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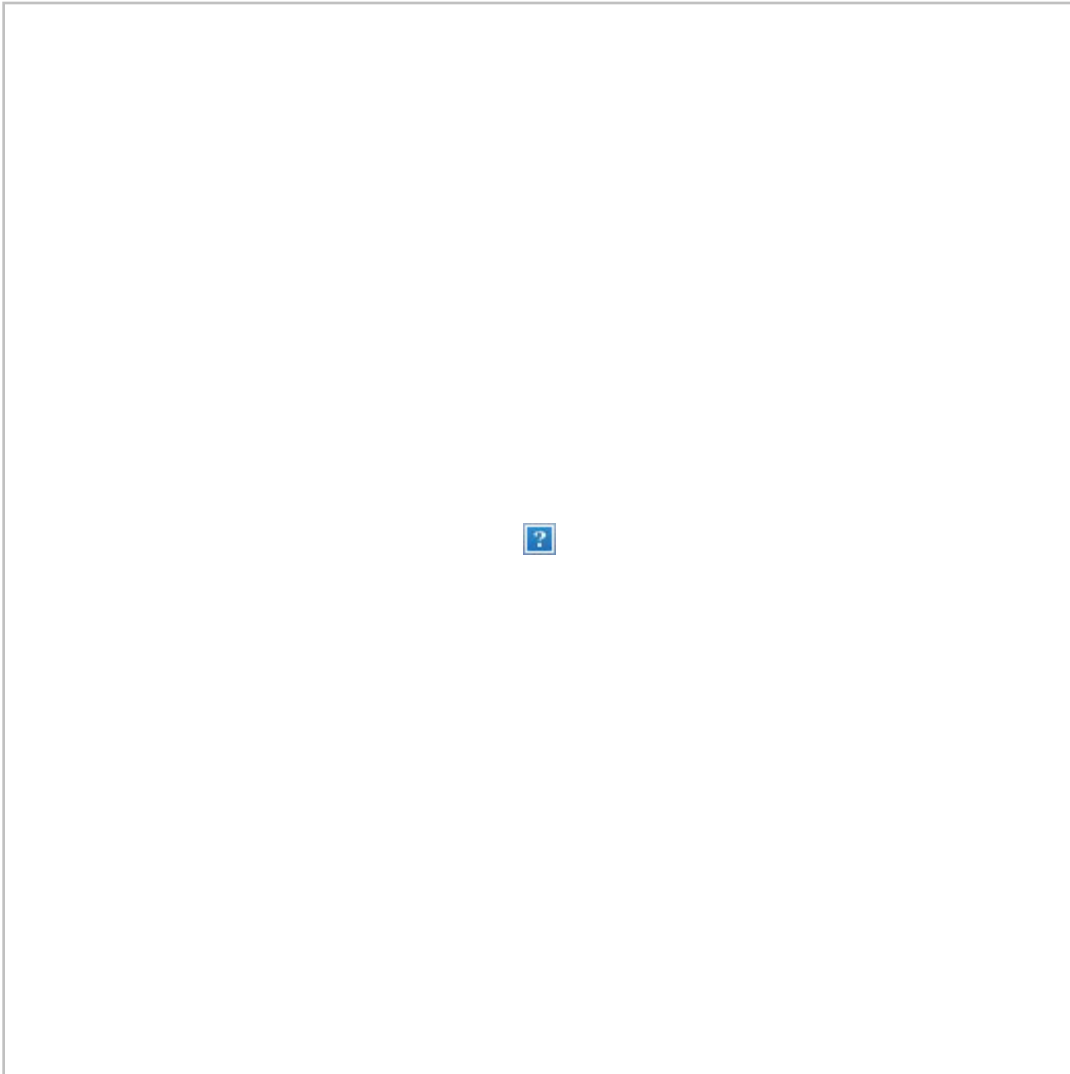
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Budget bills start being released in week 13

Week 13 of the legislative session has seen a stark contrast to the preceding weeks. Legislators had few committee and subcommittee meetings and spent most of their time either in floor debate or working to develop budget bills. Each of the budget bills has been introduced except for the Health and Human Services budget. The Iowa Hospital Association expects this budget bill will be made public sometime next week.

Though the legislative session is starting to show signs of ending, the Iowa Hospital Association is pushing hospital priorities including payment parity for mental health services provided through telehealth, easing the process for emergency medical services to be declared an essential service and medical malpractice reform. See updates on each of these issues below.



Telehealth needs continued advocacy

As reported in the last week's Legislative Bulletin, telehealth survived the second funnel thanks to the efforts of the House Human Resources Committee. The bill now is attached to [Senate File 524](#), which concerns inpatient bed tracking.

