

# Legislative Newsletter

March 16, 2018

## Second Funnel Week Ends

The second funnel week is typically the busiest week at the capitol. Bills must be out of a full committee in the opposite chamber of origin to still be considered for the session. However, operations in the Senate were upended Monday afternoon when the Senate Majority Leader abruptly resigned, resulting in a Wednesday election in the Senate Republican caucus for a new majority leader. Jack Whitver will now serve as the Iowa Senate Majority Leader, and Charles Schneider has assumed the role of Senate President, which was previously Whitver's position. Schneider will continue in his previous role as Appropriations Chair.

Several mental health-related bills were worked on during the funnel week, as well. In the Senate Humans Committee, the committee unanimously passed House File 2445 (formerly House Study Bill 631). This is the bill-back bill which deems that certain bills for mental health services that are sent to the county auditor should be sent to the regional administrators. We support this bill.

That committee also unanimously passed House File 2456, which makes changes to procedures involving involuntary commitments, and requires the state's MH/DS Commission have rules on ACT teams, access centers and intensive residential

---

Gary Grant, CEO  
Cell 319.721.5977  
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO  
Cell 319.361.2834  
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel  
Cell 515.321.5825  
mvmalloy83@gmail.com

# L&L Murphy Consulting / Grant Consulting

services. The bill requires any matching federal funds under the Iowa Health & Wellness Plan to be made available, with service requirements across the state. Finally, the bill requires Department of Human Services to work with other agencies and stakeholders to review ways to increase the efficiency and utility of MH/DS services and requires a report by November 30. We support this bill.

A Senate Ways & Means subcommittee approved Senate File 2387, allowing the Department of Human Services to permit Sioux and Plymouth counties to operate as an MH/DS region for 12 months on a provisional basis, and for DHS to assign them to contiguous regions if they are not in compliance. A corrective plan is allowed to demonstrate compliance.

The lease purchase bill also survived the funnel. House File 2253 requires that construction projects and improvements that are built by a private contractor under a lease or a lease-purchase contract with the state, local governments, community colleges or Regents to be subject to competitive bidding in the same manner that a public project is subject to competitive bidding (excluding TIF projects). The bill passed out of committee 10-4. We have registered opposed to this bill.

Other bills to survive the funnel:

- “Sanctuary” Cities (Senate File 481): Prohibits cities and counties from adopting policies or ordinances pertaining to undocumented residents, and prohibits these entities from discouraging law enforcement officers or others from activities related to enforcing immigration laws.

---

Gary Grant, CEO  
Cell 319.721.5977  
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO  
Cell 319.361.2834  
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel  
Cell 515.321.5825  
mvmalloy83@gmail.com

# L&L Murphy Consulting / Grant Consulting

- Opioids (House 2377): Places limits on prescribing opioids; provides “Good Samaritan” laws for reporting overdose incidents, and enforces an electronic prescribing system for opioids. We are in support of this bill.
- Supervisor Publications (Senate File 2227): Requires the county auditor to include a summary of resolutions, or the full text of resolutions, in the materials furnished to the board of supervisors for publication about the meetings of the supervisors. Requires the adopted resolutions to be posted on the internet if the county has an internet. This passed committee unanimously. We are in support of this bill.
- E-911 (House File 2254): Defines 911 call processing equipment, equipment providers and other related terms. Makes changes to the 911 service plans and surcharges. Includes provisions on consolidating various 911 networks. This bill passed committee unanimously.
- Secretary of State Matters (House File 2252): Moves the permissible special election in December for schools to the second Tuesday; shortens the deadline for challenging a nomination to 68 days; defines documents used to show voting residency and allows a person registering on election day to attest to the identify of another voter; makes changes to ballot counting; finally, requires a person voting absentee at the county office to include the voter verification number. This bill passed committee 13-1.

---

Gary Grant, CEO  
Cell 319.721.5977  
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO  
Cell 319.361.2834  
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel  
Cell 515.321.5825  
mvmalloy83@gmail.com