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Eide Walton Legislative Update February 3, 2023

1 message

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EIDE · WALTON
LOBBYING AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Legislative Update Week Four

We just concluded week four of the 2023 legislative session and the pace continues to accelerate.

Governor's Realignment Bill Introduced

The Governor's state government realignment legislation, [HSB 126](#), was introduced this week. This bill is nearly 1600 pages long! It is going to take policy makers, staff and stakeholders time to evaluate the proposal and we expect discussion on this bill to take most of the session. The Governor worked with consultants to develop the plan and stated it will save \$215 million over the next four years. A short summary of key provisions is included below:



- The Department of Aging, the Department of Human Rights, Early Childhood Iowa and the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services would all be incorporated into the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Department of Inspections and Appeals would be renamed the Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing. DIAL would take over several licensing and

regulatory functions from other state departments like the Department of Public Safety, as well as the labor services and worker's compensation divisions that are part of the Department of Workforce Development. The Iowa Civil Rights Commission would also become a part of DIAL.

- The Economic Development Authority would incorporate the Department of Cultural Affairs. The director of the Economic Development Authority would also serve as the director of the Iowa Finance Authority.
- The Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy would be established in the Department of Public Safety, no longer existing as an independent entity.
- Department of Revenue would incorporate the Iowa Lottery Authority and take over control of the Alcoholic Beverage Division from the current Department of Commerce.
- The Department of Education would take over operations for the Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School and Iowa School for the Deaf, both of which are currently governed by the Board of Regents. The department would also establish the Higher Education Division, which the College Student Aid Commission and Board of Educational Examiners would fall under.
- The Department of Commerce would become the Department of Insurance and Financial Services and will contain insurance, banking and credit divisions.
- Iowa Utilities Board would be removed as a division of the Department of Commerce and function as a standalone board. The Office of the Consumer Advocate would be administratively supported by the Utilities Board.

Childcare Bills and Tracker

Childcare Wage Exemption

HF 47 Childcare Wage Exemption passed a House Ways & Means Subcommittee last week. The bill exempts from the income tax, the wages received for performing certain childcare services. The bill defines these services. It is now eligible for consideration by the full Committee.

This week the Legislative Services Agency published a Fiscal Note on the bill. To view it, click [here](#).



The Childcare Bill Tracker is back!

For a summary of the status of key childcare legislation click [here](#).

Iowa HHS Presents

Staff from the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will present an update on Childcare to the House HHS Budget Subcommittee. The meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 6 at 3:30**.



Members of the public are able to watch the public meeting virtually using the information below:

Virtual Meeting URL: <https://ialegis.webex.com/ialegis/j.php?MTID=m38e700499603bc121af357910f2f9510>

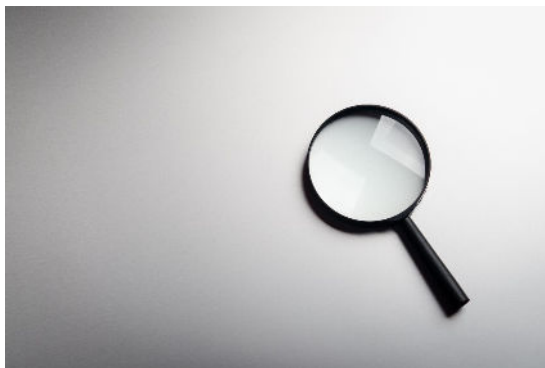
Call in number: 14084189388

Access code: 24892738100

Public Assistance Oversight

SSB 1105, a senate version of the welfare reform bill (**HF 3**), was released this week. This bill is very similar to the house version, and includes many of the same provisions such as:

1. Establishing an asset limit,
2. Requiring custodial parents' cooperation to qualify for SNAP benefits,
3. Requiring public assistance program applicants to complete a computerized questionnaire.



However, the bills are not identical. Here are some key differences from HF 3:

1. There is no restriction on the purchase of soda or candy with SNAP benefits.
2. It does not include the \$1 million appropriation for the Double Up Food Bucks program.
3. There is no section on work requirements for the Medicaid expansion population.
4. It does not ban the use of pre-populated forms for Medicaid.

HF 3 passed a subcommittee last week but has not yet been taken up at the full committee level. A subcommittee for SSB 1105 was canceled this week due to a scheduling error. We expect to see that rescheduled for next week.

Eviction Expungement

HSB 43 and **SSB 1118** deal with the sealing of eviction records. They require eviction (forcible entry and detainer) records to be sealed no later than three days from the date of a hearing if any of the following have occurred:

1. The case is dismissed.
2. The defendant is found not guilty.
3. There is no genuine issue found between the parties.
4. The plaintiff does not appear for the hearing.

If a defendant was found guilty in an eviction action for nonpayment of rent, the court would be required to seal records as long as these conditions are met:

1. More than five years have passed since the disposition.
2. The applicant has not been found guilty in a subsequent eviction action in the last five years.
3. The applicant's eviction court records haven't been sealed in the last ten years.
4. The applicant has paid all costs.



If records are sealed, they are not available for public inspection. Upon sealing, a consumer reporting agency is prohibited from disclosing any sealed eviction action. HSB 43 passed a subcommittee last week 3-0. A subcommittee has not yet been scheduled for SSB 1118.

We expect to see some additional amendments to the bill to clarify and streamline the process for the judicial branch.

Did You Know? Board and Commissions

Members of the public have the opportunity and ability to apply for various state boards and commissions. There are always a number of positions open for a variety of posts. It's a great way to volunteer your time in an area that you have an interest in. Governor Reynolds considers those who apply and then appoints those individuals. Some posts require Senate confirmation while others do not.



You can view the list of available positions for boards and commissions [here](#).

Around the Capitol



Team huddles in the AM gets the energy up!

Just a bunch of chatty Cathy's this week!



Kate chats with Rep. Devon Wood (R-New Market)



Matt chatting with Rep. Henry Stone (R-Winnebago)



Matt listening to Rep. Brent Siegrist (R-Council Bluffs) chatting with Rep. Austin Harris (R-Moulton)

Please don't hesitate to contact us!



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