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AROUND THE CAPITOL

The Senate adjourned without any floor work, and with only one committee meeting, to finish out funnel week. The House approved [HR 111 ST PATRICK DAY](#) to commemorate Saint Patrick's Day and ran three bills on the floor. House Committees also met to bring a number of bills out of committee before the second funnel. Neither chamber will meet on Friday. With the second funnel past, most committee work is now finished, with the exception of the Appropriations and Ways & Means committees, and appointments in Senate committees. The two chambers will look to start finishing floor work on bills next week; legislators have about a month before the end of per diem payments in April.

The Senate Ways & Means committee amended and passed [SF 2122 BOTTLE REDEMPTIONS](#) on a 10-6 vote. The bill was shifted from the Natural Resources Committee to the Ways & Means Committee to keep it eligible for the rest of the session. As amended, the bill increases the handling fee to three cents per bottle or can and allows grocery stores to refuse to accept bottles and cans if there is a redemption center within 20 miles of the store after July 2023. Senator Schulz said that the increased handling fee will help redemption centers. Democrats, who opposed the bill, said that the bottle bill is popular with Iowans and that the Legislature needs to improve the bottle bill. They said that the changes will bring a de facto end to the bottle bill. Legislators have worked for the last several sessions to update the bottle bill but have failed to reach a consensus. Representative Lohse is managing another bottle bill ([HF 2524](#)) in House Ways & Means.

The House approved three bills on the floor today, including [HF 2437 FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION](#) on a 93-1 vote and [HF 2552 DOR BILL](#) on a 65-39 vote. Representative Wheeler, who managed the bill, said that the disparate treatment of churches in some states during the pandemic showed the need for the bill. The Senate approved a companion bill in committee on a 7-4 vote ([SF 2284](#)) so the bill will be eligible for further work. The House split on [HF 2552](#) on changes in the bill to the Business Property Tax Credit.

Senator Wahls put out a short statement on the end of the second funnel. He said that Republicans have made no progress on "on common sense proposals" and said legislators have not adequately invested in K-12 schools or expanded access to preschool eligibility and have not increased access to MH professionals in schools or made sure Iowans have paid leave. He said that Republican actions this session have made it harder for schools to find qualified applicants and that "Iowa's workforce crisis has hit all sectors of our economy, but the shortage of Iowans willing to work in our schools could have long-term consequences for our state. We need to do more to recruit and retain teachers, librarians, bus drivers, janitors and school nurses."

TODAY IN THE LEGISLATURE

Bills to the Senate: (3)

House Files: none (last introduced HF 2563)

House Study Bills: none (last introduced HSB 727)

Resolution ADOPTED by the House: (1)

[HR 111](#) ST PATRICK DAY

Commemorates the Saint Patrick Day holiday and the immigration of Irish to the US.

Senate Files: none (last introduced SF 2374)

Senate Study Bills: none (last introduced SSB 3159)

HOUSE FLOOR ACTION

Bills to the Senate: (3)

[HF 2532](#) SANITARY DISTRICT PAYMENTS

Increases the per diem for sanitary district trustees to \$200 for attending meetings or for other official duties, up to \$4,000 a year.

The **House PASSED** the bill 93-1; it now GOES to the **Senate**

[HF 2552](#) DOR BILL

Enacts various changes related to administrative procedures on record retention, electronic filings, fees for copies of returns, electronic communications with taxpayers, tax remittances to the DOR, reviews by the Property Tax Board, increases the salary range for the board, appeals, wage assignments, pass-through tax credits, publication of interest rates, aviation and marine fuel taxes, reporting dates, makes changes to out-of-state collections and the inheritance tax, and changes to the Business Property Tax Credit and other matters.

[H 8188](#) by [Jacoby](#) - Delays the implementation date for some of the changes to the Business Property Tax Credit. **FAILED** 55-39

The **House PASSED** the bill 60-34; it now GOES to the **Senate**

[HF 2437](#) FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION

Prohibits governments from treating religious conduct more restrictively than secular conduct. Allows a person whose free exercise of religion has been violated to seek damages, attorney fees and other appropriate relief, including injunctions.

