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Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Week No. 7 summary

After the first legislative funnel last week, both chambers saw more floor debate this week. This included a bill that would allow, but not require, compensation for county hospital trustees. Current law allows for reimbursement of expenses, but does not allow for compensation.

[House File 2428](#) passed the House floor nearly unanimously and is making its way to the Senate. This bill will give county hospitals the option to reimburse volunteers if they want. Next week, [House File 2521](#), health care employment agencies, is scheduled to hit the House floor. This legislation requires health care employment agencies to register with the Department of Inspections and Appeals and provide more price transparency.

Thank you for your quick responses to the IHA action alerts about tort reform and the certificate-of-need process. There have been more than 100 messages about each topic sent to legislators. This means the hospital perspective is heard. If you have not yet responded to the action alerts, click [HERE](#) for the tort reform alert and [HERE](#) for the certificate-of-need process alert.

LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE

Legislation on the move

**Indicates bill that survived the second funnel*

Last Dollar Scholarship - [HF 2165](#)

What the bill does: Expands the eligibility of the Future Ready Iowa Skilled Workforce Last-Dollar Scholarship to part-time students.

Sponsor: College Study Aid Commission.

Status: On the House debate calendar.

IHA position: IHA is supportive of programs that support recruitment and retention efforts for the health care workforce.

Mental health loan repayments - [HF 2137](#)

What the bill does: Creates a prescribing mental health professional loan-repayment program in the College Student Aid Commission.

Sponsor: [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed a House Appropriations Subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA supports efforts to expand the health care workforce.

Psychiatric residencies - [HF 2529](#)

What the bill does: Creates a state-funded psychiatric residency program at the state mental health institutes and the Iowa Medical and Classification Center at Oakdale, and makes appropriations.

Sponsor: [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed the House Appropriations Committee.

IHA position: IHA supports legislative efforts that expand behavioral health resources in Iowa.

Provisional psychologists - [HF 2246](#)

What the bill does: Allows the Board of Psychology to give doctoral psychology students a two-year provisional license during the student's internship and authorizes them to practice under the supervision of a licensed psychologist.

Sponsor: [Rep. Joel Fry](#) (R-Osceola) and [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed the House 97-1 and goes to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Health worker employment agencies - [HF 2371](#)

What the bill does: Requires health care employment agencies to register with the Department of Inspections and Appeals and establishes fees defining the agencies. The bill also requires the agency to make employees comply with the requirements and qualifications for health care workers.

Sponsor: [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed the House Ways and Means Committee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Prior authorizations - [HF 2399](#)

What the bill does: Prohibits a utilization review committee from limiting or revoking a prior authorization after the health care service was provided and requires the provider be reimbursed at the contracted rate.

Sponsor: [Rep. Shannon Lundgren](#) (R-Peosta).

Status: Passed the House 97-0 and goes to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA supports this bill because it streamlines the prior-authorization process.

Tiered psychiatric reimbursements - [HF 2125](#)

What the bill does: Reimburses psychiatric intensive inpatient care under the Medicaid program.

Sponsor: [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed a House Appropriations Subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA is supportive of expanding behavioral health services for patients with highly complex needs.

Pharmacy matters - [HF 2169](#)

What the bill does: Allows registered nurses to give immunizations and vaccines under the order of a pharmacist using state protocols without a registration from the Board of Pharmacy.

Sponsor: Board of Pharmacy.

Status: Passed the House 94-1 and goes to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Physician assistant duties - [HF 803](#)

What the bill does: Adds additional duties that may be performed by physician assistants.

Sponsor: [Rep. Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed the Senate State Government Committee.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Health care facility violations - [HF 2172](#)

What the bill does: Updates rule citations for self-reported violations by health care facilities.

Sponsor: Department of Inspections and Appeals.

Status: Passed the House 95-0 and goes to the Senate.

IHA position: IHA is monitoring this bill and assessing the impact for hospitals.

Midwife licensing - [HF 2291](#)

What the bill does: Requires practicing midwives to hold a license by July 2023, establishes requirements and a board, and limits the liability of health care providers who accept transfers of patients from midwives.

Sponsor: [Rep. Bobby Kaufmann](#) (R-Wilton).

Status: Passed a House Ways and Means Subcommittee.

IHA position: IHA does not support this bill because of safety and quality concerns.



CAPITOL UPDATE

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. 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 a vodcast or podcast version.

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

Email [Joah Hogan](#) at IHA with questions.



