

## [The Sixth Week](#)

Here are some highlights from the week:

### [IDPH Legislative Package](#)

- On February 13, the Senate version of IDPH's technical bill, [SSB 1016](#), passed out of the Senate Human Resources Committee with one amendment to remove the first division of the bill that repeals references to Organized Delivery Systems (ODS). The amendment was expected. Opponents of removing ODS from the Iowa Code believe it may offer some options to organizations as implementation of the Affordable Care Act continues. The opponents understood the logic behind IDPH's proposal but felt the timing was not right. The vote was unanimously in favor of passage and this bill has officially made it past the first funnel. It has been given a new bill number, [SF 202](#). The next step is debate in the full Senate Chamber.

A companion bill, [HSB 45](#), was introduced in the House on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was assigned to a subcommittee of Representatives [Rob Bacon](#), [Sally Stutsman](#), and [Rob Taylor](#). The subcommittee met on Monday, February 4 in the House Lobby Lounge and was prepared to make the same recommendation to remove the first division of the bill.

However, members of the House Republican caucus are also considering an amendment to remove Division V of the bill that provides access to Iowa's [Quitline](#) counseling services for youth under the age of 18 without permission from a parent or guardian. IDPH will continue to provide information to legislators in an effort to keep this very important provision in the bill. The department believes it is important to support youth who are exhibiting a personal interest in changing unhealthy behaviors by seeking information from the Iowa Quitline [Quit Coaches®](#).

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

### [Bill Highlights](#)

- [HSB 122](#) and [SSB 1159](#) relate to vision screening for school children. This legislation is the result of a collaborative effort from various stakeholders, led by Dr. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Director of IDPH, over the 2012 interim. Bill subcommittees were held in each chamber where the collaboration continued as amendments were offered on the bill. Each of these bills could be passed out of their respective Human Resources Committees as early as this week.
- [SSB 1107](#) eliminates the exception under Iowa's Smoke Free Air Act that permits smoking on gaming floors. If the bill passes, an entire casino would have to become smoke-free. A bill subcommittee was held on Tuesday, February 12 in the Senate Lounge. A large audience attended and a few people spoke both in favor and in opposition of the bill. A second bill subcommittee will be held, but has not been scheduled as of this writing.
- [SF 204](#) (formerly SF 28) 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, as passed by the Senate State Government Committee on Wednesday, February 13, would provide 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. Mark Vander Linden, Executive Officer of the IDPH [Office of Gambling Treatment and Prevention](#) provided the following report that evaluates self-exclusion as an intervention for problem gambling. To view the report, please click [here](#).

### [Legislative Committee Work](#)

- Sonni Vierling, State Coordinator for the [1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative](#) presented to the HHS subcommittee on Monday, February 18. She provided the subcommittee members with an

overview of the initiative. Legislators are interested in learning about the 1<sup>st</sup> Five Program as they make decisions regarding the structure of a children's mental health system in Iowa.

- Erin Drinnin, Project Manager for the [Direct Care Workforce Initiative](#), presented to the HHS subcommittee on Wednesday, February 20. She provided an overview of the initiative and the federal Personal and Home Care Aid State Training (PHCAST) grant that IDPH received in the fall of 2010. She and other invited presenters also discussed the work of the [Direct Care Worker Advisory Council](#).
- The Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee (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](#).
- To view the House and Senate Human Resources Committee agendas for February 11 and 13 please click [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.

### [Other Information](#)

- Mark Your Calendar. 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](http://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](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/legislative_updates.asp).
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