



March 15, 2009

News from the Capitol Steps

Be sure to join us at the Capitol on March 25th for ILA Legislative Day – It consists of a Legislative Briefing, followed by a Legislative Reception and chance to talk with your legislators about the importance of libraries. For more information, just go to <http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/cde.cfm?event=197119>. The more library supporters that attend and advocate on behalf of libraries, the easier it is for legislators and the Governor to make library funding a priority!

Another Friday the 13th! - The second Friday the 13th of 2009 marked the end of the 9th legislative week and the first major deadline of the session – the first funnel. By this past week, all non-spending or tax bills had to have been voted out of committee in order to stay alive. Thanks to the first funnel, legislators will return to the Capitol on Monday, March 16th for the 64th day of the session with about half the bills to contend with that they had a week ago.

On Friday, March 20th, the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) will meet and announce their updated revenue estimate for the state. That means many in the Legislature and the Lobby will have a long week of worrying about how bad the numbers may be. Once the numbers are known, the appropriations process will kick into high gear and legislators will generally shift their attention from policy issues to the state budget.

The goal is to get the legislative session wrapped up quickly after that, however the budget process itself takes a while to get through. The session was originally scheduled for 110 days which would mean a May 1st adjournment date, but they then agreed to a 100-day session which would end around April 21st. Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal said a few weeks ago that he would shoot for an April 2nd adjournment and see how close they may get.

Library Service Districts Bill is shelved until next year – In the Dead Bill list, you'll notice SSB 1008 & HSB 27, legislation that would make several technical changes to Code sections dealing with the formation of library districts. While the State Library of Iowa and ILA had hoped to help get this legislation moving this year, a few Senators wanted more time to work with the library community and better

understand the intent of the bill. As such, the legislation will be worked on during the legislative interim and brought back for discussion next year.

Some other Funnel Casualties – You’ll notice that the Internet Filtering & Video Restrictions bills both died in the first funnel as anticipated. ILA was opposed to both bills.

Flood Relief - The Legislature took action this week on a \$100 Million Flood Relief plan ([HSB 271](#)) that includes \$20 million for flood prevention efforts. The plan would set aside \$12.5 million to buy out flooded homes that aren't eligible for federal disaster money, \$14 million for storm water drainage programs and \$15 million to repair damaged cultural and historical centers.

*The information in this update is prepared for ILA by Campbell/Patterson Consulting, LLP.

[ILA’s Bills of Interest List is Available at:](#)

<http://tinyurl.com/awc28c>

Remember - The bill tracker contains several functions that we are still refining. You can view individual bills along with our description in the list by pressing the “Details” link below the bill title. Additionally, you can go directly to the bill’s listing on the Iowa General Assembly’s website by clicking on the bill’s number. If your goal is to get the full bill list and copy and paste it for your own use, you can do that by clicking the “Print All” link at the beginning of the bill list. We hope you enjoy the new bill tracker!

Bills Being Tracked by the ILA that DIED in the First Funnel:

BILL NUMBER	BILL TITLE	SUMMARY	STATUS	POSITION
HF 11	Minimum Wage COLA Increase	This bill increases the state minimum hourly wage, including the minimum hourly wage established for employees employed for less than 90 days, annually on July 1 by the same percentage as the cost-of-living increase in social security benefits authorized in the previous fiscal year by the federal social security administration.	DEAD	Monitor
HF 335	Social Security Numbers on Public Records	Amends Iowa's Open Records Act by prohibiting government bodies from disclosing a person's social security number and requires them to take steps to exclude social security numbers from public records (and requires redaction prior to public access). Requires governing bodies to investigate any breaches and makes the governing body civilly liable for failing to protect the information. Sponsored by Rep. Bailey	DEAD	Monitor

