



Iowa Legislative Report

83rd Iowa General Assembly IA Speech-Language-Hearing Assn

Week 14: April 13 – April 17, 2009

Paula Feltner & Mike Heller, Lobbyists

The session continues to drag into next week and may extend well beyond. Week 14 was dominated by long party caucuses, closed door leadership meetings and meetings in the Governor's office, and rancor on the floor of both chambers. We also had about 1000 people this last Wednesday protesting tax measures, a so-called Iowa Tea Party. These things combined to complicate Leaders efforts to bring the session to a close. Monday the plan was to close down this weekend.

Plans changed late on Thursday afternoon and legislators went home. The new plan is to adjourn late this next week, but several controversial issues stand between session and adjournment.

There continue to be major differences with the priorities of the Governor and legislators. The Senate failed to confirm two **gubernatorial appointees**, one of whom was Gene Gessow, the Acting Director of the Department of Health and Human Services. The vote was 31-19, so Gessow needed two more votes to be confirmed. It was a straight party line vote, with Democrats voting for and Republicans against. Senator Gronstal has put a Motion to Reconsider on the Appointment, but at this time no Republican has changed his/her vote.

There is also controversy about resurrecting one of the **four labor bills** (choice of doctor, collective bargaining, prevailing wage, and fair share) none of which seem to have quite enough votes to pass at this point, but Leadership has said they would like to "take another run" at some of them. It is not clear which version of these bills the Governor would sign and which he wouldn't.

Also complicating the picture is "**federal deductibility**." In Iowa, taxpayers get to deduct from their income the tax they pay to the federal government. It appears that leaders are still short the necessary votes for passage, but there are intense lobbying efforts underway on both sides of the issue. There have been numerous demonstrations at the Capitol and consideration of the issue would likely delay adjournment by several days.

Most of the traditional budget bills have passed one or both chambers and are awaiting final action and there are only two budget bills remaining to be considered: the "Bonding" and the "Standings" bills. Both are generating controversy between chambers and between the legislature and the Governor.

The Governor is continuing to push for a **comprehensive bonding bill** to include funds for a wide variety of projects **including roads and bridges**. The legislators are reluctant to authorize bonding for roads and bridges and have expressed reservations about the magnitude of the bonding proposal. The Des Moines Register polled the issue last week and public support was weak for bonding (over 70% want to wait until there is money to pay for it). Many legislators have expressed concerns about using bonding for projects that are traditionally paid for on a pay as you go basis.

The "**Standings Bill**" is the "catch all" final appropriations bill and is rumored to include the resurrection of a number of bills that didn't make the funnel deadlines and a wide variety of new legislative topics. It is typically the last bill to be considered every year and is used by leadership as a way to bring the session to a close and address key priorities. It is always controversial.

The following is a list of bills of interest. The list is hot linked to the state if you are on line. It is accessible by holding down the ctrl key and clicking on the bill. This will take you to the State Computer system and give you access to the status and text of the bill. Please take a look at the bills and let us know if you have special concerns or comments.

Senate File 474

A bill for an act relating to the bonding authorization of the state board of regents for flood repair, restoration, replacement, and mitigation at the state university of Iowa. (Formerly SSB 1325.)

Apr. 08 09 Read first time, referred to Appropriations. H.J. 1271.

Apr. 09 09 Subcommittee, Cohoon, Huseman, and Oldson. H.J. 1360.

Apr. 17 09 Recommended passage. H.J. 1531.

Sponsored by Appropriations.

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. 31 09 Fiscal note. HCS.

Apr. 14 09 Fiscal note. HCS.

Apr. 16 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. H.J. 1525.

Sponsored by Human Resources.

House File 820

A bill for an act appropriating federal funds made available from federal block grants, federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding, and other federal grants, allocating portions of federal block grants, and providing procedures if federal funds are more or less than anticipated or if federal block grants are more or less than anticipated. (Formerly HSB 174)

Apr. 09 09 Introduced, placed on Appropriations calendar. H.J. 1356.

Apr. 09 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. H.J. 1357.

Sponsored by Appropriations.

House File 811

A bill for an act relating to and making appropriations for health and human services and including other related provisions and appropriations, providing penalties, making penalties applicable and providing effective, retroactive, and applicability date provisions. (Formerly HSB 287)

- **Allocates \$190,328 to provide audiological services and hearing aids for children**
- **Requires the FY 2010 reimbursement rates for Medicaid providers, to remain at FY 2009 rates;**

Apr. 15 09 Immediate message. S.J. 1103.

Apr. 16 09 Message from Senate. H.J. 1487.

Apr. 16 09 Senate amendment H-1630 filed. H.J. 1528.

Sponsored by Appropriations.

House File 807

A bill for an act relating to the individual income tax by providing for reduced tax rates, the elimination of federal deductibility, increasing the credits for elderly and blind individuals, increasing the amount of the earned income tax credit, and adjusting the eligibility for the child and dependent care tax credit and early childhood development tax credit and including a retroactive applicability date provision. (Formerly HSB 284)

Apr. 14 09 Amendments H-1568, H-1570 and H-1576 filed. H.J. 1450.

Apr. 14 09 Amendments H-1583, H-1584, H-1585, H-1586, H-1587, H-1591, H-1592, H-1593 and H-1594 filed. H.J. 1451.

Apr. 14 09 Amendments H-1595, H-1600, H-1601 and H-1602 filed. H.J. 1451.

