

HF 2496 as amended, allows for an in-camera review when a County Attorney discloses exculpatory information about a peace officer in a criminal case. The peace officer then has ten days to request a judge review the evidence before it is submitted to the defense.

**STATUS-House Floor**

#### **HF 2123/ HSB 597- Driver ID Missing Persons**

HF 2123 allows a driver's license or nondrivers ID picture to be used in missing persons cases.

**STATUS-House Floor**

#### **HF 2462/ HSB 652- Heroin**

HF 2462 makes penalties for the distribution of heroin the same as meth.

**STATUS-House Floor**

*(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)*

## State Government

### State Government Funnel Survivors

Last week was the first legislative funnel deadline for legislation to pass through committee. The State Government Committee reported 40 bills out of the committee for further consideration this session. These bills will move to the House floor for consideration, while the committee will continue to work on legislation passed by the Senate. Below are some of the highlights of the legislation moved by the committee.

#### **HF 2526/HSB 719 – Election Bill**

Bans the use of outside money to be used by the state or political subdivisions for conducting an election. Establishes conformity and minimum standards for recount processes across all 99 counties. Establishes set recount standards to ensure the equal review of election results by challenging parties. Requires absentee ballot envelopes to include the voter's signature and ID completing the circle of ID requirements for the voter. Requires the public notice of post-election audits to increase awareness and confidence in elections. All county canvasses take place on the following Tuesday creating more conformity and clarity in the process.

**Status: Passed out of House State Government Committee**

**HF 2108 – Direct Shipment of Native Alcohol**

Creates a new section of code to allow for the direct shipment liquor within Iowa for native alcohol manufacturers. Creates a direct shipper permit for alcoholic liquor manufacturers to directly ship alcohol to Iowans. Requires direct shipment permit holders to submit a monthly report to ABD detailing the shipments, individual customers, and amount of taxes collected in connection to the direct shipment of alcoholic liquor.

**Status: Passed out of House State Government Committee**

**HF 2488/HSB 579 – Public Records of the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board**

Amends code to allow the Public Broadcasting Board to retain and spend any revenue from agreements and contracts with state departments and agencies or other public or private entities. Allows the Iowa Public Broadcasting Board to own, acquire, and receive intellectual property rights. The board may charge fees for the sale or distribution of their intellectual property. Would allow the board to restrict access to the use of any works related to the intellectual property of the board (recordings, footage, artwork, music, etc.).

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HJR 2005/HSB 582 – Gubernatorial Line of Succession Constitutional Amendment**

Proposed amendment to the Iowa Constitution that creates a line of succession for the Office of the Governor should the Governor suffer a disability, die, resign, or removed from office. If adopted, the resolution would be published and then referred to the 90th General Assembly for adoption and then submitted to the voters for ratification.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2291/HSB 123 – Midwife Licensure**

Would create the licensure of midwives and allow licensed midwives the ability to obtain necessary screening and testing for clients, and the administration of specific medication for clients. Establish a board of midwifery to write rules, review licensees' applications, and review complaints. Allows midwives to be covered by insurance plans. Waives liability of health care providers who receive a transfer of a client from a midwife for any action performed by the midwife.

**Status: House Ways and Means Committee**

**HF 2247/HSB 576 – Native Distilled Spirits at Native Wine Manufacturers**

Allows native wine manufacturers with on-premise wine and beer consumption sales to add native distilled spirits to their options. Currently, these permit holders are allowed to sell their own native wine and beer purchased from a class "A" wholesaler.

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

**HF 2130/HF 800 – ATVs and UTVs on County Highways**

Allows ATVs and UTVs to use county highways. Currently counties have to designate county highways for use of ATVs and UTVs. Would prohibit counties from passing ordinances or resolutions against the use of ATVs on county highways

**Status: Placed on House Calendar**

As the first legislative funnel passes, the Committee will move on to consideration of legislation passed by the Senate.

*(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)*

## Transportation

### House Transportation Funnel Survivors

The House Transportation Committee passed 17 bills that survived the first funnel, a legislative deadline of the session. Below are some of the important bills:

**HF 2259 – PTs and OTs – Disability Parking and Plates** - This bill adds physical therapists and occupational therapists to the list of health care providers that can sign off on the need for an individual to receive a special registration plate for a person with a disability and for a disability parking permit. Current providers that are able to sign off include a chiropractor, physician, physician assistant, and nurse practitioners.

