**WEEK 11- March 22-26TH**

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

**News from the Hill**

Next Friday, April 2, is the end of the second funnel. Bills need to have cleared committees in both chambers in order to remain eligible, except for Appropriations bills and Ways & Means bills.

The Legislative Service Agency announced this week that Iowa would be receiving approx.

about $4.451 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act with individuals receiving another $3.77 billion in direct stimulus payments. The state is expected to receive $1.379 billion from

the State Fiscal Recovery Fund and local governments are expected to receive about $1.162 billion (these accounts to $612 million to counties, $335 million to metropolitan areas and $216 to other local governments). The state will receive another $152 million for capital projects. The remainder of the aid will go to state agencies for assistance in various areas, including about $774.5 million for K-12 schools, $365.5 million for colleges, about $385 million for programs for childcare, pre-school and toddlers and about $55 million in LIHEAP funds. State and local governments have broad authority to spend the funds as needed, but cannot use the money to reduce taxes,

either directly or indirectly, or to make pension payments.

There was an attack at the Anamosa State Penitentiary where a corrections officer and a nurse were murdered by an inmate. The Governor made the following statement,

“Today, our state grieves the loss of two public servants who were attacked while on duty at the

Anamosa State Penitentiary,” “My prayers and deepest condolences are with their families, friends, and colleagues as they begin to cope with this senseless tragedy. We will exhaust every available resource to deliver justice to those who committed this act and bring a sense of closure and peace to the victims’ families.”

The week was spent in long caucuses in both chambers. The Senate did not spend much time debating but the House worked through many bills. They even suspended the rules to be able to

work past midnight to get bills passed through.

**Bills of Interest to IFA**

**SF 71/ SF 331 Use of Lights- Transportation Committee**

This bill authorizes the use of various lights on emergency vehicles.

(Shipley, Bisignano, and Rozenboom)

Passed subcommittee and full committee

Came over from the House and needs to be debated on the floor THIS WEEK OR IT IS DEAD!

**HSB 189/HF 654 Use of Lights-COMPANION Bill**

(Maxwell, Bradley, Forbes)

PASSED THE HOUSE, moved over to the Senate.

**SF 72/SF 333 Emergency Responder**

(Koelker, Driscoll and Taylor)

Passed sub and full committee

Now on debate calendar

**HSB 190/HF 721 Emergency Responder**

(Worthan, Gerhold, Konfrst)

Passed subcommittee

PASSED Full Committee with amendment

THIS IS ON THE DEBATE CALENDAR AND SHOULD BE DONE ON MONDAY

The amendment does 3 things:

1. Changes misdemeanor to aggravated or serious misdemeanor
2. Adds training through Homeland Security for EMA members
3. Strikes Page 5 Lines 11-19 dealing with a tort claim. They feel this is already covered in Iowa Code 670.” Motion to dismiss” will do the same thing.

This bill clarifies the operations, immunity and liability in emergency situations, use of emergency vehicles in parades, funeral processions, and events. It also defines authorized emergency vehicles.

**HF 144/HF 563 Raises tax credit from $100 to $200**

Subcommittee of Kaufmann, Brown-Powers and Graber

Passed sub and full committee-ready for floor debate

The Senate is trying to raise this to $1000. I feel the House is waiting to see what the Senate does before they run their bill.

**SF 447 Expansion of Firefighter tax credit to $1000**

**Ways and Means bill**

**Dickey, Dawson, Jochum**

**Passed the sub and full committee.**

This bill relates to the individual income tax credits for volunteer firefighters,

Volunteer emergency medical services personnel members, and reserve peace officers by increasing the amounts of the credits, and including retroactive applicability provisions. The bill modifies the tax credit by allowing a firefighter, emergency medical services personnel member, or reserve peace officer to qualify for the credit if such an individual has annual compensation

equal to or less than $5,000 in the performance of services attributable to the position. The bill increases from $100 to $1,000 the maximum amount of the tax credit per individual for services performed during the year. The tax credit increase applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January1,2021. The bill also modifies the tax credit by requiring a firefighter,

emergency medical services personnel member, or reserve peace officer to obtain written approval from their supervisor prior to claiming the tax credit. The bill does eliminate specific

training requirements for a firefighter to be eligible for the tax credit, but the bill allows a supervisor to utilize the approval of the tax credit to ensure the individual meets training or other requirements specified by the department or program. Currently, such an individual is required to obtain a written statement from their supervisor verifying the individual was in such a position for the months the credit is claimed. The bill also rearranges the definitional portion of Code section 422.12, which is in alphabetical order, due to the strike of the term “volunteer”

**HSB #197/HF 750 Length of Service bill**

**PASSED subcommittee**

**PASSED Full Local Government**

**Waiting for floor debate**

Rep Bloomingdale is sponsoring this bill.

There were some drafting issues that needed clarification and should be out this week.

This legislation creates a length of service award to volunteer firefighters who meet criteria to receive an award given by the city/county and will be matched by the state.

