



Iowa Legislative Report

83rd Iowa General Assembly

IA Speech-Language-Hearing Assn

Week 5: February 9 - February 13, 2009

Paula Feltner & Mike Heller, Lobbyists

The 5th week of the legislative session involved innumerable subcommittee meetings and concentrated on two labor issues: **prevailing wages (HSB 149)** in the House and **choice of doctor (SSB 1119)** in the Senate. Also, on Wednesday, gas tax bills were introduced in each chamber (**HSB 164 & SSB 1182**). These three controversial issues and one subcommittee after another made for a very tension-filled week for the legislature.

HSB 149 PREVAILING WAGES, currently in House Labor, would have the Department of Workforce Development make annual calculations on pay in different parts of the state, and the Labor Commissioner **determine a wage scale by region and job**. The bill requires public bodies to monitor the wages paid by **contractors on public projects** and authorizes penalties for not meeting the wages. The bill also allows appeals of the wage scale, and creates some exceptions for persons apprenticing under federal programs. Contractors who are found to violate the provisions three times in two years could face a five-year ban.

The House Labor committee recessed until Monday, February 16th, after the public hearing in House Chambers from 7:30 to 9:30 pm where they will reconvene to discuss **HSB 149 PREVAILING WAGES**. They hope to finish the committee by 11 pm and expect to pass the bill out without any amendments. The successor house file will be out Tuesday morning and will be debated on the House floor **Thursday** at noon. Both Democrats and Republicans have agreed to limit the debate to 8 hours.

The Senate Labor committee approved **SSB 1119 CHOICE OF DOCTOR**, on a 6-4 vote. The bill gives employees the right to designate a doctor to treat their work-related injuries. The Committee did not amend the bill, but will take up amendments if the bill should come to the floor. The Senate is expected to wait for the House Labor Committee and the full House to approve the bill before taking it back up. The Republicans, who voted against the bill, said that it would lead to higher workers compensation costs for employers and “doctor shopping” by employees for a desired diagnosis.

The gas tax initiative is expected to start in the Senate Transportation committee with subcommittee work on **HSB 164 & SSB 1182** this next week. The two bills raise the gas tax by **eight cents by January, 2010**, with an **initial four cent increase this summer**, and then a **four cent increase in 2010**. Supporters argue that the state has about \$267 million in unmet road and bridge needs, and that legislators took the first step last year by raising the registration fees for vehicles, and by charging newly-purchased pick-ups the same fees as cars. (**SF 2420 TIME-21** passed last year). Those changes should bring in an additional \$115 million and the eight-cent increase is aimed at bringing in another \$160 million.

Governor Culver has said that he opposes a gas tax increase because of the recession and wants a \$700 million bonding program for a variety of infrastructure projects as part of an effort to jump start the economy. Supporters contend that although many Iowans are struggling an eight-cent increase would lead to about \$50 a year in tax increases for the average Iowa driver and that a gas tax increase may be the fairest thing for Iowans because 15% to 20% of the gas tax is paid by out-of-state drivers. They also contend that spending \$200 million on road taxes could ultimately result in 10,000 jobs in the state. Clearly this will remain a contentious issue throughout the session.

The federal stimulus package should be out next week, and should give legislators a good idea where the budget stands. Leadership is also hoping to move the REC estimate into the end of March to help make final budget decisions earlier in the session.

Finally, Governor Culver said that the State Board of Education has approved the final portion of the Iowa Core Curriculum for K-12. Legislators approved the bill last year in **SF 2216 CORE CURRICULUM**, after a lengthy process requiring two conference committees, and the Governor signed it into law.

Below are the bills we are following/working on for you. The bills are “hotlinked” if you would like to view the entire bill. If you would like to totally remove any bills, 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.**

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Sponsored by Kettering.

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Sponsored by Ragan, Warnstadt, Beall, Wilhelm, Olive, Schoenjahn, Heckroth, Stewar

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A bill for an act relating to hospital discounts to uninsured patients, and providing civil penalties.

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Sponsored by Bolkcom and Hatch.

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A bill for an act relating to establishing a process for reimbursement of nonparticipating providers for eligible services provided to IowaCare program members.

Jan. 14 09 Subcommittee, Hatch, Bolkcom, and Johnson. [S.J. 83](#).

Sponsored by Johnson.

