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Urban County Coalition representatives visited the capitol mid-week to speak to their House and Senate delegations and meet with leadership. The two main priorities we spoke to leadership about are funding mental health and the House Property Tax bill (House Study Bill 165). UCC representatives reiterated that in concept, we are supportive of Gov. Reynolds's push to establish a mental health services system for children, however, this cannot come without a reliable funding stream in order to adequately fund services.

This was a segue into property taxes. The House bill is still moving slowly, and the Senate has released only a corporate tax bill. It is unknown at this point if the Senate will release a bill with anything individual- or property tax-related.

The following bill passed chambers and was been sent to Gov. Reynolds: Senate File 555 This bill prohibits the weight on one axle of self-propelled implements of husbandry used exclusively to apply fertilizers, chemicals or limestone from exceeding 25,000 pounds.

Several subcommittees were also held to tee bills up to pass their committee next week to beat the funnel:

House File 516: A three-person Senate subcommittee passed the 911 Voting Membership Board bill.

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House File 685: The Prisoner's Medical Expense bill has been heavily amended into an interim study committee for this coming interim. It passed a Senate subcommittee Thursday morning.

House File 692: The Absentee Ballot/Bar Code bill passed a Senate subcommittee Thursday morning.

House File 691: The Spend Down bill pertaining to the adult mental health system passed a Senate subcommittee early Thursday afternoon. The spend down was amended from 20 percent to 40 percent by the House.

Next week is the second funnel, and the Heartland team believes the legislature will start marching towards adjournment in the coming weeks. Budget bills are starting to surface, which means deals will soon be struck, and this places more of an urgency on bills which got through the first funnel, but still have to pass a chamber and go through the referred committee in the opposite chamber. As a reminder, Ways & Means and Appropriation bills are always funnel-proof.