



Nick's News from the  
**Iowa House of Representatives**  
 State of Iowa  
*Eighty-Third General Assembly*  
 Week 8: March 2-5

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**Eighth Week of the 83rd General Assembly**

When a new legislator walks through the doors of the Capitol for the first time there is a great feeling of pride and accomplishment, but you also realize the work is just beginning. This is a very tough year because of the economy and our budget. Now more than ever we need to be working on providing changes to Iowa's laws to make it easier to do business in Iowa, create jobs, and grow the economy. Our priority must be getting Iowans back to work, protecting the taxpayer, and passing a sensible budget with decreased spending and disaster relief. Instead we have been working on bills that allow a city to pass an ordinance to allow parking on the left hand side of the road, restrict what materials can be used for wheel balancing on state vehicles, regulating lawn chemicals, and changing the name of state departments. We're discussing and voting on bills that deal with the national popular vote, prevailing wage, and mandating increases in property taxes.

As I walked through the capitol doors for the first time I was excited to serve the citizens of Iowa and District 36. I was excited to fight to protect the taxpayers of Iowa, improve the business climate in Iowa and to provide ideas that grow the economy. I sit here late in the chamber and think of those that came before me, and those who will come after and wonder what they would think of the things we've done this year. I was elected to come to Des Moines to make the tough decisions to get Iowa to the best place it can be and I will continue to do that, and I hope that my colleagues are also ready and willing to finally put some priority on getting Iowa back on track.

I filed two bills this week to help provide tax relief to Iowans. One bill reduces the income tax rates for both individuals and businesses by 10% across the board. The other bill eliminates the requirement that job recruiters collect and pay taxes. In a time when many Iowans are looking for work it makes sense to me to make it less expensive for companies to hire employees and to allow Iowans to keep more of their money.

**Democrats File Bill to Gut Iowa's Right-to-Work Law**

House Democrats filed House File 555, a bill that will gut Iowa's more than 60 year old right-to-work law. As filed, the bill would force both public and private, non-union members to pay union dues as a condition of their employment. This bill is referred to as "Fair Share." Don't be fooled by the name. Proponents will tell you that it is fair to make non-union employees, who did not choose to join the union, pay union dues. Proponents will fail to let people know part of the agreement and recognition as a union is that they agree to be the sole bargaining unit. This means that when there are employees that do not want to be in the union their rights to not be represented by the union are infringed, and to make up for that infringement the state or federal governments and unions agree that the representation of those non-union employees will be provided by the union at no cost. That is the fair part of the law as it stands today, and this bill would remove that requirement and force payments to the union by non-union employees.

This issue will drive employers away from the state of Iowa and drive up costs for employees. Worse yet is the revoking of the fundamental right of a person to not have to pay dues to an organization that they choose not to belong and choose not to contribute to. There is nothing fair about that.

I have already been flooded with numerous e-mails from many of you on this issue. Thank you for expressing your concerns. I can assure you that I will resist any attempts to remove or weaken Iowa's Right to Work status.



**Committee News**

**Commerce**

Consideration of  
 HF 334 & HSB 67, 137, 151, 152

**Local Government  
 (Ranking Member)**

Consideration of  
 HF 216, 397; HSB 155, 206, 207;  
 SF 43

**Transportation**

Consideration of HF 386

**Ways and Means**

No Meetings

**Bills Passed:**

- HF 321
- HF 374
- HF 381
- SF 177
- SF 204

**For a full text of these bills and any others please visit:**

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us>

Once you are on the site type in the bill number in the quick find search in the upper right hand corner.



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### Budget News

Late last week the House passed a de-appropriations bill that reduced the fiscal year 2009 general fund appropriations by \$30.3 million, transfers \$48 million of revenue into the general fund mostly from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund, and makes \$17.3 million of supplemental appropriations. It also legalizes the Jumpstart Housing Assistance Program and the Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program created by the Governor last fall. I and other Republicans offered amendments that saved Iowans even more money in office supplies, reducing the number of new vehicles purchased by 600, eliminated all FTE positions that have been vacant for 6 months, and appropriated \$14 million to counties for mental health funding, among others. None of the amendments were passed by the house and due to the transfers, it actually spends more than current law.

This week Fiscal Services released the general fund revenue numbers through the first eight months of the fiscal year. Actual year-to-date revenue for fiscal year 2009 was down 1.5 percent, or -\$60 million compared to 2008. The Sales tax revenue saw a slight increase of \$19 million compared to first eight months of FY 08, once the \$221 million of school infrastructure refunds is subtracted. However, personal income tax revenue was down in February by \$4 million (-1.3 percent) and tax refunds were up by \$63.6 million compared to the same time period last year. Also, corporate income tax was down \$22.7 million, or 64%. This will mean more cuts or using more money from our cash reserves and emergency fund. This also means moving forward in the next budget years we are even more behind because of the built in spending increases over the last two years.

### If anyone is keeping tabs...

Just in the last two days the Commerce and Local Government committees passed two bills that would increase taxes on Iowans by an estimated minimum of \$3 million dollars! (HF296, HF397)



Last week I attended the Association of Iowa Workforce Partners (AIWP) legislative breakfast, where I visited with representatives and participants of Iowa's local workforce system and persons accessing workforce services. We discussed how Iowa's workforce programs train and educate workers for the future.