



**April 30, 2021**

### Week in Review

**In this Issue:**

Week in Review.....P.1

New Medicaid Director....P.2

Bills on the Move.....P.2

In the News.....P.3

Appropriation Progress....P.4

Next Week Schedules.....P.5

Key 2021 Dates.....P.6

This week marks the 110<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session when legislators stop getting per diem pay. This day is generally seen as a target end date but there is still a lot of business to take care of this year.

As legislators look to wrap up business and get home, focuses shift to the finding consensus on the different priorities of the chambers that haven't been addressed. The Senate passed many different tax cuts this session where the House has proposed many tax credits focused on childcare. "We're still having that conversation, but I think overall we're fortunate here in Iowa that we can even have that conversation," Whitver said in a recent interview. "We managed our budget very prudently over the past few years, even through the pandemic we ended with a surplus, so that we can come back and not offer a stimulus payment to people, but offer permanent, lasting tax cuts to Iowans and still have a responsible budget." Read more [here](#).

Senate Republicans also passed bills that move mental health funding off county property taxes and remove the triggers for 2018 tax cuts that Senate Majority Leader, Jack Whitver is hopeful will pass this session. House Republicans are more reluctant of a state takeover of the mental health system without understanding the guardrails in place for management said Speaker Pat Grassley. Whitver stated that the Senate is open to changes to get this important bill across the finish line. Read more [here](#).

Vaccine passports have been a topic of discussion across the country. Earlier this month, Governor Reynolds stated that Iowa would not implement vaccine passports and called for legislative action on the issue. She also stated that she would take executive action if the legislature failed to act on it. A bill to ban any government entity in Iowa from issuing a vaccine passport was debated in the House this week. The bill would also ban business and non-profits from requiring guests to show proof of vaccination. Any business, school, or government entity that did this would risk losing state funding. Healthcare facilities are excluded from this ban on vaccine passports. Iowa Democrats say that this debate is unnecessary because they don't believe that Congress or the Biden administration will require the passports. [HF 899](#) passed out of House 58-35 and was floor managed by Rep. Holt. Holt said that the bill still allows businesses to require employees to be vaccinated and to screen visitors for COVID. The exceptions for health care facilities allows them to adequately protect the patients they care take of while still following federal regulations. Companion bill [SF 610](#) passed the Senate Commerce on Tuesday 11-4. Both of these bills were filed by the Majority Leaders in both chambers. Read more [here](#).

Bottle bill talks seemed to have stalled this session as Speaker Grassley stated that all the different players and views "just makes it really hard to not only find an agreement, but a bill that's palatable to any caucus." Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton) Chair of the House State Government committee stated that this session was as they have come to having a solution to fix problems with the bottle bill. [HF 892](#) was passed out Appropriations committee 15-9 this week. This bill allows dealers to refuse cans and bottles if the dealer enters agreements with a redemption center

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withing 10-15 miles of the dealer depending on county size. It also raises the handling fee to 2 cents. Read more [here](#).

Governor Reynolds signed [HF 848](#) that expands broadband grant programs and lays the framework for connecting the state. The bill had unanimous support from both chambers earlier in the session. This bill does not contain the funding levels for expanding the grants but only contains the statutory framework for the matching grants. Governor Reynolds proposed an additional \$150 million each year for the next three years in her Condition of the State at the beginning of session. The House Administration & Regulation budget contains \$100 million for the next fiscal year for broadband expansion. The Senate passed this budget and sent to the Governor this week. Read about more bills sent to the Governor this week [here](#).

The Senate also approved [HF 813](#) that allows charter school founding groups to apply to the state board of education rather than the local one. The House passed the bill earlier this session while the Senate already voted on this issue in a larger education bill that included education savings accounts. That bill was not taken up the House as one bill but was broken down into the separate issues like HF 813.

Progress has been made on the redistricting process. Iowa will keep its four US House seats with a 144,000 population increase since 2010. The state expects to have some Census data to begin the redistricting process by August 16. The data will be in an older format that will take about 5 days to convert into the data format to use with the redistricting program. Read more [here](#).

### **New Medicaid Director Named**

After months of having an open position, a new Medicaid director has been chosen. Elizabeth Matney was announced as the new director on Friday of last week. The position has been open since August when former director Mike Randol left. Matney is currently the Governor's health care policy advisor where she has been since 2019. Prior to joining the Governor's office, Matney was deputy under Randol. Matney has a master's in rehabilitation counseling from Drake and a bachelor's in psychology and philosophy from Texas State University. She is set to start in the position June 1. Read more [here](#).

