



“Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.” - Abraham Lincoln

Thursday April 6, 2017

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House Republican Talking Points

Inside this issue:

2017-18 House Republican Budget Principles

\$7.2909 billion

House Republicans are committed to these principles to produce a balanced and sustainable state budget:

FY 2017 fund transfers:
\$0.0252 billion

1. We will spend less than the state collects;
2. We will not use one-time money to fund on-going needs;
3. We will not balance the budget by intentionally underfunding programs; and
4. We will return unused tax dollars to Iowa’s taxpayers.

FY 2018 Available Resources:
\$7.2657 billion

Cash Reserve Down Payment
\$0.0200 billion

FY 2018 Budget Targets:
\$7.2457 billion

5 Month/20 Week Ban on Abortion

House Republican approved a bill that prohibits abortions after 5 months or 20 weeks postfertilization.

The bill does not ban or limit the use of contraceptives.

The bill does not include criminal penalties for doctors or mothers.

This bill does allow for exceptions for the life and the health of the mother based on the doctor’s professional judgement in any instance.

Local School Budgeting Flexibility

House Republicans are committed to providing flexibility to locally elected school boards by loosening funding restrictions and allowing for more local decision making. Several school districts have a significant amount of funds sitting in accounts that go unused because they are limited to specific purposes.

No school district is the same, and they each face their own unique challenges and opportunities. We should loosen funding strings and allow schools to spend some of these funds in the way that meets students’ needs and fits their individual districts best.

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Joint House/Senate GOP Budget Targets

“This budget plan makes additional investments in key priorities like K-12 education and provides resources for essential functions of government,” Rep. Pat Grassley (R-New Hartford) and Sen. Charles Schneider (R-West Des Moines) announced in a joint statement. “House and Senate Republicans continue to believe that the state budget should be managed just like families and businesses manage their own.

This budget takes a responsible and cautious approach to spending in recognition that revenue may continue to come in less than anticipated.”

The budget plan includes fully funding the additional \$40 million passed earlier this session for K-12 schools. This budget plan also includes an initial payment to repay the Cash Reserve Account in FY18 and additional payments will be made in FY19.

The targets spend \$14 million less than the FY 17 state budget. This represents a real reduction in government spending not a smaller increase.

FY 2018 Revenue Estimate:
\$7.3645 billion

FY 2018 Revenue Expenditure Limit:



(Continued from page 1)

HF564 loosens restrictions regarding This bill makes changes to a number of funds, including Professional Development funding, At-risk and Dropout funding, Preschool funding, PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy) funding, and Talented and Gifted (TAG) funding, by adding additional allowable expenses that are meant to help the funding further the goals of the program.

HF 565 creates a new "Flexibility Fund." School district funds have narrow parameters that prohibit certain funding streams from being utilized fully. As a result, school

districts accumulate unused funds that grow year after year. There are currently over 74 identified sources of funding that school districts statewide have leftover funds in to the tune of over \$146 million in FY 2015 (a \$17.5 million increase over FY 2014). Much of this funding cannot be touched or used.

HF 565 collects some of this funding and creates additional spending authority for districts to use those funds in a broader fashion, but still in the direction of the original source of the funding.

Key House GOP Accomplishments

- Collective Bargaining Reform
- Worker's Compensation Reform
- Voter ID/Integrity
- 2nd Amendment Protections
- 5 Month/20 Week Abortion Ban

If You're Keeping Score...

In the last 94 days ... *The Des Moines Register* has had 77 editorials attacking Republicans.

Appropriations

(Contact Brad Trow at 1-3471)

Late Refunds Cloud Revenue Picture

The overall revenue number is complicated by the pace of income tax refunds being paid by the state. Due to increased efforts to stop fraudulent income tax returns filed via identity theft, the state has implemented additional checks and safeguards. This has resulted in lowans having to wait longer for their refund. It also has made it

fraud prevention efforts, the amount of refunds paid out by the state was 59.6 percent lower this March than what it was in March 2016. This makes comparing overall revenue numbers between last year and this year virtually impossible.

