

Ryan Waller

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To: Ryan Waller
Subject: Legislative Link



Legislative Link

March 8, 2019

88th General Assembly

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You need to know

- This week concludes the first legislative funnel. With few exceptions, a bill must have passed out of committee in one of the two chambers in order to still be eligible for debate. April 5 will be the next legislative funnel as shown on the [Legislative Session Timetable](#).
- **Property Tax Legislation:** [HSB165](#), the property tax reform bill, has been scheduled for subcommittee discussion on **Wednesday (3/13/19) at 8 a.m. in room 308**. The current version of the bill will certainly be amended following subcommittee.
- There are several major pieces of legislation that will impact cities that have not yet been discussed in the legislature, including property taxes, tax increment finance and potentially the backfill. It is **imperative** that

you stay in contact with your legislators to help them understand how these complicated pieces of legislation impact your city. If you are not sure who your legislator is, or you need to get their contact information, the Legislative website provides this [tool](#).

[HSB204](#) | Empower Rural Iowa Initiative

- Companion to [SSB1193](#)
- Governor and Iowa Economic Development Authority's initiative on rural Iowa.
- Expands the low to moderate income housing tax credit small city set aside to \$10 million.
- Extends rural broadband grants until 2025 which were set to expire in 2020. Also allows targeted download and upload speeds to be determined by the office of the Chief Information Officer.
- Received unanimous support with minimal requested changes when it passed at subcommittee.
- League is registered in favor of this legislation.

[SSB1229](#) | Prohibition of Public Dollars Spent on Lobbying

- The prohibition would include cities, counties, Judicial Branch, State Agency or any other unit of local government from spending public resources employing an individual who's primary role is to lobby the Iowa legislature, this includes contractors.
- Municipalities throughout the state need advocates and representatives in the state Capitol for the same reasons that the State of Iowa has lobbyists in Washington D.C. - to share the information and knowledge from those that are impacted and those that actually implement the law as passed.

- Members of the League represent the subject matter experts on local government and any number of other subjects. Removing their representation at the Capitol would prevent this expertise from being considered during the legislative process.

HF656 | **Increases Periodic Examination Fee**

- This legislation would allow for an increase in the periodic examination fees to account for the increase cost of audit follow-ups with cities.
- The increase applies to cities with fewer than 2,000 in population and budgeted gross expenditures of less than \$1 million in a fiscal year.
- Actual increases would not be known until the Administrative Rules and Review Committee took up the issue after legislation passed.
- **The League would like to know how this proposed increase might affect your city.** If you pay the periodic examination fee as laid out in [Code of Iowa Chapter 11.6](#), please email us at LegislativeStaff@iowaleague.org with the subject line: Periodic examination fee, and let us know how this impacts your city.
- Legislation was passed out of subcommittee and committee.
- League is registered undecided.

SF400 | **Prevention of Reprisal for Employees**

- This legislation prevents reprisals for providing information to human resource officers and also directs cities to inform employees of the purpose and authority of the office of the ombudsman.
- Specific wording in the bill about what is needed to inform employees of the ombudsman authority is requiring an amendment at committee.
- League is registered undecided on this legislation.

HSB233 | **Restrictions on Rental Permit Caps**

- Companion and successor to [SSB1212](#) and [SF 447](#).
- Prevents cities from enforcing or adopting rental permit cap ordinances, a tool used by cities to manage rental properties and multi-family units in single family neighborhoods.
- Passed out of subcommittee and committee.
- League was previously registered undecided. However an agreement could not be made among various parties, and the League moved its registration to against.

[SF548](#) | **Limitations on Land Acquisition, Donation, Sale**

- [HF542](#), which had similar intent but a much broader reach, was introduced in the House but failed to pass out of subcommittee.
- This bill would prevent cities' water pollution control projects from acquiring land if it was previously purchased using revolving loan funds.
- Senate version passed out of subcommittee, was amended at committee to allow current or ongoing purchases of land.
- League is registered undecided.

[HSB160](#) | **Open Records for Advisory Committees**

- Expands open records laws to encompass committees formally and directly created by city governments.
- An amendment was offered at the Committee on Local Government that provides more clarity to focus the bill on budgetary or policy issues.
- Passed through committee.
- League is registered undecided.

[HSB125](#) | **Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE)**

- One of several ATE bills moving through the legislature.
- This bill passed out of subcommittee and will likely need a compromise with other legislators introducing similar language.
- An amendment to this bill offered at committee would make it a camera-regulation bill and split revenues between state and local government.
- There are many different bills dealing with ATE, including [SSB1004](#), [HF253](#), [SF343](#), and [HSB36](#). Only two are still active.
- The Senate has already passed [SF343](#), an ATE ban, out of committee which means the respective bills are ready for full chamber debate.
- League is registered against these bills.

