

3/15/18, Week 10

In this Issue:

REC Meets..... P. 1
New Senate Majority
Leader.....P. 1
Future Ready Iowa...P.1
House and Senate Move
Bills.....P. 2
Forums.....P. 3
In the News.....P. 3

Budget Forecasts Tick Upward

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC), a legislatively appointed committee that sets the forecasted state revenue used for budgeting purposes met last Friday and raised the revenue estimates for FY 2018 and FY 2019. This was largely due to expected increases in income tax collections and from the Federal Tax Reform package that was passed last December.

Revenue estimates now call for \$7.271 billion in FY 2018, \$33 million more than the December estimate of \$7.238 billion. Estimates for the FY 2019 year is \$7.734 billion, an increase of about \$207 million, compared to the December estimate of \$7.527 billion. The changes in federal tax law, passed after the December REC meeting, account for much of the March increase, but according to an LSA analysis, after adjusting for federal changes, the FY 2018 estimate is up by \$4.9 million and the FY 2019 estimate is up \$18.5 million.

David Roederer, the director of the Department on Management and a member of the REC, said that he expects that legislators will still need to make some cuts in the (current) FY 2018 budget. The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate have passed different versions of a deappropriations bill, which cuts spending in the current year. It is expected the House and Senate will come together to cut a deal on this piece of legislation next week now that legislators have a clearer picture of the amount necessary to deappropriate.

New Senate Majority Leader

The Senate Republican caucus voted on Wednesday to elect Senator Jack Whitver (R-Ankeny) as their new majority leader after the resignation of Senator Bill Dix (R-Shell Rock). Senator Whitver had previously served in leadership as the Senate President. Senator Charles Schneider (R- West Des Moines) was chosen to serve as Senate President. Schneider was formerly the Majority Whip and Appropriations chair for the Senate. Other changes include Senator Amy Sinclair (R – Allerton) as the new Majority Whip and Senator Jake Chapman (R – Adel) as the new Assistant Majority Leader.

Former Representative Annette Sweeney will run for the Republican nomination in Senate 25, the open seat previously held by Senator Dix. Sweeney served two terms in the House before losing a contested primary to Representative Grassley. Tracy Freese is the Democrat running for the seat. Governor Reynolds announced the special election will be held on April 10th.

Governor's Future Ready Iowa Bill Advances

The House approved [HF 2458](#) on a 98-0 vote. The bill creates the Future Ready Iowa Registered Apprenticeship program. Governor Reynolds proposed the program with the aim of increasing the percentage of Iowa workers who have training past high school to 70% by 2025. Governor Reynolds said, "Future Ready Iowa is my number one priority because it gives Iowans the opportunity to learn a high-demand skill and then not only get a job to pay the bills, but also a rewarding career. That's life-changing. This act creates opportunities for Iowans of all ages and experiences. "It will have a real impact on real Iowans, and I'm grateful to the Iowa House for recognizing that in this vote." The bill now having passed the House, goes to the Senate for consideration.

House and Senate Continue Moving Bills

This week, the chambers spent large amounts of time in debate and in committee wrapping up the second funnel. This second funnel is a legislative deadline that requires policy bills to be moved through one full chamber and the other chamber's full committee.

The House voted affirmatively on several bills of interest, which include:

- The House approved [SF 2228](#), a bill that grants licensure to genetic counselors. The bill has passed the Senate and now goes to the Governor.
- House passed the Alcoholic Beverage Division technical bill [SF 2310](#). The bill makes technical and other changes by providing for definitions and creating consistency across several code chapters. The bill now goes to the Governor having passed the House and Senate.
- The House bounced [SF 220](#) back to the Senate, after rejecting efforts to amend the bill into a traffic camera ban. Representative Hinson, who managed the bill, said that the language in the bill addresses the concerns about the unrestricted use of traffic cameras. She said that the bill will give law enforcement an important tool to ensure traffic safety. Representative Highfill, who offered the amendment to ban the cameras, said that the cameras violate the constitutional rights of Iowans and are used to raise revenues, rather than to promote safety. The Senate approved the restrictions in SF 220 last session, and approved a ban earlier this session. The bill now bounces back to the full Senate as an amendment was adopted allowing cameras to operate in school/work zones.

Several committees voted out their priority bills in an effort to keep them alive. They are:

- Senate Commerce passed [HF 2305](#), a bill that provides telehealth parity for coverage purposes.
- House Human Resources passed [SF 2322](#), a bill that changes statewide protocols for pharmacists and their abilities to give vaccinations. The bill was negotiated between physician groups and the pharmacy association.
- Senate Human Resources passed [HF 2356](#), a bill that allows for direct primary care agreements (3 D's voted against the legislation). The bill would allow physicians to charge a fee to patients for primary care coverage, outside of insurance. The committee passed [HF 2377](#), the opioid omnibus bill that does several things to combat the opioid epidemic in Iowa. The committee passed [HF 2456](#), the mental health bill that adds required regional services to law. These bills are now eligible for floor debate.
- Senate State Government passed [HF 2253](#), a bill that requires competitive bidding on private property to



be lease-purchased by governmental entities. Additionally, the committee passed [HF 2349](#), a bill that requires the Racing and Gaming Commission to disseminate information for those people requesting to be voluntarily excluded from casinos, rather than the casinos.

- House Commerce passed [SF 2349](#), a bill allowing for associations to form to provide health insurance to their members. The bill was introduced by Senator Waylon Brown, with no House companion. The bill is now funnel proof and makes its way to the full House for consideration.

Forums

Below are links to calendars containing information for legislative forums. As more forums are published, more links will be available.

House Democrat Legislative Forums
Senate Democrat Legislative Forums
Senate Republican Legislative Forums

In the News

1. [Traffic Camera Ban Voted Down](#) by the House
2. [New GOP Senate Leader Predicts Seamless Transition](#)
3. [Fetal Heartbeat Bill Advances](#)
4. [Rep. David Young: Proposed Tariffs are Bad for Iowa](#)
5. [Energy Bill Faces Amendments Prior to Funnel Deadline](#)