**RSAI Legislative Update   
Mar. 14, 2019**

In this Mar. 14, 2019 RSAI Report of the 2019 Legislative Session, find information about:

* **Next funnel deadline**
* **SAVE Extension approved in the House**
* **Bills approved in the House**
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**Find this week’s RSAI Capitol Video Update here:** <https://youtu.be/nlIpNHqknzE>

**Funnel Deadlines:** April 5 is the next 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. 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. As expected, there was much time spent in caucus and on floor debate this week. We expect that focus to continue

**HF 546 SAVE Extension Approved by the House:** Two amendments were proposed during the floor debate:

* H-1024 by Dolecheck would have capped petition signatures at 2,000 which would have only impact urban schools. That amendment was withdrawn, although we expect continued conversation about petition signature thresholds now that city and school elections will be combined beginning in November 2019.
* H 1022 by Bossman – this amendment increased the amount of the property tax relief to 15% and was adopted by a voice vote.

**Details of the Bill as Amended:** Extends the SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education) Fund for the school sales tax until 2051. **Property Tax Relief:** establishes a formula for a new equity transfer percentage to the property tax equity and relief fund, increasing to 15%. Establishes a base transfer supplement equal to the equity transfer for foundation base property tax relief. The property tax relief deposit, currently at 2.3% for PTER, will grow annually by another 1% if sales tax revenue growth exceeds 2% in the prior year, with half of the growth to the PTER fund and half to the foundation base tax relief. **CTE Academies:** establishes a new career academy transfer and formula for transfers for a career academy, beginning at $1 million and growing to maximum of $5 million. **Revenue Purpose Statements:** terminates revenue purpose statements the earlier of when they would otherwise expire or 2031. **Uses:** states legislative intent that school buildings in a district have various safety equipment before building new athletic facilities. **Reverse Referendum:** requires a public hearing andallows voters to petition for a vote if SAVE funds are planned to be used for athletic facilities. If there are sufficient petition signatures exceeding 30% of those voting in the last school election received by the district in 14 days, the board my call for a vote or rescind the idea and start over. Requires a public hearing for revenue bond sales and allows voters to petition for a vote on revenue bond sales. Same provisions for petitions and board options. **Safety:** Allows the use of SAVE funds for school security and safety

equipment. **Small Schools:** Requires the DE to use a cost benefit analysis when determining whether to issue a certificate of need for building by a small school to include impact on student learning (this language was requested by RSAI last year.) The House passed the bill as amended 96-3 (Reps. Wheeler, Shipley and Thompson voted no and Rep. Bloomingdale was excused).

**Next steps:** the bill now goes to the Senate and is assigned to Senate Ways and Means Committee where SF 74 is awaiting action. 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> Those Committee members are listed at the end of this report.

**Two Timely Advocacy Actions:**

Please send a thank you note to all representatives who voted yes for their support of the SAVE extension!!! Please also contact all of your Senators about SAVE extension and, if they are on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, recruit one other community member to also reach out to them for support. RSAI supports this bill.

**Bills approved by the Senate**

[**SF 140**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf140) **Private School Student Mileage:** this bill increases the miles a teen driver on a special school license can drive for an activity from 25 to 50 miles. The Senate passed the bill 46-3; it moves to the House Education Committee. RSAI is registered as undecided.

[**SF 197**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf197) **School Bus Exceptions- Pick-ups:** this bill requires the DE to adopt administrative rules that allow the use of 9-passenger pick-ups by schools. Includes requirements for the pick-ups. Vans: Excludes certain 12-passenger vehicles as school buses. Uses: Limits the use of such vehicles to transporting students to events or transporting a student home due to illness in an emergency. Requires the driver be specifically approved for the event. The Senate passed the bill 49-0; it moves to the House. RSAI is registered in support.

[**SF 209**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf209) **School Citizenship Tests**: This bill requires accredited public and nonpublic schools to offer high school students an opportunity to take the test required by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for US citizenship. The bill requires the DE to identify an alternative for students with special education or English-language learner services. The bill is in the House Education Committee. RSAI is registered opposed.