Making comparisons amongst the individual tax sectors is still possible, since refunds are a separate category. For personal income tax, the state experienced significant growth in March. After adjusting for processing date issues, the state took in an additional \$40.4 million when compared to March, 2016. This is an increase of 11.4 percent. For the first nine months of the fiscal year, personal income tax receipts have risen by 2.6 percent. The Revenue Estimating Conference forecast is for growth of 4.1 percent. Within that number, withholding payments have increased by

3.3 percent, estimated tax payments are down by 4.6 percent, and payments with tax returns are up 8.1 percent.

The numbers for sales and use tax collections also has to be adjusted for processing date issues. In March, sales tax collections were down \$3.6 million or 1.9 percent. For the fiscal year, sales and use tax collections are flat. The REC has projected growth of 1.5 percent.

March was also a slow month for corporate tax collections. The state collected \$26.7 million less this month than it did in March 2016. This is the main reason why corporate tax collections for FY 2017 are down \$29.3 million or 8.8 percent. The REC projected that corporate tax revenue would be flat for the year.

"difficult to determine the state's revenue position."

The Legislative Services Agency's revenue report for March says state revenue has growth 5.9 percent through the first nine months of the fiscal year. This spike in growth is primarily due to one thing – income tax refunds. Due to the enhanced

Agriculture

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096)

House Passes IDALS Fee Efficiency, and Technical Code Update Measure

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017, the Iowa House passed House File 617 by a unanimous 98-aye and 0-nay vote. The bill makes a number of Code changes applicable to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) aspect of the Code that update and clean up various provisions. For example, just over one-third of the bill, 18 of the 57 sections, deals with changing the state committee and local districts of 'Soil Conservation' to 'Soil Conservation and Water Quality' to conform with the name change of the IDALS Division of Soil Conservation and Water Quality that was made in 2015 session legislation. The measure adds verbiage to current law that restricts certain soil conservation cost-share practices to no more than 50%, to allow 'Edge-of-Field-Practices' to be exempt from that restriction. While other cost-share practices frequently produce long-term agronomic and economic benefits to farmers,

most water quality edge of field practice while reducing nutrient escape don't enhance agronomic or crop productivity.

Another one-quarter of the bill, 13 of the 57 sections of the bill, deals with altering the length of numerous licenses that IDALS issues from annual to biennial and doubling the fee so the amount of revenue that IDALS collects stays the same on an annualized basis but IDALS licensing efforts and cost are about one-half of what they are for annual licenses. HF 617 also provides a new provision to address the circumstance when electronic scale reporting devices fail to allow for up to one week the use of old mechanical and hand written scale slips while awaiting repairs of the electronic equipment. The bill conforms state swine identification methods with federal requirements by removing an older state authorized alternative option of ear notching and

ear tattoos since federal requirement specify ear tags and it conforms Iowa motor-fuel pump dispenser labeling with federal specifications. The measure creates a civil penalty (up to \$500) option for IDALS to assess on dry bulk nutrient product regulation violations. It creates a new Code subsection (200.5.8A) that directs IDALS establish minimum conditions for registration of fertilizer and soil conditioner products. HF 617 changes existing provisions concerning the timeframe when young female cattle can be vaccinated for brucellosis by extending the period another two months so the maximum age will be 12 months of age, rather than 10-months. The legislation adds goats to the list of animals subject to humane slaughter requirements and adds Palmer Amaranth to the list of primary noxious weed seeds that will make illegal to ship seed mixtures with this plant seed into the state.

Commerce

(Contact Brittany Telk at 1-3452)

Stayin' Alive: Commerce Senate File Survivors

Last Friday marked the end of the second funnel, and when all Senate Files must be out of their respective House policy committees. In the House Commerce Committee, four bills made it through the funnel:

- **SF 1 - Jobs Impact Statement**
This bill requires agencies to include jobs impact statements in their notice rules, and includes the requirements for what these statements must contain.
- **SF 51 - Cytomegalovirus Public Health Initiative**
This develops a public health initiative for cytomegalovirus (CMV). It requires the Center of Congenital and Inherited Disorders to develop and distribute CMV informational materials. It also
- **SF 230 - Legislative Employee Health Insurance**
This bill makes changes to legislator and full-time legislative employee health insurance policies. Current health care plans offer a separate plan for legislative employees. This bill will require legislative employees be subject to the same policies and premiums as the largest group of executive branch non-contract employees, excluding the regents.
- **SF 431 - Small Cell Siting**

adds a step to the current screening process for newborn and infant, requiring further testing for CMV and handing out materials in the event of a positive test.

