

★ **Roll Call Number**

Agenda Item Number

38

Date February 25, 2008

City of Des Moines Legislative Update for the Second Session of the Eighty Second Iowa General Assembly.

Moved by _____ to receive and file the attached report

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
HENSLEY				
KIERNAN				
MAHAFFEY				
MEYER				
VLASSIS				
TOTAL				

CERTIFICATE

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

_____ Mayor

_____ City Clerk

City of Des Moines

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE February 25, 2008

The City of Des Moines Legislative Subcommittee (Councilmembers Hensley, Coleman and Mahaffey) continue to meet on a weekly basis to review bills that have been introduced as well as discuss other legislative issues. The Legislative Subcommittee's priorities for 2008 include:

- Gas and Electric Franchise Fees/Revenue Alternatives
- Property Tax Reform
- Brownfields

No bills have been introduced yet on the City Council's three priorities, however, several bills have been introduced and/or subcommittees have been established on high profile issues including:

- **Smoking Ban - HF2212, SF2096 and SF2126.** HF2212 is a bill which is for a statewide ban with exemptions for casinos. The Senate files are for local control with no exemptions
- **Open Meetings/Records Law Update – SSB3116, SSB3164 and HSB654.** Some of the provisions of this bill include:
 - Requiring more openness regarding public meetings and records.
 - Requiring government body to protect personal information and to notify if there is a breach of security.
 - Establishing the Iowa Public Information Board – a four member board appointed by the Governor. This Board will issue rules, receive and investigate complaints, prosecute alleged violations, issue legally binding orders and ensures adequate training by all public officials. The estimated annual cost for this new government agency is between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000.
 - Expanding definition of meeting to include the so-called “walking quorum”, described in the bill as the calculated use of a series of communications, each between less than a majority of the members (or their “personal intermediaries”) that is intended to discuss and develop a collective final decision of a majority outside of a meeting with respect to specific action to be taken by the majority at a meeting.
 - If a meeting is reconvened more than four hours after commencement, the meeting must re-noticed. The meeting can reconvene within four hours if an announcement of time, date, and place of reconvened meeting is made at

the original meeting in open session and recorded in minutes of the meeting and no change in the agenda.

- Creating new classifications of records – government record, public record, confidential record, optional public record.
 - Clarifies current exemption regarding personal information in confidential personnel records
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- **TIF** – Several bills have been proposed. **HF2185** requires approval of the majority of affected tax entities. If a majority cannot be reached, the plan cannot proceed. **HF2188** stipulates that no more than 25% of property can be included in an economic development urban renewal area that has previously been included in an urban renewal area in which tax increment finance was used where the urban renewal area expired after 20 years. **SSB3167** has the provisions that all urban renewal plans adopted before January 1, 2008 will expire on June 30, 2013. The bill would jeopardize economic development grants in major downtown projects, including Allied/Nationwide, Wells Fargo, Riverpoint West and Wellmark. Economic development plans that are not slum and blight that were adopted prior to January 1, 1995 will expire in 20 years. After January 1, 2008 TIF in slum and blight areas is limited to 20 years.
 - **Economic Development - HF 2233** is a bill to entice Microsoft to locate in Iowa. This bill offers tax breaks similar to what was offered to Google last year.
 - **TIME 21 (Transportation Moves the Economy into the 21st Century) - A** Transportation Funding Study Committee has been established and this committee will be charged with making recommendations for funding \$200 million TIME-21 funds for transportation infrastructure.