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## Legislative Focus

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### House passes MBI priority; up next week in Senate

While last week was pretty civil, controversial topics including a fetal heartbeat bill, tax reform, gun control and mental health were on the docket this week. At the same time, a sense of pride was on everyone's mind as the U.S. News and World Report ranked Iowa as the best state in the nation! There are a number of factors that went into the rankings, and I've highlighted that article below in the "Headlines" section. Also, Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the next USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. Almost everyone agrees that this was long overdue. And most importantly, we were also able to get our Mechanics' Lien bill passed on the floor of the House, and have every indication that it will be on the floor of the

Senate next week. By next week's report, I hope to tell you that it's on its way to the Governor's desk for her signature! Let's get into it...

## Legislative News

### Mechanics' Lien:



- [House File 2233](#) passed the House on Wednesday on a party line vote 57-40. Special thanks to Rep. Andy McKean (R-Anamosa) for his leadership in shepherding this bill through for us!
- [Senate File 2236](#) is expected to be debated next week in the Senate. If passed, the bill will be sent to the Governor for her signature.

### SAVE Extension:

- [House File 2438](#), has passed the House Education Committee by a vote of 22-1. The bill will be considered by the House Ways and Means Committee next week. The Senate's version of the SAVE extension ([Senate File 2216](#)) is scheduled for a subcommittee on Monday afternoon. That subcommittee is made up of Senators Dan Dawson (R-Council Bluffs), Randy Feenstra (R-Hull) and Bill Dotzler (D-Waterloo). 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:

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

Tax Reform:

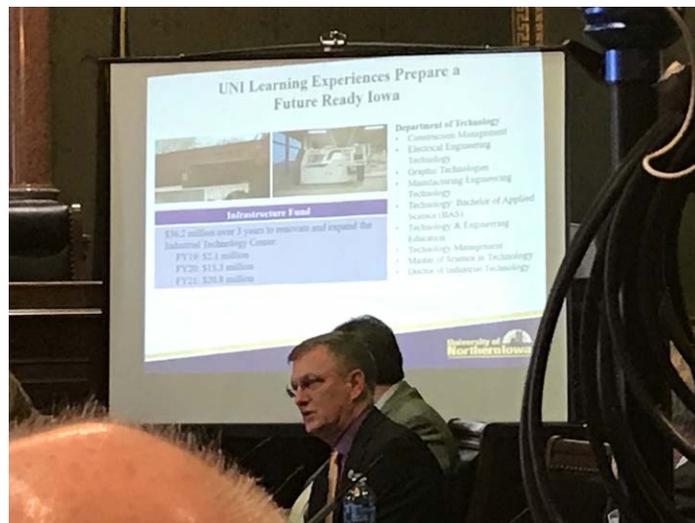


*Credit: Des Moines Register*

- The Senate bill, [Senate File 2383](#), passed the full Senate after a lengthy debate on Wednesday evening by a vote of 29-21. The House is working off of the Governor's bill, [House Study Bill 671](#). The subcommittee advanced the legislation to full committee yesterday. We expect the committee not to act until the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>. This debate is setting up to be a fascinating discussion on the course of our tax climate for many years ahead. MBI is currently monitoring and evaluating both bold proposals that have been put forward. Kudos to lawmakers for putting forth their ideas on how to modernize and simplify our tax code.

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 last week before the House Appropriations Committee on the importance of the funding for helping the state meet their Future Ready Iowa goal. We continue to receive signals that this project is being looked at closely, which makes us very optimistic.



UNI Learning Experiences Prepare a Future Ready Iowa

Infrastructure Fund
\$16.2 million over 3 years to reconstruct and expand the Industrial Technology Center
FY19: \$2.1 million
FY20: \$5.3 million
FY21: \$8.8 million

Department of Technology

- Commercial Management
- Electrical Engineering Technology
- Graphic Technologies
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Technology: Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)
- Technology & Engineering Education
- Technology Management
- Master of Science in Technology
- Doctor of Industrial Technology

University of Northern Iowa

## 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.

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. MBI is registered UNDECIDED on 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. 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:

U.S. News & World Report: [Infrastructure, Health Care, Education Lead Iowa to # 1 Best States Ranking](#)

Wall Street Journal: [New Tariffs Add Heat to Steel, Aluminum Markets](#)

Des Moines Register: [Iowa Senate approves \\$1.2 billion in annual tax cuts, sends proposal to House](#)

Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier: [Wall collapse underscores UNI building needs, staff says](#)

Dodge Data and Analytics: [Data Centers – Construction Moves into the Cloud](#)

Construction Dive: [How technology is streamlining the preconstruction process](#)

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## Announcements

THANK YOU to everyone who came out to the 2018 Annual Winter Conference at Prairie Meadows! We hope you enjoyed your time!



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!!!

March Webinar Series: Scheduled for Friday, March 16. Sign up [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](#).

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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, appearing to read 'Ben Hammes', is centered below the text 'Thanks,'.

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