**HSB 247/HF 761-SF 438 Expansion of Fireworks grant fund**

**HOUSE: PASSED the House floor, moved over to the Senate**

**SENATE: Passed sub and full committee, passed the Senate floor with an amendment so it now has to go back to the House for final approval. The amendment basically just states that the Fire Marshal must review an fireworks education grants first, then consider grants for other fire equipment.**

The bill authorizes the state fire marshal to provide grants under the local fire protection and emergency medical service providers grant program to local fire protection service providers for the purchase of necessary equipment, in addition to the current authorization to provide grants to local fire protection service providers and local emergency medical service providers to provide fireworks safety education programming and to purchase necessary equipment related to the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

**SF 55/SF 560 Carbon Monoxide Protection**

passed Sub and full committee (Guth, Celsi, and Goodwin) State Gov Committee

Ready for floor debate

NO ACTION THIS WEEK

Now in Ways and Means

This bill requires the fire marshal to adopt rules for standards relating to carbon monoxide protection that are consistent with the international building code and international fire code.

**SF 46/SF 330-HF 75/HF 392 ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE:**

House: A.Meyer, Forbes, Thorup

 Passed sub and full committee

 Ready for floor debate

Senate: Rozenboom (C), Giddens, Kraayenbrink

Passed sub and full committee

 Ready for floor debate

NO ACTION THIS WEEK

The bill exempts the use of an electronic communication device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode, for members of a public safety agency performing official duties, for health care professionals in the course of emergency situations, for the purpose of receiving safety-related information, for the purpose of reporting an emergency situation,

for certain radio operators, and for members of a public transit system performing official duties while in a vehicle that is not in motion.

**HF 248/HF 683- EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICTS/FIRE DEPARTMENTS:** (Klein (C), Breckenridge, Thorup) Public Safety

PASSED BOTH SUB AND FULL COMMITTEE

PASSED FLOOR DEBATE, moved over to the Senate

A subcommittee needs to be assigned in the Senate

This bill allows communities, townships, regions to create Emergency Response Districts. This is completely voluntary.

Cities do not like Sec 6 which states:

The bill requires a city in which an institution of higher education governed by the state board of regents is located to establish, house, equip, staff, uniform, and maintain a full-

time, professional fire department that is separate from the city’s police department. This was not part of our language but added by a few legislators. They are referring to the city of Cedar Falls who are cross training police and firefighters.

**SSB 1094/SF 489-HSB 72/HF 300/HF 708 PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT:**

Senate:Cournoyer (C), Johnson, T Taylor

Referred to Appropriations

House: Worthan, Breckenridge, Thorup

PASSED HOUSE 93-0

Passed sub and full committee

Senate: Cournoyer, Johnson, T. Taylor

Passed sub and full committee

Referred to Appropriations: (Worthan, Latham, Williams)

This bill creates a public safety equipment fund and appropriates the moneys in the fund to the department of public safety (DPS) for the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of equipment used by DPS.

**HSB 186/HF 562-EMS funding**

An Act relating to funding emergency medical services by modifying provisions relating to city emergency medical services districts, benefited emergency medical services districts, and optional taxes for emergency medical services.

House: Passed sub and full committee-Passed House 93-0
Now in Ways and Means- R. Smith, Boulton, Goodwin

**HF 444/HF 718- Township Fire Departments**

Westridge, Wheeler, Oldson

Passed sub and full committee

READY FOR FLOOR DEBATE

Now in Ways and Means

An Act relating to township fire stations by authorizing the use of certain property taxes approved at election for the payment of anticipatory bonds.

**SF 503/SF 551**

An Act relating to fire fighters and emergency medical services members responding to emergency situations in certain vehicles.

Passed sub and Full committees

PASSED Senate 46-0

Sent to HOUSE

Transportation Subcommittee assigned: Worthan, Bradley, Cohoon

Subcommittee scheduled for March 30th at 8:00 am

There is a bill that is currently being drafted that will ask to renew the “check-off” as a donation to fire fighters fund when you complete your taxes. This bill needs to be renewed every two years. Senator Dickey is running it.

Remember you can contact your legislator to ask for support by emailing them at: by emailing them at:

First name.last name@legis.iowa.gov

The second funnel date is April 2nd and bills must pass one chamber and be out of committee on the other side.

As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Pedersonconsulting@gmail.com

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

SENATE

\*Contact the leaders in the Senate and ask them to run SF 331 (The Use of Lights bill) on the Senate floor.

\*Ask them to support HF 721 (companion bill SF 333)EMERGENCY RESPONDER that should be coming from the House this week.

EMAIL: Jack.whitver@legis.iowa.gov

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HOUSE

\*Ask them to run HF 721 (Worthan) on the floor this week, the Senate is waiting for them and it must pass through this week to make the funnel.

\*SF 569 has returned to the House to accept the amendment by the Senate.

\*Support HF 718 Township Fire Stations. This would help many rural departments.

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