

Legislative Newsletter

March 24, 2017



Second Funnel Next Week

Both chambers spent the week prioritizing bills for next week's funnel deadline. To survive this funnel, bills must have passed their chamber of origin, and a subcommittee and full committee in the opposite chamber. Floor work picked up, ending with the Senate passing the House Voter ID bill. Funnel number two is March 31.

In the House, the project labor agreements ban (PLA's) passed the full Labor Committee and has been referred to House Appropriations to be made funnel-proof. Senate File 438 would ban state agencies, local governments, and other entities from entering into a PLA with a union.

In the Senate:

The state government committee passed the pre-emption bill after a very contentious subcommittee and committee meeting. Republicans said House File 295 was not a minimum wage bill, despite prohibiting local governments from enacting minimum wage laws or setting higher standards for consumer merchandise. The goal, they said, was to create uniformity in the state and an intention to set the state minimum wage. Counties and cities dispute this bill, believing such matters are local control issues for them to set based on the needs of their populations. We are against this bill.

Gary Grant, CEO
Cell 319.721.5977
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO
Cell 319.361.2834
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel
Cell 515.321.5825
mvmalloy83@gmail.com

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A Senate Ways & Means subcommittee passed Senate Study Bill 1052, which would raise various fees collected by county sheriffs, including fees to serve notice.

Finally, the Senate passed the fireworks bill, Senate File 489, though it did not come without a heated debate between the parties, which included more than 20 amendments by Democrats. The bill would legalize the sale of fireworks in Iowa, with an opt-out measure for counties and cities to permit the use of fireworks within their jurisdictions. It also includes a provision limiting the time and days during the year consumer fireworks may be detonated. The bill now goes to the House, where a subcommittee in the House Ways & Means Committee has been already assigned.

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