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Cornerstone Iowa Health Newsletter

Friday, January 26, 2024

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Week in Review

On Monday, legislators returned to the Capitol and started off the busiest week of session yet. From Monday to Thursday, 90 bill subcommittee meetings were held in the House and 80 were held in the Senate, marking the first major step in the legislative process for these bills. Bill subcommittee meetings have primarily been held for bills that were introduced this session, but many have also been held for bills that were introduced last session and failed to be passed. Because this is the second year of a biennium, bills that died last session are alive again this session. This helps expedite the process for certain bills to be passed, since if a bill passed one chamber last session but failed to pass the second chamber, the bill only has to pass the second chamber this session.

Thirty-six bills passed through standing committees this week, but many standing committees have still not passed anything through committee. Expect committee work to ramp up in the coming weeks as the first funnel deadline approaches on February 16. This is the date by which a bill must be passed through a standing committee to remain alive and eligible to be passed into law, with a few exceptions (including tax bills and appropriation bills). There is a limited amount of time and capacity for bills to be passed

Neither the House nor the Senate saw any floor action this week. This is typical for this time of session, as legislators are more focused on holding bill subcommittee meetings to start the process of getting their bills through committee before funnel week. Expect to see a significant increase in floor action in the week after the first funnel.

In the House, the Health and Human Services budget subcommittee held a meeting at the Woodward Resource Center on Monday, where the HHS presented on their facilities and provided a tour of the resource center. The HHS's presentation can be found [here](#).

Governor's Priority Bills

On Wednesday, the Governor announced the release of three priority bills. Two of these bills she had previewed during her Condition of the State speech earlier this session.

The first bill relates to administrative rules and requires a cost-benefit analysis for new rules and a regular comprehensive evaluation for rules to remain in place. The second bill relates to toughening laws on foreign ownership of land; it strengthens registration and reporting requirements, strengthens Attorney General enforcement, and increases penalties. The third bill released by the Governor relates to Environment, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) and prohibits Iowa from contracting with investment firms that use social issues when making investment decisions.

Bills on the Move

[HF 2013](#) - Nursing home administrator provisional licenses

- Changes the amount of time that a person may hold a provisional nursing home administrator license when the regular administrator of the nursing home is unable to perform the administrator's duties from 12 total combined months to 24 total combined months.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday. Passed on to House State Government.

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

- Creates a nursing home administrator training pilot program to provide opportunities for individuals pursuing the profession to obtain on-the-job experience supervised by a licensed nursing home administrator.
- Provides application requirements for the pilot program, and establishes the conditions of the program.
- Provides guidelines for approving applicants and for funding of the program.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday. Passed on to Senate Health and Human Services.

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

working, volunteering, or participating in an educational course or instruction at a hospital or rural emergency hospital.

Latest Action: Bill subcommittee meeting held on Thursday. Passed on to House Judiciary.

[HF 2110](#) - 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 House Health and Human Services.

[HSB 589](#) - 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.

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

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

- Requires a health care provider or facility that maintains or transmits electronic protected health information to disclose that information to the legal guardian of a minor, with some exceptions.

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

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

- Provides that a nursing facility resident or a representative of the resident may conduct electronic monitoring of the resident's room through electronic monitoring devices placed in the resident's room.

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

HHS Presentation on Maternal Mental Health

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented to the House Health and Human Services standing committee on Thursday. Below is a summary of the presentation.

Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM Program)

deliver babies.

- The HHS is focused on changing hospital practices to get difference outcomes.
- This was launched in the fall of 2020, and HHS has now rolled out three safety bundles:
 - Safe reduction of primary cesarean births.
 - Obstetric hemorrhage.
 - Sever hypertension in pregnancy.
- The AIM program is already yielding results in Iowa. It has significantly reduced low risk cesarean birth rates and reduced disparities.
- The HHS is working on stability and sustainability for these safety bundles.
- The HHS is now requiring Medicaid reimbursed facilities to participate in the safety bundles and incentivizing health systems in order to improve health outcomes for Medicaid recipients.
- The next step is to ensure the funding for AIM is sustainable and consistent.

Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship Program

- The HHS has been implementing [Senate File 561](#), which was passed last session. It created the Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship Program Fund to provide for four fellowship positions in teaching hospitals. SF 561 included a \$560,000 appropriation for 2024.
- The program provides the following benefits:
 - Recruiting physicians to overlooked areas of Iowa.
 - Hospitals will be reimbursed for expenses incurred during the fellowship training.
 - Women in rural and underserved areas of Iowa will receive obstetrics care close to where they live, which will reduce pregnancy-related health complications.

Centers of Excellence

- Centers of Excellence are in rural communities and encourage collaboration among healthcare providers.
- Five Centers of Excellence were chosen through a competitive selection process, three of which are focusing on areas of maternal health.
 - Grinnell Regional Medical Center - Focused on expanding maternal health services.
 - St. Anthony Regional Hospital - Focused on improving health outcomes for rural women and their babies.
 - Cass Health - Focused on improving maternal health services in southwest Iowa.
- The Centers of Excellence provide multiple benefits to Iowa, including expanding access to critical maternal health needs and reducing barriers to this type of care in rural areas.

