

Legislative Newsletter

March 4, 2016



TIF Bill Moves to Committee; E911 Delayed

The TIF bill - House Study Bill 639 - was passed out of a House subcommittee to the Ways and Means committee this past week. The Urban County Coalition is presently registered as monitoring on the bill. We emphasized to the subcommittee that TIF bills are more economically beneficial at the local level when they remain flexible. One-size-fits-all often puts unintended limitations and restrictions on projects. The House Ways and Means Committee will vote on HSB 639.

The Senate E911 bill in Appropriations will likely be voted on next week. Senate File 2241 was to be voted on the Senate Appropriations committee this past week, however, the legislature wanted more time to review information and figures from the Department of Homeland Security. Additionally, a fiscal note for the surcharge fund has been published and may be accessed on the Legislature's website.

One of the extended debates of the week related to the Medicaid improvements bill, Senate File 2213. It cleared the Senate on a 32-18 vote, with a strike and replace amendment.

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This bill would provide oversight of the transition to Medicaid managed care, which is slated to commence April 1. Certain Senate Republicans have begun to side with their Democrat counterparts on the issue of oversight.

Democrats – who have been against Gov. Branstad's decision to transition the state to managed care –said during the debate they do not believe the change will result in savings and will result in more burdensome procedures for health care providers who tend to Medicaid recipients.

Senate Republicans who voted against the bill said Democrats are trying to have it both ways by opposing the managed care transition but also intending to spend the savings anticipated from the managed care transition.

Additionally, the mental health property tax levy bill (Senate File 2236) should be taken up through subcommittee this coming week. The subcommittee was initially supposed to be last week and was canceled. We urge all counties to contact their local Farm Bureau presidents and tell them the even with a projected \$15 million increase, the savings from adjusting the levies comes to about \$22 million. That means there is a projected statewide savings of \$7 million in property taxes. Additionally, the local Farm Bureau presidents should call the Farm Bureau government relations director with this information.

Senate File 2188 failed to pass the Senate this week. This bill This bill would allow psychologists with conditional prescription licenses to prescribe psychotropic medications under the supervision of a psychologist with a valid license. A motion to reconsider the bill was filed by Sen. Bolkcom.

Gary Grant, CEO
Cell 319.721.5977
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO
Cell 319.361.2834
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel
Cell 515.321.5825
mvmalloy83@gmail.com

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Finally, the second funnel is March 11. In order for bills to remain eligible, Senate bills must be reported out of House committees and House bills out of Senate committees.

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