

January 26, 2024 – Week 3

Habitat Day at the Capitol:

Habitat's annual **Day at the Capitol** will be held on **Wednesday, January 31st from 7 – 10:00 am**. Affiliates and advocates will gather on the first-floor rotunda for breakfast with legislators to discuss housing priorities. Please contact [Rachel Ong](#) if you would like to attend. **We need *your* help to uplift the importance of affordable homeownership and its impact to partner families, neighborhoods, and communities! Come help us build louder!**

Under the Golden Dome:

During week 3, legislators introduced many bills and held a flurry of subcommittees – in fact, over 180 subcommittees met. The deadline for individual bill requests has passed but Study and Committee bill can still be requested. There was no floor action but as more policy bills are passed out of committee and eligible for consideration, the Chambers will begin to debate.

Legislation to remove the cap on the real estate transfer tax and thereby increase funding to the State Housing Trust Fund moved forward, with representatives from several organizations speaking in favor of the need for additional funding and the great need for housing work, especially in rural areas.

Key Legislation:

[HSB557](#): This legislation removes the cap on the real estate transfer tax and would increase monies to the State Housing Trust Fund. If passed, based on last year's receipts, would approximately increase the funding from \$7 million to \$12 million. The House subcommittee moved the bill to full committee and on Wednesday, the Local Government committee passed it unanimously, 22-0. It is now eligible to be considered by the House chamber. The Senate companion bill is expected from drafting soon. **Support.**

[HF2167/SSB3061](#): The bill extends the period for families to access case management following disaster and increases the grant limit from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per household. The House Public Safety committee moved the bill out of committee and is eligible to be considered by the House. The Senate subcommittee met on Wednesday and moved the bill forward to the committee. (Formerly [HSB549](#)). **Support.**

[SSB3040](#): This legislation prohibits cities from regulating certain building materials for residential buildings. The Senate subcommittee with Senators Webster, Weiner, and Westrich met on Thursday. Several people attended the subcommittee and spoke in favor or against the bill. Supporters of the bill voiced concerns about the impact of regulation on affordability and overregulation. Opponents of the bill primarily cited local control over zoning concerns. Following comments, the subcommittee moved the bill forward to the Local Government committee. **Support.**

advocacy updates



HF665: This bill allows municipalities to establish land redevelopment trusts (i.e. land banks) and allows those entities to acquire property through tax sale and related methods. The bill passed the House last year but there has not been action on it yet in 2024. **Support.**

SF455: This bill prohibits a county or city from adopting ordinances on storm water regulation that exceeds or conflicts with federal or state statutes. It also prohibits a city from adopting ordinances relating to the preservation, compaction, placement, or depth of topsoil at a construction site. The bill passed the Senate last year (33-15) and had a subcommittee in the House last week. The Local Government committee invited a speaker from each side to present during Wednesday's committee meeting in a packed room. **Undecided**

Key Dates:

Habitat Day at the Capitol:	January 31
First Funnel:	February 16
Second Funnel:	March 16
April 16:	100 th Day of Session (<i>per diem</i> expenses end per Iowa Code)