

PROOF

STATE OF IOWA

Senate Journal

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

Printed daily by the State of Iowa during the sessions of the General Assembly. An official corrected copy is available for reference in the Secretary of the Senate's Office. (The official bound copy will be available after a reasonable time upon adjournment.)

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOURTH CALENDAR DAY
FORTY-SIXTH SESSION DAY

Senate Chamber
Des Moines, Iowa, Sunday, June 14, 2020

The Senate met in regular session at 1:06 p.m., President Schneider presiding.

Prayer was offered by the Honorable R. Smith, member of the Senate from Scott County, Davenport, Iowa.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senator R. Smith.

The Journal of Saturday, June 13, 2020, was approved.

The Senate stood at ease at 1:08 p.m. until the fall of the gavel.

The Senate resumed session at 1:27 p.m., President Schneider presiding.

HOUSE MESSAGES RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED

The following messages were received from the Chief Clerk of the House:

MR. PRESIDENT: I am directed to inform your honorable body that the House has on June 14, 2020, **adopted** the following resolution in which the concurrence of the Senate is asked:

[House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die.

Read first time and **placed on calendar**.

ALSO: That the House has on June 14, 2020, **concurred** in the Senate amendment and **passed** the following bills in which the concurrence of the House was asked:

[House File 2556](#), a bill for an act relating to notification of the general assembly concerning certain state government leases and real property acquisitions.

[House File 2641](#), a bill for an act relating to state taxation and related laws of the state, including the administration by the department of revenue of certain tax credits and refunds, income taxes, moneys and credits taxes, sales and use taxes, partnership and pass-through entity audits, and by modifying provisions relating to the reinstatement of business entities, the assessment and valuation of property, the Iowa reinvestment Act, port authorities, and animals and food, and providing penalties, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

[House File 2642](#), a bill for an act relating to and making appropriations to state departments and agencies from the rebuild Iowa infrastructure fund and the technology reinvestment fund, and providing for related matters, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

[House File 2643](#), a bill for an act relating to state and local finances by making appropriations, providing for legal and regulatory responsibilities, providing for other properly related matters, and including effective date and retroactive applicability provisions.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION
(Regular Calendar)

Senator Whitver asked and received unanimous consent to take up for consideration [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#).

[House Concurrent Resolution 109](#)

On motion of Senator Whitver, [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die, was taken up for consideration.

Senator Whitver moved the adoption of [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), which motion prevailed by a voice vote.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Whitver asked and received unanimous consent that [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

By virtue of [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), duly adopted, the day of June 14, 2020, having arrived, President Schneider declared the 2020 Regular Session of the Eighty-eighth General Assembly adjourned sine die.

APPENDIX

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

June 14, 2020

The Honorable Kim Reynolds
Governor of Iowa
Via Email

Re: Notice of Senate Disapproval of a Gubernatorial Nominee

Dear Governor Reynolds:

On June 13, 2020, the Iowa Senate failed to approve the confirmation of Nicole Hudson as a member of the Iowa Workforce Development Board. The failure of this nominee to file the required Senate confirmation paperwork was dispositive in this decision.

Pursuant to Iowa Code section 2.32(11), this disapproval triggers certain timelines.

Notice of this disapproval is hereby being filed with your office on June 14, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns, please notify me.

Sincerely,

W. Charles Smithson
Secretary of the Senate

REMARKS BY THE MINORITY LEADER

Senator Petersen provided the following remarks:

Thank you, President Schneider.

As we wrap up the 2020 Legislative session, I want to thank my Democratic colleagues for the honor of leading our team.

I also want to give a shout out to the retirees for their service: Senators Behn, Breitbart, Feenstra, Greene, Kapucian, Segebart and Schneider.

I want to take a moment to ask the chamber to join me in showing our appreciation to our smart, talented, caring and hard-working caucus staffs – from both the Democratic and Republican caucuses.

Thank you to the Secretary of the Senate and his staff, the Senate pages, all the hard-working staff at the Legislative Services Agencies, and the news media that cover us every day on behalf of our constituents.

Let's give all of them a round of applause.

On the opening day of this historic session, I talked about the nostalgic resurgence of Fred Rogers of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

I talked about how my 15-year-old daughter asked me last fall why Mr. Rogers has become so popular again.

I told her I believe Mr. Rogers's popularity has resurged because people are longing for kindness and a sense of connection in our world.

As author and podcast creator Carvel Wallace put it: "In a time like this, Fred Rogers has something that we desperately need."

Mr. Rogers famously told this story: "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

In that spirit, I asked that everyone in this chamber, in the House and in the Governor's office to strive to be the new helpers focused on working together to build a healthier, happier, safer and stronger Iowa neighborhood for our parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren and our friends.

Specifically, I asked that we start sending a message that Iowa will once again be a friendly, inclusive state *for everyone*.

That's because we have a responsibility to deliver kindness and care to people who don't look like us, people who have less money than us, people who don't share our interests or our political views, and people who haven't had the opportunities we have received.

