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## De-appropriations Bill Released

The Senate Appropriations committee voted out [SSB 3039](#) (now [SF 2117](#)) on a party line vote. The bill defunds approximately \$52 million for the current fiscal year (FY 18). This process, not the amount, is legislatively required due to revenues not hitting previous state projections. This number is much larger than the Governor's proposal which included \$19.4 million in de-appropriations, \$10 million in Medicaid reductions and some other revenue adjustments. The Senate bill makes the following downward adjustments:

- \$19.3M from the three Board of Regents Universities ( \$8.7 million from the University of Iowa, \$6.9 million from Iowa State University and \$3.7 million from University of Northern Iowa)
- \$5.4 million for the community colleges
- Approximately \$10 million to the Department of Human Services
- \$3.8 million for the Judicial Branch
- \$1.7 million for the Department of Education

Appropriation's Chair, Senator Schneider, explained the bill and reasoned that making these hard decisions now would put the State in a better position for the next fiscal year budget; allowing legislators to avoid having to make further budget cuts this year, or use emergency funds. Senator Schneider also pointed out the commitment from Senate Republicans to cities by not cutting the backfill dollars that were promised to them by the Brandstad/Reynolds administration.

Rep. Upmeyer has indicated the House's version will be a larger number than the Governor's proposal but wouldn't cut Medicaid or K-12 funding. The Senate is expected to debate their bill next week.

## Water Quality Bill Goes to Governor

A bill to improve water quality in Iowa now makes its way to the Governor's office for her consideration and signature. The bill, a top priority among lawmakers, is the [same bill](#) passed by the Senate last year. The House called up the bill on Tuesday and it passed on a 59-41 vote. Four Republicans (Baltimore, Hanusa, Highfill and Vander Linden) voted against the bill, while four democrats voted with Republicans to pass the bill (Bearinger, H. Miller, Ourth and Prichard). Governor Reynolds has indicated she will sign the bill.

The bill is estimated to generate more than \$280 million over the next twelve years for water quality projects. The bill creates a funding stream from making the current sales tax on metered water into an excise tax and capturing money used to repay Vision Iowa bonds for water quality when those bonds are paid off.

## **Future Ready Iowa Bill Filed**

The Governor released her [Future Ready Iowa bill](#). The bill provides for mechanisms and programs to ensure Iowa has a skilled and adequate workforce. One component of the bill deals with apprenticeships by establishing the Future Ready Iowa Registered Apprenticeship Development Program. This program requires the Economic Development Authority to give financial assistance to help small and medium sized businesses with apprenticeships. This program is contingent on funding.

Another component of the bill is volunteer mentoring, which establishes a volunteer mentoring network to help implement Future Ready programs. Additionally, the bill requires the state Workforce Development Board to report annually on high demand jobs and establishes the Iowa Employer Innovation Fund to improve training for workers. One of the final components deals with the establishment of the Future Ready Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarships.

## **Zach Nunn is the New Judiciary Chair**

Rep. Zach Nunn replaced Rep. Chip Baltimore as Chair of the House Judiciary Committee. Rep. Nunn is from Bondurant and serves as the Majority Whip in the House. Nunn also serves on the Administration and Rules, Economic Growth, and Ways and Means committees. Nunn's district is House District 30, which covers Elkhart, Bondurant, Altoona, Runnells, Mitchellville and some parts of Pleasant Hill.

## **Forums**

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

<a href="#">House Democrat Legislative Forums</a>
<a href="#">Senate Democrat Legislative Forums</a>
<a href="#">Senate Republican Legislative Forums</a>

## **In the News**

1. [Immigration Rally At Iowa Capitol](#)
2. [Iowa Senate Deappropriations Plan](#)
3. [IA Legislature Approves Voluntary Water Quality Bill](#)
4. [DSM and Cedar Rapids Airports Set Records for Passenger Numbers](#)
5. [Democrats Unveil 'Putting Iowa First' Agenda](#)