

You need to know

- **The backfill is under threat.** We have reason to believe that removing the backfill is being privately negotiated. Your outreach is needed to your Representatives and Senators immediately. Contact your legislator and explain to them the importance of the backfill to the long-term financial stability of your community.
- **April 30 is the last day of legislative per diem.** This means legislators will no longer receive payment for their work and is typically an indication that the session is nearing completion.
- **Legislative Service Awards:** Has your legislator been great to work with this year? Do you feel they have been responsive and gone out of their way to represent the interests of your city while serving in the Iowa Legislature? Nominate them for the League's Legislative Service Award by [clicking here](#).
- **Register for a webinar on May 12 with Congressman Feenstra** as he discusses what's happening in D.C., the American Rescue Plan and possible future legislation. [Registration is required.](#)

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

- **Phasing out the backfill is unnecessary and does not need to be connected with other policy matters. It is not required for the state to properly budget for FY 2022 nor provide property tax relief by removing the mental health levy.** It is increasingly possible that the backfill phase-out will be combined with other legislation in an end-of-session deal.
- [A new fiscal note](#) shows the impact to local governments: \$52.5 million property tax replacement dollars removed from cities, and an impact to local governments that will exceed \$36.2 million by FY 2029 for the Elderly Property Tax Credit Expansion.
- Contact your House Representative and urge them to vote no on any proposal which phases out the backfill regardless of what else is in the legislation. It is likely that SF 587 is not the bill number that will ultimately be voted on.

Contact Your Legislator

[SF 363](#) | **Tobacco Device Retail Permit**

- Requires the seller of a tobacco device to obtain a permit prior to selling the device. The permit will cost \$1,500 and paid to the city for businesses located inside city limits.
- Passed out of the House Ways & Means Committee and will be eligible for consideration by the full House.
- The League is registered in support.

[HF 889 & SF 610](#) | **Vaccine Passport Ban**

- Prohibits a political subdivision or private business from requiring an individual to show proof of vaccination for COVID-19. Prohibits state funds from going to a political subdivision or private business if they violate this newly created regulation.
- The House version has passed the chamber and the Senate has passed out of the Commerce Committee and will be eligible for consideration by the full Senate.

[SF 612](#) | **Housing Trust Fund Annual Appropriation**

- Increases the cap on the appropriation to the Housing Trust Fund from \$3 million to \$5.5 million. This money is generated through the Real Estate Transfer Tax and goes toward affordable single-family and multi-unit housing projects.
- Passed out of subcommittee and will be eligible for the Appropriation Committee in the Senate.
- The League is registered in support.

[HF 797](#) | **MFPRSI (411) Benefit Increase**

- Provides increased benefits for MFPRSI public safety officers.
- Eligible to be voted on by the full Senate.
- The League is registered in opposition.

[SF 342](#) | **Public Safety Omnibus**

- Requires a public safety officer's accrued sick leave to be paid out upon retirement. Removes state funding for cities that prohibit or discourage the enforcement of state laws. Codifies qualified immunity. Enhances penalties involving assault or harassment of a public safety officer.
- Passed out of the House and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.
- The League is registered undecided.

Legislation Signed by the Governor

[HF 848](#) | **Broadband Grants**

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

Contact Your Legislator

Legislative Forums

May 3

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

The League is compiling resources and guidance on the American Rescue plan including allowable uses of funds, restrictions, documentation and other direction as they become available from the federal government. You can find these resources on the [League's website](#).

Additionally, League staff will be providing an update and answering questions on a Zoom presentation today at 11:30 a.m. [Registration is required.](#)