The **House PASSED** the bill 93-1; it now GOES to the **Senate**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION

House Appropriations Committee: Voted Out (4)

ADMINISTRATION & REGULATION APPROPRIATIONS

Makes the FY 2023 appropriations to the DAS, Auditor, SOS, Treasurer, Ethics & Campaign Board, CIO, DOC, Governor, Drug Control Policy, DHR, DIA, DOM, DOR, Public Information Board and IPERS. *FM: Bergan*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

Makes the FY 2023 appropriations for DCA, EDA, IFA, PERB, DWD and the Regents. *FM: Thompson*

[HF 2548](#) SPORTS WAGERING FUND

Replaces the sports wagering fund with the county endowment fund for internet fantasy sports and sports wagering receipts. **PASSED** 22-0; *FM: Bossman*

[SF 2290](#) ARTISANAL DIARY PROGRAM

Establishes a Dairy & Milk Innovation Program. Requires the EDA, in consultation with DALs, to administer the program. Establishes criteria for awards to businesses to expand milk processing production and for methods or technologies that reduce the need for farm labor for milk production. Requires priority be given to job creation, to expand opportunities for dairies to sell milk under private labels and for processes that reduce the amount of labor needed. Establishes a fund for the program. Limits the use of program funds for administration to 5%. **Report:** Requires DALs to look at establishing an artisanal dairy program at a community college or Regents school and to report by December 2022. **PASSED** 22-0; *FM: Thompson*

House Commerce Committee: Voted Out (1)

[SF 2310](#) HOUSING COOPERATIVES

Allows establishing a non-agricultural co-op for the purpose of owning multiple housing properties. **PASSED** 21-0; *FM: Andrews*

House Education Committee: Voted Out (5)

[SF 2080](#) STUDENT HEALTH SCREENINGS

Prohibits public schools from doing invasive physical exams, or screenings not required by law, of students without written permission. Makes exceptions for emancipated minors, emergent care situations and child abuse assessments. Makes definitions. **PASSED** 23-0; *FM: Stone*

[SF 2081](#) COMPUTER SCIENCE GRANTS

Allows the recipients of grants for computer science professional development to spend the money until the September 30th past the fiscal year the grants are awarded. **PASSED** 23-0; *FM: Ingels*

[SF 2197](#) PRIVATE SPECIAL ED TASK FORCE

Requires the DOE to convene and support a task force on the special education issues at non-public schools. Establishes the membership of the group and requires a report by December 2022. **PASSED** 23-0; *FM: Salmon*

[SF 2356](#) FREE SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Allows a school board to use a volunteer substitute teacher who has specific substitute credentials that allow the person to substitute without having to pay the person. Requires the sub to pass a background check. **PASSED** 15-8; *FM: Sorenson*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ACTION (CONTINUED)

SF 2362 ELECTRONIC NOTICE/SCHOOL HEALTH

Bonds: Allows notice for bonds to be published electronically and allows bids to be received electronically. **School Boards:** Allows school boards to publish a notice of vacancy on the website for the school board. Allows boards to use electronic signatures and contracts in specific circumstances. Requires schools, rather than school boards, to administer the Pledge of Allegiance daily. **Work Group:** Requires the DOE to convene a work group on health care training for schools. Requires a report by December 2022. **School Bonds:** Authorizes notice for school bonds to be published electronically. **Conference Boards:** Allows a mayor to appoint a designee to serve instead of the mayor and strikes the requirements that the school boards for the high schools in the county appoint members to the board. **Residential treatment:** Requires residential treatment centers for children to give schools the necessary documentation to seek Medicaid reimbursement. **PASSED 23-0; FM: Hite**

House Ways & Means Committee: Voted Out (1)

HF 2505 SCHOOL COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

Requires certain mandatory reporters of child abuse to report such abuse regardless of the age of the child. Requires school employees who believes that another school employer is responsible for the injury to report that employee. Requires the DOE to develop a process for reporting and investigating incidents where a teacher or licensed professional may have broken a law. Creates a committee to investigate these matters and establishes membership of the committee. Includes immunity provisions for school boards. Requires records be kept of incidents but does not make those open records. Establishes civil penalties for administrators who fail to follow procedures regarding these incidents. **BEE:** Requires the BEE to suspend teachers who are convicted of aggravated misdemeanors. Requires BEE to adopt rules on complaint records and on giving notice of investigations to schools. Requires six members of the BEE to be from the public and four members to be license holders. **PASSED 15-10; FM: Hite**

SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION

Senate Ways & Means Committee: Voted Out (7)

SF 2083 VOLUNTEER EMS TAX ABATEMENT

Allows a volunteer EMS to request an abatement of property taxes of up to 10% on a home. Requires the volunteer EMS to have been a volunteer for at least five years and to have made less than \$5,000 annually. Includes other requirements. **AMENDED & PASSED 16-0; FM: Dickey**

