



agingWATCH



Iowa legislators scramble to meet session's first funnel deadline

Friday, March 6, marks the 2015 Legislative Session's first funnel deadline – causing a flurry of activity throughout both chambers of the General Assembly as Iowa's legislators work to move bills out of committee.

According to the 86th General Assembly Joint Rules, Rule 20, the Friday of the eighth week of the session is the final date for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House bills to be reported out of House committees. Bills that fail to make it out of committee by Friday (with several exceptions, as detailed on page 5) will be considered dead, so policymakers – especially those sponsoring legislation – are extremely busy this week as they try to gain support for legislation around the issues they champion.

Some bills that the Iowa Department on Aging has been monitoring have already made it out of committee and are safe from this week's funnel. They include:

- SF 45: *Disabled Veteran Homestead Credit*
- SF 149: *Guardianship and Conservatorship Petition*
- SF 178: *Insurance Proceeds*

- SF 229: *Health Information Network*
- SF 272: *Disabled Parking Permit Fines*
- SF 306: *Ward Communication and Visitation*
- SF 331: *Electronic Voter Registration*
- HF 91: *Mental Health Advocates*
- HF 159: *Guardianship and Conservatorship Petition*
- HF 166: *Disabled Veteran Homestead Credit*
- HF 202: *Retired Volunteer Dentists and Hygienists*
- HF 247: *Eligibility Verification Systems*
- HF 381: *Health Information Network*

(Details about all of these bills are listed in Bill Tracker, beginning on page 3.)

As the week progresses, we expect many additional bills to pass out of committee. For those that do not make the deadline, there is also the possibility that they will be resurrected in some form within a budget or standings bill.

Look for a complete list of advancing legislation in the next issue of *AgingWatch*.

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DIRECTOR HARVEY REAPPOINTED TO IDA



On Monday, March 2, Gov. Terry Branstad announced 12 appointments and reappointments to his administration's leadership team, including the reappointment of

Donna Harvey to another term as director of the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) beginning May 1.

Donna has served as IDA director since 2011. Under her leadership, the IDA has:

- Hosted statewide community forums to address issues with aging (scheduled to take place again this year);
- Re-established the Office of Substitute Decision Maker;
- Ensured the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman is in compliance with OAA and seen as a functional model;
- Established a Policy and Planning Division within the IDA; and
- Expanded the LifeLong Links aging and disability resource center network.

Over the next four years, Donna hopes to explore new opportunities to make Iowa the top retirement location; modernize the aging program service system funded through the Older Americans Act; and continue to identify new collaborative opportunities across state government and private sector to improve the lives of older Iowans.

Gubernatorial appointments require a two-thirds majority vote of the Iowa Senate to win confirmation.



CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

AgingWatch welcomes comments and suggestions from readers. If errors are

brought to our attention, we will attempt to correct them. Messages can be emailed to kimberly.murphy@iowa.gov.

2015 Iowa Legislative Session timetable

(Session timetable is subject to change)

JANUARY 12:

First day of session
Iowa Code Sec. 2.1

FEBRUARY 13 (Friday of the 5th Week):

Final day for individual Senator and Representative requests for bill drafts to the Legislative Services Agency
Senate Rule 27 and House Rule 29

MARCH 6 (Friday of the 8th Week):

Final day for Senate bills to be reported out of Senate committees and House Bills out of House committees
Joint Rule 20

MARCH 16-20 (10th Week):

Senate only considers Senate bills and unfinished business; House only considers House bills and unfinished business
Joint Rule 20

MARCH 23 – APRIL 3 (11th and 12th Weeks):

Debate not limited by rule

APRIL 3 (Friday of the 12th Week):

Final day for Senate bills to be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees
Joint Rule 20

APRIL 6-10 (13th Week):

Senate only considers House bills and unfinished business; House only considers Senate bills and unfinished business
Joint Rule 20

APRIL 13 (Beginning of the 14th Week):

Amendments need not be filed on the day preceding floor debate
House Rule 31.8

Primarily, only the following bills are eligible for consideration:

- Bills passed by both Houses
- Ways and Means Bills
- Appropriations Bills
- Government Oversight Bills

Joint Rule 20

MAY 1 (110th Calendar Day of the Session):

Per diem expenses end
Iowa Code Sec. 2.10(1)

More information about any of the bills listed in “Bill Tracker” can be found by clicking on the bill number and following the hyperlink to the Iowa Legislature’s online BillBook (www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/billTracking). This resource posts all versions of bills and amendments, resolutions, study bills, bill histories and fiscal notes and includes sponsor information.

