

Legislative Newsletter

April 13, 2018

Gov. Signs Immigration Bill

Budget targets had yet to be released as of Thursday afternoon, though both chambers made movements on their tax bills. The House Ways and Means Committee passed out House Study Bill 671 Thursday afternoon after an extended caucus period; a Senate Ways subcommittee had to stall on their companion version, Senate Study Bill 3195, due to a strike amendment not being ready. The House version touts an income tax reduction of 8.9 percent to be given to 90 percent of “middle class” Iowans. The bill also expands 529 education savings plans to include K-12 tuition; finally, for tax year 2019, HSB 671 would increase the standard deduction to \$3,000 for an individual and \$7,500 for a family and reduces rates for all individual income tax brackets.

The Governor signed the controversial “sanctuary cities” (Senate File 481) bill Tuesday. Of significant note, Senate File 481 prohibits cities and counties from adopting policies that encourage or discourage immigration enforcement by both local law enforcement agencies and county attorneys and denies state funds for at least one year to any city or county that violates the provisions of Senate File 481. This bill was hotly contested about how it would be applied,

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its limitation on local control, and law enforcement testified that the bill would damage the relationship its agencies have made with immigration populations in Iowa communities.

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