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Friday, April 15, 2022

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

Week No. 14 summary

The last scheduled day of session is right around the corner on Tuesday, April 19, but there are no signs the legislative session will end on time. There was little action this week while the House waits for Senate actions on each budget bill, including the Health and Human Services budget. While attention turned to the budgets, IHA continues to monitor the bills affecting hospitals that haven't crossed the finish line. These include tort reform, the Iowa Health Information Network contract, pharmacy benefit managers, expansion of postpartum Medicaid coverage to 12 months and the addition of psychiatric intensive care beds at the state's mental health institutes.

The certificate-of-need bill appears shelved, but IHA continues to watch this issue and will keep members updated in the weeks to come.

Fiscal year 2023 budget

Last week, the House passed the Health and Human Services appropriations bill, [House File 2578](#), 60-35. All eyes are on the Senate to see what they do with the House proposal. The Senate could create their own Health and Human Services budget or take the House version and amend it.

As the budget process moves, IHA will watch what policy issues could be added to the budget bill. These could be a combination of the unresolved issues referenced above and could be part of negotiations between the chambers on the final budget.

Workforce

The governor's workforce and regulatory proposal, [Senate File 2383](#), passed the Senate 48-0 last week. An amendment on the Senate floor resulted in unanimous support for the legislation. The bill returns to the House with an amendment for a floor vote. Among several other non-health care provisions, this bill expands the rural Iowa primary-care loan-repayment program and the health care professional recruitment programs and changes the health care loan repayment program to an award program.

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, 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.
- 10 a.m.-noon - Washington Legislative Brief, Washington County Courthouse.
- 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](#).

Friday, April 22

- Noon-1:30 p.m. - Council Bluffs Legislative Roundtable, Council Bluffs.

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](#).
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Fort Dodge Legislative Forum, Iowa Central Community College, Bioscience and Health Sciences Building Auditorium.
- 10:30 a.m.-noon - Urbandale Talk With Officials, Urbandale Chamber of Commerce, Rodan Board Room and [virtual link](#).

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

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update, visit Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account. You 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](#).

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