[**SF 316**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf316) **Special Education Interim Study**: This bill requests the legislative council is establish an interim study committee to study and make recommendations relating to special education program requirements and outcomes for students with IEPs. The study committee is required to review state and federal laws relating to students with IEPs; to determine the ways in which inclusion requirements and least restrictive environment placements affect the classroom, including but not limited to the teaching staff, teacher retention, teacher professional development, and student and peer outcomes when children requiring special education are placed in a general education classroom; to review evidence-based practices and strategies by which schools and teachers can best accommodate students with IEPs who have severe emotional, social, and behavioral problems; to develop or identify strategies designed to improve outcomes for children requiring special education; and shall develop or identify a graduated process for the transfer of a child requiring special education from a self-contained classroom to a general education classroom. The bill specifies stakeholders from whom the study is required to receive input and is required to submit a report with its findings and recommendations to the legislature and each member of Iowa’s congressional delegation on or before December 18, 2020. The bill was approved 49:0 in the Senate. The bill is in the House Education Committee. RSAI is registered in support.

**Other Bills still working through the Process**

[**HF 673**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf673) **Radon Testing and Mitigation** **Mandate**: this bill requires schools to conduct short term radon testing at least once by 2024 and at least once every five years thereafter. If multiple tests confirm an unacceptable level of radon, requires schools to mitigate. The bill includes both testing and mitigation as allowable SAVE or PPEL expenses. The bill requires school districts to use certified radon professionals or school employees trained in radon testing/mitigation. The bill is assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. RSAI is registered undecided. See the statewide fiscal impact on schools in the fiscal note <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1040505.pdf>

[**HF 690**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf690) **Children’s Mental Health Services:** this bill by the Human Resources Committee establishes a Children’s Behavioral Health System Board and establishes requirements for core behavioral services for children. Establishes membership and duties of the board. Defines core services and sets eligibility requirements for children under the age of 18. Includes provisions on payments. Requires DHS to adopt rules on the matter. Requires the administrator of the MH/DS to assist in planning for services. Requires the MH/DS regions to submit plans to the DHS. Includes data collection and other requirements. Makes changes to the MH/DS regional boards. Makes definitions and conforming changes. Includes school success and attendance measures as outcomes for MH service provides. Does not include annual screening or any other school responsibility. RSAI is registered as undecided. The bill is on the House Calendar. Companion [**SF 479**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf479) **Children’s Mental Health System** is on the Senate Calendar.

[**HF 704**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf704) **School Board Student Liaisons**: this bill requires school boards to select at least one student as a student liaison to the board. Excludes the student liaison from closed/executive sessions. On the House Calendar. RSAI is registered undecided.

[**HF 715**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf715) **Open Meetings**; this bill, requested by the Iowa Public Information Board, requires an advisory committee, or other body formally and directly created by an executive order, motion, amendment, resolution, or ordinance of a political subdivision (including school boards) or by a superintendent of schools if the school board has expressly authorized the superintendent to act on behalf of the school district, to develop and make recommendations on public policy and budget issues to the board. The amendment that was approved in the local government committee limits the scope of the committee to recommendations on public policy and budget issues. The bill also excludes weekend days and holidays when determining the 24-hour public notice period. RSAI is opposed. The bill is on the House Calendar.

[**HF 720**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf720) **Foster Care Placement Weighting**: this bill creates a weighting for students placed in residential facilities if the student does not have a special education designation, as if the student required level one special education services. The bill is assigned to the House Appropriations Committee. RSAI supports.

[**HF 730**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf730) **Contract Threshold**: this bill increases the threshold amounts for contracts between local governor’s/schools and school board members to $6,000 before the conflict of interest statute applies. The current threshold is $2,500. The bill is on the House Calendar. RSAI supports. [SF 283](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SF%20283&ga=88) is on the Senate Calendar.

[**HF 731**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=hf731) **Mandatory Reporter Training**: this bill strikes the requirement that the DPH approve training for mandatory reporters who work in a position that does not have a training curriculum from its licensing board. Strikes certain requirements related to mandatory dependent adult abuse training. Moves the duty to examine and develop training for mandatory reporters of child/dependent adult abuse to the DHS from the DPH. Increases the requirement for training to once every three years. Allows extra training completed during a three-year period to count for training in the next. Includes a transition period from current requirements. Requires persons who are mandatory reporters of both dependent adult and child abuse to complete separate training programs. RSAI is undecided. [SF 544](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ga=88&ba=sf544) is on the Senate Calendar.

