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Eide Walton Legislative Update May 12, 2023

1 message

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EIDE · WALTON
LOBBYING AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Legislative Update End of Session Summary

This will be the final regular newsletter update of the 2023 legislative session. We will certainly provide updates through the legislative Interim as events warrant. We want to thank you again for the opportunity to advocate on your behalf.

Now that session is over, Gov. Reynolds has 30 days to veto or approve bills received in the last three days of session. She can veto a whole policy or budget bill, or item-veto specific appropriations or policy language in an appropriations bill. If she vetoes or item-vetoes an appropriations bill, she provides an explanation about the reason for the veto.



Bills have enactment dates of July 1, unless otherwise specified.

Childcare Update and Bill Tracker

Childcare Assistance Eligibility / Rates

In the last week of session, the House and Senate finalized negotiations on [HF 707](#).

The final bill included an increase in the eligibility for childcare assistance from 145% of the federal poverty level to 160%. This increases expenditures by \$13.2 million.



The bill also increases the childcare assistance provider reimbursement rate to between the 65th and 80th percentile of the 2020 childcare market rate survey. This will increase expenditures by \$12.5 million.

HF 707 also increased the work, education and training requirement from 28 hours per week to 32 hours per week.

Iowa HHS is still working to determine a process for the proposed pilot project for categorical eligibility for childcare providers to receive childcare assistance. We expect more information to be released in the coming months.

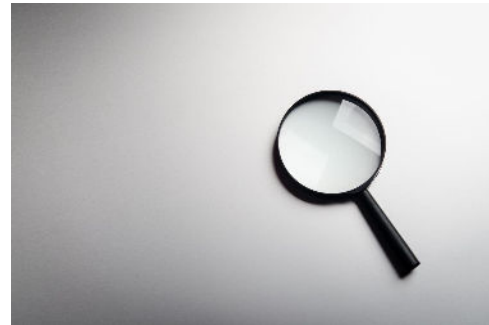

Spotlight Tracker: Child Care Bills
New information highlighted.

Short Title	Description	Current Status	Public Notice (if applicable)
Childcare Waiver Exemption	Exempts from the income test the wages received by providing certain childcare services. Defines such services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HF 41 in House Ways and Means. Passed subcommittee on 5/5. Higher for committee vote. 	Good Now
Childcare Requirements	Requires employers of childcare facilities to take a pre-qual with the number of working employees or within 30 days of starting employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HF 30 in House HHS. Policy. Passed subcommittee. Eligible for consideration by the full committee. SF 494 in Senate HHS Policy. Passed committee. Received new bill number. Eligible for consideration by the full Senate Chamber. 	
Childcare Payments	Requires DHS to annual to take to make childcare assistance payments for a child covered under the program on days the child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HF 31 in House HHS Policy. 	

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

Public Assistance Oversight

In the final week of the legislative session, the House and Senate took final action on [SF 561](#), the Health and Human Services Budget.



The bill included authorization for a \$8 million one-time expenditure from the one-time Medicaid settlement fund for the purposes of creating the Public Assistance Modernization Fund to enact the provisions contained in [SF 494](#) related to asset testing for public assistance. Language in the bill also includes a clarification that the asset test contained in SF 494 is only for the SNAP program and not the Medicaid program.

The Governor's Success

This legislative session started with an ambitious set of priorities laid out by Governor Reynolds in her Condition of the State address.

Click on the link below to read about where those priorities ended up and how the ones that passed may impact Iowans.

[The Des Moines Register Article](#)



Kim Reynolds proposed a far-reaching agenda for Iowa. She got nearly everything she wanted [desmoinesregister.com](https://www.desmoinesregister.com)

Budget Bill Tracker



Bill Number	Description	Current Status	Notes on Bills and Amendments (ICGA)
SJR 1206	Administration & Regulation	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SJR 1210	Agriculture & Natural Resources	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SJR 1211	Economic Development	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SJR 1217	Education	Referred to Senate Appropriations	
SJR 1219	Health & Human Services	Referred to Senate Appropriations	

For updates on final action the legislature took on their budget negotiations click [here](#).

Property Tax Reform



In the last week of the session, Iowa lawmakers voted nearly unanimously to pass sweeping property tax cuts that provide new tax breaks for military veterans and seniors and attempt to reign in the revenue growth of local governments. Representative Levin (D - Iowa City) was the sole no vote between both chambers.

The bill was signed by Governor Reynolds on May 4, the final day of the 2023 Legislative Session. Legislators were motivated to action by the historic assessment increases seen this spring and have indicated that additional reforms to the property tax system can be expected in the future.

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Legislators were motivated to action by the historic assessment increases seen this spring and have indicated that additional reforms to the property tax system can be expected in the future. Republican leaders project [HF 718](#) will generate a \$100 million property tax cut statewide. Here are some provisions included in the final bill:

- Consolidates 15 individual tax levies into a general fund levy, which is capped at \$8.10 per \$1000 in taxable value
- Caps the county general services levy at \$3.50 per \$1000 and the county rural services levy at \$3.95 per \$1,000
- Divides cities and counties into three tiers, based on whether their revenue grows by less than 3% annually, 3%-6%, or above 6%
- Creates a ratcheting down mechanism whereby if cities and counties see certain levels of growth, the increase must be applied to reducing taxes
- \$6,500 homestead property tax exemption for Iowans 65 and older
- \$4,000 property tax exemption for military veterans
- Requires new transparency measures for cities such as proposed budget impacts

- Requires bonding elections to be held at the same time as general elections

2023 Legislative Session Blooper Reel



It was a wild ride this session and we invite you all to laugh with us one last time.

Please don't hesitate to contact us!



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