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Week in Review

The third week of the 89th General Assembly was full of activity with a plethora of subcommittee and committee work. Hundreds of individual bills and committee study bills have been filed and will continue to be filed as we approach the deadline for individual legislators to request bills. Committee work will also increase as the first funnel deadline (March 5) approaches.

Although there was a record-breaking blizzard that hit Des Moines Monday afternoon/Tuesday morning, work in the statehouse continued. The legislature debated 2 constitutional amendments and education reform. These debates went well into the evening.

One issue that has been on the radar this year is Iowa’s can and bottle redemption laws. So far, a handful of bills have been filed in both chambers that range from a complete abolish to minor changes. We will continue to track these bills as the session moves forward.

Governor’s Education Reform

In her Condition of the State earlier the month, the Governor called for the Legislature to immediately pass language that requires schools to offer an 100% in person option. This week both the Senate and House Education committees passed bills that would require 100% in person learning([HF 229](#) and [SF 106](#)). The bills require schools to offer parents the choice of 100% in-person learning with a wavier option if the school has a significant number of teacher and staff test positive for COVID. The bills would take effect the second Monday after the Governor signs it and parents and students would have 5 days to decide how they want to finish out the school year. The Governor signed this legislation today at 11am.

More long-term changes brought forward were scholarship accounts for some students to move to a private school or home school model. The Senate Education Committee passed [SF 159](#) this week which creates a scholarship program for non-public school students, creates more charter schools, and allows students to transfer out of districts that have diversity plans. This bill contains most of the governor’s education reform plans. The bill was debated in the full Senate and passed 26-21.

- [Governor’s bill to require 100% in-person K-12 classes clears committees.](#)
- [Iowa GOP lawmakers advance 'school choice' measures.](#)
- [Iowa 'school choice' bills moving quickly.](#)

Senate District 41 Special Election

Republican Adrian Dickey from Packwood won the special election for Senate District 41 held this past Tuesday. The seat became vacant after Marinette Miller-Meeks won the 2nd Congressional seat by 6 votes and was provisionally seated as a member of Congress. Dickey’s win brings the makeup of the Senate to 32 Republicans and 18 Democrats, the same as the makeup before the 2020



elections. Dickey is President of Dickey Transport, a trucking business his grandfather started in 1959, and a 29-year volunteer firefighter. He is the son of long time Packwood mayor, Dave Dickey. Senate District 41 covers Wapello, Davis, Jefferson, and Van Buren counties and includes Ottumwa, Fairfield, Bloomfield, and Keosauqua. Read more about the special election [here](#).

New Iowa Democratic Party Chair

Democrats elected Ross Wilburn as the new state party chair after former chair Mark Smith stepped down after the November elections. Wilburn is the first black Iowan to lead a major party in the state. Wilburn is a former Iowa City mayor who now lives in Ames and won reelection to the Iowa House in 2020. He first ran for the House seat in a special election after former Rep. Lisa Heddens resigned in September of 2019. Read more about Wilburn's goals [here](#).



Bills on the Move

Recruitment/Residencies

- [HF 270](#) Medical Residency Interviews. This bill requires the UI Hospitals and Clinics to offer an interview for a medical residency to any applicant who graduated from an Iowa college or medical college for specified areas. This bill is a new approach to an issue the legislature continues to seek a solution for. Elected officials want more Iowans to attend U of I and this is a possible solution
- [HSB 168](#) Residency Programs. This bill requires the state board of regents to adopt a policy requiring that not less than 75 percent of the students accepted at the colleges of medicine and dentistry at the state university of Iowa be residents of Iowa or persons who prior to applying to the college of medicine or dentistry were enrolled in a community college in Iowa, an accredited private institution in Iowa, or a regents university.
- [SSB 1042](#)/HSB 92- Rural Loan Repayment. The bill adds obstetrics and gynecology as an area of specialization that qualifies for loan repayment under the program. Currently, a person can engage in less than full-time practice under the program if the person applies to the college student aid commission to amend their program agreement and the commission determines that exceptional circumstances exist. The bill eliminates the language relating to exceptional circumstances, thereby allowing the commission and the person to consent to amend the agreement to allow the person to engage in less than full-time practice for an extended period of part-time practice. Under the bill, "less than full-time" means at least 70 percent of a 40-hour workweek. The bill modifies the definition of "service commitment area" to include a city within a designated federal mental health shortage area that provides a \$20,000 contribution for deposit in the rural Iowa primary care trust fund for a physician specializing in psychiatry, and to require that the distance between a city with a population of less than 26,000 that is located 20 miles from a city of at least 50,000 be calculated using the shortest driving distance between the cities.

Telehealth

- [HF 269](#) Out of State Telehealth. This bill prohibits insurers from excluding out-of-state telehealth providers if the provider is licensed in Iowa and able to give appropriate services.
- [HSB 89](#)- Behavioral Health Parity. This bill requires a health carrier to reimburse a health care professional or a facility for health care services for a mental health condition, illness, injury, or disease provided to a covered person via telehealth on the same basis and at the same rate as the health carrier would apply to the same health care services provided to the covered person by the health care professional or facility in person. The bill amends the definition of "telehealth" to specify that the delivery of health care services via telehealth must include real-time interactive audio, video, or electronic media, regardless of the location of the health care professional or the covered person. The bill prohibits a health carrier



from requiring an additional health care professional to be located in the same room as a covered person while health care service for a mental health condition, illness, injury, or disease are provided via telehealth by another health care professional to the covered person.

