



## Legislative Focus

March 23, 2018 | Volume XVI, Edition 11



### **MBI priority sent to Governor; FY' 18 deappropriations bill clears way for remaining budget decisions**

Gov. Reynolds' top priority, Future Ready Iowa, will be arriving on her desk in short order after this week. It is a rarity to have a bill pass unanimously in both the House and Senate, but that's what happened here. Future Ready Iowa, and strengthening our workforce in

general, were outlined by the MBI board as priorities before session started and we're thankful for the legislators that came together in a bipartisan fashion. In addition, a second priority of MBI's, the SAVE extension passed unanimously through the Senate Ways and Means Committee and is eligible for debate on the floor. We expect the House to move next week in the Ways and Means Committee.

A deappropriations bill also passed to address a general fund shortfall for the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2018. On a party line vote, the deappropriations bill cuts \$25 million in funding to state agencies and repurposed \$10 million in economic development incentives to cover the shortfall. Getting over this hurdle is a big step in moving to the next budget decision--the FY '18 budget which begins July 1, 2018. Things are really moving quickly now...

## Legislative News

Mechanics' Lien up next in the Senate:

- [House File 2233](#) has passed the House, and awaits consideration in the Senate. As we noted last week, concerns on the bill have been brought up by supplier organizations on the 30-day notification piece for public projects. We have worked through those concerns, essentially eliminating public highway, culvert or bridge projects from notification requirements. The compromise worked out hopefully will allow the bill to be passed next week in the Senate, back to the House, and then on to the Governor's desk. Hopefully is the key word here.



SAVE Extension passes the Senate Ways and Means Committee unanimously

- The Senate's version of the SAVE extension ([Senate File 2216](#)) passed the full Senate Ways and Means Committee unanimously on Wednesday. This is a big step in the process and is now ready for consideration on the floor. Senators on both sides of the aisle have worked hard on this legislation, and it is appreciated by MBI.
- The House is expected to consider their own SAVE extension ([House File 2438](#)) next week in the full Ways and Means Committee.



Workforce: Future Ready Iowa sent to Governor Reynolds

- In another show of bipartisanship, Future Ready Iowa passed the Senate by a vote of 47-0 on Wednesday, where it will now go to Gov. Reynolds for her signature. Sen. Craig Johnson (R-Independence) deserves a lot of credit for getting the governor's top priority to her desk. The bill does a number of things, namely expands work-based learning experiences in high-demand careers through employer-based apprenticeships and internships.

Alternative Project Delivery:

- The DBIA bill did not get a subcommittee before the first funnel. MBI was registered FOR the legislation. No further discussion on alternative project delivery is expected this session.

Tax Reform:

- The Senate bill, [Senate File 2383](#), has passed the full Senate on a party-line vote.
- The House is working off of the Governor's bill, [House Study Bill 671](#). This debate is setting up to be a fascinating discussion on the course of our tax climate for many years ahead. Kudos to lawmakers for putting forth their ideas on how to modernize and simplify our tax code.
- Because of the complexity of the tax reform bills, MBI is currently monitoring both proposals. I am soliciting your thoughts and or concerns on the tax legislation, especially if you have particular thoughts on Section 179 depreciation.

UNI ITC Center:

- Conversations continue before the joint RIF Committee about securing funding for the UNI ITC Center. We continue to receive optimistic signals that this project is being looked at closely.

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## Other Items of Interest

CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES: [House File 2304](#): an Act relating to motor vehicles approaching stationary construction vehicles, and providing penalties. The House has passed the bill by a vote of 96-0. The Senate Transportation subcommittee passed the bill last week, where it will now move to the full committee. MBI is registered FOR the bill.

MULTIPLE EMPLOYER WELFARE ARRANGEMENT: [Senate File 2349](#): an Act relating to association health plans, a type of multiple employer welfare arrangement, established by bona fide associations of employers. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 33-17. The bill also passed the House this week and expanded the reach to include offering "health benefit plans" that are sponsored by certain organizations. It will now go back to the Senate for consideration. MBI is registered FOR the bill.

BOARD OF REGENTS: [House File 2301](#): an Act concerning the contract bidding process for public improvement projects conducted by the state board of regents. Under this legislation, a contractor would have to assume the costs of preparing an estimate, not knowing whether or not their bid would even be considered – waste of a contractor’s time and money. Also, if the Regents were to reject all bids and move forth with a project as a design build or CM at Risk, they (the Regents) would have to assume the additional costs of design and engineering work, while essentially wasting the work already performed. MBI is registered AGAINST this bill and no further discussion is anticipated this session.

