

Legislative Newsletter

Jan. 12, 2018



87th General Assembly Gavels In

The second year of the 87th General Assembly gaveled in Monday. This is the first assembly with Gov. Kim Reynolds at the helm, and her Tuesday Condition of the State Address, themed as “Unleashing Opportunities,” outlined an ambitious policy agenda for the next several months.

Among the priorities Gov. Reynolds listed were combating the opioid epidemic, passing water quality legislation, tax reform, and continued work in mental health service delivery.

The Governor outlined a proposal to create residential access centers for individuals to stay on a short-term basis, with the goal being to avoid hospitalization or leaving a person in crisis without any resources to stabilize before returning home. In order to do this, Gov. Reynolds will propose the Legislature remove the cap on sub-acute beds, and is also calling on the mental health regions to work with her to create a long-term and sustainable funding solution to create the access centers.

Gov. Reynolds indicated Tuesday she supports an increased use of the prescription monitoring program in regards to mitigating opioid abuse, as well as “enhanced interventions” for people living with opioid addiction.

Notably, Gov. Reynolds praised Congress for passing “historic tax reform” and said she would be proposing her own tax reform plan at the state level in Iowa. The package would modernize the state tax code and eliminate federal tax deductibility. She also proposed a

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bipartisan task force to analyze every tax credit in Iowa as a means to address the corporate tax rate.

Though the first week is usually comprised of pomp and circumstance, the Legislature wasted no time getting to business, including holding subcommittee meetings on bills as early as Tuesday. Other standing committees indicated they will start moving bills out next week.

Bills read in this week include:

- **HSB 514:** This bill requires all propositions to authorize the issuance of bonds by a county, township, school corporation, city, or any local board or commission or the imposition of local option taxes by a city or county to be submitted to electors on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each year. The bill exempts such elections from certain limitations on the withdrawal of public measures from a ballot until January 1, 2019.
- **HSB 515:** An Act authorizing the use of electronic means for certain notices and information provided by local assessors and including applicability provisions.
- **SF 2031:** An Act relating to voter registration by providing for the registration of eligible electors upon review of electronic records received from driver's license and nonoperator's identification card applications, and including effective date provisions.
- **SSB 3017:** An Act authorizing the use of electronic means for certain notices and information provided by local assessors and including applicability provisions.
- **SF 2013:** This bill directs the department of human services (DHS) to provide written notice in accordance with the termination provisions of the contract, to each managed care organization with whom DHS executed a contract to administer the Iowa high quality health care initiative as established by the department, to terminate such contracts as applicable to the long-term services and supports population, following a 60-day transition period. DHS is directed to transfer the long-term services and supports population to fee-for-service program administration. The transition is to be based on a transition plan developed by the department and submitted to the council on human services and the medical assistance advisory council for review. The bill directs DHS to seek any Medicaid state plan or waiver amendments necessary to complete the transition. The bill takes effect upon enactment.
- **SF 2006:** This bill in part amends provisions in Code chapter 459 which authorize the department of natural resources to issue permits for the construction or expansion of structures associated with a confinement feeding operation. The bill provides that a

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county may adopt a confinement feeding operations siting ordinance which allows a county board of supervisors to approve the site where the construction is to occur. The board may place conditions on site approval if the conditions relate to the construction or operation of the confinement feeding operation or to manure application. The bill provides that the county may adopt the ordinance notwithstanding provisions in Code section 331.304A which prohibits a county from adopting legislation that regulates animal agriculture and Code section 335.2 which prohibits a county from adopting an ordinance that provides for the zoning of farm structures.

- **SF 2008:** An Act establishing a moratorium relating to the construction, including expansion, of structures that are part of certain confinement feeding operations where swine are kept, requesting an interim study committee, and including effective date provisions.
- **SF 2009:** An Act establishing an advisory committee to evaluate the use and value of the master matrix when approving a permit to construct a confinement feeding operation structure, and including effective date provisions.

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