



Client Newsletter

Friday, February 4, 2022

Week in Review

The Senate adjourned on Thursday and the House will return Friday morning for a gavel-in, gavel-out session and to read in new bills. Neither chamber is expected to conduct any business on Monday except for procedural businesses so that lawmakers can stay in their districts for their local caucuses. As we close out the week, bills are starting to move through subcommittees, committees, and being prepared for debate on the floor. The Governor's biofuels bill passed the House this week (vote of 82-10), being the first bill debated on the floor this session. Discussions on the three tax reform bills also continued this week. The House and Senate tax reform proposals advanced in both chambers this week. The first funnel (February 18) is quickly approaching. All bills must be out of a committee in one of the two chambers in order to stay alive. Ways and Means and Appropriations bills are not subject to this deadline.

Governor Reynolds Ends COVID-19 Disaster Declaration

On Thursday, Governor Reynolds announced that she will allow the current disaster proclamation, that has been in place since March 17, 2020, to expire on February 15 at 11:59pm. Governor Reynolds was one of the first to announce a disaster proclamation in the early days of the pandemic. Reynolds said it's time to reallocate state resources that have been dedicated to treating COVID-19 as a public health emergency. "We cannot continue to suspend duly enacted laws and treat COVID-19 as a public health emergency indefinitely," Reynolds said in a statement. "After two years, it's no longer feasible or necessary. The flu and other infectious illnesses are part of our everyday lives, and coronavirus can be managed similarly." Read the press release [here](#).

Bills on the Move

Tax Reform

- [SSB3074](#): The Senate's tax reform plan which lowers personal income taxes and corporate taxes, makes changes to Research Activities tax credits and renewable biochemical tax credits, and funds the Natural Resources Trust Fund (IWILL constitutional amendment for water quality and outdoor recreation funding) passed out of a subcommittee and committee this week.
- [HSB 626](#): The House moved its tax reform bill out of a Ways and Means subcommittee this week. The bill reduces the individual income tax rate to a flat 4 percent, like the Governor's plan (for tax year 2026) and exempts retirement income (like the Governor's plan) and some income for retired farmers. The House plan does not cut corporate tax rates.
- Both the House and Senate have used centerpieces of the Governor's tax proposal, establishing a flat 4 % tax on individual income tax payers and elimination of taxes on retirement income. Corporate tax reform and sales tax modernization will continue to be worked on as the two chambers move forward with the legislative process.

[HSB 576](#) - Native Whiskey Sales

- This bill allows a seller who holds a Class A and a Class C wine permit to buy native distilled spirits from a distillery with a Class E license, for sale on the Class C premises.
- **AMENDED & PASSED** 21-0
- *Floor Manager: **Bloomingtondale***

[HSB 561](#) - Handheld Devices

- Prohibits the use of hand-held electronic devices in road work zones and school zones. Makes violations a scheduled fine (\$100) with higher penalties for death/injuries.
- **PASSED** 18-0
- *Floor Manager: **Siegrist***

[HSB 631/ SSB 3093](#) - Unemployment Reductions & Tort Reform

- Requires a one-week waiting period for unemployment. Reduces the calculations for maximum benefits to sixteen weeks. Defines misconduct and gives examples. Lowers the amount for suitable wages. Allows for any ALJ decision to be appealed to the district court without going through the Employment Appeals boards. Makes decisions more broadly applicable rather than binding only the parties.
- Medical Malpractice: The legislation imposes a \$1 million cap on non-economic damages
- Torts: Limits the liability of employers for torts/damages related to truck/commercial vehicle accidents.
- On Wednesday, the House bill passed the House Labor committee by a party line vote. It now goes to the floor.

[HSB 614](#) - Sports Wagering Fund

- Replaces the sports wagering fund with the county endowment fund for internet fantasy sports and sports wagering receipts.
- **PASSED** 22-0
- Renumbered as [HF2286](#)

Iowa Awards \$1.4 million in Employer Innovation Fund Awards

Governor Kim Reynolds awarded \$1.4 million in grants to 38 Iowa employers and partner organizations who are launching projects to help Iowans achieve postsecondary training and education. Combined, the Employer Innovation Fund awards will boost workforce talent by helping 3,542 Iowans earn non-credit and for-credit credentials that will enable them to obtain or maintain high-demand jobs. The Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund awards grants that can be used to cover the cost of training and education supplies, as well as to provide much needed wrap-around services addressing other barriers that some Iowans face when trying to obtain skilled training. Award amounts can range from \$1,000 to \$50,000. For more information, see the list of awards on the Future Ready Iowa [website](#).

Iowa Republicans and Iowa Democrats Release Precinct Caucus Locations

Iowa's 2022 Caucuses will be held on Monday, February 7, and the Republican Party of Iowa and Iowa Democratic Party released the locations for precinct caucuses throughout the

state. Midterm precinct caucuses kick off the convention calendar for both parties that will entail county, district, and state conventions. They also determine county central committee representation, discuss platform planks, and send delegates to the county conventions.

