

February 19, 2021

You need to know

- [Census](#) numbers delayed again. The delay [disrupts state redistricting](#) plans, including Iowa's.
- The first legislative funnel is March 8. Find important legislative dates on the [Legislative Timetable](#).
- State attacks on local budgets and decision-making continue. Legislation that could impact a city's budget has been introduced, including bills that remove local decision-making over budgets and penalizing cities for working with large technology companies. [Make sure you are in contact with your legislators](#) and reminding them that local decision-making matters.

[HSB 194](#) | Tax Increment Finance: Removal of Slum & Blight Distinction

- The purpose of the legislation is to limit all future TIF districts, including those for slum and blight, to no more than 20 years. Reduces increment of TIF districts currently in excess of 20 years by 10% per year until it is zero.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the House Ways & Means Committee.
- The League is registered in opposition.

[SF 402](#) | Big Tech Regulation

- Prohibits the state and local governments from awarding incentives or benefits to companies that censor online. Deems these provisions should be interpreted broadly. Reduces aid to local governments that violate provisions.

[HSB 230 & SSB 1203](#) | Mandated Expenditures on Public Safety

- Prohibits local entities from receiving state funds if the entity has reduced the budget for a law enforcement agency under its control unless it is part of a total budget reduction or unless the entity has sufficient justification for doing.
- Similar provision is contained in the Governor's bill [SSB 1140](#).

[HF 417](#) | MFPRSI Benefit Expansion

- Expands pension benefits within the MFPRSI system: adds presumption for COVID-19 and allows certain claims indefinitely after separation.
- Passed out of committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered in opposition.

[SF 218](#) | Fees for Examining Public Records

- Prevents a city from charging for costs associated with redacting public records.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the House State Government Committee.
- The League is registered in opposition and is working to allow for "reasonable costs" to be collected.

[SSB 1126](#) | Propane and Natural Gas Preemption

- Creates a broad preemption that would restrict any number of practices perceived to be limiting the provision of utilities to customers.
- The League has concerns that the vague and broad language of this bill would have impacts much larger than is intended and is working to mitigate these impacts.
- Passed out of a subcommittee and is eligible for consideration by the House Commerce Committee.
- The League is registered in opposition.

[SSB 1114](#) | Definition of an Open Meeting

- Clarifies that discussion of budgetary issues is a policy for the purpose of conducting an open meeting. Clarifies that the 24-hour public meeting notice cannot include weekends or holidays.
- Passed out of State Government Committee and is eligible for consideration by the full Senate.
- The League is registered undecided.

[SSB 1089](#) | Broadband Omnibus

- Defines "facilitate" to mean a provider's ability to offer communications service at a commercially reasonable price.
- The League is advocating for "conduit" to be considered an essential corporate purpose like other infrastructure is. This would help expedite the rollout of fiber across the state at a reduced overall cost.
- Passed out of the Commerce Committee and is eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.

[SSB 1165](#) | Nonconforming Use

- Alters Iowa's "preexisting, nonconforming use" law as it relates to manufactured, modular and mobile homes.
- The League is registered undecided as members work through individual negotiations.
- Please review the bill and let us know what concerns you have for your community.

[HF 495](#) | Street Finance Report

- Changes the date that the street finance report is due from September 30 to December 1.
- Passed off the house floor and will be sent to the Senate, where it is currently eligible to be brought up on the Senate Floor.
- The League is registered in support.

[HF 418](#) | Multi-Residential Phase-Out

- Phases out the property tax classification of multi-residential and replaces it with residential once the rollback reaches the same percent as residential property.
- The League has worked to amend this legislation to prevent an unintended impact on workforce housing incentives and self-supported municipal improvement districts. The amendment was included in the bill that passed the House.
- Passed out of the House and sent to the Senate.

[HF 283](#) | Defrauding an Employment Drug Screening

- Creates a crime of defrauding a drug or alcohol test administered by any employer.
- Passed through the House and Senate and will now be sent to the Governor for her signature or veto.
- The League is registered in support.

[SSB 1178](#) | Peace Officer "Bill of Rights"

- Creates a required procedure for interviewing or reviewing certain complaints against peace officers.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the Senate State Government Committee.
- The League is registered undecided.

[HF 562](#) | Emergency Medical Service District Levy

- Allows for an emergency medical services district established by a county or city to levy an initial \$1 per thousand of valuation. After a referendum, the district can levy as much as is needed for the purpose of providing emergency medical services.
- Passed out of committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

[HF 313](#) | Minor Operated Business Preemption

- Prevents a city from regulating a business so long as the business is owned and operated by a minor and on a temporary basis.
- Passed out of the House and will be eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

[HF 582](#) | Governor's Housing Bill

- Creates new tax incentives for the purpose of expanding and improving Iowa's workforce housing stock.
- This legislation has passed through committee once and will need to be approved by the House Ways & Means Committee. It is currently eligible for that committee's consideration.
- The League is registered in support.

[SSB 1168](#) | Demolition Reserve Increase

- Increases the demolition reserve that insurers must maintain to the greater of \$20,000, or 20% of the value of the insured property and requests an interim study committee.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration by the full Senate Local Government Committee.
- The League is registered in support.

Other Legislation of Interest

- [SF 413](#) | Voting changes.
- [SSB 1195](#) | Working animal enterprise preemption.
- [HSB 204](#) | Alterations to port authorities.
- [HF 481](#), [HF 577](#) & [HF 578](#) | Restrictions on presidential executive orders.
- [HSB 197](#) | Length of service award program increase.
- [SSB 221](#) | Electronic posting of required notices.
- [SSB 1208](#) | Joint financing of telecommunications.

Legislative Forums

February 20

- [Fairfield Legislative Forum-virtual](#)
- [Rock Rapids Eggs & Issues Legislative Forum](#)
- [Albia Legislative Forum](#)
- [Arlington Town Hall](#)
- [Deyoe/Sweeney Town Hall-virtual](#)
- [LeClaire Legislative Forum](#)
- [Harlan Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Centerville Legislative Forum](#)
- [Linn County Legislative Forum-virtual](#)
- [Washington Legislative Briefing-virtual](#)
- [Decorah Legislative Forum](#)

February 22

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

February 26

- [Cedar Valley Legislative Forum-virtual](#)
- [Council Bluffs Legislative Coffee-virtual](#)
- [Cedar Rapids Public Policy Discussion-virtual](#)
- [Fort Dodge Eggs & Issues Legislative Forum-virtual](#)

