



IowaAging.gov

AgingWatch

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The link to policy affecting older Iowans

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Did you know?

A funnel is a deadline for legislative action set each session by the Senate and House.

First Funnel

Today marks the end of the first funnel and with it brings the termination of many bills. A chart is included on page 2 of this edition of AgingWatch that provides a list of bills that did not survive funnel.

It is important to note that the death of a bill does not equate to the death of an issue. For example, an issue can survive in the form of a companion bill or can reappear later as budget discussions progress. The chart on page 2 provides information on the issue as well as the bill; please refer to the notes section of each bill. It is difficult to predict what issues may resurface later but if an issue has a fiscal impact it may be resurrected later in a budget bill.

Also keep in mind that some bills have not made it through a committee but still show up as having survived funnel. Pay close attention to the committee to which the bill has been assigned. If the bill has been assigned to Ways and Means or Appropriations, it is automatically safe from funnel.

Elder abuse received some attention this week. Representatives Heddens and Heaton introduced [House File 416](#). The bill pulled from the work of the Elder Abuse Task Force and included the following:

- Acknowledgement of fiduciary responsibility as part of a power of attorney document.
- Registration of a power of attorney document with the Secretary of State.
- Prohibition against an attorney-in-fact or agent receiving property, benefit, or other interest as the result of financial exploitation.
- Defining “financial exploitation.”
- Creating penalties for financial exploitation of an older individual.
- Establishing a legislative commission on elder abuse prevention.

The bill was assigned to the Judiciary Committee but was never assigned to a subcommittee and therefore did not survive first funnel in its current form.

[Senate Study Bill 1231](#) encountered a similar fate. The bill established the crime of home repair fraud and created the offense of aggravated home repair fraud if the crime was committed against an individual aged 65 or older. The bill was introduced by Senator Hogg as a Judiciary Committee bill. The bill did not make it to subcommittee.

Bills that survived the first funnel have until April 5 to get through a committee in the opposite chamber.



Funnel Death

Time slipped away today for a host of legislative ideas slated to meet their demise when the 2013 session's first "funnel" deadline arrived. The following is a summary of dead bills.

Bill #	Issue of Bill	Notes:
SF 34	Elderly Services Reimbursement	Similar to HF 114. HF 114 also did not survive funnel.
SF 38	Long-Term Care Insurance	Similar to HF 71. HF 71 also did not survive funnel.
SF 90	Assisted Living	No known companion bill.
SF 118	Grandparent Visitation	No known companion bill.
SF 232	Direct Care Professionals	No known companion bill.
SSB 1119	Medicaid Asset Transfers	Similar to HF 476. The issue survives funnel via HF 476.
SSB 1231	Home Repair Fraud	No known companion bill. See story on page 1.
HF 31	Safety and Staffing Plans	No known companion bill.
HF 42	Camping Fee Reductions	No known companion bill.
HF63	Absentee Ballot	No known companion bill.
HF 71	Long-Term Care Insurance	Similar to SF 38. SF 38 also did not survive funnel.
HF 83	Medicaid Expansion	Similar to SF 296. The issues survives funnel via SF 296.
HF 86	Power of Attorney Validity	No companion bill.
HF 114	Elderly Services Reimbursement	Similar to SF 34. SF 34 also did not survive funnel.
HF 115	Senior Program Funding	Similar to SF 109. SF 109 is assigned to appropriations and survives funnel.
HF 116	Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate Appropriation	Similar to SF 258. The issue survives funnel via SF 258.
HF 137	Violent Elderly Placements	Similar to SF 198. The issue survives funnel via SF 198.
HF 146	Silver Alerts	No known companion bill.
HF 200	MH/DS County Funding I	No known companion bill.
HF 201	MH/DS County Funding II	No known companion bill.
HF 206	Sex Offender Placements	No known companion bill.
HF 217	Mental Health Advocate	Portions are similar to SSB 1192. The issue survives funnel via SSB 1192.
HF 232	Alzheimer's Program	Similar to SF 269. The issue survives funnel via SF 269.
HF 416	Power of Attorney Limits	See story on page 1. No known companion bill.

