

Legislation of Interest to the Water Industry

Iowa Section – American Water Works Association

Legislation	Comment	Outcome
Constitutional amendment to create a constitutionally protected fund for natural Resources (SF 2310)	If approved by a vote of the citizens the bill would establish a trust fund to be created from the retail sales tax and constitutionally protected. The money must be used for protecting water quality and natural areas in the state (parks, trails, etc). No money is credited to the fund until such time when the sales tax is increased. The bill creates a soil and water protection account, a watershed protection account (“for the protection, restoration or enhancement of water quality), as well as accounts for trails. Etc.	Signed by the Governor and now will be on the ballot in November
Watershed Advisory Council (HF 2459)	Creates a Watershed Advisory Council that will make recommendations each year to the legislature, DNR and Department of Ag on water quality issues. The report shall include (among other things) recommendations on improving water quality meeting water quality standards, incentives for voluntary non point source load reductions, point source discharge reductions, implementation of pollution prevention plans, wetland restoration, emerging pollution control technologies, facilitating the implementation of TMDLs, urban storm water control programs and non point source management practices required under federal water pollution control act.	Signed by Governor
NPDES Signs (SF 263)	This legislation, introduced every year for the past several years, would require NPDES permit holders to post signs at all points of discharge to surface water. The bill also allows for a \$100 per day penalty.	The bill passed the Senate 26-24 last session, but was never taken up by the House
Flood Plain Management (SF 2316 and HF 2531 and HSB 606)	The bills came as a result of the floods in 2009 and, specifically, the problems in Cedar Rapids. They would have prohibited construction in a 500 year flood plain – including water utilities It contained a number of sound recommendations to reduce the future impact of flooding.	SF 2316 passed the Senate, but was not acted on in the House. The non con language was added to HF 2531 and has been to the Governor
Watershed Management Authority (SF 2317 and HF 2459)	Allows water conservation districts to enter into 28E agreements to create a watershed management authority to assess flood risk, water quality, education, etc	Passed the Senate. Was added to HF 2459 and signed by Governor

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Publication requirements (HSB 545 and SF 2088)	Would have allowed legal notices to be published on the internet only instead of in newspapers.	Dead
Disconnect utilities fro veterans (SF 2297)	Prohibits disconnecting gas and electric utilities in a household where one or more of the heads of household as been deployed. Does not include water	Sent to Governor
DNR to apply for loans for drinking water (SF 2243)	Authorizes DNR to apply for loans for the construction of facilities for the supply, treatment and distribution of drinking water. Code currently authorizes such loans for the collection and treatment of wastewater.	Signed by Governor
NPDES Permits	Allows for an appeal upon a denial of an NPDES permit from DNR to the EPC or an administrative law judge.	Signed by Governor
Mandatory Sick Leave (SF 2337)	Legislation was introduced that would have made Iowa one of only two states to require paid sick leave for full and part time employees. This would have required 18 days for a 40 hour per week employee	Passed Senate Labor committee. Died
Fair Share (HF 2420)	This controversial legislation went through various forms in 2009 and 2010 session. It would have allowed unions to require non union employees to pay a "fair share" of the union dues for their representation. The 2010 version of the bill applied to only employees of the executive branch of government (it exempted, teachers, etc)	Dead
Collective Bargaining (HF 2531)	Language was added to an appropriations bill subjecting various public entities to binding arbitration. If the public entity is not subject to budget certification requirements, upon the request of either party, the board shall appoint a mediator.	Sent to Governor
Water Operator Permit fees (SSB 1156 and HSB 59)	These bill would have changed the basis for determining operating fees from the number pf persons served to number of connections. Fees for non-community public water supply systems would go to a minimum of \$50 per year. The lifts the current cap of raising \$350,000 up to \$1 million	These bills were introduced in the 2009 session and never came out of committee.
Biodiesel Mandate	Various versions of this bill were introduced in the House and Senate both last session and this session. Generally, they required that all diesel fuel sold in Iowa must contain at least 5% biodiesel, and escalated percentages in future years. The bills contained no exemptions. Finding regular diesel for equipment such as standby generators, that are not recommended to be used with these fuels would have been difficult.	One version passed the Senate. Two other versions of the bill died in committee in the House.