

**IDPH Legislative Update**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health**  
**April 23, 2012**

**The Fifteenth Week**

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

**IDPH Legislative Package Update**

- **The Technical/Omnibus Bill.** [HF 2464](#), (formerly HF 2420), IDPH's annual technical bill, passed the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday, April 18 with no amendments added. The next stop is the Senate floor and the last opportunity to add new amendments. IDPH will continue to ask that legislators refrain from adding anything that could potentially cause the bill to die in the House Chamber.
- 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 Appropriations Bill. It was amended by the House Chamber with [H-8464](#). The Senate refused to concur with the House amendment and the expectation is that the House will insist on its changes. That will then send the bill into a conference committee. The House amendment made several concessions compared to the house file that was first to be introduced:
  - The \$3.3 million in general funds for the Division of Tobacco Use, Prevention, and Control were restored. This is status quo from FY 2012 for FY 2013. A supplemental appropriation for FY 2012 was provided for a shortfall in funding for [Quitline Iowa](#).
  - 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 restored.
  - Funding for [Hawk-i](#) outreach has been restored in the amount of \$128,950. IDPH has held a contract for services and receives at least \$64,745 of this funding annually.

IDPH still has concerns over the following items that do not appear to have changed in the House amendment:

- Each IDPH 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.
- 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.
- 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 draw down funding for the IHIN project.
  - There is funding from the medical contracts budget line item for DHS that provides funding for contracts with IDPH for the [EPSDT](#) Program and

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 draw down funding for the IHIN project.

## Conference Committees

- When the House and Senate Chambers are unable to reach an agreement through the typical bill process for what a piece of legislation should look like they can either let the bill die or they use the conference committee process. Each chamber appoints approximately five of its members (some from each party) to the conference committee to serve as the negotiations team. The Legislative Services Agency facilitates the process and eventually a compromise is worked out. I'm simplifying this of course, because there are several parameters that the negotiations must adhere to such as, negotiations can only occur on what is presently in the bill. In other words no additional language may be considered. This has been the usual procedure for the appropriations bill during these tough economic years. To sign up to receive notices for the time and location of conference committees, click [here](#).

The following are bills of interest to IDPH that have been assigned to conference committees:

- [SF 2284](#) is the education reform bill. IDPH is slotted as a member of a cross-agency assessment instrument planning group in section 44 and we are also monitoring the tobacco free schools language in division four of the bill.
- [SF 2321](#) is the Senate Education Appropriations Bill. IDPH is collaborating on an effort to promote voluntary home visiting and group-based parent education that target families with children aged 0 to 5 years old. The bill directs state general funds that are used for home visitation programming to be expended on programs that are considered 'promising practices' or 'evidence-based.' The language provides for a phased in approach over the next four years and maintains innovation and local control. Language is also included in the Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill for the [HOPES Program](#).

## 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.
- [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. It will now be enrolled and then sent to the governor for his consideration.
- [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. It has been enrolled and sent to the governor for his consideration.
- [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. Its next stop is the governor's office for his consideration of the bill.

- [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. It will now be sent to the governor for his consideration.

### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:join-IDPHLEGUPDATE@lists.ia.gov).