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## **Legislative Newsletter**

Jan. 19, 2018



## Backfill Could See a Phase-Out

The backfill was included in Gov. Reynold's budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Though there is nothing official from either chamber, the House has indicated it would want to propose a three-to-five year phase out of the backfill. The Senate tends to follow the Governor's lead and support her budget, though leadership has not indicated what the Senate will do about it yet.

Looking ahead, we are anticipating a bill that would essentially eliminate local governments ability to use lease purchase agreements in construction projects to drop in the Local Government Committee next week. This bill is unnumbered as of yet.

Gov. Reynolds still appears to want to make water quality the first piece of legislation signed in the new year. We're still waiting to see what version will ultimately go to her desk, though it appears the Senate version will win out.

Other bills introduced this week include:

**HF 2032:** This bill would require DHS to amend its administrative rules to require subacute mental health care facilities to participate in the psychiatric bed tracking system and to report the number of beds available for children and adults with a co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse disorder. We are declared as undecided on this bill.

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**SF 2044:** This bill would require the judicial branch to reimburse a county monthly if the state supreme court of the judicial branch orders a prohibition on a citizen or local courthouse employee from carrying a firearm in the lawful areas of the county's courthouse not under judicial control (which is essentially everywhere in the building but the actual courtrooms). The reimbursement would ostensibly be used to pay for extra security for the non-judicial areas of the courthouse.