

You need to know

- Your outreach is needed on [HF 555](#), propane and natural gas preemption. The bill, as drafted, would impact your city's ability to enter into franchise agreements, zoning ordinances.
- Federal legislators passed a COVID-19 relief package which includes a direct payment to all cities. Amounts, restrictions on the funds, and details regarding what you should expect will be coming in the following weeks.
- The second Legislative Funnel is April 2. Things will start moving very quickly. Bills that have passed out of one chamber need to pass out of a committee in the other chamber before the second funnel to remain "alive." Some bills, such as Ways & Means and Appropriations, are funnel proof.

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

- The legislation is drafted very broadly, likely having negative consequences beyond the goal of the legislation.
- The League has requested but has not received amendments that would protect right-of-way management, the exercise of franchise authority, and the purchase or procurement of energy services for property under the control of a political subdivision.
- This legislation is eligible for debate as soon as Monday, March 15. Please contact your legislators and share how important your gas franchise agreements are and that this could impact that revenue.

[HSB 194](#) | [Tax Increment Finance](#)

- 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.
- The League sent an email directly to cities that are represented by House Ways & Means Representatives. [You are encouraged to reach out to your legislators](#) on how this legislation would impact your community.
- Eligible to be brought up in the House Ways & Means Committee.

[HF 797](#) | [MFPRSI \(411\) Benefits](#)

- A new bill was introduced, moved through subcommittee, committee, and voted out of the House in exactly one week.
- This legislation is similar but not identical to the previous bill, which increased MFPRSI [Code of Iowa Chapter 411](#) benefits.
- Passed out of the House and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

[HF 812](#) | [Port Authority Alterations](#)

- Provides more flexibility to [Code of Iowa Chapter 28J](#), port authorities.
- Passed out of subcommittee and is eligible for consideration by the House Ways & Means Committee.
- The League is registered undecided.

[HF 683](#) | [Emergency Response Districts](#)

- Sections 1-5 allow a city to create a benefited fire district. However, section 6 would require a city which contains a Regent University to have a distinct police and fire department.
- Passed out of the House and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.
- The League is registered in opposition due to section 6 and will be working to remove that section from the bill.

[SF 479](#) | [Minimum Expenditures on Public Safety](#)

- This bill interjects the state Executive Branch into local budgetary decisions and is an overreach of state authority. Prohibits local entities from receiving state funds if the entity has reduced the law enforcement budget under its control unless the reduction is part of a total budget reduction or unless the entity has "sufficient justification" for doing so as determined by the unelected Iowa Department of Management.
- Passed out of the Senate and will be sent to the House for consideration.
- You are encouraged to reach out to your legislators and invite them to participate in the local budget-making process as a constituent and respectfully request the local budget-making process remain under local control.

[SF 476](#) | [Public Safety Liability](#)

- Codifies "qualified immunity" for public safety employees and extends this liability for municipalities so long as the employee is protected. Creates the Peace Officer and Emergency Personnel Bill of Rights in the Iowa Code.
- Passed out of the Senate and will be sent to the House for consideration.
- The League is registered undecided.

[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 Senate and will be sent to the House for consideration.
- The League is registered undecided.

Legislation Signed by the Governor

[HF 418](#) | Multi-Residential Property Phaseout

[HF 283](#) | Defrauding a Drug Test

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

March 13

- [Des Moines Coffee with Legislators-virtual](#)
- [Creston Legislative Coffee-virtual](#)
- [Altoona Coffee Chat-virtual](#)
- [Des Moines Legislative Forum-virtual](#)

March 15

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

