

Capitol News

“Just putting the ‘fun’ back in funnel.” That’s what one of the Governor’s staff said to me when asked how his week was going. Seemed like a pretty good characterization of a long, grueling week of marathon meetings and early morning subcommittees. Lobbyists and legislators alike are breathing a collective sigh of relief this weekend, as the first of two bill-action deadlines (called funnels) passes.

Deadlines in the legislature are called “funnels” because they narrow the number of bills eligible for debate. Much like a funnel, lots of stuff is poured into the top, but only a small amount comes out the bottom. Friday, March 7 marked the end of the first funnel deadline – the day all bills must be voted out of their assigned committee. Bills that were not voted on by today are dead, and cannot be brought up for discussion again this year.

About half of the bills introduced this year failed to meet this first deadline.

- We have been tracking 45 tourism-related bills – and that list just narrowed to 29 this week. This means about 38% of the tourism-related bills we have been watching are no longer eligible for discussion – and are “dead” for the year. Those are actually pretty good odds – the first funnel eliminates about half of the bills introduced out of circulation.
- So far this year, 1475 bills have been introduced to date. Only about 800 are now eligible for debate.
- Bills that spend money (Appropriations), reform government (Government Oversight), involve taxes (Ways & Means), or are sponsored by legislative leaders are all funnel-proof and remain eligible for consideration the entire session. They never die.

The second deadline (March 28) will claim even more bills, typically keeping only about a third of the bills in play. By the time the Legislature finishes its work in April, only about 8% of the bills introduced will make it to the Governor’s desk and be signed into law.

Discouraged now? Don’t be! The odds of your issue becoming law can be hugely improved by a little work on your part. The key difference is member activism. Keep an eye out for action alerts – we will certainly need your help before the session ends. And keep an eye out for local legislative forums, these are great opportunities to meet and talk to your legislators about tourism. You can find a list of those forums here:
http://www.infonetiowa.com/advocate/local_forums.php.

Still More Retirement News

Sen. David Mulder of Sioux Center announced this week that he will be stepping down from public office at the end of the year. His decision to not run for re-election a third time was personal, not political. “You know, I had the flu and it took me three weeks to get over that,” Mulder quipped. “Here I’m sick and then you start thinking about your own mortality. You’re not as tough as you think.” No men in Sen. Mulder’s family have made it past the age of 62, and most were smokers and died of heart-related ailments. That’s why he voted for the statewide smoking ban last week, a vote that put him at odds with the rest of his caucus. In his defense of his vote, Sen. Mulder talked about his family’s history and said he promised a Democratic lawmaker he would vote for the ban if there were no exemptions, “and I refused to break my promise.”

Health Reform Advances

Health insurance is expensive, particularly if you are in a small group or individual plan. Lawmakers in the House and Senate have moved one step closer to trying to make health care coverage more affordable to lowans employed by small businesses or in individual plans. The duo of bills ([SSB 3140](#) & [HF 2539](#)) set goals of covering all of Iowa's children by 2011 and all adults by 2013. The Senate version mandates all children have health insurance by 2011; the House version simply sets it as a goal. The bills also encourage the use of a "medical home," chronic care management, and electronic health records to achieve more quality and efficiency in health care. Both bills made it out of committee, but have a long way to go and hinge on how much money will be available to implement the reforms.

Caucus Report (They Really Were Crowded)

Anyone attending a caucus on January 3 to participate in the process of selecting our next President will tell you that the line to register to vote or switch parties was really, really long. Yesterday, Iowa's Secretary of State Michael Mauro confirmed what many of us guessed. While 22,000 new voters attended their caucus, nearly 70,000 others changed parties.

Democrats were the big winners of this year's caucus, gaining 60,000 new members. Republicans increased their membership by about 7,600 people. Here is a breakdown of Iowa's voting population as of March 1:

- 701,285 registered Democrats
- 615,576 registered Republicans
- 761,201 not affiliated with a party

The number of no-party voters (sometimes called "independents") decreased by about 49,000. "It was apparent from the media reports and the crowded caucus locations that this was going to be a historic event for all lowans," Mauro said in a statement. "These registration numbers prove that the reports we were all hearing weren't just hype, but a reflection of a momentous event."