LEASE-PURCHASE: [House File 2253](#): an Act regarding competitive bidding requirements for construction by a private party of property to lease-purchased by certain government entities and including effective date and applicability provisions. MBI is registered AGAINST this bill because of our concerns related to slowing down opportunities for economic development, concerns which public owners also continue to express. The bill has passed the House on a party-line vote, and has also passed the Senate State Government Committee. It is now eligible for debate on the Senate floor.

URBAN RENEWAL LAW: [House File 2063](#): an Act relating to Iowa’s urban renewal law by modifying requirements for the annual report prepared by the legislative services agency, establishing restrictions on the use of divided taxes, modifying the conditions for establishing certain urban renewal areas, imposing duration limits on certain urban renewal areas, excluding certain property taxes from a division of taxes, and including effective date and applicability provisions. MBI is registered AGAINST, because of our concerns with this bill prohibiting the use of TIF (Tax Increment Financing) for public building construction, maintenance, repair, remodeling and equipment. There is no further discussion anticipated this session on the bill.

WORKERS COMP: [Senate File 2305](#): an Act relating to workers’ compensation and insurance fraud and other prohibited health service provider practices, providing appropriations and penalties, and including effective date and applicability provisions. The bill would establish a workers’ compensation fraud unit within the insurance fraud bureau within the insurance division. This bill passed the Iowa Senate on Tuesday, February 27. MBI is registered FOR the bill.

CORRECTIONS HOME-BUILDING PROGRAM: [Senate File 2225](#): an Act making an appropriation to the department of corrections for certain costs associated with establishing a home building program. While the goals of this bill are laudable and could benefit our workforce and rural housing problems, MBI opposes the use of RIF dollars for the endeavor. When we have major maintenance needs totaling north of \$320 million, we are encouraging legislators to fund current needs before other projects. We will work with officials to find a better funding stream that would support the program. MBI is registered AGAINST the bill.

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## Headlines

What you should be reading:

Des Moines Business Record: [Senate OKs Future Ready Iowa bill: summit registration to close](#)

Cedar Rapids Gazette: [Extending school sales tax, Iowa Capitol Digest, March 21](#)

Cedar Rapids Gazette: [Iowa Senate sends budget cuts to governor](#)

Construction Dive: [Moody's: Trump's infrastructure plan could grow P3 market](#)

USA Today: [Airports get \\$1B in spending bill, but not long-sought hike in the cap on construction fees](#)

Globe Gazette: [Ivanka Trump sees 'amazing' example of hands-on learning in Iowa](#)



**Jason Noble** ✓  
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Following

When student tells @IvankaTrump that work-based learning has him thinking he'll go into construction rather than farming, she replies, "I have a special place in my heart for construction."

10:35 AM - 19 Mar 2018

## Announcements



\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE: MBI-PAC Construction Golf Classic & Smoker is set for August 13th, 2018 at Wakonda Club. [Click here](#) for more information.

Additionally, we will be hosting [two events](#) for the MBI-PAC Sporting Clay Builders' Classic on September 20th and 27th, 2018.

# BUILD IOWA CAREER FAIR



Career Fair Announcement: MBI will be hosting an Eastern Iowa Career Fair on April 10, 2018 and a Central Iowa Career Fair on April 16, 2018.

MBI members, students in 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as community college students, are invited to attend. For information on the Eastern Iowa Career Fair, please click [here](#). And for information on the Central Iowa Career Fair, please click [here](#). Space is limited so sign up today!



Governor's Future Ready Iowa Summit: is set for Tuesday, April 3rd. The Governor's office announced this week that U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta will address the summit. The Future Ready Iowa Summit brings together leaders from business and industry, education, nonprofits, elected officials, students and others to amplify the public conversation about transforming education and the workforce with a focus on expanding work-based learning and computer science instruction. The cost is \$50 for adults and \$0 for students. You can check out the agenda and register by clicking [here](#).

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If you have any questions, please contact Ben Hammes, Director of Public Affairs by emailing [bhammes@mbionline.com](mailto:bhammes@mbionline.com) or calling (515) 314-9016.

**Thanks,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ben Hammes'.



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