

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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Appropriations

Iowa's Bond Debt Situation – The End Is Still A Long Ways Away

Just like home mortgages, payments on bonds issued by the state seem to go on forever. And while the state of Iowa has a significantly-lower amount of outstanding bond debt when compared to other states, the cost of these bonds still has a big impact on what can be done to address state infrastructure needs of today and tomorrow.

In 2009, Governor Chet Culver and legislative Democrats believed it was wise fiscal policy for the state to borrow \$800 million for a variety of state and local infrastructure projects. The I-Jobs program, as it was called, ended up primarily financing the repairs to the University of Iowa in the aftermath of the floods of 2008.

Perhaps the biggest ongoing impact of the I-Jobs program is the continual debt service payments for this ill-fated scheme. The state issued \$695 million of bonds backed by the state's gaming tax revenue. Here in 2023, the state still owes \$354.1 million of the bonds' principal alone. The state will pay approximately \$55 million this year from state gaming tax collections to the holders of these bonds, instead of using the funds for needed repairs and new construction at state facilities. The payments on all the I-Jobs bonds will not end until Fiscal Year 2034.

Another portion of the I-Jobs program was the issuance of \$115 million academic building revenue bonds by the Iowa Board of Regents. The Legislature authorized this series of bonds to fund construction projects at the three state universities. While the bonds are backed by tuition revenue from each school, the state actually makes the payment via the Tuition Replacement line item in the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).

The I-Jobs bond and other previous academic building revenue bonds are still being paid off today. In Fiscal Year 2023, the state appropriated \$27.9 million from RIIF for the year's payment on these bonds. And still, there is \$240.5 million of principle owed on the outstanding 18 bond series, and interest too. The last payments on these bonds will not be made until the end of Fiscal Year 2036.

The other major bond payment made by the state pays for the construction of the state's maximum security prison. In 2007, the Democrat-led Legislature authorized the selling of bonds to finance the building of a new Iowa State Penitentiary at Fort Madison. Today, the state is still making annual payments on the 20-year bonds. In Fiscal Year 2023, the state will pay \$13.8 million of judicial revenue for this bond. The state still owes \$48.9 million in principle that will finally be paid off at the end of 2027.

Next Revenue Estimating Conference Meeting Set

The three-member Revenue Estimating Conference will hold its next meeting on Friday, March 10. This meeting, which is required by law to be held during the legislative session, will review the panel's December estimates for Fiscal Year 2023 and Fiscal Year 2024. The REC will also make an initial forecast on what state revenue is expected

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to look like in Fiscal Year 2025. The meeting's results will have no impact on the current work on FY 2024's General Fund budget, as state revenues are well above Governor Reynolds' budget request for the year.

The biggest impact will be on the state's gaming tax revenue. The panel will revise its forecast for these collections, a part of which funds the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). Any movement of the number - up or down - will have a significant impact on what can be funded out of the RIIF in the upcoming budget year.

The meeting will be at 10 AM on March 10, in the State Capitol. It is expected that the meeting will be available for legislators and the public to watch via the Internet.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Agriculture

House Ag Panel Approves Three Legislative Measures

On Thursday, February 9, 2023, the Iowa House Agriculture Committee passed House File 69 (now HF 282), House File 80 (now HF 279 and House Study Bill 113 (now HF 277).

HF 282 amends various Code provisions relating to the management of soil and water resources. The bill provides agencies relating to soil erosion and flood protection, may also carry out water quality protection projects and soil health projects that have efforts to maintain, protect, and improve the quality of surface water and groundwater from point and nonpoint sources in a manner consistent with the Iowa nutrient reduction strategy. The measure authorizes cooperation between districts, subdistricts, and political subdivisions. The bill authorizes joint financing agreements and the involvement of 'financing partnership' in water quality projects.

HF 279 changes a requirement that farmers' market and temporary food vendors which sell temperature and time sensitive foods. Instead of paying multiple county fees if they sell in multiple county locations, they will now be able to pay once for a statewide inspection fee.

