

# Legislative Newsletter

April 2, 2021



This year, the second legislative funnel deadline coincided with the Easter holiday weekend. To remain eligible after the second funnel deadline, a bill must pass the full chamber of origin, and a subcommittee and full committee of the opposite chamber.

The week started with debate in both chambers, then moved to subcommittee and committee work for the remainder of the week. We anticipate to have a full list of bills of interest completed this week to see which are still under consideration.

The unofficial end of the General Assembly session is April 30, when the per diem for legislators stops. While not mandatory, the lack of ongoing pay of per diem usually leads to adjournment.

On Good Friday, Gov. Reynolds signed **House File 756** (weapons matters). This bill has received plenty of contention from opponents, who are concerned the legislation creates loopholes for private, unlicensed firearm dealers and expanded gun ownership.

Firearm owners may still obtain permits from their county sheriffs for their firearms, but will not be required to. To purchase a firearm from a federally licensed dealer, the purchaser must undergo a background check (one per firearm purchased) if no background check was done for prior purchases.

The loophole comes in for unlicensed, private dealers, who are not mandated under this bill to perform background checks (though there is nothing prohibiting them from doing so).

The Senate Tax bill (**Senate File 587**) passed the Appropriations Committee 12-8. Our team anticipates this bill will pass the Senate chamber following the Easter weekend, although there has not been much talk in the House about how it will be received in that chamber. This is a funnel-proof bill, so that also means there is no hurry on either chamber's part to continue advancing the bill.

**House File 555:** This was enrolled for the Governor's consideration. This is the natural gas/propane regulations bill, which has been amended a few times through the legislative process. In the Senate, an amendment which would lift prohibitions on local governments' ability to regulate, failed. This bill passed 57-36 in the House, and 29-16 in the Senate.

In the House, **House File 822:** This bill would require schools and local governments to contract for their lobbying services via request for proposal (RFP) every five years; a person who lobbies for more

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than 10 hours on behalf of a local government or school would be required to preserve documents and makes such documents public records, with the exception of documents that are attorney work records. While several of these requirements are already things that happen in the course of business, this bill does not address how to best track hours for local government auditors or how lobbying would be defined for local government officials who may visit the Capitol, but doesn't necessarily talk to any lawmakers or do any politicking.

The bill passed the House 91-3 and passed a Senate subcommittee and State Government Committee to beat the second funnel. The Senate State Government Committee amended the bill to strike certain reporting requirements.

In House Committee work this week, the House State Government Committee passed **Senate File 469** (non-conforming uses on residences; passed 15-8); and **Senate File 568** (election law changes; passed 13-9).

The House Agriculture Committee voted out **Senate File 356** (agro-tourism; 13-7).

The House Human Resources Committee finished out the week unanimously voting to approve **Senate File 461** (MH/DS Regions voting membership); and **Senate File 524** (in-patient bed tracking system interim study).

The House Judiciary Committee voted out **Senate File 357** (detainment of a minor; unanimously).

The House Local Government Committee voted to approve **Senate File 384** (deputy assessors; 13-3); and **Senate File 554** (abandoned building procedures for counties; 11-5).

In Senate committee work, the Senate Local Government Committee unanimously passed **House File 419** (driving convenience fees); **House File 523** (flood protections); and **House File 765** (electronic notices).

## **Successor Bills and Introduced Bills:**

**Senate Study Bill 1255** pertains to fairground exemptions. This bill would include property owned by a county and used for fairs in the property tax exemption for fairgrounds. If enacted, the bill will be retroactive.

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**Senate File 588** would raise the allowable additional township levy for fire & EMS services to 40.5 cents per \$1,000, becoming effective in fiscal year 2023. As this is a Ways & Means bill, it is already funnel-proof.

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