



**March 19, 2021**

### Week in Review

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Floor debate and committee work picked up this week as we move closer to the second funnel. Next week, appropriation work will begin in response to the Revenue Estimating Committee which meets on Friday.

Governor Reynolds held a press conference this week and said that all Iowans will be eligible for COVID vaccinations by April 5. As of this week, the CDC estimates that 95% of Iowans over 65 have received one dose of the vaccine and 28% of 18–64-year-old have received one shot. Read more about the Governor’s press conference [here](#).

Congress passed another COVID relief package that might affect legislative priorities for the session. Speaker Grassley said earlier this week that some of the conditions in the American Rescue Plan could prevent Iowa from cutting some taxes as it is unclear if states can cut taxes after receiving this federal aid. Governor Reynolds called for the elimination of the triggers from the 2018 tax bill that would allow those cuts to take place in 2023. The Senate Ways & Means committee passed [SF 576](#) which removes those triggers and phases out inheritance taxes over four years. More answers to budget questions will be answered after the REC meets this Friday.

The House debated for few hours on Monday afternoon. [SF 252](#) prohibits cities and counties from adopting ordinances that prohibit landlords from refusing federal housing vouchers. Floor manager Rep. Deyoe said the bill protects landlords who do not wish to deal with the extra paperwork and requirements involved in federal vouchers. Some landlords specialize in this, but others have no desire to do so. Democrats said that a few cities currently have these ordinances in place and are instrumental in providing affordable housing. The bill passed the House 56-38 and went back to the Senate which passed it 30-17. The bill now goes to Governor Reynolds. Read more [here](#).

[HF 555](#) prohibits cities and counties from regulating natural gas and propane sales. Floor manager Rep. Jacobsen offered an amendment that excludes ordinances regulating retail propane sellers and ordinances extending utility franchises that do not restrict the provision of natural gas or are related to regulated utilities. The amendment was unanimously adopted. Jacobsen said the bill is needed to protect heating sources for consumers because of efforts to restrict residential natural gas use in other parts of the country. Democrats said that the bill is not needed and goes to far in restricting local control.

Ohio and Alabama have filed suits against the US Census Bureau over delays in releasing census data and are asking for an earlier release to meet their redistricting deadlines. Concern has been raised in Iowa that the districts won’t be approved by the September 15 constitutional deadline with the projected data release date of September 30. Read more [here](#).



The property tax exemption for some privately held wooded areas still stands after a bill that would have eliminated it failed to pass subcommittee this week in [SF 352](#). Currently, property owners can seek a tax exemption if they maintain land in the state forest reserve program with 200 trees per acre or 70 fruit trees per acre in an orchard. Read more [here](#).

