



Iowa Legislative Report

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Week 10: March 16 – March 20, 2009

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It was an anxious work week at the Capitol as legislators awaited the report of the Revenue Estimating Conference which will be announced today at 10:00. The budget picture appears to be grim. A memo released Tuesday morning by the Legislative Services Agency indicated that Iowa's state tax receipts declined in February 2009, compared to February 2008, by **\$39.6 million or 6.9 percent**. The only two positive contributors were the **fuel tax, which increased \$5.8 million or 19.4 percent; and gambling taxes, which increased \$1.6 million or 6.8 percent**. Corporate income taxes declined \$26.2 million, with individual income tax collections declining about \$8.6 million and sales tax revenues declining by \$4.6 million. During the 12-month period ending in February 2009, net revenue from all taxes deposited to state funds totaled \$6.658 billion, an increase of \$754.9 million or 1.1 percent compared to the prior 12 months.

Governor Culver continued his push for job creation through infrastructure investment this week by embarking in travel across the state. He held events in Nevada, Fort Dodge, Mason City and Charles City, Elkader, Waverly, and Palo, as well as several other sites. The events are part of the Culver/Judge "Shovel Ready" Tour to highlight the **I-JOBS Initiative**, which would invest \$750 million in Iowa's infrastructure needs and put Iowans back to work. The \$750 million initiative is designed to create jobs, strengthen the economy, and address unmet infrastructure needs across the state. The plan would **be funded with existing state gaming revenue and require no increase in taxes**.

This concept is contained in **SSB 1305 GOVERNOR'S BONDING PROGRAM** currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The bill creates the Iowa Jobs Bonds program and board and directs the Treasurer to issue tax-exempt bonds for public construction jobs, for trails, transit, rail, and aviation projects, housing projects, water quality and wastewater improvement projects, road and highway projects. It establishes various provisions on the bonds including that the **bonds are not indebtedness of the state and that the bonds are tax-exempt**. The bill establishes an 11-member board, with five public members, and the directors of Department of Economic Development, Rebuild Iowa, Iowa Finance Authority, Department of Workforce Development, the Office of Energy Independence, and the Department Of Transportation. Requires the board to prioritize projects by several criteria including the time it will take to do the project, the number of jobs created and the effect of areas with high unemployment, and other impacts on the state.

The bill creates a fund for the program, with no reversion of funds, and a bond reserve fund. It **appropriates \$56 million in gaming funds for the program**. It also appropriates to DOT \$50 million for trails, transit, rail, and aviation projects; and \$ 200 million for bridge and highway projects; to IFA \$100 million to IFA to a water quality assurance fund and \$25 million for housing programs, including energy efficiency programs, down payment and mortgage assistance, and local housing programs and \$25 million to help cities with housing programs. **Subcommittee members include Senators McCoy (C), Dvorsky, Kettering, Seymour, and Warnstadt**. We will keep you posted re: the progress on this bill.

The big floor news this week was passage in the Senate yesterday of SF 389 IOWA HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP, the Hatch Health Care Bill. The bill extends health care insurance to 30,000 Iowa kids who are currently uninsured. It would help identify those children and increase income limits for eligibility for public health insurance for children to 300% of poverty, or about \$64,000 for a family of four. Parents of eligible children would be required to sign them up, but there would be no immediate penalty for failing to do so. Estimated cost for the bill is \$8 million. The bill would also set up a commission to help adult Iowans find affordable health insurance.

Below are the bills we are following/working on for you. The bills are "hot linked" if you would like to view the entire bill. If you would like to totally remove any bills or have any questions, **please let us know. Have a great weekend and take advantage of any opportunities to discuss our issues with legislators. Check to see if there is a forum in your area. Call your representative and senator and ask to be on his/her newsletter distribution list. Better yet, arrange to visit with your legislator personally. Remember, legislators are home on Friday and Saturday every weekend and welcome constituent contact.**

Senate File 396

A bill for an act requiring a yearly review of legislation and current state laws that contain health care benefit mandates and providing an effective date. (Formerly [SF 317](#).)

- Mar. 10 09 Committee report, approving bill. [S.J. 595](#).
- Mar. 17 09 Amendment [S-3087](#) filed. [S.J. 695](#).
- MAR. 19 09 Fiscal note. SCS.

Sponsored by Commerce.

Senate File 389

A bill for an act relating to health care, health care providers, and health care coverage, providing penalties, and providing retroactive and other effective dates. (Formerly [SF 48](#).)

