



February 26, 2021

Week in Review

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This week was filled with activity as Friday marked the legislative funnel. After Friday, all bills that did not make it out of committee are consider “dead” while those that passed out of one full committee continue in the legislative process. Ways & Means, Appropriations, and Government Oversight bills are not subject to the funnel system and can be passed through committee at any time. The next “funnel” deadline occurs the first Thursday in April, approximately one month away.

One bill that made it through the funnel is [SSB 1176](#) which bans automated traffic cameras. This bill is not a new concept in the legislature, but this iteration of bill made an exception for the I-380 “S curve” through Cedar Rapids. Senator Zaun (R-Urbandale) who files this type of bill frequently, said he exempted these specific cameras because data has shown that they do reduce speed on the curves. Read more [here](#). Note that no traffic enforcement camera bill was considered in the House.

Another Senate bill that made it through the funnel is [SF 193](#). This bill, in its original form, was expansive and would have prohibited employers from requiring employees to be vaccinated and allows employees to seek injunctive relief and damages. However, the bill was amended in the committee to be specific to the COVID-19 vaccination; essentially, protecting workers who are not vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccination from being fired or discriminated against by their employer. The amendment also disallows vaccination status incorporation on government issued identification cards. The passed the Senate Human Resources committee 7-6 and is now eligible for floor debate.

Several education bills also made it through the funnel. Earlier this session, the Senate passed the Governor’s education reform proposal ([SF 159](#)) which included charter schools and private school scholarships for certain students. The House broke up the single bill into several separate bills. [HSB 242](#), charter schools, and [HSB 243](#), private education scholarships, where debated in subcommittee and HSB 242 passed out the full Education committee Wednesday.

The House passed Paycheck Protection Program tax deductions in [SF 364](#) that offers about \$115 million in tax relief. \$90 million of that will be made up for in a transfer from the general fund to the Taxpayer Trust Fund with the other \$25 million coming out of the ending balance. \$100 million dollars comes from a pandemic

unemployment exemption and the rest from COVID grants and Paycheck Protection Program. The bill was amended in the House and now goes back to Senate. Read more [here](#).

Governor Receives COVID-19 Vaccine

This week the Governor held a press conference to urge Iowans to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. She said, "As you're weighing your options for vaccination it's important you receive your information from credible sources." The governor received the single dose Johnson and Johnson vaccine which was administered by a central Iowa Hy-Vee pharmacist. She had waited until this point to make sure that the elderly and other at-risk populations, as well as teachers, have had the opportunity to receive their vaccines.



The governor said that 70% of the state's "educators and team" have already received the vaccine. The IDPH landing page for the COVID-19 vaccine is updated frequently for the public and health care providers with the latest information surrounding the vaccine rollout as well as educational materials. Click [here](#) for more information.

Bills on the Move

Below are bills of interest. Please reach out with any questions or concerns.

- [HSB 228](#). *Pharmacy Benefit Managers*. Requires a Pharmacy Benefit Manager to allow Iowa pharmacies to participate in its network on the same terms and conditions as others. Prohibits PBMs from keeping a pharmacist from telling a patient about lower cost options. Allows a pharmacy to decline filling a prescription if the price paid is less than the acquisition cost. Passed committee 22-0, floor manager Best.
- [HF 115](#). *Ambulatory Center Emergency Care*. Requires ambulatory surgical centers to have written emergency care policies and access to necessary equipment, staff, and ambulance services. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Dolecheck.
- [HF 269](#). *Out of State Telehealth*. Prohibits insurers from excluding out of state telehealth providers if the provider is licensed in Iowa and able to give services.
- [HF 516](#). *Dental Sealants*. Allows dental assistants to place sealants on teeth with addition training. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Bradley.
- [HSB 225](#). *Medicaid Overpayments*. Doesn't allow the state or Medicaid MCO to seek repayment of an overpayment to a provider if the overpayment happened over 24 months ago. The bill was amended in committee taking the period the bill considered from 12 months to 24 months due to managed care company concerns over claims processing standards. Effective upon enactment. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Boden.
- [HSB 59](#). *Surgical Smoke*. Requires hospital and surgical centers to adopt policies to eliminate surgical smoke using evacuation systems. Passed committee 23-0, floor manager Lundgren.



