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### **Week five of legislative session overview**

As legislative session inches closer to the first funnel on March 5, legislators were busy this week

introducing bills and holding subcommittee meetings. Several key bills IHA is following are included below. Besides those bills, IHA continues to have discussions and monitor several key issues including days awaiting placement reimbursement for patient care, changes to the certificate of need statute and potential mandates on hospital visitation policies. IHA will continue to work on these issues and will provide updates through the Legislative Bulletin.

Visit IHA's [Legislation NOW](#) page for this week's details about the bills IHA is following.

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## **EMS essential service bill introduced in the House**

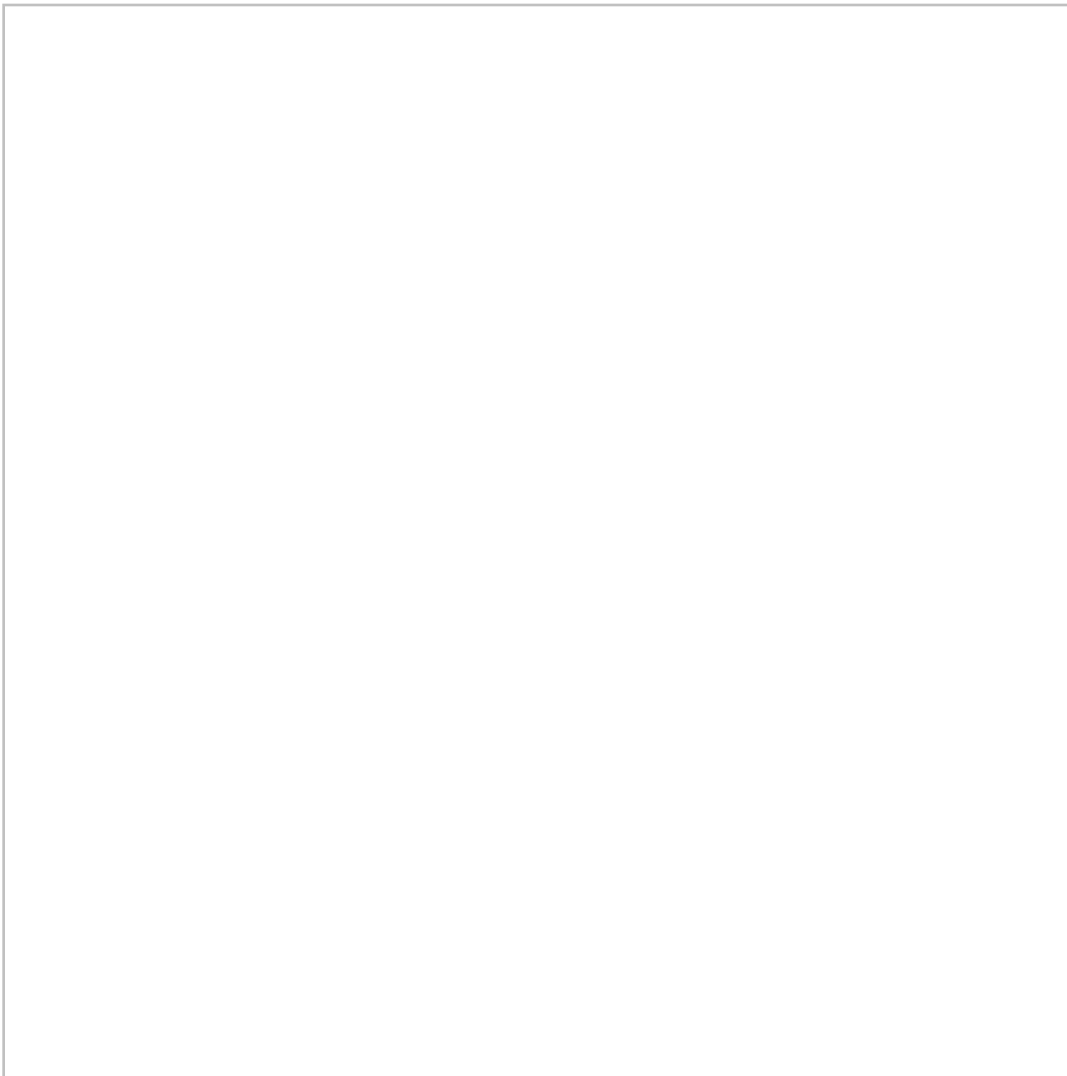
This week has been very busy for emergency medical services (EMS) with the introduction of the much-anticipated legislation updating the process for EMS to be deemed an essential service, allowing the services to draw down tax funds to support the service. [House Study Bill 186](#) was introduced Monday afternoon and passed through a subcommittee Wednesday morning. The bill revises the process for county and city EMS districts to declare EMS an essential service. It also revises the process for an entire county to do the same. HSB 186 is anticipated to move through the rest of the House quickly. It is scheduled to be reviewed in a full committee Monday afternoon and then would be ready for a vote on the House floor. Visit IHA's [Legislation Now](#) page to find more details on the legislation. IHA would like to thank the hospitals that helped review the legislation to determine impact and the legislators who were on the subcommittee: Reps. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton), Timi Brown-Powers (D-Waterloo) and Lee Hein (R-Monticello).

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## **Legislators address surgical smoke**

Last week, [HSB 59](#) was introduced in the House and was reviewed by a subcommittee this week. The bill was brought forward by the Association of Perioperative Nurses and introduced by Rep. Bobby Kaufmann (R-Wilton). The purpose of the bill is to eliminate surgical smoke in operating rooms. The bill requires the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals to promulgate rules for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers no later than July 1, 2023, and for critical access hospitals no later than July 23, 2025. IHA is registered undecided on the bill. At the subcommittee, IHA advised that most, if not all, hospitals have systems for elimination of surgical smoke. The bill passed out of subcommittee and will now move to the full committee.

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Please join us Wednesday, Feb. 24, for IHA's first virtual Hospital Day on the Hill. This year, Hospital Day on the Hill will feature Gov. Kim Reynolds, who will share a message for health care heroes and will outline her priorities for the 2021 legislative session. In addition, the event will feature a conversation with Kirk Norris, president and CEO of IHA, and Tom Nickels, executive vice president for Government Relations and Public Policy from the American Hospital Association. Participants will also gain insights about health care priorities at the Capitol this session. Key health policy legislators will be present to discuss health care priorities and respond to questions. Don't miss this outstanding event!

[CLICK HERE](#) to register.

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## Listen to IHA's Capitol Update

IHA knows the importance of updates coming from the Capitol and works to provide easy ways to access that information. IHA 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 Zoom video recording or audio-only version.

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

Questions can be directed to [Joah Hogan](#) at IHA.

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## How to stay in the know

Throughout legislative session, the Iowa Hospital Association has developed several ways to keep you informed. Stay tuned throughout session for weekly editions of Legislative Bulletin, biweekly Capitol Update, IHA's Facebook page, Twitter account and LinkedIn account (web addresses are below). IHA also will mobilize hospital advocates through action alerts when legislators need to hear about hospital issues. **Advocates can sign up for email or text message IHA action alerts at <https://www.ihaonline.org/advocacy/iha-hospital-action-network/>.**

Links to bookmark:

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



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