

February 16, 2024 – Funnel Week (Week 6)

Habitat on the Hill:

We took a break from updates last week as we were in Washington, DC for Habitat’s annual legislative and advocacy conference, Habitat on the Hill! Together, with over 400 Habitat staff, homeowners, and advocates, we celebrated a year of advocacy successes at all levels of government and heard from inspiring fellow advocates and policy experts. We advanced Habitat’s federal policy priorities through more than 300 congressional meetings. Iowa was well-represented: Staff from Greater Des Moines, Iowa Heartland, and North Central Iowa Habitat affiliates met with our congressional delegation and/or their staff.



Under the Golden Dome:

Today is the first major deadline in the Iowa Legislature – funnel week! This means that each bill has to pass through committee in its originating chamber to remain viable for consideration. The second funnel, which falls on March 15, is when House bills must be approved by the respective Senate committee and Senate bills must be approved by the House committee. Bills in Ways and Means (tax legislation) and Appropriations are exempt from this deadline. Policy work will continue in each chamber as it works through bills until second funnel. We expect that each chamber will begin floor debate as well this week. Some budget work may be done, but those discussions are more focused after the second funnel as well.

See below for an update on the legislation Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity is following. Reach out with any questions!

Key Legislation:

HF2188: This legislation removes the cap on the real estate transfer tax and would increase monies to the State Housing Trust Fund. The Legislative Services Agency’s [fiscal note](#) estimates approximately \$3

advocacy updates



million increase in funds. It passed Local Government committee and is now in the Ways and Means committee. A Ways and Means subcommittee will be held on Tuesday. (Formerly HSB557) **Support.**

HF2420: This legislation increases the Workforce Housing Tax Credit funding from \$35 million to \$50 million. Passed Economic Growth committee and has been referred to the Ways and Means committee for further consideration. An amendment to increase the per unit cost cap to \$225,000 is expected to be introduced. **Support.**

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.**

HF2388/SF2231 (formerly [SSB3040](#)): This legislation prohibits cities from regulating certain building materials for residential buildings. This passed committee in both chambers. **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), passed the House Local Government committee and is eligible for floor debate. **Undecided**

Key Dates:

Second Funnel: March 16

April 16: 100th Day of Session (*per diem* expenses end per Iowa Code)