

Legislative Newsletter

March 11, 2016



Mental Health Moves Forward

March 11 was the second funnel date. Any bills that were not passed out of the committee of the opposite chamber of origin, or bills that are not ways & means or appropriations bills will not be considered this session.

This past week was extremely productive, and included walking through the property tax levy proposal with Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal, Dept. of Human Services Director Chuck Palmer, and the subcommittee that convened to discuss Senate File 2236. Representatives from Dubuque and Johnson Counties testified at the subcommittee, urging legislators to take action on mental health funding this session. One of the subcommittee members declined to sign on to passing the bill on to the full committee, but cited it was due to a need for more information and not being against the proposal overall. It will now be considered by the full committee, and as this is a Ways & Means bill, it is funnel-proof.

The key point made to various parties is that 73 counties of 99 have or will have the opportunity to reduce property taxes and 13 counties face property tax increases for mental health services. But the net effect of the legislation would drop property taxes \$7.4 million statewide.

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

L&L Murphy Consulting / Grant Consulting

Local government officials from both the Urban County Coalition and Iowa State Association of Counties were in town this week and many legislators had the Mental Health provisions explained.

Director Palmer indicated that he supports the proposed change in the funding for Mental Health and will work with advocates to clarify and educate the Executive Branch.

Other local county officials have stepped up their efforts to educate local Farm Bureau members and ask them to contact the state organization to express their support.

No action was taken on E-911 this week. House File 2408 will have a subcommittee in the Senate Monday. This bill is the House language on expenditures and distributions of the wireless surcharge. It would allow for voluntary consolidation, and would keep an estimated \$3.5 million in an ending balance for emergency uses.

As the E-911 bills are appropriation bills, they are all funnel-proof.

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