



Legislative Focus

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Floor debate begins in House and Senate; Senate releases tax reform bill

This week, floor debate began on an array of bills that were mostly non-controversial. Right after funnel is a time for knocking out business that doesn't bog down legislators in contentious debate. They mostly save those for the weeks ahead. The Senate also dominated the headlines when they unveiled their comprehensive plan to address tax reform on Wednesday. The plan would cut more than \$1 billion in taxes on an annual basis. The major difference between what the Senate wants to do and the governor's plan is the Senate wants to address both the individual and corporate side. The governor's plan only addresses the individual side and would cut \$1.7 billion over the next several years. Details on the plans can both be found below.

Legislative News

Mechanic's Lien is on the calendar and eligible for debate in the Iowa House and Senate:

- The House bill is [House File 2233](#).
- The Senate bill is [Senate File 2236](#).

SAVE Extension:

- [House File 2438](#), has passed the House Education Committee by a vote of 22-1. Because of the tax implications, the bill will also go through the House Ways and Means Committee as early as next week. We are also optimistic that the Senate's version ([Senate File 2216](#)) will get a subcommittee in the Senate Ways and Means Committee next week. REMINDER: MBI is registered FOR the bill and we are encouraging our members to reach out to your local Representatives and Senators and lend your support for this extension for school infrastructure.

Workforce:



- The Governor's Future Ready Iowa ([House File 2458](#) and [Senate File 2327](#)) bill is ready for debate in the House and Senate. MBI is registered FOR the legislation.

Alternative Project Delivery:

- No additional action anticipated this session.

Tax Reform:



- The Senate unveiled their tax reform plan this week, a comprehensive reform bill aimed at both the individual and corporate side. That bill number is [Senate Study Bill 3197](#). A breakdown of the bill can be found [here](#). The Senate passed that bill out of subcommittee and full committee yesterday. Last week, Governor Kim Reynolds unveiled her tax reform plan. You can read it [here](#).

UNI ITC Center:

- Conversations continue before the joint RIF Committee about securing funding for the UNI ITC Center. UNI President Mark Nook gave a great presentation before the House Appropriations Committee on the importance of the funding for helping the state meet their Future Ready Iowa goal.



Other Items of Interest

CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES: [House File 2304](#): an Act relating to motor vehicles approaching stationary construction vehicles, and providing

penalties. The House Transportation Committee passed the bill on a bipartisan basis and is now eligible for debate before the full House. 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.

LEASE-PURCHASE: [House File 2253](#): an Act regarding competitive bidding requirements for construction by a private party of property to be leased or lease-purchased by certain government entities and including effective date and applicability provisions. A lot of questions have been raised about how this would impact economic development for both private and public owners at the local and state level. Public owners continue to register against the bill. MBI is also registered AGAINST this bill.

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. MBI has concerns with this bill prohibiting the use of TIF (Tax Increment Financing) for public building construction, maintenance, repair, remodeling and equipment. The bill also narrows the scope of TIF considerably.

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. 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.

Headlines

What you should be reading:

Radio Iowa: [Report finds opioid epidemic hits construction industry hard](#). A report offers recommendations to reverse that trend. Read those [here](#).

Construction Dive: [Why is design-bid-build still the No. 1 process?](#)

The Gazette: [Iowa Regents plan maximum 4 percent tuition hike](#)

Quad Cities Times: [Iowa Senate GOP unveils tax overhaul plan would cut tax burdens by \\$1 billion](#)

Announcements



MBI Annual Winter Conference is next week! If you haven't registered yet, click [here](#) to save your spot!

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 11th and 12th 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!!!

Bricks for Sale! Original Capitol dome bricks are now for sale for \$100. The Capitol Planning Commission is selling the original bricks to raise money for improvements to monuments on the Capitol grounds. To purchase a brick, click [here](#).



Governor's Future Ready Iowa Summit: is set for Tuesday, April 3rd. 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](#).

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

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