### Bills on the Move

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

- [SF 576](#). *Inheritance tax/Income Tax Triggers*. The Senate approved SF 576 which strikes the triggers and phases out the inheritance tax over four years, on a 46-0 vote on Wednesday. Last week, Speaker Grassley said that at \$90 to \$100 million, the inheritance tax cut might be too big. He said today that the House Republicans will review the new REC revenue estimate in order to determine whether the triggers should be removed. He said his caucus will also need to look at how accepting federal pandemic aid affects any potential tax cuts. The state is expected to receive about \$1.3 billion in federal aid in the latest round of pandemic funding.
- [HF 796](#). *Broadband Grants*. The House Appropriations Committee moved HF 796, the proposal by Governor Reynolds to expand broadband access, forward today on a 21-0 vote. The bill sets up matching grants, although the \$450 million in proposed spending is not in this bill. The bill includes requirements for upload speeds and reserves some of the grants for hard-to serve areas. Representative Sorenson, who is managing the bill, said that Republicans support spending \$450 million but will need to see how much the state receives in federal pandemic aid. The bill should come out as a successor next week, and as an appropriations bill, will be eligible for the rest of the session.
- [SF 580](#). *Banning Social Media Censorship*. Prohibits state and local governments from awarding incentives to companies that censor online. Reduces aid to local governments that violate these provisions. Requires people be given the right to opt-out of certain algorithms controlling content. Gives the AG enforcement duties and requires the AG to develop an internet complaint site. Passed the Senate. Senate President Chapman is lead sponsor of the bill that all Republican Senators except Whitver and Nunn have signed on. LSA estimates the enforcement costs in the AG's office will be about \$700,000.
- [HF 729](#). *Pharmacy Benefit Managers*. Requires PBM to allow an Iowa pharmacy to participate in its network on the same terms as other pharmacies. Prohibits a PBM from paying a pharmacy less for a drug that it pays PBM affiliates. Does not allow a priced reduction after a clean claim has been submitted. Passed the House Commerce committee, floor manager Best. LSA estimates the cost to the state would be about \$10.2 million.
- [HF 528](#). *Dentist Vaccinations*. Allows dentist to administer flu and COVID vaccines. Prohibit dentist from delegating this to an assistant or hygienist. Passed Senate committee 13-1, floor manager Schultz.
- [SF 524](#). *Psychiatric Bed Tracking*. Establishes an inpatient psychiatric bed tracking system study committee to be conducted during the interim to develop policy recommendations to improve the tracking system. Membership of the study committee is to consist of at least a representative from DHS, IHA, an MCO, law enforcement, a private payor of inpatient services, and a county mental health advocate. Passed House subcommittee.
- [HF 763](#). *State Coverage of Medical Residency Liability*. Allows private or public hospitals can apply to IDPH for reimbursement of liability premiums attributable to employed resident physician. Passed subcommittee.



- [HF 390. Fluoridation in Public Water Supply.](#) Public water systems shall provide 90 days’ notice before permanently discontinuing fluoridation by placing on water bill or some other reasonable way to provide notice. Passed Senate subcommittee.

**In the News**

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

- [64 grants, totaling \\$13 million, to child care slots in Iowa](#)
- [Unemployment down to 3.5% in January](#)
- [Campus free speech bill clears Iowa House 97-1](#)
- [Iowa Senate goes after Big Tech as 'threat' to free speech](#)
- [State commission approves sportsbook ‘pools wagering’ in Iowa](#)
- [Iowa House passes bill to make state permits to buy, carry guns optional](#)

**Next Week Capitol Schedules**

**IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 11, March 22-26, 2021**

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

Monday, March 22	Tuesday, March 23	Wednesday, March 24	Thursday, March 25	Friday, March 26
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	
	10:00 Local Government Senate Chamber	10:00 Natural Resources and Environment Senate Chamber	10:00 Ways and Means Senate Chamber	
	11:00 Human Resources Senate Chamber	11:00 Judiciary Senate Chamber		
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 State Government Senate Chamber	1:00 Appropriations Senate Chamber		All committees on call
	2:00 Commerce Senate Chamber	2:00 Transportation Senate Chamber		



# CORNERSTONE

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## 2021 Legislative Update

### House of Representatives Schedule for *Week 11, March 22 - 26, 2021*

Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, March 22	Tuesday, March 23	Wednesday, March 24	Thursday, March 25	Friday, March 26
<b>11:00 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	<b>7:30 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office  <b>8:30 SESSION</b>  <b>9:30 Judiciary</b> Law Library  <b>10:30 Human Resources</b> Law Library <b>Local Government</b> RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult <b>Agriculture</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	<b>7:30 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office  <b>8:30 SESSION</b>  <b>9:00 State Government</b> Law Library <b>Public Safety</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>10:00 Education</b> Law Library <b>Commerce</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>11:00 Ways and Means</b> Law Library <b>Appropriations</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	<b>7:30 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office  <b>8:30 SESSION</b>  <b>9:30 Transportation</b> Law Library <b>Info Tech</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>10:30 Human Resources</b> Law Library  <b>11:30 Judiciary</b> Law Library	
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>	<b>Noon</b>
<b>1:00 SESSION</b>  <b>2:30 State Government</b> Law Library <b>Public Safety</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber  <b>3:30 Ways and Means</b> Law Library <b>Appropriations</b> RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	<b>12:00 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	<b>12:00 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	<b>12:30 Subcommittee Block</b> Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	

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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