

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

March 9, 2023

IowaHouseRepublicans.com

Appropriations

Another Strong Revenue Month for Iowa

State revenue collections continued at a strong pace in February, according to the Legislative Services Agency.

Tax collections for February were 5.7 percent higher than February 2022, with an additional \$35.7 million being paid to the state. This increase includes January's implementation of the 2022 tax reform law. For the first eight months of the fiscal year, state revenue has grown by 4 percent. This is well ahead of the 1.9 percent reduction forecasted by the Revenue Estimating Conference.

Personal income tax payments to the state were down compared to February of last year, but a decline would be expected with the tax cut going into effect. The 2022 law was projected to lower Iowans tax liability by \$50 million in February. So the fact that actual personal income tax payments only fell by \$18.3 million shows that Iowa's economy is still performing well. For the year, personal income tax payments are up 4.7 percent over FY 2022. This is well ahead of the REC's forecast of a decline of 3.5 percent.

Sales tax collections for the month were down by \$84.2 million, with the cause being change in sales tax deposit dates that began at the start of Fiscal Year 2023. Most sales tax payments from retailers now happen at the end of each month, with some collections not being credited in the state's accounting system until the start of the next month. February is always a slow month for corporate income tax payments, and this February was no different. The state collected \$10 million in corporate income tax, which is a decline of \$4.1 million. As with personal income tax, corporate income tax rates were reduced on January 1, so payments are likely to not meet last year's high levels. The continuing strong revenue picture should have an impact on the next meeting of the Revenue Estimating Conference. The forecasting group will meet on Friday, at 11 am to revise their projections for Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024 and will make an initial forecast for state revenue in Fiscal Year 2025. The meeting will be in the Supreme Court chamber and can be viewed on the Legislative Services Agency's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZSUBZgLYtz9BgYlmlfW5Q>

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Agriculture

Statewide Inspection Fee for Temperature & Time Sensitive Foods Passes House Ways & Means Panel

On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, the Iowa House Ways & Means Committee unanimously passed House File 661. HF 661 modifies Code provisions dealing with food inspection licenses for food sold at farmer's markets, and temporary food establishments involving time/temperature food safety consumables which are now issued on a county-wide basis to

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make them ‘statewide’ licenses. The bill retains the current cost of Farmers’ market’ and temporary food establishment license of \$150 licenses and \$200. The difference is the new licenses would apply statewide for any given vendor rather than on a county-wide basis so that vendors that operate in multiple county locations would no longer have to pay such fees in each of the counties they sold such products at farmers’ markets or at temporary food establishments. The measure has an immediate effective date so it can be implemented prior to the start of most of the state’s farmers markets later this spring.

IDALS Secretary Naig Awards 28 Choose Iowa Grants

On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release in which IDALS Secretary Mike Naig announced that this state agency has awarded 28 Choose Iowa cost-share grants to Iowa farmers, small businesses and non-profits totaling \$463,000. The announcement was made during an event at Jasper Winery, one of the grant awardees. These Choose Iowa cost-share grants were created to assist Iowa farmers, businesses and non-profits with their efforts to increase or diversify their agricultural product offerings, expand markets and shorten the supply chain.

The grants will support a wide variety of projects, including cider production from Iowa grown apples, fruit and vegetable processing, cold storage for meat, expanded processing of dairy products, hydroponic lettuce and microgreens, Iowa grown flowers, beer production from Iowa honey and many more. These cost-share dollars leverage additional private investment. The highly competitive grant application process has yielded grant requests totaling nearly \$3.3 million during the first two years of the program, a number far exceeding available funding.

Year	Number of Projects Funded	Total Choose Iowa Grant Awards Budget	Totals of Funded Projects
2023	28	\$463,000	\$1,413,953
2022	13	\$248,000	\$852,456
Total	41	\$711,000	\$2,266,409

A comprehensive list of 2023 Choose Iowa grant allocations and a brief description of the projects that were awarded on Tuesday can be accessed [here](#).

