



February 26, 2021

Week in Review

In this Issue:

Week in Review.....P.1

Vaccine Update.....P.1

Election changes.....P. 1

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

In the News.....P. 2

Next Week Schedules.....P. 3

Key 2021 Dates.....P. 4

Session continues to move forward toward the first funnel on March 5 when all bills except Ways & Means, Appropriations, Government Oversight, and ARRC bills have to pass out of one full committee. As of last week, the House had filed over 850 bills and the Senate had filed over 650 bills. These numbers are significantly higher than previous years, mostly because committees have been passing bills out of committee faster.

[SSB 1203](#) would cut state funding to cities and counties that decrease police funding cleared a Senate subcommittee this week. No police organization has registered in favor of the bill, citing potential unintended consequences. Cities have spoken against the bill saying that it creates an unnecessary intrusion into local decision making. The bill passed Senate committee 11-4. Read more about the bill [here](#).

Governor Reynolds signed [SF 269](#), 2.4% K-12 SSA increase, and [SF 284](#), \$21 million appropriation for personnel, accounting, and budget system this week.

The Senate introduced SSB [1225](#) (companion to HF 592) on Wednesday which puts caps on noneconomic damages. A subcommittee will be held on Monday, March 1st at 1pm.

Questions about redistricting continue to be an issue at the Capitol building. Data from the US Census Bureau is set to arrive in Iowa after the Constitutional mandated date that the maps have to be approved. Ed Cook, senior legal counsel to LSA addressed the temporary redistricting committee and said that as of now, it looks like it will be up to Iowa Supreme Court to decide how to proceed. The Chief Justice has not commented on what their plans are yet. Read more [here](#).

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Iowa COVID-19 Vaccination Update

The Governor held a press conference yesterday where she discussed Iowa's status on the COVID-19 vaccination distribution effort. Currently, the state is vaccinating the second subgroup of the first group has been given the opportunity to receive the vaccine (Group 1b). As can be seen on the chart below, health care workers, long term care residents and staff, Iowans 65 and older, first responders, teachers and education staff, and child care staff are able to receive the vaccination.

Currently, only the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been given in the state. It is expected that the Johnson and Johnson vaccination roll out will begin soon, almost as soon as it receives the FDA Emergency Use approval. The Governor shared that the White House committed to increase the state of Iowa supply by another 1M doses.

She shared that roughly 450,000 Iowans have received at least one dose of the vaccine.

Additionally, the governor announced a new website, www.vaccinate.iowa, that goes live today to help streamline the process of scheduling and receiving your vaccine. The site will include a vaccine locator and answers to frequently asked questions. It won't allow Iowans to schedule vaccines directly, but it will connect them to provider systems where they can schedule those appointments.

VACCINATE IOWA | PROJECTED VACCINATION TIMELINE

POPULATION GROUP	ELIGIBLE	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY-OCT
Health Care Workers	NOW	✓				
Long-term Care: Residents & Staff	NOW		✓			
Iowans age 65+	NOW			✓		
First Responders	NOW			✓		
K-12 Schools: Teachers & Staff	NOW			✓		
Child Care Staff	NOW			✓		
Essential Workers: • Food Processing • Agricultural Production • Distribution • Manufacturing	NEXT				✓	
Individuals with Disabilities Living in Home Settings & their Direct Care Staff	NEXT				✓	
Remaining Priority Groups & Iowans age 16+	AS SUPPLY INCREASES					

✓ 70% of population is projected to have received at least one dose of vaccine.

Vaccine availability by population group is estimated based on current allocations and anticipated supply increases. Estimates are subject to change and will vary by county.



Election Changes

Late last week, both chambers passed their respective election bills out of subcommittee, making them eligible for committee and floor debate this week. The bill [SF 413](#) would limit the number of ballot drop boxes per county and would change who can drop off ballots. The bill also shortens the time for requesting absentee ballots and changes the early voting period from 29 days to 20 days. It also changes the time polls close on election day to 8pm.



