



April 2, 2021

Week in Review

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This Friday, April 2, marks the second funnel date where a bill needs to make it out of committee in both chambers to remain “alive.” Appropriation and Ways & Means bills are not subject to the funnel dates and do not need to be passed out of committee by Friday. After this week, most House committees except Appropriations and Ways & Means will have wrapped business for the session. Senate committees will still meet to consider Governor appointments.

After the second funnel, the next date on everyone’s minds is the 110th day of session which is April 30. After 110 days, legislators stop receiving per diem pay but are not required to adjourn by then although they likely will try to finish by that day. Now the focus shifts to passing a budget for the State. Last week, the Senate released their proposed budget numbers at \$7.999 billion, lower than the Governor’s proposed budget of \$8.1 billion which she released in January. The House has not released their budget numbers. The next weeks will be filled with budget talks both within the chambers and between the chambers.

A part of the Senate’s proposed budget redirects the funding source for mental health from property taxes to a general fund appropriation. This language is in [SF 587](#) which passed out of Senate Ways & Means and Appropriation committees this week. This bill would end the county mental health property tax levy and use city backfill programs to cover any “lost revenue.” The House has not yet discussed this proposal.

The House passed the Governor’s broadband bill unanimously on the floor Monday. [HF 848](#) would allow internet providers to apply for Empower Iowa grants with matches up to 75% in severely underserved areas. The House did change the upload speed requirement from the Governor’s original proposal from 100 megabits/second upload and download speed to 100megabits/second download and 20 megabits/second upload speed. This bill does not include money for the grants as that will come in a later appropriation. The Governor called for \$450 million dollars to be split up in \$150 million over the next 3 years. Speaker Pat Grassley said that the appropriation from the House will probably be closer to \$100 million. Read more [here](#).

The House could see consensus on updating the state’s bottle redemption laws to allow retailers who no longer want to accept redemption to refuse while also giving redemption centers additional money for handling the containers. Both chambers have different versions of some change to the system, but Speaker Grassley hinted that there could be an agreement coming out of the House that helps solve the problems without pointing fingers. Read more [here](#).

The Senate Education moved [HF 468](#) (Dental and Medical School Admissions) forward, after amending the bill to add in provisions similar to [HF 487](#) (Medical Residency Interviews). The House approved both bills earlier in the session. HF 468 requires the UI Carver Medical School and the Dental School to hold 75% of admission slots open for Iowans, or for persons who attended an Iowa college. Senator

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Quirnbach said that the bill could lead to a loss of \$1 million in out-of-state tuition. Quirnbach said that the key to keeping doctors in-state is to offer more medical residencies in the state and said that the loss in tuition funding could lead to fewer residencies at the UI. HF 487 requires the UI Hospital & Clinics to offer medical students with Iowa ties residency interviews.

Bills on the Move

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

- [HF 797](#). *411 Accidental Disability*. Allows ordinary disability beneficiary to apply accidental disability retirement. Requires action begin 2 years after injury or 5 years after employment has ended. Passed Senate State Government 15-0, floor manger R. Smith.
- [HF 852](#). *Graduate Medical Residents*. Allows hospitals and health organizations to get reimbursement for medial liability insurance for medical residents. Passed House Appropriation committee, floor manager Ann Meyer. LSA estimates cost of reimbursements to be around \$2.5 million.
- [HSB 185](#). *Governor's Renewable Fuel Bill*. Restricts the sale of unblended gasoline. Promotes the sale of higher ethanol and biodiesel through tax credits and grants. LSA estimates that these requirements would reduce general fund revenue by about \$220 million from FY23-FY31. Passed House Way & Means 17-5. Floor manager Hein.
- [SF 524](#) *Inpatient Beds Study*. Establishes an In-patient Psychiatric Bed Tracking System interim study committee. Includes requirements for membership, areas to be examined and reporting requirements by December 2021. Amended adding telehealth parity for mental health procedures. PASSED 18-0; FM: Andrews
- [SF 587](#) *Property Tax Changes & Backfill*. MH/DS: Creates an MH/DS regional services fund. Establishes a new funding formula and creates a risk pool. Backfill: Eliminates property tax replacement payments to local governments as of FY 2028. Establishes a new formula for such payments from FY 2023-2028. Schools: Increases the state school aid base to 88.4% as of the 2022-2023 school year. Authorizes a voter-approved property-tax levy for school playground equipment. Triggers: Strikes the triggers requirements before the 2018 income tax changes take effect. Other: Makes changes to calculating corporate income tax. Strikes the charitable conservation donation income tax deduction. Makes changes to the Elderly property tax credit. Requires a person be actively involved in managing a forest reservation in order to qualify for the forest/fruit tree property tax credit. Includes requirements on controlling invasive species. Requires the DNR to determine what constitutes active management and to adopt rules. Gives the DNR broad discretion in making such a determination. Limits the credit to five years. PASSED 12-8; FM: Dawson

In the News

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

- [Iowa towns hit by natural gas price surge in February freeze getting state help](#)
- [Iowa care facilities deal with staffing shortages amid pandemic](#)
- [Iowa extends deadline for individual income taxes](#)
- [Iowa fourth-quarter GDP shows improvement after pandemic-fueled downturn](#)



- [Iowa's 2nd district Congressional race is now over](#)
- [State works to get COVID-19 vaccines to rural counties](#)

Next Week Capitol Schedules

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 13, April 5-9, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, April 5	Tuesday, April 6	Wednesday, April 7	Thursday, April 8	Friday, April 9
	9:00 SESSION On Call (AM) 10:00 Appropriations Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 9:30 Appropriations Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 9:30 Appropriations Senate Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 1:30 Appropriations Senate Chamber	1:00 SESSION	1:00 SESSION		

House of Representatives Schedule for *Week 13, April 5 - 9, 2021*

Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, April 5	Tuesday, April 6	Wednesday, April 7	Thursday, April 8	Friday, April 9
	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Budget Subs Admin/Reg - Rm. 19 Ag- Rm 15 Justice Systems - Rm 103 Tran/Infra/Caps - Rm. 102	8:30 SESSION 8:45 Ways and Means Law Library Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	8:30 SESSION 8:45 Ways and Means Law Library Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	All Budget Subs On Call Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees On Call
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 SESSION			

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

Subject to Change

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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