

PROOF

STATE OF IOWA

Senate Journal

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012

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JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SECOND CALENDAR DAY
SEVENTIETH SESSION DAY

Senate Chamber
Des Moines, Iowa, Wednesday, May 9, 2012

The Senate met in regular session at 9:14 a.m., President Pro Tempore Danielson presiding.

Prayer was offered by the Honorable Daryl Beall, member of the Senate from Webster County, Fort Dodge, Iowa.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senate Page Mackenzie Bills.

The Journal of Tuesday, May 8, 2012, was approved.

The Senate stood at ease at 9:40 a.m. until the fall of the gavel.

The Senate resumed session at 9:48 a.m., President Kibbie presiding.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT RECEIVED

[House File 2465](#)

A conference committee report, signed by the following Senate and House members, was filed May 8, 2012, on [House File 2465](#), a bill for an act relating to state and local finances by making and adjusting appropriations, providing for legal responsibilities, and providing for properly related matters, and including effective date and retroactive and other applicability provisions:

On the part of the Senate:

ROBERT E. DVORSKY, Chair
MICHAEL E. GRONSTAL
JOHN P. KIBBIE

On the part of the House:

J. SCOTT RAECKER, Chair
MARK LOFGREN
TYLER OLSON
KIRSTEN RUNNING-MARQUARDT
NICK WAGNER

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Leaves of absence were granted as follows:

Senators Behn and Chelgren, until they arrive, on request of Senator Zaun.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT CONSIDERED

[House File 2465](#)

Senator Dvorsky called up the conference committee report on [House File 2465](#), a bill for an act relating to state and local finances by making and adjusting appropriations, providing for legal responsibilities, and providing for properly related matters, and including effective date and retroactive and other applicability provisions, filed on May 8, 2012.

([House File 2465](#) was deferred.)

The Senate stood at ease at 9:50 a.m. until the fall of the gavel for the purpose of a Republican party caucus.

The Senate resumed session at 10:11 a.m., President Kibbie presiding.

The Senate resumed consideration of [House File 2465](#), previously deferred.

Senator Dvorsky moved the adoption of the conference committee report on [House File 2465](#).

The motion prevailed by a voice vote and the conference committee report, and the recommendations and amendments contained therein, was adopted.

Senator Dvorsky moved that the bill be read the last time now and placed upon its passage, which motion prevailed by a voice vote, and the bill was read the last time.

On the question "Shall the bill pass?" ([H.F. 2465](#)), the vote was:

Yeas, 29:

Bartz	Dotzler	Jochum	Schoenjahn
Beall	Dvorsky	Kettering	Seng
Black	Fraise	Kibbie	Seymour
Bolkcom	Greiner	Mathis	Sodders
Bowman	Gronstal	McCoy	Wilhelm
Courtney	Hancock	Quirnbach	
Danielson	Hogg	Ragan	
Dearden	Horn	Rielly	

Nays, 19:

Anderson	Ernst	Houser	Sorenson
Bacon	Feenstra	Johnson	Ward
Bertrand	Hahn	Kapucian	Whitver
Boettger	Hamerlinck	McKinley	Zaun
Dix	Hatch	Smith	

Absent, 2:

Behn	Chelgren
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The bill, having received a constitutional majority, was declared to have passed the Senate and the title was agreed to.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that [House File 2465](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

The Senate stood at ease at 10:17 a.m. until the fall of the gavel.

The Senate resumed session at 11:32 a.m., President Kibbie presiding.

RECESS

On motion of Senator Gronstal, the Senate recessed at 11:33 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

RECONVENED

The Senate reconvened at 2:42 p.m., President Kibbie presiding.

The Senate stood at ease at 2:43 p.m. until the fall of the gavel for the purpose of party caucuses.

The Senate resumed session at 3:34 p.m., Senator Fraise presiding.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Leaves of absence were granted as follows:

Senators Houser and McKinley, until they return, on request of Senator Kapucian.

HOUSE AMENDMENT CONSIDERED

[Senate File 2237](#)

Senator Danielson called up for consideration [Senate File 2237](#), a bill for an act concerning the frequency of reporting and distribution of proceeds requirements for certain qualified organizations licensed to conduct social and charitable gambling, amended by the House in House amendment [S-5153](#), filed March 29, 2012.

Senator Kapucian asked and received unanimous consent to withdraw amendment [S-5161](#), filed by Senators Kapucian and Soddors on April 3, 2012, to page 1 House amendment [S-5153](#).

