

Legislative Newsletter

Feb. 4, 2022



Early Friday, another supervisor district bill was introduced in the House. Our team tends to see various iterations of this topic every session, though the issue loses traction rapidly. **House Study Bill 659** is very similar to versions introduced in past sessions; it would require counties with more than 60,000 people to elect county supervisors from single-member districts, and would allow counties over 60,000 that are currently not using plan 3 (single-member districts) to wait until the 2024 elections to change. We are presently declared as undecided on the bill to monitor it through the initial stages of the legislative process.

Also back from last session is the topic of county compensation boards. **House Study Bill 666** would permit county boards of supervisors to approve a county compensation board or to repeal it. The bill requires supervisors to set compensation levels if the board is repealed.

With the first funnel approaching on Feb. 18, our team is seeing considerably more business out of the chamber's committees. In House Committee action this week, the House Commerce Committee unanimously approved multiple bills for the House floor. **House Study Bill 547** pertains to insurance filings; requiring the person with ultimate control over an insurer to file certain group capital calculations and information with the lead state commissioner. House Study Bill 585 is the Medicaid/Managed Care Organization oversight bill, which deems MCOs under contract to administer Medicaid and HAWK-I are not subject to the Iowa Code requirements on insurance.

The House State Government Committee passed **House File 2012**, pertaining to executive orders; it allows the Legislative Council to review presidential executive orders and to refer such orders to the Governor and the Attorney General's office to determine constitutionality. Of note to local governments, this bill would prohibit local governments and publicly-funded groups from enforcing unconstitutional orders that relate to pandemics, agricultural and land rights, the right to bear arms, natural resources and financial regulations related to the environment or social regulations (passed 12-9).

House Study Bill 571: This bill would give state agencies, and employees, officers and agents, protection from liability for good-faith actions in response to a disaster proclamation. This bill was amended and passed 20-2.

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House Study Bill 614: This bill replaces the sports wagering fund with the county endowment fund for internet fantasy sports and sports wagering receipts. This bill passed unanimously.

House Study Bill 567: this bill requires candidates to file reports in July during non-election years for January to July and makes corresponding changes. This bill was passed unanimously.

Finally, the House Information Technology Committee unanimously approved **House File 2035**, which would require an agency in control of a road to give non-discriminatory access to an agency conduit to utilities for broadband deployment.

Senate committees have also been busy this week with passing bills; the Senate Commerce Committee unanimously approved **Senate Study Bill 3057**, which requires an agency in control of a road to give non-discriminatory access to an agency conduit to utilities for broadband deployment. This bill was amended in committee, as well.

The Senate Education Committee unanimously approved **Senate Study Bill 3003**, the mental health professional loan repayment program in the CSC.

Introduced this week:

House Study Bill 662: This bill includes insurance carriers under the exceptions that allow an Iowa title to be issued for an out-of-state car without surrendering the title to the Iowa treasurer. This bill is a companion to Senate File 2070.

House Study Bill 663: This bill allows governmental bodies to conduct meetings electronically if certain requirements are met.

House Study Bill 664: This bill allows a treasurer who cancels the June sale of delinquent taxes to reschedule the sale after June, or to combine with the tax sale for the following year.

House Study Bill 665: This bill would allow governments to accept bids for public improvements electronically.

House Study 667: This bill deems that refurbishing, maintaining or repower a wind energy project will not cause the property to receive a new special valuation schedule.

Senate Study Bill 3102/House Study Bill 653: This is the comprehensive juvenile justice bill. It specifies the least restrictive environment for the placement of a child includes a preference for family or

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fictive kin. There are also definitional changes, including to court-appointed special advocate (CASA), guardian-ad-litem (GAL), guardian, putative father, relative, and other definitional changes.

House Study Bill 633: This is the public nuisance bill. It deems a bar (licensed premises not including food establishments) a public nuisance if on 3 days in the previous year, guns have been unlawfully fired or persons have assaulted other persons or rioted.

Renumbered/Successor bills:

House Study Bill 580 is now **House File 2166** (flood protections).

Senate File 330 is now **Senate File 2141** (electronic communication device while driving).

Senate Study Bill 3057 is now **Senate File 2189** (utility access).

Senate Study Bill 3007 is now **Senate File 2191** (disaster funds).

Senate Study Bill 3029 is now **Senate File 2192** (disaster protections).

Senate Study Bill 3003 is now **Senate File 2195** (mental health loan repayment program).

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