More Options for Maternal Support (MOMS) Program

- A request for proposal (RFP) was released, and the HHS selected four providers.
- The MOMS program is housed within the Early Intervention and Support section of the HHS.
- Qualified pregnancy support services include: counseling, parenting education and support services, call center services, childcare, employment assistance, housing, material items, medical information and referrals, nutritional services and education, and adoption education and services.

Presidential Election Update

On Sunday, less than a week after a second place finish in the Iowa caucuses, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced that he was suspending his presidential campaign. This announcement was made a few days ahead of the primary in New Hampshire, where DeSantis had been polling significantly behind former president Donald Trump and former U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley. DeSantis's announcement effectively made it a two-person race for the Republican nomination between Trump and Haley. DeSantis has endorsed Trump as the Republican nominee.

The New Hampshire primary occurred on Tuesday this week. Trump won the primary with 54.3% of the vote and gained 12 delegates. Haley placed second with 43.3% of the vote and gained 9 delegates. On the Democratic side, President Joe Biden won New Hampshire's Democratic primary by a large margin, despite not officially being on the ballot. Local democrats organized a campaign to encourage participants to vote for Biden through writing his name in. Because of conflict this election cycle between New Hampshire law and the Democratic National Committee, the results of the Democratic primary will not count in the official nomination process.

Upcoming Town Halls

Representative Heather Matson

January 26 at 9:00am
Main Street Cafe, 2510 SW White Birch
Drive, Ankeny

**Representatives Timi Brown-Powers, Bob
Kressig, and Jerome Amos**

Health Care Town Hall
January 26 at 4:30pm
Hawkeye College Van G. Miller Facility, 120
Jefferson St, Waterloo

Representative Tom Moore

January 27 at 8:00am
Shenandoah

**Representatives Barb Kniff McCulla and
Helena Hayes**

January 27 at 8:30am
Smokey Row Coffee, Oskaloosa

Representative Ann Meyer

January 27 at 8:30am
Triton Cafe, Fort Dodge

**Representatives John Wills and Megan
Jones**

January 27 at 9:00am
Spencer City Hall, 101 W 5th St, Spencer

Representative John Wills

January 27 at 11:00am
Tweeters, 1027 HWY 71, Okoboji

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 Taylor Collins

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

Representative Dean Fisher

February 3 at 9:30am
Brooklyn Farm Bureau

Marion Library, 1101 6th Ave, Marion

Ave, Onawa

Representative Ken Carlson
January 27 at 10:00am
Sioux City Museum, Sioux City

Representative Taylor Collins
February 3 at 11:00am
Wapello City Hall in the City Council
Chambers

Representative Tom Moore
January 27 at 10:00am
Clarinda

Representative Henry Stone
February 3 at 11:00am
Algona

Representatives Dan Gehlbach and Eddie Andrews
January 27 at 10:30am
2830 100th St., Ste. 110, Urbandale

Representative Tom Moore
February 3
Red Oak

In the News

- [Iowa Capital Dispatch: Florida's DeSantis withdraws from Republican presidential race, endorses Trump.](#)
- [Iowa Public Radio: GOP lawmakers are making changes to Gov. Reynolds overhaul of special education.](#)
- [Des Moines Register: On anniversary of Roe, Kim Reynolds rallies anti-abortion supporters, touts Iowa ban.](#)
- [Des Moines Register: Iowa worst in the nation for state psychiatric beds, report says. How a new plan may help.](#)
- [The Gazette: Iowa House deliberates on bill that would loosen topsoil, stormwater regulations.](#)
- [Radio Iowa: State Auditor says report shows Iowa property taxes are regressive.](#)
- [Des Moines Register: Are school chaplains the cure for Iowa students' mental health needs? What a new bill says.](#)
- [The Gazette: Doctors could refuse treatment on moral grounds under proposed Iowa bill.](#)

Senate Week 4 Schedule

Monday, January 29	Tuesday, January 30	Wednesday, January 31	Thursday, February 1	Friday, February 2
11:00 International Relations RM 116 Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee RM 22 Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee RM 315	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Local Government RM 116 11:00 Health and Human Services RM 116	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Technology RM 116 11:00 Education RM 116	9:00 SESSION	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Veterans Affairs RM 116 3:00 Transportation RM 116	1:00 Commerce RM 116 2:00 Natural Resources and Environment RM 116 3:00 Judiciary RM 116	1:00 Agriculture RM 116 2:00 State Government RM 116 3:00 Workforce RM 116		On Rules and Call Administration

Monday, January 29	Tuesday, January 30	Wednesday, January 31	Thursday, February 1	Friday, February 2
11:00 International Relations Room 116	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 10:30 Veterans Affairs RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Transportation 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 10:30 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce 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 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Environmental Protection RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult	Note: Policy subcommittee times will be available: 1 hour prior to gavelin, during the noon to 1 hour, 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.

APRIL 16 – 100th calendar day of the session. Per diem expenses end.

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