- You can find what precinct you are live in at the [Iowa Secretary of State's website](#).
- Republicans can find their precinct caucus locations [here](#).
- Democrats can find their precinct caucus locations [here](#).

Upcoming Legislative Forums

Saturday, February 5, 2022

- Legislative Forum - Emmetsburg (8:00AM - 10:30AM): Emmetsburg Chamber, 1121 Broadway St. Emmetsburg, IA
- Legislative Coffee - Grinnell, Rep. Maxwell (9:00AM - 10:00AM) - Virtual, register [here](#).
- Legislative Forum - Muscatine County (9:00AM - 10:00AM): [Virtual](#) and Muscatine Community College, 152 Colorado St., Muscatine, IA 52761
- Town Hall - Denver, Rep. Salmon (9:00AM - 10:00AM) - Denver Community Room, 100 Washington St., Denver, IA 50622
- Town Hall-Dunkerton, Rep. Salmon (11:00AM - 12:00PM) - Dunkerton Library, 203 E. Tower St., Dunkerton, IA 50626

In The News

- [How do Iowa's Republican tax plans compare?](#)
- [State water grant gives boost to Field of Dreams](#)
- [Kim Reynolds wants Iowa schools to publish their curriculums, book titles. Here's what else is in her bill.](#)
- [Taxes, distracted drivers fuel forum talk](#)
- [Bill Gustoff Announces Campaign for Iowa House District 40](#)
- [Iowa lawmakers consider series of bills to tackle teacher shortage](#)
- [SCJ: Sioux City leaders lobby at Statehouse as talks turn to tax reform, child care, labor shortage](#)
- [Radio Iowa: Changes make more people eligible for federal Earned Income Tax Credit](#)

- [Iowa Senate President Jake Chapman seeking reelection, setting up face-off of incumbents](#)
- [Rep. Jacoby seeking reelection](#)
- [Iowa Republicans and Iowa Democrats Release Precinct Caucus Locations](#)

Senate Schedule Week 5, February 7 - 11, 2022

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 5, February 7-11, 2022

Subject to Change

Monday, February 7	Tuesday, February 8	Wednesday, February 9	Thursday, February 10	Friday, February 11
9:00 SESSION Precinct Caucuses, No Committee or Floor Action	10:00 SESSION 10:30 Rules RM 116 11:00 Appropriations RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Labor/Bus. RM 116 11:00 Education RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Veterans Affairs RM 116 11:00 State Govt. RM 116	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
	12:30 Transportation RM 116 1:30 Agriculture RM 116 2:30 Commerce RM 116 3:30 Judiciary RM 116	1:00 Hmn. Res. RM 116 2:00 Ntl. Resources RM 116	12:00 Legislative Council RM 22 1:00 Local Govt. RM 116	All committees on call

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Last updated on February 3, 2022

House Schedule Week 5, February 7 - 11, 2022

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 5, February 7 - 11, 2022
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, February 7	Tuesday, February 8	Wednesday, February 9	Thursday, February 10	Friday, February 11
Precinct Caucuses, No Committee or Floor Action	8:30 Subcommittee Block 10:00 SESSION 10:30 Budget Subs 11:30 Budget Subs	7:30 Subcommittee Block 8:30 SESSION 10:00 Budget Subs 11:00 Budget Subs	7:30 Subcommittee Block 8:30 SESSION 9:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
	12:30 Subcommittee Block 1:00 Labor RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 4:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 5:00 Subcommittee Block	12:00 Subcommittee Block 1:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:00 Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber Information Technology RM 304 3:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 4:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 5:00 Subcommittee Block	12:00 Legislative Council Rm 22	Budget Sub Locations 10 to 11 Block: Admin/Reg Rm 19 HHS Rm 103 Ag Rm 304 Education Rm 102 11 to noon Block Eco Devo Rm 103 Justice Rm 19 Trans/Infra/Cap Rm 102

The Legislative Information Office provides a complete list of committee meetings on the web at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov>
 Subject to Change

The Senate schedule can be found [here](#).
 The House schedule can be found [here](#).

The Iowa Cornerstone Team



Matt Hinch | Lillie Brady | David Adelman | Frank Chiodo | Sara Allen

2022 Session Timeline

The full 2022 legislative calendar can be found [here](#).
Below are the key dates of interest.

JANUARY 10 – First day of session (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)

JANUARY 11 - Governors Condition of the State Address

FEBRUARY 18 – Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees (First Funnel)

MARCH 18 – Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees (Second Funnel)

APRIL 19 – 100th calendar day of the session (Per diem expenses end)

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*Please don't hesitate to reach out
to our team with any comments,
questions, or concerns.*



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Cornerstone is a full-service, bipartisan consulting firm specializing in federal and state government relations, public affairs and strategic communications, and advisory services.

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