

Rod Roberts
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Fifty-First District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221
e-mail - rod.roberts@legis.state.ia.us

HOME ADDRESS
732 San Salvador Avenue
Carroll, Iowa 51401
Home: (712) 792-2718



House of Representatives
State of Iowa
Eighty-Third General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

COMMITTEES
Administration and Rules
Appropriations
Local Government
State Government
Transportation

New Release
January 21, 2010

The first official floor action in the Iowa House took place last Friday as four education funding bills were debated.

SF 2045 and SF 2046 Delay Setting Allowable Growth These bills delay setting the FY12 allowable growth for the K-12 foundation formula and the allowable growth for Teacher compensation, class size and professional development until next year. Under Iowa law the legislature is required to set allowable growth within 30 days of receiving the Governor's budget. The allowable growth the legislature sets is 18 months before the applicable fiscal year. For example, in February 2010, the legislature is supposed to set allowable growth for FY12, which begins July 1, 2011. Setting allowable growth 18 months in advance was enacted in 1995 in response to a divided legislature repeatedly delaying a decision on allowable growth. In 2009, citing economic uncertainty combined with three years of overspending, House Republicans offered an amendment to stop the practice of setting allowable growth so far in advance. HF 2045 and SF 2046 delays setting allowable growth until next year. House Republicans offered amendments again last week to permanently stop the practice.

HF 2030 Unspent Balance This bill allows the state's School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to review a school district's "unexpended fund balance". If the SBRC finds the amount excessive they may require the district to spend that balance before permitting the district to levy local property taxes for cash reserves.

SF 2033 Placing a Stay on Collective Bargaining Agreements and "Race to the Top" This bill was initially supposed to enhance Iowa's application for federal Race to the Top funding. The bill removes the cap on public school district sponsored charter schools and creates new "innovation zones" which are an AEA and two or more public school districts joining under the same rules as Iowa's current public school district sponsored charter school law. In an unexpected move the bill included a provision putting a stay on the collective bargaining agreement when a school building is identified as persistently low performing. The bill also requires the union and school board to negotiate a new "memorandum of understanding" on how interventions will be negotiated.

Budget subcommittees began meeting this week. House Republicans will work to find cost savings in all areas of state government in an effort to close next year's large projected budget gap. Last year House Republicans proposed cost savings measures that totaled over \$300 million. Savings can be found through the budget process in the legislature. Like Iowa families and businesses are already doing, it is time for state government to "tighten its belt".

You can email me at my legislative address at rod.roberts@legis.state.ia.us. Or call me at (515) 281-3221.