

February 3, 2023 – Week 4

It's February already! Legislators continued to hold many subcommittees on policy bills and quickly moved them through committees as well. Both chambers debated bills on Wednesday and Thursday. Education continued to be the primary focus, with the Senate focusing on Supplemental Student Aid (SSA) and the funding of school districts. Property tax legislation is starting to come forward. The House will discuss HF1 next week and the Senate has also introduced property tax legislation, [SSB1124](#) and [SSB1125](#). Stay tuned for more information as we learn more and monitor these bills. The first deadline of the session is next Friday, when individual legislators must have requested their bills and joint resolutions drafts to the Legislative Services Agency.

The Advocacy team will be off to Washington, DC next week for Habitat's annual advocacy conference, Habitat on the Hill. We'll be bringing our voices together with hundreds of Habitat advocates from across the country and meeting with members of our federal delegation to advocate for affordable homeownership. Our weekly legislative update will take a break but we'll be back after that! Please watch for a call to action to email your Senators and Representative!

Day at the Capitol 2023

Greater Des Moines Habitat joined together with Habitat for Humanity representatives from across the state for the annual Habitat Iowa Day at the Capitol and hosted a legislative breakfast. Staff and many advocates talked with over 50 legislators, met with Governor Reynolds and Lt. Governor Gregg, and spoke with legislative leadership to share the importance of affordable homeownership. Homeowner Rachel Duang shared her story with lawmakers and how being a Habitat homeowner has impacted her and her daughters' lives.

Mark your calendars! Next year's Day at the Capitol will be Wednesday, January 31, 2024.

Key Legislation:

[HF141](#) (formerly [HSB22](#)): The legislation increases the property tax exemption for veterans. It increases the exemption to the assessed property value from \$1,852 to \$4,000. The exemption has not been increased since 1974 and the Legislative Services Agency estimates that veterans will receive average relief of \$100-\$150 annually. The bill is now in Ways and Means and a [fiscal note](#) was released this week. **Support.**

SF174 (formerly **SF43**): The bill prohibits cities or counties from adopting rules, ordinances, code or other regulations that are more restrictive building standards than national code. The Senate Local Government committee passed the bill out of committee and is eligible for consideration by the Senate. **Undecided.**

SF15: This legislation appropriates an additional \$500,000 to the military homeownership down payment assistance program. The Veterans Affairs committee passed it this week and it has been assigned to the Appropriations committee and a subcommittee has been assigned. Further action will be later in the session, as it is now funnel proof in the Appropriations committee. **Support.**

HF1: The House released its first draft of its property tax reform legislation. Division 1 impacts the school aid formula, shifting 50 cents of the \$5.40 school aid foundation levy to state aid. Division 2 limits future assessments of “actual value” on individual parcels to 103% of the previous assessment year (3% cap on increase). Division 3 relates to bonding requirements and public noticing. A subcommittee will consider the bill on February 6. The Senate has also introduced property tax legislation, SSB1124 and SSB1125. **Undecided.**

HF111/SF150 (formerly **HSB4/SSB1007**): This legislation exempts transfers to beneficiaries of a trust from paying the real estate transfer tax. The bill essentially codifies what is current practice and is not expected to impact funding to the housing trust funds. HF111 passed the House unanimously on February 2. The Senate version is referred to Way and Means and has been assigned a subcommittee of Sens. Dickey, Koelker, and Quirnbach. **Undecided.**

SF182 (formerly **SF10**): The bill is a “re-brand” of the land banks bill that has been introduced in recent years by Senator Mark Lofgren. While the new name, land redevelopment trusts bill, has caused some confusion among housing advocates, the legislation is the same as previous years and establishes a land bank, not a trust. The Ways and Means committee passed this bill this week. **Support.**

HSB124: This is the companion bill to SF182 (above). It was introduced this week and assigned a subcommittee. **Support.**

HF37: This bill expands the disabled veteran homestead tax credit. The subcommittee moved it forward for consideration by the full committee. **Support.**

Key Dates:

February 10: Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill drafts

March 3: First Funnel Deadline

advocacy updates



March 31: Second Funnel Deadline

April 28: 110th Calendar Day of Session (*per diem* expenses end per Iowa Code)

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