

Click [here](#) to view this email in your browser.



---

## IN THIS ISSUE

- [Floor debate increases in week nine of legislative session](#)
- [Some hospital priorities bottlenecked](#)
- [Listen to IHA's Capitol Update](#)
- [How to stay in the know](#)

---

### Floor debate increases in week nine of legislative session

Week nine of the legislative session saw a noticeable decline in the number of subcommittee and committee meetings and a significant increase in the amount of floor debate in both chambers. This trend is expected as the second funnel approaches Friday April 2. Starting next week, legislators will likely start having more subcommittee meetings.

Here is a summary of the hospital issues discussed during floor debate this week:

- **Telehealth:** On Monday, [House File 294](#), legislation for [telehealth payment parity](#), was approved by the House with a vote of 95-1. HF 294 would require health carriers to reimburse providers at the same rate and in the same manner for mental health services provided through telehealth as if the service was provided in person. The bill has now moved to the Senate where it has been assigned to a subcommittee of the Human Resources Committee. [The Iowa Hospital Association](#) remains in strong support of the legislation and will continue advocating for its consideration.
- **Medicaid overpayments:** Legislation on recoupment of Medicaid overpayments, [House File 736](#), was on Thursday's debate calendar in the House. HF 736 would prohibit any recoupment of overpayment of claims for Medicaid fee for service or Medicaid managed care beyond 24 months of when the claim paid. This bill remains eligible for floor debate and could be voted on early next week.
- **Surgical smoke:** [House File 783](#) would require hospital and surgical centers to adopt policies to eliminate surgical smoke using evacuation systems and was debated this week in the House. The bill passed 94-2. It now moves to the Senate.
- **Broadband:** [House File 796](#), the governor's broadband bill, made it out of both subcommittee and full committees this week and is on the House debate calendar. The bill aims to provide expanded broadband access statewide by offering broadband grants, among other things. HF 796 would require 20% of grants to be in hard-to-serve areas with no high-speed providers as well as meet speed criteria. It also strikes provisions prohibiting grants after July 2025.
- **Medicaid administrative days:** Legislation that would require a study by the [Department of Human Services](#) to determine the feasibility of providing Medicaid reimbursement to

link.ihaonline.org/m/1/42467087/02-b21072-e0df84955b554d20bda723437b4daa9b/1/500/aa085b54-9776-46de-b21c-2c9a0f00ff22  
[Human Services](#) to determine the feasibility of providing Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals for administrative days, [Senate File 462](#), passed unanimously through the Senate this week. The bill will now go to the House for review. SF 462 now would require a study to determine an appropriate rate. The Iowa Hospital Association is working behind the scenes to determine an adequate rate to substitute the study language in the bill.

- **Psychiatric bed tracking:** A bill in the Senate about inpatient psychiatric bed tracking, [Senate File 524](#), passed unanimously out of the Senate this week and now will be reviewed in the House. SF 524 would require the Department of Human Services to convene a study committee to examine issues and develop policy recommendations to improve the inpatient psychiatric bed-tracking system. Among the issues the study group will investigate are expanding the acuity of disabilities hospitals can accept in their programs, increasing reimbursement rates based on the level of care provided and implementing enhancements to the bed-tracking system to accept and report real-time electronic data from the system's participating entities.



## 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 on advocacy issues with the Iowa Hospital Association Capitol Update.

Capitol Update can be accessed through video or audio-only recordings.

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

Questions can be emailed to [Joah Hogan](#) at IHA.

## Some hospital priorities bottlenecked

Although several bills made their way across the rotunda this week, three bills have become bottlenecked on one side of the Legislature.

[Senate File 557](#), legislation on [tort reform](#), which increases the cap for noneconomic damages against a health provider to \$1 million, was introduced last week and moved quickly through the subcommittee and full-committee processes before moving to the debate calendar. It is expected to easily pass out of the Senate, but a similar bill, [House File 592](#), is eligible for debate in the House. At this time, HF 592 does not appear to not have the votes needed to pass.

Last week, [House File 562](#), which eases the path to declare [emergency medical services as an essential service](#), received unanimous support in the House but appears to be stalled in the Senate. It has been assigned to a subcommittee in the Senate State Government Committee, but a subcommittee meeting hasn't been set at this time. The Iowa Hospital Association is working hard to connect with members of that committee to gain their support to move the bill forward.

On Monday, [House File 294](#), a bill for telehealth reimbursements for mental health services, passed

link.ihaonline.org/m/1/42467087/02-b21072-e0df84955b554d20bda723437b4daa9b/1/500/aa085b54-9776-46de-b21c-2c9a0f00ff22  
out of the House with a vote of 95-1 and headed to the Senate. This bill has yet to be set for  
subcommittee, and the Iowa Hospital Association is hearing concerns that this bill may not make it  
out of committee.

**IHA will likely issuing VoterVoice action alerts about these priorities in the coming weeks.  
We encourage advocates to promptly respond to these alerts as each of these issues may  
need grassroots help to keep these bills moving forward.**

---

## 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 Updates, IHA's Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account (web addresses are below). The Iowa Hospital Association also will mobilize hospital advocates through VoterVoice action alerts when legislators need to hear about hospital issues. **Advocates can sign up for email or text message VoterVoice 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](#)



100 EAST GRAND, SUITE 100, DES MOINES, IA 50309-1835 | P 515.288.1955 F 515.283.9366 |  
WWW.IHAONLINE.ORG