**Bills Ready for Debate on the Calendar**

**See prior reports for descriptions of the following bills on the House or Senate Calendar.** There are still other bills we are following assigned to ways and means or appropriations committee not detailed here. We will cover those next week:

**Senate Calendar**

SF 307: Repeal of state inheritance tax. RSAI opposed.

SF 159: DE sets Praxis cut score and one-year waiver. RSAI supports

SF 160: Adds Department of Public Safety to supports for school emergency plans. RSAI supports.

SF 186: School transportation vehicles 9 and 12 passenger vans. RSAI supports.

SF 199: Voluntary diversity plans and open enrollment. RSAI opposed.

SF 283: Conflicts of interest threshold raised for school board members to $6,000. RSAI supports.

SF 376: Adds mental health, suicide prevention and awareness content to secondary curriculum. RSAI supports.

SF 394: Online Learning requirements and district authority to use ILO courses, develop individually, in partnership with other schools or through private provider approved by DE. RSAI supports.

SF 437: Academic eligibility standards for public school students participating in school-approved activities. RSAI undecided.

SF 438: Elimination of unfunded mandates for schools, including health screening reporting, green cleaning and others (provisions regarding nurses and librarians were removed.) RSAI supports.

SF 429: Reverses burden of proof in certain judicial proceedings involving school boards and DE rules. RSAI supports.

SF 459: Right to carry, transport, or possess a firearm on real property comprising a person’s place of employment. RSAI opposed.

SF 480: Interim Committee to study virtual school days in place of snow days. RSAI supports.

SCR 8: Concurrent resolution to establish a fine arts program interim study committee. RSAI undecided.

**House Calendar**

SF 139: Financial Literacy implementation for class of 2022-23. Companion bill HF 420. RSAI supports.

SF 140: Increase in mileage for nonpublic school students’ minor driver’s licenses. RSAI undecided.

HF 343: Vans and pick-ups to transport students under certain condition. RSAI supports.

HF 499: Vehicles designed to carry 10 or fewer persons when used as school buses. RSAI supports.

HF 513: DE authority to set Praxis cut score and one-year waiver. RSAI supports.

HF 517: Special minor’s drivers’ licenses for students attending nonpublic schools. RSAI undecided.

HF 596: Whole Grade Sharing and Reorganization Incentives extension for 5 years. RSAI supports.

HF 598: Administrator deferral to parent of siblings regarding class placement. RSAI opposed.

HF 609: Legalizing act for school district that missed ISL deadline. RSAI supports.

HF 636: Carrying, possessing or transporting weapons on school grounds. RSAI opposed.

HF 637: 30-day reporting deadline to BOEE for certain employee misconduct offenses. RSAI undecided.

HF 652: City and school elections clean-up by Secretary of State. RSAI undecided.

HF 666: Periodic review of professional licenses. RSAI opposed.

HF 690: Children’s Mental Health System. RSAI undecided.

HF 704: School board appoints student liaison. RSAI undecided.

HF 715: Open meetings requirements for superintendent committees. RSAI opposed.

HF 720: Weighting for students in foster care residential facility placements without special education designation. RSAI supports.

HF 730: Conflict of interest threshold for school board members raised to $6,000. RSAI supports.

**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:

Margaret Buckton, RSAI Professional Advocate

[margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com](mailto:margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com)

515.201.3755 Cell

**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>

You can click on any legislator to find their office phone and email address or search the Iowa Secretary of State’s general election candidate list for all House members and those Senators who were elected in November of 2018 to see their home address, local phone or cell phone number and email address.

That list is found here: <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/candidates/generalcandidatelist.pdf>

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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| **Senate Education Committee Members:**  [**Amy Sinclair**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=10729)**(R, District**[**14**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925098.pdf)**), Chair**  [**Chris Cournoyer**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27004)**(R, District**[**49**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925133.pdf)**), Vice Chair**  [**Herman C. Quirmbach**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=161)**(D, District**[**23**](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925107.pdf)**), Ranking Member**  [Jerry Behn](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=140) (R, District [24](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925108.pdf))  [Claire Celsi](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=27000) (D, District [21](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925105.pdf))  [Jeff Edler](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18076) (R, District [36](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925120.pdf))  [Craig Johnson](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=18075) (R, District [32](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925116.pdf))  [Tim Kraayenbrink](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/legislator?ga=88&personID=14812) (R, District [5](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/DMP/925089.pdf))  [Mark S. 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