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Commerce

Commerce Advances Utility, Insurance, and Real Estate Bills

The House Commerce Committee passed 29 bills that survived the first funnel, a legislative deadline of the session. Below are some of the important bills related to utilities, insurance regulation, and real estate that advanced.

- **HF 316 – Value-Add in Insurance** - This bill allows insurance companies to offer value-add products to customers.
- **HF 432 – HOA Documents** - This bill requires unit owners associations to provide access to all its organizational documents and most recent meeting minutes to owners and their agents.
- **HF 462 – Medicare Supplemental** - This bill establishes an annual open enrollment for Medicare Supplemental policies and prohibits consideration of pre-existing conditions in issuing those plans.
- **HF 475 – Real Estate Unfair Practices** - This bill is American Land Title Association legislation to prohibit the use of services agreements that are unfair to an owner of residential real estate and the future owners. This consumer protection legislation prohibits property records that increase the cost and complexity of selling, refinancing, or transferring real estate.

- **HF 499 – Car Seat Coverage** - This bill requires car insurance companies to cover the value of a car seat that is located in a vehicle subject to a loss.
- **HSB 191 – Utility Rate Review** - This bill requires the IUB to coordinate a review of Iowa’s ratemaking procedures with a report due to the legislature January 2024.
- **HF 599 – Muni/REC bill** - This bill comes from the municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives to update language to mirror the Muni statute after the REC statute, to clarify the IUB’s complaint authority is limited to matters within its jurisdiction, and clarifies that non-rate regulated utilities may charge disconnection or reconnection fees.
- **HF 605 – Energy Benchmarking** - This bill prohibits state and local governments from requiring private properties to decrease their average energy use.
- **HF 96 – Non-Medical Switching** - This bill prohibits health insurers from switching a covered person’s prescription drugs to a less costly alternative or increasing the cost of the drug on the covered person when the individual is stable on the drug and their health care provider continues to prescribe the same drug. This bill also requires health insurers to follow certain coverage exemption processes and requirements.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Economic Growth

Waterloo Ready to Lace Up their Roller Skates with \$1.0 Million CAT Grant

Recently, the Enhance Iowa Board awarded a Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant to improve two city parks in Waterloo. The *Transforming Gates and Byrnes Parks Project*, was awarded \$1.0 million toward a total project cost of \$16,918,491. This project includes improvements at two city parks. Gates Park improvements include a splash pad, inclusion park, amphitheater, and lighted basketball courts surrounded by a roller-skating track. Byrnes Park improvements include the construction of a new aquatic center with a slide tower, 25-yard lap pool, zero-depth entry play area, bathhouse, and mechanical building.

The Enhance Iowa Program provides grants to communities for the construction of recreational, cultural, educational, or entertainment facilities that enhance the quality of life in Iowa. So far, 105 CAT grants have been awarded, totaling \$34,503,023. The board is appointed by the Governor and oversees the administration of the Community Attraction & Tourism grant program. The board also oversees the Sports Tourism Program and the River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism Program.

The Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Committee is a subcommittee of the Enhance Iowa Board. The subcommittee evaluates applications for CAT funding. Eligible projects must be available to the general public for public use and be primarily vertical infrastructure. Iowa House Republicans supported doubling the CAT program last year—bringing total grant funding to \$10.0 million for the current fiscal year.

(Contact: Kristi Kiou, 2-5290)

Education

House Passes Age-Appropriate Educational Standards

On Wednesday, the House passed HF 597 that states Iowa’s educational *standards* must be age-appropriate, all educational *programs* must be age-appropriate, and all *materials* in school libraries must be age-appropriate. The bill goes on to define what age-appropriate is not and references the definitions of sex act in Code.

Until relatively recently, parents and school district decision makers agreed on what was age-appropriate and what was not. It never occurred to most parents that they would need to check classroom material and library books for age-appropriate content.

Under this bill, a parent retains the right to expose their child to whatever books and material they feel is necessary. The bill tightens the age-appropriate definition to make sure schools are not using sexually explicit images and content.

This bill makes sure those sexually explicit books are not in schools and it gives guidance on what a district can or can’t do.

