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## *Capitol Dome to Home*

**Gary Carlson**  
State Representative

Statehouse: (515) 281-3221  
gary.carlson@legis.iowa.gov

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January 25<sup>th</sup> Newsletter

### **Capitol Update**

The committee process is well underway as subcommittees convene to discuss and provide recommendations on legislation. All bills within committees must be considered first by a subcommittee before moving forward in the process. As a reminder, subcommittee meetings are open to the public and your input is always welcomed. Scheduled subcommittee meetings are posted on the [Legislative Website](#) at least one day before their scheduled start time.

At the committee level, and within standing budget subcommittees, legislators received updates from executive branch officials. Executive branch officials delivered presentations to legislators concerning the upcoming fiscal year and the ongoing operations of their respective agencies. These reviews and discussions are extremely important and give legislators much greater insight into programs and priorities as we determine their respective department budgets.

### **Legislation**

Below is an overview of the water quality bill the House of Representatives passed this week. I supported the bill and it will move to the Governor for her consideration.

#### **Water Quality Senate File (SF) 512:**

Governor Reynolds outlined water quality as a priority in her [Condition of the State address](#) and said “My hope is that a water quality bill is the first piece of legislation I sign as Governor.” This Tuesday the Iowa House passed SF 512 on a bipartisan basis in an effort to improve Iowa’s water quality. SF 512 dedicates an additional \$282 million over the next 12 years aimed toward reducing the presence of harmful nutrients within Iowa’s watersheds and further promoting Iowa’s Nutrient Reduction strategy.

SF 512 is essentially an updated version of HF 2451, a 2016 bill passed by the Iowa House but remained unacted upon by the Democrat controlled Iowa Senate. The bill proposes to provide a multi-year funding plan to support water quality improvements for surface water and to support upgrading and refurbishment of existing drinking water supply systems and wastewater treatment systems.

This legislation repeals the six percent state sales tax on metered water furnished by a water utility or water service and instead creates a water service excise tax (WSET) of six percent on metered water furnished by a water utility or water service and transfers the money to the wastewater and drinking water treatment financial assistance fund. The funding is phased in over a three year period beginning with Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 starting July 1, 2018, and continues during FY 2020 and FY 2021.



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Starting in FY 2021, state gambling revenues currently allocated to repaying the Vision Iowa bonds will no longer be needed as the bonds will be completely repaid. SF 512 directs \$15 million a year of those revenues exclusively to the (IDALS) Water Quality Infrastructure Fund. The timeframe for this IDALS water quality funding will sunset in 2029 or if the sales tax is raised which would trigger the automatic deposit of 3/8th of a penny sales tax into the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. A portion of the trust funds will fund water quality improvement efforts including the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Additionally, SF 512 amends the current wastewater treatment financial assistance program, administered by the Iowa Finance Authority, to add drinking water treatment facilities and systems, making them eligible for the grants.

Priority for accessing funds shall be given to communities utilizing technology to implement the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Money deposited in the Fund shall not be considered part of the General Fund and unspent funds will not revert at the end of a fiscal year.

### Visitors



Representative Carlson and a Student Senate delegation from Muscatine Community College



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*Student Senate delegation from Muscatine Community College*

### **Forum Schedule**

Muscatine Forum

9:00-10:30am, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Muscatine Community College, 152 Colorado St, Muscatine, IA 52761

Durant Forum

1:00-2:00pm, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

Durant City Hall, 402 6th St, Durant, IA 52747

In the interim, if you would like to contact me regarding any matter, please email  
[gary.carlson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:gary.carlson@legis.iowa.gov)

**If you know of anyone who would like to receive my newsletters, please feel free to contact me and I will add them to the distribution list.**