



February 20, 2020

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Contact Information

David Adelman
515-491-1015 (m)
dadelman@cgagroup.com

Matt Hinch
202-365-9449 (m)
mhinch@cgagroup.com

Frank Chiodo
515-778-5245 (m)
fchiod@cgagroup.com

Sara Allen
515-778-9516
sallen@cgagroup.com

Week in Review

Today marks the end of the first legislative funnel. This date represents a deadline set by the legislature to funnel out bills—if a piece of legislation didn’t make its way through at least one full committee, it is considered “dead” and unable to be considered as a standalone bill. However, there are several bills exempt from the funnel, these include Ways and Means, Appropriations and Government Oversight bills. The next funnel date is March 20; this funnel requires a bill to have moved through one full chamber and through a full committee in the other chamber to remain viable.

Several bills made it through committee this week, while others died. If you are tracking several bills and receive a bill tracker from us, expect to see it Friday in your inbox. However, the bill tracker we publish next week is expected to be more accurate as the legislative website will continue to be updated over the weekend.

Governor’s Licensure Bill

[HSB 647](#) moved through the House Commerce committee almost unanimously on Tuesday. The companion bill in the Senate, [SSB 3122](#), also moved through the Senate State Government committee this week. The bill would create Iowa recognition of certain out-of-state licenses and carves out certain crimes from disqualifying individuals to be licensed in the state of Iowa (current law has broader disqualifications). The bill sets parameters around the licensing recognition, including requirements the individual must prove to be recognized. Notably, the bill doesn’t go into effect until January 1, 2021, which gives state agencies and employers time to prepare for the change. The bills aim is to attract skilled workers to the state and is part of the governor’s plan at ensuring Iowa has a pipeline of talent for employers to hire. Cosmetologists, plumbers, barbers and people in several other trades would be considered under the scope of this bill.

Healthcare @ the Statehouse

Several healthcare focused bills were debated in committees this week. The medical malpractice legislation, Senate Study Bill 3150, caps non-economic damages while maintaining non caps on economic or punitive damages. This bill is trying to address retention of providers in rural and urban areas. After being amended to increase the cap from \$250,000 to \$750,000, the bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a party line vote (9-5). The bill number is now Senate File 2338.

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2020/02/20/medical-malpractice-hard-cap-factors-rural-health-care-access/4805429002/>

<https://www.radioiowa.com/2020/02/19/medical-marijuana-bills-remain-eligible-for-iowa-legislative-action/>



<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2020/02/18/medicaid-food-stamps-iowa-bill-puts-work-requirements-recipients/4793802002/>

https://qctimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/state-lawmakers-approve-varied-medical-cannabis-expansions/article_9270234d-5f24-5ef7-a733-e59ffd0a3aca.html

In a move to try and increase efficiency, Senate Study Bill 3111 was passed out of committee. This bill transfers responsibilities advising and reviewing regulations from the Iowa Hospital Licensing Board to the Department of Health. <https://www.thegazette.com/subject/opinion/staff-columnist/iowa-hospitals-regulations-certificate-of-need-licensing-board-protectionism-20200218>

Maternal and infant health is an expressed priority of the Legislature this session. Companion bills, HF 2215 and SF 2128 require Medicaid reimbursement for the cost of breast pumps when determined to be medically necessary. Both of these pieces of legislation cleared the legislative funnel by passing out of their respective committees in each chamber.

Although many of the anti-vax bills were defeated this legislative session one attempt to get the “camel’s nose under the tent” made it through. SF 2172 passed the Senate Human Resources Committee on a party line vote (8-5). This bill requires a death certificate for an infant (ages 0-3) to have every administered vaccination listed.

Many scope of practice bills were defeated early on in session but SSB 3164 survived the funnel passing Senate Human Resources Committee allowing pharmacists to have a broader scope of abilities like shots and testing of patients over six years old.

Bills on the Move

Several bills moved out of subcommittee and a handful were voted out of full House or Senate committees this week. Bills of interest that moved were:

- *Broadband Bills.* [HF 2107](#), moved through the House Commerce committee this week and deals with Broadband Forward Certification program as well as a Telecommuting Forward certification program. [HSB 638](#) makes changes to broadband in the state. Makes changes to the definition of targeted area, as well as funding changes under the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Fund program.
- *Medical Cannabidiol Program.* [HSB 653](#) makes changes to the Iowa medical cannabidiol program. Changes the cap on the THC limit to 4.5 grams per 90 days, adds professions that can certify the conditions, allows dispensaries to have a pharmacist or pharmacy technician to work in the dispensaries with patients, and allows patients with terminal illnesses to get higher THC limits than considered in the bill and allows providers to give waivers to patients on the caps. The Senate Judiciary committee passed a bill dealing with the same subject, [SSB 3136](#). The bills had similarities with the House version but set the cap at 25 grams per 90 days. The bill passed unanimously.
- *Future Ready Iowa.* The Senate Commerce Committee approved [SSB 3077](#), a bill making changes to the Future Ready Act and a governor priority bill, this week. The bill makes changes to the Future Ready program proposed by the Governor, including ways to encourage businesses to continue to offer apprenticeships and ways to help businesses offer childcare options for their workers. The House companion, [HF 2384](#) has been voted out of the House Commerce Committee and is waiting for action in the House Appropriations Committee.



