



April 22, 2021

Week in Review

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Budgets continue to dominate discussions at the Capitol. The Health and Human Services budget released by the Senate could be a flashpoint between the chambers as everyone pushes to wrap up the legislative session. The Senate proposal moves mental health funding to a state general fund appropriation which they passed as a stand alone bill earlier this session that was not taken by the House. The budget also contains an asset verification system for individuals receiving food assistance; another issue the House did not take up. Senate HHS Budget Subcommittee Chair Mark Costello said about the policy is the budget, “We are trying to be consistent. We’ve done the policy, we want to fund it.” Read more [here](#). The Senate passed the HHS budget out of Appropriations 12-7 on Tuesday. The House passed their HHS budget out of the budget subcommittee on Thursday morning. Read more [here](#).

Wednesday, the House passed the Administration & Regulation budget that Rep. Landon said was an agreement between the chambers. The budget included \$100 million for broadband grants, less than the \$150 million requested by the Governor. Rep. Hall offered an amendment that would use federal pandemic relief funds for broadband expansion that was rejected. Earlier this session, the Legislature approved the framework for these grants in [HF 848](#) which has not been signed by the Governor yet. This budget passed the House 55-37. Read more about broadband funding [here](#).

Even as budgets take up most of the time, policy bills are still moving. [SF 524](#) establishes an in-patient psychiatric bed tracking system interim study committee. The bill was amended in the House to require health carriers to reimburse telehealth at the same rates as other services and passed 92-0. This reimbursement issue was brought up and passed out of the House earlier this session but never got brought up on the Senate floor. The amended SF 524 now goes back to the Senate.

The House also passed [HF 228](#) which strikes the implementation of voluntary diversity plans as a reason for denying open enrollment. The bill was amended to make effective upon enactment and waive open enrollment deadlines for 2021-22 school year. Rep. Winckler voiced concern that the bill should have been moved before school districts had to certify their budgets. This bill passed the House and Senate and now goes to the Governor.

The bottle bill continues to be discussed this session. The House held a public hearing on [HF 814](#) on Tuesday night. The bill would increase the handling fee for redemption centers and allow retailer to refuse accept bottles redemption center owners said that the handling fee needs to be increased for them to stay in business while recyclers said the current bottle bill keeps recycling costs low. Retailers said that handling bottles in grocery stores created a sanitary hazard however they ignore the fact grocery stores now provide manicure services, rug doctor rental and point of care treatment for the sick at their pharmacies.

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Bills on the Move

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

- [HF 196](#). *Healthcare Recruitment*. Allows healthcare professionals who graduate from a program other than DMU to be eligible for rural practice loan repayments. Passed the Senate and House unanimously, now goes to Governor.
- [SF 542](#). *Alcohol License Renewals*. Establishes a one-period for free renewals for alcohol license and permit holders from May 2020 to May 2021. Requires ABD to refund those who paid for permits during that time and transfer the amounts that local governments would have collected during that time. Passed Senate committee 17-0, floor manager R. Smith.
- [HF 766](#). *Alcohol Deliveries*. Allows an agent of a license holder to deliver alcohol, requires a written agreement that authorizes the 3rd party as a agent of the license holder. Exempts a licensee from penalties for violations of delivery rules if they can prove the violation occurred off-site. Passed House 88-3, passed Senate 39-7, now goes to the Governor.
- [HF 785](#). *Games of Chance & Skill*. Includes nudge and swap games as amusement concessions and makes definitions. Defines computerized games using continuous game play that are games of skill. Passed House 95-0, passed Senate 45-1, now goes to the Governor.
- [SSB 1269](#). *Tax Credit & Triggers*. High Quality Jobs-reduces the HQ credits to \$70 million and renewable chemical credits to \$5 million. Prohibits IEDA from using reduction in jobs due to COVID to deem a company ineligible for assistance. Created the Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Fund for investments into smart tech used to improve current manufacturing processes. Caps assistance at \$75,000. Created the Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program for development of energy infrastructure. Increases the Workforce Housing credit allocation to \$40 million with \$12 million reserved for small cities for FY 2022. Allocates \$30 million with \$15 million for small cities for FY 23. Allows IEAD to create a disaster housing recovery period. Strikes the 2018 tax triggers. Passed Senate Ways & Means 15-0, floor manager Dawson.

In the News

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

- [House again votes for reimbursement parity for virtual mental health services](#)
- [Republicans scale back Kim Reynolds' affordable housing requests in bills pushed this week](#)
- [Suspect charged with murder in death of Iowa State Patrol Sgt. Jim Smith](#)
- [President Biden pledges to cut US fossil fuel emissions up to 52% by 2030](#)
- [43 Iowa counties decline doses of Covid-19 vaccine this week](#)



Appropriation Progress

Below is a chart showing where each budget currently is in the process along with the bill number as of Thursday. Please reach out with any questions.

AS OF THURSDAY APRIL 22, 2021

HF 867	ADMINISTRATION & REGULATION	In House 4/8	Amended & Passed House 4/21	In Senate 4/22		
SF 594		In Senate 4/6				
HF 860	AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES	In House 4/7				
SF 598		Passed Senate committee 4/12	In Senate 4/13			
HF 871	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	In House 4/14				
SF 595		In Senate 4/7				
HF 868	EDUCATION	Passed House committee 4/12	In House 4/12			
SF 596		Passed Senate committee 4/13	In Senate 4/13			
LSB 1004YC	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	Passed House subcommittee 4/22				
SF 606		Passed Senate committee 4/17	In Senate 4/21			
HF 864	JUDICIAL BRANCH	In House 4/7				
SF 597		Passed Senate committee 4/13	In Senate 4/13			
HF 861	JUSTICE SYSTEMS	In House 4/7				
SF 599		Passed Senate committee 4/14	In Senate 4/14			
HF 862	REBUILD IOWA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (RIIF)	In House 4/7				
SF 600		Passed Senate committee 4/14	In Senate 4/14			
HF 863	TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITALS	In House 4/7				
SF 592		In Senate 4/6				



Next Week Capitol Schedules

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 16, April 26 - 30, 2021
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, April 26	Tuesday, April 27	Wednesday, April 28	Thursday, April 29	Friday, April 30
	8:30 SESSION	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Ways and Means Law Library	8:30 SESSION	All Budget Subs On Call Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees On Call
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 1:30 Judiciary Law Library				

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 16, April 26-30, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, April 26	Tuesday, April 27	Wednesday, April 28	Thursday, April 29	Friday, April 30
		9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 SESSION 1:30 Judiciary Senate Chamber 1:45 Education Senate Chamber 2:00 State Government Senate Chamber 2:30 Commerce Senate Chamber	Upon Adjournment Ways and Means Senate Chamber		Rules, Ways and Means, and Appropriations on call

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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