

Legislative Newsletter

Feb. 12, 2016



Gov. Pitches Water Quality Plan to UCC

With the first funnel week deadline rapidly approaching, there has been a lot of activity at the Capitol. Bills must clear a full committee in order to still be eligible for consideration this session.

The E911 coalition has submitted draft language for the interoperability network and expanding the funding use to include emergency communication equipment. Additionally, another bill has been introduced and cleared the Senate appropriations committee to fund the statewide communication system. The bill, Senate Study Bill 3106, makes a one-time \$20 million appropriation. Since the Legislature scooped \$4 million last session, this would leave another \$15 million to be paid after SSB 3106's appropriation. The UCC is currently registered as undecided on this bill, but certainly, we appreciate the \$20 million coming from the ending balance and like the direction the bill takes.

Prisoner's expense language has also been agreed upon. There has been some confusion about this language. Our goals are to reduce costs to the county that can be borne by an arrestee, and to maintain the individual county's ability to negotiate insurance rates between their jails and hospitals. The agreed upon language should ensure both of these goals. The language has been submitted and should be introduced in the coming week.

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We ended the legislative week with UCC representatives meeting with Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds. The Governor requested the UCC meet with him to hear the Save for the Future program, which will divert some future school funding toward water quality initiatives. This will span 20 years after the sunset of the School Infrastructure Sales Tax in 13 years, and include both state and federal funding. The federal funding is intended to bridge the period in the early years when the School Sales Tax for Infrastructure generates little for water quality programs.

The UCC has not publicly registered on the Governor's plan, and the coalition remains committed to resolving agreed upon priorities first – namely, future funding of mental health services.

The following bills have cleared full committees and are debate-eligible in the House or Senate:

Senate File 2032 – Establishes exceptions to mental health disclosure prohibitions for care coordination. Registered as undecided.

Senate File 2001 – Allows a person to register to vote if he or she will be 18 years old by the next general election, even if the person is 17 years old at the time of registering. Schools would be required to provide students the opportunity to register at least twice a year. Registered as undecided.

House Study Bill 558 – Prohibits the state or any state agency, officer, or local government from restricting the enforcement of federal immigration law. Registered as undecided.

The following bills have been voted on by the full Senate or House:

Senate Study Bill 3081 – Now Senate File 2125. Terminates the Medicaid managed care program slated to start March 1.

House File 2118 – Audits disclosing significant irregularity in the collection or disbursement of public funds shall be filed with the county attorney.

House File 2147 – Relates to absentee and overseas voting.

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House File 2180 – Relates to requirements for the transfer of township funds raised for purposes of acquiring or repairing a public hall.

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