**RSAI Legislative Update
April 5, 2019**

In this RSAI Report of the 2019 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **SAVE Progress in Subcommittee**
* **Funnel Deadline – Dead Bills**
* **Bills Surviving the Funnel with Action this Week**
* **Funnel Survivors Policy Bills (including Financial Literacy delay and WGS/Reorg Incentives)**
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**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Video Update here:** <https://youtu.be/JALaWe766wA>

Today is the funnel deadline by which House files must clear a Senate committee and Senate files must clear a House Committee to survive.  Tax bills, appropriations bills, oversight committee bills and bills sponsored by leadership are exempt from the funnel deadlines. Next week begins the process of considering only bills on the chambers’ Unfinished Business Calendars, the budget, and tax policy. The final day of per diem for legislators’ expenses is May 5 and they will strive to finish before that deadline.

**HF 546 SAVE Progress in Senate Subcommittee:**

Legislators assigned to the subcommittee of the Senate Ways and Means Committee met on April 4, heard strong consensus of support from many lobby groups, and shared their support, including Sen. Dan Dawson (Council Bluffs), Sen. Roby Smith (Davenport) and Sen. Herman Quirmbach (Ames) who unanimously supported moving the bill to the full Senate Ways and Means Committee. The March 21 RSAI Report detailed the specifics of the property tax relief provisions of the bill. The March 28 RSAI Report provided a summary of the bill’s provisions. Prior reports are posted on the RSAI Legislative Updates page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/2019-legislative-session.html>

If you are represented by a senator on the subcommittee, please send a thank you note! If you are represented by a member of the full Senate Ways and Means Committee, send them a note, letting them know you are happy with the subcommittee progress, but hope they vote in favor quickly in full committee so you have time to plan. Our goal: pass the bill as approved by the House in both the committee and the full Senate and send it to the Governor.

Just a reminder - the House passed the bill as amended on March 13, 2019, 96-3. RSAI supports this bill. Here’s a link to the fiscal note which provides a detailed bill explanation and fiscal impact. <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1039167.pdf> Share the RSAI Position Paper on SAVE extension found here [Updated State Penny Paper](http://nebula.wsimg.com/a99d111955eb868137ac0ec7c59f5dbc?AccessKeyId=D081CCCCA2DCE3941176&disposition=0&alloworigin=1).

**April 5 Bills Dead due the Funnel:**

Senate Bills and RSAI Registrations included. Any bill that died may come back as an amendment to another bill. Bills introduced this year remain in their committees for continued work in the 2020 Session. If you have questions about the content of any of these bills, just ask and we’ll send you a description or explanation of our registration.

**Senate Bills**

* SF 575 State and Local Elections (Opposed)
* SF 502 Whistle-blower Protections (Undecided)
* SF 480 Virtual Snow Days Study (Support)
* SF 438 Education Omnibus (Health Screenings) (Support)
* SF 437 Academic Eligibility Standards (Undecided)
* SF 371 Admin Probationary Period (Support)
* SF 352 Alternative Licensure (Undecided)
* SF 326 Dues to Athletic Associations (Undecided)
* SF 317 PK Expansion Grants (Support)
* SF 298 School Board Presumption/DE Rules (Support)
* SF 287 Athletic Assoc. Eligibility Standard (Undecided)
* SF 284 SRO Operational Sharing (Support)
* SF 270 MH/Suicide Prevention Curriculum (Support)
* SF 239 Vaccination Exemptions (Opposed)
* SF 209 Mandated Civics/INS Test (Opposed)
* SF 199 Voluntary Diversity Plans (Opposed)
* SF 183 Bond Elections November Only (Opposed)
* SF 177 Teacher Recruitment Retention Study (Support)
* SF 161 Local Money Stays/Open Enrollment (Undecided)
* SF 160 DPS/DE Emergency Plan Guidance (Support)
* SF 130 School Start Date (For)
* SF 129 School Start Date (For)
* SF 116 Permit to Carry on School Grounds (Against)
* SF 115 Peace Officers Carry on School Grounds (Undecided)
* SF 73 PPEL for Safety Equipment (Undecided)
* SF 70 School Emergency Drills (Support)
* SF 32 School Board Petition DE Rules (Undecided)
* SF 31 Maximum 5% Admin Expenditure Cap (Opposed)
* SF 30 Eliminate Core Curriculum (Opposed)
* SF 28 Eliminate DE and Vouchers (Opposed)
* SF 8 ICN Sale (Undecided)
* SCR8 Fine Arts Study Committee (Undecided)
* SJR1 Home Rule Constitutional Amendment (Support)
* SSB 1240 Telemedicine Mental Health Screening and Services at School (Support)