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Jan. 22 09 Subcommittee, T. Olson, Kressig, and Sorenson. [H.J. 142](#).

Sponsored by Hunter.

[House File 16](#)

A bill for an act providing for a worker shortage loan forgiveness program.

Jan. 22 09 Subcommittee, Kelley, Koester, and Steckman. [H.J. 141](#).

Sponsored by Hunter.

EDUCATION BILLS

[Senate File 123](#)

A bill for an act relating to interscholastic athletic academic eligibility.

Feb. 10 09 Subcommittee, Dvorsky, Hamerlinck, and Quirmbach. [S.J. 264](#).

Sponsored by Zaun.

[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](#).)

Jan. 29 09 Committee report, approving bill. [S.J. 192](#).

Sponsored by Education.

[Senate File 76](#)

A bill for an act relating to early school starts and providing effective and applicability dates.

Feb. 04 09 Subcommittee, Dvorsky, Feenstra, and Quirmbach. [S.J. 230](#).

Sponsored by Johnson, Kettering, Kapucian, Reynolds, Ward, McKinley, Boettger, Wie

[Senate File 75](#)

A bill for an act prohibiting certain individuals from acting as agents for school textbooks or school supplies and making a penalty applicable.

Feb. 04 09 Subcommittee, Dvorsky, Johnson, and Quirmbach. [S.J. 230](#).

Sponsored by Johnson and Hahn.

[Senate File 72](#)

A bill for an act relating to the history requirements secondary school students must meet as a condition of graduation.

Jan. 29 09 Subcommittee, Appel, Boettger, and Soddors. [S.J. 191](#).

Sponsored by Boettger.

[Senate File 17](#)

A bill for an act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates.

Jan. 15 09 Subcommittee, Quirnbach, Dvorsky, and McKinley. [S.J. 98](#).

Sponsored by Dandekar, Gronstal, Beall, Danielson, Hatch, Courtney, Kibbie, Appel,

[Senate File 9](#)

A bill for an act relating to the disposition of school property and providing an effective date.

Feb. 10 09 Read first time, passed on file. [H.J. 295](#).

Sponsored by Ragan.

Senate Study Bill 1197

Feb. 10 09 A study bill for an act establishing a task force to develop a plan for the implementation of an online school for certain populations.02/11/09
Subcommittee:Soddors,Schmitz,Boettger

LSB 1858XC [Senate Study Bill 1197](#)

LSB 1858HH [House File 284](#)

[House File 284](#)

A bill for an act establishing a task force to develop a plan for the implementation of an online school for certain populations.

Feb. 12 09 Introduced, referred to Education. [H.J. 374](#).

Sponsored by Wessel-Kroeschell and Abdul-Samad.

Senate Study Bill 1015

Feb. 12 09 A study 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. 01/13/09
Subcommittee:Heckroth,Wilhelm,McKinley

LSB 1232XD [Senate Study Bill 1015](#)

LSB 1232XD [House Study Bill 26](#)

Senate Study Bill 1014

Feb. 12 09 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](#)

Senate Study Bill 1012

Feb. 12 09 A study bill for an act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates. 01/13/09
Subcommittee:Quirmbach, Dvorsky,McKinley

LSB 1224XD [Senate Study Bill 1012](#)

LSB 1224XD [House Study Bill 38](#)

Senate Study Bill 1011

Feb. 12 09 A study bill for an act relating to the duties and operations of the department of education and local school boards.
01/13/09 Subcommittee: Schmitz,Kreiman,Boettger

LSB 1347XD [Senate Study Bill 1011](#)

LSB 1347XD [House Study Bill 22](#)

Senate Study Bill 1010

Feb. 12 09 A study bill for an act allowing school districts to count foreign exchange pupils in certified enrollment counts for budget and funding purposes.01/13/09
Subcommittee:Beall,Quirmbach,Hamerlinck

LSB 1255XD [Senate Study Bill 1010](#)

LSB 1255XD [House Study Bill 41](#)

Senate Study Bill 1009

Feb. 12 09 A study bill for an act relating to the use of certain levy funds for school transportation and utility expenses. 01/13/09
Subcommittee: Dvorsky,Heckroth,Feenstra

LSB 1256XD [Senate Study Bill 1009](#)

LSB 1256XD [House Study Bill 40](#)

Senate Study Bill 1008

Feb. 12 09 A study bill for an act relating to the duties and operations of library districts. 01/13/09
Subcommittee:Wilhelm,Appel,Hamerlinck

LSB 1590XD [Senate Study Bill 1008](#)

LSB 1590XD [House Study Bill 27](#)

[House File 295](#)

A bill for an act modifying the time period after which certain school district proposals defeated at election may be resubmitted to the voters and providing an effective date.

