

The Seventeenth Week

Here are some highlights from the past few weeks.

IDPH Legislative Package

- [SF 202](#) was signed by the Governor on May 2. This completes the updates on the IDPH legislative package. Thank you to the legislators that worked on this legislation and the IDPH staff that provided helpful information every step of the way.

The highlight of the legislation is Division IV that provides increased access to tobacco cessation coaching services from the Iowa Quitline to young people who seek assistance with stopping their tobacco habits. Kudos to Meghan O'Brien, Director of the Division of Tobacco Use, Prevention, and Control, for her efforts to get this passed and signed into law!

- To understand how a bill moves through the legislative process, click [here](#).

Appropriations Process

- [SF 446](#) has also been assigned to a conference committee. A conference committee is a set of five Senators and five Representatives each with three members of the majority party and two minority party members. Their charge is to negotiate the points of impasse between the two chambers in order to produce a final product for the Governor's consideration. This process is not ideal as all of the negotiations take place behind closed doors. It is difficult to ensure that the information you have provided is being discussed in the exact way you provided it.
- The Conference Committee members include Senators [Hatch](#) (Co-Chair), [Ragan](#), [Bolkcom](#), [Segebart](#), and [Johnson](#), and Representatives [Heaton](#) (Co-Chair), [Costello](#), [Fry](#), [Heddens](#), and [Wessel-Kroeschell](#).
- To track the process the bill has gone through, please click [here](#), for the bill's history.
- To view the Senate's budget proposal in its entirety via the Notes on Bill and Amendments (NOBA) document published by the Legislative Services Agency, please click [here](#). A NOBA provides side by side explanations of each section of the bill.
- To view the House's budget proposal in its entirety, please click [here](#).
- To view the Differences Report that compares the points of disagreement between the Senate and House budget proposals, please click [here](#).
- IDPH is pleased to report that the following items from Governor's budget recommendations were included in each chamber's proposals:
 - An increase of \$368,000 to sustain administration of public protection services in the Division of Environmental Health including:
 - The inspection program for Iowa's public pools and spas to ensure safety requirements are met to prevent illness, injury, and drowning.
 - Certification of laboratories and professionals to decrease the exposure to radon in homes, daycare/schools, and businesses.
 - Registration and inspection of tanning facilities to protect consumers from acute and chronic skin reactions.
 - Licensing and inspection of tattoo artists and establishments.
 - An increase of \$28,000 in one-time funding for the software changes needed to implement licensure of orthodontists, prosthetists, and podiatrists under the Board of Podiatry.
- IDPH is encouraging legislators to provide funding for the [Prevention & Chronic Care Management Advisory Council](#) (the funding is also used for the Office of Health Care Transformation) and a Director's Wellness Initiative to increase support for current wellness activities (e.g. website development and additional "challenges" through Live Healthy Iowa). Each item was included in the Senate's proposal but not in the House. The Governor has recommended funding for each in his FY 2014 and FY 2015 budget recommendations to the legislature.

- For an analysis of the Governor’s budget recommendations please click [here](#). The recommendations for IDPH begin on page 141.
- The HHS provides appropriations to IDPH, the Department of Human Services, the Department on Aging, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Iowa Veterans Home. For more information on the membership and work of this subcommittee, please click [here](#).

Issue Highlights

Mental Health

Three bills are now in play and each focuses on the recommendations from the transition committee workgroup’s report. To view the report, please click [here](#). Components that impact IDPH include membership in the Children’s Cabinet that is in both the Senate and House versions of the bill and the establishment of a center for child health innovation and excellence (formerly [HF 366](#)) that is in the Senate’s bill.

- [SF 440](#): This bill is the Senate’s proposed language. It passed the Senate Chamber on Tuesday, April 16 by a vote of 33-17. It was introduced in the House and referred to the House Human Resources Committee. A subcommittee of Representatives [Joel Fry](#), [Kevin Koester](#), and [Mark Smith](#) held a public meeting on the bill on Thursday, April 18 however the bill was never voted out of committee.
- [HSB 229](#): This bill is the House’s proposed language. It was referred to the House Appropriations Committee but was not voted out. Instead it was attached to SF 452, the Standing Appropriations Bill, in an amendment during the House Chamber’s floor debate.
- [SF 452](#): The Standings Bill is often called the “Christmas tree” bill because you can hang any piece of policy on it that has not moved forward for one reason or another. It is also used as a vehicle for last minute technical changes to bills that have already passed each chamber. Traditionally, it deals with salary appropriations for the legislative branch and elected officials.