In the wake of the death of George Floyd, a black man killed by police in Minneapolis, thousands and thousands of Iowans took to the streets to protest and to call for the end of racial injustice in our nation.

Iowans came together to say "enough is enough."

I am proud that state leaders listened to concerned Iowans and took historic first steps to advance equality and justice in our state.

We must continue listening during the coming months and years, and we must be prepared to work together to end racial profiling, enact criminal justice reforms, and expand voting rights. We also need to address racial disparities in health care, income and educational inequality, and much more.

The second major issue facing the Legislature and Governor this year was the COVID-19 pandemic that created a "new normal" in our homes, neighborhoods and workplaces.

When the Legislature recessed on March 17, there were 29 positive cases and no COVID-related deaths in Iowa.

Today, we are faced with more than 23,500 confirmed cases and more than 650 COVID-related deaths.

Unfortunately, the Governor and Republican-controlled Legislature failed to provide the leadership necessary for Iowans to look with confidence to our state government as a “helper” during this pandemic. And thousands of Iowans have been hurt by their lack of leadership.

Instead of relying on ribbon-cutting rhetoric and mystery data, we should have worked together to:

- Protect the health and safety of ALL Iowans.
- Stabilize basic economic security needs of Iowa families.
- Create an Iowa-focused economic recovery plan.

Next session, I hope the Legislature and Governor will work harder to make our neighborhoods safer and stronger rather than focusing on the wish lists from special interests.

We support:

- Creating good-paying jobs and ensuring economic security.
- Making Iowa education #1 again.
- Expanding health care and mental health services.
- Making Iowa a safer place to have a baby for parents-to-be.
- Protecting older Iowans from financial exploitation, neglect and abuse.
- Passing meaningful medical cannabis laws.
- Protecting human and civil rights.
- Improving and expanding democracy.
- Cleaning up Iowa’s water and protecting Iowa’s environment.
- Expanding access to high-speed internet in all 99 counties.

In the future, let’s pledge to put the power of kindness to work in this place so our children, our grandchildren and all Iowans see that the Iowa Legislature is comprised of helpers who want to make our state a welcoming, friendly neighborhood again for everyone.

As Fred Rogers once said: “If you look for the helpers, you’ll know that there’s hope.”

Finally, I want to thank all for making your voices heard this legislative session. Democrats love you and we look forward to working with you to ensure bluer skies are ahead for state – and a much bluer Iowa Senate.

REMARKS BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Whitver provided the following remarks:

Mister President, Senator Petersen, and colleagues in the Senate,

At the beginning of this year, I urged my colleagues in this chamber to find bold solutions to the problems facing our state. The following weeks were busy with subcommittees, committees and floor debate, as we worked to pass legislation to work on those issues.

In January the unemployment rate was well below three percent and one of the lowest in the country. Iowa had more job openings than unemployed people looking for work. To address that problem the Senate passed bills to address the workforce shortage in our state, whether it was finding ways to bring more people who are able to work into the workforce, building on the governor's Future Ready Iowa program, or lowering barriers to work in some professions. We worked to expand broadband and continued working on the Empower Rural Iowa initiative.

Early in session the legislature approved almost \$100 million in new funding for K-12 schools, including money for per pupil equity and transportation equity among our state's school districts. We passed legislation to help teachers facing violent students in the classroom, and give them tools to keep themselves and other students safe while they are teaching. We passed legislation to put victims first, and legislation to protect life.

However, the end of this year's session looked very different from what we thought it would, and vastly different from all years prior. In January, nobody could have predicted the session would take a 10-week break, restart in June with no clerks or pages, and see subcommittee meetings held in the Senate Chamber in the name of public health.

Several months ago, we didn't know how a pandemic would affect our state. We never heard of the virus, the information about it changed almost daily, and the uncertainty was significant. What I do know is this: Iowans all across the state are doing the best they can to help each other, and Iowans are working to get our state back up and running for everyone.

Iowans are no stranger to hardship. Our country has seen civil war, the Great Depression, and been victim to terrorism. The agricultural economy, so vital to our state, has seen ups and downs and more uncertainty year to year than most other industries. Iowa now has record high unemployment in our state. In efforts to try to slow the spread of the coronavirus, many restaurants, shops and stores had to shut their doors. Unfortunately, some of those doors were shut permanently.

But Iowans always rise to the challenge. Many went out to support local businesses in their area, to help keep their neighbors afloat. I read story after story of Iowans packing up meals for kids and families in the area, and people who worked day after day to make masks for health care workers and other essential people in the workforce. Businesses across the state altered their day-to-day practices to help keep employees safe and support them to the best of their abilities. Even in hard times, Iowans are there to help each other and support one another.

Too many Iowans have lost their jobs, have had hours cut, or been forced to shut down the businesses they worked their whole lives to build. The path to recovery starts now. I believe we can get back to where our economy was, and keep moving forward to get Iowans back to work. The coronavirus will not last forever, but the actions we took this week will help put our state back on a path to prosperity.