- The third bill that was approved by the House Agriculture Committee was House File 277. The legislation: Removes aquarium fish sales from the definition of pet shop
- Changes the length of a motor fuel pump license from annual to biennial (2-years)
- Provides a new definition of 'Renewable Diesel' which is a renewable fuel derive from plant or animal products and waste which is not 'biodiesel'
- Allows unspent Water Quality urban Infrastructure project moneys to be used for Water Quality Agricultural Infrastructure projects.
- Extends the maximum length a credit sale grain contract from 12-months to 15-months.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096))

Commerce

Summit Carbon Pipeline Hearing Scheduled for this Fall

This week, the Iowa Utilities Board issued an [order](#) establishing the procedural schedule for the Summit Carbon Solutions hazardous liquid pipeline. A public hearing will be held between October 2023 and January 2024. The company seeks to construct, operate and maintain approximately 687 miles of 6 to 24-inch diameter pipeline for the transportation of liquefied carbon dioxide within Iowa.

This order also sets a technical conference for 10 a.m. March 15th to “discuss logistics for the hearing and how parties and those who have filed for intervention can better understand the procedural schedule and how the remainder of the docket will progress.” The specific dates for the hearing will be determined at the technical conference.

Summit Carbon initially filed its petition for a hazardous liquid pipeline permit January 2022. All filings related to this petition can be found [here](#).

(Contact: Natalie Gint, 5-2063)

Economic Growth

Iowa Invests Another \$2 Million in Manufacturing 4.0

Last week the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced that Iowa will be investing an additional \$2 million in the Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program to enhance productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness in Iowa’s largest industry. The program helps small to mid-sized Iowa manufacturers investment in the adoption and integration of smart technologies with grant funding made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

Iowa’s Manufacturing 4.0 initiative launched a strategic plan in January 2021 to ensure the state’s manufacturers continue to remain globally competitive with emphasis on automation and smart technology. As a result, the Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Grant program was created. In the first cycle, IEDA granted over \$7 million through 202 awards with project investments totaling over \$31 million.

The program offers two grant opportunities to prioritize both the equipment and connectivity with the advanced technology for manufacturers with 3-150 employees.

- The manufacturing innovation equipment grant awards up to \$50,000 for the purchase of machinery and specialized equipment to improve operations.
- The manufacturing industrial internet of things infrastructure investment grant awards up to \$25,000 for the purchase of specialized hardware or software in Industry 4.0 technology groups.

Companies can apply for a combined amount of \$75,000 between the two grants over the lifetime of the business and a 1:1 match is required. A new application round will open on March 1, 2023, and will be accepted on a rolling basis until all funds are allocated.

House Republicans supported the creation of the Manufacturing 4.0 program in 2021 as part of Senate File 619. More information on the program can be found here. <https://www.iowamfg.com/>

(Contact: Kristi Kiou, 2-5290)

Education

New Bill Gives Schools More Flexibility

House Education Committee passed HSB 119 is a bill that comes as a collaboration between legislators, the Governor’s office, and superintendents and administrators being asked what could be done to help their schools and allow more flexibility. Some of the highlights are below.

The bill removes the requirement that schools must submit a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP). This does not mean districts aren't tracking and reporting what is in that plan, it simply means they don't have to re-input the same data and submit it again. This helps free up administrative time and resources.

It eliminates the requirement that a school librarian must have a Masters degree and allows a district to employ a librarian who was previously employed by a public library.

The bill allows for up to five school days to be virtual. This would be used for things like snow days, flooding, or other reasons why students cannot be in the physical building. Sadly, for kids, it appears snow days will be a thing of the past.

It also allows more flexibility for teachers when it comes to classroom space by allowing teachers to teach sequential courses in the same classroom whether it's AP, regular courses, or community college courses as long as they meet the certification requirements.

Additionally:

- The bill removes CPR instruction as a graduation requirement but does not prohibit it.
- It allows those participating in a school-sponsored activity that requires physical activity to be counted towards PE.
- It removes Human Papillomavirus (HPV) instruction and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) instruction as specifically listed under communicable disease instruction and sexually transmitted disease instruction.

The bill does not prohibit instruction about HPV and AIDS. Currently health curriculum must include the characteristics of communicable diseases. HPV and AIDS are communicable diseases and therefore are covered. Previously legislatures had added HPV and AIDS specifically on top of the teaching requirement on communicable diseases.

The world language requirement for schools is dropped from 4 units to 2 units and fine arts is dropped from 3 units to 2 units. Districts are still able to make a local decision to maintain the previous requirement if they so choose. Again, this provides more flexibility for the school.