### **Bills on the Move**

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

- [SF 613](#). *Downtown Loan Guarantee*. Establishes a Downtown Loan guarantee program to encourage investments to help downtowns recover from COVID. Requires a building mortgage to be for less than \$500,000 and for less than 50% of the value of the property to qualify. Limits the guarantee for five years with an optional five year extension. Passed committee 21-0, floor manager Lofgren.
- [SF 611](#). *Disaster Housing Recovery*. Creates a disaster recovery housing program. Allows IEDA to transfer money into a revolving loan fund for a forgivable loan and grant program to help homeowners and renters with primary residences affected by disaster. Retroactive to disasters since March 12, 2019 in counties declared to be disaster areas. Allows IEDA to enter into agreements with cities for the city to be the local program administer the program. Passed committee 21-0, floor manager Lofgren.



- [SF 296. Pharmacy Shots.](#) The House passed and amended this bill. The bill was amended to allow pharmacists to administer the COVID 19 vaccine to patients 18 and older, as well as do point of care testing for patients 6 and over for influenza, strep and COVID-19. The Senate concurred with the amendment. Now goes to the Governor.
- [HF 768. Wine Sale Permits.](#) Increases number of Class C native wine permits for sale of alcohol for consumption on premises to 2 so long as there is manufacturing at both sites. Allows native winery to sell wine at the winery. Passed the House 95-0, Senate 47-1, now goes to the Governor.

### In the News

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

- [Opioid deaths in Iowa increased 35 percent in 2020](#)
- [Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, Super Bowl champion Dallas Clark vaccinated at Expo Center](#)
- [Iowa awaits ruling affecting farming and ethanol production after Supreme Court arguments](#)
- [Reynolds not giving up on bill to require sale of higher ethanol blends](#)
- [Iowa's Delegation Weighs in on President Biden's Address to Congress](#)
- [Governor sets goal of getting 75% of Iowans vaccinated by end of June](#)



### Appropriation Progress

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

#### AS OF WEDNESDAY APRIL 28, 2021

<a href="#">HF 867</a>	ADMINISTRATION & REGULATION	In House 4/8	Amended & Passed House 4/21	In Senate 4/22	PASSED Senate 4/28	to Governor
<a href="#">HF 860</a>	AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES	Passed House committee 4/7	In House 4/7			
<a href="#">SF 598</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/12	In Senate 4/13			
<a href="#">HF 871</a>	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Passed House committee 4/14	In House 4/14			
<a href="#">SF 595</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/7	In Senate 4/7			
<a href="#">HF 868</a>	EDUCATION	Passed House committee 4/12	In House 4/12			
<a href="#">SF 596</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/13	In Senate 4/13			
<a href="#">HF 891</a>	HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	Passed House committee 4/28	In House 4/28			
<a href="#">SF 606</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/17	In Senate 4/21			
<a href="#">HF 864</a>	JUDICIAL BRANCH	In House 4/7				
<a href="#">SF 597</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/13	In Senate 4/13			
<a href="#">HF 861</a>	JUSTICE SYSTEMS	In House 4/7				
<a href="#">SF 599</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/14	In Senate 4/14			
<a href="#">HF 862</a>	REBUILD IOWA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (RIIF)	In House 4/7				
<a href="#">SF 600</a>		Passed Senate committee 4/14	In Senate 4/14			
<a href="#">HF 863</a>	TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & CAPITALS	In House 4/7				
<a href="#">SF 592</a>		Amended & Passed Senate 4/28				
<a href="#">SF 615</a>	STANDINGS	Passed Senate committee 4/27	In Senate 4/28			
<a href="#">SF 614</a>	BLOCK GRANT/ COVID FUNDS	Passed Senate committee 4/28	In Senate 4/28			



**Next Week Capitol Schedules**

**IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 17, May 3-7, 2021**

\*\*\*Subject to Change\*\*\*

Monday, May 3	Tuesday, May 4	Wednesday, May 5	Thursday, May 6	Friday, May 7
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION				All committees on call

**House of Representatives Schedule for Week 17, May 3 - 7, 2021**

Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, May 3	Tuesday, May 4	Wednesday, May 5	Thursday, May 6	Friday, May 7
	8:30 SESSION	8:30 SESSION	8:30 SESSION	All Budget Subs On Call  Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees On Call
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
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.

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



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