

THE DICKEY DISPATCH

First 'funnel' deadline brings flurry of activity

By State Sen. Adrian Dickey, R-Packwood

Good morning SD44! (2-20-26) The sixth week of the legislative session officially kicked off the rush toward the first major legislative deadline. The first "funnel" deadline is this week. This deadline brought a flurry of activity these last two weeks as have we worked through the large number of proposals being considered. This is where over 1,000 bills that have been drafted, get narrowed down to 400-500 to be further considered.

A busy week with subcommittee and committee meetings means we saw a lot of important proposals moving through the Senate. An important bill I brought forward out of my Workforce committee was Senate Study Bill 3169, which addresses the verification of United States citizenship and immigration status of newly hired public employees as well as for individuals seeking a professional license. This bill would also apply to counties, cities and schools for newly hired employees. This last fall, it was nationwide news when the Des Moines Public Schools superintendent was arrested by ICE for illegally being in the country. After news broke and the weeks went on, we continually found out the lies he told the Des Moines community about his resume and his experience and the lack of diligence on the Des Moines school district's part. This is

a common sense solution to help ensure Iowa does not face an issue like this in the future and help protect Iowans from experiencing this sort of fraud when their tax dollars are paying those salaries.

Last week the Dickey Dispatch was entirely focused on education spending and because of that, providing an update on a few other important events were paused until this week.

Every year the Iowa Supreme Court has "night court" to hear oral arguments on a case that deals with legislation that became law the prior year. They do this so that legislators can listen to the arguments how the law applies in the courtroom. This year the Iowa Supreme Court selected legislation dealing with the Brady-Giglio list and a case as to how that law applied in a dispute between the Jefferson County Attorney and how he placed (properly or improperly) the Jefferson County Sheriff on this list.

I won't go into the specifics of the case because it has been well documented in local media (probably being one of the most discussed stories in SE Iowa in 2025). However I am mentioning it because of how significant the issue has become in the state. Another county that I represent, Henry, has had a similar case in the past year as well. It is very unique that there are not only 1, but 2 cases dealing with this issue at the same time

and they both happen to be in SD 44. Needless to say, there was a very large presence of people from Jefferson and Henry County in attendance.

At the completion of these hearings, the Supreme Court will discuss (behind chamber doors) the arguments made by both parties and will typically issue a ruling in 2-4 months. Until then, everyone waits.

Last Thursday was the Iowa Motor Truck Association annual trucking day at the Capitol! In Iowa, the trucking industry is the 2nd LARGEST employer, with 1 out of every 11 Iowans working in the trucking industry, so it only makes sense for them to be present while we are in session to talk about their issues. Legislators were able to visit with these professionals to learn more about the trucking industry and the legislators even had a chance to drive a trucking simulator so they could see first hand what it is like to be behind the wheel. In addition the IMTA leadership class was in town as well. It's always my pleasure to be able to speak to this new group of Iowa leaders! This day is always one of the highlights of the legislative session for me.

It was a busy week of getting legislation through the "funnel," and as we move into the next part of this session, I am looking forward to addressing issues that continue to be important to Iowans.



An Iowa House panel advanced a right to repair bill Feb. 19, 2026. (Photo by Lance Cheung/USDA)

House agriculture committee advances right to repair bill

By Cami Koons
Iowa Capital Dispatch

The House Agriculture Committee advanced a bill last Thursday aimed at ensuring Iowa farmers can make their own repairs on agricultural equipment.

House Study Bill 751 would require agricultural equipment manufacturers to make documentation, parts, software, firmware and tools available at "fair and reasonable terms and costs" to independent repair facilities and equipment owners.

The bill was introduced by the committee chair, Rep. Derek Wulf, R-Hudson, who said the farm economy needs more "problem solvers." "Farmers are our best problem solvers, they're known for self reliance," Wulf said. "If something breaks, farmers want to be able to fix it themselves whenever possible. This bill certainly gives them that ability."

Wulf brought forward an amendment, which the committee adopted,

that he said addressed concerns raised by equipment dealers about some of the "pricing mechanisms" in the bill.

As introduced, the bill explains that the mechanisms required for repair should be offered to equipment owners or independent repair shops at terms that are "equivalent" to those offered to authorized repair providers and at "costs that are no greater than the manufacturer's suggested retail price."

Rep. J.D. Scholten, D-Sioux City, said the bill would help to "balance things out" between farmers and equipment manufacturers.

Farmers and the Federal Trade Commission have launched lawsuits against equipment manufacturers claiming the manufacturers have made increasingly sophisticated equipment that requires specific tools that are only available at dealerships. Farmers argue this means breakdowns take longer and are more expensive to repair.

Earlier in the session, the House Agriculture Committee advanced a bill that would similarly allow farmers to repair their own equipment, though that bill, House File 2529, applied specifically to diesel engine repairs.

Rep. Dave Sieck, R-Glenwood, said in the committee meeting Thursday that HSB 751 was "still sort of a work in progress" but he voted to advance the bill.

HSB 751 was approved by the committee with a vote of 18-5. Reps. Jon Dunwell, Kenan Judge, Norlin Mommensen, Elizabeth Wilson and Jeff Cooling voted against the bill.

The House Agriculture Committee additionally voted to advance House File 2444, a bill that would create new licensing permits for farm-to-table events, expand the permissible sales of raw milk and allow cottage foods to be sold in grocery stores.

The bill passed with a vote of 17-6.



Sen. Dickey met with the IMTA leadership class when they were at the Capitol.

Patriotic Panthers 4-H Club

The Patriotic Panthers 4-H Club met on February 11, 2026, at Prairie View Church. The meeting was called to order by President Colt Reed. Korbbyn Cason, Carly Clarahan, Nicole Jacobs, and Cole Millikin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was answered by 25 members. Secretary Cole Millikin read the minutes of the previous meeting. The Treasurer's report was given by Maci Crow.

Business discussed was the Valentines 4-H Fundraiser was on

February 13 at 5 p.m.; Bottle Bucket Calf/Lamb/Goat check-in is due by April 30; County Youth Lock-In on Friday, February 27 from 6 p.m. to midnight; 2026 Keokuk County Expo Fairbook cover contest; Senior County Scholarships applications are due February 27; Senior Graduation Cords; Next meeting there will be guest speakers to help with CPR and first aid practice; Swine Weigh In is due March 28. The County Council Meeting was with Teagan Swearingen, Carley Clarahan,

and Madison Fry. The meeting was adjourned by Carley Clarahan and seconded by Cole Millikin. Sawyer Cason, Joshua Martin, and Colt Reed led the 4-H Creed. The next meeting will be held on March 11. The activities were led by Sharon Fritchen, Colten Voyles, Levi Voyles, and Maci Crow. Refreshments were served by Carley Clarahan and Joshua Martin.

Reported by: Samuel Loper, Club Reporter

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