- Mar. 19 09 Passed Senate, ayes 30, nays 18. [S.J. 742](#).
- Mar. 19 09 Immediate message. [S.J. 743](#).
- MAR. 20 09 Message from Senate. H.J. 912.

Sponsored by Human Resources.

Senate File 153

A bill for an act to allow medical or osteopathic physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners to form limited liability companies or professional corporations. (Formerly [SSB 1092](#).)

- Mar. 19 09 Passed Senate, ayes 35, nays 13. [S.J. 770](#).
- Mar. 19 09 Immediate message. [S.J. 772](#).
- MAR. 20 09 Message from Senate. H.J. 911.

Sponsored by Human Resources.

Senate Study Bill 1280

A study bill for an act relating to and making appropriations for health and human services and including other related provisions and appropriations, and providing effective, retroactive, and applicability date provisions. 03/02/09

Subcommittee:Hatch, Ragan, Johnson

- LSB 1013XG [Senate Study Bill 1280](#)

House File 314

A bill for an act relating to health-related activities and regulation by the department of public health and making penalties applicable. (Formerly [HSB 50](#))

- Feb. 26 09 Subcommittee, Wilhelm, Johnson, and Schmitz. [S.J. 449](#).
- Mar. 16 09 Committee report, recommending passage. [S.J. 644](#).
- Mar. 19 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. [S.J. 772](#).

Sponsored by Human Resources.

Education Bills
Senate File 445

A bill for an act relating to teacher compensation by requiring school corporations to incorporate teacher compensation into individual salary schedules and by eliminating the educational excellence program. (Formerly [SF 314](#).)

- Mar. 19 09 Passed Senate, ayes 32, nays 16. [S.J. 748](#).
- Mar. 19 09 Immediate message. [S.J. 748](#).
- MAR. 19 09 Fiscal note. SCS.

Sponsored by Education.

Senate File 424

A bill for an act providing time off from work to attend presidential precinct caucuses and making penalties applicable. (Formerly [SF 125](#).)

- Mar. 16 09 Committee report, approving bill. [S.J. 649](#).
- Mar. 19 09 Passed Senate, ayes 35, nays 13. [S.J. 750](#).
- Mar. 19 09 Immediate message. [S.J. 752](#).

Sponsored by State Government.

Senate File 360

A bill for an act relating to the accreditation of school districts and nonpublic schools and the reorganization of school districts. (Formerly SSB 1101.)

- Mar. 17 09 Message from Senate. H.J. 826.
- Mar. 18 09 Read first time, referred to Education. H.J. 857.
- Mar. 19 09 Subcommittee, Palmer, May, and Wendt. H.J. 907.

Sponsored by Education.

Senate File 359

A bill for an act relating to the establishment and implementation of a statewide writing assessment for public school students in grades three, six, and ten. (Formerly SSB 1016.)

- Mar. 09 09 Committee report, approving bill. S.J. 567.
- Mar. 12 09 Fiscal note. SCS.
- Mar. 19 09 Referred to Appropriations. S.J. 772.

Sponsored by Education.

Senate File 270

A bill for an act transferring the authority to register postsecondary schools from the secretary of state to the college student aid commission and providing for related matters, and making penalties applicable. (Formerly SSB 1207.) Effective 7-1-09.

- Mar. 13 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by President and Speaker. S.J. 651.
- Mar. 13 09 Sent to Governor. S.J. 651.
- Mar. 16 09 Signed by Governor. S.J. 676.

Sponsored by Education.

Senate File 177

A bill for an act relating to requirements for school districts providing transportation to students participating in open enrollment. (Formerly SSB 1175.)

- Mar. 04 09 Passed House, ayes 66, nays 32. H.J. 674.
- Mar. 04 09 Immediate message. H.J. 675.
- Mar. 05 09 Message from House. S.J. 519.

Sponsored by Education.

Senate File 81

A bill for an act relating to assisting schools to recover from disaster by changing the approval method for transfers of emergency fund moneys, by modifying certain funding provisions to relate to disaster recovery, and by allowing area education agency boards greater authority to purchase and lease-purchase property. (Formerly SSB 1013.)

- Mar. 10 09 Committee report, recommending amendment and passage. H.J. 759.
- Mar. 10 09 Committee amendment H-1129 filed. H.J. 762.
- Mar. 11 09 Amendment H-1137 filed. H.J. 770.

Sponsored by Education.

