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Eide Walton Legislative Update April 28, 2023

1 message

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LOBBYING AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Legislative Update Week Sixteen

The Senate debated some bills this week. The House did not but did hold House Appropriations Budget Subcommittee meetings and Standing Appropriations Committee meetings later in the week.



Today (Friday) is the last day of the legislative per diem. This means lawmakers will have to pay for meals and lodging starting on Monday. We're going into overtime, but all signs point to the Legislature adjourning late next week.



To our bodies: We are so sorry for the abuse and promise to eat more veggies after adjournment.

Property Tax Legislation

The House and Senate will attempt to find common ground on two vastly different property tax reduction bills.

SF 569	HF 718
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidates several individual tax levies for cities into the city's general services levy • Cities' levy rates capped at \$8.10 per \$1000 • County levy rate capped at \$3.50 per \$1,000 • Caps county rural services levy at \$3.95 per \$1,000 • Increases debt levy thresholds • Requires local governments to provide information on their budget plans • \$6,500 homestead property tax exemption for lowans 65 and older • Eliminates PERL, the Public Education and Recreation Levy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces school foundation property tax levy to \$4.40 per \$1,000 (costs made up through the taxpayer relief fund) • Caps property tax increases to 3% for homes and farms • Caps property tax increases to 8% for commercial and industrial properties • Moves bond elections to the date of the general election • Requires local governments to post information on property tax costs and reasons for rate increases

Budget Bill Tracker



Bill Number	Description	Current Status	Notes on Bill and Amendments (if any)
SB 1310	Administration & Regulation	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SB 1316	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SB 1311	Economic Development	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SB 1312	Education	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SB 1313	Health & Human Services	Referred to Senate Appropriations	

Progress was made on several bills this week: Ag & Natural Resources, Administration and Regulation, Federal Block Grants, Health and Human Services and Transportation, Infrastructure and Capitals.

For updates on the progress the legislature makes on their budget negotiations click [here](#).

Childcare Update and Bill Tracker

Childcare Assistance Eligibility / Rates

The week the Senate Appropriations committee approved [HF 707](#), which would increase childcare assistance eligibility to 155% of the federal poverty level and raises childcare assistance reimbursement 80% of the 2020 market rate survey. There is also language included in the bill raising the work or educational training requirement from 28 hours per week to 32 hours per week.



The Senate Appropriations committee included a committee amendment raising the eligibility from 155% to 160%. The Senate cannot amend a House File in committee, so the amendment will be considered by the full Senate during debate.

Child Care Development Funds (CCDF)

A spreadsheet was provided by the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services with information on CCDF funding projections. To view it click [here](#).

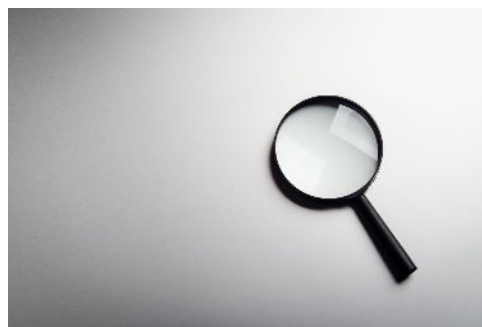

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 Spotlight Tracker: Child Care Bills
New information highlighted

Short Title	Description	Current Status	Fiscal Notes (if applicable)
Child-care Wage Enhancement	Increases from the current 10% to 15% wages earned for performing certain childcare services. Applies to all services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HF 21 in House Ways and Means. Passed. Subsequently in title. Eligible for consideration. 	Click here
Child-care Physicals	Requires employees of childcare facilities to take a physical with an annual or biennial frequency or within 30 days of starting employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HF 22 in House Ways and Means. Passed. Subsequently in title. Eligible for consideration. HF 23 in House Ways and Means. Passed. Subsequently in title. Eligible for consideration. HF 24 in House Ways and Means. Passed. Subsequently in title. Eligible for consideration. 	
Child-care Payments	Requires DPHS to amend its rules to make childcare assistance payments for a child covered under the program on days the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HF 25 in House Ways and Means. Passed. 	

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

Public Assistance Oversight

Provisions in [SF 561](#), the HHS budget bill passed by the Senate this week, make appropriations and clarifications to [SF 494](#), the public assistance program oversight act that was passed this year. The Public Assistance Modernization Fund is created in the State Treasury under control of Iowa HHS. This will be used for modernizing information technology systems and for other modernization initiatives related to delivery of public assistance programs.



An appropriation of up to \$8 million in one-time Medicaid program settlement funds is provided to the fund if SF 494 is enacted. In addition, the bill amends SF 494 to specify that the asset test is only for the purposes of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and shall not be used to determine Medicaid eligibility. SF 494 has not yet been signed by Governor Reynolds.

Around the Capitol



Kate and Matt huddled in a secret meeting room in the Law Library for a Zoom meeting.



Matt hung out in the secret room but wasn't feelin' the Zoom.



There was a student-led protest this week, against gun legislation being considered by the legislature.



Maddy holds a catalytic converter at the Alter scrapyard. Talk about other duties as assigned!



Kate talks with Sen. Scott Webster (R-Bettendorf)



Kate and fellow lobbyist Paige Thorsen both celebrated the spring weather in hot pink power blazers this week.

Please don't hesitate to contact us!



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