

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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Agriculture

Inside This Issue:

Agriculture	1
Commerce	2
Economic Growth	2
Education	3
Health & Human Services	3
Labor	4
Natural Resources	5
Oversight	5
State Government	6
Transportation	7
Ways & Means	8

Farm to Table and Right to Repair Bills Pass House Floor This Week

House File 2767 supports more Farm-To-Table (FTT) events in Iowa. FTT events involve at least 50 percent Iowa grown products as the focus at a local food event such as a dinner in a local area. This bill makes it easier for FTT events to take place while also placing a cap on the annual fee at \$100 instead of having to apply for permission and pay a fee for each individual dinner event that takes place. HF 2767 also more positively treats Cottage Foods, which are sold on-farm and often at Farm-To-Table events. Local food sellers may offer Cottage Food for sale if:

- (1) direct to consumer sale;
- (2) can't intermingle with non-cottage food;
- (3) must be packaged;
- (4) must have label with information required; and
- (5) a specific "conspicuous notice" is required.

Overall, this bill will benefit local Iowa agriculture by allowing more local sales, local promotion events, and value-added agriculture promotion.

House File 2763 is a Right-To-Repair (RTR) bill. This version of Right-to-Repair applies to all agricultural equipment. In general, RTR means that an original manufacturer must make available to an independent repair provider or an owner, "any documentation, parts, embedded software...firmware, tools... or data that are intended for use with the equipment..." This includes updates, and any electronic security locks. The bill requires the parts/information must be provided "with fair and reasonable terms and costs." As to liability, the manufacturer not liable for changes made by an owner: "Neither an original equipment manufacturer nor an agricultural equipment dealer is liable for faulty or otherwise improper repairs provided by an independent repair provider or owner..."

A significant amendment was added this week dealing with data ownership. HF 2763 establishes producer ownership of raw agricultural data and full copyright ownership of transformed agricultural data, allocates ownership among landowners, livestock owners, and equipment owners or lessees, and provides that these rights cannot be waived through clickwrap, browsewrap, or terms of service, only through express informed written consent. The data ownership amendment establishes data monetization rights, prohibits data service providers from blocking, restricting, or retaliating against producers who monetize their data, and requires fair market value compensation, prior disclosure, and transparent accounting on request.

(Contact: Mindy Larsen 1-3096)

Commerce

Iowa Legislature Leads on Reducing Prior Authorizations

This general assembly, the legislature has passed two major bills changing prior authorization requirements that delay health care for patients and place health care providers out of patient care and doing office work.

House File 2635 has passed both chambers this year and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The bill does the following related to prior authorizations:

- Allows insurers to use AI for an initial prior auth review request, except for prior auth for medical necessity denials
- Provides timelines for audits in private insurance and requires insurers to negotiate with providers
- Prohibits private insurance from imposing a financial penalty, reimbursement reduction, administrative fee, or terminating participation in network based on the health care provider's referral to an out-of-network health care provider
- Prohibits private insurance from denying or downgrading a request for prior auth unless a qualified reviewer or clinical peer within the same specialty makes the decision and a written statement is provided with specific reasons and coverage criteria
- Prohibits private insurance and Medicaid from requiring prior authorization on cancer-related screenings and life-threatening conditions

Additionally, last year, the legislature passed and the Governor signed House File 303, to set up timelines for determination from health insurers on prior authorizations, require insurers to review health care services that require prior authorization, require reporting to the state regarding prior authorizations and allows the state to investigate complaints.

Now insurers are required to provide a determination to a request for prior authorization from a health care provider:

- Within 48 hours of an urgent request
- Within 10 days of a nonurgent request
- Within 15 days of a nonurgent, complex/unique situation, or when experiencing a high volume of requests
- Respond that the PA request was received within 24 hours

The bill requires an annual report to the Insurance Division by all health insurers with information on prior auth approvals and denials and the average/median time between the request and the decision. This report will be made public within 60 days. These first reports are due August 31, 2026. The legislature looks forward to reviewing the progress in this report over the legislative interim.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Economic Growth

Manufacturing 4.0 Grants for Fiscal Year 2026

Last week, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) handed out 39 Manufacturing 4.0 grants for Fiscal Year 2026. The Manufacturing 4.0 Technology Investment Program enhances productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness in Iowa's largest industry. The grants help small- and mid-size Iowa manufacturers invest in the adoption and integration of smart technologies.

For this fiscal year, companies received funding for a total of \$1,977,066 in awards and a total project cost of nearly \$6.7 million. The total project cost reflects the total capital invested across these projects to adopt and integrate

Manufacturing 4.0 technologies. For a full list of awards, download the Excel spreadsheet with the Manufacturing 4.0 awards. [Awards](#)

(Contact: Kristi Kiious 2-5290)

Education

House Passes Education/Immigration Bill

On Wednesday, the House passed Senate File 2218. The bill combined three ideas. The initial idea was to pass a bill ensuring those who work with our K-12 students are authorized to work in the U.S.

Then language was added that makes it a fraudulent practice if a person falsely provides their employer or prospective employer with a social security number that doesn't belong to them. It is also a fraudulent practice if an employer knowingly provided a potential employee with a fraudulent social security number. It also prohibits an employer from employing or continuing to employ an employee when the employer knows the social security number doesn't belong to them and provides penalties.

The bill requires E-verify for new state employees, including Regents employees. It states that professional licensure will go through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program (SAVE). It creates a rebuttable presumption that pretrial release should not happen for a person charged with a forcible felony or a person in the country illegally.

Finally, language was added on the following key points:

- E-Verify will be used for state, legislative, county and local hires. Including public and private schools and regents universities.
- If an individual fails their E-Verify check and their appeal they shall be reported to immigration and naturalization services.
- Creates a review of registered voters through the SAVE system and a process of removing a voter who cannot prove their citizenship if the SAVE review fails.
- Adds severability to the bill if portions are struck down or limited by the federal government.

