

# Legislative Newsletter

Jan. 25, 2019



## Legislature Gets to Work

With the pomp and circumstance of Gov. Reynolds' inauguration over, subcommittees picked up in week two as the Legislature started to get down to business.

Fireworks are back on the table this session. Senate Study Bill 1035 modifies the existing law on fireworks, including exempting merchants from transient licensing requirements and directing the fire marshal to adopt rules prohibiting the sale of consumer fireworks in residential areas. At issue in this bill, however, is that the bill says the "sole and only regulation of fireworks in Iowa...shall be those enacted by the general assembly," and prohibits cities and counties from making any laws, ordinances or regulations about fireworks, but then goes on to say local governments may limit or prohibit consumer fireworks at times that are more stringent than what the Legislature decides, except for on July 4<sup>th</sup>. So it's not entirely clear what local governments may even regulate with fireworks when the Legislature deems itself the regulating authority. The bill passed subcommittee late last week.

Another bill introduced last week concerns county compensation boards. House File 117 would require members of such a board be appointed by a temporary compensation board appointing commission. Each city council or a township trustees board in a county would have to appoint one of its members to serve on the appointing commission, and from there, the

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commission would appoint five of its own members to serve on the county compensation board. HF 117 would also remove the prohibition on officers of state or political subdivisions from serving on the compensation board. We are monitoring this bill and a subcommittee had not been set as of last week.

A bill introduced last week would establish an Iowa center for suicide prevention with the state's Department of Education. Part of this effort was mentioned in Gov. Reynolds's Condition of the State address, as she asked the General Assembly to provide resources for Iowa educators to recognize the signs of mental illness and other related childhood trauma. House File 98 establishes the program, which provides suicide prevention and intervention resources to all Iowa students, and makes an appropriation of \$500,000 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to administer the program.

House Democrats are also making a push to terminate the state's contracts with the managed care organizations through House File 135. As in past years, it is expected that this effort will be unsuccessful, as the Governor has indicated she is not interested in returning Medicaid to the fee-for-service model.

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