



February 5, 2021

Week in Review

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Work continues to pick up as we move further into the second quarter of the session. This week more legislation was filed, subcommittees met, and floor debate convened. Winter weather slowed down activity on Monday and Thursday of this week. Most legislators left town on Wednesday because of ice and blizzard conditions holding hearings remotely in the Senate.

The Senate made the first move to reform or eliminate the State’s container redemption laws this week. At present there are 8 different ideas from full repeal to expansion. Although, a Senate Commerce subcommittee met to discuss the Government seeking records from a private business, it is unlikely this version will pick up momentum.

Governor’s Proposals and Task Force Recommendations

At the beginning of the session, Governor Reynolds laid out her priorities. This week some of those proposals have started moving in the Legislature. These include broadband, over the counter hormonal contraception, racial justice, workforce housing, and taxes.

The Governor held a press conference on Thursday afternoon. In the press conference, she announced her Economic Recovery Advisory Board had released its [final report](#). Many of the recommendations are in the legislative proposals highlighted above. This Advisory Board was a compilation of various business and industry leaders throughout the state whose mission was to make recommendations to get Iowa’s economy back on track amidst the pandemic. The final reports recommendations were centered around workforce development, increase broadband access, find efficiencies in government, invest in innovation, recruit and retain Iowans, as well as modernizing health care and boosting K-12 education.

As it relates to healthcare, the recommendations included the following:

- Telehealth reform which includes payment parity as well as increased access through increased connectivity (broadband build outs)
- Improving rural health care through regional models; this goal would be realized by launching one regional pilot program following a Centers of Excellence model which would be used to encourage innovation and collaboration among the regions health care providers, a focus on statewide access to EMS, and steering more Iowans to career and volunteer EMS opportunities.
- Building out the health care workforce by continuing to fund priorities like loan forgiveness and registered apprenticeship programs and the removal of regulatory burdens.

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Broadband Expansion

The Senate Commerce committee held a subcommittee on [SSB 1089](#), the Governor's broadband expansion bill. In her Condition of State, the Governor proposed \$450 million dollars to expand broadband coverage to all Iowans by the year 2025.

At the start of the meeting, Senator Koelker (R-Dyersville) made it clear that the subcommittee had no intentions of ramming the bill through without feedback from all stakeholders and hopes to hold more meetings to get as much input as possible. Comments made by many groups centered around the importance of this bill for the future of Iowa and how the impact of COVID (more working from home, school from home) during the last year has made it clear that this is a necessary bill to take the State into the future. Workforce, education, and telehealth were all issues cited as important reasons to expand broadband in Iowa. Some groups brought up issues with the speeds required to take place in the grant programs.

At this point, the Legislature is not expecting any federal money to supplement the plan and is moving forward depending solely on state money. More meetings are expected to take place before the committee makes any final decisions.

Redistricting in Iowa

The 2021 session is already busy but redistricting legislative seats, both state and federal, adds to the schedule. In Iowa, the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency (LSA) redistricts the state and cannot draw the lines to protect incumbents or favor a political party. On the first map LSA offers, legislators can only offer amendments to correct the map. If they do not accept this first map, LSA offers a second map that legislators can again only correct. If they reject the second map, legislators can amend the third map but if they reject the third plan, the Supreme Court draws the map. The process must be finished by September 1 and a plan must be accepted by the legislature by September 15.

Because of delays in completing the census in 2020, legislators will have to come back for a special session to approve a plan. Read more about Iowa's redistricting process [here](#).

New Department of Management Director

Monday, Governor Reynolds named Michael Boussetot the new Department of Management director. Boussetot served as chief of staff, legal counsel, and health care policy advisory to the Branstad-Reynolds administration. The appointment is effective February 8, subject to Senate confirmation, and comes after David Roederer's retirement earlier this week. Boussetot was quoted saying, "Governor Reynolds wants to think bigger and be bolder for Iowans and I am honored to help in any way I can. I am committed to her mission of fiscal responsibility and working to protect Iowa taxpayers. I believe my experience in state government and within the Governor's office will provide valuable insight and expertise to the team." Boussetot graduated from University of Iowa with undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting and has a law degree from Drake. Before being named to the position, Boussetot was at the Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath law firm in Des Moines. Read more about the appointment [here](#).

