

# End of Session Legislative Update

## Part 2

I ran out of space in the last newsletter to summarize important legislation that has become law. So I will pick it up with this newsletter:

**State Aid to K-12 Schools** – The regular program and categorical supplements were increased by \$32 million, bringing the total state aid to K-12 schools to an all-time high of more than \$3.2 billion in the upcoming school year, an increase of \$765 million since 2011.

**Transportation Costs for Schools:** Boost in funding for rural schools with the highest transportation costs for kids to and from school.

**Operational Sharing Incentives** – Extends the sunset on Operational Sharing Incentives for rural schools by 5 years to 2024. Also allows for mental health counselors to be in an eligible position for shared funding.

**District Cost Per Pupil Inequity** – Begins to close the gap for school districts with a lower DCPD.

**Statewide Student Assessment** – The Next Generation Iowa Assessments becomes our new statewide assessment for K-12 students for the next school year. This test is the successor to the currently used Iowa Assessments.

**Suicide Prevention Training** – Requires all licensed school staff to go through annual suicide prevention and adverse childhood experience training.

**Sign Language** – Sign language becomes on the same footing as other foreign languages in schools.

**Student Data Privacy** – Protects K-12 students' personal information from being sold to 3<sup>rd</sup> parties or from being provided to companies that would seek to target advertising to the student for their products and services.

**Dyslexia Workgroup** – A workgroup to be formed to make recommendations to the legislature on ways to help students with dyslexia and also better prepare their teachers to help them.

**Student Athlete Concussions** – Requires schools to protect student athletes by adopting return-to-learning and return-to-play protocols after they have received a concussion during sports play.

**EMS Funding:** Allows Iowa to apply for federal funding to increase the reimbursement to local EMS providers for services provided to Medicaid patients.

**Wrongful Birth/Life:** Prohibits lawsuits by parents because they had a child born with disabilities and the doctor failed to inform them of prenatal test results showing abnormalities so they missed the “chance” to abort their baby. This does not apply to intentional or gross negligence on the part of the doctor. This was a bill I introduced.

**Newborn Safe Haven** – Extends the age of a newborn infant under the current Newborn Safe Haven Act to 30 days of age or younger and allows the infant to be released to a first responder through a 911 call.

**Post-Adoption Services** – Requires DHS to develop a document listing post-adoption services available in the state and to have it given to the parents.

**Ignition Interlocks for OWI** – Requires ignition interlocks be installed for *all* OWI offenders with a .08 blood alcohol content and above. I had worked on this for the past several years.

**Seat Belts** – If you’re in an accident and are hurt because you have failed to wear a seat belt and if you are involved in a lawsuit because of it, damages awarded can be reduced by as much as 25%.

**Direct Primary Care** – A patient can enter into a contract with their doctor to provide direct primary care for them and their family, thus bypassing insurance for primary care. This is for primary care only, not hospitalization.

**Genetic Counselor Licensure** – Creates licensure for genetic counselors under the authority of the Board of Medicine.

**Credit Card Skimming:** Now easier to prosecute individuals who use skimming devices (at gas stations and ATM's for example) to steal credit card information.

**Dramshop Liability** – Specifies the liability that would be owed by a bar/restaurant when they overserve alcohol (this is beside the liability of the drunk driver...)

**Credit Unions** – Prohibits a credit union in Iowa from including the name of any public university in the state as part of the name of the credit union.

**Land Acquisition** – Requires the DNR to inventory land acquisitions by public entities and financial assistance for those acquisitions.

**Flying Drones over Prisons** – Prohibits drones from flying over any prison or correctional facility.

**Porn in Prisons** – State money now prohibited from providing pornography to inmates.

**Small Claims** – Raises the limit of a claim that can be heard in small claims court from \$5000 to \$6500.

**Consumer Protection, Credit Freeze** – Ensures consumers can freeze their credit without fees to protect their identity.

**Electronic Statement of Earnings** – Allows employers to send their employee's statement of earning electronically.

**State Park Fees** – Allows DNR to change park fees based on market rates as long as they are reasonably competitive with fees established in other similar parks.

**Criminal Acts Against Critical Infrastructure** – Stiffens the criminal charge and penalty for sabotage against critical infrastructure the public depends on.

**Gubernatorial Line of Succession:** Proposed constitutional amendment to clarify the Iowa constitution's language on the line of succession for governor. The lieutenant governor would be the actual governor, not just the "acting" governor, in the case of a vacancy in the governor's office. The governor could also appoint a new lieutenant governor and that he would be the actual lieutenant governor, not just the "acting" lieutenant governor.

There are many other bills we worked on and if I have not covered something of importance to you please feel free to contact me.

Feel free to contact me with ideas, thoughts, and concerns. I want to hear what you are thinking and will listen to your input. Together we will work to make a difference for the future of Iowa.

Thank you again very much for all your support and for the honor of representing you!

Sincerely,

***Sandy***