

# Legislative Update

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 14, 2005

## ***This Week:***

- Week In Review
- Feature Program:  
Elder Iowans Act
- In the Legislature

Visit the Iowa  
Department of Elder  
Affairs online at  
[www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs](http://www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs)

**“We must create a  
consumer choice  
support and  
education program  
so older Iowans get  
the services they  
need in a way that  
is cost effective and  
respects their  
personal choices”**

**- Governor Tom  
Vilsack**

## ■-□-■ WEEK IN REVIEW ■-□-■

This week was one of protocol and organization. While the General Assembly was settling in, proposed legislation began to flow. The PNA or personal needs allowance for individuals on Title XIX in long-term care settings is once again up for discussion, as are rates for home and community based service providers, increased penalties related to dependent adult abuse and a proposal to phase out state taxes on social security and pension income.

On Thursday, both the House and Senate Human Resource Committees met for the first time. Both committees have established standing sub-committees relating to Medicaid. The members of the House Medicaid sub-committee are: Representatives Danny Carroll (C), Linda Upmeyer, Dave Heaton, Mark Smith and Ro Foege. The members of the Senate Medicaid Sub-Committee are: Senators James Seymour, David Johnson, Maggie Tinsman, Jack Hatch, Joe Bolkcom, and Amanda Ragan.

The department had one study bill introduced, LSB1263DP related to the Medical Assistance Advisory Council.

The General Assembly will not convene on January 17 in observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, but will reconvene on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**The Department will discuss its 2005 budget with the joint appropriations sub-committee at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> in room 116 of the Capitol.**

Regards,  
Joel Wulf  
DEA Legislative Liaison

Visit the Iowa Family Caregiver website. Go to [www.iowafamilycaregiver.org](http://www.iowafamilycaregiver.org), or call 1-866-4-NURTURE (1-866-468-7887)

For more information, the Iowa Legislature General Assembly homepage is [www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us)

## ■-□-■ ELDER AFFAIRS FEATURE PROGRAM ■-□-■

### Elder Iowans Act (231 C)

The Elder Iowans Act states that the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs shall administer programs and services for elders under the direction of its commission. The duties and authority of the Department state that the director of Elder Affairs shall:

- ❖ Advocate for elders by reviewing and commenting upon all state plans, budgets, laws, rules, regulations, and policies which affect elders and by providing technical assistance to any agency, organization, association, or individual representing the needs of the elders.
- ❖ Assist the commission in developing, adopting, and enforcing administrative rules, by issuing necessary forms and procedures.
- ❖ Multiple other requirements related to Iowa's 544,000 elders aged 60 and over.

## ■-□-■ IN THE LEGISLATURE ■-□-■

### *Committee Schedule*

#### **House Human Resources**

Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in Room 103

Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm in Room 103

#### **Senate Human Resources**

Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in Room 22

*The following is a listing of the bills the department is monitoring.*

#### **House Files**

HF 12 A bill for an act relating to the reimbursement for services provided under a medical assistance home and community-based services waiver for the elderly. (Human Resources)



**House Files** *continued*

HF 20 A bill for an act relating to the amount of personal needs allowance for residents of nursing facilities under the medical assistance program. (Human Resources)

HF 22 A bill for an act relating to establishing standardized requirements for long-term care insurance policies. (Commerce)

HF 24 A bill for an act relating to a phase-out of the state income taxation of social security benefits and providing a retroactive applicability date. (Ways & Means) Committee members: Boal (C), Huser, Shoultz, Soderberg, Struyk

HF 26 A bill for an act phasing out the state income tax on social security benefits and on pension and retirement income and providing a retroactive applicability date. (Ways & Means) Committee members: Boal (C), Huser, Shoultz, Soderberg, Struyk

HF 39 A bill for an act relating to enhancing the criminal penalty for offenses against a person sixty-five years of age or older. (Public Safety)

HF 46 A bill for an act increasing the personal needs allowance for residents of nursing facilities under the medical assistance program. (Human Resources)

**Senate Files**

SF 15 A bill for an act relating to the amount of personal needs allowance for residents of nursing facilities under the medical assistance program. (Human Resources)

SF 16 A bill for an act relating to the reimbursement for services provided under a medical assistance home and community based services waiver for the elderly. (Human Resources)

SF 19 A bill for an act relating to establishing standardized requirements for long-term care insurance policies. (Commerce)

SF 29 A bill for an act relating to the senior living trust fund, providing for appropriation of the moneys in the fund, and providing for a repeal. (Appropriations)

## Pre-Filed Bills

Housing Assistance & Improvement Funds  
Iowa Finance Authority

Health Care Facility violations & penalties  
Department of Inspections and Appeals

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee  
Department of Elder Affairs

## ■-□-■ DISCLAIMER ■-□-■

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*The Legislative Update is distributed electronically during the legislative session by the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs for informational purposes only. Recipients of this update are encouraged to share it with others.*

*The current issue can also be found on the department's webpage, [www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/](http://www.state.ia.us/elderaffairs/), under the "What's New at DEA" heading. Past issues are archived in the "Publications/Information" section.*

*If you are interested in receiving or discontinuing the legislative updates, contact Erin Haafke by email at [erin.haafke@iowa.gov](mailto:erin.haafke@iowa.gov).*

### ***Our Mission:***

To provide advocacy, educational, and prevention services to older Iowans so they can find Iowa a healthy, safe, productive, and enjoyable place to live and work.

