

March 5, 2021

## You need to know

- **First Legislative Funnel:** To remain eligible, a bill must have passed through a full committee.
- **Many bills are advancing which would need to be paid for by property taxes or would remove local control**, including state mandated minimum expenditures, pension expansion, removal of public safety tools, removing the ability to charge for legal review of records requests and the potential removal of franchise fees on natural gas.

### SF 402 | Big Tech Regulations

- 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.
- Passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee and is eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.
- The League is registered in opposition.

### SF 455 | 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.

### HSB 194 | Tax Increment Finance

- Eligible to be brought up in the House Ways & Means Committee. 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.

### HF 778 | Vacant School Building Demolition Grant

- Creates a grant through the IEDA for the abatement of vacant school buildings paid for with [SAVE funds](#).
- Passed out of the House Economic Growth Committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

### HSB 133 | Broadband Funding

- 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.

### HSB 268 | MFPRSI (411) Benefits

- A new bill number was introduced, moved through subcommittee and committee, and is expected to be the piece of legislation voted on by the House in the coming weeks. 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 State Government Committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided as we work with members to analyze the new bill.

### HF 346 | Lobbying by Political Subdivisions

- Adds restrictions and procedures that cities must follow if they hire a lobbyist or have a city official lobby on the city's behalf for more than 10 hours in a calendar month.
- Passed out of House State Government Committee and will be eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

### SF 516 | Automated Traffic Enforcement Ban

- Bans all traffic enforcement cameras operating in the state with one exception.
- Passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.
- The League is registered in opposition.

### SSB 1237 | Cost of Public Measures on the Ballot

- Makes several changes to election procedures in regards to public measures. Specifically, it would require the county to send mail to each registered voter with the impact the measure could have on property taxes.
- Passed Senate State Government Committee and is eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

### HF 481 | Enforcement of Executive Orders

- Prevents a political subdivision of the state from implementing or enforcing a federal executive order if the executive order would limit the rights of individuals.
- Passed through the House State Government Committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

### HSB 266 | Public Safety Omnibus

- Provides increased benefits to "public safety" employees. Alters workers' compensation benefits. Adjust liability for cities and public safety employees. Requires a city to purchase insurance for certain tort claims.
- Passed out of the House Public Safety Committee and will be eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

### SF 497 | Peace Officer Bill of Rights

- This is one of several proposals being dubbed as "Back the Blue" legislation. Creates a "Peace Officer Bill of Rights," increases penalties for certain crimes involving actions taken against a public safety officer, requires cities to purchase civil liability insurance and provides civil liability protections for peace officers.
- Passed out of the House Public Safety Committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered undecided.

### SF 536 | Demolition Reserve

- Increase the demolition reserve requirement from \$10k to \$20k, or 10% of the building cost, whichever is greater. Also allows a city to pursue demolition cost through civil action.
- Passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee and is eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.
- The League is registered in support.

### SF 552 | Delinquent Municipal Utility Collections

- Strikes a requirement for landlords to give the name of a tenant who is responsible for paying delinquencies to a municipal utility in order for the landlord to be exempt from liens. Allows a landlord to withhold a security deposit to pay for utility delinquencies.
- Passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee and is eligible for consideration on the Senate Floor.

### SF 535 & HSB 756 | Firearm Preemption Addition

- Makes several changes to firearm laws, including adding the word "carrying" to the list of firearm issues cities are preempted from regulating.
- Respective bills passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the House Public Safety Committee and will be eligible for consideration by the full chambers.
- The League is registered undecided.

### SF 480 & HF 786 | Cost of Redacting Public Records

- The Senate version would prohibit a city from collecting the costs of redacting public records from the individual requesting the record. This cost would be transferred onto property taxes.
- The House version was amended and allows for legal fees to be collected but has additional burdens on the process.
- Passed out of State Government Committees in the House and Senate and will be eligible for consideration by the respective chambers.
- The League is registered in opposition and working to allow for reasonable costs to be collected.

### HSB 204 | Port Authority Alterations

- Provides more flexibility to [Code of Iowa Chapter 28J](#), port authorities.
- Passed out of the House Economic Growth Committee and is eligible for consideration on the House Floor.
- The League is registered in support.

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 legislators directly.

[Contact Your Legislator](#)

## Legislative Forums

### March 6

- [Guthrie Center Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Grinnell Legislative Coffee-virtual](#)
- [Linn County Town Hall-virtual](#)
- [Ames & Story County Legislative Wake-Up-virtual](#)
- [Waukee Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Devoe/Sweeney Town Hall-virtual](#)
- [Ottumwa Legislative Forum](#)
- [Carroll Legislative Forum-virtual](#)
- [Greenfield Legislative Coffee](#)
- [Onawa Legislative Forum](#)

### March 8

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



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