This bill establishes a new permitting process for small wireless facilities – often referred to as “small cells.” It also provides statewide permitting uniformity for small wireless facilities while still allowing substantial local control, particular in single-family and historical areas, and streamlines the siting process. The bill borrows significantly from existing federal and state pole attachment rules, which already govern similar siting issues when the facilities are placed on private utility poles.

All House Files from the [first funnel](#) survived, and made it out of the Senate to remain eligible for debate -with several being signed into law by the Governor. And that concludes the policy work for the House Commerce Committee.

Economic Growth

(Contact Brittany Telk at 1-3452)

Still Stayin' Alive: Economic Growth Senate File Survivors

As for the House Economic Growth committee, the committee received no Senate Files on which to act. There are still several bills working their way through House Appropriations and House Ways & Means, but no Senate Files made it to committee. With that being said, there were several House Files that remain eligible for movement, including:

- HF 231/HSB 40 – IEDA Apprenticeship Program
This bill updates the definition of “apprentice” to apply to only Iowa residents, and clarifies IEDA’s authority over its statutory programs/rules, which has been signed by the Governor.
- HF 572/HSB 168 – WIOA
This bill makes changes to the Iowa Workforce Development Board, including the make-up of the new Board and updates to calling Board meetings, all

in compliance with the Federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It also makes changes based on SF 2313, last session’s WIOA bill which allowed IWD to join a consortium with Idaho and Vermont for unemployment insurance computer software, and use federal funds to pay for that purpose. It removes references to this consortium and instead allows IWD to use the federal dollars towards unemployment insurance modernization.

Which has Passed Senate Labor & Business Relations Committee

- HF 555/HSB 36 – IEDA Omnibus
This bill makes changes to the Sports Tourism Program, the Targeted Small Business Program and the Targeted Jobs Withholding Program, which has passed House Ways & Means Committee

- HF 536/HSB 39 – Manufactured Housing Fund
This section sets up a fund in IFA for a manufactured housing program to provide financial assistance to those wishing to purchase a manufactured home, which is currently in House Appropriations Committee
- HF 439/HSB 65 – Workforce Housing Incentives
This bill increases IEDA money for workforce housing tax credits to \$30M (increase from \$20M), and requires the additional \$10M go to small cities which is currently in the House Ways & Means committee.

And that concludes the policy work for the House Economic Growth Committee.

Education

Contact Jason Chapman at 1-3015)

Iowa Teacher of the Year nominations due April 28

The Department of Education is looking for nominations for 2018’s Iowa Teacher of the Year award. The award provides an opportunity to recognize an Iowa teacher who motivates, challenges, and inspires excellence; who is respected by students and peers; who is a dedicated professional that helps nurture hidden talents and abilities; who is a creative, caring individual; who takes teaching beyond textbooks and blackboards; and who is an exceptional teacher helping to redefine American education.

Established in 1958, the annual program is sponsored by the Iowa Department of Education through an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature. The Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador to education and as a liaison to primary and secondary schools, higher education and organizations across the state.

The legislative appropriation is \$85,000 in the Education Appropriations bill, part of the Student Achievement and Teacher Quality Program, for the Ambassador to Education position.

Nominations can come from anyone, including students, parents, school administrators, colleagues, college faculty members and associations. Nomination forms can be found on the Iowa Department of Education’s website: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/award-exchange-programs/iowa-teacher-year-toy>. They are due April 28.

The 2018 Teacher of the Year will be announced this fall.

