**The 2024 legislative session Iowa Legislative Report**

**Iowa State Police Association**

**90th General Assembly, 2024 Session**

**Week Twelve: March 29, 2024**

**Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists**

As we approach the last days of March, we are starting to see signs of budget talks and final moves for policy bills. The means that the end of the session is near. Although we haven’t seen a lot of activity with our priority issues lately, it does not mean that progress has stalled. As you can see from the bill watch list, many bills have recently moved through the legislative process, moving them closer to a Governor’s signature. The biggest move for the session is our 411 bill being reintroduced in the House.

House Study Bill 745 (see the bill watch report) was introduced by Chair Kaufmann in the House Way & Means committee on Thursday and passed in full committee unanimously. This year’s bill is essentially the same bill as in years past with new language added to address surviving spousal tax status on pension benefits. This sets up the bill for floor debate as early as next week. We expect similar results from the full House as we have seen over the past 5 years and are confident it will pass with bipartisan support.

In years past, we have had trouble gaining support from a few key leaders in the Senate which stopped the bill from moving through committee and floor debate. We are hopeful that this year will be different. The House and Senate have had productive meetings regarding some of the contentious issues in this bill and have made great progress in finding a resolution to move the bill forward. We are hopeful that these discussions have paved the way for the Senate to move this bill to the full chamber for debate and then to the Governor’s office for her signature.

The end of session can tend to be a whirlwind with the status of bills changing daily. Leadership in the two chambers will negotiate their priorities on policies as well as the budget. Throughout this process there will be many bills that get left on the negotiating floor while other bills move up the priority list. Persistence and patience are key at this stage of the legislative process, and we feel that the necessary legwork has been completed for this bill to move. Time will tell and we will continue to provide updates as we move towards the session’s end.

If you have any questions regarding bill status, procedural processes or simply curious as to the general tone from week to week, please reach out to us any time.

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