

The Fourth Week

Here are some highlights from the week:

IDPH Legislative Package

- The Senate version of IDPH's technical bill, [SSB 1016](#), was introduced on January 15th. The subcommittee of Senators [Mary Jo Wilhelm](#) (chair), [Herman Quirmbach](#), and [Nancy Boettger](#) will recommend passage to the full Senate Human Resources Committee with at least one amendment. The amendment will remove the first division of the bill that repeals references to Organized Delivery Systems (ODS). Opponents of removing ODS' from the Iowa Code believe that 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.

A companion bill, [HSB 45](#), was introduced in the House on January 23rd. It was assigned to a subcommittee of Representatives [Rob Bacon](#), [Sally Stutsman](#), and [Rob Taylor](#). The subcommittee met on Monday, February 4th at 12:30pm in the House Lobby Lounge and decided to provide the same recommendations to the full House Human Resources Committee as the Senators will make.

Each of these bills may be taken up by each chamber's human resources committee as early as Wednesday of this week!

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

Bill Highlights

- Radon. Staff from IDPH have attended two subcommittees for bills that relate to testing and mitigation of radon in specified buildings. [SF 49](#) requires public and private schools to test for radon every two years. The bill specifies the actions that must be taken by a school's authorities if radon levels are found to be higher than recommended levels. The mitigation must occur within a specified time period. IDPH is required to promulgate administrative rules jointly with the Department of Education to implement the bill. IDPH also anticipates an increase in technical assistance to the public, schools, and the professionals that test for and mitigate radon. [SSB 1007](#) includes similar requirements for Iowa's schools but is more comprehensive. The bill provides for radon control standards in residential construction and provides for an income tax credit for certain radon mitigation and abatement costs. IDPH is charged with approving tax credit certificates that Iowans will provide to the Department of Revenue. IDPH is also charged with administering an education fund and program by retaining fees charged to professionals that test for radon and the professionals that mitigate buildings with high radon levels.

Radon is a natural radioactive gas and prolonged indoor exposure has been identified as a potential cause of lung cancer. Currently, IDPH's [radon program](#) includes an education program for the public, especially homeowner's and potential buyers, and health care providers. [Local county public health agencies](#) can facilitate the purchase of a do-it-yourself, low-cost test kit for homeowners. The department also certifies persons who perform radon testing or mitigation and laboratories that provide radon testing devices. The department charges fees for this certification that are deposited directly into the general fund. Support for the program is currently provided by an Environmental Protection Agency grant. However the future of this grant remains uncertain under the current climate surrounding the federal budget.

Legislative Committee Work

- On Wednesday, February 6th, Dr. Miller-Meeks, Director of IDPH, presented to the [Senate State Government Committee](#) on the regulatory functions of the department, specifically licensure of certain professions. The state government committees in each chamber handle most of the licensure bills that are proposed during session. The presentation provided a great opportunity to educate legislators about the spectrum of responsibilities under IDPH. The Senators appreciated the information and asked great questions relating to current and past licensure bills that they have worked on.

Currently IDPH is closely monitoring three licensure bills. Two are companion bills that relate to the licensure of polysomnographic technologists ([HSB 59/SSB 1091](#)). The bills would add these professionals to the purview of the [Board of Respiratory Care](#) within the [IDPH Bureau of Professional Licensure](#). The third bill provides additional directives to assist with the continued implementation of SF 364 from the 2012 session that added persons offering orthotic, prosthetic, and pedorthic services, to the purview of the Board of Podiatry ([HF 166/SF 150](#)). The Governor has recommended a general fund appropriation of \$29,000 for FY 2014 for software adjustments relating to licensure of these new professionals as well.

- The Health and Human Services Joint Appropriations Subcommittee 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 4th and 6th 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 . Finding your legislator, committee members, photos of legislators and bills is easy to locate. Please take some time to check it out.
- The Legislative Update is also posted on the IDPH website at 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