

3/9/18, Week 9**In this Issue:**

Floor Work..... P. 1

Gov. Appointments..P.2

Forums.....P. 2

In the News.....P. 2

House and Senate Continue Floor Work

This week, the House and Senate spent significant time on the floor debating legislation passing the last of the bills to the other chamber for consideration. No action was taken on the competing tax reform plans. The Revenue Estimating Conference meets today to determine the need for the de-appropriation legislation affecting the FY 18 budget and setting the stage for the FY 19 budget. Budget targets will be set in the near future and budget work will pick up significantly after the 16th as legislators wade through their priorities.

Subcommittee and committee work increased this week as the second legislative funnel is next Friday. The second funnel (March 16th) is the date that all bills excluding tax and spending bills must have passed through one full chamber and through the other chambers full committee to remain alive.

The Senate passed several bills of note, which include:

- The Senate approved [SF 2349](#) on a 33-17 vote, with Senators Bowman, Dotzler, Hart and Horn voting with the Republicans for the bill. The bill allows for association health plans, which are a type of multiple employer welfare arrangements (“MEWA”). The bill now goes to the House. Senator Zumbach, who managed the legislation, said the bill is needed because of the “collapsing individual health care market in Iowa” and will give Iowans an additional health insurance option.
- The Senate approved [HF 2408](#), a bill dealing with the sale of eggs. It requires grocery stores that participate in the WIC food program to carry conventional eggs for sale in addition to specialty eggs (cage-free and similar eggs). The bill now goes to Governor.
- The Senate passed [SF 2322](#), a bill that allows pharmacists to administer naloxone, nicotine and tobacco replacement products, immunizations and vaccines and establishes guidelines for these services, including record-keeping requirements and continuing education requirements. The bill was heavily negotiated between physicians and pharmacists. The bill now goes to the House.
- The Senate approved [SF 2329](#) on a 40-9 vote today. The bill will allow the Farm Bureau and Wellmark to develop health benefit plans for sale in Iowa that do not meet the requirements of the ACA. The plans will not be considered insurance or regulated by the Insurance Commissioner. Senator Feenstra, the manager of the bill, said that the plan will create an affordable option for some Iowans who are make too much to receive insurance subsidies and are now having trouble finding affordable insurance.

The Senate approved SF 2311, an omnibus energy bill on a 27-23 vote. The legislation allows a customer to opt-out for energy efficiency and demand response programs provided by utilities, allows municipal utilities to use joint financing for natural gas infrastructure, increases transparency for cost of energy efficiency programs, allows a public utility to automatically adjust rates to recover costs related to transmission consistent with a tariff or agreement subject to the jurisdiction of the federal energy regulatory commission, among other provisions. The bill now heads to the House.

The House passed several bills of note, which include:

- The House approved [SF 2135](#) on a 58-38 vote. The bill increases the amount that damages can be reduced for the failure to wear a seat belt from 5% to 25%. The bill now goes to the Governor as the Senate passed the bill unanimously. Representative Heartsill, the manager of the bill, said that the language in the bill is an agreement between defense attorneys and plaintiff attorneys.
- The House passed [HF 2349](#), a bill that requires the Racing & Gaming Commission to establish the process of voluntary exclusion from a casino and requires the R & G Commission to give casinos access to voluntary exclusion information from a secure internet site by January 2019. The bill now goes to the Senate.

Governor Announces Board and Commission Appointments

The Governor announced her appointments to Iowa's Boards and Commissions. The full list can be found [here](#). Former legislators named to boards include Speaker Kraig Paulsen and Senator John Putney (Transportation Commission), Representative Mike Cormack (PERB), Representative Rick Larkin (MH Risk Pool Board), and Representative Josh Byrnes and Representative Mike May (State BOE). Other familiar statehouse figures named to boards include Gretchen Tegeler (School Budget Review Committee) and Keith Luchtel (Iowa Public Information Board). David Barker's nomination to the Health Facilities Council has been withdrawn as it violated the partisan balance required for the board.

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. [Sanctuary City Bill Advances; Heads to House Floor](#)
2. [Majority Leader Hagenow Moves House Districts](#)
3. [Polk County Voters Reject 1-cent Sales Tax Increase](#)
4. [Senate Passes "Super Majority" Bill](#)
5. [Farm Bureau Health Plan bill Passes Senate](#)