

Legislative Newsletter

March 9, 2018

The chambers spent most of the week doing floor work in anticipation of committees getting through other work for the final funnel week deadline.

In the House:

House File 2252: This bill pertains to secretary of state duties and oversights. Of note, it moves the permissible special election in December for schools to the second Tuesday, and it shortens the deadline for challenging a nomination to 68 days. It also defines documents used to show voting residency. Also, on voting matters the bill would allow a person registering on election day to attest to the identify of another voter; makes changes to ballot counting; and requires a person voting absentee at the county office to include the voter verification number. Several Democrat amendments failed or were ruled nongermane. The House passed the bill 58-40.

House File 2369: This bill requires that elections to authorize bonds or local option taxes be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and will be effective for measures after January 2019. The House passed the bill 52-43.

House File 2445: This is one of the mental health bills. Specifically, the legislation deems that certain bills for mental health services that have gone to the

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county auditor should be sent to the regional administrators. Makes technical and other changes. The House passed the bill unanimously.

House File 2462: This bill makes changes to Department of Human Services programs, including to HAWK-I, on reports of persons committed to public institutions, on setting the Medicaid co-payment for prescriptions at \$1, and on reports by the Medicaid Advisory Council on managed care. An amendment to the bill added Medicaid MCO oversight provisions: provisions on timely payments, payment errors, standardized forms, appeals on care, member eligibility and other matters. Finally, it establishes a workgroup to do a report on home health care, a review of prior authorization, for DHS to hire an outside auditor to review payments under \$2,500, with the authority to make corrections for overpayments and denied payments. We are in support of this bill. The House passed the bill as amended unanimously.

House File 2372: This is the county redistricting bill. It deems that counties over 150,000 residents with elected single-member districts for supervisors will be covered by the same redistricting rules that apply to counties that either have more than 180,000 or have a consolidated city-county government plan (plan 3 single member districts for supervisors). LSA will be responsible for drawing the districting plans after the next census. The bill was amended to require counties over 60,000 residents to use “Plan 3,” and cannot change plans unless it is by special election. We remain against this bill. The House passed the bill as amended 58-38.

Introduced during the week:

House Study Bill 678: This bill directs starts the process of renegeing on the backfill promise on property taxes that was made by the General Assembly to counties. It starts a three year de-appropriations for the commercial and industrial property tax replacement. Unfortunately, it starts the de-appropriations process in FY 19 despite

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local governments having already certified their budgets. Caps the maximum appropriation at \$100 million for FY 2019; at \$75 million in FY 2020; at \$50 million for FY 2021; and at \$25 million in the following years. We are against this bill.

The week of March 12 is the second funnel week. This means in order to continue to be considered for this legislative session, bills must pass a full committee in the opposite chamber they originated from. The exception to this, as it was with the first funnel week, are bills being held by the chambers' Appropriations and Ways & Means committees.

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