Age-appropriate does NOT include any material with descriptions or visual depictions of a sex act as defined in 702.17 or section 728.1.

702.17: The term “sex act” or “sexual activity” means any sexual contact between two or more persons by any of the following:

1. Penetration of the penis into the vagina or anus.
2. Contact between the mouth and genitalia or mouth and anus or by contact between the genitalia of one person and the genitalia or anus of another person.
3. Contact between the finger, hand, or other body part of one person and the genitalia or anus of another person, except in the course of examination or treatment by a person licensed pursuant to chapter 148, 148C, 151, or 152.
4. Ejaculation onto the person of another.
5. By use of artificial sexual organs or substitutes therefor in contact with the genitalia or anus.
6. The touching of a person’s own genitals or anus with a finger, hand, or artificial sexual organ or other similar device at the direction of another person.

728.1: Sex act” means any sexual contact, actual or simulated, either natural or deviate, between two or more persons, or between a person and an animal, by penetration of the penis into the vagina or anus, or by contact between the mouth or tongue and genitalia or anus, or by contact between a finger of one person and the genitalia of another person or by use of artificial sexual organs or substitutes therefor in contact with the genitalia or anus.

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Environmental Protection

Applications Open for DNR Underserved Farmer-to-Farmer Subawards

On Thursday, March 2, 2023, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published its electronic newsletter ‘EcoNewsWire’ which contained an article that this state agency is ready to accept applications for [Underserved Farmer-to-Farmer subawards](#). Over the next five years, the DNR will distribute \$3 million to eligible applicants across the state. Through the grant, the DNR looks to increase the ability of historically underserved farm communities to address nutrient pollution, frequent flooding, and drinking water challenges. The subawards will be issued to eligible entities who will work with farmers and farm communities who fall under at least one of the [U.S. Department of](#)

[Agriculture's four underserved groups](#), which includes those who are beginning, socially disadvantaged, veterans and with limited resources. Eligible subawardees to apply for grants include conservation districts, local or state government entities, nonprofits, tribal nations and institutions of higher learning. Those groups will then work with the DNR to develop projects with a focus on water quality, such as flood reduction, source water protection and nutrient reduction.

For more information and to submit an application, visit www.iowadnr.gov/watershed.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Health and Human Services

Rural Emergency Hospital Legislation Advances

This week, the House passed Senate File 75, a bill to license Rural Emergency Hospitals in Iowa, 97-1. This is a priority bill of the Iowa House Republicans to ensure access to emergency care in rural areas.

Federal law created this designation in 2020, and has allowed this new hospital designation to begin January 1, 2023. In order for the state to allow a hospital to convert to a Rural Emergency Hospital, the state must license these facilities as a health care facility that maintains a 24-hour emergency room, but does not include acute inpatient care. Rural Emergency Hospitals receive different reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid than other hospitals, based on the federal law. This includes quarterly payments from the Centers of Medicaid & Medicaid Services and an additional five percent increase to reimbursement for health care services.

Keokuk Hospital recently closed in Lee County, Iowa. This bill would allow for that hospital to reopen as a Rural Emergency Hospital, and this bill waives the requirement for a certificate of need for that hospital.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Judiciary

House Votes to Protect Children

On Wednesday, the House voted 58-39 to approve SF 538 (previously HF 623). The bill prohibits puberty blockers, hormone therapy, and gender surgery from being administered to any child under the age of 18 in Iowa because of the lack of conclusive evidence and the potential for long-term, irreversible side effects.

The evolving medical data shows that so-called gender affirming surgeries and treatments and pharmaceutical interruptions of normal sexual development do not provide long-term therapeutic relief for children involved in this care.

