



Legislative Focus

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SAVE extension continues momentum; second funnel deadline next Friday

We are approaching a rough deadline of about a month left in this legislative session, and the second funnel deadline is next Friday, March 16th. That means bills that have already passed the House must be passed through a Senate committee, and vice versa. Today's [Revenue Estimating Conference](#) number will set the benchmark for most major budget decisions that are left to be made. On our priorities list, the 20-year SAVE extension made great progress by passing both the House and Senate Ways and Means subcommittees. As was pointed out in the House subcommittee, this would be the single largest investment in education in Iowa's history. MBI

appreciates the bi-partisan work conducted in both the House and the Senate to advance the SAVE legislation! On the political front, Vice President Mike Pence was in Council Bluffs this week to talk tax reform and Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg officially kicked off their bid for a full four year term on Wednesday evening in the governor's hometown of Osceola. Expect to see more announcements as next Friday, March 16 is the filing deadline for individuals interested in running for statewide or legislative office.

Legislative News

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

- [House File 2233](#) passed the House last week 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](#) could be debated anytime now. If passed, the bill would go to the Governor for her signature!

SAVE Extension:

- [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 also passed the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously yesterday. 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 on Monday. It advances to the full Ways and Means Committee.

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:

- 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](#). The subcommittee advanced the legislation to full committee yesterday. We expect the committee not to act until the week of March 19th. 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. We continue to receive signals that this project is being looked at closely, which makes us very optimistic.

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 on Monday by a vote of 96-0. The bill will now get a subcommittee in the Senate Transportation Committee made up of Roby Smith (R-Davenport), Tim Kraayenbrink (R-Fort Dodge) and Jeff Danielson (D-Cedar Falls). 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 on Monday. MBI is registered FOR the bill where it awaits action in the House.

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. Unfortunately, the bill passed the full House on Monday on a party line vote. 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.

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.

Headlines

What you should be reading:

Cedar Rapids Gazette: [Iowa House panel extends school sales tax to 2050](#)

Sioux City Journal: [Iowa House votes to require competitive bidding on public projects](#)

KCRG: [Des Moines women recognized for work in construction industry](#)

Radio Iowa: [Iowa's congressional delegation sends letter of caution on trade to Trump](#)

US Chamber: [Most contractors optimistic about commercial construction industry](#)

USA TODAY: [Home Depot to donate \\$50 million to train construction workers, address severe shortage](#)

Announcements



Build Iowa: [Check out](#) our workforce page and post your job openings with MBI today!

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!

March Webinar Series: Scheduled for next 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](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Ben Hammes, Director of Public Affairs by emailing 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.

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