



## Weekly Legislative Update

Week 7: February 23-27, 2026

### Week 7 Wrap-Up: The Funnel Is Behind Us, Crossover Begins Monday

Dear Homeschool Iowa Families,

Week 7 of the Iowa Legislative Session wrapped up Thursday, and we are entering one of the most important stretches of the calendar. Here is what you need to know about where things stand, what just happened, and what comes next.

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### What Week 7 Was — and Why It Works This Way

This past week was what legislators call Chamber-Specific Debate Week. By design, the Senate debated only Senate bills, and the House debated only House bills. If that sounds unusual, there is good logic behind it. After the First Funnel deadline on February 20 — when bills had to pass out of their originating chamber's committees or die — each chamber needs dedicated time to move its own surviving bills toward a floor vote before they begin crossing over to the other side. Think of it as each chamber putting its own house in order before the handoff.

On the floor, the process works like this: a bill comes up from the regular calendar, and a floor manager — usually the legislator who guided it through committee — presents it to the full chamber. Members debate, can propose amendments (which pass by simple majority), and then the bill needs a constitutional majority to pass: 51 votes in the 100-member House, or 26 votes in the 50-member Senate. By tradition, the bill's title is read aloud three times before the final vote — a practice dating back centuries. Bills that pass their chamber this week are ready to cross over.

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### First Funnel — What Survived, What Didn't

The First Funnel on February 20 was a significant moment in the session. Of the bills Homeschool Iowa was watching most closely, HF 2366 — our comprehensive homeschool deregulation bill — did not make it through the House Education Committee. That is a disappointment, but it is not the end of the road for those provisions.

The legislative process offers experienced advocates another tool: the amendment. Language from a bill that dies in committee can be attached as an amendment to a bill that survived, provided the right vehicle exists and the timing lines up. This is a common and legitimate strategy, and we are actively pursuing it. One bill we are now watching closely as a potential vehicle for this work is HF 2713. We will share more details as the strategy develops — but we want you to know the work continues.

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## What Is Still Moving

The bill with the most direct and immediate benefit to homeschool families that is still active is **SF 2392**. This bill would allow public and private schools to hold scrimmages against homeschool sports teams, with written agreements required, results that don't count toward standings, and no payment to officials. It is not a sweeping change, but it is a meaningful one — a practical step toward treating homeschool students equitably when it comes to athletic opportunities. SF 2392 passed the Senate Education Committee and is positioned for a Senate floor vote. Once it passes the Senate it crosses to the House, where the process begins again in committee. We will keep you posted.

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## What Comes Next — Crossover and the Second Funnel

Starting Monday, March 2, the Legislature enters the Open Debate Period — Weeks 8 and 9. The chamber restrictions lift, and bills that passed their originating chamber begin crossing over to the other side. A Senate bill that passed the Senate now goes to a House committee. A House bill that passed the House goes to a Senate committee. The entire committee process starts fresh in the new chamber: assignment, subcommittee review, full committee vote. Importantly, bills can be amended in the second chamber — which creates advocacy opportunities we intend to use.

The next major deadline is the **Second Funnel on Friday, March 20** — 21 days away. By that date, bills must clear a committee in the opposite chamber or they are generally done for the session. Budget and tax bills, along with bills sponsored by legislative leaders, are exempt from this deadline and can move at any time. But for most bills, March 20 is the final checkpoint before the legislative calendar narrows dramatically.

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## What You Can Do Right Now

There is no specific legislator contact we are asking of you this week. The most valuable thing at this stage is to stay informed and stay ready. When we need you to act — and we will — we will give you specific names, specific messages, and specific timing. Vague advocacy is far less effective than targeted, timely contact from constituents.

In the meantime, you can watch floor debate live and track any bill by number at [legis.iowa.gov](https://legis.iowa.gov).

And if you haven't already, please consider sharing Homeschool Iowa's updates with other homeschool families in your network. The more families who are informed and engaged, the stronger our voice at the Capitol.

Your membership makes this advocacy possible. Not a member? [Please join us!](#)

Thank you.

For Iowa homeschool freedom,

**Jeremy Vos**

Director of Advocacy, Homeschool Iowa

**Questions?** Contact us at: [advocacy@homeschooliowa.org](mailto:advocacy@homeschooliowa.org)



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