

Iowa Legislative Report
Iowa State Police Association
89th General Assembly, 2021 Session
Week 3: January 29,2021
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

Week three of the legislative session was noticeably busier than past sessions. There was a multitude of subcommittees held this week and many of these bills moved on to committee. Some of the bills seem to be set on a fast track as they were also passed out of full committee as well. This is fairly common for non-controversial bills, but many partisan bills were also moved through. These controversial bills tend to take the air out of the building and brings tension to the legislative process. We are hopeful that spending the weekend back in their home districts will calm those tensions and they can get back to working in a bi-partisan manner.

Representative Kaufmann (R, Cedar) held a subcommittee on the 411 bill (HSB 54) this week. There was good discussion and it passed out of subcommittee 5-0. You could sense the passion that Rep. Kaufmann has on this issue from listening to his comments. He will be a strong leader on making this a priority bill to send down to the Governor. Fortunately, we also have strong support with the minority House members as well. Representative Mascher (D, Johnson) spoke in support of passage as well. The bill is scheduled to be debated in full committee next week. Once the bill clears committee, it is assumed it will be debated on the floor as soon as the schedule allows.

The Governor's "Back the Blue" draft legislation was released late this week but has not been assigned a bill number. As we have mentioned prior that there are significant concerns with this bill and we intend to work through those issues. We are engaged with the committee Chairs in both chambers and are hopeful that we can find a solution to our concerns. As stated, the bill is in its infancy stage so we have time to work out the wrinkles before it reaches floor debate. We will provide more details as they become available.

Eight bills we are monitoring, had movement in the committee process between the two chambers so far this session. We expect more movement in the coming week and are confident they will be advanced. As you all know, the Legislature can be a fickle beast at times, so it is important that we stay tuned into and continue to advocate on behalf of ISPA.

As we move through the 2021 legislative session, please feel free to contact us if you would like additional information on a specific bill or any other questions you may have.

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