Budget News

While there might not be a lot of money to spend this year, there is good news in the forecast. Legislators found out last week that state revenues are growing at 11%, not the 2% growth rate they were expecting.

By law, legislators must spend only 99% of what they take in each year in revenues. The remaining 1% goes into a "rainy day" fund that is now approaching a record-high \$600 million. Legislators base their budgets by law on the January revenue estimates, which were 2%. Apparently, the recession has not hit Iowa yet, because March estimates show 11% growth in estimates (or about \$450 million more than expected).

While there are ways legislative leaders could spend this money, they would have to circumvent the law and that would likely mean attacks from the minority party. Legislators are also mindful that Iowa's economy tends to take a few years to reflect national trends, and caution might be advised.

Two weeks ago, budget targets were announced and the economic development budget was hit hard with what appeared to be \$1.8 million in cuts to state funding (on top of the \$6 million in federal cuts that budget is experiencing). There was a glimmer of good news. The \$1.8 million in cuts actually reflects the following:

- ^ The base budget included the dedicated tourism dollars (\$1.1 million) that is automatically generated from gaming funds (not general fund dollars). It is supposed to be a pass-through standing appropriation. Since it is not general fund dollars, it should not have been included in the base. The Democrats are recommending

pulling that back out of the base and returning the budget to current year levels (but not to worry – the money will continue to be generated from gaming dollars and transferred to the Tourism Office). Simply put, it was an accounting error that caused what appears to be a cut. Tourism funds are currently set to receive the same amount of funding as current year levels.

- ⤴ The Entrepreneurs with Disabilities program is moving from the Iowa Finance Authority to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation in the Department of Education, so the money is going with it.

The DED Budget still has its challenges. Even if state legislators hold spending at current levels, Iowa Workforce Development will be cutting services and closing satellite offices as a result of the impending \$6.3 million reduction in federal funding.

Finally, last year's HF 871 passed out of the House Economic Growth Committee last week. The bill, sponsored by tourism friend Rep. Mike May, originally would have dedicated \$1 million of the Community Attractions & Tourism (CAT) fund to tourism marketing. Chamber groups, Department of Economic Development, and the League of Cities all opposed this change because there simply was not enough money in the fund to meet current demands. The bill was amended in committee to dedicate \$100,000 of those funds for tourism marketing, which was an acceptable level for the Department of Economic Development. Rep. Art Staed of Cedar Rapids managed the bill in committee, and will likely be the floor manager for the bill.

Tourism-Related Bills

The following bills remain eligible for debate this year. All bills that did not make the legislative funnel deadline have been taken out of this list. You can see a list of those "dead" bill at the end of this report.

SIGNED INTO LAW

SF 2059 - State Historical Society & Lost Items - Makes the State Historical Society responsible for administering the Iowa Heritage Fund. The bill also removes division III from Code chapter 304A, which contains an indemnification program for special exhibit items lost or damaged while on loan to nonprofit organizations or governmental entities in Iowa. Effective 7/1/2008.

HOUSE BILLS

HF 871 - Tourism Marketing Funds/CAT - Allocates \$100,000 of CAT funds for tourism marketing. New bill number will be assigned soon. *Status: House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Staed (Floor Manager)*

HF 2080 - Donated Property for Conservation/Tax Credits - Gives people or companies who donate land for conservation a tax credit in the amount of 50% of the fair market value of the property, up to \$100,000. The credit may be carried forward for twenty years. Effective 1/1/2008. *Status: House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Frevert (Floor Manager)*

HF 2112 - DNR Dam & Lake Restoration - Appropriates \$100,000 from RIIF (gaming) for dam restoration and lake maintenance in Delaware County. *Status: House Appropriations Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Cohoon (Chair), Huseman & Reichert*

HF 2130 - River Water Trail - Appropriates \$100,000 from RIIF (gaming dollars) for infrastructure improvements for a river water trail located in Jones County. *Status: House Appropriations Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Cohoon (Chair), Huseman & Reichert*

