

Legislative Newsletter

March 10, 2017



Debate Picks Up in House and Senate

Following the first funnel week, both the House and Senate turned their focuses on floor work. Public hearings on voter ID (House File 516) and workers' compensation reforms (House File 518/Senate File 435) were held early on in the week. The rest of the week included debate.

The House passed HF 516, the gun omnibus bill (House File 517), and the pre-emption bill (House File 295), all this week. HF 517 pre-empts local laws that currently prohibit firearms in public buildings, with the exception of the regent institutions. Individuals who have a permit to carry would be allowed to bring their firearm to the Capitol, but does not allow for open carry. HF 295 pre-empts cities and counties from raising the minimum wage. Democrats offered an amendment to raise the state minimum wage, which was ruled non-germane. An amendment that struck provisions of the bill that would restrict civil rights laws from local governments was passed as part of the overall bill. The UCC is registered against HF 295.

The Senate has previously passed its own voter ID bill, Senate File 474 to the Senate floor. Procedurally that will allow the Senate to substitute the House version for the Senate version and send it directly to the Governor following debate.

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The workers compensation bills have yet to be debated in the House or the Senate, and are anticipated to be this next week.

The Senate Ways and Means Committee also passed the fireworks bill out (Senate File 236).

The Capitol also welcomed Iowa's 99 counties for County Day, as well as the eastern Iowa corridor. County Day on the Hill ended with the annual Dubuque Night party.

The second funnel will end March 31. Bills must pass the chamber of origin and a committee of the opposite chamber, with the exception of Ways, Appropriations, and Government Oversight bills.

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