

Legislative Update - February 3, 2017

We are four weeks into the legislative session and it seems to be busier than ever. With Republicans having control of both the House and the Senate, as well as having the governor's office, bills that have never seen the light of day are not only being introduced, but also are moving through the process.

From the perspective of MBI, there are a number of good bills, average bills and even a couple of bad ones. Here is a quick rundown of some of the bills that MBI's lobbying team is tracking so far this session:

[HF 3](#) and SSB 1010 - a bill that would reduce the Statute of Repose from 15 years to 8 years. This would be applicable to all real property. MBI supports.

[HF 16](#) – This bill would allow a licensed electrician to only be present for 25 percent of each day's work period for the apprentice electrician or unclassified person to perform electrical wiring. MBI is monitoring this bill.

[HF 42](#) – This bill would extend the property tax exemption on the value added by any new or refitted construction or installation of a geothermal heating or cooling system to also include commercial, industrial or ag property. MBI supports.

[HF 162](#) - A bill was introduced that would prevent an employer from establishing policies prohibiting an employee from being allowed to be in possession of a weapon, if that weapon was out of sight and locked inside the employee's vehicle. MBI is monitoring this bill.

[HF 188](#) – Extends the sunset for collecting the sales tax for school infrastructure (Secure and Advanced Vision for Education) and property tax relief. MBI supports.

[HF 197](#) - would clarify the Regents existing procurement chapter and require, first and foremost, a design bid build procurement process. If the Regents were not satisfied with the bids and is able to provide justification, the Regents could then move forward with a procurement option of their choosing. MBI is monitoring.

[HSB 62](#) - would provide for a lien's value to be amended downward, without losing priority status. The bill also would require any entity providing material and labor on a public project to provide a certified notice to the principal contractor within 30 days of providing labor and materials to the job. This would allow the principal contractor the ability to know who is providing labor and materials for whom currently the principal contractor has no contractual privity. MBI supports.

[SF 1](#) - This bill would codify Governor Branstad's Executive Order 71, which would require state agencies to conduct a jobs impact study on all administrative rules. By going through this process, policymakers prior to acceptance of a rule can have a better idea as to the impact such rules would have on companies and private sector job creators. MBI supports.

[SF 32](#) passed the Iowa Senate which would add hair specimens to the list of allowable samples for private sector drug testing. The bill passed by a vote of 35 to 15. The bill is now eligible for consideration in the Iowa House. MBI supports.

[SF 172](#) would require the use of E-Verify when hiring. Also, the bill would set up penalties if an employer knowingly hired an unauthorized alien. MBI is monitoring.

[SSB 1034](#) – The Governor's water quality bill. Among other things, diverts \$230 from 2018 through 2030 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). These funds would be used for edge of field erosion practice cost-share and other similar water quality practices. MBI is currently monitoring, but leaning against.

Should you have any questions on these or other bills under consideration at the Iowa Capitol, please feel free to contact Chad Kleppe at ckleppe@mbionlone.com.