Previous winners are:

- ✓ 2017 – Shelly Vroegh – 5th Grade – Lakewood Elementary School, Norwalk
- ✓ 2016 - Scott Slechta - English-language arts - Fairfield High School, Fairfield
- ✓ 2015 - Clemencia Spizzirri - Spanish - Merrill Middle School, Des Moines

- ✓ 2014 - Jane Schmidt - 8th Grade Literacy and Language Arts - Maquoketa Middle School, Maquoketa
- ✓ 2013 - Tania Johnson - Kindergarten - Jackson Elementary School, Cedar Rapids
- ✓ 2012 - Charity Campbell - Physical Education - Norwalk Middle School, Norwalk
- ✓ 2011 - Molly Boyle - 3rd Grade - Brookview Elementary School, West Des Moines (Waukee CSD)
- ✓ 2010 - Sarah Brown Wessling - High School English - Johnston High School, Johnston

A full list of winners dating back to 1958, and other details about the award, can be found on the Department’s site: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/award-exchange-programs/iowa-teacher-year-toy>.

Environmental Protection

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096)

Agriculture Community Reacts to Recent EPA Action Denying Petition to Ban Significant Pesticide

On Wednesday April 5, 2017, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a press release concerning (EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's recent order denying a petition banning chlorpyrifos, a pesticide common to U.S. agriculture. Administrator Pruitt [explained](#) that the decision provides "regulatory certainty to the thousands of American farms that rely on chlorpyrifos, while still protecting human health and the environment." The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) said the decision was based on science and will provide Americans with access to a full range of fruits and vegetables.

The National Corn Growers Association

applauded the EPA too, because it's safe for use by farmers and our farmers can't be too reliant on a single tool to protect their crops. Farmers need access to many crop protection tools to ensure all tools can remain effective. Likewise, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) issued a [press release](#) on March 29, 2017 concerning the decision and noted that this is a good decision for farmers. NASDA President and Louisiana Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry Dr. Mike Strain praised the EPA for sticking to its rigorous, scientific risk assessment and registration review process for crop protection tools and commented--"We commend the EPA for its decision today that keeps an

important insecticide available for farmers. By maintaining the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for chlorpyrifos, agricultural use of this important tool will continue, significant disruption of international trade is avoided, and harmonization efforts may continue globally. As state regulatory partners with EPA, we look forward to continuing to work with the Agency to ensure current and future tools are reviewed in a rigorous, scientifically sound, and transparent manner." NASDA submitted comments to EPA in January 2016 requesting the federal agency reevaluate its proposed tolerance revocations in compliance with the law and regulations that mandate a science-based review.

Human Resources

(Contact Carrie Malone at 5-2063)

Saving Lives One Unborn Child at a Time

This week, House Republicans passed legislation to significantly reduce abortions in the state. Senate File 471, as amended, is

"the most comprehensive pro-life bill to ever pass the Iowa House."

The bill protects an unborn child from an abortion 20 weeks after fertilization. A mother would only be able to have an abortion after 20 weeks if she was facing a medical emergency and the abortion was necessary to preserve the life of the mother, or to preserve the life of a child (normally done when multiple children have been conceived). The amendment also requires doctors to gather and report information on abortions performed, including the postfertilization age of the unborn child and the method used for the abortion. The bill does not include criminal penalties for any party, but a doctor who fails to follow the law could face

licensing sanctions.

During the debate, an additional amendment was accepted to address prerequisites for an abortion. This amendment sets standards that must be met before an abortion can be performed, in most cases. They include:

- A 72 hour waiting period
- An ultra sound to determine the approximate age of the child
- The woman seeking the abortion be given the opportunity to see the ultra sound and listen to the heart-beat of the child.
- The doctor shall provide the woman with information relating to pregnancy options, risks associated with abortion,

Unless there is a medical emergency, failure to comply with these requirements could result in sanctions against the doctor. Neither the doctor or the mother will face criminal charges for their actions.

The final language, approved by the House, also included essential intent language.

This language made it clear that it is the intent of the general assembly to protect all unborn life, but that the amendment does not prohibit abortion, nor does it recognize a right to an abortion. House Republicans remain committed to protecting all Iowans, including the most vulnerable ones.