Iowa House of Representatives

HF 9 **Insurance Premiums for Older Drivers.** *Requires the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, to establish a certified driver safety education course to be offered throughout the state. A person who successfully completes the course shall be issued a certificate. The Commissioner of Insurance shall require insurers to provide a 10 percent automobile insurance premium reduction for persons 55 years of age or older who have obtained a certificate within the last three years.*

HF 24 **Camping Fees for Older Iowans.** *Directs the Natural Resources Commission to reduce fees for camping and other special privileges for residents who are 60 years of age or older.*

HF 48 **Absentee Voter Status.** *Allows an absentee voter to receive absentee ballots for all subsequent general elections without having to reapply.*

HF 68 **Veterans Courts.** *Establishes a veterans treatment court in each judicial district.*

HF 85 **Abuse of Elders.** *Eliminates a listing of persons who were exempt from the confidential relationship requirements under the elder abuse Code chapter.*

HF 87 **Elder Financial Exploitation.** *Establishes the crime of financial exploitation of an older individual and provides penalties.*

HF 91 **Mental Health Advocates.** *Amends current law to eliminate court appointments of mental health advocates and mandates County Boards of Supervisors to assume responsibility for appointing mental health advocates in a patient’s county of residence. If a county of residence cannot be established, the County Board of Supervisors of the county where the patient’s hospital or facility is located will be mandated to appoint an advocate. This bill makes changes to payment provisions for services provided by the advocate.*

HF 106 **Health Workforce Center.** *Establishes a Iowa Health Workforce Center within the Iowa Department of Public Health to coordinate public and private health and long-term care workforce efforts in the state.*

HF 113 **Electronic Absentee Ballot.** *Allows registered voters to make application for absentee ballots through electronic means.*

HF 119 **Senior Farmers’ Market.** *Expands eligibility for the Senior Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.*

HF 159 **Guardianship and Conservatorship Petition.** *Amends the current law so a combined petition for a conservatorship and a guardianship is treated as one proceeding, with one docket number. (Companion to SF 149.)*

HF 166 **Disabled Veteran Homestead Credit.** *Amends eligibility criteria for the disabled veteran homestead tax credit to include additional categories of veterans with disabilities to qualify for the credit.*

HF 170 **Aggressive Elderly Persons.** *Directs the Iowa Departments of Inspections and Appeals and Human Services to establish a committee to address the placement and housing of elderly persons who are sexually aggressive or combative or who have unmet geropsychiatric needs. The committee would include representatives from the Iowa Department on Aging and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. (Similar to HF 178 and SF 142.)*

HF 173 **Aging Appropriations.** *Appropriates an additional \$220,000 to the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and an additional \$150,000 to the Iowa Department on Aging to be used for the Office of Substitute Decision Maker.*

HF 178 **Aggressive Elderly Persons.** *Directs the Iowa Departments of Inspections and Appeals and Human Services to establish a committee to address the placement and housing of elderly persons who are sexually aggressive or combative or who have unmet geropsychiatric needs. The committee would include representatives from the Iowa Department on Aging and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. (Similar to HF 170 and SF 142.)*

