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Contact Information

David Adelman
 515-491-1015 (m)
dadelman@cgagroup.com

Matt Hinch
 202-365-9449 (m)
mhinch@cgagroup.com

Frank Chiodo
 515-778-5245 (m)
fchiod@cgagroup.com

Sara Allen
 515-778-9516
sallen@cgagroup.com

Week in Review

Legislators spent most of their time on the House/Senate floor debating bills that had past in their respective committees over the last several weeks setting up for the next procedural funnel (March 21st). The second funnel is a legislative deadline where (other than spending/tax bills) all must pass through their original chamber and run through the committee of jurisdiction on the other House/Senate side.

As pieces of legislation begin to move through multiple steps in the process, we receive clear direction on what leadership believes to be a priority and what may get “stuck” in the process to be addressed at a later date.

A subcommittee on Invest in Iowa, a top priority of Governor Reynolds, was held Wednesday. 5 Senators (Chapman, Smith, Dawson, Jochum, Bolkcom) convened the hearing listening to over 50 individuals and interested parties supporting the three components of the legislation. The topics covered in the bill include 1) water conservation/quality integrating quality of life enhancements, 2) expanded mental health funding and 3) a reduction of personal income taxes for most Iowans. This bill most receive 3 of the 5 votes before it advances to the full Senate Ways and Means Committee.

There was no action taken but rather a promise to continue the conversation. It’s clear that the House and Senate have yet to fully agree to the proposal but conversations are happening daily. Most believe that some sort of tax package will be considered however, there is a long ways to go before an agreement is met.

Budget Watch: K-12 Funding Agreement

This week the House and the Senate agreed on a funding number for K-12 education funding. The Senate and House met in the middle and landed at an allowable growth rate of 2.3%. The Senate had originally approved 2.1%, while the house was at 2.5%. 2.3% rate increases is an annual increase of \$85.57M for K-12 funding.

Senator Whitver said, “I am pleased to reach this agreement with the House. It provides sustainable, predictable, and reliable funding for school districts across Iowa. Iowa leads the nation in graduation rate, average ACT score, and concurrent enrollment. This continued investment will help schools continue that record of achievement.” The Senate passed SF 2142 with an amendment (setting the rate at 2.3%) on Wednesday afternoon.

This agreement is part of the first set of funding measures the House and Senate will need to agree on as budget talks begin to take shape. The House and Senate will have their global budget numbers after the Revenue Estimating Committee meets next Thursday. After this number is released leadership from the House and Senate will work to establish agreed-to budget targets in an effort to pass the 11 budget bills that fund Iowa’s government.



Healthcare @ the Statehouse

Several health-focused pieces of legislation moved through the chambers this week. There continues to be a priority placed on **EMS services**. Expansion efforts are being brought forth in multiple ways. House **File 2434** establishes procedures for EMS to be declared an essential service and strikes requirements for an election to impose a levy or surtax; like most EMS bills, this legislation passed out of House Ways and Means unanimously. For hospitals or schools looking to offer **EMS training**, the Senate passed **SF 2283**, which would require the facilities to apply for authorization through the Department of Public Health and develop the program themselves. This moved through the Senate unanimously and will now make its way to the House. We are sure to see other bills related to this topic move as standalone legislation and within the HHS budget.

As discussed in our last newsletter and of interest to many of our clients is **physician recruitment** in rural Iowa. **SF 2118**, allowing doctors to refinance loans under the Rural Physician loan repayment program, will be heading to the Governor after passing the House 96-1. The Governor will also be receiving **SF 2268**, after passing 43-6, which raises the age for tobacco and vapor products to 21.

Significantly more controversial, **SF 2366** is moving through the Senate. This bill creates **Medicaid eligibility requirements** for government assistance programs, including SNAP, Medicaid, and childcare. The bill prohibits DHS from granting categorical eligibility to SNAP, establishes work requirements for Medicaid eligibility, and implements a phase-out process for families who lost eligibility but still have children in childcare. This passed the Senate on a party-line vote, 31-18, and is headed to the House where its fate is unknown. According to LSA, the State will see a \$47.6 million reduction in state Medicaid expenses and \$198 million cuts federally.

Scope of practice legislation continues to be addressed by the Legislature, blurring the lines of practitioners and not necessarily considering educational levels of these individual groups.

The Senate will take up **HF 2267** (having passed the House unanimously), which focuses on **dental practitioners**. This bill will strike location restrictions for dental hygienists, and with additional training, this bill would allow dental assistants to perform x-rays and place sealants on teeth. There is also an authorization for the Dental Board to issue penalties \$500 when continuing educational requirements are not met.