Senator Danielson moved that the Senate concur in the House amendment.

The motion prevailed by a voice vote and the Senate **concurred** in the House amendment.

Senator Danielson moved that the bill, as amended by the House and concurred in by the Senate, be read the last time now and placed upon its passage, which motion prevailed by voice vote, and the bill was read the last time.

On the question "Shall the bill pass?" ([S.F. 2237](#)), the vote was:

Yeas, 46:

Anderson	Dix	Hogg	Schoenjahn
Bacon	Dotzler	Horn	Seng
Bartz	Dvorsky	Jochum	Seymour
Beall	Ernst	Johnson	Smith
Bertrand	Feenstra	Kapucian	Soddors

Black	Fraise	Kettering	Sorenson
Boettger	Greiner	Kibbie	Ward
Bolkcom	Gronstal	Mathis	Whitver
Bowman	Hahn	McCoy	Wilhelm
Courtney	Hamerlinck	Quirnbach	Zaun
Danielson	Hancock	Ragan	
Dearden	Hatch	Rielly	

Nays, none.

Absent, 4:

Behn	Chelgren	Houser	McKinley
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The bill, having received a constitutional majority, was declared to have passed the Senate and the title, as amended, was agreed to.

President Kibbie took the chair at 3:43 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS
(Deferred April 11, 2012)

[Senate File 2334](#)

The Senate resumed consideration of **[Senate File 2334](#)**, a bill for an act making appropriations to the commission of veterans affairs for the provision of veterans services, and including effective date provisions, deferred April 11, 2012.

Senator Kapucian asked and received unanimous consent to withdraw amendment **[S-5198](#)**, filed by Senator Kapucian, et al., on April 11, 2012, to page 1 and amending the title page of the bill.

Senator Kapucian asked and received unanimous consent to withdraw amendment **[S-5259](#)**, filed by Senators Kapucian and Danielson from the floor to page 1 and amending the title page of the bill.

Senator Danielson offered amendment **[S-5213](#)**, filed by him on April 16, 2012, to page 1 of the bill, and moved its adoption.

Amendment **[S-5213](#)** was adopted by a voice vote.

Senator Danielson asked and received unanimous consent that [House File 2466](#) be **substituted** for [Senate File 2334](#).

[House File 2466](#)

On motion of Senator Danielson, [House File 2466](#), a bill for an act making appropriations to the commission of veterans affairs for the provision of veterans services, and including effective date provisions, was taken up for consideration.

Senator Danielson offered amendment [S-5260](#), filed by Senators Danielson and Kapucian from the floor to page 1 and amending the title page of the bill, and moved its adoption.

Amendment [S-5260](#) was adopted by a voice vote.

Senator Danielson moved that the bill be read the last time now and placed upon its passage, which motion prevailed by a voice vote, and the bill was read the last time.

On the question "Shall the bill pass?" ([H.F. 2466](#)), the vote was:

Yeas, 46:

Anderson	Dix	Hogg	Schoenjahn
Bacon	Dotzler	Horn	Seng
Bartz	Dvorsky	Jochum	Seymour
Beall	Ernst	Johnson	Smith
Bertrand	Feenstra	Kapucian	Sodders
Black	Fraise	Kettering	Sorenson
Boettger	Greiner	Kibbie	Ward
Bolkcom	Gronstal	Mathis	Whitver
Bowman	Hahn	McCoy	Wilhelm
Courtney	Hamerlinck	Quirnbach	Zaun
Danielson	Hancock	Ragan	
Dearden	Hatch	Rielly	

Nays, none.

Absent, 4:

Behn	Chelgren	Houser	McKinley
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The bill, having received a constitutional majority, was declared to have passed the Senate and the title, as amended, was agreed to.

WITHDRAWN

Senator Danielson asked and received unanimous consent that [Senate File 2334](#) be **withdrawn** from further consideration of the Senate.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that [Senate File 2237](#) and [House File 2466](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT RECEIVED

[Senate File 2315](#)

A conference committee report, signed by the following Senate and House members, was filed May 9, 2012, on [Senate File 2315](#), a bill for an act relating to redesign of publicly funded mental health and disability services by requiring certain core services and addressing other services and providing for establishment of regions and including effective date and applicability provisions:

On the part of the Senate:

JACK HATCH, Chair
JOE BOLKCOM
JONI ERNST
DAVID JOHNSON
AMANDA RAGAN

On the part of the House:

RENEE SCHULTE, Chair
LINDA UPMEYER
NICK WAGNER

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT CONSIDERED

[Senate File 2315](#)

Senator Hatch called up the conference committee report on [Senate File 2315](#), a bill for an act relating to redesign of publicly funded mental health and disability services by requiring certain core services and addressing other services and providing for establishment of regions and including effective date and applicability provisions, filed on May 9, 2012, and moved its adoption.