BILLS CURRENTLY AWAITING
GOVERNOR’S SIGNATURE

- HF 179** **Long-Term Care Committee.** Establishes a long-term care committee to be comprised of members of the general public appointed by specific advocacy-based entities, representatives of those involved in long-term care delivery, members of the Senate and House of Representatives and representatives of state agencies, including the Iowa Department on Aging and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The bill outlines specific duties for the committee with the intent to perform a comprehensive review of the long-term care delivery system. (Companion to SF 160.)
- HF 180** **Evidence-Based Depression Screening.** Mandates the Iowa Department on Aging to establish an evidence-based depression screening and treatment program for older individuals to be administered by each Area Agency on Aging. (Companion to SF 169.)
- HF 184** **Abuse and Financial Exploitation of Elders.** Eliminates a listing of persons who were exempt from the confidential relationship requirements under the Elder Abuse chapter in Iowa Code. Establishes the crime of financial exploitation of an older individual and provides penalties. Further defines “substitute petitioner” and notice provisions. (Companion to SF 109.)
- HF 187** **Barriers to Community Living.** Directs multiple state agencies to create a workgroup to identify and address barriers to community living for older individuals and individuals with disabilities. The workgroup must include representatives of the Olmstead consumer task force and the Iowa Departments on Aging and Human Services and develop a plan to address identified barriers and make specific recommendations to ensure compliance with the Olmstead decision. (Companion to SF 156.)
- HF 202** **Retired Volunteer Dentists and Hygienists.** Creates a retired volunteer license for dentists and dental hygienists who have retired within the last five years.
- HF 218** **Iowa Telehealth Act.** Establishes the Iowa Telehealth Act with the intent to allow professionals to use telehealth technology.
- HF 233** **Confidentiality Program for Abuse Victims.** Establishes an address confidentiality program in the office of the Secretary of State for a victim of domestic abuse, domestic abuse assault, sexual abuse, or stalking or for a person in fear of the person’s safety or another person’s safety. (Similar to SSB 1134.)
- HF 236** **Prevention of Disabilities Council.** Defines the activities of the Prevention of Disabilities Council and gives the council additional duties to coordinate disability prevention efforts and provide technical assistance with grant writing and other areas. Adds ex-officio members from the Iowa Departments on Aging, Education, Public Health and Human Services. Requires the directors of these agencies to meet annually with the Council. Requires DHS to adopt rules to implement the bill, subject to approval from the Council. (Companion to SF 302.)
- HF 247** **Eligibility Verification Systems.** Directs the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish a computerized income, asset and identity eligibility verification system and directs DHS to issue a request for proposal to contract with a third-party vendor to establish the system.
- HF 257** **Wages Paid to Individuals With a Disability.** Modifies the criteria for claiming the deduction from the individual income tax, corporate income tax and franchise tax of certain wages paid relating to the employment of an individual with a disability.
- HF 265** **Involuntary Commitment – Danger to Self or Others.** Relates to the involuntary commitment of a person with an intellectual disability who presents a danger to self or others.
- HF 317** **Mental Health Telehealth.** Directs the Iowa Department of Human Services to adopt rules to provide for coverage of telehealth services provided by a mental health professional under the Medicaid program.
- HF 328** **Abuse and Financial Exploitation of Elders.** Eliminates a list of persons who are exempt from the confidential relationship requirements under the elder abuse Code chapter. Establishes the crime of financial exploitation of an older individual and provides penalties. Further defines “substitute petitioner” and notice provisions. Directs the Iowa Departments on Aging, Human Services, Inspections and Appeals and Public Health, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and the Office of the Attorney General to draft legislation to develop an elder abuse prevention system for the State.
- HF 381** **Health Information Network.** Provides for the administration and governance of an Iowa health information network by a nonprofit designated entity. Creates new Code chapter and transitions current functions from the Iowa Department of Public Health to a nonprofit entity designated pursuant to RFP process. (Companion to SF 229.)

HF 399 Facilities for Sex Offenders. Requires the Iowa Department of Human Services to establish one or more facilities by July 1, 2016, to house and care for tier II or tier III sex offenders.

HF 404 Telehealth. Provides that a health care professional licensed by a professional licensing board may employ the technology of telehealth; directs the Iowa Department of Public Health to adopt rules to implement the requirements of the bill; and directs the Iowa Department of Human Services to adopt rules to provide coverage for telehealth services under the Medicaid program.