SF 111	Internet Filtering	Requires a public library to adopt an Internet filtering policy designed to eliminate access to pornography on its Internet equipment as a condition of receiving state funds. Sponsored by Sen. Zaun, Johnson, Reynolds, Hamerlinck, Kapucian, Hahn, Houser, McKinley, Behn, Noble, Boettger, Ward, Hartsuch, Wieck & Seymour	DEAD	Oppose
SF 161	Open Meetings & Public Records	Makes major changes to Iowa's open meetings and public records law to better define what constitutes a public record and open meeting. Increases civil penalties for open meeting violations and public records laws for each member of the governing body and each person that knowingly participated in the violation from \$100-\$500 to \$1,000-\$2,500. Creates a 5-member Iowa Public Information Board to serve as a resource for public access to government information (four non-voting legislative members and 12 voting members). Allows a taxpayer or Iowa citizen to seek enforcement of these laws and establishes a process for judicial action, including mediation.	DEAD	Monitor
SF 346	Sale of the ICN	Establishes a mechanism for the sale of excess capacity of the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), but requires essential educational and public defense services be retained and preserved.	DEAD	Monitor
SF 93	Video Restrictions in Libraries	Requires public libraries to adopt policies restricting the content of videos a child under the age of 17 years old may borrow from the library as a condition of receiving state funds. Sponsored by Sen. Zaun	DEAD	Oppose
SSB 1008 & HSB 27	Library Service District Modifications	This bill makes a number of technical changes to Iowa Code provisions relating to library districts. The bill would require the library district formation petition to include the total number of board members, how representation on the board will be divided among the jurisdictions, and clarify several other aspects of new district formation. The bill contains several related provisions. Requested by the Iowa Department of Education	DEAD	Monitor
SSB 1048	Part III ICN	See companion bill that is still alive - HSB 13.	DEAD	Monitor

Top Priorities: Library Issues 2009

- ⇒ Allocate funds to assist flood-damaged libraries so they can replace their collections, repair their facilities, and resume full service to their customers.
- ⇒ Enhance Iowa's workforce by providing statewide access to additional high-demand databases, such as test preparation software. These databases help Iowans prepare for a wide variety of educational and career tests, from GREs to college preparation to civil service and military service exams. This would require a \$250,000 new appropriation to the State Library of Iowa.

- ⇒ Increase funding for Enrich Iowa to support the dramatic increase of Iowans' need for and use of libraries. Not every library can own everything; Enrich Iowa funds resource-sharing that enables Iowa's library system to be an efficient resource-sharing network accessible to all Iowans.
- ⇒ Support efforts to develop a statewide shared library catalogue and check-out system.
- ⇒ Sustain the budget of the State Library of Iowa and Library Service Areas for providing critical leadership and support to libraries.
- ⇒ Preserve hometown governance in Iowa public libraries by maintaining support for the local decision-making.

Important Dates of the 2009 Legislative Session

- ⇒ **March 25th, 2009** – ILA's Legislative Day at the Iowa State Capitol.
- ⇒ **April 10th, 2009** – Second funnel deadline. A House bill must have been approved by the committee of jurisdiction in the Senate in order to remain alive (and vice versa). Bills exempt from funnel deadlines include any bills in the Committees on Appropriations, Oversight and Ways & Means.
- ⇒ **May 1st, 2009** – 110th Calendar Day of the 2009 legislative session. Per Diems for legislators expire. (Unless the Session is shortened to 100 days)

The Best Resources for Your Advocacy Needs:

Find Your Legislator - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/findleg/>

Contact Your Legislator - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Legislators/LegislatorInfo.aspx>

Legislative Committee Listings - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/CommitteeInfo.aspx>

Track Legislation (instantly updated) - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Legislation.html>

Listen to Debate (live) - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Audio/Audio.html>

House & Senate Calendars (weekly & daily) - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Chambers.html>

Session Calendar - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Current/TimeTable.html>

How a Bill Becomes a Law - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Pubinfo/bill2law.htm>

Guide to the General Assembly - <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/Central/Guides/gaguide.pdf>

2009 ILA Legislative Agenda -

<http://www.iowalibraryassociation.org/associations/2221/files/2009legagenda.pdf>

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