

Iowa Legislative Report

Iowa Bowhunters Association

Week 5: February 7th – February 14th, 2015

The fifth week of the session was marked by the introduction of the fuel tax increase bills in the House and the Senate. The “companion” bills would increase the fuel tax by ten cents per gallon beginning on July 1st of this year and phase in some additional fees on overweight vehicles. The bills are projected to provide over \$200 million in revenue to the fuel tax fund. The bills are in subcommittees of the Senate and House Transportation Committees and are being floor managed by the Chairs of those Committees, Senator Todd Bowman (D - Maquekota) and Representative Josh Brynes (R - Osage).

The fuel tax/road infrastructure issue continues to occupy most of the attention of legislators this session. The proponents of the fuel tax increase are pulling out all the stops to garner the necessary votes for passage. The opponents of the increase are also stepping up an aggressive grass roots and media campaign that seems to be gaining momentum. It is likely that legislative leaders will bring the issue up as soon as they have the necessary votes for passage. It is not the type of issue that they want their members to have to defend at legislative forums. Most polls show that a strong majority of Iowans are opposed to a fuel tax increase.

Another issue that leaders are attempting to resolve involves the state allowable growth for schools. On Tuesday, the Senate passed their version of the bill which would provide an additional 4% in state aid. Earlier this session, the House passed legislation providing for less than half of that amount. The differences between the chambers will have to be resolved for the bill to move forward to the Governor. Its resolution is crucial for local school districts who are attempting to finalize budgets for the 2015/2016 school year.

There is another rally for the I Will proposal scheduled for Tuesday. The fuel tax legislation is definitely creating problems for passage of the initiative this session. The only good news is we should see a bipartisan bill introduced in the House in the near future. Representative Kaufmann (R-Wilton) reportedly is the lead republican on the bill. It has a balance of democrats and republicans as cosponsors and will keep the issue in the forefront this session.

The Legislative Services Agency released their report on state tax receipts for the first six months of the fiscal year and it was not good news for legislators. Actual receipts totaled \$3.86 billion which is \$100 million less than the Revenue Estimating Panel’s December estimate that the Governor’s budget is based upon. The Panel had predicted that the state revenue would grow at a 6.8% clip for the current fiscal year. Passing a budget is always a challenge with divided control and this year is not likely to be an exception. One especially troubling aspect to the report was that state revenue fell by 5% in January compared to the same month last year.

The following is a list of bills of interest to IBA members. Please take a look at the bills and give us any feedback you have on them. The bills can be accessed at the state system which should give you access to their full text and status. The comments in red are a brief highlight on the bill.

[Senate File 218](#) Preserves access to trails that intersect with primary highways.

A bill for an act relating to the operation of a snowmobile within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway and including penalty provisions. (Formerly [SSB 1119](#).)

Feb. 11 15 Committee report, approving bill. [S.J. 286](#).

Sponsored by Natural Resources and Environment.

[Senate File 194](#)

A bill for an act striking certain statutory repeal provisions relating to the state sales and use tax and the secure an advanced vision for education fund.

Feb. 11 15 Subcommittee, Quirmbach, Dvorsky, and Johnson. [S.J. 284](#).

Sponsored by Johnson.

[Senate File 28](#) **Need feedback**

A bill for an act relating to the property tax exemption for property designated to be a native prairie or wetland and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

Jan. 20 15 Subcommittee, Hogg, Allen, and Schultz. [S.J. 118](#).

Sponsored by Taylor.

[Senate File 27](#) **Not likely to move this session**

A bill for an act requiring the natural resource commission to allow catfish to be taken by hand fishing and providing penalties.

Jan. 14 15 Subcommittee, Schoenjahn, Bolkcom, and Johnson. [S.J. 87](#).

Sponsored by Taylor.

Senate Study Bill 1119 **Now SF 218 – will remove from list for next week.**

A study bill for an act relating to the operation of a snowmobile within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway and including penalty provisions. 1/29/2015 Subcommittee: Schoenjahn, Kinney, and Behn

LSB 1961XC [Senate Study Bill 1119](#)

LSB 1961SV [Senate File 218](#)

[Senate File 218](#)

A bill for an act relating to the operation of a snowmobile within the right-of-way of an interstate highway or freeway and including penalty provisions. (Formerly [SSB 1119](#).)

Feb. 11 15 Committee report, approving bill. [S.J. 286](#).

Sponsored by Natural Resources and Environment.

Senate Study Bill 1106 **Need feedback**

A study bill for an act relating to the property tax exemption for property designated to be a native prairie or wetland and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions. 1/28/2015 Subcommittee: Hogg, Allen, and Behn

LSB 1104XC [Senate Study Bill 1106](#)

LSB 1104XS [Senate File 28](#)

[Senate File 28](#)

A bill for an act relating to the property tax exemption for property designated to be a native prairie or wetland and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

Jan. 20 15 Subcommittee, Hogg, Allen, and Schultz. [S.J. 118](#).

Sponsored by Taylor.

Senate Study Bill 1013 **IBA is registered in favor and we are working with the parties to**

get language that may be acceptable to the House and Governor's Office and still be effective.

A study bill for an act authorizing the department of natural resources to quarantine preserve whitetail and land associated with the operation of hunting preserves or former hunting preserves and making penalties applicable. 1/14/15 Subcommittee: Dearden, Brase, and Rozenboom

LSB 1528XC [Senate Study Bill 1013](#)

[House File 189](#)

A bill for an act waiving certain hunter safety and ethics education requirements for residents who are active duty military personnel or honorably discharged veterans.

Feb. 09 15 Introduced, referred to Veterans Affairs. [H.J. 282](#).

Sponsored by Kaufmann.

[House File 117](#) Unlikely to pass.

A bill for an act prohibiting the hunting or taking of cougars and making penalties applicable.

Feb. 03 15 Subcommittee, Baudler, Koester, and Thede. [H.J. 248](#).

Sponsored by Deyoe.

[House File 45](#)

A bill for an act relating to the regulation of firearms and ammunition in a state of public emergency and providing a remedy.

Jan. 27 15 Subcommittee, Windschitl, Anderson, and Jones. [H.J. 165](#).

Sponsored by Windschitl.

[House File 44](#) Unlikely to pass.

A bill for an act requiring the natural resource commission to allow youth to use crossbows to hunt deer and providing penalties.

Jan. 26 15 Subcommittee, Klein, Maxwell and Ruff. [H.J. 148](#).

Sponsored by Windschitl.

[House File 43](#) Unlikely to pass.

A bill for an act relating to the issuance of an early bow season deer hunting license.

Jan. 26 15 Subcommittee, Klein, Fisher and Hanson. [H.J. 148](#).

Sponsored by Windschitl.

[House File 42](#) Moving this week.

A bill for an act allowing the taking of catfish by bow and arrow and providing penalties.

Jan. 26 15 Subcommittee, Klein, Best and Ourth. [H.J. 148](#).

Sponsored by Windschitl.