House File 310, a bill that passed the House last year, is also being addressed in the Senate. HF 310 authorizes **optometrists** to administer injections for procedures like eye treatments, anaphylactic shock, and a few others; this authorization would only be granted following training and approval by the Board of Optometry.

After compromises between the **Physician Assistant** Society and multiple physician groups, the Senate passed **SF 2357** addressing practice guidelines for PAs. SF 2357 would authorize PA's to prescribe and dispense of prescription drugs, as well as perform any medical duty that they have received proper training.

Rounding out the scope of practice work this week, the Senate passed **SF 2318** which would allow health care practitioners to **collaborate with pharmacists** for patient care and drug therapy.

A few “spending” bills affecting the health and well being of Iowans moved through the House Appropriation’s committee this week. The Committee unanimously passed **HF 2345**, which would **protect elders** in the instance of financial exploitation. When a broker, investment advisor, or other financial entity has reason to believe that financial exploitation has been committed against a senior or dependent adult, they must report their findings to



the Insurance Commissioner. The bill would grant records be available to law enforcement and delay any further disbursements to be postponed until further investigation.

Another priority topic for the Legislature and Governor this year is **childcare**. One of these bills addressing the subject is **HF 2595**. The House Ways and means committee approved HF 2595, creating incentives for developers in completing childcare projects. The incentive would be determined based on the size of the city and other formulas but caps the incentives on a single project at \$200,000 in incentives. LSA determined this would cost the Department of Revue about \$90,000 to administer the program.

Bills on the Move

Several bills moved through the full House and Senate this week which include:

- *Canned Cocktails*. The House and Senate have passed a bill, [SF 2134](#), that allows a brewery to purchase alcohol through the ABD in order to make canned cocktails.
- *Biofuels*. The Senate Ways and Means committee unanimously passed the biofuels differential bill. The bill is now eligible for floor debate.
- *City and Counties Renters on Public Assistance*. The Iowa Senate on Tuesday passed legislation to ban cities and counties from passing local laws to block discrimination against renters who are on public assistance. Des Moines and Iowa City have ordinances that ban the discrimination allowing for a diverse housing core. Democrats criticized [Senate File 2368](#) as a way for landlords to discriminate against renters because they are racial minorities, for example, but under the guise of turning down federal aid such as Section 8 certificates. The Greater Iowa Apartment Association said the decision on whether to accept vouchers should be left to landlords. They also favored a statewide approach to the issue rather than laws that could vary from city to city. Source: [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#)
- *Broadband Grant Exemption*. HF 2575 passed the Ways and Means committee in the House this week. The bill exempts grants for broadband service given to communications companies from the state income tax. The bill is expected to reduce personal and corporate income taxes, with an annual reduction of about \$200,000 in personal income taxes in \$1.2 million in corporate taxes FY 2025
- *Private Generation Tariffs*. The Senate approved the House amendment to SF 583 private generation tariffs, and sent the bill to the Governor. This bill is the compromise between solar, energy and agriculture. The bill now goes to the Governor for her signature.

Cornerstone's ESG Services are Helping Companies Improve Risk Management and Access to Capital

Included in this post is a press release from our Washington DC office regarding our ESG work and the benefit it can bring potential and current clients.

2020 is proving to be the year of Environmental Social Governance (ESG), and Cornerstone's Strategic Advisory team is helping companies across industries to develop, implement and communicate their commitment to ESG



principles. Fund managers and capital providers are insisting on greater ESG performance due to its link to value creation and greater access to capital. Therefore, companies are increasing pressure to comply. In recent weeks, numerous developments are demonstrating the imperative for companies to show how they are operating in a sustainable and responsible manner, by embracing ESG principles. Examples include:

- BlackRock and State Street Global Advisors announcing in January that they will vote against management and reassess capital allocations when companies are not integrating ESG disclosure.
- Sustainable investing is accelerating with about \$30.7 trillion held in investments in 2018, up 34 percent from 2016, according to the Global Sustainable Investment Alliance.
- ESG-focused equity funds have taken in nearly \$70 billion of assets just over the past year, according to Emerging Portfolio Fund Research, Inc.
- Global sales of green debt securities continue to grow. New financial tools continue to flood into the market, including green bonds, sustainability-linked loans, sustainability bonds, social bonds, green loans, and sustainability-linked loans.
- “ESG is having a fast-growing impact on equity market positioning,” according to a Barclays report cited by Financial Times, noting that it is “likely contributing to widening the valuation dispersion between ‘winners’ and ‘losers’.”

“Interest in ESG is increasing and companies are responding to investors by taking action to improve ESG performance,” says Alanna Fishman, vice president of Cornerstone’s Advisory Services. “In order to be competitive for investor dollars in today’s environment and maintain their social license to operate, companies need to have quality ESG programs and be demonstrated leaders in their peer groups.”