Sponsored by Ways & Means.

House File 712

A bill for an act relating to a private cause of action for certain consumer fraud violations and providing an applicability provision. (Formerly HSB 80)

Apr. 09 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. H.J. 1357.

Apr. 09 09 Amendment H-1492 filed. H.J. 1361.

Apr. 14 09 Amendments H-1588 and H-1589 filed. H.J. 1451.

Sponsored by Judiciary.

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. Effective 7-01-09.

Mar. 31 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by Speaker and President. H.J. 1093.

Mar. 31 09 Sent to Governor. H.J. 1093.

Apr. 02 09 Signed by Governor. H.J. 1155.

Sponsored by Human Resources.

House File 234

A bill for an act requiring health insurance coverage for costs relating to mental health conditions, including alcohol or substance abuse treatment services. (Formerly HF 139) (Formerly HSB 6)

Apr. 09 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. H.J. 1357.

Apr. 13 09 Amendment H-1533 filed. H.J. 1392.

Apr. 14 09 Amendment H-1590 filed. H.J. 1451.

Sponsored by Human Resources.

House File 209

A bill for an act granting the civil rights commission additional subpoena power to investigate unfair or discriminatory practices and providing an effective date. (Formerly HSB 28)

Feb. 04 09 Introduced, placed on calendar. H.J. 265.

Feb. 10 09 Fiscal note. HCS.

Apr. 09 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. H.J. 1357.

Sponsored by Judiciary.

Senate File 470

A 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, providing for related matters, and providing effective dates. (Formerly SSB 1322.)

Apr. 14 09 Passed House, ayes 55, nays 43. H.J. 1441.

Apr. 14 09 Immediate message. H.J. 1446.

Apr. 15 09 Message from House, with amendment S-3268. S.J. 1095.

Sponsored by Appropriations.

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.)

Apr. 06 09 Message from House. S.J. 952.

Apr. 15 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by President and Speaker. S.J. 1118.

Apr. 15 09 Sent to Governor. S.J. 1118.

Sponsored by Education.

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.) Effective 7-1-09.

Apr. 08 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by President and Speaker. S.J. 1034.

Apr. 08 09 Sent to Governor. S.J. 1034.

Apr. 09 09 Signed by Governor. S.J. 1056.

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. 12 09 Fiscal note. SCS.

Mar. 19 09 Referred to Appropriations. S.J. 772.

Mar. 23 09 Subcommittee, Dvorsky and Kettering. S.J. 781.

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) Effective 7-1-09

Mar. 20 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by President and Speaker. [S.J. 803](#).

Mar. 20 09 Sent to Governor. [S.J. 803](#).

Mar. 23 09 Signed by Governor. [S.J. 839](#).

Sponsored by Education.

[Senate File 137](#)

A bill for an act providing that wage discrimination is an unfair employment practice under the Iowa civil rights Act and providing an enhanced remedy. (Formerly [SSB 1089](#).)

Apr. 16 09 Motion to reconsider vote withdrawn. [H.J. 1504](#).

Apr. 16 09 Immediate message. [H.J. 1509](#).

Apr. 16 09 Message from House. [S.J. 1137](#).

Sponsored by State Government.

[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](#).)

Apr. 09 09 Message from Senate. [H.J. 1294](#).

Apr. 15 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by President and Speaker. [S.J. 1118](#).

Apr. 15 09 Sent to Governor. [S.J. 1118](#).

Sponsored by Education.

[House File 820](#)

A bill for an act appropriating federal funds made available from federal block grants, federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding, and other federal grants, allocating portions of federal block grants, and providing procedures if federal funds are more or less than anticipated or if federal block grants are more or less than anticipated. (Formerly [HSB 174](#))

Apr. 09 09 Introduced, placed on Appropriations calendar. [H.J. 1356](#).

Apr. 09 09 Placed on calendar under unfinished business. [H.J. 1357](#).

Sponsored by Appropriations.

[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 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. 25 09 Amendment [H-1301](#) filed. [H.J. 1038](#).

Mar. 26 09 Amendment [H-1323](#) filed. [H.J. 1051](#).

Apr. 14 09 Referred to Education. [H.J. 1447](#).

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. Effective 7-01-09.

Apr. 07 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by Speaker and President. [H.J. 1248](#).

Apr. 07 09 Sent to Governor. [H.J. 1248](#).

Apr. 09 09 Signed by Governor. [H.J. 1358](#).

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. 24 09 Revised fiscal note. HCS.
- Mar. 17 09 Committee report, recommending passage. H.J. 850.
- Apr. 14 09 Referred to Education. H.J. 1447.

Sponsored by Education.

House File 259

A bill for an act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates. (Formerly HF 40)

- Mar. 05 09 Amendment H-1113 filed. H.J. 698.
- Mar. 24 09 Amendment H-1295 filed. H.J. 1029.
- Mar. 31 09 Referred to Ways & Means. H.J. 1092.

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. Effective 3-26-09.

- Mar. 24 09 Reported correctly enrolled, signed by Speaker and President. H.J. 1023.
- Mar. 24 09 Sent to Governor. H.J. 1023.
- Mar. 26 09 Signed by Governor. H.J. 1052.

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.

Paula J. Feltner, Attorney at Law
 100 Water Street, #402
 Des Moines, Iowa 50309
 PH: 515-778-7230
 FAX: 515-222-9140

Paulajfeltner@aol.com

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