A paper published in the *International Review of Psychiatry* states that 80% of those seeking clinical care will lose their desire to identify with their non-birth sex. According to the American College of Pediatricians, studies show that 80-95 percent of children who experience gender dysphoria will accept their biological sex by late adolescence. The *British Medical Journal* recently published an article which finds the practice of youth gender-transitions cannot be considered evidence-based. The Society for Evidence Based Gender Medicine (SEGM) states “England and Sweden, stopped or announced the intention to stop transitioning youth as routine medical practice. This change in treatment approach came about following each country’s own independent systematic reviews of evidence.” SEGM also wrote the newly emerging evidence has led “Finland to update its guidelines in 2020, sharply curbing provision of such

treatment to youth and limiting it to exceptional cases.” Additionally, countries like France, Australia and New Zealand have also made changes aimed at safeguarding youth.

Children and teenagers have always struggled, at one level or another, through puberty and adolescence. It is not easy and often confusing.

A new book from Bethany Mandel and Karol Markowicz called *Stolen Youth: How Radicals are Erasing Innocence and Indoctrinating a Generation* came out earlier this month. In the book, they write “Given how transitory childhood phases can be, why assume that, in the area of gender, children are ready to make decisions that carry lifelong consequences?”

The American Academy of Pediatrics was referenced several times in the debate on SF 538. Regarding the AAP’s position on gender care for minors, the books relays this interesting piece of information, “The AAP position paper on the “ethical treatment for gender-dysphoric children...is so far from evidence based that a paper debunking it point by point ran in the *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy* in 2019.”

The bill now goes to the Governor.

(Contact: Amanda Wille, 1-5230)

Labor

Labor and Workforce Committee Funnel Survivors

Labor and Workforce had three bills that passed through committee and survived first funnel to be eligible for floor debate. These bills are as follows:

House File 460/House Study Bill 179—Private Sector Employee Drug Testing

Allows the employer to designate what a “safety-sensitive” position is. Allows the employer to offer and the employee to choose to receive electronic communication. Changes the burden of proof from the employer to the employee to prove by a preponderance of evidence that the employer acted improperly.

Status: Passed House Labor and Workforce Committee

House File 461/House Study Bill 150—Boiler Inspections

Allows a boiler or pressure vessel to be put on an inspection schedule between four and seven years if they meet all federal and state safety standards.

STATUS: Passed House Labor and Workforce Committee

House File 578/House Study Bill 201—State Employee Parental Leave

A state employee that is entitled to leave under FMLA shall be provided paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child if the leave is taken within 12 months following the birth or adoption. The birth parent is allowed up to four weeks of paid leave and the parent who did not give birth is allowed up to one week of leave.

STATUS: Passed House Labor and Workforce Committee

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Local Government Pushes Through Funnel Week

The House Local Government Committee passed six bills out of the committee during funnel week, bringing the total number of bills passed before the funnel to 18. These funnel week survivors range from streamlining county government services to proving funding to volunteer firefighters. Below is a brief summary of each bill that survived the first funnel.

HF 270/HSB 94 – Assessments Delayed by Disaster

Adds an extension to the time property owners can request an informal review of their assessment if the county was a federally declared disaster area between the months of March 1 and May 20. Authorizes the boards of review to remain in session until July 15 (previously June 15) in disaster area counties and extends the timeline for filing a protest from May 25-June 5 to May 1 to June 5.

HF 280/HF 87 - Governmental loans for disaster aid

Allows the Executive Council, with good cause, to forgive governmental subdivisions of contingent fund loans up to \$1 million for disaster relief to continue the requirements of the local government. Increases the amount of total aggregate loans to governmental subdivisions from \$1 million to \$5 million.

HF 314/HF 75 - 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. Strike the binding language for compensation board recommendations tying decreases across all positions and allows counties to exceed the recommendations.

HF 279/HF 115 - Requiring Assessors to Adhere to local policies

Amends code to require assessors to comply with county or city conference board policies for employees and expenditures. If the conference board does not have any adopted rules, the assessor is required to comply with the county/city policies.

HF340/HF 193/HSB 19 – Length of Service Award Program

Creates a grant program to allow municipalities to provide a tax deferred award to volunteer firefighters, emergency medical care providers, and reserve peace officers. The grant will provide up to \$1 for \$1 match in funding for municipalities that have established the award.

