

Legislative Newsletter

April 30, 2021



Late last week, the House and Senate both introduced last minute bills on so-called “vaccine passports.” **House File 889** would prohibit the state or other local governments from noting on an identification card whether the cardholder has received a COVID-19 vaccination. A private business or government agencies would not be allowed to require a person to show proof of a COVID vaccination in order to enter the facility/event. Such a business or local government would be ineligible to receive state contracts or grants if such requirements are put in place. At this time, there is an exception for hospitals and health care facilities. The House bill passed the House Judiciary Committee 16-5 on Monday, and the House subsequently passed this bill on Thursday (58-35).

The Senate version of this bill is **Senate File 610**, which passed out of the Senate Commerce Committee 11-4.

Senate Study Bill 1274/Senate File 616: This bill prohibits counties from imposing a fine on a person for failing to comply with rules from the county sanitarian on pumping septic systems. There is a House companion bill on this topic, **House Study Bill 275**.

The following bills were enrolled for the Governor:

House File 523: This bill establishes an essential county purpose in the purchase and construction of land and structures to protect property from flooding. This is not subject to voter approval in order to incur indebtedness. This bill passed both chambers unanimously.

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House File 846: This bill requires recorders to waive the title transfer fee for an ATV or snowmobile if the title is transferred to a surviving spouse. This bill passed both chambers unanimously.

In committee work, the House Appropriations Committee voted to pass the House Bottle bill (**House File 872**; passed 15-9 and renumbered as House File 892); **House File 891** (Health and Human Services appropriations for FY '22; passed 15-9).

Across the rotunda in the Senate, the chamber debated an extensive debate calendar. Among the highlights:

House File 802: This bill creates the requirements on training and curriculums on racism and sexism in schools and colleges, and state and local government, including prohibiting teaching that Iowa is fundamentally racist or sexist. The bill prohibits the teaching of divisive concepts and race or sex scapegoating. Finally, the bill prohibits schools from disciplining teachers who protect the rights of students.

An amendment changes the diversity training to training on specific defined content. This bill passed the Senate on party lines, 30-18 and has been returned to the House.

House File 365: The garnishment service bill requires service of notice of garnishment be made by the county sheriff to the garnishee in the same manner as the original notice. An amendment to require a sheriff handling the garnishment to give notice to the sheriff in the county where the action is being enforced was adopted. The Senate passed the amended bill unanimously and sent it back to the House.

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