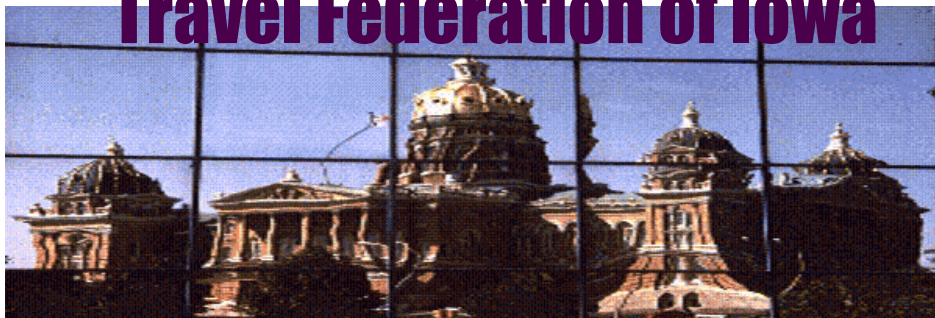


Travel Federation of Iowa



LET'S TALK

TOURISM

Issue Nine – Final Session Report – June 11, 2007

Capitol News Looking Ahead Final Bill Status

CAPITOL NEWS

We really can't close the books on the session until the Governor makes his decisions on whether to sign bills into law, veto sections of the bills (line-item veto) or veto bills entirely. By Iowa law, the Governor has thirty days from the end of session to take action on the bill sent to him.

On May 29, the Governor finished his work and as noted in a previous e-mail, vetoed the three-year extension (and expansion of the project cap) on the CAT program. Governor Culver stated that while he supports the program and feels it is successful, he is not able to sign an extension when there is already three years left in the program. The Governor also vetoed funding for the newly created Regional Sports Authorities – but signed the language creating them into law. So, while there is no money for these authorities this year, they were added to the Iowa Code, making it easier for funding to follow in 2008.

For more details on what was signed, and what was vetoed, look at the bill list attached to this report.

[*\(return to top\)*](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

For those of you that thought there sure were a lot of bills that didn't make it anywhere this year, you were right! Here are some interesting facts about this year's bills:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| # Bills introduced this year: | 2,205 |
| # Bills sent to the Governor: | 222 |
| # Bills signed by the Governor: | 219 |
| # Bills line item vetoed by Governor: | 12 |
| # Bills vetoed by Governor: | 3 |

As you can see, a bill faces an uphill battle on its way to becoming law. This year only about 10% of the bills introduced this year were sent to the Governor and signed.

It is important to remember that the more times legislators hear about an issue from people living in their district, the more motivated they are to do something about it. So district leaders & others, please plan to help out over the summer by talking to your legislators about the issues that are important TFI and to your area locally – it could make all the difference in our success when the Legislature reconvenes on Monday, January 14, 2008.

Please take a few minutes this summer to call, email, write, or meet with your legislator:

- ✓ Introduce (or reintroduce) yourself.
- ✓ Thank them for continuing to increase tourism funding, both this year & last.
- ✓ Ask them for their support additional tourism funding.
- ✓ Talk to them about issues specific to your area or organization.
- ✓ Ask them how they prefer to be contacted in the interim (home email, legislative email, home or work phone, etc).
- ✓ Thank them for their time and tell them how you can be contacted (and ask them to add you to their mailing/e-mailing lists).
- ✓ Let TFI know how your conversations go – we'll make sure we follow-up on your contact (jallesee@clintonia.com).

Many legislators do not read their legislative emails during the interim – while others have theirs forwarded to home accounts. You can try emailing them (you'll get a bounce-back message usually instructing you how to contact them) – or the best way is to simply call them at home.

To find out WHO your legislators are:

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

To find out HOW to contact your legislators:

<http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/legislators.do?>

Finally, mark your calendars for the very popular and legislator-**favorite 2008 Tourism Showcase on Tuesday, February 5, 2008** at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. We are scheduled again for the day before the Professional Developers of Iowa (PDI) Grow Iowa Day at the Capitol, for those that are dual members. You will hear more details in the coming months, but make sure you mark this date down and join us in Des Moines!

[\(return to top\)](#)

FINAL BILL STATUS

The final status of the bills enacted during the 2007 legislative session has been attached to this report. The TFI website also has posted a list of bills that did not make it through the session ("dead bills").

2007 Top Tourism Priorities

1. Increase the Iowa Tourism Office's budget to the Midwest regional average of \$8.3 million. Iowa's current budget of \$3,442,000 is not even half of the average.
2. Maintain a traditional school year calendar
3. We encourage local interest groups to consider what will best serve the industry in their location and encourage them to advocate for those issues.

Your Advocacy Toolkit:

[Find Your Legislator](#)

[Legislative Committee Listings](#)

[House & Senate Calendars \(interim\)](#)

[Guide to the General Assembly](#)

[Contact Your Legislator](#)

[Track Legislation \(instantly updated\)](#)

[How a Bill Becomes a Law](#)

Your Capitol Team

Craig Patterson, TFI Lobbyist - Craig@Campbell-Patterson.com
Amy Campbell, TFI Lobbyist - Amy@Campbell-Patterson.com

[*\(return to top\)*](#)