During the election cycle, Republicans won lawsuits in court that prohibited county auditors from pre-filing ballot requests before sending them out. This bill would codify those decisions and prohibit auditors from sending out absentee ballot requests to people who have not requested one. The House held a public hearing on the bill Monday evening where many people voiced concerns over the necessity of the bill and the changes in it. Some stated that Iowa had safe elections in 2020 despite concerns about ballot security while others cited voter security issues throughout the country in the previous election. Read more about comments made at the hearing [here](#).

The Senate passed SF 413 on a 30-18 party line vote Tuesday afternoon after debating for several hours. The House passed the bill 57-37 Wednesday afternoon and sent the bill to the Governor's desk.

Bills on the Move

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

- [HF 528](#). *Dentist Vaccinations*. Allows dentists to administer flu and COVID vaccinations but prohibits from delegating to a hygienist or assistant. Passed House 89-4, now goes to Senate.
- [HF 562](#). *Additional EMS Levy*. Requires EMS to be an essential county service. Allows cities and counties to impose an additional levy, approved by an election. Passed House 91-0. Now goes to Senate.
- [HF 402](#). *Direct Care Worker Registry*. Requires DIA to expand direct care workforce to include all CNAs. Passed House Human Resources 19-0, floor manager Bergan.
- [HSB 172](#). *Payments to Non-Licensed Providers*. Requires DHS to amend Medicaid contracts to include various non-licensed and non-certified providers for early screening and treatment benefits retroactive to 2014. Passed House Human Resources 19-0, floor manager Andrews.
- [HSB 175](#). *Podiatrist Vaccinations*. Allows podiatrist to give vaccinations, including epinephrine. Passed House Human Resources 17-2, floor manager Bradley.
- [HSB 223](#). *Orthodontia Examinations*. Requires initial examination or results of an exam done in the last 6 months before receiving orthodontic services. Passed House Human Resources 19-0, floor manager Jeneary.
- [HSB 143](#). *Felony Voting Amendment*. Proposes amendment to the Iowa Constitution changing voting disqualification from “infamous crime” to felony convictions who haven’t discharged their sentence. Passed committee 21-0, floor manager Kaufmann.

In the News

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

- [Proposed Iowa bill would make it a crime not to call if danger sighted](#)
- [COVID-19 hit Iowa hospitals' income hard, new data show](#)
- [In reversal, EPA backs ethanol in fighting waivers](#)



- [On 92-7 vote, US Senate confirms Vilsack for return to USDA](#)
- [US jobless claims at 730K, still high but fewest in 3 months](#)

Next Week Capitol Schedules

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 8, March 1-5, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, March 1	Tuesday, March 2	Wednesday, March 3	Thursday, March 4	Friday, March 5
	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Agriculture Senate Chamber 11:00 Commerce Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Ntl. Resources Senate Chamber 11:00 Education Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Local Govt. Senate Chamber 11:00 Commerce Senate Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Veterans Affairs Senate Chamber 3:00 Judiciary Senate Chamber	1:00 Hmn. Res. Senate Chamber 2:30 State Govt. Senate Chamber	1:00 Transportation Senate Chamber 2:30 Judiciary Senate Chamber	1:00 State Govt. Senate Chamber 2:00 Hmn. Res. Senate Chamber	All committees on call

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 8, March 1 - 5, 2021 Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, March 1	Tuesday, March 2	Wednesday, March 3	Thursday, March 4	Friday, March 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 Government Oversight Law Library Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 9:30 Judiciary Law Library Natural Resources RM 19 Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 11:30 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 11:30 Human Resources Law Library Local Government RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Agriculture RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	7:30 Subcommittee Block Reserve Subcommittee space with the clerk's office 8:30 SESSION 9:30 State Government Law Library Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Public Safety RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 11:30 Transportation Law Library InfoTech RM 19 Veterans Affairs RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	All Committees On Call
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
12:00 Administration and Rules RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 1:00 SESSION 2:00 Ethics RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:30 Education Law Library Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:30 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	2:00 Education Law Library Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Judiciary Law Library Natural Resources RM 19	

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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