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Cornerstone Iowa Newsletter

Friday, February 2, 2024

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Week in Review

Legislators kicked off the week with a relatively busy Monday, with eight budget subcommittee meetings, two standing committee meetings in the Senate, and a handful of bill subcommittee meetings in each chamber, and the week only got busier from there. Committee work began to ramp up this week, with over 100 bills passed through standing committees. There are now just two weeks until the first funnel, when bills must make it through committee to stay alive. Throughout the week, 146 bill subcommittee meetings were held. There was still no floor action in either chamber this week.

The Governor's policy agenda took center stage at the capitol this week. The Governor released a number of her priority bills, and bill subcommittee meetings were held for two of her priority bills. The bill at the forefront of discussion was the Governor's proposed area education agency (AEA) bill, [HSB 542](#) in the House and [SSB 3073](#) in the Senate. On Monday, the Governor released her recommended changes to the AEA bill that she proposed early this session. The bill initially received pushback from interested parties, and the Governor had indicated that she would take the feedback into account and release an amendment. The amendment can be found [here](#). A summary of the proposed changes can be found in a [post](#) the Governor released on X. The biggest changes the Governor made to her plan include the following:

which could also be used for media services.

Subcommittees for this bill were held in both the House and the Senate on Wednesday. The House subcommittee did not advance the Governor's bill to the full committee, stating that more time and further conversations were needed before making changes to Iowa's special education system. However, the Senate subcommittee did pass the bill on to the full Education committee while recommending that changes be made.

On Tuesday, a bill subcommittee was held for [SSB 3113](#), the Governor's priority bill on foreign ownership of farmland that she previewed during her Condition of the State speech. The bill was advanced to full committee with support of all three members of the subcommittee. On Wednesday, the bill passed out of Senate Agriculture 16 to 0.

More of the Governor's anticipated priority bills were introduced this week, including the following:

- [SSB 3140](#) and [HSB 643](#), which expand postpartum Medicaid coverage from 60 days to 12 months and change income eligibility levels for pregnant women and infants under the Medicaid program. A bill subcommittee meeting is scheduled for early next week in both the Senate and the House.
- [HSB 642](#), which allows pharmacists to dispense self-administered hormonal contraceptives to adult patients.
- [SSB 3119](#), which primarily makes changes to state executive agencies' rulemaking process.

Income tax reduction proposals also received attention this week. The Governor's proposal, [HSB 543](#) and [SSB 3038](#), was released the first week of session and would lower Iowa's individual income tax to 3.65% for 2024 and 3.5% starting in 2025. This week, House and Senate Republicans released an income tax plan that differs slightly from the plan proposed by the Governor.

The House and Senate proposal, [SSB 3141](#), still seeks to lower individual income taxes, eventually to 0%, but does so on a different timeline than the Governor's plan. The plan would expand on the personal income tax cuts passed in 2022, which reduced Iowa's income tax rate to a flat 3.9% by 2026. Under SSB 3141, the tax rate would reduce to 3.775% in 2026 and to 3.65% in 2027. In future years, further individual income tax reductions would be paid for through moneys put into a newly created "Iowa Taxpayer Relief Trust," which would receive an initial \$2.6 billion transfer from the existing Taxpayer Relief Fund. The balance and moneys earned from interest in the trust would be transferred to a newly created "Income Tax Elimination Fund" and dedicated to individual income tax reductions until the rate reaches 0%.

Bills on the Move

Bill subcommittee movement

[SSB 3114](#) - More Options for Maternal Support (MOMS) program

- Allows the HHS to either administer the MOMS program directly through contracts with providers of pregnancy support services, or through a program administrator selected through a request for proposal (RFP) process.

[HSB 617](#) - Transport of patients to mental health access centers by ambulance

- Allows an ambulance services program to transport a person experiencing a mental health crisis to a mental health access center.
- Requires the HHS to authorize payments to service programs for such transport in amounts similar to payments authorized for the transport of persons to hospital emergency departments.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Wednesday. Passed on to House Health and Human Services.

[HF 71](#) - Insurance coverage for diagnostic breast cancer examinations

- Requires an insurance policy, contract, or plan providing for third-party payment of health or medical expenses to provide coverage for diagnostic breast cancer examinations.
- Provides that this coverage cannot be less favorable than coverage a health carrier offers for screening mammograms, and that cost-sharing cannot be imposed that is greater than the cost-sharing imposed for a screening mammogram.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Wednesday. Passed on to House Commerce.

[SSB 3095](#) - DIAL, confidentiality of information and records, dependent adult abuse

- Provides that DIAL may provide county attorneys, law enforcement agencies, and licensing boards with the department's evaluation materials and findings related to a report of dependent adult abuse.
- Changes the timing for DIAL notification to a facility or program that employs a perpetrator of founded dependent adult abuse when notice of investigative findings has been issued.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday. Passed on to House Judiciary with the recommendation of an amendment.

