

# Legislative Newsletter

March 1, 2019



The week at the capitol was a flurry of subcommittees, including Senate and House versions of Gov. Reynolds's children mental health system bills.

Senate Study Bill 1197 and House Study Bill 206 are the children's mental health system bills. These are line for line identical. The Senate held a subcommittee Wednesday morning; the House held their subcommittee the following morning. Most groups were in favor of the concept however, the issue of adequate funding was brought up time and time again. Parents and other stakeholders repeatedly spoke of parents quitting jobs to go on Medicaid to expedite mental health services for their children. The Heartland Strategies team spoke of our concerns about expanded services to the regions with no additional funding. There are also concerns about clarifying the authority the state board would have over the regions with the implementation, particularly because the state board is proposed to have no county supervisors on it. These bills will be works in progress for the rest of session. We are confident something will come together, however, as these bills are among the Governor's top priorities.

House File 548: Immediately following the House's subcommittee on HSB 206, a sub was held on House File 548, which pertains to the spend down by raising it from 25 percent to 30 percent starting in fiscal year 2021. This bill is in regards to the spend down in the adult mental health system. It does *not* address long-term or permanent funding.

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That created a bit of contention during the subcommittee from other stakeholders who wanted to see the conversations of spend down and long-term funding be one in the same, though the House has indicated those concerns will be addressed in another bill. That said, our team has no concerns as the bill is written and have registered in favor of the bill.

In committee work this week, the House Public Safety Committee approved House Study Bill 193: The other fireworks bill. This one allows a city or county to adopt local ordinances against the use of fireworks and makes such infractions a simple misdemeanor unless covered by a local or county ordinance. The bill passed unanimously.

In House Human Resources, House File 451: The psychiatric bed tracking bill passed both a House Human Resources subcommittee and full committee this week. The bill has been amended, as several other stakeholders wanted to be added to the interim work group. The bill was also amended to add an RFP process.

The Senate was also busy moving bills before funnel week. The Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously passed Senate File 225, the criminal surcharges bill.

Senate File 252, one of the inmate medical coverage bills, unanimously passed Human Resources. This bill suspends, rather than terminates, Medicaid coverage for inmates after 20 days of commitment until release. Then the coverage is restored upon release.

Judiciary also unanimously passed Senate Study Bill 1063. This bill strikes the number of contiguous counties that a clerk of court can be appointed to serve in a judicial

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district, and gives an appointed clerk 90 days to establish residency rather than requiring residency at the time of the appointment.

## INTRODUCED:

House File 542: This bill would propose to stop cities from using grants from Dept. of Natural Resources through the Blufflands Protection Revolving Fund to fund projects on public lands outside of city boundaries. A subcommittee is scheduled for Monday, where the Heartland team will express the concerns with these proposed limitations. We are registered against this bill. The Senate has a similar bill (Senate Study Bill 1221), which also has a subcommittee scheduled for Monday.

Senate File 401: This bill would require that management costs imposed by a utility for the use of a public right-of-way be direct and fully documented. It would also propose to limit the fees to those related for the use requested by the utility and allow local governments and utilities to reach agreements on sharing services.

With the week of March 4 being funnel week, the team expects another flurry of activity as lawmakers try to get last minute bills through the funnel. Due to inclement weather so far this year, time has run out on other bills which may not make it through.

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