**House Bills**

* HF 715 Sups’ Committee Open Meetings (Opposed)
* HF 704 Student Liaisons on School Board (Undecided)
* HF 663 Vouchers/ESAs (Opposed)
* HF 652 City and School Elections (Undecided)
* HF 636 Carrying in Public Places (Opposed)
* HF 616 Principals’ Teacher License (Opposed)
* HF 615 Eliminate Hours’-based Calendar (Opposed)
* HF 614 Administrator Min. Teaching Experience (Opposed)
* HF 613 PK Funding at 1.0 Weighting (Support)
* HF 612 Auto Technology Intro Course (Opposed)
* HF 575 Mandated Seizure Training (Opposed)
* HF 574 Offer & Teach waivers for Small Districts (Support)
* HF 493 SBRC Authority for FRPL Waivers (Support)
* HF 492 Snow Day Forgiveness (Undecided)
* HF 490 and HF 491 Reading Assessments (Undecided)
* HF 450 Informed Consent Curriculum (Undecided)
* HF 448 Vaccination exemptions (Opposed)
* HF 444 National Motto Display (Opposed)
* HF 443 Eliminate Core/Parent Opt Out (Opposed)
* HF 429 Parent Consent to Attend Conference (Opposed)
* HF 428 Eliminate Core (Opposed)
* HF 403 Operational Sharing Positions (sped and safety director) (Undecided)
* HF 402 PPEL Instructional Software (Undecided)
* HF 348 Eliminate DE (Opposed)
* HF 231 Biblical Literacy Courses (Opposed)
* HF 195 and 196: SAVE Extension (Support)
* HF 194 Solzhenitsyn Book Grad Requirement (Opposed)
* HF 185 School Start Date (Support)
* HF 183 School Lunch Organic (Opposed)
* HF 182 Eliminate Private Instruction (Support)
* HF 180 Extend Bus Times (Support)
* HF 161 Eliminate Praxis (Support)
* HF 160 Charter Schools (Opposed)
* HF 138 School Events on Caucus Night (Undecided)
* HF 78 School Start Date (Support)
* HF 61 Elimination of Core Curriculum (Opposed)
* HF 54 Property Owners vote in Bond Elections (Opposed)
* HF 43 Eliminate Praxis Test (Support)
* HF 36 World Language Pilot (Support)
* HF 6 Voluntary Diversity Plans/Open Enrollment (Opposed)

**Bills Surviving the Funnel with Action this Week**

[**SF 140**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf140) **Nonpublic School Mileage Limit:** this bill increases the limit students who attend nonpublic schools can drive one way for instruction or extracurricular activities from 25 to 50 miles. (Replaces HF 517) RSAI was registered undecided. It was approved by the House, sending it to the Governor.

[**SF 159**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf159) **Praxis Test Score:** this bill authorizes the DE to set a minimum passing score for the Praxis test for completion of a teacher preparation program to receive an initial teaching license. The bill requires DE to consider passing scores in neighboring states and supply and demand imbalance of teachers in the content area in setting the minimum score. The bill allows a one-year waiver for a new teacher with an Iowa school district job offer to complete the test if the teacher did not get a passing score, and defines good faith efforts to school districts to show they were not able to hire a qualified licensed applicant to meet their expectations. The bill was approved 48:0 in the Senate. It was approved by the House 71:28. It now goes to the Governor. RSAI is registered in support.

[**SF 394**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking/billHistory?billName=SF%20394&ga=88) **Online Learning:** this bill allows school districts flexibility to meet accreditation requirements four ways in addition to teaching courses at the high school; offer Iowa Learning Online courses, develop online courses by the school district, develop online courses in partnership with other schools or through private provider approved by DE. The bill was approved unanimously in the Senate 49:0, amended by the House Education Committee to strike a vague phrase about good faith effort, moving it to the House Calendar. RSAI supports.

[**SF 437**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf437) **High School Ineligibility for Extracurricular Activities:** this bill prohibits the state Board of Education rules from imposing multiple periods of ineligibility for a student for all school-approved activities for a single violation of the rules. The Senate approved the bill 49:0. The House Education Committee approved it. It’s on the House Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**HF 598**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking/billHistory?billName=HF%20598&ga=88) **Siblings in Classes:** this bill requires school administrators to defer to parents of siblings regarding class placement. The bill gives the administrator more authority to appropriately place siblings under certain conditions. The bill was approved by the House 93:5, approved by the Senate Education Committee on Wednesday. That sends it to the Senate Calendar. The House changes give the principal more flexibility, so it’s improved, but as an intrusion into local control, RSAI remains opposed.

[**HF 637**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf637) **Reporting of School Misconduct**: this bill requires school districts to report certain school employee misconduct to the Board of Education Examiners within 30 days of a disciplinary action. The bill was approved 98:0 in the House. It was approved by the Senate Education Committee on April 3, and is now on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided on the bill.

