



**First Day of
Session:
January 13**

Looking Ahead: 2014 Iowa Legislative Session

Session Start Approaching

Happy New Year from the Iowa Department on Aging. The start of 2014 can mean only one thing from the perspective of the writers at AgingWatch...the start of the Legislative Session.

2014 is an election year, with the Governor's seat on the ballot alongside the entire House and half the Senate. The result of this political calendar is wide speculation that this will be an accelerated session of shortened duration.

The session is set to begin on January 13. According to the [2014 Iowa Legislative Session Timetable](#), the first funnel will occur on February 21 with the second funnel set for March 14. It is important to note that these dates are subject to change and, if the Iowa Legislature moves as quickly as predicted, the funnel dates could arrive sooner than anticipated.

Bustling Interim

The months leading up to the start of session have certainly remained busy. There were several interim committees that met to discuss the work of Task Forces and to hear public input regarding a variety of topics. Issues reviewed by interim committees include elder abuse, integrated health care models and multi-payor delivery systems, and mental health and disability services redesign.

Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention Study Committee

Pursuant to Iowa Acts 2013, Senate File 446, the Department on Aging was charged with continuing the work of the Elder Abuse Task Force of 2012. In addition to mandating a continuation of the Task Force, the legislation also directed the creation of a legislative interim committee. The legislative interim committee, known as the Elder Abuse Prevention and Intervention Study Committee, is comprised of the following legislative members:

Senators Mary Jo Wilhelm (D - co-chair), Nancy Boettger (R),
Mark Chelgren (R), Robert Dvorsky (D), Liz Mathis (D)

Representatives Julian Garrett (R - co-chair), Mark Costello (R),
Lisa Heddens (D), Bruce Hunter (D), John Landon (R)

The Committee met on November 14 to review the progress report of the Task

Did You Know?

Legislative Services Agency (LSA)

is a nonpartisan legislative agency that provides bill drafting, legal and fiscal research services, computer services, and assists the Legislature in the budgeting and appropriations process.

Force. Many of the Task Force members presented to the Committee. Committee members offered recommendations for moving forward, which were incorporated into a final report.

The final report has been submitted to the Committee for approval. Upon approval, the Department will submit the final report to the General Assembly and the Office of the Governor.

The final report will make recommendations regarding a variety of issues including an elder abuse definition, financial exploitation, a single entry point, and substitute decision-making.

Budgets

In addition to interim committees, work surrounding Department budgets is also underway. State agencies presented budgets to the Office of the Governor this month. The Legislative Services Agency has also been busy reviewing and presenting information regarding Department budgets. Another sign that the start of the Legislative Session is drawing near.

AgingWatch Preparation

AgingWatch will begin legislative coverage the week of January 13. We look forward to providing relevant information regarding aging policies during the upcoming session and welcome any comments you may have to make our publication better.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Appropriations

The HHS Appropriation is divided among the following state agencies:

- Department of Human Services
- Department of Public Health
- Department on Aging
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Iowa Veterans Home

2014 Iowa Legislative Session Timetable

Note: This Session Timetable is subject to change.

AgingWatch will provide the latest information throughout the session.

January 13	First day of session
January 24	Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill drafts to the Legislative Service Agency
February 21	Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills out of House committees.
February 24-28	Senate only considers Senate bills and unfinished business. House considers only House bills and unfinished business.
March 3-14	Debate not limited by rule.
March 14	Final date for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees
March 17-21	Senate considers only House bills and unfinished business. House considers only Senate bills and unfinished business.
March 24	Primarily only the following bills are eligible for consideration: Appropriations, Ways/Means, Government Oversight
March 31	Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
April 22	100th day. Per diem expenses end.

Next month in AgingWatch:

- First week of the legislative session
- Who's who under the dome
- Department update
- Bill Watch

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

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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"



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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.