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Legislation continues to march toward second funnel in April

The Legislature is moving closer to the second funnel Thursday, April 2. With only two weeks left to get bills to this benchmark, the House and Senate have been focused on floor debate and subcommittee work.

Although some subcommittees have been held this week for issues of importance to hospitals, most health care priorities remain lodged in the House or Senate. Updates about these priorities are below.

The Iowa Hospital Association urges advocates to continue to reach out to legislators. Besides telephone calls and emails, please consider attending legislative forums in your communities. A list of upcoming forums is below.

IHA will issue Action Alerts during the next two weeks as the Legislature approaches the second funnel. Please watch for these alerts and reach out to IHA's Government Relations Team with questions or concerns.

Week 10 subcommittee work moves legislation forward

This week, several pieces of legislation passed by the Senate were reviewed by House subcommittees. [Senate File 462](#), which requires the Department of Human Services to convene a study to review and make recommendations about reimbursement for days awaiting placement, passed subcommittee and will advance to full committee. IHA continues to work with [Iowa Medicaid Enterprise](#) to secure a reimbursement rate. Prospective payment system hospitals will receive requests for data next week to help advance this issue.

In addition, legislation ([Senate File 524](#)) requiring the Department of Human Services to convene a study committee to examine issues and develop policy recommendations to improve the inpatient psychiatric bed-tracking system passed out of the subcommittee unanimously.

On the Senate side, [House File 763](#) passed out of subcommittee and is making its way to full committee. This bill would give hospitals with physician residency programs the ability to apply for reimbursement for the cost of medical liability insurance premiums for residents. [House File 431](#) also advanced out of subcommittee. This bill authorizes a health care professional to use telehealth or telemedicine but does not address payment parity.

IHA will continue to report on subcommittees in future editions of Legislative Bulletin.

Medical malpractice bill still uncertain

[House File 592](#), which caps noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases to \$1 million, was on the House debate calendar at the beginning of the week. Unfortunately, the bill was not debated this week.

IHA and other advocates for this bill continue to work to get the votes needed to pass the legislation. IHA has issued an action alert about this legislation. Please continue to reach out to your representatives and voice your support for this bill.

No action in Senate on two hospital priorities

Two major priorities for Iowa hospitals, funding for emergency medical services and reimbursement for telehealth, have not advanced in the Senate.

Both bills easily passed the House on a bipartisan vote. Since going to the Senate, neither bill has seen subcommittee action.

[HF 294](#) is a bill that would require payment parity for mental health telehealth services. This bill passed the House with one no vote and is not advancing in the Senate. [HF 562](#) is experiencing the same fate. This bill would require a process for establishing EMS as an essential service. This bill passed the House unanimously.

Advocates are encouraged to reach out to legislators about these issues. Please contact the IHA Government Relations Team with questions or concerns.

Public hospital trustee elections bill passes the Senate

Wednesday evening, the Iowa Senate passed an elections bill, [Senate File 568](#), with a party-line vote of 30-17. Among the provisions, this legislation permanently returns the deadline for public hospital trustee candidates to submit their candidacy papers to 69 days before the election. This change is needed because of legislation in 2019 that moved the deadline to the spring before the general election. Last session, IHA successfully advocated a temporary fix, returning the deadline to early fall and is supportive of this legislation that makes the change permanent. SF 568 now will be reviewed by the House.

Legislative forums scheduled

Meeting with legislators while they're in their home districts is a great way to advocate for issues you care about. Check the list below of legislative events occurring over the next two weeks. Some of these events are virtual and others are in person.

Saturday, March 20

- 7:30-9 am Saturday, March 20, Legislative Forum, Fairfield
- 8-10 am Eggs and Issues, Rock Rapids
- 8:30-10 am Eggs and Issues, Spencer
- 8:30-9:30 am Legislative Forum, Albia
- 9-10:30 am Eggs and Issues, Spencer
- 9-10 am Town Hall, Arlington
- 9-10:30 am Eggs and Issues, Spencer
- 9-10:30 am Legislative Forum, Wilton
- 11:15 am-12:15 pm Town Hall, Luana
- 10-11 am Legislative Coffee, Harlan
- 10-11 am Legislative Forum, Centerville
- 10:30-11:30 am Legislative Forum, Princeton
- 10:30-11:45 am Legislative Forum, Linn County

Sunday, March 21

- 8:30-10 am Eggs and Issues, Spencer

Monday, March 22

- 8-10:30 am Marti's Morning Coffee, Des Moines

Tuesday, March 23

- 6:30-7:30 pm Legislative Forum, Polk and Dallas counties
- 7-8 pm Blue Statehouse Alert, statewide

Friday, March 26

- 9-10 am Legislative Forum, Lake Mills
- 11:30 am-1 pm Legislative Forum, Ames
- Noon-1 pm Legislative Coffee, Council Bluffs
- 1-2 pm Legislative Forum, Buffalo Center
- 1-2 pm Eggs and Issues, Fort Dodge
- 2:30-3:30 pm Legislative Forum, Iowa City
- 3-4 pm Public Policy Discussion, Marion
- 4:30-6:30 pm Legislative Forum, Cedar Valley

Saturday, March 27

- 8-9 am Legislative Forum, Shenandoah
- 8-10 am Eggs and Issues, Rock Rapids
- 8:30-9:30 am Eggs and Issues, Oskaloosa
- 9:30-11:30 am Legislative Forum, Johnson County
- 9:30-11 am Legislative Coffee, Clinton/DeWitt
- 10-11 am Legislative Coffee, Walcott
- 10-11:30 am Legislative Town Hall, Sioux City
- 10-Noon Talk With Officials, Urbandale
- 10-11 am Legislative Forum, Clarinda
- 10:30-Noon Legislative Forum, Quad Cities
- 1-2 pm Legislative Forum, Mount Ayr

Monday, March 29

- 8-10:30 am Marti's Morning Coffee, Des Moines

Tuesday, March 30

- 7-8 pm Blue Statehouse Alert, statewide

How to stay in the know

Throughout legislative session, the Iowa Hospital Association offers several ways for you to keep informed. Stay tuned throughout the 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 VoterVoice Action Alerts when legislators need to hear about hospital issues. **Advocates can sign up for email or text message VoterVoice 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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