HSB 65 Food Assistance Eligibility. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to eliminate categorical eligibility for the food assistance program and to instead implement income eligibility for the program at 130 percent of the federal poverty level and an asset test for eligibility consistent with federal supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP) requirements.

HSB 82 Medicaid HCBS Waiting Lists. Directs the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop a prioritization policy for openings under each of the Medicaid home and community-based services waivers. The openings historically have been awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

HSB 85 Protective and No-Contact Orders. Makes several changes related to the issuance of and violation of civil protective orders and criminal no-contact orders and modifies penalties. (Companion to SSB 1080.)

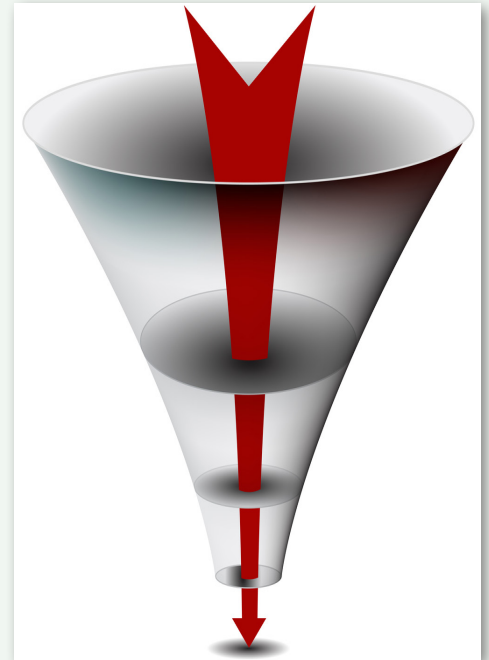
Iowa Senate

SF 2 Veterans Home Eligibility. Provides additional eligibility to spouses of living veterans who are not members of the Iowa Veterans Home. To be eligible, such a spouse is required to have been married to the veteran for at least 10 years, be disabled and meet the qualifications for nursing or residential levels of care.

SF 3 Parking for Persons with Disabilities. Requires that an approved driver education course include classroom instruction relating to the rights, privileges and penalties associated with parking for persons with disabilities.

SF 23 Violent Habitual Offenders. Establishes a criminal penalty for a violent habitual offender and requires a violent habitual offender to be placed on parole or work release prior to the expiration of the sentence. Prohibits a person classified as a violent habitual offender from receiving a deferred judgment or a deferred or suspended sentence.

SF 34 Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit. Amends eligibility criteria for the disabled veteran homestead tax credit to include additional categories of veterans with disabilities to qualify for the credit.



While many bills must be reported out of committee by the March 6 and April 3 deadlines in order to stay active, some types of bills are exempt from the funnels. These include:

- Appropriations Bills;
- Ways and Means Bills;
- Government Oversight Bills;
- Legalizing Acts;
- Administrative Rules Review Committee Bills;
- Committee Bills related to delayed or suspended Administrative Rules [Iowa Code Sec. 17A.8(9)];
- Bills co-sponsored by Majority and Minority Leaders of one House;
- Conference Committee Reports Companion Bills sponsored by the Majority Leaders of both Houses after consultation with the respective Minority Leaders;
- Concurrent or Simple Resolutions; and
- Joint Resolutions nullifying Administrative Rules.

