

Click [here](#) if you are having trouble viewing this message.



Saturday, March 12, 2022

Today's headlines:

- [U.S. House passes omnibus spending package, goes on to Senate](#)

Legislative bulletin:

- [Week No. 9 summary](#)
- [Legislation on the move](#)
- [Listen to IHA's Capitol Update](#)
- [Legislative forums scheduled](#)
- [How to stay in the know](#)

COVID-19 resources:

- [FDA extends shelf life for Johnson and Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#)

U.S. House passes omnibus spending package, goes on to Senate

The House of Representatives passed a [\\$1.5 trillion omnibus appropriations bill](#) Wednesday, March 9. The bill would fund the federal government through the end of the fiscal year and includes provisions affecting hospitals and health systems.

Key provisions will:

- Allocate \$5 million to support the Rural Emergency Hospital Technical Assistance Program.
- Enable hospitals to maintain their 340B/disproportionate share hospital adjustment percentage if they lost that status during the public health emergency.
- Extend Medicare telehealth flexibilities for five months after the public health emergency declaration ends.
- Improve child and maternal care including workforce training support, addressing health inequity, telehealth, care coordination and data sharing.
- Increase Health and Human Services mental health and substance-use disorder programs by 8.9%, equivalent to \$6.54 billion.
- Increase Health and Human Services workforce programs 5.9%, equivalent to \$1.3 billion.

The bill now goes to the Senate, where it is expected to pass. The House also approved a short-term continuing resolution that funded the government past Friday

when current government funding expired. The continuing resolution gives the Senate more time to pass the omnibus package.

House Democrats pulled \$15 billion in COVID-19 preparedness funding that had been attached to the omnibus package. Some lawmakers were concerned about spending offsets for the new funding. The house plans to vote on a separate bill with COVID-19 preparedness funding, without controversial offsets.

Click [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for summaries of the bill.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Week No. 9 summary

The IHA advocacy team is grateful for the efforts of hospital advocates in taking the time to make personal contacts on certificate-of-need and medical malpractice (tort) reform. These grassroots actions were essential to the progress made this week.

Legislation continues to move quickly as the second funnel approaches. For a bill to survive the second funnel, it must pass through a committee in the opposite chamber from the one in which it was introduced. With this deadline, the Senate and House saw a significant amount of floor action.

Certificate of need

Thanks to your efforts, the Senate remains split on the decision to eliminate the certificate-of-need program. [Senate File 2255](#) has yet to hit the Senate debate calendar. For this bill to continue, it would have to pass the Senate floor, pass a House subcommittee and pass a full committee by next Friday. Your outreach matters. We know you're making a difference when we learn from legislators that they cannot support this bill because they refuse to hurt their local hospital.

As written, this bill would eliminate the certificate-of-need program for all health care entities outside of long-term care. A proposed amendment would increase the threshold from \$1.5 million to \$10 million for any new equipment and includes a provision that any new facility construction under 40,000 square feet would be exempt from the process. IHA is against this amendment as it would defeat the purpose of certificate of need by effectively allowing almost any health care facility, except hospitals, to circumvent it. Defeating this bill is a group effort. If you haven't discussed the importance of the certificate-of-need process with your legislators, click [HERE](#).

Medical malpractice

The [tort reform](#) bill has not been scheduled for floor debate in the House and Senate. IHA's advocacy team will continue to provide updates as this bill moves through the legislative process. Conversations are evolving, and we appreciate your continued outreach to your legislators about the significant impact medical malpractice reform will have on your hospital operations and workforce. Continue to reach out to your representatives and encourage them to support this bill. Click [HERE](#) to find contact information for your legislators.

Right to try

[House File 2203](#), a bill about experimental treatments for terminally ill people, passed the House floor last week and a Senate subcommittee this week. This bill would expand the definition of eligible patients to include anyone receiving mechanical ventilation and would allow a physician to prescribe investigational and off-label drugs to these patients. The bill passed with an amendment proposed by IHA that would protect hospitals from liability. The amendment makes clear that hospitals do not have a duty to credential a physician who wants to prescribe a drug under the

Revenue Estimating Committee

The Revenue Estimating Conference also met this week to give a final projection of state finances before legislators move their work to the fiscal year 2023 budget. The conference estimates the state will collect more than \$9.1 billion in revenue this fiscal year. After that, revenues are expected to drop by 0.2%, or \$236 million, in FY 2023 and by 2.1%, or \$561 million, in FY 2024. The decrease in state revenue is expected because of a bill signed into law earlier this session that would phase in a 3.9% flat income tax by 2026. The Senate aims to pass a budget of \$8.202 billion for FY 2023 and the House is targeting a budget of \$8.274 billion.

LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE

Legislation on the move

**Indicates bill that survived the second funnel*

Midwife licensing - [House File 2547](#)

What the bill does: Requires practicing midwives, or lay midwives, to hold a license as of July 2023. The bill makes exemptions for health care professionals, for Native Americans, Mennonite or Amish. It establishes proof of training and a board. It also limits the liability of health care providers who accept transfers of patients from midwives.

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

Status: Passed the House (93-2) and moved to the Senate.

IHA Position: IHA is not supportive of this bill because of safety and quality concerns.

For a full list of IHA-tracked bills and IHA positions, click [HERE](#).

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 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, March 12

- 8-9 a.m. - Creston Legislative Forum, Creston City Hall – Restored Depot.
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Oskaloosa Eggs and Issues Forum, Smokey Row Coffee.
- 9-10 a.m. - Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall.
- 9-10 a.m. - Humboldt Town Hall, Humboldt City Hall.
- 9-10:30 a.m. - Des Moines Virtual Legislative Coffee, [Register Here](#).
- 10-11 a.m. - Corning Legislative Forum, Corning Public Library.
- 11 a.m.-noon - Pocahontas Town Hall, Pocahontas City Library.

Monday, March 14

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

Saturday, March 19

- 7:30-9 a.m. - Fairfield Legislative Forum, Fairfield Arts and Convention Center.
- 9-10 a.m. - Spencer Legislative Forum, Spencer City Hall
- 9-10 a.m. - Arlington Legislative Forum, Arlington Community Center.
- 10-11 a.m. - Storm Lake Legislative Forum, King's Pointe Resort.
- 10-11 a.m. - Breda Legislative Forum, Breda American Legion.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Eldridge Legislative Forum, Eldridge North Scott High School.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Washington Legislative Forum, Washington County Courthouse.
- 11 a.m.-noon - Okoboji Eggs and Issues Forum, Tweetters.

Monday, March 21

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

Friday, March 25

- 8-9 a.m. - Corydon Legislative Forum, Wayne County Farm Bureau.
- 10-11 a.m. - Chariton Legislative Forum, Lucas County Farm Bureau.
- Noon-1:30 p.m. - Council Bluffs Legislative Roundtable, Council Bluffs Public Library- Meeting Room B.
- Noon-1 p.m. - Osceola Legislative Forum, Revelton Distilling Company.
- 2-3 p.m. - Leon Legislative Forum, Leon Community Center.
- 2-3:30 p.m. - Iowa City Legislative Forum, Riverside Theatre.
- 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Black Hawk-Bremer County Legislative Forum, [Virtual Link](#).

Saturday, March 26

- 8-9:30 a.m. - Rock Rapids Eggs and Issues Forum, Frontier Bank Basement.
- 8:30-10 a.m. - Fort Dodge Eggs and Issues Forum, Iowa Central Community College, Bio-Health Sciences Building 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 a.m.-noon - Washington Legislative Forum, Washington County Courthouse.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon - Urbandale Talk With Officials, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce Office- Rodan Board Room. [Virtual Link](#).
- 11 a.m.-noon - DeWitt Legislative Coffee, DeWitt Community Center.



STAY IN THE KNOW

How to stay in the know

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](#)



FDA extends shelf life for Johnson and Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine

The shelf life for the Johnson and Johnson Janssen COVID-19 vaccine was extended for an additional three months. The Food and Drug Administration approved updating the shelf life from six to nine months.

The extension applies to refrigerated vials of the vaccine and inventory dated to expire after March 6. Vaccines dated to expire before March 7 should be disposed of accordingly and reported as waste according to the COVID-19 provider agreement.

Click [HERE](#) to confirm expiration dates.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [How a rural hospital broke language barriers to provide COVID-19 vaccines to immigrants](#)
- [New COVID-19 cases in Iowa drop to lowest point since July 2021](#)
- [Report ranks Iowa in top tier for emergency preparedness](#)

National news

- [Nurses wait months for licenses as staffing shortages spread](#)
- [LinkedIn phishing attacks up 232% in the last month alone](#)
- [A 2nd booster may come this fall. It might not be the same as last time.](#)

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

Upcoming events

- [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
- [Delegate More to Achieve More:](#) Tuesday, April 19
- [IHA Governance Forum:](#) Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 23
- [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Health Care:](#) Monday, May 2 - Monday, Sept. 12
- [Creating Successes: IHA's Summer Series for Health Care Leaders:](#) Tuesday, May 3 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [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
- [2022 IHA Employment Law Four-Part Virtual Series:](#) Tuesday, May 24 - Tuesday, Aug. 16
- [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





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