SF 2122 BOTTLE REDEMPTIONS

Allows retailers (dealers) to refuse to accept bottles and cans for redemption if there is a redemption center within 20 miles. Increases the handling fee paid to redemption centers to 2 cents. **ABD:** Gives the ABD control over beverage container redemptions. Requires monthly reports by dealers on sales and deposits collected. Requires the redemption centers to take containers to a recycling site. Requires the ABD to pay to redemption centers for deposits paid to consumers. Requires the ABD to require products to have a UPC label. Effective in 2024. **AMENDED & PASSED 10-6; FM: Schultz** (Raise the handling fee to 3 cents and changes the opt out date for retailers to July 2023.)

SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION (CONTINUED)

Senate Ways & Means Committee: Voted Out (continued)

SF 2202 TEACHERS & STUDENT LOANS

Intern: Requires a college with a teaching intern program to make sure that the students meet certain requirements for licensing. **Teach Iowa:** Reserves half the awards under Teach Iowa for districts under 1,200. Allows the CSC to make awards of Teach Iowa grants that differ from the reserved amounts for various groups if there are not enough applicants for a group. **EE:** Allows an out-of-state applicant to qualify for a regional exchange license by showing a bona fide offer of employment to the BEE. Requires the BEE to issue a teacher intern license to an applicant who qualifies as a non-traditional applicant. Requires the BEE to adopt rules to allow a teacher seeking a career and technical secondary authorization to receive the authorization prior to getting employment. **Teacher Recruitment:** Authorizes schools to adopt teacher recruitment programs, with incentives paid through the district management levy. Prohibits a school from having this program within two years of offering an early retirement benefit program. **PASSED** 16-0;

FM: Sinclair

SF 2347 ALL SYSTEMS WEIGHT PERMITS

Authorizes DOT to issue an annual all systems permit for overweight vehicles (not exceeding 90,000 pounds). Sets the fee at \$500, with \$375 earmarked for the county bridge construction fund. **PASSED** 15-1; *FM: Brown*

SSB 3151 MOBILE HOME RIGHTS

Establishes rights for owners of mobile/manufactured homes. **Retaliation:** Prohibits retaliation against a tenant for a complaint and presumes that an act by a landlord is retaliation for a tenant complaint to one year. **Rent:** Requires notice in writing 90 days in advance before a rent increase. Defines rent to include utilities, late fees and other payments made under the rental agreement. **Utilities:** Requires 60 days' notice for utility increases unless the landlord does not receive 90 days' notice from the utility. **Services:** Allows a tenant to collect damages/recover rent based on a failure to deliver essential services such as water unless the tenant cause the failure. **Sales** Requires a landlord to give a written reason for a denial of a sale of a home by a tenant. Requires sales of homes by a landlord to be in writing and for the landlord to give the buyer the DOT certificate for the home, after the requirements of the sale are fulfilled. **Modifications:** Prohibits a landlord from making modification to a home in a way that makes it difficult for the tenant to move the home unless the modification is required by law. **Park Sales:** Requires that any successor in interest to the landlord to have the same obligations as the landlord. **Tax:** Strikes the square footage tax on manufactured/mobile homes for years after FY 2023. **Eviction:** Makes changes to forcible entry and detainer proceedings and timelines (eviction). **Abandoned Homes:** Sets timelines for procedures in order to allow service of lienholders. Allows the heirs of a tenant who dies during the term of the lease to cancel the lease with 60 days' notice. Includes other notice requirements and procedural requirements related to abandoned homes. **AMENDED & PASSED** 10-6; *FM: Sinclair*

HF 626 REVITALIZATION AREAS

Allows cities and counties to establish federally targeted areas as revitalization areas. Allows real estate in such an area to qualify for credits if improvements to the property exceed 30% of the value at the time the area was designated. **AMENDED & PASSED** 15-1; *FM: Sinclair*

HF 2518 OVERWEIGHT CRANES

Establishes new annual permit requirements for moving cranes up to 80,000 pounds, including route approval and a \$400 fee. **PASSED** 16-0; *FM: Brown*

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

HUMAN RESOURCES

[SF 2216](#) INTENSIVE PSYCHIATRIC CARE

A Meyer (C), **Brown-Powers**, **Fry**

WAYS & MEANS

[HF 2524](#) BOTTLE BILL CHANGES

Lohse (C), **Hein**, **Isenhart**, **Nielsen**, **Nordman** (*reassigned*)