[**HF 690**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf690) **Children’s Mental Health**: this bill sets up a mental health services system for children. As of this form, there is no mandate on schools for mental health screenings of children or other requirements of schools. There are benchmarks for mental health providers to deliver attendance and academic performance targets for students. SF 283, a companion bill, is attached on the Senate Calendar. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**HF 730**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf730) **Conflict of Interest Threshold:** this bill increases the threshold of a school board member’s income from a district or interest in a contract to no more than $6,000 without creating a conflict of interest. Current threshold is $2,500. This bill is now on the House Calendar with SF 283 attached. RSAI supports.

**Other Survivors (Appropriations or Ways and Means bills)**

[**HF 268**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf268) **DOM Searchable Database** of School Expenditures. RSAI Opposed

[**HF 445**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf445) **Foster Care Weighting** for Students in Facilities without an IEP. In the House Education Committee. RSAI supports.

[**HF 592**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf592) **PK Young Children** (add 5-year olds) in House Appropriations Committee. RSAI is undecided.

[**HF 609**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf609) **ISL** **Legalizing Act** on House Calendar. RSAI supports.

[**HF 669**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf669) **Utility Regulation** (solar fees) on House Calendar with SF 583 attached. RSAI is opposed.

[**HF 744**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf744) **BOEE Licensing Fees** on House Calendar (Ways and Means bill). RSAI undecided.

[**HF 755**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf755) **Radon Testing and Mitigation** on the House Calendar. (Appropriations bill). The bill requires school districts to test for radon and to mitigate. The bill expands PPEL and state penny sale tax to cover both testing and mitigation costs. RSAI supports.

[**SF 116**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF116&ga=88) **WGS and Reorganization Incentives:** this bill extends the incentives for five more years. RSAI supports it, now on the Senate calendar. Companion bill, [**SF 602**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf602) **WGS & Reorg Incentives Extension** is on the Senate Calendar.

[**SF 603**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf603) **Concurrent Enrollment/STEM** to meet Offer and Teach Requirements on Senate Calendar. RSAI supports.

**Other Policy Bills Surviving**

[**HF 429**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf429) **and** [**SF 139**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf139) **Financial Literacy Implementation Delay** on House Calendar. RSAI Supports.

[**HF 343**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf343) **and** [**SF 197**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf197)on House Calendar **and HF 489 and SF 186** on Senate Calendar**: Passenger Limits on Vans and School Bus Exceptions.** RSAI Supports.

[**SF 316**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf316) **Special Education Interim Study** on House Calendar. RSAI supports.

[**SF 319**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf319) **Peace Officers Drivers’ Ed** on House Calendar. RSAI supports.

**Budget Bills**

* [**HF 758**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf758) **Education Appropriations;** this billappropriates funds for many purposes in education, including community college general aid, funding for regents universities, funding for the college student aid commission and the DE. Significant for PK-12 Education, there is an appropriation for$3 million to DE for state assessment, of which up to $300,000 can be used for state assessments for nonpublic schools, and $3 million to the AEAs for MH training and supports. The bill also continues the $15 million cut to AEAs and zero state match for ISL. Approved by House, over to Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. RSAI is undecided.
* [**HF 765**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=hf765) **RIIF**; this bill appropriates $5 million for the Connecting Iowa farms, schools, and communities broadband grant fund, and $600K to DE for the statewide education data warehouse. On the House Calendar. RSAI is undecided.

**Ways and Means Bills**

* [**SF 307**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=%24selectedGa.generalAssemblyID&ba=sf307) **Repeal Inheritance Tax** on Senate Calendar. The repeal of the State inheritance tax and the State qualified use inheritance tax is projected to reduce net General Fund revenue by $30.2 million in FY 2020 and $86.9 million in FY 2021. The revenue reduction is projected to grow by 2.5% per year after FY 2021. RSAI is opposed.
* [**SSB 1249**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SSB1249&ga=88) **Tax Administration & Changes** in Senate Ways and Means Committee: Division XI of this bill expands School Tuition Organization tax credits to $17 million (currently at $13 million) beginning in tax years starting on or after Jan 1. 2020. RSAI is opposed.

**Advocacy Resources**

To find Advocacy Resources such as Calls to Action, Position Papers, RSAI Weekly Legislative Reports and video updates, RSAI Calls to Action when immediate advocacy action is required, testimony presented to the State Board of Education, the DE or any legislative committee or public hearing, and links to fiscal information that may inform your work, visit the RSAI legislative web page here: <http://www.rsaia.org/legislative.html>

Contact us with any questions, feedback or suggestions to better prepare your advocacy work:

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**Legislator Contact Information follows:** Find out who your legislators are through the interactive map or address search posted on the Legislative Website here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

To call and leave a message at the statehouse during session, the House switchboard operator number is 515.281.3221 and the Senate switchboard operator number is 515.281.3371. You can ask if they are available or leave a message for them to call you back.

**Key Committee Contacts (every name is linked to their legislative email address within the table):**

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