During floor debate, Democrats attempted to expand abortion options past the second trimester. Their attempt to legalize late term abortions was soundly defeated. Many Democrats also raised concerns about contraception, fertility treatments and other medical procedures. None of the language proposed by the House prohibits the use of contraception, or fertility treatments and the language does not extend beyond prerequisites for an abortion and a prohibition on abortions after 20 weeks.

For years, House Republicans have led the fight to protect life. Senate File 471 is a victory for all Iowans who value life. It is estimated that at least 52 babies every year will be saved by this amendment. The bill now returns to the senate for their approval before being sent to the Governor.

Labor

(Contact Mackenzie Nading at 1-3626)

House and Senate Pass Project Labor Agreement Legislation

On Monday, the House passed Senate File 438, an act relating to the use and implementation of project labor agreements (PLAs) for state and local projects. In 2011 Governor Branstad signed an executive order that banned PLA mandates for state funded projects. SF 438 takes that executive order and broadens it to cover both state and local government projects. Currently in Iowa, a local government entity can require that a private contractor enter into a PLA as a condition of being awarded a bid for a construction contract. It has been shown that

“PLA requirements can be discriminatory,”

and they narrow the pool of prospective, qualified contractors to bid, making this a problem needing to be solved in our state.

When a government entity requires a PLA on a construction project, they tilt the playing field in favor of contractors who agree to use organized labor. This means the 85 percent of Iowa’s construction workforce that chooses not to join a labor union cannot compete on an equal basis for projects funded by their own tax dollars. It has also been seen that PLAs increase project cost, affect quality, and favor out of state workers in many cases. A prime example of a failed PLA project happened in 2013 in Fort Madison, Iowa.

The state of Iowa was in the market to build a new state penitentiary in the border town of Fort Madison, and former governor Chet Culver’s administration agreed to a project labor agreement for the \$132 million project. The project was promoted as way to

create 300-400 jobs for Iowans. However, once construction began reports surfaced that over half of the jobs were being filled by out of state workers. How does this happen when a PLA that claims to recruit and retain local workforce is involved in managing the project? The answer: union shopping.

The PLA involved in the Fort Madison prison project had restrictions that required construction trade unions to be hired through 18 union halls, only 12 of which were located in Iowa. It was reported that union halls in Iowa recruited heavily for the project, and they were successful in employing many Iowa workers for the job. However, the size and demand for the project needed more workers than the union halls in Iowa could recruit, so instead of moving to local non-union options, the union halls pulled in workers from neighboring states like Illinois and Missouri, because the PLA required construction trade labor be hired for the job. The argument that PLA mandates help the Iowa workforce was proven false, as seen by the Fort Madison example. Senate File 438 fixes the discrimination problem within PLAs.

During debate on the House floor, many Democrats claimed that the bill prohibited the use of PLAs in Iowa; this statement is false. Nothing in Senate File 438 prohibits contractors from including a PLA in their bid, and nothing prohibits a government entity from accepting that bid. This bill simply prohibits government entities from **requiring** contractors to sign a PLA in order to win the project. This bill will not eliminate PLAs, but allows contractors to decide if a PLA is appropriate.

There were arguments made by the Democrats that Senate File 438 eliminates local

control because it precludes the use of pre-qualification surveys by government entities. This is a false statement. There were entities in Iowa who would issue a survey prior to considering a contractor bid, and if the contractor did not answer the survey in a specific way then they would not be considered in the bidding process – even if they would have ended up being the “lowest responsible bidder,” as required by law. These surveys are discriminatory in nature, denying qualified contractors from even being considered for a public project for completely arbitrary reasons. The requirements pre-qualification surveys supposedly seek to determine are unnecessary because bonding requirements protect public owners in most cases. Additionally, the information requested by many government entities is unnecessarily intrusive and the criteria government entities use to evaluate this information is often unclear. This information is also made a public record once the survey is submitted, opening the door for competitors to seek out unfavorable information on their opponents made possible by these surveys.