HF 281/HF 116 - County Supervisor Plans for Populous counties

Require counties with a population of 60,000 or more to transition to plan three for supervisor representation plans. If enacted, affected counties will have to establish temporary county redistricting commissions and complete a redistricting plan by November 1, 2023 for the election of supervisors in the 2024 election cycle.

HF 318/HSB 93 - Elderly and Disabled Tax Credit Deadline

Extends the deadline extension period to file property tax credit for the elderly, disabled, low-income property tax credit, and manufactured or mobile home tax to March 31 of the fiscal year the property taxes are due in cases of sickness, absence, or other disability.

HF 409/HF 196 - Require 30 minutes of public comment for school board meetings

Requires school boards to provide at least 30 minutes of public comment at regular meetings and special meetings. If necessary, the school board may limit the amount of time a member of the public may speak as long as the amount is the same for each speaker.

HF 412/HF 42 - Authorizing cities to establish self-supported entertainment areas

Allows city councils to designate specific areas entertainment areas for the purpose of collecting a surcharge, not to exceed 3%, on retail sales of food, alcohol, entertainment tickets, and lodging. Entertainment areas are contiguous parcels not to exceed 75 acres within the incorporated area of the city zoned for commercial or within a historical district with an expected attendance forecast of over 250,000 people annually.

HF 420/HF 245 - Allow subunits of 10-member board of reviews

If a county has a 10-member board of review, the Chair may authorize subunits of at least 3 members to conduct hearings to receive evidence and make recommendations for resolution of assessment protests. Final disposition of a protest must still be considered by the full Board of Review.

HF 267/HSB 95 - Nonresident drivers licenses

Allows counties to collect a \$10 convenience fee for the issuance/renewal of driver's licenses and ID cards for individuals who are not residents or property tax payers in that county.

HF 266/HSB 97 - Sales Tax Postponement

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

HF 546/HF 126 - EMAs Levy authority

Gives local emergency management commissions the authority to levy a countywide special tax to fund the local emergency management agency. No longer funded through supplemental county level. The countywide special tax will be required to appear separately on property tax. This bill would apply to budgets for property taxes due and payable in fiscal years on and after July 1, 2024.

HF 557/HF 289 - Elections for Recreational Lake Districts

Would require the county auditor to conduct the elections for the tax levy, entering into indebtedness, and the selection of trustees for benefited recreational lake districts, water quality districts, or combined district.

HF 540/HF 295 - Removing the requirement to consider vacant school properties for Counties

Removes the requirement that boards of supervisors have to consider leasing a vacant public-school building before leasing/purchasing/constructing a new building.

HF 551/HSB 164 - Access to County Land Record Information System

Authorizes the governing board of the County Land Record Information System to adopt policies to prevent unreasonable use of the system, prohibit unauthorized users, and to prohibit foreign access to the system from outside the U.S. Authorizes the system to enter into an agreement to provide access to hazardous water e-docs through an interface with the DNR and to allow access to aggregated anonymous data. Both of these authorizations would allow the system to collect fees for the access to documents.

HF 539/HSB 163 - Consolidation or Split of Parcels

Requires that in order for parcels to be split or consolidated by the county assessor or auditor, that the parcels are clean and free of any unpaid taxes or assessments and that the parcels are not in the redemption period following a tax sale.

HF 541/HF 416 - Deadline for certifying levy for sanitary districts

Changes the certifying date for taxes levied by a Sanitary District's Board of Trustees from March 1 to March 15.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Natural Resources

Taking of Nuisance Furbearer Measure Passes Iowa House

On Tuesday, March 7, 2023, the Iowa House passed House File 317 by a bipartisan 87-aye to 11-nay vote. HF 317 amends existing law on furbearing animals to provide a new circumstance when a person could take on their own property (unincorporated areas) a raccoon, opossum or skunk, without prior permission of a duly appointed representative of the state Natural Resource Commission (NRC) typically a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wildlife officer or DNR wildlife experts when such animals are a nuisance. Current law allows—

- (a) the taking of fur-bearing in NRC specified open seasons, or
- (b) with prior permission for protection of a person or public or private property, and
- (c) when prior permission is not possible to deal with immediate threat to a person, domestic animal or property.

