



Legislative Focus

March 16, 2018 | Volume XVI, Edition 10



Second Funnel = Complete; Republicans choose new leaders in Senate

The last procedural hurdle for the 2018 legislative session is today, known as the second funnel. This deadline requires House bills that have passed the House, to pass a Senate committee, and vice versa. There was also a monumental shift of power due to Sen. Bill Dix's resignation on Monday. Sen. Dix had served as the Majority Leader and therefore controlled the fate of all legislation in the Senate. Moving forward, Senate Republicans chose Sen. Jack Whitver (R-Ankeny) as their new Majority Leader and Sen. Charles Schneider (R-West Des Moines) as the new Senate President. Additionally, Sen. Amy Sinclair (R-Allerton) was chosen as Majority Whip and Sen. Jake

Chapman (R-Adel) is the newest assistant leader. MBI congratulates all of these individuals on their new roles. With this change in leadership and presumably less than a month to go, anything can happen!



Majority Leader - Jack Whitver



Senate President - Charles Schneider



Majority Whip - Amy Sinclair



Assistant Leader - Jake Chapman

Legislative News

Mechanics' Lien passes Iowa House; up next in the Senate:

- [House File 2233](#) has passed the House, and awaits consideration in the Senate. Recently, concerns on the bill have been brought up by supplier organizations on the 30-day notification piece for public projects. We are working through those concerns now and still anticipate passage this session.

SAVE Extension: No news to report this week.

- [House File 2438](#), which would generate over \$16 billion for the SAVE fund, has passed the House Education Committee by a vote of 22-1. The bill has also passed the House Ways and Means subcommittee unanimously. It will advance to the full Ways and Means Committee in the days or weeks ahead.
- The Senate's version of the SAVE extension ([Senate File 2216](#)) also passed the Senate Ways and Means subcommittee last week. It advances to the full Senate Ways and Means Committee.

Workforce: Future Ready Iowa passes House unanimously!

- The Governor's Future Ready Iowa ([House File 2458](#)) bill passed the Iowa House 98-0 on Tuesday! This is a step forward in tackling the state's workforce challenges. Now onto the Senate...

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](#). We expect the committee to act further next week. 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.

Other Items of Interest

CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES: [House File 2304](#): an Act relating to motor vehicles approaching stationary construction vehicles, and providing penalties. The House passed the bill last week by a vote of 96-0. The Senate Transportation subcommittee passed the bill on Tuesday, 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 Commerce Committee yesterday and is ready for debate on the floor. 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 be leased or 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 also passed the Senate State Government Committee yesterday. 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 and no further discussion is anticipated this session.

Headlines

What you should be reading:

Des Moines Register: [This Iowa man didn't need college to make \\$70K annually](#)

Business Record: [Steel Tariffs already raising prices. Ankeny company says](#)

Globe Gazette: [Jack Whitver named new Iowa Senate Majority Leader](#)

EC&M: [Construction Employment Rises in Three States and D.C.](#)

Announcements



Save the date for the MBI-PAC Construction Golf Classic & Smoker! 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: [Check out](#) our workforce page and post your job openings with MBI today!

Happy St. Patrick's Day (tomorrow)!

Today is the candidate filing deadline. If you are curious to know who will be running in the June primaries, you can find out [here](#). Of note: Gov. Kim Reynolds has set the Senate District 25 special election for April 10. That special election is happening due to the resignation of Sen. Bill Dix. [Here](#) is a map of the district.

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 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!



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.

Thanks,



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Master Builders of Iowa · 221 Park Street · Des Moines, IA 50309 · USA

MailChimp