HF 2194 - Minimum Wage Code Update - This bill replaces minimum wage requirement exemptions in the Code that are tied to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. Currently, the Code adopts by reference exemptions to the federal Fair Labor Standards Act that were in place when Iowa's minimum wage law was enacted in 1989, but which were repealed from the United States Code on November 17, 1989. The federal provision allowed a retail or service establishment to pay employees engaged in certain services less than the federal minimum wage if more than 50 percent of the establishment's annual dollar volume of sales of goods or services is made in the state in which the establishment is located and 75 percent of whose annual dollar volume of sales of goods or services is not for resale. The bill provides that the state's minimum wage requirements do not apply to an enterprise whose annual gross volume of sales or business done, exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level which are separately stated, is less than \$300,000, unless the enterprise is engaged in the business of laundering, cleaning, or repairing clothing or fabrics; is engaged in construction or reconstruction; is engaged in the operation of hospitals, facilities serving the elderly or persons with mental or physical illnesses or disabilities, or educational institutions; or is a public agency. *Status: Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Ward (Floor Manager)*

HF 2244 - Forest Reservation Exemption - This bill limits to 10 acres the amount of forest reservation for which a property tax exemption may be granted. The bill also provides that an owner of a forest reservation is limited to one forest reservation exemption in the county. The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies to forest reservation exemptions granted before, on, or after the effective date. *Status: House Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Thomas (Chair), Deyoe & Quirk*

HF 2262 - Sales Tax Refund Districts - This bill permits cities to designate sales tax refund districts within their downtown areas where newly located retail businesses would be allowed to provide refunds of state sales tax. To designate an area as a sales tax refund district, a city would need to enact an ordinance delineating the boundaries of the area and specifying the length of time the district would be in existence, not to exceed 10 years. Only retail businesses locating in the sales tax refund district after the area was designated could get sales tax refunds. *Status: House Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Jochum (Chair), Schueller & Soderberg*

HF 2316 - Stone State Park Trail - Authorizes an appropriation for the development and completion of a recreational trail to be built from the entrance to Stone state park and continuing south along state highway 12 for a distance of one and one-eighth miles. The funding is appropriated from the rebuild Iowa infrastructure fund from funds not otherwise appropriated. *Status: House Appropriations Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Cohoon (Chair), Huseman & Reichert*

HF 2396 & SF 2176 Cultural Affairs Changes - Requires the Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) create a digital collection of records for research purposes and make the collection available to the public. Requires DCA establish a statewide culture, history, arts, and tourism program, and to implement the program by creating regional committees for the coordination of cultural efforts. Establishes a Civil War Advisory Committee to help the Historical Division plan a sesquicentennial commemoration of Iowa's role in the American civil war. *Status: House Floor/Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Miller (Floor Manager); Sen. Black (Floor Manager) Amendment: By Sen. Black: Takes out "Tourism" from the regions (because there are already tourism regions) and replaces it with "Teams" so that the CHAT acronym remains (Culture, History & Arts Teams).*

HF 2450 - DED Changes - This bill makes a number of changes affecting the administration of the department of economic development. The bill allows the DED director to appoint a designee to serve on the vision Iowa board and allows the DED to use funds from the renewable fuel infrastructure fund to market its renewable fuel programs. The bill limits the tax credits available to investors in film projects to 25 percent of a project's qualified expenditures in the state. The bill directs the department, in coordination with other state and local entities, to develop and market a new tourism program to create new, and promote existing, recreational and leisure opportunities in the state. The bill strikes a number of the department's existing reporting requirements and reconstitutes them instead under a different Code Section and standardizes the department's reporting requirements by providing for a single, consolidated annual

report to the governor and the general assembly due by January 31 of each year. The bill allows the DED to contract with service providers for commercialization development services on a case-by-case basis, and it also authorizes the department to spend the additional moneys it recaptures from loan payments and federal economic stimulus funds provided it spends those moneys on the implementation of consultant recommendations for certain targeted industries. *Status: House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Thomas (Floor Manager)*

