

April 5, 2024 – Week 13

Legislators continued to debate bills in both chambers this week and started to move budget bills through the Appropriations committee. This generally signifies movement to the end of the session and leaders from both chambers have stated a shared goal to be adjourned *sine die* close to April 16 (when legislators per diem ends). It's important to note that there is still a substantial budget gap between the two chambers and until there is agreement on a budget target to drive those final negotiations, there will be major changes in proposed budget bills, with adjournment *sine die* in the distance.

The Senate also held debate on the Governor's appointees. Most received unanimous or nearly unanimous support, with a few split along party lines. Another sign the legislature is moving toward adjournment is farewell speeches. Legislators who do not intend to serve next year have started to give their ceremonial speeches and reflect on their public service to Iowa.

Housing progress! There was important movement on Habitat housing priorities this week. First, the Senate economic development budget included additional \$500,000 funding for the Housing Renewal Pilot Program. The bill was approved by the respective subcommittee and passed by the Senate Appropriations committee. It is eligible for floor debate by the Senate now. HF2388 passed the Senate this week, by concurring with the House amendment and is on the way to Governor Reynolds' desk!

Please reach out to [Rachel](#) with any questions! See below for an update on the legislation Greater Des Moines Habitat for Humanity is following.

Key Legislation:

SF2432: This is the economic development budget bill, introduced this week and passed by the Senate Appropriations committee. The bill is eligible for floor debate. It's expected there will be a significant amendment to the measure and the team will be monitoring for changes.

HF2634: 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 million increase in funds by 2028. The Iowa House passed it unanimously this week, 95-0. Currently, there is not a subcommittee scheduled in the Senate. (Formerly HSB557) **Support.**

HF2388/SF2231 (formerly [SSB3040](#)): This legislation prohibits cities from regulating certain building materials for the exteriors of residential buildings. The Senate concurred with the House amendment, sending it to the Governor for her consideration. **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, essentially an adjustment for inflation. The House voted on the bill and passed it unanimously, 97-0. A Senate subcommittee (through the appropriations committee) is assigned but has not yet met. (Formerly [SSB3061/ HSB549](#)). **Support.**

HF665/SF182: 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 Senate Ways and Means committee passed the bill and it is eligible for consideration by the Senate. **Support.**

HF2420: This legislation increases the Workforce Housing Tax Credit funding from \$35 million to \$50 million. The measure passed Economic Growth committee and has been referred to the Ways and Means committee for further consideration. The House Ways and Means subcommittee moved it forward on Tuesday, 3-0. An amendment to increase the per unit cost cap is expected to be proposed. **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 has now passed both the Senate (2023) and the House earlier this week with amendment, on a vote of 53-46. The Senate concurred with the House amendment this week and the enrolled bill now goes to the Governor for her signature or veto. **Undecided.**

Key Dates:

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