The motion prevailed by a voice vote; and the conference committee report, and the recommendations and amendments contained therein, was adopted.

Senator Hatch moved that the bill be read the last time now and placed upon its passage, which motion prevailed by a voice vote, and the bill was read the last time.

On the question "Shall the bill pass?" ([S.F. 2315](#)), the vote was:

Yeas, 30:

Bacon	Dotzler	Jochum	Schoenjahn
Beall	Dvorsky	Johnson	Seng
Black	Fraise	Kibbie	Seymour
Bolkcom	Gronstal	Mathis	Ward
Bowman	Hancock	McCoy	Wilhelm
Courtney	Hatch	Quirnbach	Zaun
Danielson	Hogg	Ragan	
Dearden	Horn	Rielly	

Nays, 16:

Anderson	Dix	Hahn	Smith
Bartz	Ernst	Hamerlinck	Sodders
Bertrand	Feenstra	Kapucian	Sorenson
Boettger	Greiner	Kettering	Whitver

Absent, 4:

Behn	Chelgren	Houser	McKinley
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The bill, having received a constitutional majority, was declared to have passed the Senate and the title was agreed to.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that [Senate File 2315](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

The Senate stood at ease at 4:06 p.m. until the fall of the gavel.

The Senate resumed session at 4:34 p.m., President Kibbie presiding.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Leave of absence was granted as follows:

Senator Ward, until she returns, on request of Senator Zaun.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT RECEIVED

[Senate File 2336](#)

A conference committee report, signed by the following Senate and House members, was filed May 9, 2012, on [Senate File 2336](#), a bill for an act relating to appropriations for health and human services and including other related provisions and appropriations, making penalties applicable, and including effective, retroactive, and applicability date provisions:

On the part of the Senate:

JACK HATCH, Chair
JOE BOLKCOM
AMANDA RAGAN

On the part of the House:

DAVE HEATON, Chair
LINDA MILLER
MATT WINDSCHITL

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT CONSIDERED

[Senate File 2336](#)

Senator Hatch called up the conference committee report on [Senate File 2336](#), a bill for an act relating to appropriations for health and human services and including other related provisions and appropriations, making penalties applicable, and including effective, retroactive, and applicability date provisions, filed on May 9, 2012, and moved its adoption.

The motion prevailed by a voice vote; and the conference committee report, and the recommendations and amendments contained therein, was adopted.

Senator Hatch moved that the bill be read the last time now and placed upon its passage, which motion prevailed by a voice vote, and the bill was read the last time.

On the question "Shall the bill pass?" ([S.F. 2336](#)), the vote was:

Yeas, 27:

Beall	Dotzler	Horn	Rielly
Black	Dvorsky	Jochum	Schoenjahn
Bolkcom	Fraise	Kibbie	Seng
Bowman	Gronstal	Mathis	Seymour
Courtney	Hancock	McCoy	Sodders
Danielson	Hatch	Quirnbach	Wilhelm
Dearden	Hogg	Ragan	

Nays, 18:

Anderson	Dix	Hamerlinck	Sorenson
Bacon	Ernst	Johnson	Whitver
Bartz	Feenstra	Kapucian	Zaun
Bertrand	Greiner	Kettering	
Boettger	Hahn	Smith	

Absent, 5:

Behn	Houser	Ward
Chelgren	McKinley	

The bill, having received a constitutional majority, was declared to have passed the Senate and the title was agreed to.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that [Senate File 2336](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

RECESS

On motion of Senator Gronstal, the Senate recessed at 4:39 p.m. until the completion of a meeting of the committee on Rules and Administration.

RECONVENED

The Senate reconvened at 4:42 p.m., President Kibbie presiding.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#), by Rules and Administration, a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die.

Read first time under Rule 28 and **placed on calendar**.

FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT OF BILL ACTION

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Bill Title: [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die.

