

# Legislative Newsletter

April 23, 2021



There is still not a clear end-date for this session of the Iowa General Assembly, though it was a very quiet week as both chambers are continuing to pass budget bill vehicles for negotiations. In a contrast from most previous sessions, there are no budget targets this year. This Friday marks the end of the per diem payments for legislators which generally signals adjournment within a short period of time.

The following bill was enrolled for the Governor: **House File 527**: This bill allows county supervisors to amend the County Land Record Information System on behalf of county recorders as needed for the on-going implementation of the system. This bill passed both chambers unanimously.

In the House, **Senate File 524** was sent back to the Senate after an amendment in the House was adopted. This is the inpatient psych bed tracking system study. The House amendment requires health carriers to reimburse telehealth services delivered through interactive electronic media at the same rates as other services, and would bar a requirement of an additional professional to be in the same room as the patient. The House passed the amended bill unanimously and returned it to the Senate.

In the Senate, the Appropriations Committee passed **Senate Study Bill 1267** (12-7; now renumbered as **Senate File 606**), the Health and Human Services budget bill for fiscal year 2022. The committee also unanimously passed **House File 523** (flood protections and flood construction/structure as an essential county purpose). The Senate Ways & Means Committee unanimously passed **Senate File 442** (flood protections and flood construction/structure as an essential county purpose, now renumbered as **Senate File 607**); and **House File 728** (fines for septic pumping).

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Finally, the Senate introduced **Senate Study Bill 1272**: This bill creates a disaster recovery housing program. The disaster must have occurred between March 12, 2019 and the effective date of the bill in a county declared to be a disaster area. The EDA may enter into agreements with various cities for the city to act as the local program administrator.

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