

Legislative Newsletter

Feb. 2, 2018



UCC Hill Day

Tuesday was the annual Urban County Coalition Hill Day. Representatives from Linn and Scott Counties met with leadership in the House and Senate to talk about the Coalition's shared priorities, including Medicaid issues, concerns about the water quality bill that was signed by Gov. Reynolds, and the backfill.

Several contentious issues took center stage in the rotunda. The lease-purchase fight took an interesting turn during the week. At a Monday subcommittee, several parties expressed concerns about how House Study Bill 568 would essentially squeeze out lease-purchase projects for cities and counties. The subcommittee said they would be open to amendments, however, the amendment ultimately agreed to on party lines by the House Local Government Committee eliminates, for all practical purposes, the option of lease purchase and eliminates the functionality of Tax Increment Financing Districts. Meanwhile, in the Senate, an identical companion bill, Senate Study Bill 3110 was introduced Thursday. This signals to us that leadership intends to attempt passing this issue this year. We are registered against this bill.

A Senate subcommittee Tuesday passed a slew of bills addressing opioid prescribing, drug scheduling, and other recommendations from the state pharmacy board. Senate Study Bill 3071 specifically addresses the prescription monitoring program. There is already a PMP in Iowa, but the bill would establish an advisory committee to replace the PMP advisory council,

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authorize a registration surcharge, and expand the information collection and reporting requirements.

Emotions also ran high on Tuesday during a House subcommittee on immigration. Senate File 481, which caused the Senate to go into an overnight session last year, has reappeared and was passed by the House subcommittee. SF 481 essentially prohibits “sanctuary cities” in Iowa by denying state funding to municipalities who will not comply with federal immigration authorities. Several law enforcement representatives said they are concerned the bill will undermine the trust and work their departments have undertaken in their communities. The bill also prohibits municipalities from banning their local law enforcement agencies from asking an arrestee their immigration status. The bill now goes to the House Public Safety Committee.

Finally, work was done on E-911 matters. House Study Bill 552 unanimously passed the House Public Safety Committee Thursday (21-0). The bill defines 911 call processing equipment, equipment providers; it also makes changes to 911 service plans and surcharges. It also has language regarding consolidating various 911 networks. The bill now goes to the floor.

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