**WEEK 17- May 3-7th**

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

**News from the Hill**

Both chambers basically did not work on Monday and Tuesday so leadership could try and work out differences. The Governor tried to step in and help negotiate on budget and policy bills.

Both chambers worked on tax omnibus bills, removing triggers, eliminating inheritance tax and changing other tax credits. The Senate adjourned early Thursday while the House worked late into the night working on various budget bills and then came back on Friday to continue work on the debate floor. The first time either chamber has worked on a Friday this session. Only one budget bill has been sent to the Governor at this point with ten more to go.

Updates from this week are in GREEN and ACTION ITEMS are in RED. We need you to follow through with the ACTION ITEMS in RED TODAY. If they DO NOT hear from you they will not see any urgency in getting these laws passed. If you need more details, let us know but PLEASE make your voices heard!

**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.

**THE BILL IS ON THE GOVERNORS DESK FOR SIGNING**

**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**

**THE BILL IS ON THE GOVERNORS DESK FOR SIGNING**

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 was rereferred back to transportation committee.

We are not getting any clear reason why this bill was sent back to committee

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR AND LEADER PAT GRASSLEY TO ASK FOR REASONS WHY THIS BILL IS STALLED. “IT IS NOT READY’ IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER. IT PASSED THE SENATE AND SUB AND FULL COMMITTEES IN THE HOUSE.

EMAIL THE FOLLOWING:

[Pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Pat.grassley@legis.iowa.gov) Leader

[Matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Matt.windschitl@legis.iowa.gov) Leader

[Brian.best@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Brian.best@legis.iowa.gov) Chair of Transportation Committee

[Gary.worthan@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Gary.worthan@legis.iowa.gov) Bill Sponsor

[Jared.Klein@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Jared.Klein@legis.iowa.gov) Chair of Public Safety

An amendment has been filed by Rep Worthan to be presented om the floor.

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

**This bill was added to the House tax bill HF 893. They raised it to $250 thanks to an amendment by Rep Jacoby. We are pleased with the actions of the House and hope the Senate will concur!**

**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**

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

This bill is basically dead, but we appreciate new Senate member Sen Dickey for his efforts. When this tax credit was passed many years ago by Senator Hancock the desire was that it would grow a little each year. Asking for $1000 at this time would basically have been considered a catch-up since it has never increased.

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 vit increase applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 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-please contact your House Rep and Leader Grassley and Leader Windschitl and ask them to pass this bill. They can run it on its own or add it to the Standings bill or any approps bill! It will be a huge help in recruitment and retention. The lottery has agreed to fund it. They need to hear from you!**

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[Jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Jane.bloomingdale@legis.iowa.gov)

Rep Bloomingdale is sponsoring this bill and has worked extremely hard for us.

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

The Senate failed to move this bill. They did not like the PSO section of this bill. The PSO part was NOT our language and was added by House legislators. We asked the Senate to remove that and run our part. At this point our language could be added to the Standings bill and they can

work the PSO language out next year. PSO stands for Public Safety Officer, the model that is currently happening in Cedar Falls. PLEASE contact your SENATOR and Sen [Jack.Whitver@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Jack.Whitver@legis.iowa.gov) and ask them to NOT throw our bill out!

This bill allows communities, townships, regions to create Emergency Response Districts. This is completely voluntary and would help many small rural departments.

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.

**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

While this bill is handled by the EMS lobbyist it pertains to many if not all our departments. It is sad to think that this is SO HARD to get passed!

Feel free to add this to your conversations with House Leaders Rep Grassley and Rep Windschitl

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**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, this is still alive because it is a Ways and Means bill but I do not feel there will be any further action this year.

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

The tax return Check-off bill-This bill is to renew the “check-off” as a donation to firefighters 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. CONTACT YOUR Senator, Sen [Dan.dawson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Dan.dawson@legis.iowa.gov) and [Adrian.dickey@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:Adrian.dickey@legis.iowa.gov) and ask them to move this forward!

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

First name.last [name@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:name@legis.iowa.gov)

If you need to determine who your legislator is, look them up at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

Want to read a bill? Go to: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation>

And enter the bill # in the upper right corner where it says BILLS

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE AND BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOUR DEPARTMENT- TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AS THE LEGISLATURE WILL BE CLOSING DOWN VERY SOON! YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

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

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