LEGISLATIVE FORUMS

Legislative forums scheduled

Meeting with legislators while they're in their home districts is a great way to advocate for issues hospital advocates care about. Check the list below of legislative events for the next two weeks. Some are in person and those that are virtual include the event link.

Saturday, Feb. 26

- 8-9:30 a.m. - Sully Legislative Coffee, Sully City Hall.
- 8-9:30 a.m. - Rock Rapids Eggs and Issues Forum, Frontier Bank Basement.
- 8:30-10 a.m. - Fort Dodge Eggs and Issues Legislative Forum, Iowa Central Community College BHS Auditorium.
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Oskaloosa Eggs and Issues Forum, Smokey Row Coffee.
- 9-10 a.m. - Clinton Legislative Coffee, Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce.
- 10-11:30 a.m. - Sioux City Legislative Forum, Sioux City Public Museum.
- 10-11 a.m. - Clarinda Legislative Briefing, Clarinda Lied Public Library.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon - Urbandale Talk with Officials, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce office.
- 11 a.m.-noon - DeWitt Legislative Coffee, DeWitt Community Center.
- 1-2 p.m. - Mount Ayr Legislative Forum, Ringgold County Courthouse.

Monday, Feb. 28

- 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Marti's Monday Morning Coffee, Grounds for Celebration.

Friday, March 4

- 10-11 a.m. - Lake Mills Town Hall, Ole's Office Space.
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Buffalo Center Town Hall, Heritage Town Center.
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. - Forest City Legislative Forum, NSB Bank Community Room.

Saturday, March 5

- 8-10:30 a.m. - Emmetsburg Legislative Forum, Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce.
- 9-10 a.m. - Grinnell Virtual Legislative Coffee, [Register Here](#).
- 9-10 a.m. - Wilton Legislative Forum, Wilton City Hall.
- 10-11 a.m. - Rockwell City Town Hall, Rockwell City Public Library meeting room.

Monday, March 7

- 8:30-10:30 a.m. - Marti's Monday Morning Coffee, Grounds for Celebration.

Friday, March 11

- 10-11 a.m. - Clarion Legislative Town Hall, Clarion Train Depot.
- Noon-1:00 p.m. - Ankeny Legislative Forum, Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library.
- 1-2 p.m. - Belmont Legislative Town Hall, Belmont City Hall.
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Black Hawk-Bremer County Virtual Legislative Forum, [Register Here](#).

Saturday, March 12

- 8-9 a.m. - Creston Legislative Forum, Creston City Hall – Restored Depot.
- 9-10 a.m. - Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall.
- 9-10 a.m. - Humboldt Town Hall, Humboldt City Hall.
- 10-11 a.m. - Des Moines Virtual Legislative Coffee, [Register Here](#).

- 9-10:30am - Des Moines Virtual Legislative Conference, [register here](#).
- 10-11 a.m. - Corning Legislative Forum, Corning Public Library.
- 11 a.m.-noon - Pocahontas Town Hall, Pocahontas City Library.

STAY IN THE KNOW

How to stay in the know

Through the 2022 legislative session, IHA has different ways to keep you informed. Stay tuned through the weekly editions of Legislative Bulletin, biweekly Capitol Update, IHA's Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account. IHA also will mobilize hospital advocates through VoterVoice Action Alerts when legislators need to hear from you on hospital issues. Advocates can sign up for email or text message VoterVoice Action Alerts [HERE](#).

Remember to bookmark these links:

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

Health systems and hospitals urged to increase cybersecurity

Hospitals and health systems are urged to remain vigilant against health care cyber attacks amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The [American Hospital Association identified three concerns](#) for the health care sector about increased Russian-borne cyber threats:

- Hospitals and health systems may be targeted directly by Russian-sponsored cyber actors.
- Hospitals and health systems may become incidental victims of, or receive collateral damage from, Russian-deployed malware and destructive ransomware that inadvertently penetrates U.S. health care entities.
- Cyberattacks could disrupt hospitals' mission-critical service providers.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency also issued a Shields Up advisory recommending all organizations employ enhanced security measures. CISA recommends organizations:

- Prepare to respond if an intrusion happens.
- Maximize resilience to a destructive cyber incident.
- Reduce the likelihood of a damaging cyber intrusion.
- Take steps to quickly detect a potential intrusion.

CISA has cataloged free services from government partners, the open-source community and Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative companies to help with

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



2022 Hospital Day on the Hill recording available

If you missed the 2022 virtual Hospital Day on the Hill, a recording is available in the [IHA Digital on Demand](#) media store.