Bill Watch

Funnel week brought about a significant reduction in the number of bills being tracked by the Department but these bills are still alive and potentially impactful to older and disabled Iowans. Bill Watch includes a brief summary but you may find comprehensive information including the entire bill, committee assignments, amendments and bill history by clicking on the bill number. Each bill is linked to the legislative website where up-to-date information is recorded.

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- HF 53** **ELDERLY SEX OFFENDER COMMITMENTS.** Establishes notification requirements for the clerk of court and facilities upon commitment of a registered sex offender to a facility. Requires the facility develop a written safety plan. Prohibits the release of a person committed as a sexual predator during a transitional period to a facility. Requires adequate placements for certain sex offenders being released from custody. Requires the development of a workgroup, that includes the Department on Aging, to address an adequate workforce to provide health and mental health services to sex offenders. Requires a committee, that includes the Dept. on Aging and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, to look at creating a facility for such offenders .
- HF 124** **ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.** Makes the home of a low-income, elderly disabled person exempt from property tax. Includes conditions.
- HF 160** **MH TRANSITION SUPPLEMENTAL II.** Appropriates \$11.63 million in Fiscal Year 2013 from federal funds for children's health insurance for the Mental Health Disability Service Redesign Transition Fund.
- Passed the House. Referred to Senate Appropriations.
- HF 198** **REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRAINING.** Directs the adoption of rules regarding staff training costs for home and community based services under Medicaid reimbursable as direct costs.
- HF 278** **IOWA DEPT on AGING TECHNICAL BILL.** See Volume 13, Issue 3 for additional detail. Successor to HSB 46. See [SF 184](#).
- HSB 119** **HCBS WAIVER.** Creates an exemption to licensing as a health care facility to allow for coverage for more residential services under the home and community based services (HCBS) waiver. See [SF 351](#).

- [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 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](#)
- [SF 71](#)** **MEDICAID EXPANSION.** Expands Medicaid coverage to adults with 133% of federal poverty level. Requirements regarding medical homes. Commission to review recommendations about integrated care models. Make recommendations by September 2013. Consumers interested in Medicaid expansion and the ACA should watch this bill closely. See [HF 83](#)
- [SF 72](#)** **INSURANCE EXCHANGES.** Establishment of the Iowa health benefit marketplace.
- [SF 109](#)** **SENIOR PROGRAM FUNDING.** Appropriates \$13.85 million in Fiscal Year 2014 to the Department on Aging for programming for older individuals and the area agencies on aging. See [HF 115](#).
- [SF 184](#)** **DEPARTMENT ON AGING TECHNICAL BILL.** See Volume 13, Issue 3 for additional detail. Successor to SSB 1056. See [HF 278](#).
- [SF 198](#)** **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. Requires a report by December 15, 2013. Successor to SF 35. Similar to [HF 137](#).
- [SF 258](#)** **LONG-TERM CARE APPROPS.** Appropriates to the Dept on Aging \$13,000 for the certified volunteer ombudsman program and \$97,000 for an additional VOP to administer the program. Successor to SF 36. See [HF 116](#).
- [SF 269](#)** **ALZHEIMER'S PROGRAMS.** DPH to coordinate Alzheimer's programs at the state level. Directs the DPH to establish a coordinator in the department and to convene a multi-disciplinary task force. Includes other related measures. Successor to SF 199. See [HF 232](#)
- [SF 350](#)** **DEPENDENT ADULT REPORTERS.** Eliminates the Abuse Education Review panel and transfers responsibilities to DPH. Makes requirements of mandatory reporters. Increase the hours of training for mandatory reporters. Replaces [SF 178](#).

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SF 351 **HCBS WAIVER.** Creates an exemption to licensing as a health care facility to allow for coverage for more residential services under the Home-and-Community Based services (HCBS) waiver. See [HSB 119](#).

SSB1192 **MH DUTIES.** Creates a Mental Health Advocate division in the DIA. Similar to [HF 217](#).

Save the Date: April 25, 2013

Aging and Disability Resource Center Network in Iowa: A Dialogue

Krista Boston and Kelli Jo Greiner from the Minnesota Board on Aging will share an overview of the ADRC system designed and implemented in Minnesota and lessons learned. This is an opportunity for partners to have an open dialogue for a successful ADRC system in Iowa. AgingWatch will provide details in future issues.

Next Month in AgingWatch:

- Sequestration Update
- The Budget Process
- Bill Watch

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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. 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.

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