Recommendation: APPROVED COMMITTEE BILL.

Final Vote: Ayes, 9: Gronstal, Kibbie, Bartz, Courtney, Danielson, Dearden, Dvorsky, Ragan, and Zaun. Nays, none. Absent, 2: Behn and McKinley.

Fiscal Note: NOT REQUIRED UNDER JOINT RULE 17.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION
(Regular Calendar)

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent to take up for consideration [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#).

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that action on [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#) be **deferred**.

The Senate stood at ease at 4:44 p.m. until the fall of the gavel for the purpose of party caucuses.

The Senate resumed session at 5:13 p.m., President Kibbie presiding.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

President Kibbie addressed the Senate with the following remarks:

As we wrap up the 2012 Session, I think we can all walk away with an equal measure of satisfaction and disappointment. That's the nature of the legislative process and a good lesson for legislators in the future. The success of any legislative session is to recognize that compromise is not a bad word, but the process by which agreements are reached for us to finish our business.

I end my eighth year as President very grateful to my colleagues allowing me to serve in this office. I always believed that my office was open to every member and I have tried to treat all Senators with an equal measure of respect. I hope I have been successful.

I began this year with a belief that the key to continued economic job growth and economic development was the glaring need for us to address our skilled work force shortage. I was encouraged that the Senate passed the bill I drafted but disappointed it didn't receive bipartisan support or considered in the House. As the session ends, however, the budget we passed did address this crucial issue by providing over \$20 million in funds for Skilled Workforce Shortage Grants to students; Worker Training Programs at Community Colleges; Skilled Worker Shortage programs at Community Colleges; and Accelerated Career Education (ACE) at Community Colleges. These initiatives should be viewed by every member of this Legislature as one of the great successes of this session.

While there was a lot of talk about Education Reform, the truth is that every session goes about the business of addressing education so that we continually are improving education, the biggest expenditure in our budget. I was encouraged that we found common ground on Governor Branstad's education agenda and the challenge for the future is to allocate funds for the various initiatives. Unfortunately, for the first time since we have had a K-12 formula, we did not provide any level of allowable growth. At a time when there are more challenges than ever in the classroom, we are penny wise and pound foolish to not provide adequate resources to help schools do the best job possible for our children.

I think this Legislature can also be proud that we sent a strong message to our state universities that we must help them in their education mission by providing \$20 million in new general operating funds. Most importantly, we saw the unique needs of UNI because of the large number of Iowa born students and made a substantial increase to them for their Math and Science Collaborative. We should all be proud of these three schools record of educational achievement as well as the economic development they provide for their communities.

This Legislature also took on the challenge of reforming our badly broken mental health system. While no Legislation is perfect, our colleagues in the Senate spent hundreds of hours and the House who worked in good faith to bring out legislation that I believe puts us on the right path. For what flaws this bill might have, the mental health system will be better because of the passage of this important initiative.

I am pleased that we came together on two of the three biggest pieces of our budget – Human Services and Public Safety. People of good will brought varying priorities to the table, worked through them and strengthened our Public Health System, Medicaid, Corrections and our Judicial System. Iowans recognize along with education, these areas are part of our common commitment to each other and are over 90% of our budget.

Clearly, the biggest disappointment this year was the failure of this Legislature to find common ground on property tax reform aimed at commercial property tax reduction. Partisan politics got in the way of a real solution and that should not have happened. This is a 30 year old problem that needs to be solved and I hope next year will see a better climate for this to happen.

Lastly, you all know my strong commitment of renewable fuels. I firmly believe our strong economy is being driven by the agricultural sector of which renewable fuels plays a big part. Rural Iowa is dotted with 54 refineries for ethanol and biodiesel. We are a leader in wind and need to do more development for solar. Much of our future growth is tied to the continued commitment to renewable fuels. Iowa must continue to lead and if we do it will mean jobs, more economic growth and prosperity.

As I end 32 years of public service, it has been a privilege to serve in this Capitol; develop friendships with many of my colleagues; and most of all, serve my constituents. It has been a great run and I have loved every minute. Good bye and best wishes.

REMARKS BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Gronstal provided the following remarks:

On January 9, I said “My goal is a short, productive session.”

I got it half right.

I want to start by thanking Speaker Paulsen, Senate Minority Leader Behn, and every Republican legislator for helping make this session a success.

I really mean that.

Legislative politics is not about a group of people who agree with each other all the time, getting together and telling each other how right they are.

