

IDPH Legislative Update
Iowa Department of Public Health
March 13, 2012

The Ninth Week

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

IDPH Legislative Package Update

- **The IHIN Bills.** The department's e-Health/Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN) legislation, [HF 2283](#) is still in the [House Ways and Means Standing Committee](#). It has been assigned to a subcommittee of Representatives Helland, Paustian, and Petersen. IDPH staff have met and discussed the bill with Representative Helland and have forwarded information to Reps. Paustian and Petersen. As of this writing, a subcommittee meeting has not been scheduled.

The companion bill in the Senate, [SF 2166](#), was also referred to the [Ways and Means Committee](#). The bill passed out of the committee unanimously on March 7. We appreciate the positive response by the Senators on the committee.

Since they were considered in the Ways and Means Committees, each bill is considered funnel proof for the second funnel scheduled for March 17. There are many exemptions to the funnel rule and bills in this committee is one.

A fiscal note was published by the [Legislative Services Agency](#) to discuss the fiscal components of the legislation. To read the fiscal note, click [here](#).

- **The Technical/Omnibus Bill.** [HF 2420](#), IDPH's annual technical bill, has yet to be placed on the debate calendar. In order to survive the second funnel it will need to pass the House Chamber and the Senate Human Resources Committee by the end of next week. The Senate committee is scheduled to meet three times next week. It will be stressful but I am optimistic that the work we have put into the bill will not be in vain!
- To understand how a bill moves through the legislative process, click [here](#).
- **Other Committee Work.**
 - To see the agendas and minutes for Senate Human Resources, please click [here](#).
 - To see the agendas and minutes for House Human Resources, please click [here](#).

Bill Highlights

- [HF 2368](#) that provides for the issuance of a certificate of birth resulting in a stillbirth and provides for a fee for IDPH to retain to cover the costs, passed the House Chamber by a vote of 98-0 on March 7. It is now in Senate Human Resources and has been assigned to a subcommittee of Senators Bolkcom, Hatch, and Bacon.
- [SF 2247](#) relating to terminology changes in Iowa Code references to mental retardation passed the Senate Chamber by a vote of 50-0 on February 28. On March 6, it passed the House Chamber by a vote of 96-0. Its companion bill, HF 2344 was withdrawn from further consideration. It will now be enrolled and sent to the Governor's Office for his consideration.
- [SF 2312](#) relating to persons with mental health illnesses and substance-related disorders passed the Senate Chamber by a vote of 49-0 on March 5.
- [SF 2270](#) that directs IDPH to develop and administer a state comprehensive Alzheimer's disease response strategy passed the Senate by a vote of 44-6 on March 5. The bill does not provide any funding but requires IDPH to establish a dedicated full-time coordinator position to do the following:

- Formulate and update a comprehensive Alzheimer's disease response strategy.
 - Coordinate a public awareness and education campaign with public and private partners.
 - Lead and coordinate data collection efforts and become the clearinghouse of information regarding the disease.
 - Coordinate efforts to expand access to services.
 - Address workforce challenges specific to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.
 - Act as liaison to the Area Agencies on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers under the purview of the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA).
 - Convene a multidisciplinary advisory council in partnership with private entities.
- [SF 2275](#) that authorizes limited Internet gambling in Iowa was the topic of a [Fiscal Note](#) that was published by the Legislative Services Agency on March 7.
 - [SF 2289](#) relating to the Iowa Disaster Aid Individual Assistance Grant Program (administered by the Department of Human Services) passed out of the Senate by a vote of 49-0 on March 5. It is now in the House Human Resources Committee.

House Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

- The Health and Human Services (HHS) appropriations bill provides [HF 2435](#) general fund and other funds appropriations to IDPH, the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department on Aging (IDA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs and Iowa Veterans Home. It is not clear when the bill will be debated in the House however the minority party has been very busy filing amendments to restore funding to various programs. If you click on the link for the bill, you can see a drop down list of the amendments on the left side of your screen.

There were no amendments to the bill by the committee therefore no changes have been made to the summary below. The LSA has published their [Notes on Bills and Amendments \(NOBA\)](#) that provides a section-by-section analysis of the bill for those of us who did not attend law school. It is an incredibly useful tool! To reiterate, summaries for HSB 661 are still relevant to HF 2435.

- The following summary has not changed from previous Legislative Updates. IDPH's general fund budget was reduced by \$3.8 million total compared to the budget for FY 2012 and the governor's recommendations for FY 2013. This is a total reduction of 8.12%. Each division director will be compiling information in an effort to help legislators understand the impact of the reductions on the services to Iowans. IDPH would like to see all of the reductions restored to the Governor's recommendations for FY 2013.
- The reductions are delineated as follows and more details have been added:
 - Each budget unit, the with exception of Healthy Aging which provides for local public health nursing and home care aide services, received at least a general reduction for printing, postage, communications, information technology, and office supply savings. This is a total reduction of \$435,016 to the IDPH general fund budget. The reductions are required to be applied evenly to each program.
 - The \$2.8 million in general funds for the Division of Tobacco Use, Prevention, and Control have been eliminated.
 - The \$12,500 of one-time funding for the 2011 task force relating to epilepsy has been eliminated.

- The funding for the [Prescription Drug Repository Program](#) has been reduced by \$29,937 for a total allocation of \$100,000.
- The allocation to the Iowa Primary Care Association to administer the [Iowa Safety Net Collaborative Grant Program](#) has been reduced by \$62,580 for a total allocation of \$70,000.
- The general funds for the programming relating to direct care workers has been eliminated. However, funding of \$149,000 will be provided to IDPH for the [Direct Care Worker Advisory Council](#) from the fines collected by DHS from nursing facilities. This represents status quo funding for the council. Funding that is passed through IDPH to the [Iowa Caregivers Association](#) for statewide training and conference subsidies has been eliminated.
- Funding from the Health Care Transformation Account (HCTA) for the [Medical Home and Prevention and Chronic Care Management Advisory Council](#) and the [Health and Long-Term Care Access Advisory Council](#) of \$233,357 and \$100,000 respectively was eliminated.
- Several areas of the IDPH budget are also impacted by contracts we hold with DHS. Reductions are summarized below:
 - There is funding from the medical contracts budget line item for DHS that provides funding for contracts with IDPH for the Early Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment ([EPSDT](#)) Program and Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) agencies outreach. Reductions to this funding are estimated to result in a 9.0% decrease of these contracts.
 - Funding for [Hawk-i](#) outreach has also been eliminated in the amount of \$128,950. IDPH has held a contract for services and received at least \$64,745 of this funding.
- The Iowa Health Information Network (IHIN) funding is estimated by DHS to be reduced by \$1.15 million (20.0%) due to reductions to the Medicaid budget. The Iowa Medicaid Enterprise ([IME](#)) is receiving \$9 for every \$1 that the state matches to drawn down funding for the IHIN project.
- To view the general funds budget spreadsheet prepared by the Legislative Services Agency, please click [here](#).
- To view the other funds budget spreadsheet prepared by the Legislative Services Agency, please click [here](#).

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

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.