



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - WEEK 7

As the first funnel approaches, the Iowa Legislature is moving at a frenzied pace. Here are a few bills we've been tracking this week.

Broadband Bills ([HSB 124](#), [HSB 128](#), [HF 586](#), [SF 390](#)) - There are multiple bills tackling a wide variety of issues concerning broadband. SF 390 is the broadband omnibus bill that focuses on the ability to offer communications services at a commercially reasonable price across Iowa and administers the Empower Rural Iowa broadband grant fund.

Child Care Bills - Child care bills saw a lot of movement in the House earlier in session, however there are concerns that some pieces will fall off the table in the Senate. While there is a lot of discussion on child care, the legislature is lacking a clear consensus on what will pass at this time. The Governor continues to push child care legislation as one of her top priorities.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Bills - [HSB 194](#) is working its way through the House Ways & Means committee; this particular bill would limit perpetual TIF districts. In Iowa, there are two types of TIF districts that can operate with no defined time limit: TIF districts that contain land deemed slum and blight, and economic development TIFs that were created prior to 1995. All other TIF districts in Iowa are limited to twenty years in length.

House Study Bill 194 would create a ten-year phase-out of current economic development and slum and blight TIFs, effective immediately. This would have significant negative consequences on existing projects within these TIF districts. It would also place a twenty-year cap on the length of new slum and blight TIF districts.

PPP Clean Up Bills - There are multiple bills addressing PPP in both chambers currently. These bills conform state tax laws with federal law regarding PPP loan forgiveness and will likely pass both chambers in the upcoming weeks.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits ([HSB 203](#), [SSB 1172](#)) - This set of companion bills does a number of things to make Iowa's unemployment

insurance similar to surrounding states. Included in this bill is implementing a one-week waiting period for unemployment benefits, a reduction to the amount paid for multiple dependents, and a provision to cut benefits by 13 weeks if a business closes.

Small Business Appropriation ([HF 608](#)) - Appropriates \$100 million to the IEDA for the Iowa Small Business Relief Program and expands grant eligibility to include sole proprietors and businesses with up to 50 employees.

Big Tech Bill ([SF 402](#), [HSB 235](#)) - In a set of bills, the Iowa Legislature is seeking to withdraw tax breaks and government incentives from Big Tech companies if they violate free speech rights by blocking conservatives from social media. This bill, sponsored by Senate President Jake Chapman, R - Adel and 30 other Senate Republicans would block or take away government financial inducements for companies like Facebook and Google that have locations in Iowa.

UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE FORUMS

Join us for our next Legislative Forum on Friday, March 26th at 2:30 pm.

We will be joined by Legislators from Johnson County to have a conversation about Education Funding, Child Care Policy, Tax Reform, and more. This is a great time to ask questions, give feedback on bills that impact you and your business, and connect with your legislators. Register today!



REGISTER NOW



Thank you to our sponsors: [IBEW Local 405](#), [GreenState Credit Union](#), and [South Slope](#).

The Business Partnership advocates for economic growth policies on the local, state and federal levels. We collaborate with the business community and other stakeholders and partners to develop our yearly policy agendas, to create a consistent voice for the region.

We are a non-partisan organization that does not endorse or donate to political candidates. We support First Amendment rights for all people and encourage elected officials, candidates and citizens to be civil in discussions and debates

on policy issues and political opinions. We are committed to leading by example.

If you have particular projects or issues that you would like addressed, contact **Jennifer Banta**, Vice President, Advocacy & Community Development.



IOWA CITY AREA BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP
IOWACITYAREA.COM



Iowa City Area Business Partnership | 136 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, IA 52240

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Customer Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by jennifer@iowacityarea.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!