



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

Iowa's County Conservation System

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ABBREVIATIONS: H=House, S=Senate, HF=House File, SF=Senate File, HSB=House Study Bill, SSB=Senate Study Bill, CR=Concurrent Resolution, JR=Joint Resolution, NRC=Natural Resource (& Env in the S) Comm, HEPC=House Environmental Protection, CC= Commerce, LGC=Local Gov't, EdC=Education, SGC=State Gov't, TC=Transportation, WMC=Ways & Means, AC=Appropriations, JC=Judiciary, AgC=Ag, AgNRAS-Ag & Natural Resources Appropriation Subcom (a joint Senate & House subcom), HPSC=House Public Safety, EG=Economic Growth/Rebuild Iowa, VA=Veterans Affairs.

Phone numbers to reach your Senator is **515/281-3371** & for your Representative is **515/281-3221**. To access bills, E-Mail address for legislators, & other info, go to <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HOMEPAGE: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/index.aspx>

FIND YOUR LEGISLATOR LINK: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx>

COMMITTEE LIST LINK: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/committeeInfo.aspx>

AUDIO/VIDEO LINK: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/Schedules/InChambersOld.aspx>

PUBLIC FORUMS. This link was provided by the Senate Democrats: http://www.senate.iowa.gov/democrats/forumschedule/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+IowaSenateDemocrats+%28Iowa+Senate+Democrats%29

WEEK ONE

Speeches were the standard of the week – legislative leadership, Governor Branstad and Chief Justice Cady. Legislative comments included: Medicaid expansion and health care/insurance, education reform, jobs and job training, fiscal discipline, tax relief and reform, and reduce burdensome regulations. House Minority Leader McCarthy made the only mention of natural resource issues - “focus on ... a clean environment” and “Also, let us work together to ensure clean air and clean water and fully fund the programs that maintain our trails, watersheds, and maintain our state parks.”

GOVERNOR’S STATE OF THE STATE MESSAGE. He focused on property tax reduction, education reform, job creation and health care.

GOVERNOR’S BUDGET FOLLOWS ON PG 2.

Some Issues of Note (FY '14 and FY '15:

Water Trails	\$0	\$0
Recreation Trails	\$0	\$2.5 mil
Lake Restoration	\$1 mil	\$6 mil
REAP	\$12 mil	\$12 mil
Soil Cons Cost-share	\$6.65 mil	\$6.65 mil
Fish & Game TF	\$41.1 mil	\$41.1 mil

The Governor’s Budget is only the start of the process as the numerous budget subcommittees will start the process of developing the budget bills that will be debated by the House and Senate. In 2012, both the House & Senate issued General Fund budget targets that were under the Governor’s level.

If you see funding issues of concern, now is the time to start talking with your legislators.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET ...