This legislation will allow owners and tenants of unincorporated land (agricultural land) to proactively take nuisance furbearers instead waiting until those animals are an active threat. This allows rural residents to protect themselves, their families, their property and their domesticated animals from nuisance fur-bearing animals.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

State Government

State Government Had a Busy Funnel Week

Last week was the first legislative funnel deadline for legislation to pass through committee. The State Government Committee continued to work hard passing 30 bills out of the committee. These bills will continue to move through the legislative process, while the committee will continue to work on legislation passed by the Senate. Below is a brief summary of each bill that survived the first funnel.

HF 35 - An Act relating to private land for public recreational purposes

Adds jogging, walking, and biking to the definition of recreational purposes for private land to be used for public recreational use. Defines that bicycle is the same as the definition in transportation section of code, except the device can have any number of wheels.

HF 137/HSB 40 - Mobile cosmetology/barbering

Allows both cosmetologists and barbers to practice outside of licensed establishments. Currently barbers can do mobile establishments, but cosmetologists cannot and cosmetologists can go to wedding venues, but barbers cannot. Both the Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences and the Board of Barbering may adopt rules to establish the practice outside of a licensed establishment. They are authorized to adopt emergency rules to implement this bill.

HJR 3/HSB 37 - Line of Succession

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 proposed amendment would be submitted to the voters for ratification at the 2024 general election.

HF 138/HSB 38 – IPERS Protection Occupation

Amends Iowa Code to expand the definition of a “protection occupation” under IPERS to include any firefighter or police officer who is employed by an IPERS covered employer. This change would include the recently created Iowa State Fair Police as a “protection occupation”.

HF 158/HSB 39 - Alcoholic Product Placement

Directs the Alcoholic Beverages Division to adopt administrative rules to conform to federal regulations with an exemption allowing wholesalers to reset or rearrange alcoholic beverages with the consent of the retailer or the manufacturer/wholesaler of the product. Directs the Alcoholic Beverages Division to adopt administrative rules to prohibit a manufacturer or wholesaler from offering sale incentives to retailers.

HF 333/HSB 145 - IPIB: Complaints filed expanded from 60 to 90 days

Iowa Public Information Board bill to extend the period an aggrieved party may file a complaint with the Board alleging a violation of the open meetings or public records laws.

HF 337/HSB 148 - Refrigerant Building Codes

Amends Iowa Code to allow the use of all refrigerants that are federally designated as acceptable for use. This language is a bridge to allow newly federally approved HFO refrigerants within Iowa's building code until the next adoption of a State Building Code.

HF 265 – Midwives

Creates 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. Establishes 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.

HF 336/HF 34 - Commissioners of a Convention of States

Creates a chapter in Iowa Code regarding what commissioners selected to represent Iowa at a Constitutional Convention are authorized to consider and not consider. Any amendment that is outside the scope of the legislature's joint resolution applying to Congress to call for a convention is unauthorized. Any rule to change how the convention is governed that would change from one state gets one vote and a majority is required to propose an amendment is unauthorized. Any commissioners supporting an unauthorized amendment or rule will be replaced and have committed a simple misdemeanor.

HF 350/HSB 144 - IPIB: Public Record Requests

Iowa Public Information Board bill to create more direct acknowledgement and provide estimated times and costs for fulfilling a public records request.

HF 347/HF 179 - Injections by Optometrists

Amends Iowa Code to allow licensed optometrists to administer local anesthetics to patients prior to performing certain authorized surgical procedures.

HF 332/HSB 143 - DAS: Transfer of Real Estate Owned by the State

Department of Administrative Services bill to streamline the process for disposing of state-owned real property. Currently, a majority of both legislative chambers and the Governor has to approve of a real property sale. This bill would change it to the approval of the Executive Council for property that is outside of the Capitol Complex. This would provide DAS with more opportunities beyond the legislative session and requires DAS to work with the relevant agency that owns the property.

