

# Legislative Newsletter

March 8, 2019



The first funnel week has come and gone. Here is a round-up of some major bills:

House File 216: This bill resurrected the issue of county supervisor redistricting plans. The bill would have essentially forced any county with a population greater than 60,000 people to move to “plan three.” Despite a last minute push from a citizen voter in the subcommittee, the lawmakers present decided it was unnecessary to address and let the bill die in the funnel.

The “ban the box” bill also died in the Senate. Senate File 390 would have prohibited public employers from seeking an applicant’s criminal record/history under certain circumstances. The House companion bill (House File 472) also did not make it out the funnel.

In committee work (all bills listed have survived funnel):

House File 685 (successor to House Study Bill 137) also passed unanimously with a strike after. This is the Prisoners’ Medical Expense bill. The strike after proposes an interim study committee. We anticipate a similar amendment eventually in the Senate.

House Study Bill 206, the Children’s Mental Health bill, passed out of committee unanimously. We are confident either this or the Senate version will pass. The bill includes an amendment that included changes recommended by the Coalition. These changes

---

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

include additional members on the State Board (a pediatrician, sheriff, and member of the healthcare system), eliminates the need for a diagnosis to access crisis services, and a statewide 24-hour crisis line.

The Spend Down bill, House File 548, passed out of committee unanimously, and was amended from 30 percent to 40 percent for the amount held for cash flow. It also allows counties to amend the MH/DS budget in FY 2019 to implement the bill and to recertify a budget if necessary.

House File 635 came through Public Safety (formerly House Study Bill 193). The bill allows a city or county to adopt local ordinances against the use of fireworks and deems infractions as county or municipal infractions.

House File 608 was unanimously passed with an amendment. This is the Absentee Ballot Bar Code bill. It establishes a system for tracking absentee ballots, and allows the county auditor to use a system with a postal bar code on the envelope and linked to a tracking database. An absentee ballot is counted if the bar code or the postmark indicate the ballot was mailed the day before the election. The earlier date takes precedent if the bar code and the postmark have a discrepancy. The amendment on the bill makes use of the system mandatory.

House Study Bill 172 was passed with a strike after amendment. Originally the bill changed procedures related to abandoned buildings by striking the requirement that a building be in violation of the housing code for six months before being declared abandoned, and required the property to have been vacant for 135 days before requesting hearing on abatement. The strike after amendment enacts different provisions on abandoned buildings.

---

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

Study Bill 1035 was passed with an amendment. Originally, the bill struck the requirements for fireworks sellers to obtain a transient merchant license and gave the State Fire Marshal to have the sole authority over inspections. Of note, the bill limited local authority to regulate fireworks. The amendment strikes current local laws but allows cities and counties to regulate fireworks.

---

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