“While some sectors of the economy are inherently under greater ESG-scrutiny due to their operations and greenhouse gas emissions, companies that improve their ESG performance vis-à-vis their peers are finding their way into more portfolios,” Fishman said.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cgagroup.com/services/strategic-advisory-services-and-business-consulting/>.

In the News

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

- [Speaker Grassley Interview on the Steele Report](#) - *KWWL*
- [Early Snowmelt Helping Missouri River Flooding Projections](#) – *Radio Iowa*
- [Iowa House and Senate Give Solar Bill Unanimous Support](#) – *Radio Iowa*
- [Bill Reforming Medicaid, SNAP Benefits Passes Iowa Senate](#) – *We Are Iowa*
- [Invest in Iowa Act Gains Support](#) – Iowa Capitol Digest
- [Iowa House Republican Newsletter](#)



Next Week Capitol Schedule

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 9, March 9 - 13, 2020
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, March 9	Tuesday, March 10	Wednesday, March 11	Thursday, March 12
8:30 SESSION	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 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	10:00 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	10:00 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber
10:30 Public Safety RM 19 State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	11:00 Government Oversight RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	11:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	11:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber
11:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber			
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 Veterans Affairs RM 19 Environmental Protection RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Judiciary RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber
2:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	2:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber		
3:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Judiciary RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber			

The Legislative Information Office provides a complete list of committee meetings on the web at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov>
Subject to Change

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 9, March 9-13, 2020
Subject to Change

Monday, March 9	Tuesday, March 10	Wednesday, March 11	Thursday, March 12
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION
	9:30 Rules RM 22		10:00 State Govt. RM 22 Local Govt. RM 24
			11:00 Hmn. Res. RM 22 Transportation RM 24
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
:00 SESSION	1:00 Ways and Means RM 22	1:00 Commerce RM 22	1:00 SESSION
:00 Judiciary RM 22	2:00 Nat. Resources RM 22 Veterans Affairs RM 24	2:00 Education RM 22 Labor/Bus. RM 24	
:00 Appropriations RM 22			

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Last updated on March 4, 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.

- 03/06/2020 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM [Legislative Forum-Corydon](#)
- 03/06/2020 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM [Legislative Forum-Eagle Grove](#)
- 03/06/2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM [Officer Hours-Ankeny](#)
- 03/06/2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Spill the Beans-Greenfield](#)
- 03/06/2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Forum-Allison](#)
- 03/06/2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Forum-Clarion](#)
- 03/06/2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Forum-Chariton](#)
- 03/06/2020 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM [Spill the Beans-Perry](#)
- 03/06/2020 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Updates-Ankeny](#)
- 03/06/2020 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Updates-Ankeny](#)
- 03/06/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Forum-Osceola](#)
- 03/06/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Legislative Forum - Hawarden](#)
- 03/06/2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM [Legislative Forum-Belmond](#)
- 03/06/2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM [Legislative Forum-Clear Lake](#)
- 03/06/2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM [Legislative Forum-Leon](#)
- 03/07/2020 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Coffee with the Mayor-Prairie City](#)
- 03/07/2020 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM [Spill the Beans-Guthrie Center](#)
- 03/07/2020 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM [Legislative Wakeup-Ames](#)

- 03/07/2020 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM [Legislative Coffee-Council Bluffs](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Listening Post - Fairbank](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM [Listening Post-Muscatine](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM [Legislative Coffee-Council Bluffs](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM [Eggs and Issues-Spencer](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Forum-Ottumwa](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Forum - Dubuque](#)
- 03/07/2020 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM [Cracker Barrel-Dubuque](#)
- 03/07/2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Forum-Dewitt](#)
- 03/07/2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Legislative Coffee-Denison](#)
- 03/07/2020 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM [Listening Post-Hiawatha](#)
- 03/07/2020 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM [Forum-Mason City](#)
- 03/07/2020 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM [Listening Post-Durant](#)
- 03/07/2020 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM [Listening Post-Carter Lake](#)
- 03/07/2020 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM [Eggs & Issues-Spirit Lake](#)
- 03/07/2020 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM [Eggs and Issues-Okoboji](#)
- 03/07/2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM [Listening Post - Jesup](#)
- 03/07/2020 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM [Listening Post-Wilton](#)
- 03/07/2020 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM [Listening Post-Mechanicsville](#)

03/07/2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM [Listening Post-Bennett](#)
03/08/2020 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM [Listening Post-Iowa City](#)

03/08/2020 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM [Listening Post-West Branch](#)

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
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.



Katelyn O'Hare | Frank Chiodo | David Adelman | Matt Paul | Matt Hinch | Jimmy Centers | Sara Allen