

★ Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

51

Date March 10, 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				

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVED

Mayor

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.

City Clerk

City of Des Moines

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 10, 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

Bills have been introduced which bear on two of the City Council's three priorities – Brownfields and Revenue Alternatives

BROWNFIELDS

HF 2351 Creates a two-tiered system of tax credits for the redevelopment of grayfields (properties which are vacant, blighted, obsolete) - 20%, and brownfields - 40%. Authorizes additional credits of 5% and 10% for meeting green development standards. Limits the credits to \$3 million in FY 2009; \$6 million in FY 2010 and \$10 million thereafter. Authorizes the DED to adopt rules on the matters. (Ways & Means)

REVENUE ALTERNATIVES

SSB 3243 Authorizes a city not in a combined incorporated area, to impose a local income surcharge to fund property tax credits. Limits the surcharge to 5% and no more than 10 years. Requires that 80% of the income go to property tax relief and 60% of the money to go for commercial and industrial property tax relief. Requires that as of January 1, 2009, the percentage of actual value that a residential property is assessed at not be below the percentage of actual value as of January 1, 2007 or 2008, whichever is lower. Quirnbach (C), Angelo, McCoy

Other bills on high profile issues include:

SMOKING

A statewide smoking ban bill, **HF 2212**, was approved by the Senate this week 29-21, but the Senate amended the bill by striking the exemption for casinos and the separation distance requirements for smoking outside, and by allowing smoking in farm vehicles. The bill will go back to the House which will accept the changes, or reject the changes in whole or in part, which would require a conference committee to determine the fate of this bill.

ENERGY

The Governor's Energy Bills, **HSB 742** and **SSB 3252** were assigned to their respective environmental committees in both the House and Senate this week. In addition to imposing energy efficiency and renewable energy goals on municipal electric and gas utilities, the bill addressed energy code requirements. It establishes a commission on energy efficiency standards and practices within the department of public safety. The commission would evaluate energy efficiency standards applicable to buildings, and develop recommendations for new energy efficiency requirements applicable to new construction, incentives for energy efficient construction projects which exceed currently applicable state and local building codes, and for adopting a statewide energy efficiency building labeling or rating system. The commission would exist for two years, with recommendations to governor and general assembly by January 1, 2011.

WATER LIEN

A Senate landlord lien bill, **SSB 3171** was discussed in subcommittee again this week. The bill strikes the requirement that a landlord notify a city utility when a new tenant moves into a separately metered residential rental property. To be released from a potential lien on the property for an unpaid bill, the landlord would only need to notify the city one time that the property is separately metered rental property.

LIMITS ON SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Subcommittees in both chambers have met on the Secretary of State's bill, **HSB 627/SSB 3142**, that would limit city special elections to twice per year. The League worked with the Secretary of State to secure an amendment to increase the number of special elections allowed under the bill. An amendment was proposed Thursday that moves closer to addressing the League's concern with the special election limits. The amendment would allow cities to hold special elections quarterly on one Tuesday in March, May, August and November.

Action on the water and special election bills is needed to get approval by a House or Senate Committee by March 7.