

February 2, 2024 – Week 4

*Habitat Day at the Capitol:*

Advocates from affiliates across the state gathered on Wednesday for Habitat of Humanity of Iowa's Day at the Capitol and legislative breakfast. Affiliate staff, homeowners, board members, and advocates and spoke with 57 legislators and many members of the staff and public in the rotunda to advocate for policies to boost affordable homeownership opportunities throughout Iowa. Want more than a glimpse into the day? Take a look at the [Flickr album!](#)



*Under the Golden Dome:*

The fourth week of the legislative session is behind us and the first major deadline of the legislative session is quickly approaching. The first funnel will be February 16 and this marks the date by which bills introduced in one chamber must pass through a full committee in that chamber to remain viable. Most bills that don't clear the funnel are considered 'dead' for the session (although there are ways to 'revive' bills). Bills in Ways and Means and Appropriations committees are considered "funnel proof" and are considered later in session.

To meet that deadline, legislators continued to introduce new bills, held a flurry of subcommittees and moved legislation forward during committee work. There was no floor debate in either chamber this week. See below for an update on the legislation Habitat for Humanity is watching.

*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 Local Government committee passed it unanimously last week and it is now eligible to be considered by the House chamber. The Senate companion bill is expected from drafting soon. **Support.**

# advocacy updates



**[HF2167/SF2193](#)**: 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 State Government committee approved the measure on January 31. (Formerly [SSB3061](#)/[HSB549](#)). **Support.**

**[SSB3040](#)**: This legislation prohibits cities from regulating certain building materials for residential buildings. The Senate Local Government committee is expected to vote on the measure next week. **Support.**

**[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. **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 expect the Local Government committee to vote on it next week. **Undecided**

## **Key Dates:**

<b>First Funnel:</b>	February 16
<b>Second Funnel:</b>	March 16
<b>April 16:</b>	100 <sup>th</sup> Day of Session ( <i>per diem</i> expenses end per Iowa Code)