House Republicans believe that government entities in the state of Iowa are responsible, and that private contractors wishing to do business in our state are reliable. Because of that, Senate File 438 was passed to allow more flexibility to both entities – allowing for the contractor to decide what is best for their business; whether that is the implementation of a PLA or not. It allows for local governments to decide what kind of contractor would be best to fulfill a project funded by taxpayer dollars; whether that includes the implementation of a PLA or not. Smarter, more efficient public projects will be the result of Senate File 438, and that is a win for all Iowans.

Natural Resources

(Contact Carrie Malone at 5-2063)

House Gives Final Okay to Two Natural Resources Measures

On Monday, April 3, 2017, the Iowa House of Representatives gave final approval to two natural resources issues. Senate File 257 codifies requirements for conducting bass fishing tournaments on public waters to allow for competitors to briefly keep up to five bass for competitive purposes and weigh-in procedures. The bill further directs the state's Natural Resource Commission to by rule, specify the requirements for obtaining a permit with a minimum of:

- (a) specified weigh-in, handling and release of live bass by participants,
- (b) measurement of bass length and release from vessel,
- (c) allowance of up to five bass for weigh-in during tournaments,

(d) possession of bass or any length so long as bass are kept alive and released after weigh-in, and

(e) cleaning of vessels used before and after tournament in compliance with DNR guidelines to prevent transportation of aquatic invasive species.

The legislation defines bass fishing tournament as an organized fishing event involving all of the following: an organized event on public water, not including the Mississippi River for bass fishing, participation of 6 or more vessels or 12 or more individuals; on the Mississippi River 20 or more vessels and 40 or more individuals, and the award of prizes for participation.

Senate File 472 increases the proportion of the 'special snowmobile fund moneys that may be accessed by political subdivisions or private incorporated organizations for snowmobile programs from 50% to 70% and explicitly specifies that such moneys may be used by political subdivisions and incorporated private organization for purchase, ownership and maintenance of trail-grooming equipment. SF 472 adds an additional exception from snowmobile registration requirements for snowmobiles that are registered with an approved sponsored snowmobile special event and explicitly includes roadways and highways as part of the definition of 'public land' upon which snowmobiles may be operated within the restrictions specified in Code section 321G.9 which will allow them to legally cross the roadways.

IDALS Notes: Emerald Ash Borer Found in Fayette and Madison County

On Wednesday, April 5, 2017, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release announcing that the emerald ash borer (EAB) can now be linked to 45 counties in Iowa as Fayette and Madison counties are the most recent to be added to that growing list. EAB is a destructive wood-boring beetle that attacks and kills all ash tree species. This exotic pest was first discovered in Iowa in 2010. In Fayette County, the insect was discovered in a city-owned ash tree in Oelwein. For Madison County, the finding took place in a rural area south of Winterset. Insect specimens taken from these sites were confirmed as EAB by a federal identifier.

The Iowa EAB Team provides EAB diagnostic assistance to landowners and includes officials from IDALS, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, the Iowa

Department of Natural Resources (DNR), USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the USDA Forest Service. Anyone who suspects an infested ash tree in a county not known to have EAB is urged to contact the Iowa EAB Team. The adult beetle is metallic green in color and measures approximately one-half inch long and can be noticed during the summer months. The larvae burrow through the inner layer of bark, eating away at the vascular tissue, which supplies nutrients to the tree. Starved trees usually die within two to four years. EAB-infested ash trees display canopy dieback beginning at the top of the tree and progressing downwards, S-shaped feeding galleries under dead or splitting bark, D-shaped exit holes, water sprouts (along the trunk and main branches), and increased bark damage by woodpeckers.

If a landowner is interested in protecting a

valuable and healthy ash tree within 15 miles of a known infestation, the treatment window for protecting an ash tree begins very soon. Soil treatments should be made from mid-April to mid-May. Basal trunk sprays should be applied mid-May to mid-June. Trunk injections begin once the tree has a full canopy. Full details are available in Iowa State University Extension and Outreach publication PM2084: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/13114>. A federal quarantine, enforced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, remains in effect and restricts the movement of all hardwood firewood and ash articles out of Iowa into non-quarantined areas of other states. To help reduce the potential for people to unknowingly transport EAB and other destructive tree-killing pests, Iowans are strongly encouraged to use locally sourced firewood.