**HF 2344 – Rumble Strips** - This bill requires the construction and maintenance of rumble strips before all stop signs and traffic-control signals on state and county highways.

**HSB 654 – 3rd Party CDL tests** - This bill adds public transit systems to the list of entities that are allowed to be third-party testers for CDL driving skills tests and allows the knowledge test to also be done at a 3rd party entity.

**HSB 655 – Harvest Proclamation** - This bill makes permanent the Governor’s Harvest Proclamations that allow vehicles transporting commodities on noninterstate highways to exceed the legal maximum gross weight up to 12.5% as long as they don’t exceed 90,000 lbs. In addition to the normal commodities listed in the proclamations (corn, soybeans, hay, straw, silage, and stover), and this bill also adds in manure and agricultural chemicals.

**HF 2129 – Hands Free** - This bill prohibits the use of an electronic device while driving, with exemptions outlined in Section 10 of the analysis. The bill, as amended, requires the use of a warning until January 1, 2023. Following that date, the fine is \$100.

**HF 2250 – School and Work Zones** - This bill prohibits a driver from using a cell phone in any way while driving in a road work zone or in a school zone. The fine is \$100.

*(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)*

## Veterans Affairs

### House Veterans Affairs Funnel Survivors

The House Veterans Affairs Committee passed 7 bills that survived the first funnel, a legislative deadline of the session. Below are some of the bills:

**HF 2293 – Veterans Trust Fund Allocation** - This bill increases the amount sent to the Commission of Veterans Affairs from the State Lottery Fund from \$500,000 to \$800,000 annually.

**HF 2300 – Civil Air Patrol** - This bill adds in members of the Civil Air Patrol to the list of military branches protected under law from car and health insurance termination and from employment discrimination while performing official duties. Last year, the legislature added the Coast Guard to this same list.

**HF 2427 – License Plate Certification** - This bill adds VSOs to the list of entities that can certify that the owner of a vehicle requesting veteran plates has served in the military and was discharged under honorable conditions.

**HF 2501 – Veterans Trust Fund Investment** - This bill requires the state treasurer to invest moneys in the Veterans Trust Fund along with the investment for IPERS. The earnings will be credited to the Veterans Trust Fund.

**HF 2287 – Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit** - This bill creates additional homestead tax credits for disabled veterans by making the percentage of their homestead tax credit equal to their disability rating. Under current law, credit eligibility is limited to veterans with a 100% disability rating and the credit is 100% of their property taxes based on the definition of homestead. This bill would allow veterans to receive a property tax credit equal to their disability rating.

**HF 2435 – Disabled Veteran Car Registration** - This bill reduces one annual car registration fee per disabled veteran by a percentage equal the veteran’s service-related disability rating. This bill also reduces the annual fee for special or personalized registration plates by the same percentage.

*(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)*

## Ways & Means

### House Ways and Means Passes Tax Credit Change and Sales Tax Exemption

This week the House Ways and Means Committee passed HSB 615 and HSB 718 unanimously.

House Study Bill 615 exempts from the state sales and use tax the purchase price of specified digital products, prewritten computer software, and related services sold to public utilities. It expands the definition of “commercial enterprise” to include a “public utility” as defined in Code section 476.1(3). As a result, the sales price of specified digital products, prewritten computer software, and other enumerated digital and computer services furnished to a public utility are exempt from the sales tax, if exclusively used by the public utility. This exemption was created in the 2018 tax reform bill.

House Study Bill 718 relates to the Endow Iowa Tax Credit. Under current law, the tax credit is capped annually at \$6.0 million. Additionally, taxpayers cannot be granted more than 5 percent of the cap (\$300,000). House Study Bill 718 reduces the maximum amount a taxpayer can receive to \$100,000. Proponents of the bill stated that current participants were okay with the change because it would allow for more individual donors.

Both bills are now eligible for consideration on the House Floor.

*(Contact: Kristi Kious, 2-5290)*