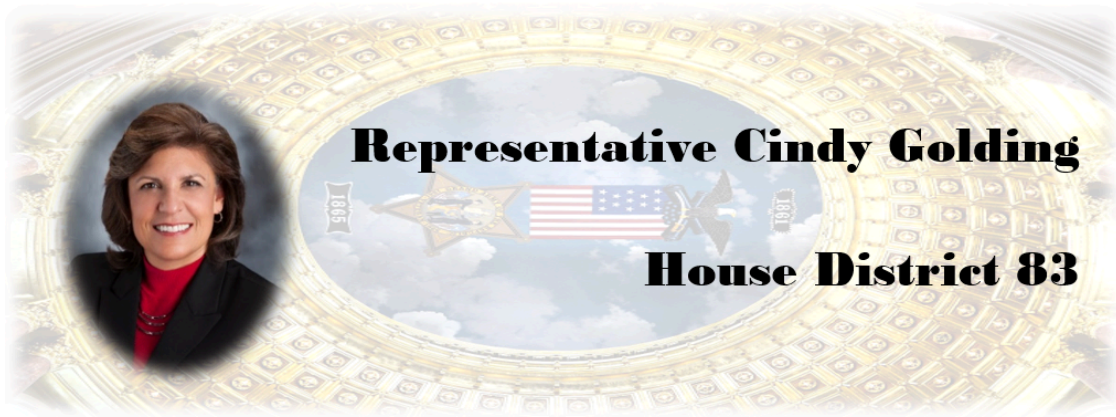


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Under the Golden Dome

Week #13 - 2024

Hi Friends,

The 90th General Assembly is nearing the end. Each General Assembly includes the first year of 110 days and the final year of 100 days. The General Assembly cannot dismiss (Sic Die) until the budget is finalized and passed to the Governor. The budget must be done by June 30. As an incentive to complete business in a timely fashion, the per diem paid to legislators ends on the official date, which is April 16 this year. Last year we went over by one week. My hope is that we come to agreement on budget bills by the scheduled date.

The effect of this deadline is a rush of legislation in the last days. The Appropriations and Ways & Means committees have been working hard to find compromise among all the stakeholders.

These bills are the implementation of taxes and fees (Ways & Means) or funding (Appropriations) for the various policies we passed this year or in prior sessions.

Occasionally, while moving these bills through committee, something is “slipped in” that was missing when the policy bill was passed. On the other hand, sometimes important details are deleted. As I have frequently stated, “The Devil is in the details.” While compromise is necessary, sometimes it defeats the purpose of the legislation. Every evening I take a stack of proposed legislation to read before voting the next day. Occasionally I find surprises.

Here is a quick reminder of how a bill becomes law. Quite frankly, I thought I knew how it worked but these two years have been a daily learning process for me.

So let me take you through the journey of a bill in the Iowa State House:

- 1) Idea proposed and written up in bill format by LSA (Legislative Service Agency)*
- 2) Given to House Leadership to assign to a committee*

5) If passed by full committee, then Leader brings to floor for vote of the House

*** may be amended or stopped at each step before floor vote*

6) If passed by House, then referred to Senate

7) Repeat #2 through #6 in Senate

8) If amended in the Senate, the bill returns to the House to be passed again

9) If a policy bill is passed by both Chambers, the bill then goes to the Governor to sign

Next Step - Budget Process

10) Any bill that has money involved - tax, fees - sent to Ways & Means

11) Any bill that requires funding goes to Appropriations

13) Repeat #2 through #6 in both Chambers

***May be amended, stopped, or completely changed by a "Strike After" amendment*

The Final budget includes all Ways & Means and Appropriations budget bills approved by both House and Senate.

We are at #10 - #13 in the above process. If you have tried to follow a particular bill and found it difficult or confusing, it is! I have learned that almost anything can happen.

Some Highlights of Iowa House Week #13

to read the bill, click on the bill number

SF 2391: Meat Integrity Act - if it's not meat, it should not say that it is meat. If it's not an egg, it shouldn't be labeled as an egg. These new labeling requirements are applied in the processing stage, not in the grocery store. Iowa is a top state for meat and egg production and all products processed in Iowa will need to be labeled correctly.

Waiting for Senate action.

HF 2618: Early Literacy Bill - requires teacher education programs to make the Foundation of Reading assessment an integral piece of their training. It requires parents to be notified if their child is not reading proficiently in grades 1-6. Parents will have the option to retain their child in the current grade level if they choose.

Waiting for Senate action.

HF 2674: Rural Development Tax Credit Program - creates tax credits awarded by the IEDA (Iowa Economic Development Agency) for specific capital contributions made to certified rural business growth funds for investment in qualified businesses.

Waiting for Senate action.

SF 2251: Postpartum Coverage - expands Medicaid postpartum coverage from 2 months to one year after birth.

Waiting for Senate action.

***SF 2251** builds on the Legislature's efforts to support new mothers. In the last few sessions, we have expanded maternal regional centers of excellence, funded family medicine obstetric*

A Founding Father's Quote for today

“Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.”

Benjamin Franklin

November 11, 1755

How will you choose to get involved?

I am running once again so that I may continue as a voice for rural and small town Iowa. Many of the issues that come before the House need the perspective that differs from the perspectives of our larger neighbors. I provide that perspective ... and I always listen, even when we don't agree, I respect your opinion.

It is an honor to serve as your State Representative and I appreciate your support.

Please stay in touch!

Go to CindyGolding.com or

Email me at cindy.golding@legis.iowa.gov or

Call me at 319-360-1028

Have a wonderful week!

Cindy



We are blessed to have Pastors pray over us in the Capitol. These folks are from House District 83.



Jaia was at TeenPack. She came into the Chamber to pray over us.



Having some fun with Herky and Luana.



Alex Tovstanovsky, owner of Sky Auto, shared his story about escaping communism in Ukraine.



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