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Week six of legislative session overview

Legislators in both chambers spent more time in floor debate this week. As the session approaches the first funnel deadline Friday, March 5, the work in committees will continue at full speed, and fewer new bills will be introduced. Several key issues saw action this week, including days awaiting placement and tort reform. 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.



It's not too late to register for Hospital Day on the Hill

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 also will 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.

Days awaiting placement bill drops

[Senate Study Bill 1193](#) was introduced early this week and has already passed through subcommittee. This bill would require a study by the Department of Human Services to determine the feasibility of providing Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals for administrative days.

Administrative days under the bill means an inpatient stay during which a Medicaid eligible patient no longer meets medical necessity criteria for acute hospital care and is awaiting placement in a nursing facility or other subacute or post-acute care facility. IHA has been working on this legislation for the past two sessions and will continue to provide updates as this legislation moves forward. IHA would like to thank the legislators who served on the subcommittee including Sens. Jeff Edler (R-State Center), Mark Costello (R-Imogene) and Liz Mathis (D-Hiawatha).



Tort reform bill advances in the House

Tort reform flew through the House this week. Monday, Feb. 15, [House File 517](#) was filed by Reps. Anne Meyer (R-Fort Dodge) and Joel Fry (R-Osceola). This bill provides a \$1 million cap on noneconomic damages for personal injury against a health care provider for injury or death in a civil action. Tuesday, Feb. 16, the bill passed out of subcommittee (2-1) and Thursday, Feb. 18, after vigorous debate on both sides of the issue, it passed out of the full House Human Resources Committee (13-7). HF 517 is now eligible for debate in the House. IHA is registered in support of

the bill and has [issued an action alert to hospital advocates](#), encouraging them to reach out to their representatives for their support of the bill. IHA would like to thank Reps. Meyer and Fry for bringing the bill forward and supporting it.

Workforce issues on the move

This week, legislators debated two bills that will have an impact on health care workforce in Iowa. [House File 468](#) makes changes to admissions policies at the University of Iowa's medical and dental schools and passed the House with a vote of 65-35.

[House File 487](#) requires the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to offer interviews for available medical residencies to Iowa residents who earned an undergraduate degree from an Iowa college or university or earned a medical degree from a medical school in Iowa. This bill passed the House with a vote of 58-38.

There are several other bills the Legislature is continuing to work through to support health care workforce in Iowa. IHA will continue to provide updates as these bills move through the process.

Governor proposes centers of excellence

Gov. Kim Reynolds has proposed establishing centers of excellence in Iowa. Centers of excellence are based on models developed by other states that create regional centers specializing in areas of medicine and offer access to care that is otherwise difficult to find in the area.

Gov. Reynolds has proposed \$1 million in the state budget for the creation of two centers of excellence that will be awarded through a grant process. Funding can be used for compensation to attract specialty providers, redesign or remodel physical space to accommodate services in the center or to invest in necessary technology.

IHA will provide more information about how to apply for the grants as soon as it is available.

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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