General Fund (GF)	FY '14	FY '15
DNR		
Operations	\$12.517 mil	\$12.517 mil
Floodplain Mgt	\$2 mil	\$2 mil
Forestry Health	\$0.1 mil	\$0.1 mil
AG		
Fish & Game Trust Fund	\$41.078 mil	\$41.078 mil
Env First Fund (EFF)	\$42 mil (RIIF)	\$42 mil (RIIF)
DNR		
REAP	\$12 mil	\$12 mil
Volunteers	\$0.1 mil	\$0.1 mil
Parks Operations	\$6.810 mil	\$4.810 mil
GIS - Watersheds	\$0.195 mil	\$0.195 mil
Water Monitoring	\$2.955 mil	\$2.955 mil
Water Protection	\$0.5 mil	\$0.5 mil
Animal Regulation	\$1.12 mil	\$1.12 mil
Air Monitoring	\$0.425 mil	\$0.425 mil
Water Quality Reg	\$0.495 mil	\$0.495 mil
Geological Survey	\$0.2 mil	\$0.2 mil
Winterset Water Utility	\$1 mil	\$1 mil
AG		
Water Qual Nutrient Mgt	\$2.4 mil	\$4.4 mil
Cons Res Enhancement	\$1 mil	\$1 mil
Watershed Protection	\$0.9 mil	\$0.9 mil
Farm Mgt Demo	\$0.625 mil	\$0.625 mil
Soil Cons	\$2.55 mil	\$2.55 mil
Ag Drainage Wells	\$0.55 mil (+ \$1 mil below)	\$0.55 mil (+ \$1 mil below)
Cons Reserve	\$1 mil	\$1 mil
Soil Cost Share	\$6.65 mil	\$6.65 mil
Iowa FFA	\$0	\$0
Local Food Program	\$0	\$0
Loess Hills/Hungry Canyons	\$0.525 mil	\$0.525 mil
Recreation Trails	\$0	\$2.5 mil (RIIF)
Water Trails	\$0	\$0
Lake Restoration	\$1 mil (RIIF)	\$6 mil (RIIF)
Lake Delhi	\$2.5 mil (RIIF)	\$0
State Park Infrastructure	\$5 mil (RIIF)	\$5 mil (RIIF)
Osceola Reservoir	\$1 mil (RIIF)	\$1 mil (RIIF)
Watershed Improvement Bd	0	0
Great Places	\$0.150 (GF)	\$0.150 (GF)
Great Places	\$1 mil (RIIF)	\$5 mil (RIIF)
Historic Sites	\$0.426 mil (GF)	\$0.426 mil (GF)
Comm Attractions &		
Tourism	\$5 mil (RIIF)	0
Ag Drainage Wells	\$1 mil (RIIF)	\$1 mil (RIIF)
U of IA Flood Center	\$0	\$0
Snowmobile Fees to DNR	\$0.1 mil	\$0.1 mil
Groundwater Protection	\$3.446 mil	\$3.446 mil

Tourism Marketing \$0.81 mil

*The DM Register also reported \$0 for the DNR Dam Safety Inspection Program.

*5 new DNR inspectors for animal regulation.

GOVERNOR'S PROPERTY TAX PROPOSAL ...

Fully funds the Homestead Tax Credit and the Elderly and Disabled Tax Credit in fiscal year 2014. Permanently change the school finance formula so that "allowable growth" will be replaced by 100% state aid. Stop any future tax shifts between classes of property by tying the classes together in one combined rollback.

This legislation will take the current four percent cap on valuation growth for residential property and agricultural land to two percent, and apply it to all classes of property. If left unchecked, current law will allow property taxes to grow by over two billion dollars in the next eight years. Permanently reduces commercial and industrial property tax values by 20% over a four-year period and provides direct funding for local governments to replace 100% of the property tax revenue.

SNRC ISSUES UNDER CONSIDERATION.

Hunting and fishing license increase, chronic wasting disease (CWD) focusing on captive herds (double fencing, increased fence height, increased bonding or insurance, increased fees, increased penalties for stock getting out of captivity), drought, flood preparedness, water quality, boat registration fee use for invasive species and water safety enforcement and forest invasive species. Senator Breitbach thanked the General Assembly for the Lake Delhi funding and that the DNR has given the local group a contract to review for the proposed project for the use of the state funding. An update was requested to be presented to the committee that would discuss recreation access, sanitary sewer issues, etc.

HNRC ISSUES. Chronic wasting disease in deer. The captive deer breeders will be presenting to the committee. Representative Baudler expressed his concern regarding captive deer infecting wild deer with CDW and the high cost to the State and DNR. Drought and low water conditions were of concern to Comm Chair Rayhons.

\$0.81 mil

NATURAL RESOURCES & OUTDOOR REC ...

HF 42, SENIOR CAMPING FEES. Requires the DNR to discount camping and other fees for special privileges that it sets by at least 50% for Iowa residents 60 or older. HNRC. Will delete until further action.

SF 10, WATERCRAFT FEES. Extends the requirement that increases from raising watercraft registration fees be used for aquatic invasive plant control, navigation laws and water safety to 2023. SNRC.

