



February 27, 2020

In this Issue:

Week in Review.....P.1

Budget Meeting.....P. 1

IA SC Justice.....P. 1

Healthcare @ Statehouse.P2

Bills on the Move.....P. 3

In the News.....P. 4

Next Week Schedule.....P. 4

Key 2020 Dates.....P. 5

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Week in Review

The Legislature spent the majority of its time considering bills through floor debate as well as private caucuses to discuss the daily bill list on the chamber’s debate calendar. The chambers considered and passed scores of bills this week. Next week will continue with this pace, as well as the addition of some subcommittee work as bills make their way from one chamber to the corresponding chamber.

Several budget subcommittees heard presentations this week. Topics ranged from tax credits, economic development programs, Family First Prevention Services, Iowa DOT and Alcoholic Beverages Division.

The Governor signed her second bill of the session on Tuesday, a bill dealing with transportation equity funding for schools. The House and Senate have yet to agree on a final number for the K-12 funding. Conversations are continuing between both chambers.

The next funnel deadline is March 20th, just three weeks away. Bills that are subject to the funnel will need to move through one full chamber and the other chamber’s full committee to survive the funnel. These funnels are legislatively imposed deadlines that reduce the number of bills are can be worked on at any given time.

Revenue Estimating Conference Meeting

The Revenue Estimating Conference will meet on March 12, 2020 to set revenue for FY 2021. This committee will either solidify or downgrade its previous revenue projections (made at the end of December). It is not anticipated that the revenue will be downgraded. This is significant because the budget process will begin in earnest next week as legislators have a final revenue number.. Negotiations between the House and Senate will continue as they narrow down on overall budget targets.

Christensen to be New Chief Justice of IA Supreme Court

The Iowa Supreme Court has selected Justice Susan Christensen to be the new Chief Justice. Christensen replaces the late Justice Mark Cady as the Chief Justice. Governor Reynolds appointed Christensen to the Supreme Court in 2018. In a statement, Christensen said: “I am honored to be selected by my colleagues as chief justice of the Iowa Supreme Court. Three months ago, our court faced a sudden crisis with the unexpected death of Chief Justice Cady. I am deeply appreciative of the immediate leadership by acting Chief Justice David Wiggins. He provided the stability to push forward with the court’s work while the judicial branch and entire state grieved for the Cady family. As chief justice, I will maintain my passion for child welfare and juvenile justice and do my best to lead Iowa’s judiciary in a manner which provides all 99 counties with fair and impartial justice.”



Healthcare @ the Statehouse

As covered in our newsletter the last few weeks, the legislation proposing cap on non-economic damages in cases of medical malpractice passed the Senate 30-20. SF 2338 raises the cap to \$750,000 and eliminates the exceptions to the current \$250,000 limits. The bill also limits evidence to show medical expenses in cases, such as amounts still owed. Senator Bisignano proposed amendment S 5020 to eliminate the restrictions on medical expenses, but the amendment failed 31-19. The bill is now on its way to the House.

With debates in full swing in the House and Senate, many bills are making their way to the other chambers. The House this week sent the Senate four healthcare related pieces of legislation. HF 2269, would eliminate the monthly budget cap on individuals who are eligible for Medicaid HCBS. The Department of Human Services would then need to track the average amount per recipient each year, starting in July 2020. This passed unanimously, 96-0, and is headed to the Senate. This is a companion bill to SF 2345.

The House also unanimously passed HF 2220, which would allow individuals at the age of 18 who were receiving court-ordered care to be eligible for the adult living program. This piece of legislation also has a companion bill in the Senate (SF 2311).

Another kumbaya moment in the House was when they unanimously voted on HF 2197. Under current law, the program requires that a residency program including federal residency positions at the university of Iowa hospitals and clinics offer persons to whom a primary care residency position is awarded the opportunity to participate in a rural rotation to expose the resident to the rural areas of the state. Under current law, primary care specifically includes the practice area of psychiatry. Under HF 2197, the specified primary care practice areas are expanded to also include obstetrics, gynecology, family medicine, internal medicine, and emergency medicine.