Senate Study Bill 1279

A study bill for an act relating to the funding of, the operation of, and appropriation of moneys to the college student aid commission, the department for the blind, the department of education, and the state board of regents, and providing for related matters. 03/02/09 Subcommittee:Schoenjahn, Dvorsky, Boettger

- LSB 1012XG Senate Study Bill 1279

Senate Study Bill 1014

A study bill for an act providing for the establishment of a school district innovation grant program.01/13/09 Subcommittee:Appel,Schoenjahn, Boettger

- LSB 1299XD Senate Study Bill 1014
- LSB 1299XD House Study Bill 25

House File 739

A bill for an act providing for a state research and development prekindergarten through grade twelve school. (Formerly HF 565)

- Mar. 17 09 Introduced, referred to Appropriations. [H.J. 819](#).
 Mar. 19 09 Subcommittee, Cohoon, Huseman, and Wenthe. [H.J. 905](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 737

A bill for an act allowing school districts affected by a presidentially declared major disaster or a state of disaster emergency to use the previous year's budget enrollments in certain current budget years after the disaster, and providing an effective date. (Formerly [HF 427](#))

- Mar. 16 09 Introduced, referred to Education. [H.J. 806](#).
 Mar. 17 09 Amendment [H-1182](#) filed. [H.J. 850](#).

Sponsored by Rebuild Iowa and Disaster Recovery.

House File 732

A bill for an act relating to the duties and operations of the department of education and local school boards. (Formerly [HSB 22](#))

- Mar. 17 09 Amendment [H-1181](#) filed. [H.J. 850](#).
 Mar. 18 09 Amendment [H-1195](#) filed. [H.J. 888](#).
 Mar. 18 09 Amendments [H-1196](#), [H-1197](#), [H-1198](#), [H-1199](#), [H-1204](#), [H-1208](#), and [H-1212](#) filed. [H.J. 889](#). [H.J. 889](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 703

A bill for an act relating to the indicators used to assess the effectiveness of school ready children grants under the community empowerment initiative. (Formerly [HF 357](#))

- Mar. 12 09 Introduced, placed on calendar. [H.J. 775](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 687

A bill for an act relating to certain reporting requirements or actions required of the department of education, school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and community colleges. (Formerly [HSB 26](#))

- Mar. 11 09 Introduced, placed on calendar. [H.J. 764](#).
 Mar. 12 09 Amendment [H-1141](#) filed. [H.J. 794](#).
 Mar. 18 09 Amendment [H-1219](#) filed. [H.J. 889](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 589

A bill for an act relating to the school calendar and school start dates and providing effective and applicability dates. (Formerly [HF 351](#))

- Mar. 06 09 Introduced, placed on calendar. [H.J. 699](#).
 Mar. 09 09 Amendments [H-1124](#), [H-1125](#), [H-1126](#), and [H-1127](#) filed. [H.J. 713](#).
 Mar. 17 09 Amendment [H-1180](#) filed. [H.J. 850](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 282

A bill for an act relating to the funding of school district programs for returning dropouts and dropout prevention. (Formerly [HSB 3](#))

- Feb. 19 09 Subcommittee, Wendt, Forristall, and Steckman. [H.J. 506](#).
 Feb. 24 09 Revised fiscal note. HCS.
 Mar. 17 09 Committee report, recommending passage. [H.J. 850](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 233

A bill for an act relating to the disposition of school property and providing an effective date. (Formerly [HSB 4](#)) Effective 3-13-09.

- Mar. 12 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by Speaker and President. [H.J. 786](#).

Mar. 12 09 Sent to Governor. [H.J. 786](#).
Mar. 13 09 Signed by Governor. [H.J. 816](#).

Sponsored by Education.

House File 221

A bill for an act exempting the instructional support property tax levy of a school district from being collected as part of the incremental taxes paid to a municipality for an urban renewal area and providing for the Act's applicability.

Feb. 05 09 Introduced, referred to Ways & Means. [H.J. 278](#).
Feb. 19 09 Subcommittee, Reasoner, Shomshor, and Struyk. [H.J. 505](#).

Sponsored by Schueller.

House File 214

A bill for an act establishing the interstate compact on educational opportunity for military children and providing an effective date. (Formerly [HF 29](#))

Mar. 17 09 Passed Senate, ayes 50, nays none. [S.J. 671](#).
Mar. 17 09 Immediate message. [S.J. 672](#).
Mar. 17 09 Message from Senate. [H.J. 825](#).

Sponsored by Veterans Affairs.

House File 156

A bill for an act providing an appropriation for a pilot project to implement a child care center that operates twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

Jan. 29 09 Introduced, referred to Appropriations. [H.J. 211](#).
Feb. 11 09 Subcommittee, Heddens, Gayman, and Heaton. [H.J. 367](#).

Sponsored by Reichert.

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