



Healthcare Weekly Newsletter

Friday, March 18, 2022

Week in Review

Today marks the second legislatively-imposed funnel deadline, which means House Files must be out of Senate Committees and Senate Files must be out of House Committees. Today is also the deadline for filing nomination papers with the Iowa Secretary of State, which prompted a flurry of filings by legislators this week.

The House conducted floor debate this week, whereas the Senate did not debate any bills. On the floor Thursday, the House attempted to pass a medical freedom bill to protect individuals from schools, businesses, and government agencies requiring COVID-19 vaccines. The proposal would have prohibited hiring and firing decisions that are based on an employee's COVID-19 vaccination status, unless federal regulations require it. It would have included a \$50,000 state fine for a COVID-related firing, half paid to the fired employee and half to the state. This was included as an amendment to SF 2139 that also limited the liability of commercial vehicles. In an unusual vote, the majority party's amendment failed to have the votes necessary to be considered; thus, the bill was deferred on by the House.

Legislature Continues to Prioritize Mental Health Legislation

Mental health reform has been a priority of the legislature for the last 5 years. This week, the House moved three bills aimed at improving access to mental health services for Iowans.

- **Adding Psychiatrists:** [HF 2529](#) funds 12 psychiatry residents per year with a focus on training through Iowa's state facilities, including the mental health institutes. Iowa ranks 44th in the country in psychiatrists per capita. This bill will help increase the number of psychiatrists trained in Iowa, and provides preference to Iowans in the application process.
 - LSA published a Notes document on this bill this week. Read [here](#).

- The House PASSED the bill 96-0; it now goes to the Senate
 - **Mental Health Provider Loan Forgiveness:** [HF 2549](#) provides \$1.5 million per year to expand loan forgiveness opportunities to recruit and retain mental health providers in Iowa. In order to receive the funds, the mental health provider must commit to providing care in Iowa for at least 5 years. The funds will be prioritized to those working in mental health shortage areas.
 - LSA published a Notes document on this bill this week. Read [here](#).
 - The House PASSED the bill as amended 94-2; it now goes to the Senate
 - **Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit:** [HF 2546](#) is a bill to require the Department of Human Services to establish a Medicaid rate for those needing a higher level of inpatient psychiatric care. By paying hospitals based on the acuity of the patient, more hospitals will be willing to care for the most difficult mental health patients.
 - The House PASSED the bill 96-0; it now goes to the Senate
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Revenue Estimating Committee Raises State Income Projections

Last week, the Revenue Estimating Committee (REC) met to update state revenue estimates for the remainder of the current fiscal year, as well as the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2022. The new forecast, as compared to December's report, projects a state revenue growth of 4.2% for the year (equal to \$370.5 million). The new figure also suggests that there will be an even larger deposit in the Taxpayer Relief Fund than what the state lawmakers thought when they passed tax cuts earlier this year. For the next budget year (FY2023), the panel agreed to a state revenue forecast of \$9.1563 billion. HF 2317, the tax reform bill signed by Governor Reynolds in February, is projected to reduce state revenue by \$236.3 million.

The legislature is now focused on setting budgets for the next fiscal year. Budget bills will continue moving through the subcommittee process in the coming weeks. Bills will then be considered by the House Appropriations Committee. The Senate's total budget target is \$8.2017 billion, the same amount Governor Reynolds released in her January budget. The House has a target of \$8.2738 billion. The net difference in the two budgets is \$72 million. Negotiations continue between the House and Senate for agreed upon targets.

Bills on the Move

[HF 2494](#) - Nursing Home Relief

- Reduces the value of a threshold to be qualified for rate relief to \$750,000. Allows requests for HVAC improvements designed for infection control to as one of the reasons to allow a grant of immediate relief to the facility. Directs the DHS to adopt rules.
 - Amendment H 8182 by Bradley - Requires the facility to have Medicaid utilization at or above 40% for two months prior to requesting relief funds.
ADOPTED
- The House PASSED the bill as amended 95-0; it now goes to the Senate.

HF 736 - Medicaid Overpayments

- Does not allow 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. Deems the limitations to not apply to retroactive Medicaid cost settlements or rate changes based on Medicaid/Medicare cost reports. This bill only impacts recoupments for eligibility issues. Effective on enactment.
- PASSED 12-0; *Floor Manager: Costello*

Upcoming Legislative Forums

Saturday, March 19

- [Legislative Forum-Jefferson County](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Spencer](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Arlington](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Okoboji](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Storm Lake](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Newton](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Breda](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Cedar Rapids](#)
- [Meet Your Legislators-Jefferson](#)
- [Legislative Coffee-Harlan](#)
- [Legislative Forum-Scott County](#)
- [Legislative Town Hall-Breda](#)

In The News

- [Rick Stewart running for Governor of Iowa](#)
- [Deidre DeJear an official candidate for governor, files nominating petitions](#)
- [J.D. Scholten announces run for Iowa House District 1](#)
- [Campaign Almanac: Iowa Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver to seek re-election in new district](#)
- [Democratic Candidate Tom Walton Announces Campaign For Iowa House District 28 In Dallas County](#)
- [Iowa House Democratic leader Jennifer Konfrst running for reelection](#)
- [Campaign Almanac: Randy Feenstra files for re-election to Congress](#)
- [Despite workforce gains, Iowa's hospitality industry still lacks help](#)
- [CR Gazette: Capitol Notebook: Iowa House seeks to increase number of mental health practitioners](#)
- [Vaccine mandate, tort reform bill falters on House floor](#)
- [Iowa Senator Pushes for PBM Investigation](#)
- [Iowa state senator falsely claims COVID-19 vaccines not effective](#)
- [Statehouse deadline puts education, childcare and unemployment bills in danger](#)

Senate Schedule Week 11, March 21-25, 2022

IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 11, March 21-25, 2022

Subject to Change

Monday, March 21	Tuesday, March 22	Wednesday, March 23	Thursday, March 24	Friday, March 25
11:00 International Relations RM 19	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	9:00 SESSION	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION		1:00 Ways and Means RM 116 2:00 Appropriations RM 116		All committees on call

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Last updated on March 17, 2022

House Schedule Week 11, March 21-25, 2022

House of Representatives Schedule for Week 11, March 21 - 25, 2022
 Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, March 21	Tuesday, March 22	Wednesday, March 23	Thursday, March 24	Friday, March 25
11:00 International Relations Committee RM 19	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	8:30 SESSION	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION				ON CALL: All Committees and Budget Subcommittees

*The Senate scheduled can be found [here](#).
 The House schedule can be found [here](#).*

The Iowa Cornerstone Team



Matt Hinch | Lillie Brady | David Adelman | Frank Chiodo | Sara Allen

2022 Session Timeline

The full 2022 legislative calendar can be found [here](#).

Below are the key dates of interest.

JANUARY 10 – First day of session (Iowa Code Sec. 2.1)

JANUARY 11 - Governors' Condition of the State Address

FEBRUARY 18 – Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of House committees (First Funnel)

MARCH 18 – Final date for Senate bills and joint resolutions to be reported out of House committees and House bills and joint resolutions out of Senate committees (Second Funnel)

APRIL 19 – 100th calendar day of the session (Per diem expenses end)

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Please don't hesitate to reach out to our team with any comments, questions, or concerns.



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