HF 2516 - Property Tax Changes - Division I of the bill makes the assessment limitations of residential, agricultural, and commercial property mutually dependent by limiting the percentage increase in all of those classes of property to the percentage increase of that class of property that is the lowest percentage increase under the allowable (4 percent) limit. Division II of the bill requires that if an equalization order issued to an assessing jurisdiction that is a percentage increase in assessed values, then property taxes are limited to the amount certified in the previous year, unless the city or county adopts a resolution declaring that it does not intend to reduce its levy rates to compensate for the increase in valuation due to the equalization orders. Division III of the bill provides that if an increase in allowable growth causes an increase in property taxes the state shall pay that increase rather than property owners. *Status: House Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Not yet assigned*

HF 2539 - Health Care Reform Bill (House Version) - Declares the intent of the legislature to make progress toward all Iowans having health care insurance that meets certain criteria for quality and affordability, starting with children in 2011. This version does not include mandates to carry health insurance. Requires the development and implementation of a health information technology system to improve quality and safety. Requires all health insurance plans to cover a person's unmarried dependent children until the age of 25 (or as long as they remain a student). Prohibits insurance companies from excluding pre-existing conditions, including pregnancy. Both of these provisions are effective 7/1/2008. Establishes a Prevention & Chronic Care Management Initiative and Clinicians Advisory Council in DPH, to integrate prevention and chronic condition management strategies into the overall health care initiative. Includes a marketing and public education campaign to promote these strategies. Establishes a Medical Assistance Quality Improvement Council in DPH to evaluate clinical outcomes and consumer/provider satisfaction. *Status: House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Heddens (Floor Manager)*

HF TBD - TIME-21 Funding - Successor to [HSB 628](#). This bill would generate funds for deposit into the TIME-21 Fund to be used for transportation infrastructure through a variety of fee increases and adjustments. The bill would capture revenue increases from registration fees and would raise registration fees on 2010 or newer pick-up trucks to rates similar to SUVs and minivans. "Business trade trucks" would be allowed to use a lower fee schedule and would require a IRS Schedule C or F form for proof. The bill would adjust fees and schedules for all passenger vehicles while ensuring that fees will not rise for a specific vehicle and owner until the owner changes vehicles. Fees for special trucks for farm use are increased, as well as title fees and salvage title fees. The bill also increases the fee charged for registration of trailers and contains several other changes. A revenue estimate of how much this bill would generate for TIME-21 will probably be available within the next few weeks. *Status: House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Huser (Floor Manager)*

HSB 715 & SSB 3236 Combined Corporate Reporting - This bill is a major revenue raiser (\$70-75 million) in the Governor's budget proposal, however legislators do not believe they have the votes to pass this proposal. This bill requires that the net income of affiliated groups of corporations engaged in a unitary business be computed on a combined return basis for corporate tax purposes if the group meets the requirements for filing a consolidated return for federal tax purposes. Only Iowa sales of those corporations doing business in Iowa would be included in the numerator of the Iowa sales ratio. *Status: House Ways & Means Committee/Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Shomshor (Chair), Reasoner & Sands; Sen. Bolkcom (Chair), McCoy & McKibben*

HSB 738 - Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee - A new bill number will be assigned. Establishes a Sustainable Natural Resource Funding Advisory Committee with membership including Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, county conservation boards, Iowa Environmental Council, Farm Bureau,

Iowa Farmers Union, Land Improvement Contractors Association, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Iowa Rivers Revival, Izaak Walton League, and Pheasants Forever. Requires the Committee to study one or more sustainable sources of funding for natural resources and outdoor recreation needs in Iowa by January 9, 2009. Sunsets the Committee on 1/1/2010. *Status: House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Rep. Bell (Floor Manager)*

SENATE BILLS

SF 2001 - Sales Tax Exemption/Nonprofit Performing Arts - Exempts the sale of materials and services used in the operation of a nonprofit private performing arts center from state sales tax, and allows sales tax paid on construction materials to build a nonprofit private performing arts center to be refunded (applies to construction contracts signed on or after 1/1/2005). *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Schmitz (Chair), Connolly & Ward*

SF 2178 & HSB 535 Endow Iowa Tax Credit Increase - Increases the total annual tax credits allowed under the Endow Iowa program from \$2 million to \$3 million. Also reduces the annual percentage granted to an individual taxpayer from 5% to 3 1/3%. Also companion to [SSB 3057](#). House bill will receive new number soon. *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee/House Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Stewart (Chair), Angelo & Dotzler; Rep. Wenthe (Floor Manager)*

