



Week 9: 3/15/2019

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Week in Review

The Iowa Legislature spent the majority of its time debating bills on the chamber floor and in private caucuses to discuss the chamber’s debate calendar. The two chambers considered and passed scores of bills this week. Floor debate will continue next week, as well as the addition of some subcommittee work as bills make their way from one chamber to the corresponding chamber.

The Revenue Estimating Committee meets today and will either solidify or downgrade its previous revenue projections. It is not anticipated that the revenue will be downgraded. This news is significant as the budget process will begin in earnest next week as legislators have a final revenue number. We suspect seeing individual budgets next week, although these budgets will be based on individual chamber budget targets (i.e. targets not agreed to by both chambers). Negotiations between the House and Senate will continue as they narrow down their disagreements.

House Releases Preview of its Budget Plan

On Thursday, the Iowa House Republicans released a preview of various budgets priorities, touting rural Iowa as “big winners”. Obviously, this is only the House budget and is not agreed to by the Senate. The House and Senate publicly remain \$50M apart on their budgets.

Some of the items included in their budgets are:

- \$400,000 for medical residency programs and dedicating these funds to those who will practice in rural Iowa.
- \$300,000 for the Rural Primary Loan Repayment program. This program helps communities attract and retain newly-licensed doctors.
- House Republicans are proposing increases for two programs that help disabled farmers and work to improve farm safety. The Agriculture & Natural Resources budget will increase funding for services to disabled farmers and will help preserve the Iowa Center for Agriculture Safety and Health (ICASH).
- Committing to Future Ready Iowa. House Republicans have committed to fund implementation of the Future Ready Iowa program—this will include \$15 million for assisting community college students with the Last Dollar Scholar program and \$1 million for helping those who started four-year degrees in certain fields to go back to college and finish them.
- Increasing Access to Job Skills in High School – Acquiring the necessary technical skills for many in-demand jobs can happen at the high school level through the state’s Career Technical Education program. This provides funds to school districts for training programs. House Republicans are providing an addition \$355,823 to assist more schools establish these programs.

Bills on the Move

SF 220 – Legislation clarifies that S Corporations, LLCs, partnerships and financial institutions can claim the increased expensing allowance deduction on Section 179 property. The bill also allows Corporations to claim the allowance. The bill passed the House 87-7 on Monday, and it previously passed the Senate 48-0. It now heads to Gov. Reynolds.



[SF 519](#) – The House and Senate both approved this bill, which creates a criminal offense for individuals who trespass on an agricultural production facility. Those who use deception to gain access to facilities to cause economic or physical harm to property or individual would be charged with a serious misdemeanor. The governor signed the bill Thursday.

[HF 668](#) – The Iowa House and Senate debated and passed this bill that relates to Iowa’s three-tier system governing our alcohol beverage manufacturing and distribution in the state. The bill defines an institutional investor and clarifies that an individual who is an institutional investor does not violate the three-tier system. The bill also strengthens the three-tier system by creating protections for the middle tier (wholesalers). The bill passed the House 80-19 and the Senate 38-11.

The House approved [HF 546](#) (SAVE bill) on a 96-3 vote, with three Republicans voting against the bill (Shibley, Thompson, Wheeler). The bill extends the school sales tax to 2051 and increases the amount of collections transferred for property tax relief. Representative Bossman, who managed the bill, said that bill will also help schools and property taxpayers by authorizing additional spending on school safety infrastructure from SAVE funds. He said that he supports keeping a sunset date in the Code for SAVE in order to force legislators to debate the issue from time to time.

In the Senate, legislators approved [SF 305](#), a bill amending SNAP eligibility requirements, on a 46-3 vote, after amending the bill to limit it to persons delinquent on child support obligations. The bill requires persons who are delinquent on child support obligations to cooperate with the CSRU in order to maintain eligibility for SNAP. Senator Schultz, who managed the bill, said that people who are not paying their child support obligations should not be able to collect food benefits.