Feb. 12 09 Introduced, referred to State Government. [H.J. 376](#).

Sponsored by Mascher.

[House File 284](#)

A bill for an act establishing a task force to develop a plan for the implementation of an online school for certain populations.

Feb. 12 09 Introduced, referred to Education. [H.J. 374](#).

Sponsored by Wessel-Kroeschell and Abdul-Samad.

[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. 12 09 Introduced, placed on calendar. [H.J. 374](#).

Sponsored by Education.

[House File 265](#)

A bill for an act providing for the establishment of a task force to study a renewed effort to reorganize school districts.

Feb. 11 09 Introduced, referred to Education. [H.J. 364](#).

Sponsored by Ford.

[House File 259](#)

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

Feb. 12 09 Amendments [H-1020](#) and [H-1021](#) filed. [H.J. 383](#).

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](#))

Feb. 09 09 Introduced, placed on calendar. [H.J. 289](#).

Sponsored by Education.

[House File 224](#)

A bill for an act requiring public school districts and nonpublic schools to offer a free college entrance exam to students in grades ten and eleven each school year, and providing effective and applicability dates.

Feb. 11 09 Subcommittee, Winckler, Cownie, and Mascher. [H.J. 367](#).

Sponsored by Lukan.

[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](#).

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](#))

Feb. 12 09 Immediate message. [H.J. 379](#).

Sponsored by Veterans Affairs.

[House File 166](#)

A bill for an act providing for the disposition of school property and providing an effective date.

Feb. 05 09 Subcommittee, Mascher, Koester, and Palmer. [H.J. 281](#).

Sponsored by Kuhn.

[House File 163](#)

A bill for an act allowing receiving school districts to send school vehicles into the district of residence to transport an open-enrolled pupil under certain circumstances.

Feb. 03 09 Subcommittee, Ficken, Palmer, and Tymeson. [H.J. 257](#).

Sponsored by Tymeson.

[House File 161](#)

A bill for an act prohibiting certain individuals from acting as agents for school textbooks or school supplies and making a penalty applicable.

Feb. 03 09 Subcommittee, Willems, Kelley, and Sweeney. [H.J. 257](#).

Sponsored by Kaufmann.

[House File 158](#)

A bill for an act providing for the establishment of a permanent substitute teacher license by the board of educational examiners.

Feb. 03 09 Subcommittee, Thede, Mascher, and Schulte. [H.J. 257](#).

Sponsored by Kaufmann.

[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.

Feb. 11 09 Subcommittee, Heddens, Gayman, and Heaton. [H.J. 367](#).

Sponsored by Reichert.

[House File 129](#)

A bill for an act relating to requirements for the promotion of students from kindergarten through grade twelve based on grade-level proficiency in reading and mathematics.

Feb. 02 09 Subcommittee, Abdul-Samad, Koester, and Wendt. [H.J. 240](#).

Sponsored by Abdul-Samad.

[House File 119](#)

A bill for an act limiting the school aid formula to provide funding for four years of high school per student.

Feb. 02 09 Subcommittee, Ficken, Tymeson, and Willems. [H.J. 240](#).

Sponsored by Tymeson.

[House File 100](#)

A bill for an act providing exceptions to the age of admission to kindergarten.

Feb. 02 09 Subcommittee, Steckman, Cownie, and Thede. [H.J. 240](#).

Sponsored by Struyk, Windschitl, Forristall, Pettengill, Schultz, Alons, Huser, Me

[House File 94](#)

A bill for an act requiring the state board of education to define student proficiency in mathematics and reading.

Jan. 28 09 Subcommittee, Cohoon, Steckman, and Tymeson. [H.J. 200](#).

Sponsored by Tymeson.

[House File 91](#)

A bill for an act relating to the suspension of students who commit assault.

Jan. 28 09 Subcommittee, Ficken, Abdul-Samad, and May. [H.J. 200](#).

