GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Week 2 State Legislative Session

FEDERAL UPDATE

On January 20th, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. In President Biden's first three days in office, he signed 30 Executive Orders. Some of these address the COVID-19 pandemic, and others roll back many of the Trump Administration orders.

Speaker Pelosi plans to deliver an impeachment charge to the United State Senate today (Monday) triggering the start of the Senate impeachment trial. Unless Senate Republican and Democratic leadership agree on a different timeline, the impeachment proceeding is required to begin one day after the Article of Impeachment is received.

IOWA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The second week of Iowa's legislative session was filled with multiple subcommittee meetings. The House has introduced a number of bills aimed at addressing the shortages and costs of childcare across the state while the Senate has introduced multiple bills focusing on tax reform.

COVID-19 Procedures

Both the House and Senate are holding subcommittee meetings with a virtual participation option. However, the House requires in-person attendance to speak at the meetings (although the Chat Option is available.) The Senate is conducting all subcommittees via Zoom, with no in-person attendance option.

Next week, bills that passed in subcommittee will likely be taken up in committee--moving one step closer to a full floor vote.

State Bill Tracking

Through the Chamber's membership in the Iowa Chamber Alliance, we are tracking several bills germane to business and economic recovery. As these bills move through the legislative process, this newsletter will provide information (including bill number) on the potential impact of specific legislation. If you have questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact Robin Anderson at randerson@masoncityia.com.