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Environmental Protection

DNR Announces Opportunity for Public Comment on the Draft Regional Haze Plan

On Monday, February 13, 2023, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release announcing that the DNR is inviting the public to provide comment on a proposed revision to Iowa's state implementation plan (SIP) of the federal regional haze rule.

DNR's draft regional haze plan contains an evaluation of Iowa facilities that may contribute to visibility impairment in Class I areas and subsequent analyses of possible control measures. The DNR is proposing operational improvements to existing control equipment at MidAmerican Energy Company's Louisa Generating Station (LGS) and Walter Scott Jr. Energy Center. The improvements would permanently reduce the combined emissions from these sources by approximately 9,700 tons per year. Implementation would begin later this year.

The public comment period for the draft plan and draft permits started on February 13, 2023. All written comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 16, 2023. DNR will hold a public hearing for oral comments on

Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. The public hearing will be held virtually and accessible by video conference or by telephone.

Find the draft plan, the draft permits, and learn how to participate in the public hearing through the DNR's Air Quality Public Participation webpage at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/airpublicinput>.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Health and Human Services

Maternal Health Bill Advances Through Committee

This week the House Health and Human Services Committee advanced HSB 91, the Governor's Maternal Health bill, with bipartisan support.

This makes the following changes expand access to maternal health care in Iowa:

- Doubles the number of Regional Centers of Excellence Programs in Iowa
- Adds four annual family medicine obstetric fellowships every year
- Creates a statewide standing order to allow pharmacists to dispense initially 3-months of an oral hormonal contraceptive, hormonal vaginal ring, or a hormonal contraceptive patch, and then subsequent year supplies, to patients 18 years and older. The woman must complete a self-screening risk assessment and blood pressure check prior to being dispensed the contraceptive. At least 12 states allow women to get their birth control prescription directly from a pharmacist. This language was modeled after Utah's law.
- Adds \$1.5 million to the More Options for Maternal Support Program and allows for funds to be used to support fatherhood initiatives
- Increases the allowable expense for nonrecurring legal fees from \$500 to \$1000 per child for reasonable, necessary costs directly related to the legal adoption of a child eligible for Iowa's adoption subsidy program
- Expands opportunities for foster care students under the All Iowa Opportunity Scholarship Program

Additionally, the Governor has already signed House File 161 addressing unpredictably high damage awards jeopardizing OB/GYN care in Iowa. The legislature will also address access to rural hospitals by establishing licensure for Rural Emergency Hospitals in House File 144/Senate File 75.

Medicaid Presentation on Ending Public Health Emergency

This week the House Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee heard a presentation from Iowa Medicaid regarding redeterminations of Medicaid recipients following the Public Health Emergency.

For the last two and a half years, the federal government has prevented states from disenrolling ineligible Medicaid members. **This has resulted in an estimated 100,000 ineligible Iowans receiving free health insurance, without paying any premiums or copays, and the state paying a monthly capitation payment for every single ineligible member.**

In December Congress finally set the end date of April 1, 2023 allowing ineligible members to be disenrolled from Medicaid. The law requires states to publish monthly reports on those individuals disenrolled and if they were subsequently connected with alternative health insurance. Now, till the end of the year, Iowa will continue to receive some enhanced federal funding as those ineligible members are gradually taken off the program. Iowa Medicaid is prioritizing work on redeterminations for those who have not had a successful renewal completed in the past 12 months. Information will be updated on this [dashboard](#) as renewals and disenrollments are determined.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Judiciary

A Busy Week Awaits the House Judiciary Committee

The House Judiciary Committee continues working through a significant number of bills in preparation for the upcoming funnel deadline. House bills that don't advance out of a House committee by Friday, March 3rd are dead for the year. Here are a few bills the committee has moved in the past week:

House Study Bill 3- Electronic Signing of Wills

HSB 3 ensures that wills can be signed electronically. The bill also retroactively protects wills drafted and signed electronically in 2020 during the Governor's emergency declarations.

House File 58- Termination of Parental Rights

If a mother gives up her parental rights and the father later refuses, the mother has 30 days to reassert her rights.