[SF 2092](#) - Rural Iowa primary care loan repayment program

- Allows radiologists to participate in the rural Iowa primary care loan repayment program administered by the College Student Aid Commission.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday. Passed on to Senate Education. The companion bill ([HF 2110](#)) passed out of subcommittee last week.

[HF 2199](#) - Health care employment agencies

- Requires the HHS to annually establish a statewide maximum allowable charges schedule applicable the following calendar year to nursing services

- Requires each separate location of an agency registered in Iowa to utilize and comply with the charges schedule.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday.

[HSB 638](#) - **Contracts and payments for dental care service plans**

- Permits a contracting entity to grant third-party access to a network contract, or to a dental care provider's dental care services or contractual discounts provided pursuant to a contract, if certain conditions are met, as outlined in the bill.
- Prohibits a contracting entity from canceling, terminating, or refusing to form a contractual relationship with a provider that chooses not to participate in third-party access.
- Prohibits a dental care service plan from requiring payments to be made to a provider by virtual credit card payment, and specifies requirements regarding various payment methods.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday. Passed on to House Commerce with the recommendation of an amendment.

[HSB 616](#) - **Epinephrine auto-injectors**

- Allows a pharmacist to order and administer an epinephrine auto-injector to an adult without a prescription.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee held on Thursday.

[HSB 198](#) - **Work Without Worry program**

- Creates a Work Without Worry program under the Medicaid program for employed individuals with disabilities who are at least 16 years old.
- Specifies criteria for coverage under this program.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee held on Thursday. Passed on to House Health and Human Services with the recommendation of an amendment.

Standing committee movement

See past newsletters for descriptions of some of the bills below, found [here](#) and [here](#).

[SSB 3096](#) - **Ambulatory surgery centers**

- Defines "ambulatory surgical center" (ASC) differently relative to the Health Facilities Council and Certificate of Need.
- Exempts cosmetic, reconstructive, or plastic surgery services provided in an ambulatory surgical center from the applicability of Certificate of Need requirements.
- Modifies application requirements for an ASC license.

[SSB 3012](#) - Medical income assistance trust fees

- Increases the amount that may be paid or set aside each month for necessary trust expenses without court approval for beneficiaries whose total monthly income is less than 125% of the average statewide charge for nursing facility services to a private-pay resident of a nursing facility from \$10 to \$50.

Latest Action: Passed out of Senate Judiciary 17 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HF 626](#) - Continuity of care and nonmedical switching

- Prohibits limiting or excluding prescription drug coverage for a medically stable covered person if certain factors apply.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held in the Senate on Monday. Passed out of Senate Commerce 16 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HSB 501](#) - Limitations on activities related to paid claims under Medicaid

Latest Action: Passed out of House Health and Human Services 21 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HF 2064](#) - Disclosure of a minor's electronic protected health information to a legal guardian

Latest Action: Passed out of House Health and Human Services with an amendment 21 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HSB 589](#) - Ambulatory surgery centers

Latest Action: Passed out of House Health and Human Services with an amendment 21 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HF 537](#) - Authorized electronic monitoring in nursing facilities

Latest Action: Passed out of House Health and Human Services with an amendment 20 to 1 on Tuesday.

[SF 2063](#) - Establishing a nursing home administrator training pilot program

Latest Action: Passed out of Senate Health and Human Services with an amendment 10 to 5 on Tuesday.

[SSB 3001](#) - Insurance coverage for biomarker testing

Latest Action: Passed out of Senate Commerce with an amendment 16 to 0 on Tuesday.

[HSB 573](#) - Assaults on health care providers

Latest Action: Passed out of House Judiciary 20 to 0 on Thursday.

HHS Presentations This Week

Presentation to Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Budget Subcommittee

On Monday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented to legislators on its infrastructure and capitals budget requests. The presentation can be found [here](#). The HHS's budget requests relate to the Woodward Resource Center, the State Medical Examiner's Office, the Civil Commitment Unit for Sex Offenders, and the Lucas State Office Building.

Presentation to Health and Human Services Budget Subcommittee

On Monday, the HHS presented to legislators on Iowa's child welfare system. The presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation covered the Change and Innovation Agency (CIA) assessment, recruitment and retention investments, the VISION implementation timeline, and a foster care update.

Presentation to Senate Health and Human Services

On Tuesday, the HHS presented to legislators on its technology systems. The presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation covered the number of IT systems the HHS uses, how many of the systems are outdated, and what technology innovations are currently in progress.