SSB 1003, DNR MATTERS. Strikes the requirement that an ATV or snowmobile title application be notarized. Strikes the Restore the Outdoors program. Adds palustrine emergent wetland as a protected wetlands. Strikes some provisions on the power of the DNR to designate protected wetlands and on procedures for the affected landowners to challenge such a designation. SNR subcom-Brase, Breitbach, Dearden.

SSB 1006, HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES. Allows a nonresident member of the armed forces on active duty living in Iowa to purchase resident hunting, fishing and trapping license. Does not require an active duty armed forces personnel or who served and received an honorable discharge to complete a hunter safety course. Allows a person over the age of 18 to complete an on-line hunter safety course without demonstrating the safe handling of a gun. Allows certain minor pupils at state institutions; persons at county care centers and certain persons receiving supplementary aid to fish without a license. SNR subcom-Dearden, Black, Johnson.

ENVIRONMENT & AG ...

HF 11, SMART PLANNING. Strikes the Smart Planning principles established in Code. HLGC. Unlikely to be adopted by the Senate. Will delete until further action.

HF 48, SOLAR & GEOTHERMAL VALUATIONS. Strikes the 10-year limit for the property tax exemption for the value of geothermal heating and cooling systems and the 5-year limit for the solar systems. States that the obligation for the state to reimburse local governments for the cost of property tax credits and exemptions do not apply to these provisions. HWMC.

SF 4, UNIV OF IA SOLAR FACILITIES. Appropriates \$3.1mil from the GF in FY 13 to the regents in order to build solar facilities at the U of I. Allows the retention of unspent funds through FY18. SNRC. If adopted, will need to go through the SAC. Will delete until further action.

SF 7, ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET. Adds oriental bittersweet to the list of prohibited invasive plants (noxious weed list). SNRC.

SSB 1004, WASTE MANAGEMENT. Amends waste management procedures, including updating definitions and dates. Eliminates redundant language and specific duty provisions. Establishes a new general duty for the DNR in regards to waste management. SNR subcom-Ragan, Black, Rozenboom. Will not cover further.

SSB 1005, WATER QUALITY. Strikes the requirement for the publication of notice in newspapers for NPDES stormwater and allowable nonstormwater permits. Allows aquatic herbicides to be applied according to EPC rules. Allows an applicant for a permit to divert, withdraw or store water to apply for additional time to provide information without incurring another fee. Awards such a permit by default if the DNR does not award or deny an application within 90 days of receipt. Strikes the requirement that a borrower under the on-site waster system program live outside a city. Strikes certain DNR reporting requirements related to the program. SNR subcom-Schoenjahn, Greiner, Seng.

LOCAL GOVT & OTHER ...

HF 23, WEARING SEAT BELTS. Requires the driver and all passengers to use seat belts. Makes exceptions and requires the DOT to adopt rules on exceptions. HPSC. Will not cover further.

HF 24, GOLF CARTS. Allow county supervisors to authorize the use of golf carts in communities in unincorporated portions of a county under conditions similar to the rules allowing golf carts to be authorized on roads in incorporated communities. HTC. Will not cover further.

HJR 3, FIFTY COUNTIES. Proposes a constitutional amendment to reduce the number of counties to no more than 50. Requires the Legislature reduce the number to no more than 50 by statute if voluntary merger not accomplished by July 1, 2017. Will delete until further action.

SF 15, PUBLIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING. Requires the state & local governments to allow Iowa businesses the chance to match a low bid from an out-of-state business if the Iowa company bid is within 5% or \$10,000, whichever is lower, and the project is less than \$500,000. Excludes certain projects and services. Requires that Iowa companies disclose their Iowa relationship. SEGC.

HSB 15, SSB 1034, PARKING FEES & CHARGES. Among other items, makes the docketing fee for parking violations \$35. Requires agencies that have their own debt collection process to pay 10% of the collections to the State Court Administrator. HJ subcom-Hess, Lensing, Worthan.

SSB 1037, CRIMINAL CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS. Strikes the authority of judges to order charitable contributions in lieu of community service. Prohibits allowing charitable contributions as a sentencing option. SJ subcom-Courtney, Petersen, Sorenson.