

# Legislative Newsletter

April 8, 2016



## Joint Targets Release, Signaling Session's End

There are an estimated two weeks of session left, and joint targets have been released. Leadership is optimistic that matters will move quickly from here, and there are still some outstanding issues for the Legislature to move on, in addition to the budget bills.

The House and Senate both have said they will scoop \$4 million from the carryover fund to pay for E-911 this session. We have told leadership that we are willing to have the same deal as last year, which was vetoed by Gov. Branstad, but we want the 60 percent surcharge. The House version of the E-911 language includes incentives to consolidate and wants to keep \$3.5 million in the carryover fund. The Senate version drains that fund to zero and does not include consolidation incentives. We believe, however, both sides are willing to move on language that has incentives to voluntarily consolidate and a zero carryover fund, as Homeland Security would have other resources to tap in the case of a state of emergency or other repairs to the radio network.

Regarding Mental Health, we hope the Senate mental health bill, SF 2236, will be brought to the Senate floor and go to the House this coming week. The Senate Ways and

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Means Committee meets Tuesday afternoon and there is bipartisan support in the committee. Of the 100 clients who have a stake or would have an interest in mental health and disability services, more than half have registered in favor of the bill. The lobbying team has warned the Legislature if mental health funding is kicked down the proverbial road one more session, property taxes must be increased, rather than acting now to lift the cap and give counties the authority to adjust to their own needs. Again, 73 of the 99 counties have or could reduce their property taxes under SF 2236.

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