

Legislative Update

Issue No. 06-24, 02/09/2024



A group heading up to the Iowa Statehouse Thursday morning. (Photo by the Capitol Group)

First Procedural Deadline Arrives Next Friday

The so-called “First Funnel,” the day by which bills must be approved by one committee in the bill’s chamber or origin to remain eligible for continued consideration, arrives next Friday, February 16.

This day is the first procedural hurdle of the 2024 Session of the Iowa Legislature.

There are three types of bill’s exempt from the procedural rules. Bills in the Appropriations Committee, Ways and Means Committee and Government Oversight Committee are not governed by procedural deadlines requiring committee approval by specific dates.

The next procedural milestone comes on March 15th. That is the day by which a bill must be approved by at least one committee in the chamber not of its origin.

So as an example, a House proposal needs to be given the go-ahead by a Senate committee to remain eligible for further consideration this year.

The final day of the 2024 Legislative Session is scheduled to be April 16. That is the day when Legislative per diem expense payments end.

Bills of Interest

(HF - House File, HSB - House Study Bill, SF - Senate File, SSB - Senate Study Bill)

(F - For, A - Against, M - Undecided/monitoring)

SF 2103 - School Mental Health Information (M) - This bill requires a school district to post on the school district's internet site the internet site address of the Your Life Iowa program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services or a successor program, as well as a list of mental health resources available at the school district and from the your life Iowa program or a successor program.

Approved by subcommittee

SF 2027 - Human Growth and Development (M) - This bill prohibits a school district from enrolling a pupil in a course of instruction in human growth and development, and from facilitating a pupil's attendance at an educational conference or seminar that includes information on human growth and development, unless the pupil's parent or guardian files written informed consent with the appropriate principal. The bill also requires the board of directors of a school district to annually provide to a parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in the district information about human growth and development that may be provided to pupils at an educational conference or seminar for which the school district facilitates pupil attendance.

Approved by subcommittee

SSB 3092 - School Chaplains (M) - This bill authorizes school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to employ chaplains, or engage volunteer chaplains, to provide support, services, and programs for students. The bill provides that such chaplains are not required to have a license, endorsement, certification, authorization, or statement of recognition issued by the board of educational examiners.

Approved by subcommittee 2 to 1.

SSB 3073 - AEA Reorganization (M) - Included in this 113-page bill proposed by Governor Reynolds are the following changes to current law:

- Each area education agency shall have an executive director. The executive director is to be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the director of Department of Education;
- The bill prohibits area education agencies from holding real property, and tasks the department of administrative services with providing real property and facilities to the area education agencies;
- The bill also provides that area education agencies may only provide special education services to school districts located in the area education agency if the school district requests to receive such services and pursuant to a contract between the school district and the area education agency. The bill establishes that the term of such contract shall not be less than two years.
- The bill removes the requirement that AEAs provide media services;
- The bill requires the division of special education within the Department of Education to give preference to qualified personnel who seek employment with the division of special education because their employment with an area education agency terminated as a result of the bill.

Approved by subcommittee

SR 102 - Brain Health (M) - This resolution states that the term "brain health" means all aspects of the brain impacted by biological and physical characteristics of the brain which may impact mood and behavior. It also states that the Senate recognizes the term brain health as a term mental health providers, caretakers, and every Iowan may use synonymously with the terms mental health, mental illness, and behavioral health in order to encourage Iowans to seek brain health services in an environment free of stigma.

HF 2397 (formerly HSB 617) - Payment For MH Ambulance Transport (F) - The bill allows an ambulance service program to transport a person experiencing a mental health crisis to a mental health access center. The bill directs the Department of Health and Human Services to authorize payments to service programs for the transportation of persons to mental health access centers in amounts similar to payments authorized for the transportation of persons to hospital emergency departments.

On House debate calendar

HF 2171 - Sex Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention (M) - Current law requires the director of the Department of Education to develop and make available to school districts examples of age-appropriate and research-based materials. The bill provides that the age-appropriate and research-based materials shall also cover child sexual abuse and child sexual assault awareness and prevention.

The bill requires the Board of Educational Examiners to adopt rules that establish continuing education requirements for renewal of a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition. The bill establishes that continuing education activities may include participating in or presenting at in-service training programs related to child sexual abuse and child sexual assault awareness and prevention.

Referred to Education

HF 2138 - Human Growth and Development (M) - This bill prohibits a school district from enrolling a pupil in a course of instruction in human growth and development, and from facilitating a pupil's attendance at an educational conference or seminar that includes information on human growth and development, unless the pupil's parent or guardian files written informed consent with the appropriate principal. The bill also requires the board of directors of a school district to annually provide to a parent or guardian of a pupil enrolled in the district information about human growth and development that may be provided to pupils at an educational conference or seminar for which the school district facilitates pupil attendance.

Referred to Education

HF 2107 - School Mental Health Information (M) - This bill requires a school district and an accredited nonpublic school to post on the school district's or school's internet site a list of mental health resources available at the school district or school.

Referred to Education

HF 2073 - School Chaplains (M) - This bill authorizes school districts, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to employ chaplains, or engage volunteer chaplains, to provide support, services, and programs for students. The bill provides that such chaplains are not required to have a license, endorsement, certification, authorization, or statement of recognition issued by the board of educational examiners.

Approved by subcommittee

HF 2063 - School MH Professionals (M) - This bill requires all charter schools, public schools, and accredited nonpublic schools to have a minimum of one health care professional with mental health credentials available on site to assist students during normal hours of instruction.

Referred to Education

HF 2001 - Student School Bus Removals (M) - This bill requires the driver of a school bus to immediately notify a school district or nonpublic school when a student is removed from a school bus due to the student's behavior. The notification shall be carried out once the removal occurs and the student is in a safe location. The school district or nonpublic school shall immediately attempt to notify the parent or guardian of the student of the circumstances of the removal and present location and shall continue such attempts until the parent or guardian is successfully notified.

Subcommittee: Thompson, P., Bradley and Buck

HSB 676 - School Mental Health Information (M) - This bill requires a school district to post on the school district's internet site the internet site address of the Your Life Iowa program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services or a successor program, as well as a list of mental health resources available at the school district and from the your life Iowa program or a successor program.

Subcommittee: Fry, Holt and Madison

HSB 542 - AEA Reorganization (M) - Included in this 113-page bill proposed by Governor Reynolds are the following changes to current law:

- Each area education agency shall have an executive director. The executive director is to be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, the director of Department of Education;
- The bill prohibits area education agencies from holding real property, and tasks the department of administrative services with providing real property and facilities to the area education agencies;
- The bill also provides that area education agencies may only provide special education services to school districts located in the area education agency if the school district requests to receive such services and pursuant to a contract between the school district and the area education agency. The bill establishes that the term of such contract shall not be less than two years.
- The bill removes the requirement that AEAs provide media services;
- The bill requires the division of special education within the Department of Education to give preference to qualified personnel who seek employment with the division of special education because their employment with an area education agency terminated as a result of the bill;

Not approved by subcommittee

HR 102 - Brain Health (M) - This resolution states that the term "brain health" means all aspects of the brain impacted by biological and physical characteristics of the brain which may impact mood and behavior. It also states that the House of Representatives recognizes the term brain health as a term mental health providers, caretakers, and every Iowan may use synonymously with the terms mental health, mental illness, and behavioral health in order to encourage Iowans to seek brain health services in an environment free of stigma.

Passed the House