- [SF 193](#). *Vaccination Beliefs/Exemptions*. Prohibits all types of employers from mandating employees be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccination. Allows the employees to seek injunctive relief and damages if they lose a job or are discriminated against due to the employer's requirement. Passed committee 7-6, floor manager Carlin.
- [SSB 1227](#). *Inpatient Beds Study*. Establishes an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system study committee and includes requirements for membership, areas to be examined and reporting requirements. Passed committee 13-0, floor manager Edler.
- [SSB 1229](#). *MI Patient Reports*. Allows reports on the hospitalization of a patient with MI to include medical information on the condition, prognosis, and care of patient. Passed committee 13-0, floor manager Edler.
- [SSB 1234](#). *Emergency SA/MH Treatment*. Allows treatment in an access center for a detained person experiencing a MH/SA crisis. This bill garnered robust debate with all parties involved and will likely be amended if it is to advance. Passed committee 8-5, floor manager Edler.
- [SSB 1202](#). *Orthodontia examinations*. Requires an initial examination in the 6 months before orthodontia services are performed. Passed committee 15-0, floor manager Koelker.
- [HF 436](#). *Graduate Medical Residents*. Includes all graduate medical resident working at hospitals as state employees under the State Medical Tort Claims Act. Passed committee 13-7, floor manager T Moore.
- [HF 479](#). *Severe Mental Health Treatment*. Requires DHS to form a workgroup around the topic of a Medicaid demonstration waiver for the treatment of severe mental health conditions for short-term stays in acute care settings. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Bergan.
- [HF 632](#). *Vaccine Information*. Requires vaccine administrators to report adverse outcomes into the VAERS system. Additionally, requires all vaccine administrators to report to the IRIS program. Passed committee 11-9, floor manager Osmundson.
- [HF 706](#). *Telehealth Reimbursements*. Requires reimbursements for telehealth services be the same as in person visits. Effective January 2022. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Fry.
- [HSB 75](#). *Disciplinary Matters*. Allows an administrative law judge to hear a disciplinary hearing, which is open unless licensee requests a closed hearing. Disciplinary charges are public records. Presiding officer of a panel can issue subpoenas. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Bergan.
- [HSB 91](#). *Pharmacy Shots*. Strikes pharmacist authority to administer nicotine replacement shots, TDAP vaccines, and the final 2 doses of HPV vaccines. Allows pharmacists to test and treat flu, strep, and COVID. Allows pharmacists to give patients over 3 COVID and other federally recommended vaccinations. Allows a pharmacist to give flu and other shots to patients over 6 months in a public health emergency. Passed committee 17-3, floor manager A Meyer.
- [HSB 255](#). *PA Duties*. Adds duties that may be performed by PAs. Requires various boards and agencies to adopt rules authorizing PAs and prohibits amending rules for 3 years. Passed committee 20-0, floor manager Boden.
- [SSB 1225](#). *Non-economic Damages*. Increase the cap for non-economic damages against a health care provider to \$1 million. Passed committee 9-5, floor manager Whiting.



In the News

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

- [Iowa lawmaker talks about his bill to require in-person graduation](#)
- [30 Iowa Republican senators propose penalizing social media companies that censor speech](#)
- [Hinson says put truckers in essential worker classification for Covid shots](#)
- [Bill would make fraud in fertility treatments a crime](#)
- [Rule to ban chanting, rallies, marches on Iowa Capitol's 2nd floor](#)

Next Week Capitol Schedules

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 9, March 8-12, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, March 8	Tuesday, March 9	Wednesday, March 10	Thursday, March 11	Friday, March 12
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION 9:15 Ways and Means Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Judiciary Senate Chamber 11:00 Commerce Senate Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION			1:00 State Government Senate Chamber	All Committees on call



House of Representatives Schedule for *Week 9, March 8 - 12, 2021* Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, March 8	Tuesday, March 9	Wednesday, March 10	Thursday, March 11	Friday, March 12
11:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION 8:45 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office Government Oversight Law Library 10:30 Ways and Means Law Library Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION 9:00 Ways and Means Law Library Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 10:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 SESSION	1:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office		

Key Dates for 2021 Session

The new Iowa Legislative Session Timetable has been published. Here is the [link](#) and included below is important dates as we approach the 2021 Iowa legislative session.

January 11	First Day of Legislative Session
January 12	Governor's Budget Released Governor gives her Condition of the State Address to Joint Session
February 12	Final day for individual Senator/Representative Bill Requests
March 5	First Funnel. All Senate and House bills must be out of one full committee
April 2	Second Legislative Funnel. Corresponding chamber must vote bills out of a full committee to remain "alive"
April 12	Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
April 30	110 th Day of the session. Per diem expenses for legislators end.



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2021 Legislative Update



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