Legislatures never work that way.

Success in legislatures occurs when people of good faith work to find reasonable compromises.

That happened many times this year.

That’s why Iowa politics are different from Washington politics. That’s why this session is a success.

Obviously, we did not agree on every issue. What group of 150 Iowans would?

We did, however, agree on legislation that will move this state forward, legislation that will help create jobs, grow our economy, increase student achievement, and expand educational opportunity.

And we did it by balancing the budget without raising taxes.

Here’s my short, personal list of session highlights:

This Legislature stayed focused on improving Iowa’s economy.

Business people say fixing Iowa’s skilled worker shortage will create jobs and grow our economy. Working together, we asked Iowa’s outstanding community colleges to tackle this problem. We also provided the money they’ll need to get started.

Working together, we made college more affordable for every Iowan, from returning National Guard soldiers to students at Iowa’s outstanding private colleges and nationally recognized public universities.

Working together, we intensified the STEM effort to improve Science, Technology, Engineering and Math learning in our K12 schools and expanded career-oriented engineering education.

This Legislature agreed to continue substantial economic development efforts.

Working together, we funded substantial business incentives; innovation and business development at our universities; and Workforce Development field offices that help out of work Iowans find jobs and local businesses find workers.

Working together, we jumpstarted Iowa’s solar and geothermal energy industry with targeted tax credits and extended ethanol incentives.

This Legislature launched an intensive effort to improve Iowa schools.

Working together, we reinforced the importance of early grade literacy, increased parental involvement, instituted annual teacher performance reviews, and expanded student assessments.

Working together, we kept the option of high quality preschool available to all parents and smaller class sizes for kids learning to read

This Legislature fundamentally reformed our complex mental health system.

Working together, we made sure all Iowa families will receive high quality services regardless of where they live; there will be more accountability and transparency; and, services will be provided more effectively and efficiently.

We could have done more.

For example, we should have continued forty years of forward funding for local schools by approving a four percent increase in 2014. The need is there, and we had the resources.

But I'll leave more talk of "woulda, coulda, shoulda" for another day.

Today the focus should rightly be on the fact that the Republican-controlled Iowa House and the Democratic-controlled Iowa Senate chose to enact good policy rather than engage in partisan politics.

The result will be a stronger Iowa economy, better Iowa schools, and a better quality of life for all Iowans.

In closing, I want to thank Democratic Leader McCarthy and our Democratic colleagues in the Iowa House for their vigilance and passion, the Senate backroom staff, the Republican and Democratic Senate staffs, the Senate doorkeepers, the Legislative Service Agency, and the pages.

Finally, I would like to thank the 26 Democratic members of the Iowa Senate.

Every day, each of you inspired me by showing how people of good faith work together to find reasonable compromises.

Well, most of you, on most days, were inspiring.

Thank you all.

REMARKS BY THE MINORITY LEADER

Senator Behn provided the following remarks:

Thank you Mr. President.

Colleagues, friends, family and all Iowans:

On the first day of this session, now many weeks ago, I started my opening day speech with a famous Winston Churchill quote that goes as follows, "Courage is the first of human qualities because it is the quality that guarantees all the others."

I asked all of us to have the courage to put aside our differences and work in a spirit of true bi-partisanship on the enormous challenges that face our great state. I asked us to provide the measurable results that the hardworking Iowa taxpayers deserve.

I said we must listen not only to what our colleagues have to say—but most especially to those 60,000 bosses that are back home in each of our districts, counting on us to always do what is right for their families, neighborhoods, communities and schools.

Did we provide the measurable results that Iowa taxpayers deserve this session?

In most cases, we did not.

When it comes to job creation, property tax relief, world-class education and government rule and regulation reform, this Legislature failed to make the necessary strides that hardworking Iowans deserved.

As Senate Republicans, we maintained a laser-like focus on job creation and career development this session, but it is disappointing that our colleagues across the aisle opted against a full debate on all of the issues that would lead to more job and career development in our great state.

This should not have been the session to say “No” to good job creation ideas like authentic, aggressive and permanent property tax relief or comprehensive rule and regulatory reform, just because they were ideas that originated from the other side of the aisle.

Instead, Iowans were treated to more of the same. Over the past few years, this has become a pattern that we cannot afford to continue to repeat in the years ahead.

So what did we accomplish?

