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Friday, March 25, 2022

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## WEEKLY SUMMARY

### Week No. 11 summary

This week, both chambers began debating final policy bills and held meetings about the state budgets for next year. Six of the eight budget bills were voted out of the House and moved to the Senate. This trend will continue through the end of session. April 19 is the scheduled end of session, but adjournment will not happen until all the budgets have been passed and sent to the governor.

### Fiscal year 2023 budget

Legislators in both chambers are in appropriations mode as state budgets come together. So far, the House released its version of the Health and Human Services appropriation budget and held a subcommittee meeting to discuss the bill. The House's HHS budget is largely status quo with a few policy provisions. IHA expects this budget bill to change over the next several weeks and will share the implications and allocations for hospitals when a final version of the budget is reached.

### Workforce

There has been some movement on health care workforce priorities this week. [House File 2510](#), a bill about health care employment agencies, passed the House unanimously on March 2, and passed the Senate unanimously this week. That bill, which requires health care employment agencies to register with the state's Department of Inspections and Appeals, will be sent to Gov. Kim Reynolds for her signature.

One of the governor's regulatory proposal bills, [House File 2527](#), passed the House Ways and Means Committee this week and will become eligible for floor debate in the House. The companion bill is still in the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

This bill:

- Allows loan repayment under the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program for medical students who will practice neurology and who will practice

- part-time in the state.
- Allows part-time nurse educators who also practice as registered nurses or advanced registered nurse practitioners to qualify under the health care award program.
- Changes the health care loan repayment program to an award program with a maximum amount of \$6,000 for no more than five consecutive years.
- Expands the Rural Iowa Primary Care Loan Repayment Program from 20 to 40 agreements if funds are available.
- Modifies the health care professional recruitment program to include advanced registered nurse practitioners under the definition of "health care professional."

The tort reform bill, [House File 2279](#), did not move this week, but it is still eligible for debate.

### **Certificate of need**

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

Shortly before the first funnel deadline, certificate-of-need legislation was introduced. [Senate File 2255](#) would have eliminated the certificate-of-need process for all entities except long-term care facilities. During 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 process. Thanks to your grassroots outreach on this bill and IHA's advocacy at the Capitol, the bill did not have enough votes to pass the Senate and failed to meet the second funnel deadline, and the bill died.

Last 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 to [House File 2248](#) would carve out 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.

Further, the amendment would include IHA's language for developing licensure for rural emergency hospitals. Although this was a small improvement from the original language, IHA remains steadfast against the inclusion of the certificate-of-need provisions. HF 2248 advanced through a Senate committee, making it through the second funnel, but IHA is diligently working to defeat the amendment. Watch for action alerts in the upcoming days as we stress the importance of certificate of need to lawmakers in both legislative chambers.

Although IHA is opposed to the amendment's certificate-of-need language, IHA has advocated for the rural emergency hospital language. IHA has been advocating for certificate of need and rural emergency hospital licensure to be considered separately because they are separate issues. IHA will continue to share the importance of adding this hospital licensure into Iowa Code.

## LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE

### **Legislation on the move**

*\*Indicates bill that survived the second funnel.*

**Pharmacy Benefit Managers - [House File 2384](#)**

**What the bill does:** Establishes fiduciary duties for pharmacy benefit managers and requires them to allow Iowa pharmacies to participate in their networks on the same terms and conditions as other pharmacies.

**Amendment:** Prohibits group health plans, insurers, third-party administrators and pharmacy benefit managers from discriminating against covered 340B entities or contract pharmacies by reimbursing less than the insurers reimburse similar non-340B entities.

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

**Status:** Passed the House and moved to the Senate.

**IHA position:** IHA is supportive of the amendment because recent practices have had a significant negative impact on hospitals.

For a full list of other bills IHA is tracking, 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 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.

### **Tuesday, April 5**

- 7-8 p.m. - Des Moines Blue Virtual Statehouse Alert, [virtual link](#).

### **Friday, April 8**

- 4:30-6:30 p.m. - Black Hawk-Bremer County Virtual Legislative Forum, [virtual link](#).

### **Saturday, April 9**

- 8-9 a.m. - Creston Legislative Forum, Creston City Hall, Restored Depot.
- 9-10:30 a.m. - Des Moines Legislative Coffee, [virtual link](#).
- 10-11 a.m. - Corning Legislative Forum, Corning Public Library.
- 10-11 a.m. - Glidden Legislative Forum, Glidden Public Library.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon - Scott County Forum, AEA Bettendorf.

### **Tuesday, April 12**

- 7-8 p.m. - Des Moines Blue Virtual Statehouse Alert, [virtual link](#).

### **Saturday, April 16**

- 9-10 a.m. - Clinton Legislative Coffee, Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce.
- 10-11 a.m. - Harlan Legislative Coffee (tentative), Shelby County Chamber of Commerce.
- 11 a.m.-noon - DeWitt Legislative Coffee, DeWitt Community Center.
- Noon--1:30 p.m. - Council Bluffs Legislative Roundtable, Council Bluffs Public Library, Meeting Room B.

### **Tuesday, April 19**

- 7-8 p.m. - Des Moines Blue Virtual Statehouse Alert, [virtual link](#).

### **Saturday, April 23**

- 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Fort Dodge Legislative Forum, Iowa Central Community College, Bioscience and Health Sciences Building Auditorium.

### **Tuesday, April 26**

- 7-8 p.m. - Des Moines Blue Virtual Statehouse Alert, [virtual link](#).

### Saturday, April 30

- 7:30-9 a.m. - Fairfield Legislative Forum, Fairfield Arts and Convention Center and [virtual link](#).
- 10:30 a.m.-noon - Urbandale Talk with Officials, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, Rodan Board Room and [virtual link](#).

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## 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](#)



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