House Study Bill 141- Courts Bill

The bill, proposed by the Judicial branch, addresses several key areas including

- Apportionment of District Associate Judges-this helps spread the workload for DAJ's
- Limitation of liability- Contracting authority – allows the Courts to contract like other state agencies
- Remote testimony in civil proceedings- allows some remote testimony in civil court proceedings
- Judicial council duties- strikes the requirement for the council to develop best practices for mental health advocates.
- Access to criminal history data- ensures judges and attorneys have access to criminal history data.

(Contact: Amanda Wille, 1-5230)

Labor

Financial Literacy Seminars—A New Tool for IowaWorks Customers

Like most Iowa adults, Sonya Sellmeyer grew up during a time when you just didn't talk about certain topics in the classroom – like, for example, your checkbook.

"I don't know about you, but I know I didn't learn anything about financial literacy in school," said Sellmeyer, consumer advocacy officer for the Iowa Insurance Division. "But we can tell by the numbers that we continue to see in regard to consumer debt, people not contributing to their company's 401(k) match – things like that show us there really is a big need for this."

Sellmeyer, working as part of broader campaign across Iowa's state government, is trying to fill that gap. Last fall, she launched a series of online financial literacy workshops that take place on the first Monday of each month at www.IowaWORKS.gov(link is external).

Linda Rouse, division administrator for the IWD unit that includes IowaWORKS jobs centers, said the workshops are part of a longstanding effort to help Iowans take control of their financial lives.

"Historically, a majority of our customers who come into the (IowaWORKS) American Job Centers are people who are low in income or people who don't have any savings," Rouse said. "We work with these Iowans a lot, and we want to have an impact on the lives of the people that we're serving."

Iowa legislators recognized the need for financial education in 2018 by passing a law requiring that all students learn the basics of savings, credit, insurance, etc., as a condition of graduating from high school. But that law did not attempt to backfill the preceding educational void.

“Studies show that one month out of the year is wasted at work because employees are worried about their financial situation,” Sellmeyer said. “Employers should want employees to have this information, because it will improve their well-being and their productivity over time.”

The next financial workshop, scheduled for 2 p.m. on March 6, will cover Banking Basics and the Importance of Savings Accounts. Sessions after that will include cover responsible credit usage, saving for college, insurance, investing, retirement planning, and fraud prevention.

All Iowans should do what they can to become financially literate, Sellmeyer said, because “when you know how the financial system is supposed to work, it’s easy to avoid being defrauded.”

Any Iowan seeking more information about financial literacy can register for a workshop by visiting the [IowaWORKS events calendar](#). Financial literacy workshops are held on the first Monday of each month at 2 p.m. (Info from Iowa Workforce Development)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Oversight

Superintendents, School Board Presidents Defend Graphic Sexual Images in Schools

On Monday, superintendents and school board presidents from six Iowa school districts appeared before the House Oversight Committee. Due to time considerations and political theatrics from Democrats, the committee only heard from four of the districts.

Interestingly, Democrats continued their impressive streak of wrongness. Since the start of the 2021 legislative session, Democrats have loudly and enthusiastically announced their moral certainty on effectiveness of masks in stopping COVID, the recklessness in kids returning to classrooms and now on the age-appropriateness of graphic sexual images in books in schools.

Members of the committee questioned the use of the book *Gender Queer*. *Gender Queer* is a graphic novel about gender identity and sexual orientation written to relate to others who are struggling with gender identity. The book also explores the use of pronouns and hormone-blocking therapies. It contains graphic illustrations of oral sex.

The Superintendent from Waukee removed *Gender Queer* from school libraries. Officials from Carlisle and West Des Moines kept the book. The school board president from West Des Moines indicated that taking issue with one image on one page from the book doesn’t take the entirety of the book into context. He used murals in the State Capitol which depict the exposed breasts of a woman and the exposed penis of a man as an example of something that could be considered obscene to some. To be clear, the State Capitol does not display a mural of oral sex. That distinction seems to have been lost on those defending the graphic images in *Gender Queer*.

Republican members of the committee questioned school officials as to whether or not it was possible to stock books that explore the issues lesbian, gay or trans students experience without those books containing graphic sexual illustrations. Officials avoided a direct answer. Republicans also questioned officials from Johnston as to why they allowed a middle school yearbook editorial from a student (approved by the school) to attack a local parent by name

and label her a racist, a homophobe and a Nazi. The superintendent from Johnston defended the editorial saying the yearbook was a student-run endeavor.

