



## **RSAI Legislative Update** **March 31, 2016**

These updates are posted on the RSAI legislative web page at <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>. Not much action this week as House and Senate rethink budget targets, getting ready for appropriations work. Thanks for all you do to advocate for Iowa's children! [margaret.buckton@isfis.net](mailto:margaret.buckton@isfis.net)

**School Funding:** SF 174 and SF 175 conference increases state cost per pupil and categoricals by 2.25% for FY 2017 was approved March 23, but still has not arrived on the Governor's desk for his signature. Thank legislators for getting it done, but encourage more timely action in the future. Next Step: **Set the FY 2018 state cost per pupil this year before adjourning.** Senate passed bills at 4% (SF2092/SF 2093). Ask House members to act.

**Education Coalition Fact:** Set State Cost per Pupil for 2018 before Adjournment! This publication explains the rationale for the timeline that exists in Iowa Code, the impact on planning if the timeline isn't followed, the recent history of missing the deadlines and new revenue setting process that requires REC to set the FY 2018 revenue estimate (which they set at 4.1% at their March meeting) so no better time than the present to act on the 2018 state cost per pupil. Find a link to this publication on the RSAI legislative page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html> Share with legislators, stakeholders and parents to generate additional advocacy before the session adjourns. RSAI is part of the Education Coalition, comprised of AEAs, ISEA, SAI, RSAI and UEN.

**Water Quality and the State Penny for School Infrastructure:** The House Republicans presented an alternative for funding water quality, which would divert \$25 million current collected in sales tax to a water excise tax for water quality. This bill, HSB 654, would lower state general fund revenue by \$25 million and reduce SAVE fund revenue to schools by \$2 million. The House Ways and Means Committee approved the bill today. It will receive a new bill number soon.

**State Penny for School Infrastructure:** four bills that extend the state penny, along with other policies, are in the House Ways and Means Committee. No official action was taken this week, but conversations are ongoing. Continue to help your legislators understand how SAVE has reduced or prevented an increase in property taxes, how school leaders would appreciate flexibility to use some future SAVE funds for transportation or cost per pupil inequities, and the need to act soon as the bonding capacity window is shortening. See last week's newsletter for details about the bills and key policy questions on the table.

### **Bills signed by the Governor:**

**[HF 2261](#) Joint Investment Trusts:** this bill requires joint investment trusts to follow federal law and GASB standards. RSAI is registered in support and the Governor has signed the bill.

**[HF 2336](#) DE Technical Corrections:** this bill cleans up old Code references, deletes programs no longer operating, and makes technical changes. RSAI is registered as undecided and the Governor has signed the bill.

### **Bills on the Move:**

**[HF2450](#) Parent Opt-in to Human Growth and Development** this bill, by House Oversight, would require parents to sign permission for students to attend content or courses or conferences including human growth and development curriculum. RSAI is registered as opposed to this bill. The bill is on the House Calendar.

**[HF 2284](#) Voucher Pilot Project:** this bill creates an appropriation for school savings accounts for nonpublic school students in Waterloo (120 low income students) and Sioux Center (70 low income students), provides just over \$5,800 per pupil and allows any funds remaining at graduation to be used for college. RSAI is registered as opposed to this bill. The bill is assigned a subcommittee, with Reps. Rogers, Deyoe and Mascher, holding their first meeting next Tuesday.



**[HF SF 2304](#) Boarding School Regulation:** this bill sets up a process for state government to certify and monitor boarding schools. The bill is in response to occurrences at the Midwest Academy in southeast Iowa. RSAI is monitoring this bill which has been amended by the House Oversight Committee and moves to the House Calendar.

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