

# Legislative Newsletter

Feb. 11, 2022



Next week is the first funnel week, which is a mechanism to weed out legislation that fails to advance to a certain point in the legislative process. To still be eligible after Feb. 18, a bill must pass a subcommittee and its respective full committee in the chamber it was introduced in. Therefore, our team expects several last-minute subcommittees earlier in the week, and longer committee meetings to get bills past that first deadline.

There has been very little chamber debate at this point, although that starts to pick up after the first funnel deadline. Both House and Senate tax plans have been approved for floor debate in their respective chambers.

**Senate File 2223** feels like another bite at the administrative policing apple. It proposes to establish a burden of proof for removing civil service workers, with the standard of a preponderance of the evidence that the worker violated the law or established policies. Heads of law enforcement agencies would be prohibited from declaring a subordinate as “unfit to work” as a disciplinary procedure for violating procedures. The affected employee would have the option to request that Civil Service Commission deliberations on disciplinary matters be done in closed session, and for Civil Service decisions to remove an employee be unanimous. The Commission would be required to hire outside counsel unless the employee consents to the use of the City Attorney by the Commission.

In House Committee action this week: The House Local Government Committee unanimously approved **House File 2189**, the property tax protest bill which requires the Board of Review to set the start of the hearing period between May 1 and May 7 (now renumbered as House File 2357); **House Study Bill 662**, which will include insurance carriers under the exceptions that allow an Iowa title to be issued for an out-of-state car without surrendering the title to the Iowa treasurer (renumbered as House File 2341); and **House Study Bill 665**, which

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allows governments to accept electronic bids for public improvements (renumbered as House File 2366). The Committee also passed **House Study Bill 664**, which would allow a treasurer who cancels the June sale of delinquent taxes to reschedule the sale after June, or to combine with the tax sale for the following year. That bill passed 18-1, and is renumbered as House File 2359.

The House Transportation Committee passed **House File 2059**: This bill will require a government in control of a highway to construct rumble strips in advance of stop signs and traffic lights where the highway crosses a primary highway. Includes exceptions. This bill is renumbered as House File 2344.

Across the rotunda in the Senate, The Senate Local Government Committee unanimously approved **Senate File 2099**, which strikes the current pilot project allowing counties to establish emergency districts and allows local governments to establish such districts. The Committee also voted to approve **Senate File 2156**, which requires the Dept. of Health to work with healthcare providers to make sure the provider knows of federal requirements, including giving the patient certain vaccine information, documenting adverse results and giving the patient a copy of the report. This bill was amended and passed 17-4.

There are still some bills are being introduced at this stage of the session, though there will be a rush to hold subcommittees and full committees to push the bills past the first funnel deadline:

**Senate Study Bill 3104**: This bill pertains to electronic notice and school health matters. It proposes to allow notice for bonds to be published electronically and allows bids to be received electronically. School boards may publish a notice of vacancy on the website for the school board, and allow for electronic signatures and contracts in specific circumstances. Allows boards to use electronic signatures and contracts in specific circumstances. Of note, this bill would require the Dept. of Education to convene a work group on health care training for school.

**House Study Bill 681**: This bill proposes to further something that has been of interest to counties for several sessions – including courthouse improvements as an essential county purpose.

**Senate Study Bill 3106**: This bill would authorize the Dept. of Transportation to issue an annual all systems permit for overweight vehicles (not exceeding 90,000 pounds). The bill sets the fee at \$500, with \$375 earmarked for the county bridge construction fund.

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**Senate Study Bill 3113:** This bill pertains to utility cost disclosure. Landlords would be required to disclose the utility costs (water, gas, electricity) for the past year for renters, or the cost of similar units in the case of new construction, or the costs of similar units owned by the landlord. Landlords would also have to keep records and to give a copy to the tenant if asked. This bill would take effect July 2023, and is a companion to Senate File 2224.

**Senate Study Bill 3116:** This bill pertains to MH/DS funding. It allows the cash reserves for an MH/DS combined regional account to reach 10 percent before being disqualified from receiving funding from the MH/DS incentive fund.

**Senate Study Bill 3117:** This bill would have required county compensation boards to consider the economic health of the county, state and country in making compensation schedule recommendations. The board is required to document its compensation decisions.

**Senate Study Bill 3118:** This bill pertains to governmental meetings. It allows governments to conduct meetings electronically if certain requirements are met.

**Senate Study Bill 3120:** Companion bill to House File 2189 (property tax protests).

**Senate Study Bill 3121:** This bill pertains to treasurer tax sales. It will allow a treasurer who cancels the June sale of delinquent taxes to reschedule the sale after June, or to combine with the tax sale for the following year.

**Senate Study Bill 3134:** This legislation would cap the price the Dept. of Natural Resources or a county conservation board can pay for various parcels of land (timber, nontillable pasture, cropland) based on the Iowa farmland value survey.

## Renumbered Bills:

Senate Study Bill 3074 is now **Senate File 2206** – the amended Senate tax plan.

House Study Bill 571 is now **House File 2295** – disaster protection.

House File 2035 is now **House File 2296** – utility access.

House Study Bill 585 is now **House File 2297** – Medicaid MCO Oversight.

House Study Bill 545 is now **House File 2356** – DNR environmental references.

Senate Study Bill 3102 is now **Senate File 2257** – Juvenile Justice.

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