After a lengthy debate HF 2383 was passed by the House on a 54-44 vote and sent it to the Senate. HF 2383 would require the Board of Regents to mandate that 75% of students accepted at the UI Medical and Dental Colleges are Iowa residents or have attended pre-grad schooling in Iowa.

Not to be out done, the Senate unanimously passed several pieces of legislation that will be making its way to the House. SF 2118 would allow doctors to refinance their loans under the Rural Physician loan repayment program; this passed 49-0. School Health Screenings legislation, SF 2153, prohibits schools from conducting student screenings unless there is written parent permission.

More unanimous passes included SF 2251, this legislation would allow OB-GYN practitioners to be considered a primary care area for the medical residency rural rotation matching grants program; this passed 49-0. A continuation of the focus on telehealth this session, SF 2261 proposes that schools and AEAs become authorized to contract for behavioral health screenings and provide these through telehealth. Insurance would be required to pay the same for telehealth as in-person services. An amendment to this legislation validates provider-patient relationships in cases of telehealth if it does not require an in-person visit. The amendment and full bill passed 49-0 and now goes to the House. The Senate also passed 50-0 the usage of a third-party vendor for preliminary background checks through SF 2299.

Through SF 2272, the Department of Human Services would be required to conduct checks amongst public assistance recipients. The Department requirements would include: to seek waivers to prevent duplication, to contract a third-party vendor for national accuracy checks as well as checks on that contract, complete asset



checks on all SNAP recipient household members, and require SNAP recipients to cooperate with CRSU if six months arrears on child support. Other mandates for the Department would be the creation of a computer verification system for income and eligibility by July 2021, applicant completion of an authentication process through the computer system, limitations on applicants responses to ineligibility or other matters in 10 days, allowing the Department to report potential fraud and possibly take measures on owed amounts. An array of amendments were proposed, but only a few passed, such as changes in the timelines and verification of employment by a consumer reporting agency. This legislation passed 32-17, and just as we saw in the Senate, a lengthy debate is expected in the House.

Bills on the Move

With the House and Senate increasing their debate calendars, several bills moved through the full House and Senate this week. The following bills moved that may be of interest.

- *Broadband Grant Exemption.* HF [2023](#) is a bill that exempts grants for broadband services given to communication companies from the income tax. The bill passed unanimously out of the Ways and Means committee.
- *Iowa Medical School and Dental School Admissions.* The House split on [HF 2383](#), passing it on a 54-44 vote. The bill requires the Board of Regents to adopt rules mandating that 75% of the students accepted at the UI Colleges of Medicine and Dentistry be Iowa residents or have been enrolled in Iowa colleges. Representative Ann Meyer, who managed the bill, said that Iowans should not be subsidizing out-of-state students at the medical and dental school at a time when rural Iowa has a shortage of these medical professionals. She said that Iowans are more likely to stay in state after medical or dental school and the bill will save Iowans money by allowing them to pay lower in-state tuition instead of having to attend out of schools and pay non-resident tuition. Democrats said that about 2/3 of the acceptances at the schools are Iowans. They said that the change will increase costs on Iowa students because the loss of \$800,000 to \$1 million in tuition will be shifted to existing students.
- *Tort Reform/Non Economic Damages.* [SF 2338](#) passed the Senate on a 30-20 vote. The bill sets a hard cap on non economic damages that plaintiffs can seek in Iowa's courts for patient damages/deaths. The bill sets the cap at \$750,000.
- *Public Assistance Oversight.* [SF 2272](#) passed the Senate on Wednesday and puts verification procedures in place for Iowa's public assistance programs. It requires DHS to contract with third party vendors to conduct national accuracy checks, requires DHS to conduct an asset check on all SNAP recipients, and requires someone receiving SNAP benefits to comply with Child Support Recovery Unit. Additionally, it requires the DHS to redesign and implement a new computer verification system for income and eligibility verification by July 2021. The bill passed the Senate 32-17 and now goes to the House.