[SF535](#) | Firework Regulation

- Successor to [SSB1035](#).
- Gives sole authority of inspection relating to firework licenses to fire marshal.
- This bill focuses primarily on the sale of fireworks by limiting a city's ability to prohibit where fireworks are sold.
- The League appreciates legislators listening to our concerns related to local control over use and removing preemption language from the first version of the bill.
- League is currently still registered against successor legislation because of safety concerns around the sales sections of the bill.

[SSB1095](#) | Restrictions on Utility Board Removal

- Companion to [HSB3](#) and [HF261](#).
- Removes ability for a mayor and city council to remove city utility board members.
- Amendment gives authority back to the mayor and city council, however stipulates the specific reasons a board member may be removed.

- League is currently still registered against all companion and successor bills.

HSB100 | **Nonconforming Use**

- Successor and companion to [SSB1141](#) and [SF368](#).
- Would prevent a city from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that restricts a nonconforming use.
- Amendment to the bill allows for replacement of mobile homes to still be considered a preexisting nonconforming use.
- Bill passed out of committee.

SF516 | **E-verify Employment Check**

- Successor to [SF243](#).
- Prohibits knowingly hiring an illegal alien.
- Provides an escalating penalty for recurring offenses that includes firing the illegal employee, probationary period with increased scrutiny, and suspension or permanent revocation of any state licenses.
- Employers must utilize an electronic verification system administered jointly by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Social Security Administration.
- Passed out of committee.
- League is registered undecided.

HSB172 | **Abandoned Structures and Abatement**

- Companion to [SF93](#).
- Provides cities with an additional tool to deal with abandoned or nuisance property.
- Moved through committee with amendment to differentiate between how abandoned and nuisance buildings are handled.

- League is registered in favor.

Legislative Forums

Friday, March 8

[Sen. Amy Sinclair in Corydon](#)

[Rep. Pat Grassley in Reinbeck](#)

[Sen. Dennis Guth in Garner](#)

[Rep. Heather Matson in Ankeny](#)

[Sen. Amy Sinclair in Chariton](#)

[Rep. Pat Grassley in Grundy Center](#)

[Sen. Dennis Guth in Corwith](#)

[Rep. Pat Grassley in Dike](#)

[Rep. Heather Matson in Ankeny](#)

[Sen. Amy Sinclair in Osceola](#)

[Sen. Dan Zumbach in Monticello](#)

[Sen. Liz Mathis in Hiawatha](#)

[Sen. Dennis Guth in Britt](#)

[Sen. Amy Sinclair in Leon](#)

Saturday, March 9

[Sen. Tom Shipley in Creston](#)

[Sen. Dan Dawson, Rep. Charlie McConkey, Rep. Mary Ann Hanusa, Rep. Jon Jacobsen, and Sen. Tom Shipley in Council Bluffs](#)

[Rep. Megan Jones and Rep. John Wills in Spencer](#)

[Rep. Mary Wolfe, Rep. Norlin Mommsen, and Sen. Chris Cournoyer in Clinton](#)

[Rep. Brian Lohse and Sen. Zach Nunn in Bondurant](#)

[Rep. Kenan Judge in Waukee](#)

[Rep. Jennifer Konfrst and Rep. Kristin Sunde in West Des Moines](#)

[Rep. Steven Holt in Denison](#)

[Rep. Marti Anderson, Rep. Jo Oldson, Rep. Ako Abdul-Samad, and Sen. Janet Petersen in Des Moines](#)

[Rep. Megan Jones and Rep. John Wills in Okoboji](#)

Monday, March 11

[Rep. Marti Anderson in Des Moines](#)

League Updates

[Share what your city accomplished in 2018](#) when you apply for the League's 2019 All-Star Community Award, which recognizes city projects implemented or completed in the 2018 calendar year.

[The online edition](#) of our March *Cityscape* magazine is now available! See stories on the City of Lone Tree's wellness center, collecting nuisance costs, city clerk mentor program and more.

[Get even more updates and news from the League](#) by subscribing to League Weekly. That newsletter is emailed each Tuesday and includes grant opportunities, workshops and more.

Thank you for taking the time to read the League's legislative newsletter, *Legislative Link*.

As always, *Legislative Link* is a snapshot of the League's overall government affairs efforts. It is meant to provide as much information as possible without overwhelming you with the minutia of the legislative process. It is important to know that all of this information including bill numbers, viability, and even the bills contents are constantly changing until they are signed into law by the Governor. If you have any questions about the legislative process in Iowa, if you would like to get more information about legislation listed above, if you would like to know about legislation that is not listed above, or if you want to learn how you can be more involved in advancing the League's Legislative Values through grassroots outreach, please contact danielstalder@iowaleague.org.



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You are receiving this email because you requested legislative updates from the Iowa League of Cities.

The League sends Legislative Link on Fridays during session, and it contains a snapshot of where pertinent bills are throughout the legislative process. Legislative Link is designed to educate and inform members of the current legislative process and climate as a first step to engaging and helping the League create positive outcomes for cities across Iowa. We hope you will help advance our legislative values, and we welcome your support.

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