Amendment [S-3218](#) contains the House Mental Health language in Divisions 18-20. The Senate removed this language in amendment [H-1446](#), however the House insisted on its amendment and the bill is now in Conference Committee. This committee is now responsible for negotiating the differences each chamber has on mental health. The Conference Committee members includes Senators [Dvorsky](#) (Co-Chair), [Gronstal](#), [Jochum](#), [Bertrand](#), and [Whitver](#), and Representatives [Soderberg](#) (Co-Chair), [Paulsen](#), [Upmeyer](#), [Hall](#), and [Lundby](#). A report on the differences between each chamber is expected to be published early next week. To view the published report, please click [here](#).

Another policy item in the Standings Bill that IDPH is tracking would add a critical heart disease screening by pulse oximetry or other means as determined by rule to the newborn screening panel. Parents have the right to refuse the tests but physicians are required to otherwise conduct them. Providers are not required to report the results of the test until IDPH is provided with the funding necessary to establish the reporting requirement. So far, each chamber has this language included in their bill versions. The language can be found on pg 59, line 14 in the link to S-3218 above.

Health Reform

[SF 296](#) has been assigned to a Conference Committee. The members include Senators [Jochum](#) (Co-Chair), [Hatch](#), [Ragan](#), [Boettger](#), and [Johnson](#), and Representatives Rogers (Co-Chair), [Fry](#), [Heaton](#), [T. Olson](#), and [M. Smith](#).

- To view the Fiscal Note published by the LSA that describes the Senate’s plan for Medicaid Expansion, please click [here](#).
- To view the NOBA published by the LSA that describes the House’s plan for Health Reform that is based on the Governor’s Healthy Iowa Plan ([HSB 232](#)), please click [here](#).
- The Conference Committee has held two public meetings to date. To view materials provided to the Committee that compares each plan to the other, please click [here](#).

Actions by the Governor

- [HF 569](#): Requires licensure of professionals practicing addiction counseling or providing addiction prevention services by the [Iowa Board of Behavioral Science](#). This bill passed the House on March 27 by a vote of 95-0. The Senate Human Resources Committee passed the bill out on Thursday, April 4. This bill passed the Senate on Tuesday, April 9 by a vote of 39-11. **UPDATE:** *The Governor vetoed this legislation in its entirety on April 26. To view the veto letter that provides the rationale for this decision, click [here](#).*
- A point of clarification to make from the letter is that the department did not provide an estimate of 4.0 FTEs to implement the licensure of the professionals identified by this bill. One additional FTE was estimated to be needed in the year after licensure begins but was intended to be absorbed by the fees charged to licensees and not by an appropriation from the General Assembly.
- [SF 204](#): Relates to the process that a person can use to voluntarily ban themselves from gambling facilities. Currently, Iowa's self-exclusion option is for life. This bill provides different options. The first time a person considers self-exclusion, they will have the option of a ban for a five-year period or to ban themselves for life. After the first five years they will have the same options to consider. After the second five-year period is up, the only option the requestor will have is for life. This bill passed the Senate on March 19 by a vote of 46-2. It passed the House on April 8 by a vote of 78-19. **UPDATE:** *The Governor vetoed this legislation in its entirety on April 26. To view the veto letter that provides the rationale for this decision, click [here](#).*
- [SF 419](#): Requires that a vision screening be conducted on school children before they begin kindergarten and third grade. The bill provides for reporting requirements for parents and guardians, schools, and providers of the vision screenings. The bill clarifies that a child shall not be prohibited from attending school if such evidence is not provided. A list of options to satisfy the child vision screening requirement is also included. This bill passed the Senate on March 18 by a vote of 44-4 and the House on April 8 by a vote of 97-0. **UPDATE:** *The Governor signed this bill into law on April 26.*

Other Information

- To view the session timeline please click [here](#).
- The Iowa General Assembly website is a great source of legislative information. The address is www.legis.iowa.gov. Finding your legislator, committee members, photos of legislators and bills is easy. Please take some time to check it out.
- The Legislative Update is also posted on the IDPH website at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/legislative_updates.asp.
- To subscribe to the IDPH Legislative Update, please send a blank email to join-IDPHLEGUPDATE@lists.ia.gov