We did pass a state budget for the upcoming year—and thankfully it was done much earlier than last session.

However, this new budget continues to spend far too much and we missed an opportunity to put into place more government reforms and efficiencies that would lead to systemic change and long-term savings.

As we look to the future, Senate Republicans pledge that we will continue to stand by sound budgeting principles like not spending more than we take in and not raising taxes in order to balance the budget. Just as hardworking Iowa taxpayers tighten their belts, so too should government.

We must continue to wean ourselves off the practice of using one-time dollars for ongoing expenses and continue to provide transparency and accountability. Our budgeting decisions should not just be about this year—we must think about the next decade and the next generation.

The reason I ran for the Senate is because of my four children and now my five grandchildren. I want them to be able to grow up in Iowa—in safe communities with good schools and as they get older—be able to find good jobs and build rewarding careers right here if they so choose.

That is why it is such a tragedy that we missed a golden opportunity to fully revamp and upgrade our property tax system.

The Iowa House, time after time, passed aggressive, authentic and permanent property tax relief with broad bi-partisan support. They should be commended. This body should be disappointed.

So now we have work to do in the future, because Senate Republicans know we cannot afford to have property tax rates that rival that of downtown New York City. A property tax system, like the one offered by Senate Democrats this year, that simply shifts around the tax burden, picks winners and losers, relies on state revenue triggers and onerous applications will not work and is not acceptable.

This Senate Democrat plan proved to be so unappealing that even their own Democrat members could not stomach it.

Since property tax relief did not happen this session, next year Senate Republicans look forward to working closely with Governor Branstad, our colleagues in the House of Representatives and those Senate Democrats willing to be guided by something other than the party line to make it happen.

We will provide genuine, aggressive and permanent property tax relief to hardworking Iowa taxpayers.

Along with property tax reform and responsible budgeting comes removing some of the barriers to growth by getting a handle on our increasingly burdensome government rules and regulations.

Last session, Senate Republicans spearheaded an effort to go across the state to hear directly from Iowans about how government red tape is holding back their success. We then put together a series of ten proposals aimed at re-opening Iowa for business.

In nearly all cases this session, our colleagues across the aisle missed ample opportunities to make it easier for more Iowans to realize their dreams and pursue their ambitions.

Instead of allowing a fair hearing and a rigorous debate on the merits of these common sense proposals, Senate Democrats mostly turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to the job creators, entrepreneurs and small business owners across this state who have been ardently clamoring for some common sense and for some relief.

We also failed to muster the courage to tackle challenges that exist in education. While one education reform bill will go to the governor's desk, it is a far cry from what is truly needed. We could and should have done more for our children—the future of our state.

Education should be about preparing our students to achieve success and be productive citizens. Senate Republicans believe education should be about achievement and teaching our children the necessary skills they need to successfully compete in the global marketplace.

As such, let's get back to setting high standards and expectations for our students and challenge them to reach their fullest potential. We believe students will rise to the challenge if we provide them with world-class standards, ambitious benchmarks and a rigorous curriculum grounded in the fundamentals of reading, writing, math, science, history and civics.

Like property tax relief, rule and regulatory reform and finding more ways to make government more efficient and effective, true education reform will apparently have to wait until next year.

This Senate also missed opportunities to shield Iowans from nearly all aspects of Obamacare, failed to increase our base load energy supply, failed to take major steps to protect life and failed to give Iowans a vote on the very basic definition of marriage.

In the cause of promoting freedom, liberty and opportunity, we could and should have done more.

So clearly, there are significant challenges awaiting next year's Legislature.

The 85th General Assembly will have its hands full because the 84th failed to act in so many ways.

This November is likely to provide this body a lot of new Senators and with that a lot of new energy and new ideas.

We should welcome that.

Why?

Because this state's greatest asset is our people and the work they do for their communities, schools, churches and most importantly—each other.

Their independence, self-reliance, honesty, resilience, work ethic, volunteerism and concern and care for others serves as an inspiration.

We have incredible, hardworking people in all 947 communities doing extraordinary things to renew the promise that exists in all 99 counties. These Iowans just want to make a good living and raise their families, and they deserve a government that respects, appreciates and encourages them to do so.

It is a blessing that this is a part-time citizen Legislature as it keeps our public servants closer to "We The People".

Mr. President, before I conclude, I wish to again say farewell to eight of our retiring citizen-legislators. To my good friends Senators McKinley, Kettering, Seymour and

Bacon and to Senators Hancock, Rielly, Fraise and Kibbie, I wish you continued good health and many years of happiness.

