



Under the Golden Dome #9

This Week at the Capitol:

Hi Friends,

Last week I mentioned “funnel week” but had never experienced the full impact. Experienced legislators tell of meetings lasting long hours into the night, and now I know first-hand what they mean.

Our State Government Committee meeting began Thursday at 1PM and gaveled out at 12:30AM Friday.

Most of our legislation passes the House nearly unanimously after much debate in our respective Caucuses, the sub-committees, and then full committees. However, some measures are much more contentious. The media followed the floor debate this week as we hammered out bills that will help protect our children. I received hundreds of emails both in favor of the bills and opposed. Many of the opposing letters relied on misinformation from a variety of sources.

Here is what we voted for:

- restrict K-12 schools from providing graphic pornography which is illegal in any other setting
- protect children from aggressive, irreversible surgeries until age 18
- include parents in the conversations concerning their children
- restrict sexual content from K-6 settings

Nothing in any of these bills restricts a child from talking about an LGBTQ+ family.

Any bullying will be addressed with current anti-bullying rules.

Intentional distortion by some groups tried to apply the phrase “Don’t say Gay.”

After age 18, the decision to pursue gender-transition surgery would reside with the individual. We already recognize that children should be protected from alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, and many other activities until they are mature enough to decide for themselves even if parents approve of such activities. It is well-documented that a child’s brain continues to mature into the early 20s.

Below I've selected of few bills from the 30 pages of legislation awaiting House action:

State Government Had a Busy Funnel Week

The State Government Committee continues to work hard passing 30 bills out of the committee. These bills will continue to move through the legislative process in the Senate, meanwhile the committee will work on legislation passed by the Senate. Here are just a few of the titles:

HF 333/HSB 145 - IPIB: Complaints filed expanded from 60 to 90 days

Iowa Public Information Board bill to extend the period an aggrieved party may file a complaint with the Board alleging a violation of the open meetings or public records laws.

HF 265 – Midwives

Creates the licensure of midwives and allow licensed midwives the ability to obtain necessary screening and testing for clients, and the administration of specific medication for clients.

HF 336/HF 34 - Commissioners of a Convention of States

Creates a chapter in Iowa Code regarding what commissioners selected to represent Iowa at a Constitutional Convention are authorized to consider and not consider.

HF 350/HSB 144 - IPIB: Public Record Requests

Iowa Public Information Board bill to create more direct acknowledgement and provide estimated times and costs for fulfilling a public records request.

HF 497/HF 263 - Clarifying open meeting laws in relation to public events

Clarifies in code that when a political party or civic organization hosts an event and 3 members or less of a governmental body are in attendance it is not a meeting subject to open meetings laws.

HF 470/HF 356 – Elections

Establishes conformity and minimum standards for recount processes across all 99 counties. Requires absentee ballot envelopes to include the voter's signature and ID completing the circle of ID requirements for the voter.

HF 2 – ESGs

Requires public funds to act only in the best financial interest of the fund and its beneficiaries.

HSB 126 – State Government Alignment

Realigns government agencies and services that have similar and/or complimentary functions for providing services for Iowans. The state government will reduce the number of cabinet-level departments from 37 to 16 while maintaining all the services currently provided to Iowans.

Labor and Workforce Committee Funnel Survivors

House File 460/House Study Bill 179—Private Sector Employee Drug Testing

Allows the employer to designate what a “safety-sensitive” position is. Allows the employer to offer and the employee to choose to receive electronic communication.

House File 578/House Study Bill 201—State Employee Parental Leave

A state employee will receive paid leave for the birth or adoption of a child if the leave is taken within 12 months following the birth or adoption.

Local Government Pushes Through Funnel Week

The House Local Government Committee passed 18 bills. These funnel week survivors range from streamlining county government services to proving funding to volunteer firefighters. Here are 3 that may impact our county and small towns.

HF 314/HF 75 - Compensation Boards

Gives county boards of supervisors the ability to dissolve county compensation boards. The board of supervisors would then carry out the duties of the compensation board as prescribed in code.

HF340/HF 193/HSB 19 – Length of Service Award Program

A program allowing municipalities to provide a tax deferred award to volunteer firefighters, emergency medical care providers, and reserve peace officers.

HF 546/HF 126 - EMAs Levying authority

Gives local emergency management commissions the authority to levy a countywide special tax to fund the local emergency management agency. No longer funded through supplemental county level.

Veterans Affairs Bills Advance

The House Veterans Affairs Committee passed 7 bills that survived the first funnel. Below are some of the important bills that advanced to support veterans in the state.

HF 582 – Hunting with Disabilities - This bill provides veterans injured in military service certain discounts on hunting licenses and allows the use of a crossbow while hunting with a tag during archery season.

HF 141 – Property Tax Evaluation - This bill increases the property tax exemption from \$1,852 of taxable value to \$4,000 of taxable value for all honorably discharged veterans of Iowa.

HF 163 – Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit - This bill creates additional homestead tax credits for disabled veterans by making the percentage of their homestead tax credit equal to their disability rating.

HF 574 – Hyperbaric Oxygen Pilot - This bill establishes a veteran’s recovery pilot program and fund to allow for the free treatment of veterans with PTSD or traumatic brain injury with hyperbaric oxygen treatment.



Pastor Mike Morgon from Marion United Methodist.



Sharing Freshman experiences.



Republican Representatives from around the state.

Have a great weekend, Cindy