



March 11, 2021

Week in Review

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This week saw a lot of floor debate in both chambers after the funnel last week. Many bills were voted on and moved to the other chamber with some making it down to the Governor’s desk. Floor debate will continue as the session progresses and committee meetings will pick back up once the other chamber receives bills that have passed the opposite chamber. The second funnel is three weeks away where legislation has to pass through a committee in the opposite chamber of its origin to stay alive.

Governor Reynolds signed 17 bills on Monday, including the election changes bill ([SF 413](#)) that passed both chambers. A list of the bills she signed can be found [here](#). After the Governor signed SF 413, the League of United Latin American Citizens filed lawsuits against Secretary of State Paul Pate and Attorney General Tom Miller alleging that the bill does nothing to make elections more secure but rather imposes more burdens on lawful voters. They asked for injunctive relief and for the bill to be ruled unconstitutional. Read more about the lawsuit [here](#).

In her Condition of the State in January, the Governor called for removal of tax triggers that would allow tax cuts to be implemented. This week, the proposal moved forward in a Senate subcommittee and committee ([SSB 1250](#)). The bill removes the two triggers keeping previously approved tax cuts from happening and also eliminates Iowa’s inheritance tax over three years. The tax changes that would take place if the triggers were met or removed include lowering the top income rate from 8.53% to 6.5%, reducing tax brackets from 9 to 4, and ending federal income tax deductions. Read more [here](#).

The Senate approved [SF 476](#) which deals with qualified police immunity. Senator Dawson stated that police officers often make split second decisions and need the protections against unintentional mistakes. Democrats offered amendments to establish a due care standard and not protect illegal actions and voiced concerns about cost shifting to victims of violence without adequate compensation. Read more [here](#).

The House approved [HF 294](#) that makes reimbursements for telehealth services the same amount as in person visits 95-1 this week. This bill makes permanent a portion of the Governor’s COVID emergency proclamation that made the rates the same for mental health services. Read more [here](#).

Senate passed [SF 479](#) that would reduce police funding to local governments that try to cut funding to police without justification. The bill passed 41-7. Senator Bisignano stated that local governments are not trying to reduce police funding but it might happen if another bill, [SF 516](#) which bans traffic cameras, were to pass.

Bills on the Move

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



- [HF 685](#). *Orthodontia Exams*. Requires an initial exam before performing orthodontic services. Passed the House 94-2, now goes to the Senate.
- [HF 686](#). *Podiatrist Vaccinations*. Allows podiatrists to give vaccinations including epinephrine. Effective upon enactment. Passed the House 93-3, now goes to the Senate.
- [HF 549](#). *Nursing Home Matters*. Requires adoption of rules to recognize CNAs and medication aides certified in another state. Requires rules that let nursing students and graduate nurses to administer medications if a nursing home can show that it has appropriate training. Passed the House 92-0, now goes to the Senate.
- [HF 737](#). *Dental Sealants*. Allows dental assistants to place sealants with additional training. Passed House 91-2, now goes to the Senate.
- [SF 462](#). *Medicaid Reimbursements*. Requires DHS to study feasibility of Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals for administrative days. Passed the Senate 47-0, now goes to the House.
- [HF 773](#). *Severe Mental Health Treatment Study*. Requires DHS to study availability of mental health services to determine value of federal demonstration waiver. Requires a report by February 2022. Passed the House 97-0, now goes to the Senate.
- [HF 783](#). *Surgical Smoke*. Requires hospitals and surgical centers to adopt policies to eliminate surgical smoke using evacuation systems. Passed the House 94-2, now goes to the Senate.
- Fiscal Note on [HF 736](#). *Medicaid Overpayments*. The bill disallows the state or a Medicaid MCO to seek repayment of an overpayment to a health care provider if the overpayment happened more than 24 months previously. The [fiscal note](#) estimates that the bill will reduce collections of overpayments made more than two years previously, reducing the collections for the Medicaid MCOs by \$2.4 million and reducing collections for fee-for-service by \$1.3 million. The cost to the state will be about \$2 million, with about \$20,000 in one-time costs to the DHS to upgrade the Medicaid Management Information System.

In the News

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

- [Iowa sports betting hits daily record for February](#)
- [Iowa's economic recovery poses challenges/opportunities for state's small businesses](#)
- [Opinion: Council's rejection of a new North Liberty hospital was in the best interest of Iowans](#)
- [Iowa House approves tax credits, incentives for child care facilities](#)
- [Iowa awarded \\$10.1 million grant to put defibrillators in all law enforcement vehicles](#)
- [Governor says Iowa to cross one million mark in Covid vaccinations this week](#)



Next Week Capitol Schedules

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 10, March 15-19, 2021

Subject to Change

Monday, March 15	Tuesday, March 16	Wednesday, March 17	Thursday, March 18	Friday, March 19
	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Judiciary Senate Chamber 11:00 Human Resources Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Transportation Senate Chamber	9:00 SESSION On Call (AM) Rules and Administration Senate Chamber 10:00 Appropriations Senate Chamber 11:00 Natural Resources and Environment Senate Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Ways and Means Senate Chamber 3:00 Education Senate Chamber	1:00 State Government Senate Chamber 2:00 Commerce Senate Chamber			All committees on call

IOWA HOUSE CALENDAR

The Legislative website was down at the time this was published. Once functional follow the below link to the published calendar for Mar 15-Mar 19, 2021

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/chambers/calendar/house?action=viewPdf&calDate=03/15/2021>

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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