2017 DNR Sale Set for April 22

On Tuesday, March 28, 2017, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release in which the state agency announced that the Iowa DNR will hold the 2017 spring auction on April 22, at Pioneer Livestock Pavilion on the Iowa State Fairgrounds, in Des Moines. Doors will open at 7 a.m., and the auction will begin at 8:30 a.m. The public may view the items for sale and pre-register for the auction from 4 to 6 p.m., on April 21. There will not be any buyer's premium fee added to

the sale. Items up for auction include more than 500 firearms, bows, gun barrels, scopes, tree stands and other assorted equipment. The items are sold "as is" with no guarantee or warranty. Any person interested in purchasing a firearm at the auction must have either a valid Iowa permit to acquire pistols or revolvers, a federal firearms license, or a professional or non-professional permit to carry concealed weapons. The Iowa permit to acquire can be obtained from a sheriff's office. Allow

two to three weeks to receive the permit. Payment must be made on auction day. All sales are final. All items must be removed from the site within one half hour after the sale completion. The Iowa DNR reserves the right to reject any bids and withdraw any item from the sale at any time. A sale bill is available online at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting> and will be updated if inventory is added. The DNR will not be mailing any sale bills.

Transportation

(Contact: Ashely Beall 1-3440)

Texting and Driving

SF 234 was approved by the Senate and was subsequently approved by the House Transportation Committee.

This bill simply upgrades texting and driving from a secondary offense to a primary offense. SF 234 allows for drivers to use their phones in hands-free mode and regular mode as well as using their phone as a GPS. It allows for peace officers to pull someone over for a suspected violation of texting while driving. However, it does not make texting and driving a moving violation.

The fine for this remains the at \$30.

This bill changes the definition of “electronic message” to include images visible on the screen of a hand-held electronic communication device including a text-based message, an instant message, a portion of electronic mail, an internet site, a social media application, or a game. This update now includes applications such as Facebook and Snapchat.

According to NCSL, 46 states have already banned texting and driving and there are

“14 states that have prohibited drivers from using hand-held devices”

while driving. SF 234 passed the Senate with a vote of 43-6 and is on the calendar for debate in the House.

Veterans Affairs

(Contact Kristi Kiouis at 2-5290)

Department of Defense Omnibus Bill Sent to Governor

This week the House unanimously passed Senate File 373 and sent it to the Governor. The bill is from the Department of Defense and, among other things, conforms the Iowa Code of Military Justice to federal law.

Senate File 373 also updates Iowa Code to mirror similar federal law provisions dealing with National Guard members working in the private sector and their ability to get leave from work for military orders. Specifi-

cally, it deals with issues that arise when members of the guard of another state work in Iowa and are called up for duty.

Additionally, Senate File 373 provides that the Iowa Code of Military Justice applies to members of the state military forces who commit an offense during travel to or from the member’s duty location or the times between consecutive periods of duty (Saturday evening of guard duty). The bill

also changes the statute of limitations on any offense subject to court martial from two or three years (depending on the offense) to five years to allow for more time for investigations.

The bill was passed unanimously by both chambers and now awaits the governor’s approval.

Ways & Means

(Contact Kristi Kiouis at 2-5290)

First-Time Homebuyers Savings Accounts Advances

Last week the House Ways and Means Committee passed House File 622 out of committee with a unanimous vote. The bill provides for the creation of the Iowa First-Time Homebuyer Savings Account Act.

Starting January 1, 2018, the First-Time Homebuyer Savings Account Act provides for an income tax deduction for contributions made by an account holder into their

first-time homebuyer savings account for up to \$2,000 (\$4,000 for married filers) and exempts any interest earned on this account from income tax.

Under the bill, the total benefit of these two incentives cannot exceed an aggregate lifetime benefit of 10 times the maximum deduction determined for the applicable year (\$20,000 or \$40,000 jointly for 2017,

then adjusted for inflation). The tax incentives end 10 tax years after the account is opened or when there is a nonqualified withdrawal. There is a penalty on nonqualified withdrawals of 10 percent of the withdrawal amount.

House File 622 now moves to the House floor for further consideration.