HF 458/HSB 127 - Native Winery License

Creates Special Class "C" Retail Native Wine licenses to allow native wine manufacturers to sell native wine at retail for on and off premise consumption. The fee for the licenses is \$125 and a native win manufacturer is allowed to be granted 2 Special Class "C" Retail Native licenses.

HF 495/HSB 146 - Ombudsman: Allows them to decline to investigate

Gives the Office of the Ombudsman the option to not investigate a complaint. Would require the Ombudsman to provide the subject of the allegations the findings of an investigation.

HF 496/HSB 184 - Hookah Bar Violations

As a condition of a retailer license, the retailer must allow respective authorities consent to enter the establishment without a warrant in order to inspect for violations of state tobacco laws or local ordinances.

HF 497/HF 263 - Clarifying open meeting laws in relation to public events

Clarifies in code that when a political party or civic organization hosts an event and 3 members or less of a governmental body are in attendance it is not a meeting subject to open meetings laws.

HF 498/HF 242 - Permanent Daylight Saving Time

Sets the official time of Iowa as daylight saving time year-round.

HF 494/HF 90 - Professional Counselors Licensure Compact

Licensure compact for professional counselors to practice in their home state or one-member state of the compact. Nothing in the compact shall affect the requirements of a member state for the issuance of a license. Licensees participating outside of their home state in member states shall follow the laws and rules of that state. Member states have authority to take adverse action against a licensee in that state. Currently, 17 states are members of the compact. Nebraska is the only neighboring state but Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri have legislation pending.

HF 470/HF 356 – Elections

Establishes conformity and minimum standards for recount processes across all 99 counties. Sets 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.

HJR 7/HJR 4 - Convention of States Resolution

A Resolution for an application to call a constitutional convention to propose amendments to the Constitution on the subjects of fiscal restraints on the federal government and term limits for federal officials and members of Congress. This application to Congress to call for a convention is a continuing application until 34 state make similar applications or the Iowa General Assembly withdraws the application.

HF 478/HSB 182 - Alternating Proprietorship Arrangements for Brewers

Authorizes brewpubs to brew beer for other class "A" beer permit holders if there is a proprietorship arrangement approved by the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau of the US. Treasury.

HF 472/HSB 181 - Vet 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.

HF 2 – ESGs

Requires public funds to act only in the best financial interest of the fund and its beneficiaries.

HSB 210 - Ethics & Campaign

Creates enforcement mechanisms for delinquent penalties by accruing interest and if necessary suspending the individual's driver's license. Updates filing deadlines from end of business day to the end of the day since there's an electronic filing option. Increase the allowable gift allowance for nonmonetary items and food and drink from \$3 to \$10. The limit is indexed to inflation.

HSB 152 - Dog Breed Bans

Prohibits counties and cities from enacted bans on dogs based on breeds, perceived breeds, or characteristics of the dog. Updates Iowa Code on the definition of dogs as property. Limits the authority for law enforcement to kill a dog not in possession of the owner only in jurisdictions without shelters or in jurisdictions where there is no available housing for the dogs. Removes the requirement that a dog wears a rabies vaccination tag as proof of ownership.

HSB 126 – State Government Alignment

Realigns government agencies and services that have similar and/or complimentary functions for providing services for Iowans. The state government will reduce the number of cabinet-level departments from 37 to 16 while maintaining all the services currently provided to Iowans.

HSB 211 - Merge Cosmetology/Barbers

The Board of Cosmetology Arts and Sciences and the Board of Barbering combine and are now the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology Arts and Sciences. Allows schools of cosmetology to use their space for uses outside of instruction.

HSB 221 – Podiatrists

Amends code to allow someone who has completed 2 years of an approved residency to apply for a podiatrist license. If granted a license before the completion of the residency, proof of completion is required for renewal of a license.

HSB 220 – Dentists Compact

A proposed interstate compact to support the mobility of licensed dentists and dental hygienists. The compact would allow qualified licensed dentists and dental hygienists to apply and be approved for the compact privilege to practice in remote participating states. The compact would go into effect when the 7th state enacts the compact model language. Currently no state has enacted the legislation.

