**WEEK 15- April 12th-19th**

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

**News from the Hill**

Week 15 was another short week spent mostly on Appropriations bills. Many other bills were rereferred back to committee and others put on the Unfinished Business calendar. These are all signs that the end of the session is near. April 30th is the 110th day and the daily stipends end for all legislators on that day. On Thursday, both chambers gaveled in and then gaveled out without doing any floor work.

**Bills of Interest to IFA-UPDATES IN GREEN**

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

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

(Maxwell, Bradley, Forbes)

PASSED THE HOUSE, moved over to the Senate.

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 Senate floor

Senate passed with amendment, sent back to House.

House passed bill WITHOUT the amendment, back to the Senate to concur.

The Senate concurred and the bill passed. It now goes to the Governor’s desk.

**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 a fireworks education grants first, then consider grants for other fire equipment.**

**PASSED THE HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT NOW GOES TO THE GOVERNOR!**

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 72/SF 333 Emergency Responder**

(Koelker, Driscoll and Taylor)

Passed sub and full committee

Passed Senate floor

**HSB 190/HF 721 Emergency Responder**

(Worthan, Gerhold, Konfrst)

Passed subcommittee

PASSED Full Committee with amendment

THIS IS ON THE DEBATE CALENDAR

This was rereferred back to transportation committee.

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

No action last week.

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

**Ways and Means bill**

**Dickey, Dawson, Jochum**

**Passed the sub and full committee.**

**Needs to be debated on floor**

**NO ACTION LAST WEEK**

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**

**NO ACTION THIS WEEK**

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.

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

PASSED BOTH SUB AND FULL COMMITTEE in the House

PASSED FLOOR DEBATE, moved over to the Senate

A subcommittee needs to be assigned in the Senate

The Senate did not run this bill so it failed to make the funnel-Dead

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

Placed on unfinished business calendar

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

No action this week

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

Westridge, Wheeler, Oldson

Passed sub and full committee

READY FOR FLOOR DEBATE

Now in Ways and Means

No action this week

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

Passed sub and full committee

Placed on unfinished business

Check-off bill-This bill is 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 sponsoring this bill. It is in Ways and Means.

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

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

Pedersonconsulting@gmail.com

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**\*HF 721/SF 333 Emergency Responder**

This bill passed the Senate, passed the House sub and full committees but the House has failed to bring it to the floor for debate. We have worked on this bill for 4 years. Yesterday leadership (Grassley and Windschitl) sent the bill back to the Transportation Committee for next year. We were told the Public Safety committee had problems with our bill despite the amendments Rep Worthan added to our bill. Rep Worthan is also on the Public Safety Committee and he had no idea there was a problem.

**EMAIL THE FOLLOWING AND ASK FOR SUPPORT**

Pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov

Brian.best@legis.iowa.gov Chair of Transportation Committee

Gary.worthan@legis.iowa.gov

Jared.Klein@legis.iowa.gov Chair of Public Safety

**\*HF563 Raising tax credit to $200**

This bill increases the tax credit from $100 to $200

Once it gets debated on House floor it will be sent to the Senate. It is a Ways and Means bill

**EMAIL THE FOLLOWING AND ASK FOR IT TO BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE**

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**\*HF750 Length of Service Award LOSAP**

This length of service bill provides an award to volunteer firefighters who meet a certain criteria to get an award from a city contribution matched by a state contribution once vested.

The lottery is willing to fund it but it would mean that those funds would then not flow into the general fund. It is being considered by the House approps committee.

**EMAIL THE FOLLOWING AND ASK FOR IT TO BE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR FOR DEBATE**

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