- SF 45 Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit.** Amends eligibility criteria for the disabled veteran homestead tax credit to include additional categories of veterans with disabilities to qualify for the credit.
- SF 52 Senior Property Tax and Assessment Freeze.** Provides a property assessment adjustment and a property tax adjustment for certain property of persons who have attained the age of 65.
- SF 83 Senior Property Tax and Assessment Freeze.** Provides a property assessment adjustment and a property tax adjustment for certain property of persons who have attained the age of 70.
- SF 93 Senior Property Assessment Freeze.** Provides a property assessment adjustment for certain property of persons who have attained the age of 65.
- SF 103 Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit.** Modifies eligibility criteria for the disabled veteran homestead tax credit by providing that the credit allowed on the homestead be a percentage of the tax levied on the homestead equivalent to the veteran's service-connected disability rating percentage.
- SF 105 Inheritance Tax Repeal.** Repeals the state inheritance tax and the state qualified use inheritance tax.
- SF 106 Medicaid HCBS Reimbursement.** Provides that reimbursement for providers of services and the individual monthly maximum cap under the Medicaid home and community-based services waiver for the elderly shall be increased by 3 percent over the amounts in effect on June 30, 2015.
- SF 109 Abuse and Financial Exploitation of Elders.** Eliminates a listing of persons who were exempt from the confidential relationship requirements under the Elder Abuse chapter in Iowa Code. Establishes the crime of financial exploitation of an older individual and provides penalties. Further defines "substitute petitioner" and notice provisions. (Companion to HF 184.)
- SF 141 Aging in Place.** Requires the Iowa Finance Authority to convene a task force to address the barriers to aging in place for older Iowans and Iowans with disabilities and to facilitate the creation of additional multigenerational and sustainable housing in Iowa communities. The task force shall consist of 16 members, with four being ex-officio, nonvoting members of the General Assembly.
- SF 142 Aggressive Elderly Persons.** Directs the Iowa Departments of Inspections and Appeals and Human Services to establish a committee to address the placement and housing of elderly persons who are sexually aggressive or combative or who have unmet geropsychiatric needs. The committee would include representatives from the Iowa Department on Aging and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. (Similar to HF 170 and HF 178.)
- SF 149 Guardianship and Conservatorship Petition.** Amends the current law so a combined petition for a conservatorship and a guardianship is treated as one proceeding, with one docket number. (Companion to HF 159.)
- SF 156 Barriers to Community Living.** Directs multiple state agencies to create a workgroup to identify and address barriers to community living for older individuals and individuals with disabilities. The workgroup must include representatives of the Olmstead consumer task force and the Iowa Departments on Aging and Human Services and develop a plan to address identified barriers and make specific recommendations to ensure compliance with the Olmstead decision. (Companion to HF 187.)
- SF 160 Long-Term Care Committee.** Establishes a long-term care committee to be comprised of members of the general public appointed by specific advocacy-based entities, representatives of those involved in long-term care delivery, members of the Senate and House of Representatives and representatives of state agencies, including the Iowa Department on Aging and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. The bill outlines specific duties for the committee with the intent to perform a comprehensive review of the long-term care delivery system. (Companion to HF 179.)
- SF 169 Evidence-Based Depression Screening.** Mandates the Iowa Department on Aging to establish an evidence-based depression screening and treatment program for older individuals to be administered by each Area Agency on Aging. (Companion to HF 180.)
- SF 178 Insurance Proceeds.** Provides that a person convicted of certain felonies perpetrated against a decedent in the six months immediately prior to the decedent's death is not entitled, as a named beneficiary, to any benefit under a bond, policy or other contractual arrangement, and the benefits become payable as though the person causing death had predeceased the decedent. Exception by affidavit.

SF 189 Disabled Veteran Homestead Tax Credit. *Modifies eligibility criteria for the disabled veteran homestead tax credit.*

SF 229 Health Information Network. *Provides for the administration and governance of an Iowa health information network by a designated non-profit entity. It creates a new Iowa Code chapter and transitions current functions from the Iowa Department of Public Health to a non-profit entity designated pursuant to an RFP process. (Companion to HF 381.)*

SF 261 Tax Exemption for Older Iowans. *Exempts any individual who is at least 65 years of age from the individual income tax.*

SF 272 Disabled Parking Permit Fines. *Under current law, improper use of a persons with disabilities parking permit is a misdemeanor subject to separate fines. This bill provides that a local authority may charge and collect upon a simple notice of a \$100 fine in lieu of a scheduled fine.*

