



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWSLETTER

Week 3 State Legislative Session

During Week 3, both the Senate and House spent the beginning of the week working on education legislation and two constitutional amendments.

—SF160, a bill requiring public schools to provide an in-person learning option (if requested) passed both chambers and was signed by Gov. Reynolds on January 29.

—SF159, a bill related to education savings accounts, passed the Senate and was sent to the House on January 28.

—SJR7, a proposed constitutional amendment ensuring the right to bear arms, passed both chambers and will be placed on a ballot in 2022 for voters to approve or strike down.

Here are updates on additional legislation we are watching:

Childcare Legislation

A number of bills aimed at addressing childcare needs for working parents have been introduced in the House. Most of the bills filed thus far provide grants, tax credits, and incentives to increase the number of childcare providers and to encourage businesses to provide childcare options to their employees. While several bills have started to move through subcommittee and committee, it appears House Leadership intends to combine successful initiatives and pass one large childcare package.

Broadband

During the Condition of the State address, Gov. Reynolds announced her commitment to expanding broadband to meet the needs of Iowans. This week, the governor filed HSB133 and SSB1089 which outlines her proposal to invest \$450 million in broadband infrastructure and expansion. HSB133 was referred to the House Information Technology Committee and Rep. Sorenson was assigned as the bill's subcommittee chair. The companion bill in the Senate was referred to the Senate Commerce Committee and Senator Koelker was assigned as the subcommittee chair; a subcommittee meeting was scheduled for Feb. 1.

Immigrant Employment

Sen. Garrett introduced SF84, a bill prohibiting employers from knowingly employing unauthorized immigrants and instituting penalties for first and second offenses. The bill also allows for members of the public to report businesses that violate the law. Sen. Garrett held a subcommittee meeting on Jan.

25 and the bill passed out with a 2-1 vote. Iowa Chamber Alliance Executive Director Dustin Miller spoke during the subcommittee and shared concerns the bill will hurt businesses by allowing competitors to file complaints.

News Articles of Interest

<https://www.timesrepublican.com/news/todays-news/2021/01/lawmakers-puzzle-over-year-round-daylight-saving-time/>

<https://iowacapitaldispatch.com/2021/01/25/iowa-legislation-could-strip-licenses-from-firms-that-employ-undocumented-workers/>