

Legislative Newsletter

March 30, 2018

Gov Signs Mental Health and Deappropriations

Before breaking for the Easter weekend, Gov. Kim Reynolds held a bill signing ceremony for the mental health bill, House File 2456. The Legislative Services Agency projects HF 2456 will increase the use of crisis and subacute services and the utilization of intensive residential services, costing an estimated \$876,000 for FY 2019 and \$6 million in FY 2020 from the general fund, and the costs to the regions at \$4.3 million for FY 2019 and \$10 million for FY 2020. Gov. Reynolds also signed the deappropriations bill, Senate File 2117, into law before the weekend. The final deappropriations bill had \$35.5 million in cuts, notably \$4.3M from Department of Human Services, \$3.4M from the Department of Corrects, \$1.6M from the courts, and half a million dollars from the community colleges.

Both the House and Senate passed the lease-purchase bill (House File 2253) out of chambers in the past week and have sent it to Reynolds for her consideration. The Senate amended the bill to define “public improvements.” This version was concurred by the House. Lease-purchased passed on mostly party lines.

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In terms of the backfill, it appears leadership is still in favor of starting the phase-out in FY '19 (which starts July 1, 2018), though rank-and-file members are receptive to the FY '20 start.

Also sent to the Governor for consideration this week:

- Senate File 192: Licensing Behavior Analysts.
- House File 2254 E-911 Matters.
- House File 2300: Counseling LLC: This bill would allow mental health counselors and social workers to establish professional LLC's. It also allows marital/family counselors, mental health counselors, social workers, and psychologists to form professional corporations or LLC's and practice together. This bill passed both the Senate and House unanimously.

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