The 2022 virtual Hospital Day on the Hill was held Wednesday, Feb. 23, and featured a conversation between IHA President and CEO Chris Mitchell and the American Hospital Association's Vice President of Government Relations and Public Policy Stacey Hughes and a legislative forum with Iowa states Sens. Jeff Edler, R-State Center, and Liz Mathis, D-Hiawatha, and Rep. Beth Wessel-Kroeschell, D-Ames.

Gov. Kim Reynolds also spoke about her legislative priorities for 2022.

IHA releases latest hospital data trends

IHA has collected data trends from 99 Iowa hospitals for [January-December 2021](#) as compared with the same time frame in 2020:

- Acute discharges increased 1% as acute patient days increased 5.8%.
- Ambulatory surgery visits (hospital-based) increased 15.8%.
- Average length of stay increased 4.2%.
- Births increased 2.4%.
- Charity care increased 1.4%.
- Emergency department visits increased 11.8%.
- Facility employment (excluding physicians) increased 8.4%.
- Inpatient admissions from the emergency department increased 3.8%.
- Inpatient surgeries decreased 0.7%.
- Medicaid acute discharges increased 3.6% and Medicaid acute patient days increased 3.4%.
- Net patient revenue (collected charges) increased 11%.
- Outpatient utilization increased 20.3%.
- Total expenses increased 9.3%.
- Uncompensated care (bad debts) increased 6.2%.

Email [Allison Martin](#) at IHA with questions.

Registration open for new leader webinar

Taking on a new leadership role is overwhelming. To help new leaders jump start their roles, IHA is offering a webinar called You're a New Leader: Now What?

Jeff Whitehorn, executive coach and former hospital CEO, will discuss:

- Challenges leaders face when leading new teams.
- Tips, strategies and ideas for new leaders to implement early in their roles.

The webinar is scheduled from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, March 22.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Make patient satisfaction a priority with Martin Bros.

Patient and public satisfaction is an important part of hospital growth. Food distribution and food service help patients and their families feel more comfortable while using hospital services. ServiShare has partnered with Martin Bros. Distributing Company for 28 years to provide outstanding food distribution services to Iowa hospitals.

[Martin Bros.](#) is a full-line food service distributor with customer experience and family values in mind. With 80 years of experience, employee-owned Martin Bros. prioritizes working collaboratively with their business partners to better understand their challenges and to connect them with innovative solutions and quality products from trusted brands to drive results.

Martin Bros. has a full array of food products, supplements, beverage systems, paper products and kitchen and janitorial chemical programs to make a difference in hospitals' operational successes.

Email [Julie Halfpop](#) with Martin Bros. for more information.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Cass Health CEO sets the record straight on health rumors](#)
- [Get Iowa COVID case, deaths and data updates on this new dashboard](#)
- [Four Iowa hospital/system employees named to Business Record's 2022 Forty Under 40 class](#)

National news

- [Justice Department sues to block UnitedHealth Group acquisition of Change Healthcare](#)
- [An \\$80,000 surprise bill points to a loophole in new law](#)
- [Non-mRNA vaccines can be as good as Pfizer and Moderna in certain scenarios](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

Upcoming events

- [The No Surprise Act is Here: Compliance Obligations and Strategic Planning for Hospitals:](#) Wednesday, March 2 - Wednesday, March 9
- [Iowa Rehab Managers Spring Conference:](#) Thursday, March 3
- [The Art of the Interview:](#) Tuesday, March 8
- [Iowa Hospital Auxilian and Volunteer Conference:](#) Wednesday, March 9
- [You're the New Leader: Now What?:](#) Tuesday, March 22
- [Critical Access and Rural Hospital Forum:](#) Wednesday, March 23
- [Understanding Hospital Board and Medical Staff Responsibilities Under Medicare COPs:](#) Tuesday, April 12
- [Iowa Association for Healthcare Quality Spring Conference:](#) Wednesday, April 13
- [Iowa Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration Spring Conference:](#) Thursday, April 14
- [IHA Governance Forum:](#) Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23
- [Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act \(EMTALA\) Series:](#) Wednesday, May 11 - Wednesday, May 25
- [2022 IHA Governance Webinar Series:](#) Tuesday, May 17 - Tuesday, Nov. 15
- [Workplace Violence Program Workshop:](#) Thursday, June 30 - Thursday, Aug. 18

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.

Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.
HospitalCareers.com



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