SF 302 Prevention of Disabilities Council. *Defines the activities of the Prevention of Disabilities Council and gives the council additional duties to coordinate disability prevention efforts and provide technical assistance with grant writing and other areas. Adds ex-officio members from the Iowa Departments on Aging, Education, Public Health and Human Services. Requires the directors of these agencies to meet annually with the Council. Requires DHS to adopt rules to implement the bill, subject to approval from the Council. (Companion to HF 236.)*

SF 306 Ward Communication and Visitation. *Permits a guardian to restrict an adult ward's communication or visitation only upon court approval and provides additional clarifications regarding the role of the guardian and the rights of the ward.*

SF 331 Electronic Voter Registration. *Permits electronic voter registration, electronic updating of voter registration information and electronic correction of voter registration information through the website of the State Commissioner of Elections.*

SSB 1001 Dementia Proficient Workforce Task Force. *Requires the Departments of Public Health, Aging, Human Services and Inspections and Appeals to form a task force to review dementia curricula and training models. Report due in November 2015.*

SSB 1080 Protective and No-Contact Orders. *Makes several changes related to the issuance of and violation of civil protective orders and criminal no-contact orders, and modifies penalties. (Companion to HSB 85.)*

SSB 1134 Confidentiality Program for Abuse Victims. *Establishes an address confidentiality program in the office of the Secretary of State for a victim of domestic abuse, domestic abuse assault, sexual abuse or stalking, or for a person in fear of his/her safety or another person's safety. (Similar to HF 233.)*

SSB 1149 Domestic Abuse. *Addresses several changes to Iowa's domestic abuse laws, including payment of support and maintenance, mandatory risk assessment, electronic tracking and monitoring, mandatory minimum sentences and accumulation of earned time.*

SSB 1167 Iowa Health Workforce Center. *Establishes a Iowa Health Workforce Center within the Iowa Department of Public Health to coordinate public and private health and long-term care workforce efforts in the state. (Companion to HF 106.)*

SSB 1172 Durable Medical Equipment. *Establishes a licensing procedure and standards of practice for durable medical equipment providers.*

SSB 1181 Mental Health and Disabilities Redesign. *Makes conforming Code amendments relating to the redesign legislation.*

SSB 1182 Caregiver After-Care Assistance. *Requires a hospital to provide each patient with an opportunity to designate a caregiver, to notify the caregiver of the patient's discharge or transfer and to consult with and provide instructions to the caregiver regarding the patient's after-care assistance*



DHS hosts public meetings about Medicaid Modernization

On Feb. 16, the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Gov. Branstad's Medicaid Modernization initiative. The project looks to improve the coordination and quality of care while providing predictability and sustainability for taxpayers in Medicaid spending.

The Iowa High Quality Health Care Initiative RFP asks for bids from potential vendors as the state moves toward a risk-based managed care approach for Iowa's Medicaid program. In their bids, potential vendors must explain how they plan to meet the main objectives of Iowa's Medicaid Modernization, which include:

- Improving quality and access;
- Promoting accountability for outcomes; and
- Creating a more predictable and sustainable Medicaid budget.

In order to educate the public about Medicaid Modernization and engage statewide dialogue about the project, DHS will host a series of public meetings related to the RFP. The first meeting was held in Cedar Rapids on Tuesday, March 3, but there are three additional meetings scheduled over the next few weeks.

Stakeholders and the public should submit questions and comments to: MedicaidModernization@dhs.state.ia.us. To access the RFP or learn more about the initiative, visit <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/MedicaidModernization>.

DES MOINES

Friday, March 6, 2015
10-11:30 a.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 1-1A
2309 Euclid
Des Moines, IA 50310
Phone access: 866.685.1580
Participant Code: 542-870-0217



DAVENPORT

Monday, March 9, 2015
12:30-2 p.m.
Davenport Public Library, Fairmount Street Branch
3000 N. Fairmount St.
Davenport, IA 52804
No conference call available

COUNCIL BLUFFS

Monday, March 16, 2015
12:30-2 p.m.
Iowa Western Community College, Auditorium
2700 College Rd.
Council Bluffs, IA 51503
Phone access: 866.685.1580
Participant Code: 542-870-0217

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