Sponsored by Tymeson.

[House File 75](#)

A bill for an act relating to the practitioner license renewal requirements adopted by the board of educational examiners.

Jan. 28 09 Subcommittee, Winckler, Koester, and Mascher. [H.J. 200](#).

Sponsored by Lukan.

[House File 71](#)

A bill for an act authorizing the school budget review committee to provide

transportation assistance to certain school districts and providing an appropriation.

Jan. 27 09 Subcommittee reassigned, Winckler, May, and Wendt. [H.J. 184.](#)

Sponsored by Heaton.

[House File 40](#)

A bill for an act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates. (See Cmte. Bill [HF 259](#))

Jan. 27 09 Subcommittee reassigned, Winckler, Cownie, and Ford. [H.J. 183.](#)

Sponsored by Heddens, Hunter, Abdul-Samad, Ford, Whitead, Wendt, Dolecheck, Gaskil

[House File 31](#)

A bill for an act relating to textbooks and applicable computer hardware adopted for use by school districts and provided to public and accredited nonpublic school students.

Jan. 28 09 Subcommittee, Cohoon, Abdul-Samad, and Sweeney. [H.J. 199.](#)

Sponsored by Lukan.

[House File 26](#)

A bill for an act relating to the minimum hours of instructional school time in a school year for grades one through twelve for school districts, charter schools, and accredited nonpublic schools, and providing an effective date.

Jan. 22 09 Subcommittee, Wendt, Dolecheck, and Willems. [H.J. 142.](#)

Sponsored by Tjepkes.

[House File 14](#)

A bill for an act repealing the Iowa English language reaffirmation Act.

Jan. 21 09 Subcommittee, Lensing, Isenhardt, and Rants. [H.J. 119.](#)

Sponsored by Hunter.

House Study Bill 127

Jan. 21 09 A study bill for establishing a facility schools division within the department of education and a facility schools board; providing for the approval, administration, and funding of facility schools; and providing for educational services for children in out-of-home placement. 2-03-09 Subcommittee assigned, Wendt, Ficken, and Schulte. H.J. 257.

LSB 1146HC [House Study Bill 127](#)

House Study Bill 126

Jan. 21 09 A study bill relating to the election for approval of the physical plant and equipment levy and providing an effective date. 2-03-09 Subcommittee assigned, Wendt, Bukta, and Dolecheck. H.J. 257.

LSB 1539HC [House Study Bill 126](#)

House Study Bill 41

Jan. 21 09 A study bill for allowing school districts to count foreign exchange pupils in certified enrollment counts for budget and funding purposes. 1-20-09 Subcommittee assigned, Heddens, Cownie, and Wendt. H.J. 109. 1-27-09 Subcommittee reassigned, Winckler, Cownie, and Wendt. H.J. 185.

LSB 1255XD [Senate Study Bill 1010](#)

LSB 1255XD [House Study Bill 41](#)

House Study Bill 40

Jan. 21 09 A study bill relating to the use of certain levy funds for school transportation and utility expenses. 1-20-09 Subcommittee assigned, Heddens, Dolecheck, and Mascher. H.J. 109. 1-27-09 Subcommittee reassigned, Winckler, Dolecheck, and Mascher. H.J. 185.

LSB 1256XD [Senate Study Bill 1009](#)

LSB 1256XD [House Study Bill 40](#)

House Study Bill 39

Jan. 21 09 A study bill relating to the establishment and implementation of a statewide writing assessment for public school students in grades three, six, and ten.

LSB 1261XD [Senate Study Bill 1016](#)

LSB 1261XD [House Study Bill 24](#)

LSB 1261XD [House Study Bill 39](#)

House Study Bill 38

Jan. 21 09 A study bill relating to the compulsory school attendance age and providing effective dates. 1-20-09 Subcommittee assigned, Ford, Cownie, and Heddens. H.J. 109. 1-27-09 Subcommittee reassigned, Ford, Cownie, and Winckler. H.J. 185.

LSB 1224XD [Senate Study Bill 1012](#)

LSB 1224XD [House Study Bill 38](#)

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Jan. 21 09 A study bill relating to the duties and operations of library districts. 1-20-09 Subcommittee assigned, Bukta, Schulte, and Thede. H.J. 109.

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