**WEEK 7- FEB 22 -26TH**

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

**News from the Hill**

One of the big focuses this week at the Capitol was the VOTING CHANGE legislation. After several hours of debate, SF 413 made numerous changes to the voting procedures including: reducing the number of days to send out absentee ballots to 20, closing the polls at 8:00 pm, reducing the number of days to in-person voting to 20, limiting satellite voting locations and drop boxes, limiting who can deliver an absentee ballot or help a person to vote and the possibility for felony charges for auditors or others who violate election laws. Senator Roby Smith stated that the 2020 elections exposed serious vulnerabilities concerning Iowa election laws. Senator Carlin said that many Republicans believe President Biden was elected due to fraudulent activity.

Democrats believe this bill will make it harder for county auditors to do their jobs effectively.

They also said that judges have found no evidence of fraud in the 2020 election.

Former Governor Tom Vilsack was confirmed on Tuesday as the Secretary of the USDA on a

92-7 vote. He previously served in this role under the Obama Administration.

This coming week is funnel week which means all bills need to be passed by both the sub and full committees in at least one chamber to stay alive. Most of our bills meet that criteria and are ready for floor debate. Ways and Means bills and Appropriation bills are exempt from that rule.

**Bills of Interest to IFA**

**SF 71/ SF 331 Use of Lights- Transportation Committee**

This bill authorizes the use of various lights on emergency vehicles.

(Shipley, Bisignano, and Rozenboom)

Passed subcommittee and full committee

**HSB 189/HF 654 Use of Lights-COMPANION Bill**

(Maxwell, Bradley, Forbes)

Passed subcommittee with amendment to allow tow truck to use red/blue lights.

We are submitting an amendment to only allow tow trucks to use red/blue lights when stationary, NOT while driving.

Passed sub & full committee-ready for floor debate.

**SF 72/SF 333 Emergency Responder**

(Koelker, Driscoll and Taylor)

Passed subcommittee

Passed full committee

Now on debate calendar

**HSB 190/HF Emergency Responder**

(Worthan, Gerhold, Konfrst)

Passed subcommittee

PASSED Full Committee with amendment

The amendment does 3 things:

1. Changes misdemeanor to aggravated or serious misdemeanor
2. Adds training through Homeland Security for EMA members
3. Strikes Page 5 Lines 11-19 dealing with a tort claim. They feel this is already covered in Iowa Code 670.” Motion to dismiss” will do the same thing.

This bill clarifies the operations, immunity and liability in emergency situations, use of emergency vehicles in parades, funeral processions, and events. It also defines authorized emergency vehicles.

**HF 144/HF 563 Raises tax credit from $100 to $200**

Subcommittee of Kaufmann, Brown-Powers and Graber

Passed sub and full committee-ready for floor debate

**SF 447 Expansion of Firefighter tax credit to $1000**

**Ways and Means bill**

**Dickey, Dawson, Jochum**

**Waiting for a subcommittee meeting**

This bill relates to the individual income tax credits for volunteer firefighters,

Volunteer emergency medical services personnel members, and reserve peace officers by increasing the amounts of the credits, and including retroactive applicability provisions. The bill modifies the tax credit by allowing a firefighter, emergency medical services personnel member, or reserve peace officer to qualify for the credit if such an individual has annual compensation equal to or less than $5,000 in the performance of services attributable to the position. The bill increases from $100 to $1,000 the maximum amount of the tax credit per individual for services performed during the year. The tax credit increase applies retroactively to tax years beginning on or after January1,2021. The bill also modifies the tax credit by requiring a firefighter, emergency medical services personnel member, or reserve peace officer to obtain written approval from their supervisor prior to claiming the tax credit. The bill does eliminate specific training requirements for a firefighter to be eligible for the tax credit, but the bill allows a supervisor to utilize the approval of the tax credit to ensure the individual meets training or other requirements specified by the department or program. Currently, such an individual is required to obtain a written statement from their

supervisor verifying the individual was in such a position for the months the credit is claimed. The bill also rearranges the definitional portion of Code section 422.12, which is in alphabetical order, due to the strike of the term “volunteer”

**HSB #197 Length of Service bill**

**PASSED subcommittee**

**PASSED Full Local Government**

Rep Bloomingdale is sponsoring this bill.

There were some drafting issues that needed clarification and should be out this week.

This legislation creates a length of service award to volunteer firefighters who meet criteria to receive an award given by the city/county and will be matched by the state.

**HSB 247/SF 438 Expansion of Fireworks grant fund**

**Subcommittee scheduled for next week**

The bill authorizes the state fire marshal to provide grants under the local fire protection and emergency medical service providers grant program to local fire protection service providers for the purchase of necessary equipment, in addition to the current authorization to provide grants to local fire protection service providers and local emergency medical service providers to provide fireworks safety education programming and to purchase necessary equipment related to the sale and use of consumer fireworks.

**SF 55 Carbon Monoxide Protection**

passed Subcommittee (Guth, Celsi, and Goodwin) State Gov Committee

passed full committee

Ready for floor debate

This bill requires the fire marshal to adopt rules for standards relating to carbon monoxide protection that are consistent with the international building code and international fire code.

**SF 46/SF 330-HF 75/HF 392 ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE:**

House: A.Meyer, Forbes, Thorup

Passed sub and full committee

Senate: Rozenboom (C), Giddens, Kraayenbrink

Passed subcommittee

Passed full committee

Ready for floor debate

The bill exempts the use of an electronic communication device in a voice-activated or hands-free mode, for members of a public safety agency performing official duties, for health care professionals in the course of emergency situations, for the purpose of receiving safety-related information, for the purpose of reporting an emergency situation,

for certain radio operators, and for members of a public transit system performing official duties while in a vehicle that is not in motion.