As a reminder, the telehealth bill will provide payment parity for behavioral health telehealth services despite the patient's location.

Please continue to advocate for this important policy. Members of the House are fully supportive of

telehealth, but significant resistance remains in the Senate. This bill still has a large hurdle to survive and pass in the coming weeks.

EMS shows signs of life following second funnel

Despite strong advocacy efforts, legislation easing the process for counties and emergency medical service districts to declare EMS an essential service ([House File 562](#)) did not survive the second funnel deadline as it was originally introduced. It does not appear the issue is forgotten.

Legislators in both chambers are working together to try to produce a new bill that could be supported in both chambers. The details of this new legislation have not been released yet but are expected soon. The Iowa Hospital Association thanks Rep. Bobby Kaufmann and the rest of the House for continuing to make EMS a priority for this session. The Iowa Hospital Association will continue to follow these developments and provide updates.

Tort reform is hanging by a thread

The tort reform bill, [House File 592](#), survived second funnel. Although it is still on the House debate calendar, there is no clear indication of when or if it will be debated. We encourage you to continue your grassroots efforts to let the House know how important tort reform is for hospitals. This bill could come down to the wire.

Governor's desk fills with new bills

Both the House and the Senate were busy this week, debating several bills that now have moved onto Gov. Kim Reynolds' desk. Four bills went to the governor Tuesday, including [House File 848](#) (broadband grants). On Wednesday, the Senate concentrated on moving noncontroversial bills and sent more than 24 bills to the governor with mostly unanimous votes. The House only debated a handful of bills, sending four bills to the governor and three bills to the Senate.



Listen to IHA's Capitol Update

The Iowa Hospital Association knows the importance of updates coming from the Capitol and works to provide easy ways to access that information. Iowa Hospital Association members now have a convenient way to stay up to date about advocacy issues with the Iowa Hospital Association Capitol Update.

Capitol Update can be accessed through a Zoom video recording or audio-only version:

- [Podcast Link](#)
- [Vodcast Link](#)

Questions can be emailed to [Joah Hogan](#) at the Iowa Hospital Association.

Legislative forums scheduled

Meeting with legislators while they're in their home districts is a great way to advocate for issues you care about. Check the list below of upcoming legislative events. Some of these events are virtual and others are in person.

Saturday, April 10

- 9-10:30 am, Creston Legislative Coffee with area legislators, [Virtual Link](#).
- 9-10 am, Altoona Coffee Chat with Rep. Nunn and Rep. Lohse, [Virtual Link](#).
- 10-11 am, Carroll Legislative Forum with Sen. Williams and Rep. Best, [Virtual Link](#).
- 1-2 pm, Estherville Legislative Forum with Sen. Guth, [Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative](#), Estherville.

Monday, April 12

- 8-10:30 am, Marti's Morning Coffee with Rep. Marti Andersen, [Grounds for Celebration](#), Des Moines.

Wednesday, April 14

- 5-6 pm, Mason City Town Hall with Sen. Ragan and Rep. Steckman, [Virtual Registration Link](#).

Saturday, April 17

- 7:30-9 am, Jefferson County Legislative Forum with area legislators, [Virtual Link](#).
- 9-10 am, Linn County Town Hall with Sen. Mathis, Rep. Donahue, and Rep. Gjerde, [Virtual Link](#).
- 9:30-11 am, Clinton/DeWitt Legislative Coffee with Sen. Cournoyer, Rep. Mommsen and Rep. Wolfe, [Virtual Link](#).
- 10-11 am, Shelby County Legislative Coffee with Sen. Schultz and Rep. Holt, [Chamber of Commerce](#), Harlan.
- 10:30-Noon, Quad Cities Legislative Forum with area legislators [Virtual Link](#).

Monday, April 19

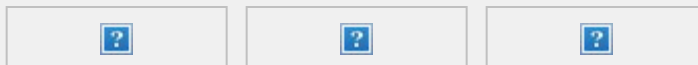
- 8-10:30 am, Marti's Morning Coffee with Rep. Marti Andersen, [Grounds for Celebration](#), Des Moines.

How to stay in the know

Throughout legislative session, the Iowa Hospital Association has developed several ways to keep you informed. Stay tuned throughout session for weekly editions of Legislative Bulletin, biweekly Capitol Update, IHA's Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account (web addresses are below). The Iowa Hospital Association also will mobilize hospital advocates through action alerts when legislators need to hear about hospital issues. **Advocates can sign up for email or text message IHA action alerts at <https://www.ihaonline.org/advocacy/iha-hospital-action-network/>.**

Links to bookmark:

- [IHA's bill tracker](#)
- [Facebook page](#)
- [Twitter account](#)
- [LinkedIn account](#)
- [Legislator contact information](#)



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