HF 504- Expanding background checks for service providers

Expands the definitions to include more providers in any capacity providing waiver services to a consumer. Background checks will be required for contractors and employees. DHS will evaluate and determine if a prior conviction of a crime or record of abuse warrants prohibition from employment.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

DOT Continuing Review of Secondary Road Fund Distribution

On Thursday, the Department of Transportation will continue its periodic review of how parts of Iowa’s road funding is distributed. The Secondary Road Fund Distribution Committee will meet on March 9 to continue their work. The original purpose of the Committee was to determine a methodology to distribute secondary road funds and farm-to-market funds that was phased in over a five-year term period beginning July 1, 2006. The mission of the committee now is to review and revise, if necessary, the secondary road and farm-to-market distribution factor formulas. At its meeting, the Committee will again review the current distribution methodology and go over the latest projections for revenue coming into the Road Use Tax Fund. The meeting will be held at 7:30 AM at the Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in Des Moines.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Veterans Affairs

Veterans Affairs Bills Advance

The House Veterans Affairs Committee passed 7 bills that survived the first funnel, a legislative deadline of the session. Below are some of the important bills that advanced to support veterans in the state.

HF 142 – Veterans Trust Fund - 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 259 – Veterans Code Cleanup - This bill updates the definition of veteran in code, adds requirements for the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs and county veteran service officers to ensure the VSOs are trained and have access to the information needed to complete the job, updates membership of the county commissions of veterans affairs, and updates who pays for the funeral expenses of a deceased veteran.

HF 582 – Hunting with Disabilities - This bill provides veterans injured in military service certain discounts on hunting licenses and allows the use of a crossbow while hunting with a tag during archery season.

HF 140 – VSO Training - This bill appropriates an additional \$300,000, to provide \$3,000 to each county, to be used for national training for veteran service officers.

HF 141 – Property Tax Evaluation - This bill increases the property tax exemption from \$1,852 of taxable value to \$4,000 of taxable value for all honorably discharged veterans of Iowa.

HF 163 – 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 574 – Hyperbaric Oxygen Pilot - This bill establishes a veterans recovery pilot program and fund to allow for the free treatment of veterans with PTSD or traumatic brain injury with hyperbaric oxygen treatment. The program is repealed July 1, 2029.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Ways & Means

Did Your Retirement Plan Administrator STILL Withhold? Get that Money BACK!

The Department of Revenue recently updated their guidance regarding the retirement income exemption that went into effect at the beginning of this year. The department was hearing from numerous Iowans that plan administrators were still withholding on their retirement disbursements. Individuals who qualify for the retirement exclusion and believe tax on their retirement income is being erroneously withheld should contact their plan administrator to request a refund of erroneously withheld Iowa income tax and request that the administrator stop withholding Iowa income tax on future payments. The plan administrator may require the individual to complete a new IA W-4P claiming exemption from withholding.

Any amounts that were correctly withheld, or that were erroneously withheld and you did not notify your plan administrator about in 2023, should be reported on your 2023 Iowa income tax return and may be refundable to the extent the withheld amount exceeds your Iowa income tax liability.

Plan administrators who are aware that they have erroneously withheld Iowa income tax on qualifying retirement income in 2023 must repay the over-withheld amount to the recipient by the end of 2023. Plan administrators have two options:

- Refund the over-withheld amount directly to the recipient and obtain a written receipt showing the date and amount of the repayment from the recipient. The plan administrator may then file an amended withholding tax return and request a refund of tax paid that was not due.
- Apply the over-withheld amount against future tax required to be withheld on distributions to the recipient in the calendar year, if any. If the recipient does not have any income from the plan administrator subject to Iowa income tax, the plan administrator must use the first option.

If the amounts were not erroneously withheld, or if the plan administrator learns of the error in 2024, they should file a 1099-R with the Department and furnish a 1099-R to the taxpayer reporting the amount withheld in 2023. The taxpayer should file their 2023 Iowa income tax return as usual to report the amount withheld and seek a refund.

(Contact: Kristi Kiious, 2-5290)