**HF 248/HF 683 EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICTS/FIRE DEPARTMENTS:** (Klein (C), Breckenridge, Thorup) Public Safety

PASSED BOTH SUB AND FULL COMMITTEE

This bill allows communities, townships, regions to create Emergency Response Districts. This is completely voluntary.

Cities do not like Sec 6 which states:

The bill requires a city in which an institution of higher education governed by the state board of regents is located to establish, house, equip, staff, uniform, and maintain a full-

time, professional fire department that is separate from the city’s police department. This was not part of our language but added by a few legislators. They are referring to the city of Cedar Falls who are cross training police and firefighters.

Passed subcommittee. 3-0

Ready for full Public Safety Committee

**SSB 1094/ new #-HSB 72/HF 300 PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT:**

Senate:Cournoyer (C), Johnson, T Taylor

Referred to Appropriations

House: Worthan, Breckenridge, Thorup

Passed sub and full committee

Senate: Cournoyer, Johnson, T. Taylor

Passed sub and full

Referred to Appropriations: (Worthan, Latham, Williams)

This bill creates a public safety equipment fund and appropriates the moneys in the fund to the department of public safety (DPS) for the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of equipment used by DPS.

**SF 192 COVID EXPENSES** (Nunn) (Human Resources)

NO ACTION THIS WEEK

Subcommittee of : Edler, Carlin and Trone-Garriott

Allows the Public Safety Commissioner to pay up to $1,000 in qualified expenses related to COVID for volunteer EMS workers. Establishes a presumption that certain expenses are

covered. Makes reimbursements on a first-come, first serve basis, to the extent that funds are available. Establishes a fund and contains related provisions.

The committee needs more research and data to determine if volunteer firefighters are covered on a city workers comp bill. We also explained that if the volunteer firefighter did not have other employment they would not have a workers comp bill to fall back on. If you have any scenarios about coverage for your members please let us know.

**SF 249/HF 407 911 COSTS** (Edler) (State Government)

Senate: Cournoyer, Jochum, Reichman

Passed sub

House: NO ACTION

Strikes various current allocation methods related to 911 call costs. Requires a local exchange carrier to pay the cost for recurring monthly service. Requires the program manager to determine the points of ingress and egress and originating service providers to pay the associated costs.

**HSB 186/HF 562-Ems funding**

An Act relating to funding emergency medical services by modifying provisions relating to city emergency medical services districts, benefited emergency medical services districts, and optional taxes for emergency medical services.

House: Passed sub and full committee

**HF 444- Township Fire Departments**

Westridge, Wheeler, Oldson

Passed subcommittee

Passed full committee

An Act relating to township fire stations by authorizing the use of certain property taxes approved at election for the payment of anticipatory bonds.

**SSB 1140 GOVERNOR’S POLICE/RIOTING PROPOSALS** (Judiciary) Dawson (C), Kinney,

THIS BILL IS NOT MOVING

Zaun Funding: Makes a local government ineligible for state funding, or federal grants through the state, if it reduces the budget for law enforcement, unless this is part of a budget-wide cut or the local government can show sufficient justification for the reduction. Includes specific justifications. CBA: Deems a Regent police officer to be a public safety officer for collective bargaining. Allows public safety employees to form a new union if the officers make less than 30% of the union. Injuries: Allows an officer who is injured on the line of duty to file a civil action against the person who caused the injury, or against a person who filed a false report. Allows damages, court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

Profiling: Creates a Code chapter on racial/ethnic profiling by law enforcement. Prohibits disparate treatment by police, including ethnic and racial profiling. Defines disparate treatment and protects various personal characteristics (race, creed color, origin, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability). Requires data collection for traffic stops and specifies data to be collected. Requires the CJJP to develop a uniform manner of reporting by law enforcement and requires the CJJP to analyze and publish the data. Makes definitions. Requires law enforcement to investigate all violations of disparate treatment. Community Board: Changes the name of the Justice Advisory Board to the Justice & Community Policing Advisory Board and increases the membership and duties. Requires the board to make recommendations about disparate treatment. Facility Access: Makes it a scheduled fine of $135 for a person to ride a bike or skateboard, or similar conveyance, in a fully controlled-access facility. Redaction Fee: Raises the fee for recording transactions in a county by $1 and

scoops the money for redactions of information about police, judges and prosecutors in documents. Peer Counseling: Includes the communications between civilian employees of a law enforcement agency or fire department and a peer counselor in the confidentiality protections for communications with those counselors. Lasers: Defines pointing a laser at

someone with the intent to cause or injure the person an assault. Makes exceptions for law enforcement, medical personnel and laser tag. Crimes: Makes bias-motivated harassment of a law enforcement officer, prison or jail employer, fire fighters, and similar employees a Class D or Class C felony, depending on damages and injuries. Creates 2nd degree criminal mischief and makes it a Class D felony. Makes rioting a Class D felony. Makes unlawful assembly an aggravated misdemeanor. Establishes disorderly conduct offenses ranging from a serious misdemeanor to a Class C felony for blocking roads, streets or sidewalks, depending on circumstances, damages and injuries. Requires a person arrested for criminal mischief to be held for at least 24 hours. Requires the court to make written findings that the defendant is not likely to resume the criminal behavior causing the arrest if released. (Governor)

Remember you can contact your legislator by emailing them at:

First name.last [name@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:name@legis.iowa.gov)

As always, feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

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