I also want to thank all of the clerks, mail room workers, phone message takers, doormen and clerks. Thank you to our hardworking and dedicated Senate Republican Caucus staff: John, Kirsten, Tom, Josh, Pam, Jim, Gannon, Eric and Russ and our interns Matt and Josh. I wish to also thank my tireless staff—Nicole and Don and Marce for their continued hard work.

Thank you as well to Secretary Marshall's staff, the LSA staff and all the other great folks who make this place function.

Mr. President, in closing, I just want to again reiterate how honored I am to represent my central Iowa constituents and to serve as the Senate Republican Leader.

I can say with the utmost assurance that in my 16 years here, this is the most talented caucus I have ever been a part of and we have had some great ones. We truly have an entrepreneurial caucus of individuals—many of whom are current or former employers with the expertise, knowledge and experience needed make Iowa the envy of the world.

So as we all depart today, may you all go back home to your districts and enjoy your families.

Please continue to celebrate what makes this state so special and unique.

I wish there was more we had done this year, but I pray that next year's legislature will have the courage to do what this year's didn't.

Thank you very much, may God bless our great state and may God bless America.

BUSINESS PENDING

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#)

The Senate resumed consideration of [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die, previously deferred.

[Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#)

On motion of Senator Gronstal, [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die, with report of committee recommending amendment and passage, was taken up for consideration.

Senator Gronstal moved the adoption of [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#), which motion prevailed by a voice vote.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

By virtue of [Senate Concurrent Resolution 102](#), duly adopted, the day of May 9, 2012, having arrived, President Kibbie declared the 2012 Regular Session of the Eighty-fourth General Assembly adjourned sine die.

APPENDIX

CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION

The Secretary of the Senate issued the following certificates of recognition:

Adam Batchelor, Muscatine—For achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, Troop 167. Senator Hahn (5/9/12).

Charles F. Davis, Jefferson—For his service in World War II as a member of the U.S. Army Air Corps. Senator Whitver (5/9/12).

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

WAYS AND MEANS

Convened: Wednesday, May 9, 2012, 2:05 p.m.

Members Present: Bolcom, Chair; Seng, Vice Chair; Feenstra, Ranking Member; Anderson, Bartz, Black, Dotzler, Hogg, Jochum, Mathis, McCoy, Quirnbach, Smith, and Zaun.

Members Absent: Chelgren (excused).

Committee Business: Passed [SF 2227](#) as amended.

Recessed: 2:10 p.m.

Reconvened: 2:20 p.m.

Adjourned: 2:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

[Senate File 2345](#), by committee on Ways and Means, a bill for an act relating to economic development by modifying the innovation fund investment tax credit and the authority and duties of the Iowa

innovation corporation, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

Read first time under Rule 28 and **placed on Ways and Means calendar.**

FINAL COMMITTEE REPORT OF BILL ACTION

WAYS AND MEANS

Bill Title: *[SENATE FILE 2345](#) (formerly [SF 2227](#)), a bill for an act relating to economic development by modifying the innovation fund investment tax credit and the authority and duties of the Iowa innovation corporation, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

Recommendation: APPROVED COMMITTEE BILL.

Final Vote: Ayes, 12: Seng, Feenstra, Anderson, Bartz, Black, Dotzler, Hogg, Jochum, Mathis, McCoy, Smith, and Zaun. Nays, 2: Bolkcom and Quirmbach. Absent, 1: Chelgren.

Fiscal Note: NOT REQUIRED UNDER JOINT RULE 17.

*Pursuant to Rule 40, the Legislative Services Agency reported nonsubstantive changes to the members of the Ways and Means Committee on [Senate File 2345](#), and they were attached to the committee report.

BILLS ENROLLED, SIGNED, AND SENT TO GOVERNOR

The Secretary of the Senate submitted the following report:

MR. PRESIDENT: The Secretary of the Senate respectfully reports that the following bills have been enrolled, signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, and presented to the Governor for his approval on this 9th day of May, 2012.

Senate Files 2283 and 2338.

MICHAEL E. MARSHALL
Secretary of the Senate

AMENDMENTS FILED

S-5259	S.F. 2334	Tim Kapucian Jeff Danielson
S-5260	H.F. 2466	Jeff Danielson Tim Kapucian