**WEEK 8th- March 1-5TH**

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

**News from the Hill**

This was funnel week so bills must pass both sub and full committees on one side to keep alive. Any bills that fail to meet these criteria are considered DEAD and are no longer viable for this session. The exception to this rule are Ways and Means bills and Appropriations bills. Due to the high volume of committee meeting there was not much floor action this week.

The legislature worked on a number of Covid relief bills this week. One bill,

SF 364 PAYCHECK PROTECTION DEDUCTIONS designed to help businesses and individuals. The House offered an amendment that offers $115 million in tax relief. About $90 million of that will be offset by a transfer to the General Fund from the Taxpayer Trust Fund, and about $25 million will come out of the ending balance. The bill will

also have an impact on FY 2022 and transfers another $12.8 from the Taxpayer Trust Fund to pay for those costs. The pandemic unemployment exemption in the bill is about $100 million of the impact; the rest of the reductions are from COVID grants and the Federal Paycheck Protection program. The Democrats were happy to finally see some Covid relief legislation but wondered why it wasn’t one of the first bills to pass.

**The Black Caucus made a statement today:**

Representative Smith released a statement on behalf of the House Black Caucus (Representatives Abdul-Samad, Gaines, Smith and Thede) to address what Smith said were actions “that are working to undo racial justice progress made in the past year.” The statement reads: The path to racial equality is an uphill climb. Though it seems in 2021 in Iowa, the hill is getting steeper. Instead of building upon the progress made last year, Black History Month was marked with GOP legislation that is taking Iowa backwards. From an attempt to ban the 1619 Project as a resource in Iowa schools, eliminating voluntary diversity plans, and the proposed “Back the Blue” legislation, we are not following in the footsteps of the advances in justice made through The Plan for a More Perfect Union. The actions of this body stray far from the proud history that should light the way for Iowa’s future. We were the first state to desegregate public schools in 1868. Fifty years later, Black officers were the first in the nation to be trained for World War I at Fort Des Moines. Iowa's history, while not perfect, has strong roots in leading our nation in creating inclusive communities. Empty actions will be noticed. Policy that is discriminatory will be called out. It is time for the actions of Iowa leadership to go Beyond the Proclamation by:

• Expanding Iowa’s minority impact statements to all communities

• Addressing cannabis reform

• Implementing real anti-racial profiling legislation and supporting communities that seek to build meaningful relationships between law enforcement, brain health professionals, and communities of color and prioritizing Black maternal health.

Now that Black History Month has ended –we as Iowans must stay focused on the climb for justice. Now is the time to build a legacy of fairness and equity that will strengthen Iowa for generations to come.

Iowa received the expected large shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and the Governor publicly received her vaccine at a press conference. The eligibility requirements to get the vaccine have opened to Iowans 64 and younger who have pre-existing conditions.

**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 subcommittee with amendment to allow tow truck to use red/blue lights.

We are submitting an amendment to only allow tow trucks to use red/blue lights when stationary, NOT while driving.

Passed sub & full committee-ready for floor debate.

**PASSED FUNNEL**

**SF 72/SF 333 Emergency Responder**

(Koelker, Driscoll and Taylor)

Passed subcommittee

Passed full committee

Now on debate calendar

**HSB 190/HF 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.

PASSED FUNNEL

**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

PASSED FUNNEL

**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”

FUNNEL PROOF

**HSB #197 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.

**PASSEDFUNNEL**

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

**Passed sub and full committees**

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.

**PASSED FUNNEL**

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

passed Subcommittee (Guth, Celsi, and Goodwin) State Gov Committee

passed full committee

Ready for floor debate

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.

PASSED FUNNEL

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

House: A.Meyer, Forbes, Thorup

Passed sub and full committee

Senate: Rozenboom (C), Giddens, Kraayenbrink

Passed subcommittee

Passed 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.

PASSED FUNNEL

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

PASSED BOTH SUB AND FULL COMMITTEE

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.

Passed subcommittee. 3-0

PASSED FUNNEL

**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

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.

**PASSED FUNNEL**

**SF 192 COVID EXPENSES** (Nunn) (Human Resources)

NO ACTION THIS WEEK

Subcommittee of : Edler, Carlin and Trone-Garriott

Allows the Public Safety Commissioner to pay up to $1,000 in qualified expenses related to COVID for volunteer EMS workers. Establishes a presumption that certain expenses are

covered. Makes reimbursements on a first-come, first serve basis, to the extent that funds are available. Establishes a fund and contains related provisions.

The committee needs more research and data to determine if volunteer firefighters are covered on a city workers comp bill. We also explained that if the volunteer firefighter did not have other employment they would not have a worker’s comp bill to fall back on. If you have any scenarios about coverage for your members please let us know.

**DEAD**

**SF 249/HF 407 911 COSTS** (Edler) (State Government)

Senate: Cournoyer, Jochum, Reichman

Passed sub

House: NO ACTION

Strikes various current allocation methods related to 911 call costs. Requires a local exchange carrier to pay the cost for recurring monthly service. Requires the program manager to determine the points of ingress and egress and originating service providers to pay the associated costs.

**DEAD**

**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  
PASSED FUNNEL

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

Westridge, Wheeler, Oldson

Passed subcommittee

Passed full committee

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

PASSED FUNNEL

**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 FUNNEL

Remember you can contact your legislator by emailing them at:

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

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

[Pedersonconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:Pedersonconsulting@gmail.com)