- *Background Checks.* House and Senate committees approved bills dealing with background checks for health care providers in certain institutions ([SF 2299](#) and [HF 2435](#)). The bills allow employers to provisionally hire prospective employees who have passed a third party background check, while awaiting completion of SING background checks (that are currently conducted by the Iowa Department of Public Safety).
- *Felon Voting.* The Senate Judiciary committee passed a bill, [SF 2129](#), that sets parameters around a proposed constitutional amendment for the restoration of felon voting rights. The bill makes exclusions to which felons can have their rights automatically restored; these exclusions exclude murderers, certain sex offenders and those who have not paid their victim restitution. The bill now moves to the Senate floor.
- *Medical Malpractice Damages Cap.* The Senate Judiciary committee passed [SSB 3150](#), a bill that caps noneconomic damages at \$750k. The bill was amended from a cap limit of \$250k to 750k. The bill now moves to the Senate floor.
- *Paying College Athletes.* [SF 2330](#) prohibits post-secondary schools from enforcing rules that prevent or punish a college athlete from being paid for the use of the athlete's likeness, prohibits interfering with a college athlete getting a professional agent, prohibits athletes from signing agreements to display something for a sponsor during a game if such provisions interfere with a contract held by the college and requires the disclosure of the conflict. The bill passed 12-1.

Rep. Mark Smith New Democratic Party Chair

Democrats selected Representative Mark Smith to serve as the new chair of the state Democratic party, after Troy Price stepped down last week. Smith, a democratic House member from Marshalltown, announced his intent to retire from the legislature after his term was up after this year. Additionally, Smith served as the House minority leader for many years. Smith has said his full transition from state rep to state party chair will occur at the end of the legislative session.

New DOT Director Appointed

Governor Reynolds appointed Scott Marler to serve as the Director of the Department of Transportation. His appointment began on Monday. The Governor's office included Director Marler's background in a press release that was released this week. It provided: Scott Marler is currently the Director of the Operations Division at the Iowa Department of Transportation. Marler is active on several national committees associated with the American Association of State Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). He has served on a national technical committee for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an expert panel for TRB, and a course development committee for the National Highway Institute. Marler has worked for the Iowa DOT for 22 years, with experience in traffic operations, highway project development, regulatory compliance, and the natural environment.

In the News

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

- [Senator Dawson Lays Out Bill Relating to Restoration of Voting Rights for Felons](#) -*The Iowa Standard*
- [Several Proposals Die Before Deadline in IA Legislature](#) – *WHO Radio*



- [Grassley Not Yet Ready to Call it A Career](#) – *Omaha World Herald*
- [Medical Cannabis Changes Diverge in House and Senate Bills](#) – *The Gazette*
- [6 Takeaways from Democrats’ Bloomberg Pile-on in Nevada](#) – *CNN*

Next Week Capitol Schedule

senate

legis.iowa.gov/chambers/calendar/senate?action=viewPdf&calDate=02/24/2020

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IOWA SENATE - Schedule for Week 7, February 24-28, 2020
Subject to Change

Monday, February 24	Tuesday, February 25	Wednesday, February 26	Thursday, February 27	Friday, February 28
	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Budget Subs	9:00 SESSION 10:00 Budget Subs	9:00 SESSION 10:00 State Government RM 22 11:00 Appropriations RM 22	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION		1:00 Human Resources RM 22 2:00 Transportation RM 24 2:00 Government Oversight RM 22	1:00 SESSION	Room Assignments: Admin/Reg–Room 19 Ag & NR–Rm 305 Econ. Dev.–Rm 103, (Supreme Ct. Chamber) Education–Rm 22 Hum. Services–Rm 116 Justice–Rm 24 Trans/Inf/Caps–Rm 102, (Supreme Ct. Consult Rm.) ON CALL–Rules-Appropriations-Ways & Means

Prepared in the Office of Senate Majority Leader Jack Whitver
Last updated on February 20, 2020

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senate

house

legis.iowa.gov/chambers/calendar/house?action=viewPdf&calDate=02/24/2020

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House of Representatives Schedule for Week 7, February 24 - 28, 2020
Prepared in the Office of House Speaker Pat Grassley

Monday, February 24	Tuesday, February 25	Wednesday, February 26	Thursday, February 27	Friday, February 28
	8:30 SESSION 10:00 Budget Subs	8:30 SESSION 10:00 Budget Subs	8:30 SESSION 10:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 11:00 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	
Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon	Noon
1:00 SESSION 2:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:30 Natural Resources RM 19 Judiciary RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Public Safety RM 19 Economic Growth RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult State Government RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 1:30 Local Government RM 19 Agriculture RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Human Resources RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:00 Veterans Affairs RM 19 Environmental Protection RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 6:00 Public Hearing RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Natural Resources RM 19 Judiciary RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Labor RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 2:00 Education RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Commerce RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber 3:00 Ways and Means RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Appropriations RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	1:00 Veterans Affairs RM 19 Environmental Protection RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Transportation RM 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber	Budget Sub-Committee Meeting Locations: Admin/Reg - Rm. 19 Ag & Nat Res - Rm. 305 Education - Rm. 22 Trans/Infra/Caps - Rm. 102, Sup. Ct. Consult Please note meeting location changes: Econ Dev - Rm. 116 Human Services - Rm. 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber Justice Systems - Rm. 103, Sup. Ct. Chamber

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Key Dates for 2020 Session

The new Iowa Legislative Session Timetable has been published. Here is the [link](#) and included below is important dates as we approach the 2020 Iowa legislative session.

January 13	First Day of Legislative Session
January 14	Governor's Budget Released Governor gives her Condition of the State Address to Joint Session
January 24	Final day for individual Senator/Representative Bill Requests
February 21	First Funnel. All Senate and House bills must be out of one full committee
March 20	Second Legislative Funnel. Corresponding chamber must vote bills out of a full committee to remain "alive"
April 6	Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
April 21	100 th Day of the session. Per diem expenses for legislators end.



Katelyn O'Hare | Frank Chiodo | David Adelman | Matt Paul | Matt Hinch | Jimmy Centers | Sara Allen