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### **Week four of legislation session inches forward to key session deadlines**

The fourth week of legislation session continued to be filled with subcommittee and committee meetings as well as floor debate. Despite weather concerns at the end of the week, legislators

were busy reviewing key legislation.

This week also moved legislators closer to key session deadlines. After next week, individual legislators will not be able to request bill drafts to the Legislative Services Agency, the entity responsible for writing all legislation, which means fewer bills will start to be introduced.

The first funnel deadline is also approaching four weeks from today. This is a self-imposed deadline legislators have to ensure the session is progressing by requiring bills be passed out of a full committee in the chamber the bill originated in order to continue for consideration.

Hospital Day on the Hill is also quickly approaching, taking place in three weeks on Feb. 24. **This year's Day on the Hill will be virtual and registration will open next week.**

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## Legislative committees contemplate Medicaid oversight

Two identical bills were introduced this week that would impose stricter Medicaid requirements on the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) in Iowa. The bills were introduced by the leaders of the Commerce Committee in each chamber. [House Study Bill 169](#) was introduced by Representative Shannon Lundgren (R-Peosta) and [Senate Study Bill 1164](#) was introduced by Senator Jason Schultz (R-Schleswig).

Among other actions, the bill would create more stringent timeframes for MCOs to pay or deny claims and require the MCOs to develop a system to better track claims, claim disputes, claim reconsiderations, and appeals.

IHA is registered in support of this legislation and will continue to provide updates. Please visit IHA's [Legislation NOW page](#) for more details on these bills.

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## Bill introduced to increase reimbursement to hospitals

Last week a bill on payment for days awaiting placement was introduced. The bill is [Senate File 154](#) and was introduced by Senator Liz Mathis (D-Hiawatha). The bill mandates that a hospital cannot be denied reimbursement for the continuation of care provided to patients while the patient is waiting to be moved to a lower-level facility. The mandate would be applicable to private insurance, Medicaid fee-for-service and Medicaid managed care. This bill has been assigned to a subcommittee but a meeting has not yet been set. IHA is registered in support of this legislation and will continue to provide updates.

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## Around the Golden Dome

In addition to the bills outlined in this week's Legislative Bulletin, the Legislature spent time on a variety of other bills that impact Iowa hospitals. A slew of bills were introduced to limit vaccinations and masks. In addition, the Legislature continued the advancement of important policies including telehealth and workforce. Visit [Legislation Now](#) for a break-down of all legislation that IHA is tracking

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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](#)
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