Democrats on the committee insisted that parents who object to books like those described above, have no right to limit what other children read. After all, if Republicans claim to be about parent choice, they should not limit what other parents choose as necessary educational material in schools.

Republicans on the committee did not argue that parents should be prevented from exposing their children to this material. GOP members are arguing that the material is age-inappropriate and therefore should not be in taxpayer funded schools. If a parent wants to go on Amazon and buy a book and read it with their child while discussing and exploring the issues and themes in the book, that is their right as a parent. But taxpayers should not be subsidizing what is clearly sexually explicit material.

(Contact: Jeff Mitchell, 1-5137)

Public Safety

Public Safety Committee Considers Changes to Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers

On Wednesday, a Public Safety subcommittee considered House Study Bill 166. The bill would transfer Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers to the Department of Public Safety where they would be employed as members of the Iowa State Patrol while continuing to inspect commercial vehicles. After discussion, the subcommittee advanced the bill on a 2-1 vote.

Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) is a statewide law enforcement organization dedicated to highway safety. Under current law, they are housed under the Iowa Department of Transportation. Officers in the MVE have full peace officer training and are experts in the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (vehicle size, weight, registration, and travel authority of commercial motor vehicles). As highway traffic increases the MVE also continues to help enforce all state laws, both traffic and criminal.

The mission of the Iowa State Patrol (ISP) is “to preserve lives, rights and property through courtesy, service and protection.” Troopers have a wide variety of responsibilities and can be found in all areas of our state. Troopers attend the DPS Basic Training Academy which helps prepare them for the unique challenges of being a member of the ISP. Discussions about how best to transition the MVE’s into the State Patrol have been happening for years. HSB 166 is that plan in print. MVE’s would move from the Department of Transportation and become a permanent part of the Iowa State Patrol. The MVE officers would then be able to continue enforcing state law and focusing on Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations while finishing necessary training to qualify as Troopers. HSB 166 will have costs associated with the move and the Public Safety Committee is talking with experts from the DOT, DPS, and other agencies to evaluate how these funds will be used and to ensure retirement plans for current MVE officers are protected. If members of the committee are satisfied with the answers received, the bill will move out of committee next week.

(Contact: Amanda Wille, 1-5230)

Work Continues on Massive Government Realignment Bill

In her Condition of the State address, the Governor unveiled a proposal to streamline the state government by realigning the structure of state government in order to improve the organization and function of state agencies. [House Study Bill 126](#) was introduced in the State Government Committee in February. This week, members of the committee have been holding public meetings to discuss the changes proposed in the legislation and to hear from stakeholders.

To better serve Iowans and ensure that government is working efficiently for the tax payers, the legislation identifies similar operations and services that are spread out across 37 agencies and aligns these services into 16 agencies. By aligning similar functions and services, taxpayers will have a straightforward process for interacting with the state government without unnecessarily going through several agencies.

The changes include, but are not limited to, the following:

Department of Health & Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services will be absorbing several agencies and programs that serve related services. Early Childhood Iowa will move from the Department of Management and Volunteer Iowa will move from Iowa Economic Development Authority to DHHS. The Department on Aging and the Department of Human Rights will move their services into respective divisions in the DHHS.

Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licenses

The Department of Inspections and Appeals will be renamed the Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL). Currently, the Department protects the health and safety of Iowans through regulatory and licensing functions. This bill will move more licensing and regulatory services under one Department to provide a more efficient service. The licensing and management of 136 professional licenses is currently overseen by 11 state agencies. Under DIAL the majority of those licenses will consolidate under the Licensing Division in DIAL.

Additionally, Division of Labor and the Division of Workers Compensation will move from Iowa Workforce Development and will operate as divisions within DIAL. Administrative Law Judges will also move under DIAL to provide a centralized location for hearing administrative appeals.

Department of Administrative Services

The Department of Administrative Services is responsible for the management and maintenance of buildings and properties owned by the state of Iowa. Under that responsibility, the Historical Division within the Department of Cultural Affairs and the State Library within the Department of Education will be moved to DAS in order to streamline the maintenance and upkeep of these properties.

As the legislative process moves forward the State Government Committee will continue to diligently review the legislation and speak to stakeholders to ensure that government realignment is used as a method to improve the responsiveness and effectiveness of the Government without sacrificing services and accountability.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

Weight Load Limits Vary Across America's Interstate System

How big of a load can a semi-truck haul on America's interstate highway system? Surprisingly, it depends on what state your semi is located.

