

Iowa Chamber Alliance

A unified voice for economic growth

2019 SESSION SUMMARY PRIORITY LEGISLATION

Key Bills

- [HF758/SF608](#) **Future Ready Iowa Funding** **SUPPORT**
 - The Education Appropriations bill (HF785) included more than \$13 million for the Future Ready Iowa “Last Dollar Scholarship” program. The Economic Development appropriations bill (SF608) included funding for other Future Ready Iowa elements, including: \$1.2 million for the Employer Innovation Fund & \$1 million for the Skilled Worker Grant Fund.
 - **Status:** **HF758 Signed into Law on May 13th.**
SF608 Signed into Law on May 17th.

- [SF634](#) **Property Tax / Local Govt Budgeting** **MONITOR**
 - House and Senate property tax legislation addresses the rate of local government spending by placing a “soft” 2% cap on budget growth and requires a 2/3s majority vote and further notice to exceed 2%.
 - **Status:** **Signed into Law on May 23rd.**

- [HF772/HF765](#) **Empower Rural Iowa Legislation** **SUPPORT**
 - The language to increase the workforce housing tax credits (HF772) and make the program competitive increases the cap from \$20 to \$25 million and the rural set aside goes from \$5 to \$10 million. Also incentivizes expansion of broadband connectivity through changes in the regulatory framework. The Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund bill (HF765) appropriates \$5 million of the \$10 million the Governor requested in her FY20 budget for broadband expansion.
 - **Status:** **HF765 Signed into Law on May 13th.**
HF772 Signed into Law on May 20th.

- [HF 546](#) **SAVE Extension** **SUPPORT**
 - Bill extends the one-cent sales tax for education until 2050 and also transfers 30% of those funds into the Property Tax Relief Fund should SAVE exceed a certain amount of growth. It increases transparency in the use of SAVE dollars & delivers property tax relief.
 - **Status:** **Signed into Law on May 24th.**

- [SF228](#) **Bioscience Development Center** **SUPPORT**
 - Accelerated translation of scientific breakthroughs at Iowa universities to commercialization and foster collaboration with industry.
 - **Status:** **Signed into Law on May 16th.**

- [HF779](#) **Tax Omnibus** **MONITOR**
 - Multiple tax changes including expansion of Research and Activities Credits to agri-science and agricultural animal production along with impact to targeted jobs program.
 - **Status:** **Signed into Law on May 16th.**

Continued...

- **SF220** **Tax Clean-up** **SUPPORT**
 - Clarifies Sec 179 includes LLCs and S Corporations.
 - **Status:** **Signed into Law on March 15th.**

- **SF598** **Investor & Innovation Fund Tax Credit/Rural Ec Dev** **SUPPORT**
 - Requires amounts of credits to be set by June 30th annually and caps the credits at \$10 million. Lowers barriers to participation in High Quality Jobs
 - **Status:** **Passed Senate then amended by House to include rural Ec Dev language. Senate did not act on amended bill.**

- **HF 669/SF 583** **The “SOLAR” Act** **SUPPORT**
 - Fixes unintended cost-shift from solar to non-solar electric utility customers for grid use. Sets stage for utility-scale solar investment.
 - **Status:** **Passed Senate 28-19. House passed Commerce.**

- **HF531** **Unemployment Insurance Reforms** **SUPPORT**
 - **IWD Legislation**-Key reforms were stripped from the bill in the House and Senate Labor Committees. Legislation still includes a change in benefits for employees affected by business closing. Also makes changes to shared-work program.
 - **Status:** **Passed House 53-44. Amended and passed Senate 32-18.**

- **SF307** **Inheritance Tax Repeal** **SUPPORT**
 - Repeals the inheritance tax and state qualified use inheritance tax effective July 1, 2019.
 - **Status:** **Passed Senate Ways & Means.**

- **SF516** **E-Verify Mandate** **OPPOSE**
 - Mandates all Iowa employers, regardless of size use the inaccurate federal e-verify system. Also has language that causes concern regarding independent contractors & subcontractors.
 - **Status:** **Passed Senate 33-14. No action in House.**

- **SF240** **Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA)** **OPPOSE**
 - Concerns court use of “heightened scrutiny” in cases of exercised religious. Opens door to potential discrimination in the name of religious freedom and raises liability concerns.
 - **Status:** **Died in 2nd Funnel.**

OTHER BILLS OF NOTE:

SF237 – Judicial Nominating – Similar language included in Standings (**SF638**), which was signed into law on May 13th

SF617 – Sports Betting – Signed into Law on May 13th

SF597 – Blood Centers – Signed into Law on May 16th

APPROPRIATIONS BILLS:

- **SF608** Econ Dev/Workforce/Cultural Affairs – Signed into Law on May 17th.
- **SF600** Transportation – Signed into Law on May 1st
- **HF765** Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund – Signed into Law on May 13th
- **HF421** Human Services – Signed into Law on May 9th
- **SF615** Justice – Signed into Law on May 22nd, Item Vetoed provisions restricting the Attorney General’s ability to join certain lawsuits.
- **SF616** Judicial – Signed into Law on May 17th.
- **SF609** Agriculture & Natural Resources – Signed into Law on May 13th
- **HF759** Admin and Reg – Signed into Law on May 13th
- **HF758** Education – Signed into Law on May 13th
- **SF638** Standings – Signed into Law on May 13th