Racial Justice

Earlier this year, the Governor put together a taskforce to look at various measures the State could implement to focus on racial justice. This week, she proposed language in the Senate that lays out her plans in [SSB 1140](#). The bill bans racial profiling in the state while ensuring local and county police officers remain fully funded. A city or county would lose all state funds if they reduced their law enforcement budget with an exception if the city or county reduces the overall budget and provides a few justifications for reducing only law enforcement budgets such as purchasing new equipment the previous year. The bill also allows officers to sue for damages for injuries directly tied to their job and for false reports filed against them. SSB 1140 bans disparate treatment and requires every stop to be documented including the identifying characteristics of the person including gender, race, and age. The bill also creates a voluntary race or ethnicity disclosure on new drivers and non-operating licenses. More can be read [here](#).

Bills on the Move

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

- [HSB 171](#) *Rental Vouchers*. Prohibits cities and counties from passing ordinances that prohibit landlords from refusing to accept housing vouchers and makes existing ordinances void. Similar to [SSB 1079](#). Subcommittee of Deyoe, Siegrist, and Staed.
- [HSB 168](#) *Dental & Medical School Admissions*. Requires 75% of admissions to University of Iowa medical and dental schools be Iowans or people who attended college in Iowa. Subcommittee of Ann Meyer, Jeneary, and Mascher.
- [HSB 169](#) *MCO Payments/Credentialing*. Requires MCOs to hit targets for payments of 90% clean claims in 14 days, 95% in 21 days and 100% in 30 days. Subcommittee of Andrews, Lundgren, and Hansen.
- [SF 193](#) *Vaccination Beliefs/Exemptions*. Prohibits employers from requiring vaccinations and allows affected employees to seek damages and injunctive relief. Creates exception for vaccination requirements in schools and childcare for conscientiously held beliefs against immunizations. Similar to [HF 217](#). Introduced, referred to Human Resources.
- [HF 84](#). *Fluoridation Notice*. Requires public water suppliers to give notice to DPH and local board of health 90 days before discontinuing fluoridation and requires notice to customers on water bills. Passed committee 19-0.
- [HF 88](#). *Telehealth Phone Calls*. Requires health licensing boards to adopt rules to allow telehealth services through telephone if the professional meets standards required for in-person visits. Passed committee 17-0.
- [HSB 121](#). *Hormonal Contraceptives*. Allows a pharmacist to dispense a one-supply of self-administered hormonal contraceptives to those over 18. Requires coverage for this in insurance policies after 2022. Passed committee 15-2.
- [SF 231](#). *Farm Licenses*. Allows the DOT to issue a special minor driving license for 14-18 year-olds who live or work on a farm and to drive to do farm work. Amended to prohibit driving a vehicle with more than 2 axles or towing another vehicle. Passed Senate 46-0. Now goes to House.



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- [HF 294](#). *Mental Health Payment Parity*. Successor to HF 89. Fiscal Note: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/FN/1211014.pdf>

In the News

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

- [Jury trials resume in Iowa](#)
- [Legislators working on bills to address child care shortage](#)
- [Midwest economy improving, but pandemic still taking a bite](#)
- [More people than doses available as phase 1B of COVID-19 vaccination begins](#)
- [House panel endorses birth control access at pharmacy counter](#)
- [Vilsack nomination for Ag Secretary passes Senate Ag Committee](#)



Next Week Capitol Schedules

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 5, February 8-12, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, February 8	Tuesday, February 9	Wednesday, February 10	Thursday, February 11	Friday, February 12
	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Local Govt. 11:00 Hmn. Res. Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Transportation Senate Chamber 11:00 State Govt. Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 9:30 Agriculture Senate Chamber 10:30 Ntl. Resources Senate Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 1:30 Education Senate Chamber 2:30 Appropriations Senate Chamber	1:00 SESSION	1:00 Commerce Senate Chamber 2:00 Veterans Affairs Senate Chamber 3:00 Judiciary Senate Chamber	1:00 Labor/Bus. Senate Chamber 2:00 Ways and Means Senate Chamber	

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Last updated on February 3, 2021

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 5, February 8 - 12, 2021
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

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

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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