

Legislative Newsletter

Feb. 21, 2020



The legislature's first legislative funnel week saw more bills pass than not, for discussions to be had and amendments to be added as bills start to move to the chamber floors for debate. Debate should really start ramping up in week seven, now that the first funnel deadline has passed.

Two significant bills which failed to beat the funnel were the mobile home rights bills (**House File 2351** and **Senate File 2238**). These two bills were introduced with broad bipartisan support, but nearly as soon as they were introduced, the legislation was buried and killed out of the gate.

Senate Study Bill 3159 is stalled, but not dead. The psychiatrist non-compete agreement bill is expected to be amended to an education bill with other boards of regent provisions instead of in the originally drafted bill. The sub-committee on this particular bill was canceled during funnel with the understanding that the same language will be an amendment down the road. Our lobbying team will continue to keep an eye on it to ensure the amendment is properly filed.

House Study Bill 598 passed out of committee (12-10). This is the classroom behavior bill which has drawn some contention from different groups. The bill is extensive, but the highlights include teacher preparation on behavior interventions, allows a teacher to clear a classroom if a student's behavior presents an immediate danger. It also requires

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schools to notify the parents when the classroom is cleared for that reason, and also allows teachers to report violent acts to the Dept. of Public Safety.

Prisoners medical expense may also see some true movement to the Governor's desk in this session, after several years of work groups and compromises between stakeholders. **House Study Bill 518** (passed unanimously by the House Public Safety Committee during funnel week) and **Senate File 2191** place the primary cost responsibility for a prisoner's medical care on that prisoner while he/she is in jail or other holding facility. A hospital or provider must attempt to use any available insurance held by the prisoner before sending the bill to the counties, who are the payor of last resort.

In House Committee action, **House File 2477** (formerly HSB 650) prohibits counties from requiring an agricultural experience activity (colloquially called "agro-tourism") from getting a special use or similar permit if the experience is on land used for farming. This bill passed out of committee 22-1. The Senate version (**Senate File 2358**) also got through the funnel. The Senate has indicated they are willing to have discussions on this bill that are more local control-friendly

Other ag-zoning bills that are troublesome for local control are House Study Bill 632 and Senate File 2264. These bills deem land in soil or water conservation programs are exempted as being zoned as agriculture. County boards of supervisors would also have to follow the same procedures to adopt amendments to a comprehensive plan as they already do to adopt the actual comprehensive plan. Public hearings will also have to be held prior to adoption.

Also beating funnel week:

Senate Study Bill 3139: This bill requires a hospital or school that wants to offer EMS training to apply to the Dept. of Public Health for authorization to develop a training program.

Senate Study Bill 3055: Labor subcontractors.

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House File 2013: Strikes the requirement that a county seal include the word “Treasurer.” We are registered in support of this bill.

House File 2056: Strikes the requirement that counties be adjacent in order to jointly hire a county engineer.

House Study Bill 625: Allows the state to help fund hazard mitigation, if federal assistance is granted, without approval of state hazard mitigation funding, and limits the assistance to 10 percent of the amount granted by the federal government for eligible expenses.

House File 2210: Allows fire departments, EMS agencies and law enforcement agencies to donate used equipment to another organization.

House File 2035: This bill prohibits a county compensation board from recommending compensation for county supervisors that exceeds the median annual income for the county.

Renumbered bills:

House Study Bill 619 is now **House File 2406**. This bill establishes a disaster recovery homeowner program in the Iowa Finance Authority for forgivable loans to disaster-stricken homeowners and other homeowner disaster aid provisions.

Senate Study Bill 3040 is now **Senate File 2274**. This bill establishes a work group to study the information shared by the DCI crime lab and county medical examiners, regarding drivers killed in car accidents. The report from the work group’s findings are due to the Governor and Legislature by December 2020.

Senate Study Bill 3092 is now **Senate File 2314**. This is the homeowner disaster aid bill.

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Senate Study Bill 3023 is now **Senate File 2332**: low wage non-compete agreements. This bill prohibits an employer from requiring a low-wage employee (defined as receiving an hourly wage less than double the federal minimum wage) from entering into a non-compete agreement.

Senate File 443 is now **Senate File 2303**. This bill will add persons who are licensed Occupational Therapists with a practicum or experience in psychiatric settings as mental health professionals.

House File 2210 is now **House File 2493**. This bill allows fire departments, EMS agencies and law enforcement agencies to donate used equipment to another such organization, and includes liability protections for “good faith” donations.

Funnel proof bills:

House File 2434: This bill requires a county to declare that EMS is an essential service before adopting levies to pay for such services.

House Study Bill 695: This is the Governor’s tax bill. On commercial or industrial properties, the bill would eliminate the standing \$125 million appropriation for the business property tax credit and would transfer funds back to the state and to repeal the business property tax credit. The bill also changes the formula for determining the rollback on industrial, commercial and railroad property. On residential properties, the bill strikes the multi-residential class and converts those properties to outright residential.

House File 2487 (formerly House Study Bill 584): Volunteer length of service programs for volunteer fire and EMS service workers.

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