

You need to know

- The American Rescue Plan was passed by the federal government. The [League's website](#) contains some details in regards to estimated city allocations and a fact sheet on use of funds. This information is preliminary as guidance is still being drafted by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The League will distribute these updates as this information becomes available.
- The second [Legislative Funnel](#) is April 2. To remain eligible for further consideration after Friday, a bill must have passed through committee in both chambers.
- Per-diem payments for legislators end on the 110th day of session, which is April 30. This will likely coincide with the end of session.

[HF 849](#) | Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Limitations

- Removes the distinction for Slum & Blight TIF by capping all TIF districts at 20 years in duration and ending any existing perpetual TIFs in 20 years. This bill may also impact existing agreements.
- The flexibility of TIF is what makes it such an important economic development tool statewide. It is also often a misunderstood economic development tool.
- Slum & Blight projects are currently given longer than 20 years because projects in those areas often take longer than economic development projects to show results.
- Eligible to be debated on the House floor, reach out to your House Representative to share how this impacts your city.
- The League is registered in opposition.

[SF 587](#) | Backfill Phase-Out, Elderly Property Tax Credit, Mental Health Funding

- Phases out the commercial and industrial property tax backfill for every city over either 4 or 6 years, depending on that city's valuation growth. Cities whose total taxable value (not counting gas and electric utilities) in FY21 was more than 31.14% higher than its FY14 value will receive the 4-year phase-out, while cities that have seen less growth receive the 6-year phase-out. You can [download the spreadsheet](#) to see if your city gets the 4-or 6-year plan. Note that there are two tabs in the downloadable spreadsheet.
- Creates a new elderly tax credit/property tax freeze for individuals who reach 70 years of age and earn less than 250% of the federal poverty level. The way the bill is currently drafted, cities' property tax revenues would be reduced by the amount of additional tax credit that would be required, above the amount that the state would otherwise fund for the traditional elderly tax credit. New applicants of the new elderly tax credit would be fully paid through city property tax reductions.
- This bill has many parts, several of which affect cities directly, a few which impact cities indirectly. You are encouraged to read the bill and reach out to League staff with questions to better understand the legislation and its impacts. Passed out of Appropriation Committee and will be eligible for debate by the full Senate as early as Monday, April 5.
- The League is registered opposed because of the removal of the backfill. You are encouraged to contact your Senator about any impacts on your community.

[SF 469](#) | Nonconforming Use

- Makes alterations to a city's ability to regulate nonconforming use of manufactured, modular and mobile housing. Passed out of the State Government Committee and will be eligible for consideration by the full House.
- Passed out of the State Government Committee and will be eligible for consideration by the full House.
- The League is registered undecided.

[SF 363](#) | Tobacco Device Retailer Permit

- Creates a permit for the sale of devices that are advertised as tobacco devices and are frequently used to smoke illicit drugs. This permit will cost \$1,500 and be paid to the city.
- Passed out of State Government and will be eligible for debate in the House.
- The League is registered in support.

[HF 822](#) | Regulation of Lobbyist for Public Entities

- Requires additional reporting and open records requirements on cities, counties, and schools that hire a lobbyist or have an elected or appointed official spend 10 hours or more in a month on lobbying.
- Passed out of the State Government committee in the Senate and will be eligible for consideration by the full Senate.
- The League is registered undecided.

[SF 590](#) | Land Banks

- Authorizes cities to create land banks for the purpose of rehabilitating and renewing areas that are continuously blighted.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.
- The League is registered in support.

[SF 443](#) | Abandoned Building Assistance

- Increases eligibility threshold for the Ground Water Protection Fund to cities with a population of 7,500 or less for assistance in dealing with abandoned buildings.
- The League continues to advocate for additional options and funding for cities across the state to deal with abandoned nuisance buildings within their communities.
- The League is registered undecided but will be supportive depending on how this is amended.

[HF 304](#) | Personal Delivery Devices

- Allows for personal delivery devices to be utilized by delivery services such as Amazon and FedEx. Allows cities to prohibit these devices within their jurisdictions for the purposes of public safety.
- Passed out of the Commerce Committee and will be eligible for consideration in the Senate.
- The League is registered undecided

Legislation to the Governor

[HF 555](#) | Natural Gas and Propane Preemption

Communication with your legislators is crucial to impacting policy in the State House. Take advantage of the local legislative forums listed below. Additionally, you can contact your legislative directly.

Contact Your Legislator

Legislative Forums

April 3

- [Guthrie Center Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Grinnell Legislative Coffee-virtual](#)
- [Muscatine Legislative Conversation-virtual](#)
- [Dubuque Cracker Barrel Legislative Forum-virtual](#)
- [Ottumwa Legislative Forum](#)
- [Greenfield Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Onawa Legislative Forum](#)

April 5

- [Martí's Weekly Monday Morning Coffee-virtual](#)

