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House and Senate Continue Floor Work

The Senate and House spent considerable time debating advancing several bills each day they were in session. No further action on the deappropriation bill was taken this week; affirming the Legislature's decision to wait until the March Revenue Estimating Conference meets next Friday (March 9) prior to passing the bill.

The Senate voted affirmatively on several notable bills, which include:

- The Senate agreed to the House bill on transportation equity for schools and sent [SF 455](#) to the Governor. SF 455 establishes a one-year supplemental for schools with \$11.2 million in funding aimed at districts with the highest transportation costs and has \$2.9 million in per-pupil funding equity.
- The Senate passed [HF 2230](#), sending the bill to the Governor. HF 2230 sets the state supplemental school aid (SSA) and categorical aid growth rate for the 2018-19 school year at 1%, a funding increase of about \$32 million. This number has been agreed on for weeks but the transportation funding piece held up this bill.
- The Senate passed its tax reform bill, [SF 2383](#), on party-line votes. The bill makes changes to corporate and individual tax in Iowa, as well as eliminating certain tax credits. The bill is vastly different than the House version, which is the same plan as the Governor's proposal ([HSB 671](#)).
- The Senate passed [SF 2310](#), the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division bill, which makes technical changes to matters relating to alcohol. The bill defines brewpubs and makes changes to licensing and permitting, amongst other technical changes. The bill passed the Senate 50-0.
- The Senate passed [SF 2148](#), a bill that prohibits the use of automated traffic enforcement devices. Requires the use of these cameras by July 2018. The bill passed the Senate 32-18.
- The Senate passed [SF 2281](#), a bill that prohibits an abortion by a physician if the physician has not tested for a fetal heartbeat, except in cases of emergency. Further, the bill makes it a Class D felony for the physician to perform an abortion if the fetal heartbeat has been detected. Includes a severability clause. Passed 30-20.
- The Senate passed [SF 2341](#), on a bipartisan vote of 38-12. The bill requires high school students to pass the same civics exam given to new citizens in order to complete high school graduation requirements. The bill now goes to the House.
- The Senate passed [SF 2305](#), a bill that enhances the Iowa Insurance Division's Fraud Bureau by creating a new workers' compensation division. The new division would focus on prosecuting the new crime of workers' compensation fraud instituted by the bill.
- The Senate passed [SF 2333](#), a bill that allows amusement concessioners to

increase their prize offerings up to \$950 in value. The bill passed 45-5 and now goes to the House.

- The Senate passed [SF 2347](#) a bill that deals with the importation of alcohol by increasing the limits individuals can bring into the state of Iowa. The bill passed 49-1 and now goes to the House.

Similarly, the House moved the following bills of note:

- The House unanimously passed [HF 2305](#) which requires health insurers to cover telehealth services in the same manner that they would cover in-person visits. Requires those services to meet generally accepted standards. Requires the Insurance Commissioner to adopt rules.
- The House unanimously passed [HF 2377](#) which is the House omnibus bill to combat the opioid epidemic. The bill provides funding for the New prescription monitoring program which is scheduled to go-live in April and improve usability of the PMP; requires prescribers to register and use the PMP; requires pharmacists who dispense medication to report to the PMP within one business day; creates annual prescriber history reporting; requires electronic prescribing of all controlled substances; prohibits 6 month and longer prescriptions for opioids.
- The House passed [HF 2408](#), a bill that requires grocery stores that participate in the WIC food program to carry conventional eggs for sale, not just specialty eggs. The bill passed on an 81-17 vote; it now goes to the Senate.
- The House passed [HF 2456](#), the mental health reform bill that puts in place recommendations from a stakeholder workgroup, amongst other proposals. The bill makes changes to procedures with involuntary commitments, streamlining them and making them simpler and increasing provider input in the process. Additionally, the bill creates more behavioral health care services, including assertive community treatment teams, access centers and intensive residential services.

Naig Appointed to be Iowa Agricultural Secretary

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced on Thursday she will name Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Deputy Secretary Mike Naig as the new Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, citing a commitment to continuity and stability. Naig will become Secretary of Agriculture upon Bill Northey's resignation. Northey was confirmed on Tuesday by the U.S. Senate to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Naig will serve the remainder of Northey's term.

“Mike Naig has been a dependable deputy for Bill Northey, serving since September 2013,” Gov. Reynolds said. “He has gained the experience, knowledge and staff connections necessary to complete Bill’s term through January 2019. I am pleased Mike has stepped up to serve his fellow Iowans in this elevated role.”

Legislators Retiring

Several legislators have begun to announce their retirements from the Iowa legislature. So far, the following Senators and Representatives have announced:

- House Democrats: Jerry Kearns, Todd Taylor (Running for the open Senate seat), Abby Finkenauer, and Helen Miller
- House Republicans: Charles Holz, Kristi Hager (Running for Allamakee County Supervisor), Dawn Pettengill, Rob Taylor, Ralph Watts, Clel Baudler, David Heaton, Ken Rizer, and Guy Vander Linden.



- Senate Democrats: Bob Dvorsky, Wally Horn, and Matt McCoy (running for county Supervisor). Senator Boulton and Senator Zumbach are running for statewide office but are in the middle of their Senate terms and will not leave unless they win.

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. [House Begins Working Off of Governors Tax Plan](#)
2. [Mental health advocates cheer action to mend Iowa's frayed system](#)
3. [Iowa Senate Passes Tax Bill](#)
4. [Iowa Named Best State in America](#)