In the News

Below are articles of interest from the week. Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

- [Governor Says She's Comfortable with Cannabidiol Board Recommendation](#) – *Radio Iowa*
- [Acting Director of DAS Resigns](#) – *Gazette*
- [Governor Reynolds Signs Education Funding Bill](#) – *Gazette*
- [Reynolds will have to fight GOP for Sales Tax Plan](#) – *Iowa Capitol Dispatch*



- [Iowa House to hold Government Oversight Committee on Glenwood Resource Center – Des Moines Register](#)
- [Coronavirus Risk in Iowa Remains Low – Des Moines Register](#)

Next Week Capitol Schedule

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 8, March 2 - 6, 2020
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3	Wednesday, March 4	Thursday, March 5
	8:30 SESSION	8:30 SESSION	8:30 SESSION
	10:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	10:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Judiciary RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	10:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber
	10:30 Veterans Affairs RM 19 Environmental Protection RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	11:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION		1:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
2:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber			
3:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber			

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 8, March 2-6, 2020
Subject to Change

Monday, March 2	Tuesday, March 3	Wednesday, March 4	Thursday, March 5
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION
			10:00 Nat. Resources RM 22 Veterans Affairs RM 24
			11:00 State Govt. RM 22 Local Govt. RM 24
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 Ways and Means RM 22	1:00 Hum. Res. RM 22 Transportation RM 24	1:00 SESSION
	2:00 Appropriations RM 22	2:00 Education RM 22 Labor/Bus. RM 24	
	3:00 Judiciary RM 22	3:00 Commerce RM 22	

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Last updated on February 26, 2020

Forums

A comprehensive list of forums can be found [here](#). A list of the forums for this coming weekend is provided below. For more detailed information, click on the link.

- 02/27/2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM [Invest in Iowa Town Hall-Grundy Center](#)
- 02/27/2020 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM [Invest in Iowa Town Hall-Waverly](#)
- 02/28/2020 Event Time TBD [Invest in Iowa Act Town Hall-Marion](#)
- 02/28/2020 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM [Invest in Iowa Town Hall-Cedar Rapids](#)
- 02/28/2020 8:45 AM - 9:45 AM [Invest in Iowa Town Hall-Monticello](#)
- 02/28/2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM [Office Hours-Ankeny](#)
- 02/28/2020 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM [Invest in Iowa Town Hall-Dubuque](#)
- 02/28/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Forum-Marshalls town](#)
- 02/28/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Forum-Anamosa](#)
- 02/28/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Forum - Sheldon](#)
- 02/28/2020 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM [Jone County Forum](#)
- 02/28/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Luncheon-Keokuk](#)
- 02/28/2020 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM [Invest in Iowa Town Hall-Clinton](#)
- 02/28/2020 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM [Johnson County Education Forum-Iowa City](#)
- 02/29/2020 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Eggs and Issues-Rock Rapids](#)
- 02/29/2020 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM [Legislative Forum-Northwood](#)
- 02/29/2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Listening Post - Independence](#)
- 02/29/2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Listening Post-Oelwein](#)
- 02/29/2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Legislative Town Hall and Listening Post-Ely](#)
- 02/29/2020 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM [Legislative Forum-Osage](#)
- 02/29/2020 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM [Listening Post-Berwick](#)

Key Dates for 2020 Session



The new Iowa Legislative Session Timetable has been published. Here is the [link](#) and included below is important dates as we approach the 2020 Iowa legislative session.

January 13	First Day of Legislative Session
January 14	Governor's Budget Released Governor gives her Condition of the State Address to Joint Session
January 24	Final day for individual Senator/Representative Bill Requests
February 21	First Funnel. All Senate and House bills must be out of one full committee
March 20	Second Legislative Funnel. Corresponding chamber must vote bills out of a full committee to remain "alive"
April 6	Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
April 21	100 th Day of the session. Per diem expenses for legislators end.



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