The House and Senate both approved [SJR 18](#), a bill amending firearm rights in the Iowa Constitution. The amendment now awaits action after the next General Assembly meets in 2021. Legislators approved a firearms rights amendment in the last General Assembly, but the Secretary of State failed to publish the amendment, and legislators had to start over. Legislators voted for SJR 18 on largely party-line votes. Democrats offered amendments to strike the proposed language and mirror the language of the federal 2nd Amendment, and to strike out strict scrutiny. Representative McKean voted with Democrats on the amendment, and then he supported the bill on final passage. In the Senate, Senator Rich Taylor voted with Republicans to pass SJR 18. Representative Windschitl, who managed the bill in the House, said that the language proposing that restrictions on firearm rights be subject to strict scrutiny by the courts is needed to make sure that Iowa has the strongest possible protections for firearms rights. Windschitl said that the bill is more than just a protection for the right to own guns but is an important protection for the rights and freedoms of Iowans.

The Senate also approved [SF 447](#), a bill dealing with residential rental caps, on a 35-11 vote, with five Democrats (Bisignano, Dotzler Kinney, Lykam and Todd Taylor) supporting the bill. Senator Chapman, who managed the bill, said that it will protect the property rights of rental unit owners who save value decline because of rental restrictions adopted by cities. Senator Bisignano said that rental restrictions often most deeply affect immigrant families. Senator Bolckcom, who opposed the bill, said that the supporters of the bill need to recognize the differences faced by Iowa City. He said that rental restrictions are important tools to help maintain a mix of residential and rental properties around the UI.

Judicial Nominating Commission bill. The Senate approved [SF 237](#) on a 32-17 party-line vote. Senator Dawson said that the bill addresses real problems in the nominating commissions and makes them more responsive to the Legislature. Dawson said that the commissions lack accountability and give too much influence to lawyers and judges in making nominations. He said that the bill will get more Iowans involved in the commissions and that giving the commissions the power to elect a chair will reduce the undue influence of senior judges on the commission.

Property Tax Subcommittee

A House Ways and Means subcommittee advanced [HSB 125](#) Wednesday that is meant to address concerns surrounding property taxes that Republican leaders said they heard repeatedly from constituents this year. The bill caps property tax revenue growth at 2 percent each year. If cities and counties want to raise more money than



that, they would have to hold a vote and a public meeting to gain feedback from residents and property owners before acting. Then residents would have 20 days to file a petition for the city or county to hold a referendum in which voters would be asked to approve any growth above the 2 percent cap.

Associations representing cities, counties, county supervisors and county auditors oppose the bill. Rep. Lee Hein, R-Monticello, said the House Ways and Means Committee would consider the bill soon, along with an amendment that was distributed at Wednesday’s subcommittee meeting.

In the Legislature Next Week

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 10, March 18-22, 2019

Subject to Change

Monday, March 18	Tuesday, March 19	Wednesday, March 20	Thursday, March 21	Friday, March 22
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	
		10:00 Agriculture RM 22	11:00 Appropriations RM 22	
		11:00 Commerce RM 22		
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 Nat. Resources RM 22 Veterans Affairs RM 24	1:00 State Govt. RM 22 Local Govt. RM 24	1:00 Nat. Resources RM 22	On Call: All Committees
2:00 Education RM 22 Labor/Bus. RM 24	2:00 Ways and Means RM 22	2:00 Judiciary RM 22	2:00 SESSION	
3:00 SESSION	3:00 Hum. Res. RM 22 Transportation RM 24	3:00 SESSION		
	4:00 SESSION			

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver

At the time of this publication, the House weekly calendar had not been published.

Key Dates

January 14	First Day of Legislative Session
February 15	Last Day for individual Senator/Representative Bill Requests
March 8	First Legislative Funnel (Originating chamber bills must be voted out of a full committee to remain “alive”)
March 15	Revenue Estimating Conference Meets
April 5	Second Legislative Funnel (Corresponding chamber must vote bills out of a full committee to remain “alive”)
April 15	Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
May 3	110 th Day of the session. Per diem expenses for legislators end.



In the News

1. [Western Iowa Flooding Forces Evacuation](#)
2. [Reynolds Simplifies Felon Voting Rights While Waiting for Voting Right Constitutional Amendment](#)
3. [School Sales Tax Extension Clears Legislative Hurdle](#)
4. [Mental Health Care Funding Fixes Pitched by Iowa County Leaders](#)
5. [Bill Makes Female Cutting A Crime In Iowa](#)
6. [EPA Rules for E15 Year Round a Win for Farmers and Consumers, Advocates Say](#)
7. [Bill Would Overrule Local Control on NE Iowa Communication Tower Denial](#)



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