That work started by implementing reliable and sustainable funding for the essential aspects of state government. This budget will keep the promise of nearly \$100 million in new funding for K-12 education. Keeping that promise is exactly what I mean when I say our budget is reliable and sustainable. In the face of a dramatic economic downturn, this chamber made the tough choice and budgeted in the same manner Iowa families budget.

The Senate also included important legal protections to ensure job creators, churches, schools, and cities could reopen their facilities with confidence. In order to restart this economy effectively, all these entities need to know they can put forth a good faith effort to maintaining public health and be protected from a career-ending lawsuit. The last thing a small business in this state needs, after being wounded by the coronavirus, is to be killed off by a lawsuit from someone claiming they could possibly have contracted the virus in their facility.

Finally, we took big, important steps to improve the relationship between law enforcement and minorities in this state. Justice is a fundamental aspect of our government and when it is denied to an individual or a group, it is incumbent upon the elected leaders to take steps to improve the application of laws and justice.

As we finish this legislative session, I look back on the work we done and the decisions we made and I believe implemented important policies to help this state recover from the economic shocks of the coronavirus. But our work is not done. I look forward to working on issues to continue to rebuild the Iowa economy in the next legislative session.

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

President Schneider provided the following remarks:

Senators, staff, visitors, and fellow Iowans:

I believe voters send us to the capitol each year to make Iowa the best state in America to live, work and raise a family. This is an aspirational and open-ended goal, but one that we as lawmakers should always strive to attain. It's our responsibility to the people of Iowa.

As I prepare to leave the Legislature, I am proud to say that I fought for this goal every single day since I assumed office in 2013.

For those of us who last faced the voters in 2016, this was one of the most productive and eventful terms in modern history. Since January 2017, the Legislature passed the largest income tax cuts in state history, making Iowa a more competitive place to attract jobs and people. We reformed the opaque and punitive property tax system by giving property tax payers more say on how local governments set their tax rates. We put hardworking Iowans, instead of the union bosses, in charge of the state, local governments and school districts. We cut unnecessary rules and regulations that hindered economic growth and job creation. We protected doctors and business owners from frivolous lawsuits. We held the state budget in check. We even created the blackout license plate, the most popular specialty license plate in state history!

I couldn't be prouder of our record. I believe these reforms make Iowa a more free, fair, and prosperous place to live.

The last four years have also brought challenges we are still working to overcome. Right now, all legislators are concerned about the physical and economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all outraged by the violent death of George Floyd and are sympathetic to our neighbors in the streets demanding racial justice. We are also angry at those who hid behind lawful protesters to loot and commit acts of violence.

As state leaders, it is our responsibility to lead our state through the current challenges, and back to growth and prosperity. Since 2017, we have worked closely with Governor Kim Reynolds and the House of Representatives to control spending. We turned a structural deficit in 2017 into the surpluses that are sustaining us through these challenging times. As a result, Iowa is in a stronger position right now than many other states. While the pandemic is forcing other states to make devastating cuts, Iowa

has the resources to withstand a significant drop in revenue while keeping its promises to Iowans.

I expect state leaders will continue to work with stakeholders in pursuit of racial justice in Iowa. Our reforms this year are a down payment on what will be a long-term discussion about racial justice in our state. As these conversations move forward, I am optimistic about their outcome. Iowans are a welcoming people. Most Iowans are accepting of anyone who works hard, is a good neighbor, and plays by the rules. I believe our state gains strength from its diversity. I am confident that when sensible Iowans of all races, genders, orientations, and backgrounds come together to solve a problem, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

I am optimistic about our future. In my time as a senator, and specifically as President of the Senate, I traveled the state from river to river. I spoke with Iowans from every walk of life. I know Iowans can take on anything that comes their way. We are hard-working, resilient, and never afraid of challenge or hardship. Iowans are kind and compassionate. And, from the emails and phone calls I receive, and questions I get at forums, I know first-hand that Iowans are knowledgeable and tough, always asking difficult questions of those they elect and willing to hold us accountable.

There will be long days ahead as we continue to fight the pandemic and transform our society into one where everyone can achieve the American dream. We will continue to mourn those we lost to COVID-19, care for the sick, confront economic insecurity, and work for justice. And when this difficult night turns to dawn, we will see a bright future for Iowa on the horizon.

My goal has always been for this state to be one where everybody can be successful, where there are opportunities for people to further their education, start a business, or settle down with family. Iowa is and should always be a place where anyone can come and build their American dream, however that may look.

I am proud to leave the Iowa Senate knowing that I achieved many of my goals, and knowing that the future of our state is in very capable hands. Thank you to all of my senate colleagues, past and present, on both sides of the aisle for your friendship, support, and leadership. It was an honor to serve with you, debate beside you, and work towards building an even better Iowa.