



WEEK 1 & 2 Jan 10-Jan 20th

To: Iowa Firefighters Association

From: John & Cyndi Pederson

News from the Hill

Week ONE of the 89th General Assembly was filled with speeches, swearing in of a few new members, and preparing bills for drafting. IFA President, Jason Barrick and 4th Vice, Kent Brix attended the Governor's Condition of the State address.

As this an election year, per diem payments for the session end after 100 days (April 19th). Bills from last year are still eligible for action, but many of those bills that passed out of committee in 2021 have been returned to committee. The deadline for legislators to request bills was last Friday, and the first funnel deadline is only five weeks away (February 18th).

Week TWO was also a short week due to the Martin Lutheran King holiday. Sub and full committee action started this week.

Both chambers have introduced fewer bills this session than last year; at this point in the session last year, the two chambers had introduced more than 550 bills and study bills. So far, the two chambers have combined for only about 300 bill introductions.

On Tuesday, Jan 18th IFA hosted Volunteer Firefighter Day on the Hill with a Chili Cook-Off at the Capitol. Six fire departments brought chili to the competition. Our thanks go to:

Jesup, Grand Mound, Radcliff, Nevada, Waucoma and Holland Fire Departments who provided chili. Each guest voted for their favorite chili and for the second year in a row the Radcliff fire department took home the trophy. Kudos to the 2022 Chili Champs! Besides the chili lunch, IFA members met with various legislators to discuss our legislative agenda. Those who could not make it to the Capitol that day were encouraged to call/email their legislators and ask for support. If you have not done so, please follow-up with your legislator. You will find the talking points on the IFA website.

Legislation pertaining to IFA

SF 2045 Volunteer Firefighter Training-Senator Dickey (a sub-committee has not been set yet)

This bill relates to continued annual training requirements for certain volunteer fire fighters. Under current law, the fire service training bureau offers programs to



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volunteer, trainee, or employed fire fighters with minimum instruction requirements for certification. The bill provides that a member of a volunteer fire department may be deemed to have completed the member's continued annual training requirements upon completion of 75 percent of the required training hours if the person has served as a volunteer fire fighter for at least 10 years, receives no more than \$5,000 in annual compensation for service as a volunteer fire fighter, serves a population of less than 20,000, and has approval from the chief of the volunteer fire department.

HF 2063 Perfluoroalkyl ban -Rep Isenhardt(a sub-committee has not been set yet)

This bill relates to certain consumer products that contain certain chemicals.

The bill prohibits the sale of upholstered furniture that contains flame-retardant chemicals or chemical compounds. The bill makes exceptions for used upholstered furniture, certain upholstered furniture purchased for public use in public facilities, and new upholstered furniture that is otherwise subject to the prohibition but was imported into the state or otherwise purchased or acquired by a retailer or wholesaler for sale or distribution in the state prior to January 1, 2023.

The bill prohibits the sale of food packaging, class B firefighting foam, and firefighting personal protective equipment that contains a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that was intentionally added. The bill makes an exception for new food packaging, class B firefighting foam, and firefighting personal protective equipment that is otherwise subject to the prohibition but was imported into the state or otherwise purchased or acquired by a retailer or wholesaler for sale or distribution in the state prior to January 1, 2023.

The bill also prohibits a person, local government, or state agency from discharging or otherwise using for training purposes a class B firefighting foam that contains a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance that was intentionally added, with certain exceptions.

A violation of the provisions in the bill regulating products is a simple misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement for no more than 30 days or a fine of at least \$105 but not more than \$855 or by both. These provisions take effect January 1, 2023.

The bill requires the department of public health to conduct a one-year study investigating perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in food packaging and finding safe alternative food packaging materials. The department shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the general assembly by December 31, 2023.



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SF 2083 Volunteer Tax Abatement-Senator Dickey (a sub-committee has not been set yet)

This bill authorizes a volunteer emergency services provider, as defined in Code section 100B.14(2), whose homestead is located in the local service area for which the provider is a volunteer and who has been a volunteer emergency services provider for five or more years, earns less than \$5,000 per year for service as a volunteer emergency services provider, and is in good standing with the provider's volunteer agency or entity, to file a petition with the county board of supervisors, requesting abatement of property taxes and special assessments assessed on the individual's homestead and giving other information as the board may require.

The petition filed with the board of supervisors shall specify the type of abatement sought under the bill. Following receipt of the petition, the board of supervisors shall forward a copy of the petition to the governing body of each taxing authority that levies taxes or special assessments on the homestead. If the board of supervisors approves the abatement, the abatement shall apply to all applicable taxes and special assessments on the homestead, excluding those for which an objection by the governing body taxing authority was filed with the board of supervisors within 30 days of the board providing a copy of the petition. The board of supervisors may order the abatement of the taxes and special assessments that are assessed against the petitioner's homestead for the assessment year during which the petition is filed and, if specified by the board, the taxes and special assessments for one or more future years, subject to the petitioner continuing to meet the qualifications of the bill. The approved abatement shall not exceed the following: (1) for a volunteer emergency services provider that is a volunteer fire fighter, an abatement of all taxes and special assessments imposed by the provider's volunteer agency or entity for fire protection service or an abatement of 10 percent of all taxes imposed on the homestead; (2) for a volunteer emergency service provider that is a reserve peace officer, an emergency medical care provider, or other personnel having voluntary emergency service duties and who are not paid full-time by the agency or entity, an abatement of 10 percent of all taxes imposed on the homestead; and (3) for a volunteer emergency service provider who has been a volunteer emergency service provider for 20 or more years, an abatement of 10 percent of all taxes imposed on the homestead during the remainder of the volunteer emergency service provider's life so long as the provider's homestead is in the local service area of the agency or entity for which the provider was a volunteer.

The bill takes effect upon enactment and applies retroactively to assessment years beginning on or after January 1, 2022.



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There are more bills at the Legislative Service Agency getting drafted and more should be out next week with bill numbers