Upcoming Town Halls

Representative Heather Matson

February 2 at 9:00am
Main Street Cafe, 2510 SW White Birch
Drive, Ankeny

Representative Henry Stone

February 2 at 9:00am
Lake Mills

Representative Henry Stone

February 2 at 11:00am
Thompson

Representative Henry Stone

February 2 at 2:00pm
Forest City

Representative Mary Madison

February 2 at 3:00pm
West Des Moines Library, 4000 Mills Civic
Parkway, West Des Moines

Representative Taylor Collins

February 3 at 9:00am
Muscatine Community College (lounge in the
Student Services building)

Representative Heather Matson

February 9 at 9:00am
Main Street Cafe, 2510 SW White Birch
Drive, Ankeny

Representatives Molly Buck and Heather Matson

February 9 at 12:00pm
Ankeny Chamber of Commerce, 1631 SW
Main Street #204/205, Ankeny

Representative Dave Sieck

February 10 at 8:00am
Emerson Community Building, 711 Morton
Ave, Emerson

Representative John Wills

February 10 at 8:30am
Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce, 1121
Broadway St, Emmetsburg

Representative Craig Johnson

February 10 at 9:00am
Farm Bureau in Arlington

Representative Ray Sorensen

February 10 at 9:30am

Akron

February 10 at 10:00am
Kings Pointe in Storm Lake**Representative Dean Fisher**February 3 at 9:30am
Brooklyn Farm Bureau**Representative Monica Kurth**February 10 at 10:00am
Eastern Iowa College, Belmont Campus, 500
Belmont Rd, Riverdale**Representative Ken Carlson**February 3 at 10:00am
American Legion Onawa Library, 707 Iowa
Ave, Onawa**Representative Ray Sorensen**February 10 at 11:30am
Winterset Farm Bureau Office**Representative Taylor Collins**February 3 at 11:00am
Wapello City Hall in the City Council
Chambers**Representative Michael Bergan**Farm Bureau Legislative Forum
February 10 at 11:30am
Howard County Farm Bureau Office, Cresco**Representative Tom Jeneary**February 3 at 11:00am
Floyd Valley Hospital (lower-level conference
room), Le Mars**Representative Anne Osmundson**Farm Bureau Legislative Forum
February 10 at 11:30am
Monona Community Center, Monona**Representative Henry Stone**February 3 at 11:00am
Algona**Representative Elizabeth Wilson**February 11 at 8:30am
Uptown Coffee, 760 11th St Suite A, Marion**Representative Tom Moore**February 3
Red Oak**Representative Austin Baeth**February 12 at 8:00pm
Lua Brewing, 1525 High St, Des Moines**Representative Austin Baeth**February 5 at 8:00pm
Lua Brewing, 1525 High St, Des Moines**Representative Molly Buck**February 13 at 10:00am
Porch Light Coffee, 417 SW 3rd St, Ankeny

In the News

- [Des Moines Register: Kim Reynolds wants to cut Iowa taxes - again. Here's how it would work and who gets a break.](#)
 - [Des Moines Register: Iowa private schools see enrollment jump after passage of education savings accounts.](#)
 - [Des Moines Register: Is Iowa's medical marijuana industry growing too fast? Why the state may put on the breaks.](#)
 - [Radio Iowa: Bill expands conscience exception for Iowa medical providers.](#)
 - [The Gazette: Iowa lawmakers advance bill to encourage patients to shop for lower cost medical care.](#)
 - [Iowa Capital Dispatch: Iowa HHS prepares to begin providing state funds to crisis pregnancy centers.](#)
 - [Des Moines Register: Kim Reynolds just released her revised bill to overhaul Iowa's 9 AEAs. Here's what's in it.](#)
 - [Des Moines Register: Kim Reynolds' bill to overhaul AEAs advances in Senate, but House lawmakers balk.](#)
 - [Des Moines Register: Iowa's individual income tax could be eliminated under Republican lawmakers' plan.](#)
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Monday, February 5	Tuesday, February 6	Wednesday, February 7	Thursday, February 8	Friday, February 9
11:00 Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee RM 315	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Local Government RM 116 11:00 Veterans Affairs RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Commerce RM 116 11:00 Education RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Health and Human Services RM 116	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
12:00 Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee RM 22 Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations Subcommittee RM 116 1:00 SESSION 2:00 Agriculture RM 116	1:00 State Government RM 116 2:00 Natural Resources and Environment RM 116 3:00 Technology RM 116	1:00 Workforce RM 116 2:00 Transportation RM 116 3:00 Judiciary RM 116		On Call Rules and Administration

House Week 5 Schedule

Monday, February 5	Tuesday, February 6	Wednesday, February 7	Thursday, February 8	Friday, February 9
	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor and Workforce RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth and Technology RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	8:30 SESSION 9:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Labor and Workforce RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Judiciary RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Budget Sub Block 1 Admin and Reg Rm 19 Ag and Nat Res. Rm 102 Eco Dev. Rm 103 3:30 Budget Sub Block 2 Justice Rm 19 RIIF Rm 102 HHS Budget Rm 103 Education Rm 304	1:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Health and Human Services RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:30 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Veterans Affairs RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:30 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth and Technology RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	Note: Policy subcommittee times will be available: 1 hour prior to gavel-in, from 10:30am to 1pm, and for one hour following the conclusion of the last policy committee meeting each day

2024 Session Timeline

The full 2024 legislative calendar can be found [here](#). Below are key dates of interest.

JANUARY 8 – First day of session.

JANUARY 9 – The Governor's Condition of the State address. Governor Reynolds will discuss her budget and policy priorities.

FEBRUARY 16 – *First Funnel*. 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.

MARCH 15 – *Second Funnel*. 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.

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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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