

February 5, 2021

You need to know

- Governor Reynolds released legislation that seeks to give the state more control over local government budgets.
- Broadband infrastructure discussed by the legislature. The League requests conduit be treated as an essential corporate purpose under Iowa Law.
- The legislature is moving [several bills involving child care](#). Proposals range from adding child care infrastructure to essential corporate purpose to tax credits for services.

[SSB 1140](#) | **Public Safety Minimum Expenditure Mandate**

- Section 1 makes a local government ineligible for state funding or federal grants through the state if the local government reduces the budget for law enforcement unless the reduction is part of a budget-wide cut or the local government can justify the reduction as laid out in the bill.
- There are more than 30 sections of the bill. Each section affects law enforcement practices and operations in a different way.
- The League is registered in opposition and will be working to mitigate this legislation's impacts on local government budgetary decision making as it moves through the legislative process.

[HSB 93 & SSB 1085](#) | **Multi-Residential Phase Out**

- Removes the nomenclature of "multi-residential" property and replaces it with residential. This change takes effect for FY23, the same year multi-residential property rollback would be equal to the residential rollback.
- The League has identified two unintended consequences that will negatively impact multi-unit workforce housing redevelopment and self-supported municipal improvement districts. We are working with the Iowa Department of Revenue and other stakeholders to amend the bill to prevent these impacts.
- Both pieces of legislation have passed subcommittee and are eligible for consideration in the Ways & Means Committee in their respective chambers.

[SSB 1114](#) | **Open Meeting Updates**

- Adds "budgetary duties" to the definition of a meeting. Requires notice to be sent to anyone who has requested notification. Clarifies that 24-hour meeting notice does not include weekends or holidays.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration by the Senate State Government Committee.
- 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 for providers.

[SF 112](#) | **Fruit Tree Property Tax Exemption**

- Makes alterations to the "fruit tree reservation" and "forest reservation" property tax exemption by applying limitations.
- Passed through subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the Senate Natural Resources and Environment Committee.
- The League is registered undecided.

[SF 143 & HF 59](#) | **Dog Breed Specific Ban Preemption**

- Prohibits a city from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that would ban a specific breed of dogs.
- The League is registered in opposition and is working with stakeholders on the issue to ensure local officials maintain the ability to address their constituent's concerns.
- A bill has been introduced in the House and referred to the Local Government Committee, but no further action has been taken.

[SSB 1058 & HF 304](#) | **Personal Delivery Devices**

- The House version includes language allowing cities to prohibit the use of PDD on all, or specific, roads and pedestrian areas within its jurisdiction. Passed out of Committee and is eligible for Floor debate.
- The Senate version has passed out of subcommittee with the recommendation for an amendment which will conform to the House version.
- The League registered undecided.

[SF 252 & HSB 171](#) | **Source of Income for Housing Preemption**

- Prohibits cities and counties from adopting ordinances that prohibit landlords from refusing to accept federal housing vouchers and makes any such ordinance void.
- The Senate version has passed through subcommittee and Committee and is eligible for Floor debate.
- The House has not met on this legislation yet.
- The League is registered in opposition.

[HF 248](#) | **Emergency Response Districts**

- Sections 1-5 allows cities to form emergency response districts to regionalize public safety services.
- Section 6 would require that any city that has a Regent University must have a full-time and professional fire department that is separate from the police department.
- The League is in support of sections 1-5 and opposing section 6.

[HSB 54](#) | **MFPRSI (411) Benefits**

- **Accidental Benefits:** Makes changes to the definition of ordinary disability/accidental benefit. The expected result would be more accidental disability determinations.
- Removes the "**definite time and place**" requirement for an accidental disability or accidental death benefit. Modifies the definition of injury/illness to include cumulative injuries, including mental health.
- Modifies the presumption language to include pandemics such as COVID-19.
- This proposal allows for work-related or presumed **medical claims which are learned about in post-separation or post-retirement to be covered by the city**, with no time limit. This addition would increase the city cost burden significantly.
- Raises the employee contribution rate from 9.40% to 9.55%.
- Modifies language to allow cities to use employee health insurance plans to cover medical costs, providing the employing city pays all costs related to the insurance such as copays and deductibles.
- Passed out of House State Government Committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.

[SSB 1046](#) | **License Deregulation Omnibus**

- Reduces regulatory burden on non-medical professional licenses and also preempts local governments from licensing individuals.
- Passed through subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the Senate State Government Committee.
- The League is registered undecided.

[SSB 1091](#) | **Street Report Date Change**

- Changes the date that a city must submit the Street Finance Report to the Iowa Department of Transportation. The current date is September 30, and the proposed date is December 1.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration in the Senate Transportation Committee.
- The League is registered in support.

Other Legislation of Interest

- [SSB 1165](#) | Regulation of non-conforming use by cities and counties
- [HF 213](#) | Entertainment district tax
- [SF 218](#) | Fees for public records
- [HF 346](#) | Public funded lobbyist regulation

Legislative Forums

February 6

- [Guthrie Center Legislative Coffee](#)
- [VIRTUAL - Grinnell Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Denver Town Hall](#)
- [VIRTUAL - Linn County Town Hall](#)
- [VIRTUAL - Ames & Story County Legislative Wake-up](#)
- [VIRTUAL - Dubuque Cracker Barrel Legislative Forum](#)
- [VIRTUAL - Carroll Legislative Forum](#)
- [Greenfield Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Frederika Town Hall](#)

