IDPH Legislative Update

Iowa Department of Public Health

April 30, 2012

The Sixteenth Week

The following are some highlights from the sixteenth week of the 2012 Session.

IDPH Legislative Package Update

- **The Technical/Omnibus Bill.** HF 2464, IDPH's annual technical bill, passed the Senate Chamber on Monday, April 23 by a vote of 49-0! The bill will now be enrolled and sent to the governor for his signature. It was a very long process and I want to thank Team Tech Bill for their time, patience, support, and assistance in the passage of this bill! These folks participated in five subcommittee meetings, two committee meetings, and answered many, many questions relating to their respective subject areas; I was the only one that complained!
- Team Tech Bill includes:
    - Melanie Rasmussen, Bureau Chief of Radiological Health
    - Randy Mayer, Bureau Chief of HIV, STD, & Hepatitis
    - Jerry Harms, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Coordinator
    - Barb Huey, Bureau Chief of Professional Licensure
    - Sharon Dozier, Board Executive for professional licensure
    - Jill France, Bureau Chief of Health Statistics

- To understand how a bill moves through the legislative process, click here.

Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

- SF 2336 is the Senate's version of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Bill. As expected the bill is now in conference committee. The members of the conference committee consist of legislators from each chamber and each party, they are:

    - Senators Jack Hatch, Amanda Ragan, Joe Bolkcom, David Johnson, and Robert Bacon
    - Representatives Dave Heaton, Linda Miller, Matt Windschitl, Lisa Heddens, and Beth Wessel-Kroeschell

    The Legislative Services Agency published a report to that explains the differences between the House and Senate HHS budget proposals. It does not include the items that the Senate and House have agreed on, only the differences. Please click here to see it. The conference committee met once on April 24 to elect Senator Hatch and Representative Heaton as the co-chairs of the committee.

Bill Highlights

- SF 2315 relates to redesign of publically funded mental health and disability services by requiring certain core services, addressing other services, and providing for establishment of regions. The bill passed out of the House Chamber on April 24 by a vote of 66-32 with an amendment for the Senate Chamber to either concur with or refuse. To review amendment S-5324 click here. This is the last of the policy bills. The funding for the mental health redesign will be in the HHS Appropriations Bill once that this decided.

- HF 2465 is known as the "Standings Bill." This bill passed out of the House Chamber by a vote of 59-40 on April 10 and passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on April 26. The committee adopted an amendment that replaced all of the language that passed the House Chamber. Amendment S-5236 does the following relating to IDPH:

- Removes the cap on the amount of birth registry fees that will go to the Center for Congenital and Inherited Disorders to maintain their registry as proposed by the House. This means that instead of a small of amount of funds going to the general fund once the cap is reached, 50 percent of all of the fees ($10 of a $20 fee) will go to the center.
- Directs IDPH to administer a request for proposal (RFP) to procure services for an Iowa Youth Suicide Prevention Program. Provisions for the RFP are included in the bill language as well as an appropriation for $137,000.
- Requires each state department to provide a special webpage for their administrative rules that is user friendly for the public and provides for a description of the process for promulgating rules.
- Designates membership of a staff person from the IDPH Emergency Medical Services Bureau to participate in a Public Safety Training and Facilities Task Force that will be convened by the Department of Public Safety.

Sent to the Governor

- Once a bill passes both chambers it must be reviewed once more for minor errors and then signed by both the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House. It is then considered an "enrolled bill" and is sent to the governor for his consideration. The governor can sign or veto a policy bill. He or she can line item veto sections of bills with appropriations in it. The enrolled bill formatting looks more formal and does not have page and line numbers.
- SF 2338 (formerly HF 2449) is the government operations and efficiencies bill. It passed the Senate Chamber on April 19 by a vote of 47-0 and the House Chamber on April 25 by a vote of 93-0. Provisions of this bill include but are not limited to the following:
    - Several directives to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS):
        - Conduct an inventory of information technology devices with the goal of identifying possible cost reductions.
        - Conduct an analysis of state employee workstations and office standards.
        - Codify the medication therapy management pilot program into an ongoing program for eligible state employees.
    - Addresses regular review of programs and projects administered by executive branch departments by the State Government Efficiency Review Committee.
    - Eliminates the Iowa Jobs Board and transfers its duties to the Iowa Finance Authority.
    - Eliminates the E911 Communications Council and transfers its duties to the State Interoperable Communications Systems Board.
    - Adds legislative intent language to include provisions to establish a homeland security and emergency management department that is separate from the Iowa Department of Public Defense.

Signed by the Governor

- HF 2458 is a bill that establishes a rural Iowa primary care loan repayment program and trust fund to be administrated by the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. It passed out of the House Chamber by a vote of 96-0 on April 9 and passed the Senate Chamber by a vote of 47-0 on April 19. Governor Branstad signed the bill into law on Friday, April 27.
- SF 2322 provides a $50 individual income tax credit for volunteer fire fighters and emergency medical services personnel. A Fiscal Note was published by the Legislative Services Agency on March 26. It passed the Senate Chamber by a vote of 50-0 on March 26 and the House

Chamber by a vote of 96-1 on April 17. Governor Branstad signed the bill into law on Friday, April 27.

- SF 2333 is a bill that provides for a sales tax exemption for the sale of tangible personal property or services to substance abuse treatment or prevention programs that receive block funding from IDPH. A Fiscal Note was published by the Legislative Services Agency on March 29. SF 2333 passed the Senate Chamber by a vote of 49-0 on April 9 and the House Chamber by a vote of 94-0 on April 11. Governor Branstad signed the bill into law on Friday, April 27.
- SF 364 relates to the licensure of orthotists, prosthetists, and pedorthists under the existing Board of Podiatry. It passed the Senate Chamber last session by a vote of 37-12 on March 14 and the House Chamber this session by a vote of 93-0 on April 11. Funding of $50,000 is provided in the current version of the HHS appropriations bill, SF 2336. Governor Branstad signed the bill into law on Friday, April 27.

Other Information

- The IDPH 2011 Annual Report and Budget Summary has been published! This report provides audiences with general information about the many program areas that IDPH is involved in, how that work is funded, and the results that are achieved. To view the report, please click here.
- The Iowa General Assembly website is a great source of legislative information. The address is www.legis.iowa.gov. It's easy to find your legislator, get information on committee members, view photos of legislators, and access bills. Please take some time to check it out.
- Did you know you can listen to the chamber floor debates? You can also watch the floor debates in the House chamber. Click here for more information. To view the daily debate calendars for each chamber click on the home page link in the paragraph above and then click on the "Tentative Senate Debate Calendar" or "Tentative House Debate Calendar" above the Senate and House floor action windows.

Information on the Legislative Update

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