

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



Friday, March 18, 2022

Legislative bulletin:

- [Week No. 10 summary](#)
- [Legislation on the move](#)
- [Legislative forums scheduled](#)
- [How to say in the know](#)

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Week No. 10 summary

The 10th week of the legislative session marks the end of the second funnel deadline. For a bill to continue past this week, it had to pass through a committee in the opposite chamber in which it was introduced. Appropriations and Ways and Means committee bills are not subject to the funnel deadlines. It is also important to note that if a bill does not meet the funnel deadlines, it is possible for it to reappear in legislation that has survived the funnel process.

Below is a summary of where IHA's priority issues are in the legislative process.

Medical malpractice reform/Medical freedom

[House File 2279](#), which included the medical malpractice (tort reform) language, has not moved recently. Some of the other language in the bill about commercial trucking tort reform was added as an [amendment to Senate File 2139](#), a bill about salvage cars. A [secondary amendment](#) also was added that would prevent an employer from inquiring about an employee's COVID-19 vaccination status, but the amendment was ruled not relevant and the entire bill failed on the House floor.

Certificate of need and rural emergency hospital licensure

IHA's priority is to maintain the certificate-of-need process in Iowa. This practice ensures there is adequate access to health care services throughout the state, including rural areas.

Shortly before the first funnel deadline, legislation about the certificate-of-need process was introduced. [Senate File 2255](#) would have eliminated the certificate-of-need process for all entities except long-term care facilities. In a committee meeting, the bill was amended to increase the thresholds to \$10 million when acquiring new equipment and implemented a 40,000-square-foot requirement for health care facilities to go through the certificate-of-need process. Thanks to your grassroots outreach and IHA's advocacy at the Capitol, the bill failed to meet the second funnel deadline and died.

This week, an amendment including language about the certificate-of-need process was added to a funnel-proof bill requiring transparency measures for ambulatory surgical centers. The amendment filed for [House File 2248](#) would carve out maternal health and birthing centers and behavioral health services from the certificate-of-need process as well as increase the thresholds for capital projects from \$1.5 million to \$5 million and for purchasing new equipment from \$1.5 million to \$3 million. The amendment keeps the thresholds the same for long-term care facilities. The amendment also would include IHA's language for developing licensure for rural emergency hospitals.

HF 2248 advanced through a Senate committee, surviving the second funnel. IHA is diligently working to defeat the certificate-of-need amendment. Watch for action alerts in the upcoming days as we continue to stress the importance of the certificate-of-need process to lawmakers in both legislative chambers.

Although IHA is opposed to the language of the amendment, the rural emergency hospital designation is something IHA advocates for. IHA also has been advocating for certificate of need and rural emergency hospital licensure to be considered separately.

Medicaid/Fiscal issues

This week, legislators in a Senate committee approved an IHA-supported bill that would prohibit a utilization-review committee from limiting or revoking a prior authorization after the health care service has been provided. [House File 2399](#) is now eligible to be debated on the Senate floor.

A different committee in the Senate reviewed legislation from last year that passed out of the House. [House File 736](#) would not allow the state or a Medicaid managed care organization to seek repayment of an overpayment to a health care provider if the overpayment happened more than 24 months earlier. IHA was pleased to see this bill reemerge this year and believes this would reduce some of the complexities in the Medicaid program. Because an amendment was added, HF 736 must pass through the entire Senate and go back to the House for one more floor vote.

Legislators in the Senate also continue to work on legislation about Medicaid coverage for maternal health and postpartum care. A provision in [Senate File 2354](#) would extend the time a woman can remain on Medicaid following the birth of a child to 12 months. As of this week, the bill went through the Senate Human Resources Committee and through a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. Although it's unlikely to proceed as a standalone bill, IHA believes it is possible it will appear in an upcoming budget bill.

Another bill (House File 2438) that could end up in a budget bill would require the Department of Human Services to use an identity-authentication process that requires a public-assistance applicant to complete a knowledge-based questionnaire about financial matters and report the impact to the Legislature. Like the previous bill, it passed the House Human Resources Committee and a House Appropriations Subcommittee and is unlikely to continue on its own.

Behavioral health and workforce

A bill about the expansion of psychiatric residency programs at state mental health institutions, [House File 2529](#), unanimously passed the House. The bill would expand psychiatric care at mental health institutions in Iowa and appropriate proper funds. A bill creating a mental health practitioner loan repayment program, [House File 2549](#), also passed the House with no opposition. This program would provide loan repayments for mental health practitioners who agree to practice in service-commitment areas. IHA is grateful the Legislature addressed the behavioral health workforce shortage by expanding access in response to demand for psychiatric care statewide.

After 2nd Funnel



Workforce



Medical Malpractice Reform



Certificate of Need



Medicaid / Fiscal Issues



Behavioral Health



Rural Emergency Hospitals

LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE

Legislation on the move

**Indicates bill that survived the second funnel.*

*Off-label drug treatments - [House File 2203](#)

What the bill does: Allows patients on mechanical ventilators to receive medicines off label as an experimental drug to treat terminally ill patients.

Sponsor: Rep. [Lee Hein](#) (R-Monticello) and Rep. [Ann Meyer](#) (R-Fort Dodge).

Status: Passed a Senate committee.

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

Iowa health information - [House File 2544](#)

What the bill does: Requires Iowa hospitals to participate in the Iowa Health Information Network.

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

Status: This bill did not survive the second funnel deadline, but IHA believes this language may appear in another piece of legislation.

IHA position: IHA has concerns about requiring hospitals to contract and with the lack of caps on contract amounts.

*Midwife licensing - [House File 2547](#)

What the bill does: Requires practicing midwives to hold a license as of July 2023. It makes exemptions for: health care professionals; Native Americans; Mennonite or Amish communities with traditional services and others because of religious

tenets; and for emergencies. The bill establishes requirements, including proof of training, and a board. It also limits the liability of health care providers who accept transfers of patients from midwives. [An amendment](#) has been filed that would create a specialty occupational license for midwives in lieu of the traditional licensure process and board originally laid out in the bill.

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

Status: Passed a Senate committee with an amendment.

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

For a full list of other bills IHA is tracking, click [HERE](#).

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 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. - Harlan Legislative Coffee, Shelby County Chamber of Commerce.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Cedar Rapids Legislative Forum, Cedar Rapids Downtown Library.
- 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, Tweeters.

Monday, March 21

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

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, Bioscience and 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.
- 9:30-11 a.m. - Johnson County Virtual Legislative Forum, [virtual link](#).
- 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.

Monday, March 28

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

Saturday, April 2

- 8-10:30 a.m. - Emmetsburg Legislative Forum, Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce.
- 9-10 a.m. - Grinnell Virtual Legislative Coffee, [virtual link](#).
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. - Marne Legislative Coffee, Marne 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](#)

