

The logo for the Iowa Chamber Alliance features a stylized 'I' on the left, containing a white 'C' and 'A' stacked vertically. To the right of the 'I', the word 'Iowa' is written in a large, dark blue serif font, and 'Chamber Alliance' is written below it in a smaller, gold-colored sans-serif font.

# Iowa Chamber Alliance

A unified voice for economic growth

## *Legislative Newsletter*

*April, 2021*

### Policy Update

Following the completion of the second funnel deadline, both have begun chambers working on FY22 budget bills. Senate Republicans released their [budget targets](#) on March 24th. This week the House Appropriations and Senate Appropriations Committees considered several budget bills.

#### **Recovery and Resiliency**

The House and Senate each have a bill that would provide businesses with additional pandemic relief by excluding COVID-19 grants from individual and corporate income taxes. Any relief granted by the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Finance Authority, or Department of Agriculture issued to aid individuals or businesses economically impacted by the pandemic is included in the exemption. The bill also conforms Iowa and federal law regarding the treatment of forgiven paycheck protection loans, excluding the amount received from net income and allowing for certain deductions for businesses expenses paid using the funds. SSB 1198 and HSB 195 were both assigned to Ways and Means committees and remain eligible for consideration.

#### **Talent**

Legislators have filed several bills aimed toward addressing childcare needs across the state. Most of the bills filed provide grants, tax credits, and incentives to increase childcare providers and encourage businesses to offer childcare options. The House passed the following childcare bills earlier in session and survived the second funnel in the Senate.

[HF 370](#) – Creates an incentive for employers to provide child care for their employees by providing a tax credit up to \$150,000.

[HF 302](#)– Creates an "off-ramp" from Child Care Assistance program so parents can continue to grow in their career without losing their child care assistance entirely, all at once.

[HF 301](#) – Creates a fund to provide child care workforce grants on a dollar for dollar matching basis from communities. These programs will help move child care providers up the pay scale and the education pathway.

[HF 606](#) – Creates additional tax incentives for employers to invest in an onsite daycare option for employees.

[HF 712](#) – Creates a child care incentive for developers to construct more childcare centers.

## *Policy Update Continued...*

[HF 260](#) – Allows individuals providing child care in their homes to take care of 6 or fewer children, an increase from 5 or fewer.

The Senate passed HF 260 on sent the legislation to Governor Reynolds for consideration. The remaining eligible childcare bills are on the Senate debate calendar or in the Senate Ways and Means committee.

### **Economic Development**

Another one of Governor Reynold's priorities is a housing omnibus bill to address housing needs across the state. [SF 295](#) and [HF 582](#) will increase workforce housing tax credits, establish a housing tax credit program, expand redevelopment tax credits, create disaster recovery housing assistance, support main street revitalization efforts, and support the state housing trust fund. ICA fully supports this effort as these bills address the backlog with workforce housing tax credits and extends the sunset for the brownfield / grayfield program. Both bills passed have passed through committees' in each chamber and have been referred to the Ways and Means committees.

A bill addressing port authorities was introduced this year. This bill helps delineate liability and creates flexibility to jointly fund projects with no additional taxing authority. Doing this helps to expand Iowa Code Chapter 28J beyond traditional port authority uses for commerce by allowing utilization for commerce, quality of life, and economic development projects. HF 812 was referred to the Ways and Means committee and was approved by the subcommittee in March.

### **Business Climate**

HF 763 would provide short term relief for resident physician's medical liability insurance premiums by reimbursing the cost of premiums attributed to employed resident physicians of certain family practices and nonprofit organizations. There continue to be ongoing negotiations on the best solution to lower the high cost of premiums that are resulting in medical residency programs being shut down. Additionally, HF 592 and SF 557 would cap noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases. Both policy proposals survived the second funnel.

### **Infrastructure**

One of Governor Reynold's priorities for the 2021 session is expanding broadband to meet the needs of Iowans with a commitment of \$450 million of investment over three years. [HF 796](#) passed both the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor for signature. The House and Senate will need to reach an agreement on the program's appropriation by the end of session.

*FY2022 Budget Proposals*

**Administration and Regulation**

[House File 867](#)

General Fund Total: \$150,896,943

Other Funds Total: \$58,360,338

[Senate File 594](#)

General Fund Total: \$49,639,168

Other Funds Total: \$58,435,338

**Infrastructure**

[House File 862](#)

Total: \$121,901,123

[Senate File 600](#)

Total: \$106,852,633

**Agriculture and Natural Resources**

[House File 860](#)

General Fund Total: \$54,808,995

Other Funds Total: \$92,834,867

[Senate File 598](#)

General Fund Total: \$42,671,477

Other Funds Total: \$92,834,867

**Judicial Branch**

[House File 864](#)

Total: \$193,553,894

[Senate File 597](#)

Total: \$190,912,527

**Economic Development**

[House File 871](#)

General Fund Total: \$49,734,532

Other Funds Total: \$28,066,084

[Senate File 595](#)

General Fund Total: \$46,187,032

Other Funds Total: \$28,066,084

**Justice Systems**

[House File 861](#)

General Fund Total: \$619,566,038

Other Funds Total: \$18,999,319

[Senate File 599](#)

General Fund Total: \$595,555,384

Other Funds Total: \$18,499,319

**Education**

[House File 868](#)

General Fund Total: \$970,357,588

Other Funds Total: \$40,300,000

[Senate File 596](#)

General Fund Total: \$976,760,573

Other Funds Total: \$40,300,000

**Transportation**

[House File 863](#)

Total: \$397,763,627

[Senate File 592](#)

Total: \$397,763,627

**Health and Human Services**

[House File LSB 1004YA](#)

General Funds Total: \$2,047,793,079

Other Funds Total: \$424,540,269

[Senate File 606](#)

General Funds Total: \$2,025,494,351

Other Funds Total: \$424,540,269



## Member Spotlight: Ames Chamber of Commerce

Ames will soon be home to a new pedestrian bridge that will span University Boulevard, the road east of Jack Trice Stadium.

This \$10 million project will connect Gate 2 on the east side of the stadium to new parking lots east of University Boulevard. The bridge will span about a quarter-mile and provide a safer path for pedestrians to cross University Boulevard on Cyclone football game days. There is anticipation around the project and the energy it will give the Iowa State University Athletics Department as they are working through major large-scale renovations on the north end of Jack Trice Stadium.

In February, the Board of Regents' Property and Facilities Committee advanced the project meaning the next step will be final approval from the full Board of Regents before construction can begin.

More information and project updates can be found [here](#).

## Member News and Upcoming Events

A vertical photograph of the Iowa State Capitol building, showing its ornate architecture and a large dome, set against a blue sky.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Council Bluffs – Legislative Coffee

April 23<sup>rd</sup>: Quad Cities – Legislative Event: Highlighting the Future of Transportation in the Quad Cities

April 27<sup>th</sup>: Des Moines – Iowa Chamber Alliance Pizza Day at the Capitol

April 27<sup>th</sup>: Iowa City – Congressional Zoom-In: Senator Grassley

April 28<sup>th</sup>: Iowa City – Congressional Zoom-In: Senator Ernst

April 29<sup>th</sup>: Iowa City – Congressional Zoom-In: Representative Miller-Meeks

April 30<sup>th</sup>: Fort Dodge – Eggs and Issues

May 12<sup>th</sup>: Sioux City – Zoom Call with U.S. Congresswomen Cindy Axne