



April 15, 2021

Week in Review

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Budgets have begun to move between the chambers, although targets have not been agreed to by the Senate and the House. In the coming days, discussions will continue between the chambers on what the overall budget amount will be, as well as other policy considerations like tax reform. As of now, key differences between the two chambers are the House proposal of a \$20 million increase to the DOC for a total justice systems budget of \$619 million compared to the Senate’s \$595 million. The Senate approved an \$8.2 million increase to the Regents where the House approved no increase. The House Economic Development budget increased grants for childcare centers after House leadership made access to childcare a priority for the session. Additionally, the House RIIF budget is moving several line items from this budget to general fund budgets; while the Senate keeps these commitments in the RIIF budget. This is in anticipation of decreased RIIF funds from gambling legalization in Nebraska. There is no effect on the amount of the appropriation, just where the money is allocated from.

Even as budgets have taken over most of the work at the Capitol, some policy issues are still being pushed. Property tax reform was a priority for both chambers at the beginning of session and are continuing to be pushed now. [SF 587](#) seeks to move the mental health funding from county property taxes to a state general fund appropriation. Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver expressed his views in this [column](#) published this week. Iowa is one of only a few states that fund mental health this way and the Senate wants to change that this session. The House has not considered this bill yet.

The House passed a “Back the Blue” bill on the floor this week. [HF 698](#) increased penalties for protest related crimes, includes provisions on qualified immunity, and provision on reducing state funding to communities who reduce law enforcement funding. HF 698 was added as a strike after to [SF 342](#) which restricts the use of Brady lists to discipline officers and called for an interim study. The bill passed the House 63-30 and now returns to the Senate. Read more [here](#).

Redistricting

Redistricting continues to weigh on the minds of the legislature as the date they must approve the maps creeps closer. This week the Supreme Court issued a statement discussing their potential role in the redistricting process. If the legislature has not approved a new map by September 15, the Supreme Court takes over the process. The Supreme Court issued a [statement](#) this week stating while they cannot commit to a definitive plan of action, they plan to use “to the extent possible, the redistricting framework presently set forth in Iowa Code chapter 42 to proceed after September

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15.” Chapter 42 is the code section that lays out the redistricting plan including using the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency. Leaders from both chambers addressed the Court’s decision to use the current model with Speaker Grassley saying, “I appreciate the Iowa Supreme Court’s willingness to protect the integrity of our current, highly praised redistricting process in Iowa.” Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver stated that he thought the statement was a little vague, but he believes the court will let the legislature handle the redistricting. Read more on Whitver’s remarks [here](#) and more on the Supreme Court’s statement [here](#).

Bills on the Move

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

- [HF 390](#). *Fluoridation Notice*. Requires a public water system to give notice to IDPH, local health boards, and customers before permanently discontinuing fluoridation. Notice can be given to customers on their water bill. Amended in the Senate to exempt these notice requirements from penalties for not sending out health notices. Passed Senate, House concurred with the amendment now goes to the Governor.
- [HF 852](#). *Graduate Medical Residents*. Allows hospitals and health organizations to be reimbursed for medical liability insurance costs for employed medical residents. Excludes some residency programs in DHS, DOC, and DVA. Amended to create a matching fund program that ends in 2026. Passed the House 91-2, now goes to the Senate.
- [HF 853](#). *Snowmobile Fees*. Strikes the requirement that a resident snowmobile owner have a user permit in order to use DNR trails. Raises registration fees to \$30. Passed House 90-1, now goes to Senate.
- [HF 857](#). *Innovative Butchery*. Establishes the Butchery Innovation Fund in IEDA with grants, loans, and forgivable loans for small scale and mobile slaughter units. Creates a task force to look at establishing artisanal butchery programs at community colleges. Passed House 91-0, goes to Senate.
- [HF 693](#). *Utility Matters*. Makes changes in how IUB assess costs, authorizes the use of independent ALJs, strikes statutory caps for costs for penalties related to pipelines and underground storage, and makes new definitions for local exchange carriers, transmission, equipment, and other matters. Passed House 96-0, passed Senate 45-0, now goes the Governor.
- [HF 866](#). *Landlord Tenant*. Requires a request for an accommodation for a service animal to be reasonable and allows landlord to move tenant to another unit to accommodate. Sets late rent fees at \$20 per day, max of \$100 per month for rent between \$700-\$1400 and 2% per day at 10% max for rent over \$1400. Allows a tenant to collect actual damages for acts by a landlord only if the acts are willful. Amended to add provision on sealing records in evictions. Passed House 58-35, now goes to Senate.
- [HF 814](#). *Bottle Bill Law*. Allows a beverage dealer to refuse cans and bottles if the dealer enters in a contract with a redemption within 10 miles for larger counties and 15 miles for smaller counties. Allows establishment of a redemption center with notice to the DNR. Passed House Ways & Means 15-9, floor manager Lundgren.

In the News

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



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2021 Legislative Update

- [Governor Reynolds Press Conference on COVID 19 Vaccines in Iowa](#)
- [Legislature's Bottle Bill Debate Compared To "Groundhog Day" Movie](#)
- [INSIDERS: Bill Would Change How Iowa Funds Mental Health Care](#)
- [White House issuing reports on states' infrastructure needs](#)
- [GOP lawmakers mulling 2021 tax cut prospects](#)
- [Legislators offer tributes to trooper killed in line of duty](#)
- [Regents Won't Mandate Vaccinations at Universities](#)
- [US Recommends Pause on Johnson and Johnson Vaccine](#)

Next Week Capitol Schedules

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2021 Legislative Update

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 15, April 19-23, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, April 19	Tuesday, April 20	Wednesday, April 21	Thursday, April 22	Friday, April 23
	9:00 SESSION 9:15 Veterans Affairs Senate Chamber 9:30 Agriculture Senate Chamber 10:00 Hmn. Res. Senate Chamber 10:30 Transportation Senate Chamber 11:00 Education Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 9:30 Judiciary Senate Chamber 10:00 Commerce Senate Chamber 10:30 State Govt. Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 Local Govt. Senate Chamber 2:00 Ntl. Resources Senate Chamber 2:30 Appropriations Senate Chamber 3:00 Labor/Bus. Senate Chamber 3:15 Ways and Means Senate Chamber	1:00 SESSION		All committees on call

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 15, April 19 - 23, 2021

Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, April 19	Tuesday, April 20	Wednesday, April 21	Thursday, April 22	Friday, April 23
	10:00 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				

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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