- [SSB 92](#)- Full Parity (Committee next week). This bill requires health carriers to reimburse health care professionals for health care services provided to covered persons by telehealth on the same basis and at the same rate as the health carrier would apply to the same health care services provided to a covered person by a health care professional in person. Current law excludes health care services delivered through an audio-only telephone from the definition of “telehealth”. The bill includes audio-only

Vaccines/Immunization

- [House File 169](#)- Reports to IRIS. This bill requires a licensed health professional who is authorized to administer a vaccination or immunization to enroll in and report the administration of vaccines and immunizations to the statewide immunization registry. The bill provides definitions for the purposes of the bill. A health professional who willfully or repeatedly violates the bill is subject to licensee discipline by the board for that profession pursuant to Code section 147.55.
- [HSB 71](#)- Dentist Vaccinations. This bill authorizes a dentist to prescribe and administer a vaccine or immunization for influenza or SARS-CoV-2 to patients as recommended by the United States centers for disease control and prevention. The bill prohibits a dentist from delegating the authority to administer these vaccines or immunizations to a dental hygienist or dental assistant. Prior to the prescribing and administration of a vaccination or immunization as authorized under the bill, a dentist must successfully complete a minimum of four hours of training pertaining to the prescribing and administration of vaccines or immunizations and consult and review the statewide immunization registry or Iowa health information network. A dentist shall also report the administration of a vaccine or immunization under the bill to the statewide immunization registry or Iowa health information network.
- [HSB 91](#)- Pharmacist Expansion. Lowering age group to 3 years of age for flu meningococcal and TDAP. Removes HPV. Point of Care Testing for flu and strep.
- [SF 125](#)- Immunization Disclosure on a Death Certificate. This bill requires that a medical examiner investigation form for infants zero to three years of age shall include a request for information regarding the date and type of the decedent’s last immunization. If the decedent received more than one immunization at the time of the last immunization, the information provided shall include all types of immunizations received. The bill requires the department of public health to adopt administrative rules to amend the medical examiner investigation form for infants zero to three years of age to comply with the bill.

In the News

The Des Moines International Airport was nominated for USA TODAY “10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Awards” in the "Best Small Airport" category. Follow [this link](#) and vote once a day every day until January 31 and invite others to as well!

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

- [Gov. Reynolds on vaccines, school vouchers, and more issues facing Iowa.](#)
- [Iowa State Fair Officials Moving Forward with Plans for a Safe Return in 2021.](#)



- [4th District Congressman Feenstra on House Ag Committee.](#)
- [Iowa House childcare bills move forward, but may fall short of need.](#)
- [Iowa’s governor calls for E10, B11 to be offered from all new fuel pumps.](#)
- [Federal COVID reports on states return under new administration.](#)
- [GOP-led Iowa House advances amendment on abortion](#)

Next Week Capitol Schedules

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 4, February 1-5, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, February 1	Tuesday, February 2	Wednesday, February 3	Thursday, February 4	Friday, February 5
	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	
	9:30 Ethics Senate Chamber	10:00 Education Senate Chamber	9:30 Agriculture Senate Chamber	
	10:30 Commerce Senate Chamber	11:00 Hmn. Res. Senate Chamber	10:30 Ntl. Resources Senate Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION	1:00 State Govt. Senate Chamber	12:30 Local Govt.	1:00 Ways and Means Senate Chamber	
2:00 Veterans Affairs Senate Chamber	2:00 Transportation Senate Chamber	1:00 SESSION	2:00 Appropriations Senate Chamber	
3:00 Labor/Bus. Senate Chamber	3:00 Judiciary Senate Chamber			



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2021 Legislative Update

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 4, February 1 - 5, 2021
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, February 1	Tuesday, February 2	Wednesday, February 3	Thursday, February 4	Friday, February 5
11:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION 9:00 Budget Sub Admin/Reg - Rm. 19 Ag- Rm 15 Eco Devo- Rm 103 Education - Rm. 102 10:30 Budget Subs Justice Systems - Rm 19 Tran/Infra/Caps - Rm. 102 Government Oversight Law Library	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION 9:00 Budget Subs Admin/Reg - Rm. 19 Ag- Rm 15 Eco Devo- Rm 103 Tran/Infra/Caps - Rm. 102 10:30 Budget Subs HHS- Rm 103 Justice Systems - Rm 19 Education - Rm. 102	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION 9:30 Education Law Library Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 10:30 Human Resources Law Library 11:30 Transportation Law Library InfoTech RM 19 Veterans Affairs RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 2:00 State Government Law Library Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Public Safety RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Ways and Means Law Library Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 4:00 Judiciary Law Library Natural Resources RM 19 Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 5:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	12:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 2:00 Human Resources Law Library Local Government RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Agriculture RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Education Law Library Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 4:00 Transportation Law Library InfoTech RM 19 Environmental Protection RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Veterans Affairs RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	12:00 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 2:30 Ways and Means Law Library Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:30 Judiciary Law Library 4:30 State Government Law Library Public Safety RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 5:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	12:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office	

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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