Federal law sets out the weight limits for vehicles on interstate highways. Section 127 of Title 23 of the United States Code says the weight limit for vehicles with five or more axles is 80,000 pounds. BUT, Section 127 also contains many exceptions to that limit.

Section 127 grants exceptions based on what product is being hauled, like milk, logs, or sugar cane. Section 127 gives exceptions to an entire state, setting the weight load as the level allowed on state highways. The lucky states include Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Maine and Vermont. And there are exceptions for particular segments of the Interstate. Iowa has an exception, for part of Interstate 29 that is in the Sioux City Commercial Zone. In that section of I-29 running between South Dakota and Nebraska, a seven-axle semi can haul 129,000 pounds. Get outside that zone, and the load limit goes back to the standard 80,000. That amount is 16,000 pounds lighter than what Iowa allows on two-lane state highways.

Look at surrounding states, and the weight limit number varies. Here is the list according to the Iowa Dept. of Transportation:

- Iowa – 80,000 lbs. with exceptions up to 129,000 lbs. on I-29 in the Sioux City commercial zone.
- Illinois – 80,000 lbs.
- Wisconsin – 80,000 lbs. with some higher limits on I-94 based on commodity
- Minnesota – 80,000 lbs.
- South Dakota – 129,000 lbs.
- Nebraska – 95,000 lbs.
- Missouri – 80,000 lbs. with exceptions for 120,000 lbs. entering from KS, and 90,000 lbs. entering from OK for up to 20 miles from the state line.

The variation in weight limits raises a simple question – why? If an interstate highway can handle a 122,000 pound load in South Dakota, why can't the interstates in Iowa or Minnesota handle a similarly sized load? The variation in load sizes adds to the issues impacting the nation's freight-hauling system. With the numbers of semis drivers declining, larger weight loads could help keep products moving while also reducing the number of trucks on the road. It's time for Congress to bring uniformity and common sense to these dated regulations.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Veterans Affairs

Governor Proposes Merging Veteran Responsibilities

Governor Reynolds has proposed House Study Bill 126, a bill on state government organization. Division IX of the bill includes merging the responsibilities of the executive director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) with the commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home. This will enable Iowa veterans to have one location to go to for their needs.

Recently, Commandant Jacobus of the IDVA made a presentation to the House Veterans Affairs Committee. The department contains three sections to assist Iowa veterans: Veterans Benefits Bureau at Camp Dodge, the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown, and the Iowa Veterans Cemetery in Van Meter.

Commandant Jacobus told the committee that the Iowa Veterans Home has maintained its 5-Star Rating, providing residential and nursing care to Iowa veterans and spouses. There are currently 384 residents of the nursing home with over 800 staff.

The department has made it a priority to improve communication with Iowa's 99 County Veteran Service Officers and is working to build up internal capacity to provide training and assistance to ensure Iowa veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Ways & Means

Department of Revenue Offers Relief from Electronic Filing for Certain Taxpayers

Last week, the Iowa Department of Revenue Director signed Order 2023-01 offering limited relief from a requirement that certain business entities file their Iowa income, franchise, and composite tax returns in an electronic format. This was in response to feedback that a limited amount of tax preparation software supported some of the forms necessary to file these returns electronically.

The Order allows filers who meet all of the following criteria to file on paper:

- Taxpayer needs to file an IA 1065, IA 1120, IA 1120S, IA 1120F, or IA PTE-C return with an original due date in calendar year 2023
- Taxpayer is subject to the electronic filing requirement for that return
- Taxpayer's commercial tax preparation software does not support electronic filing of one or more forms required by the taxpayer to file a complete and proper Iowa return as of the date the taxpayer completes that return
- Before filing that tax return, the taxpayer submits an Electronic Filing Exception Request form (78-641). Exception Request forms submitted in the same envelope as the paper return will not be accepted
- The taxpayer files that Iowa return on or before the original due date not including extensions.

The Order stated that Electronic Filing Exception Request forms (78-641) that are received or postmarked on the same day as the qualifying filer's return will be considered submitted "before" the return as required by Iowa Administrative Code.

(Contact: Kristi Kiouss, 2-5290)