SF 2241 - DED Programs for Sac & Fox - This bill relates to economic development assistance for the Sac and Fox tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa located in Tama. Currently, the tribe is not eligible for programs administered by the DED. The bill makes the tribe eligible to apply for assistance from the community attraction and tourism program and the vision Iowa program. *Status: Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Dotzler (Floor Manager)*

SF 2245 - RISE for Statewide Touring Events - This bill authorizes the use of funds from the revitalize Iowa's sound economy (RISE) fund for grants for repairs to secondary roads prior to a statewide touring event, which the bill defines to include a major group bicycle ride across Iowa, a group tractor ride, an antique car tour, or similar event that involves more than one area of the state, attracts wide participation, and is likely to contribute significantly to the economic well-being of the state or areas of the state. *Status: Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Danielson (Floor Manager)*

SF 2249 - Hotel/Motel Tax Election - Specifies the voters who are eligible to vote at an election to impose, repeal, or change the percentage rate of a hotel and motel tax. Under the bill, only registered voters of the city shall be permitted to vote for tax changes proposed only within city limits, and only registered voters of the unincorporated areas are permitted to vote for changes proposed only in unincorporated areas. *Status: Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Beall (Floor Manager)*

SF TBD - TIME-21 Funding - Successor to [SSB 3267](#). This bill contains several provisions which would generate revenues that could be deposited into the TIME-21 Fund for infrastructure. Division I of the bill would ensure that 2010+ model year trucks would have their registration based on weight and value and creates the designation of "business-trade trucks" which would still be able to register under a flat fee that would be higher than the existing flat fee. The division would also adjust fees for passenger cars. Division II would increase all classes of drivers license fees. Division III would increase title fees and salvage title fees. Division IV would increase trailer registration fees. Division V would instruct the DOT to study the TIME-21 funding by FY 2011-2012 to determine whether a proper balance has been struck between Iowa drivers and out-of-state drivers. Division VI would replace the current use tax on vehicle purchases with a new registration fee which would be constitutionally protected from being diverted away from its intended purpose. *Status: Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sens. Rielly (Floor Manager)*

SSB 3058 - Tax Code Clean-Up - Allows a privately owned library or art gallery being used for public purposes (and not for private profit) to receive a property tax exemption. Effective 7/1/2008. *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. McCoy (Chair), Dotzler & Putney*

SSB 3140 - Health Care Reform (Senate Version) - **COVERING KIDS**: Mandates coverage for all kids by January 1, 2011, if funds become available, by covering more kids under hawk-iUses Iowa Comprehensive Health Insurance Association (Insurance Division). Subsidizes private coverage for non hawk-i eligible children up to 19 years up to 300 % FPL on sliding-scale. **COVERING ADULTS**: Goal of providing unsubsidized coverage for low-income adults with family income up to 400 % FPL. **CONTINUED DEPENDENT COVERAGE**: Up to 25 years of age on parent's insurance if full time student. **MEDICAL HOME**: Establishes patient-centered medical home in a primary care setting and a Medical Home Commission to implement a statewide medical home system (IDPH)Changes date for implementation of the dental home initiative to December 31, 2010 and clarifies that EPSDT services are required. **ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS**: Establishes an Iowa Electronic Health Information Commission to promote use of electronic health information technology. **CHRONIC CARE MANAGEMENT**: Establishes Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council to develop a state initiative for chronic care management (IDPH), and a Clinicians Advisory Panel. **COST CONTAINMENT**: Establishes a new office of Health Care Quality, Cost Containment, and Consumer Information. *Status: Senate Floor; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Hatch (Floor Manager)*

SSB 3168 - Rail Right-Of-Way for Trails - This bill provides for a corporate tax credit for owners of railroad rights-of-way that grant easements to the department of transportation, a county, or a city for purposes of constructing and maintaining a recreational trail. The agreement must provide for the amount of tax credit which equals a percentage of the property taxes paid by the owner on the right-of-way. The agreement must also specify the number of years the owner is entitled to the tax credit. The tax credit is refundable. The bill applies retroactively to January 1, 2008, for tax years beginning on or after that date. *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. Dotzler (Chair), Seng & Putney*

