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Healthcare Newsletter

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Week in Review

Tuesday of this week marked the 100th day of session, and the last day legislators received their per diem. As reported widely across the state, the Legislature has reached a stalemate between the two chambers on a number of policy priorities and the overall budget. The House and Senate are still \$72 million apart on the \$8.2 billion budget, and have yet to reach an agreement on a school transparency provision, private school scholarships, the bottle bill, unemployment benefits, and biofuels legislation.

The Senate debated a handful of bills this week, but spent most of their floor time honoring outgoing legislators with retirement speeches. The House did not meet this week. Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver said in an interview, "I'm not going to make predictions on what that [adjournment] looks like other than to say we're not close to getting out of here at this point." There is a lot of finger pointing going on between the two chambers on who is to blame for the impasse. The House is blaming the Senate for not moving any of the budget bills yet, and the Senate is criticizing the House for not advancing some of the outstanding policy priority bills. The only thing the Legislature has to accomplish before adjourning is the state budget.

Below are some of the outstanding policy items and where they stand.

Private school tuition assistance

- At the center of the standoff between the two chambers is an education package that would give up to 10,000 students taxpayer-funded scholarships to help pay for private school expenses. The Senate approved that measure in March, but House members have resisted doing so.

- What it does: The bill would create a taxpayer-funded program in which public school students from moderate and low-income families would be able to apply for one of 10,000 roughly \$5,500 scholarships to be put toward private school tuition. The funding would shift from the public school the student is leaving to the private scholarship.
- Where it stands: Just like last year, the proposal has strong support among Senate Republicans but measured resistance among House Republicans. No Democrat has expressed support. If it's going to pass this year, it probably will be part of a session-ending deal in which legislators swap support for multiple bills to get them passed.

Unemployment benefits

- What it does: The bill would reduce the duration of unemployment benefits from 26 weeks to 16. The proposal also lowers the income threshold for taking a job that pays less than the unemployed lowans' previous job. The House and Senate both passed the bill, but the Senate then added a one-week waiting period before an unemployed worker starts receiving benefits.
- Where it stands: The one-week waiting period is the sticking point. In order to reach an agreement, Senate Republicans will have to agree to let it go, or House Republicans will have to agree to accept it.

Biofuels Standard

- What it does: This bill would require all Iowa gas stations to have the higher E15 blend of ethanol available in at least one pump, unless they receive an exemption from the state. It also makes a number of changes to biodiesel tax credits.
- Where it stands: The House made this the first bill it passed off the floor this session. It has stalled in the Senate, where the bill moved through the committee process February 8, but has not seen any action since.

Bottle bill

- What it does: Again, the House and Senate have proposals that are mostly similar but just different enough to keep them at loggerheads. The House bill, which passed last week, allows retailers (dealers) to refuse to accept bottles and cans for redemption if there is a redemption center within 20 miles as of July 2023. It also increases the handling fee paid to redemption centers to 3 cents, like the Senate's proposal. The bill also establishes increased penalties for enforcement.
- Where it stands: The House passed an amended version of the bill last week and sent it over to the Senate for consideration.

- It is unclear whether the Senate has an interest in revisiting the subject again this session.
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Cornerstone Client Update

As most of the negotiations at the Capitol are going on behind closed doors, and there is very little bill movement, Cornerstone will pause our weekly newsletter until there is more to report. As for weekly bill charts that our clients receive, we will also take a pause on sending those unless specifically requested. We will continue to keep clients updated on a case-by-case basis regarding specific actions at the Capitol. Please reach out to any member of the team with questions or comments.

2022 Iowa Tourism Conference

This week, the Iowa Tourism Conference reconvened for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Reynolds kicked off the conference touting her recent announcement of a \$100 million investment into Iowa tourism through a new program called [Destination Iowa](#). Reynolds said that the program will empower communities to invest money to encourage people to meet in Iowa. She also spoke about the need to highlight all four seasons in Iowa by more photos and videos. A video series launches this week called "[The Soul of Iowa](#)." The first showing of the series took place Tuesday evening at Hoyt Sherman Place. Funding for these investments comes from federal pandemic relief funds.

Bills on the Move

[HF 2171](#) - Nursing Home Rates

- Authorizes the DHS to release nursing facility rates prior to receiving federal approval and to retroactively adjust rates as needed.
 - The House PASSED the bill 95-0 (2/22)
 - The Senate PASSED the bill 48-0; it now GOES to the Governor
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Campaigns by the Numbers

This week, Iowans got an insight into what each candidate for the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives spent from January 1 - March 31. Iowa's primaries will be held on June 7, and Election Day is November 8.

