



# IowaAging.gov

## AgingWatch

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The link to policy affecting older Iowans

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### What do Iowans want?



# 93%

of Iowans say it is extremely important or very important to be able to stay in their own homes as they age.

AARP survey, "Voices of 50+ Iowans: Dreams & Challenges"

## Iowa Department on Aging Bill Watch

Already the Iowa Department on Aging is monitoring several bills introduced in the legislature. This issue launches Bill Watch, a list of the bills currently on our radar. On the following pages, you will find bills that have been identified as potentially impactful to older or disabled Iowans. If you would like more information on a particular bill, click on the bill number and you will be directed to the Iowa General Assembly online bill book. There you will find more information about sponsors of the bill, committee assignments, amendments and a complete history. It is frequently a long, interesting journey from idea to law. The Legislative Services Agency offers this flow chart [How an Idea Becomes a Law](#).

As the legislative session continues, we will frequently spotlight bills of particular interest to the Department and the population we serve.

You are encouraged to stay informed and stay engaged in the process. Citizens can be a part of the decision-making process during the legislative session. Aging-Watch will keep its radar on bills that may impact older Iowans. The Legislative Services Agency provides this information on participation [Participation in Making Iowa Laws](#).

Iowans 60 years of age and older represent a rapidly growing segment of the Iowa population.

The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities. A variety of tools and services are used to achieve this mission, including information and assistance, advocacy, meals served at nutrition sites and home-delivered, case management, and caregiver support. These tools and services are administered and coordinated by Iowa's Area Agencies on Aging. See [page 4](#) for additional information regarding Iowa's Area Agencies on Aging.

## Iowa House

- HF 31** **NURSE STAFFING PLANS.** Creates a new Code Section on nurse staffing plans, a collaborative nurse staffing committee and on patient safety plans. Includes detailed implementing provisions and protections for nurses against retaliation.
- HF 42** **SENIOR CAMPING FEES.** Requires the NRC to discount camping and other fees for special privileges that it sets by at least 50% for Iowa residents who are 60 or older.
- HF 53** **ELDERLY SEX OFFENDER COMMITMENTS Notice:** Requires the clerk of court to notify the DIA and a nursing home or similar facility if a registered sex offender is being committed to the home. Requires nursing homes and similar facilities to check the sex offender registry before admitting a person. Requires notification for the other residents and their next of kin and emergency contacts, the owners of the facility and the county sheriff. Requires the facility develop a written safety plan that follows the DIA rules. Prohibits the release of a person committed as a sexual predator during a transitional period to a health care facility. Requires the DHS to secure adequate placements for certain sex offenders being released from custody. Requires the DHS to develop a workgroup on dealing with providing MH and health services to sex offenders who are deemed liable to re-offend. Requires DIA & DHS to convene a committee to look at building a special facility or expanding a current facility for such offenders. Requires the committee to work with the Judicial Branch on identifying facilities that are capable of adequate placement. Requires the committee to look at the responsibilities of the DOC, clerk of courts and of the nursing homes and similar facilities. Requires recommendations on the safety plan. Requires a report. Allows the DIA to use emergency rules but does not allow the rules to take effect until the ARRC reviews the rules.
- HSB 46** **Iowa Department on Aging bill.** Strikes certain investigation duties of the DIA that may conflict with office of the state long-term care ombudsman. Protects certain records held by IDA relating to assisting the ombudsman in investigations unless those records are otherwise exempt from confidentiality protections. Changes outdated references (“resident advocate” to “ombudsman” and other references). Includes new and updated definitions. Repeals language related to outdated program (Senior Living Trust). See **SSB 1056**

## Iowa Senate

- SF 32** **SENIOR PROPERTY TAX.** Creates a freeze on the assessed value of the home of a person over the age of 65 and who has less than \$25,000 in household income. Establishes criminal penalties for filing a false affidavit. Similar to **SF 39**
- SF 34** **ELDERLY SERVICES REIMBURSEMENTS.** Increases the reimbursement for providers of services for the elderly under a Medicaid waiver annually. Requires the rate to be recalculated annually using the federal skilled nursing facility market basket index as an inflation factor.
- SF 35** **VIOLENT ELDERLY PLACEMENTS.** Requires the DIA, with the DHS, to establish a committee to look at placements for elderly persons who are sexually violent or who have other psychiatric problems. Charges the committee with looking at building a new facility or expanding or adapting existing facilities to such a purpose, potential persons served, training of personnel, costs and the possibility of Medicaid reimbursements, and other matters. Requires a report by December 15, 2013.
- SF 36** **LONG-TERM CARE APPROPRIATIONS.** Appropriates to the IDA \$13,000 for the certified volunteer long-term care resident's advocate program and \$97,000 for an additional local long-term care resident's advocate to administer the program.
- SF 38** **LONG TERM CARE CONTRACTS.** Requires the Commissioner of Insurance to adopt rules on standardized long-term care contracts and on a consumer guide so that consumers can compare different contracts. Effective for contracts delivered after July 2013.
- SF 39** **SENIOR PROPERTY TAX FREEZE II.** Creates a freeze on the assessed value of the home of a person over the age of 65 if the assessed value of the house is under \$150,000. Establishes criminal penalties for filing a false affidavit. Similar to **SF 32**
- SSB 1056** **Iowa Department on Aging bill.** Strikes certain investigation duties of the DIA that may conflict with office of the state long-term care ombudsman. Protects certain records held by IDA relating to assisting the ombudsman in investigations unless those records are otherwise exempt from confidentiality protections. Changes outdated references ("resident advocate" to "ombudsman" and other references). Includes new and updated definitions. Repeals language related to outdated program (Senior Living Trust).

Area Agencies on Aging provide:

**37**

different services that support individuals in their homes and communities.

**2.9**

million congregate and home-delivered meals

Please feel free to forward AgingWatch to others who are interested in issues and programs that impact older Iowans.

## About Area Agencies on Aging

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans aged 60 and over in every local community. Iowa's Area Agencies:

- Assess current needs of older Iowans;
- Assess available services, programs, and institutions;
- Develop plans to help address service gaps via the Senior Living Program;
- Assure access to services, programs, and institutions;
- Advocate for the needs of older Iowans;
- Finance and administer contracts to direct providers of services;
- Provide a central leadership role for older Iowans; and
- Provide information and assistance services for older Iowans and their caregivers

Area Agencies, funded by approximately 50% in federal funds, 10% state funds, and 40% local contributions, strive to meet the needs of the rapidly-growing number of older Iowans. Iowa has thirteen AAAs, covering all 99 counties. On July 31, the number of AAAs will be reduced to six, as mandated by legislation known as House File 45 (passed in 2011) and House File 2320 (passed in 2012).

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*AgingWatch will be published regularly during the legislative session and monthly in the interim by the Iowa Department on Aging. Recipients of the e-mail notice of publication are encouraged to share it with others.*

*The current issue may be found on the Department's website, [www.iowaaging.gov](http://www.iowaaging.gov). Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.*



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**The Mission** of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.