**WEEK 9- March 8-12TH**

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

**News from the Hill**

The governor signed SF 413 this week that makes many changes to the voting process in Iowa.There is a lot of controversy with this bill that some feel will make it harder for Iowans to vote. Makes changes to election laws and procedures, including changes on election dates, vacancies, constitutional conventions, summaries of constitutional amendments, attesting to a voter’s identity and on other matters. Requires audits of all elections and requires notices be mailed to voters 20 days before bond elections and closes polls at 8:00 pm.

There were several committee meetings and floor work on law enforcement bills this week. Both the House and Senate rolled out their versions of a Back the Blue bill and other legislation that dealt with rioting, protesting, filing false reports and other police matters

The US House Administration Committee voted 6-3 to postpone a decision on a motion from US Representative Miller-Meeks to dismiss a challenge by Rita Hart on the 2020 results for US 2. Hart lost the race by six votes after a recount. Hart is contesting the election in the US House under federal law because she says that 22 legally-cast votes were not counted, and that if counted, would give her a 9-vote victory. Republicans said that the House should not hear the contest to overturn the election because Hart failed to exhaust all of her remedies under Iowa law before turning to the House.

**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

**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

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

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

**Ways and Means bill**

**Dickey, Dawson, Jochum**

**Waiting for a subcommittee meeting**

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**

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**

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

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

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

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 PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT:**

Senate:Cournoyer (C), Johnson, T Taylor

Referred to Appropriations

House: Worthan, Breckenridge, Thorup

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 HOUES FLOOR 93-0

Senate subcommittee R. Smith, Boulton, Goodwin  
Now in Ways and Means

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

Westridge, Wheeler, Oldson

Passed sub and full committee

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

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](mailto: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.

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