U.S. Senate

Democrats

Abby Finkenauer

Total receipts: \$1,154,637

Total spent: \$1,098,297

Cash on hand: \$780,037

Mike Franken

Total receipts: \$1,397,843

Total spent: \$713,450

Cash on hand: \$1,005,488

Glenn Hurst

Total receipts: \$33,794

Total spent: \$22,019

Cash on hand: \$45,873.01

Republicans

State Sen. Jim Carlin

Total receipts: \$98,223

Total spent: \$96,412

Cash on hand: \$5,361

Incumbent U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley

Total receipts: \$1,682,157

Total spent: \$792,647

Cash on hand: \$4,600,001

1st Congressional District

Democrats

State Rep. Christina Bohannon

Total receipts: \$513,698

Total spent: \$177,898

Cash on hand: \$822,188

Republicans

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks

Total receipts: \$439,696

Total spent: \$172,390

Cash on hand: \$2,104,460

2nd Congressional District

Democrats

State Sen. Liz Mathis

Total receipts: \$715,545

Total spent: \$294,429

Cash on hand: \$1,354,160

Republicans

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson

Total receipts: \$959,844

Total spent: \$774,070

Cash on hand: \$1,783,252

3rd Congressional District

Democrats

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Cindy Axne

Total receipts: \$766,566

Total spent: \$303,310

Cash on hand: \$2,565,536

Republicans

Nicole Hasso

Total receipts: \$200,748

Total spent: \$193,413

Cash on hand: \$140,904

Gary Leffler

Leffler, a Republican activist from West Des Moines, has filed a statement of organization with the FEC, but as of Monday afternoon he has not filed any financial disclosures. Candidates are required to file financial reports when they raise or spend more than \$5,000.

State Sen. Zach Nunn

Total receipts: \$320,090

Total spent: \$138,568

Cash on hand: \$452,044

4th Congressional District

Democrats

Ryan Melton

Total receipts: \$1,478

Republicans

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Randy Feenstra

Total receipts: \$310,458

Total spent: \$371

Total spent: \$231,952

Cash on hand: \$1,107

Cash on hand: \$940,032

Appropriations Bill Tracker

2022 Appropriations Bills Tracker					
HF 2650	Agriculture and Natural Resources	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.23	In Senate Approps 3.29	
HF 2565	Administration and Regulation	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.24	In Senate Approps 3.29	
HF 2564	Economic Development	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.24	In Senate Approps 3.29	
HF 2578	Health and Human Services	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 4.5	In Senate Approps 4.12	
HF 2575	Education	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.29	In Senate Approps 3.31	
HF 2558	Judicial Branch	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.22	In Senate Approps 3.24	
HF 2559	Justice System	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.22	In Senate Approps 3.24	
HF 2579	Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 4.5	In Senate Subcommittee 4.12	
HF 2557	Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals	NOBA	Amended & Passed House 3.22	Passed Senate Committee 4.13	In Senate 4.14

All NOBA's can be Read Here

Upcoming Legislative Forums

- 4/22/2022 [Legislative Roundtable-Council Bluffs](#)
- 4/29/2022 [Capitol Chat](#)
- 4/30/2022 [Legislative Forum-Jefferson County](#)
- 4/30/2022 [Eggs & Issues-Fort Dodge](#)
- 4/30/2022 [April Talk with Officials-Urbandale](#)

In The News

- [DMR: Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' education bill at center of impasse as session hits 100th day](#)
- [340B Drug Pricing Program could be vulnerable to exploitation](#)
- [Moderna says its new 'bivalent' vaccine shows promise against COVID variants](#)
- [MercyOne Health System will be acquired by Michigan-based organization under single ownership](#)
- [Polk County Creates Behavioral Health and Disability Services Department](#)
- [Radio Iowa: Gift will help Southeastern Community College expand nursing program](#)
- [Democrat Tim Lecander is announcing his candidacy for Iowa House District 63](#)
- [Fleishman of Carlisle vies for seat in Iowa Senate](#)
- [Iowa Republicans to lead presidential calendar with 2024 caucuses](#)
- [At Glenwood, the transition is now what matters most](#)
- [Medicaid suspends payments to Newton home owned by GOP donor](#)
- [Iowa Gov. candidate DeJear visits Mason City, focuses on healthcare](#)
- [Iowa Democrat Mike Franken takes US Senate campaign to TV with first ads of the 2022 election cycle](#)
- [Glenwood schools brace for GRC's closing](#)
- [UI College of Public Health, Iowa Farm Bureau fund programs to improve Iowans' well-being](#)

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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Cornerstone is a full-service, bipartisan consulting firm specializing in federal and state government relations, public affairs and strategic communications, and advisory services.

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