

The 2026 Iowa Legislative Report
91st General Assembly, 2026 Session
Week Nine: March 13, 2026
Fitzgerald, Smith & Associates, Lobbyists

There is one week remaining until the conclusion of the second funnel deadline. This week, the Iowa Legislature dedicated much of its time to caucus meetings, focusing on bills scheduled for debate. Each chamber has established a set of legislative priorities that they aim to advance before time runs out to send these measures to the other chamber for further consideration. Notably, Appropriations and Ways & Means bills are exempt from the funnel deadlines. All other committee sponsored and individual bills must pass the floor of the originating chamber and receive committee approval in the opposite chamber by Friday, March 20th, to remain eligible for future discussion.

Throughout the week, members of both chambers convened in caucus regularly, often multiple times per day, to refine legislation. These efforts included the filing of amendments and ongoing negotiations between chambers to facilitate the advancement of bills once transferred from their origin. Caucus meetings can be lengthy and, at times, contentious, as members work to achieve majority consensus and address any technical issues through amendments.

The lobbying community plays a significant role in this process, providing legislators with critical information regarding proposed legislation and assisting in resolving both technical and philosophical concerns. While this phase is essential, it is not without challenges, as new issues frequently arise requiring attention. Upon the close of next week, legislative efforts will shift towards advancing priorities to the final stage — the Governor's desk.

The activity on our monitored bills has been updated in the weekly bill tracker document. If you have any questions regarding specific bill status, procedural processes or simply curious as to the general tone from week to week, please reach out to us anytime.

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