SSB 3242 - Railroad Material Sales Tax Exemption - This bill exempts the sales price of specific railroad materials from the state sales and use tax. The materials are railroad rails, spikes, ballasts, and bridge components. The materials must be sold to a railway corporation that is based in Iowa for installation of a railroad exclusively in Iowa. *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sens. Dotzler (Chair), Seng & Putney*

SSB 3243 - Local Income Surcharge - Authorizes a city that is not part of a combined incorporated area (an area that includes all contiguous cities) to impose a local income surcharge after an election at which it is approved by a majority of those voting. The bill contains several provisions and stipulates that revenues would need to be deposited into a property tax relief fund for purposes of providing property tax credits, and the remaining revenues, if any, are to be deposited into the city general fund to be used for any lawful purposes of the city. *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sens. Quirnbach (Chair), McCoy & Angelo*

SSB 3265 & HSB 774 Transportation Budget - Maintains current spending on transportation programs in the Department of Transportation, adds \$10 million to last year's appropriation for highways, and allows the highway appropriation to be carried forward into the next fiscal year. *Status: Senate Appropriations Committee/House Appropriations Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sen. McCoy (Chair), Warnstadt, Dvorsky, Putney & Kettering; Rep. Cohoon (Chair), Oldson & Huseman*

SSB 3273 - Public Safety Impact Fee - This bill authorizes a city or county to impose by ordinance or resolution a public safety impact fee on each night of lodging rental within the jurisdiction of the city or county. The bill provides that any fee imposed by a city or county may not exceed \$1.50 per night. All fees collected under the bill shall be deposited in the appropriate city or county general fund and used only for purposes related to local emergency management departments. *Status: Senate Ways & Means Committee; Subcommittee/Floor Manager: Sens. Hogg (Chair), Stewart & Noble*

Tourism-Related Bills – Dead for 2008 Session

The following bills did not make the legislative funnel deadline and are no longer eligible for consideration by the Legislature.

[HF 2006](#) & [SF 2144](#) - Special Destination Park Deer Hunting License (House Natural Resources Committee/Dead)

[HF 2073](#) - Iowa Values Fund Reduction (House Economic Growth Committee)

[HF 2190](#) - Hotel/Motel Tax Election (House Economic Growth Committee)

[HF 2276](#) & [SF 2254](#) - Water Trails from CAT (House Economic Growth Committee/Dead)

[HF 2323](#) - Historical Court Record Preservation (House Judiciary Committee)

[HF 2341](#) - School Start Date Waiver Elimination (House Education Committee)

[HF 2357](#) - Beer Sales in Wineries (House State Government Committee)

[HF 2424](#) - RISE for Statewide Touring Events (House Transportation Committee)

[HF 2457](#) - Heavy Vehicles & TIME-21 (House Transportation Committee)

[HSB 714](#) - Vehicle Tax to Fee (House Transportation Committee)

[SF 2044](#) - Truck Registration Fees (Senate Transportation Committee)

[SF 2045](#) - School Start Date Change (Senate Education Committee)

[SF 2106](#) - New Gambling Moratorium (Senate State Government Committee)

[SF 2208](#) - Forest Reservation Limit (Senate Natural Resources & Environment Committee)

[SF 2235](#) - Fine Arts in State Buildings (Senate State Government Committee)

[SF 2238](#) - Water Infrastructure (Senate Natural Resources & Environment Committee)

2008 Top Tourism Priorities

- ★ Increase the Iowa Tourism Office's budget to the Midwest regional average of \$8.3 million.
- ★ Maintain a traditional school year calendar.
- ★ Support infrastructure funding (Time 21).

Important 2008 Dates to Know:

- ★ Friday, March 7, 2008: First "Funnel" deadline (bills must be voted out of committee of origin to stay alive)
- ★ Friday, March 28, 2008: Second "Funnel" deadline (bills must be voted out of either the House or Senate, and a committee in the other chamber to stay alive)
- ★ April 22, 2008: Final day of session (that is, the last day they get paid for being in session!)

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