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Health and Human Services

Legislature Advances Mental Health Legislation

This general assembly the legislature has advanced bills to expand access to mental health care in the state and to remove barriers to establishing all levels of care from inpatient psychiatry to subacute to outpatient care. The bills below have passed both chambers this general assembly:

HF 2523 – Minor Commitments - This bill removes the ability for a minor to refuse mental health or substance abuse treatment if the parent is seeking treatment for their minor and a mental health professional agrees the child is in need of care.

HF 2543 – Subacute Mental Health - This bill makes the following changes based on the subacute mental health facility interim committee:

- Removes the 10 day limit
- Requires subacute Medicaid prior authorization requests to be approved within 48 hours, 5 days or 10 days depending on the urgency of the request.
- Establishes a PMIC bed tracking system
- Requires DHHS to review the state's capability to establish subacute mental health services and additional inpatient services at Independence MHI beginning in July 2027. This review shall include costs/staffing/infrastructure, the ability to partner with private operators, and submit a report to the chairs of HHS and appropriations in both chambers by January 4, 2027. Allows DHHS to provide subacute services at Independence MHI if can be done within their appropriation.
- Requires DHHS and DIAL to review rules to remove barriers to subacute care.

HF 2507 – AI Chatbot - This bill provides for disclaimers, prohibitions on certain communications with minors, and allows parental access to minor accounts with AI. This bill also prohibits AI from providing professional behavioral health services and must have protocols in place when a user discusses self-harm. This bill includes enforcement mechanisms and penalties with the attorney general.

SF 474 - High Acuity Youth - This bill came from the Department of Health and Human Services to do the following:

- Allow for protective locked environments
- Allows for a residential facility to not be licensed as a children's residential facility if it provides live-in care to waiver individuals 16 years of age and older.
- Transfers administrative authority of juvenile court services from the chief judges to the JCS director
- Suspends hawk-i coverage for incarcerated youth
- Creates a workgroup to review Iowa's commitment, juvenile delinquency and CINA laws during the legislative interim and to make recommendations to the legislature

HF 2635 - Community Mental Health Facilities - This bill makes many changes related to prior authorizations for health insurance, which will be helpful to mental health providers. Additionally, this bill removes the requirement for a certificate of need to be obtained for a community mental health center which will help new mental health facilities be established without additional barriers.

HF 2256 –Child Abuse and Mental Health Treatment - This bill revises the definition of “child abuse” to make clear that a parent that has exhausted all mental health treatment options has not committed child abuse for lack of treatment.

It should be noted, that not all bills that affect Iowans mental health are listed here. House File 2676, the Iowa Make American Healthy Again bill, is a great example of improving mental health care of Iowa's children by reducing screen-time in schools and ensuring additional physical activity which improves behaviors. Another example is Senate File 615 on Medicaid expansion work requirements for able-bodied adults. There is dignity that comes from work and confidence that comes from personal responsibility and independence as well as having a community of support, rather than isolation.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Labor

House Passes Collective Bargaining Clean Up Bill

On Tuesday, the House passed Senate File 472 which deals with an issue resulting from the landmark collective bargaining reforms approved back in 2017. After the reforms went into effect some employers were not submitting their list of employees in the bargaining unit prior to conducting a recertification election.

This bill states that it is unlawful for any public employer to fail to submit a list of employees to the employment appeal board. It authorizes an Iowa resident, within 60 days of the board's initial publication of a list of public employers, to petition the district court for a writ of mandamus to compel a public employer to provide the list to the board. The court will expedite resolution and grant a writ of mandamus if the court believes the public employer has failed to submit the list to the Board. The prevailing party can be awarded costs, reasonable attorney fees, and other appropriate relief.

The practical effect of the bill is extremely simple. If employers follow the law and submit the list, there are no problems.

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Natural Resources

Natural Resources Related Bills Pass House

Senate File 654 is a bundled bill about beaver dams, deer, and fur trapping. Regarding deer hunting, it requires that any tree stand placed on public land be labeled with a name, or a DNR issued identification number. If labeled correctly, no liability can be attached to the owner for any problem that develops if a non-owner uses the tree stand.

The bill also allows for more depredation permits to reduce deer population in areas where damage by deer is shown. Tenants, with written permission of a landowner, could now be issued depredation permits. Additionally, conservation officers may issue such depredation permits, instead of waiting for the statewide system to respond to a request. The bill also provides that a beaver dam that is negatively impacting a property may be removed without special permission. Last, the annual fee for fur dealers is capped at \$50. The fee had been raised to over \$500.

House File 2784 simply caps at \$5.00 the fee for a Lifetime Fur Harvester permit for disabled veterans. This bill reduces much higher fees that had been assessed last year by the Department of Natural Resources.

(Contact: Mindy Larsen 1-3096)

Oversight

House Republicans Vote to Get Dangerous Repeat Offenders Off the Street

Iowans have a reasonable expectation that their county attorney is working to uphold the law and protect public safety. In Iowa county attorneys are the primary prosecutors of state and local law violations. In fact, state law explicitly states county attorneys are to "diligently enforce" state laws.

What happens when that responsibility falls short? Unfortunately, the consequences can be serious and, in some instances, tragic for our communities.

Earlier this month Polk County held a Warrant Resolution Clinic. A warrant is a legal document signed by a judge that authorizes law enforcement to arrest an individual and take them into custody. Polk County Attorney Kimberly Graham claimed this program would help promote public safety by allowing individuals with non-felony, non-violent warrants to appear at the event and resolve their warrants without the risk of arrest.

During the clinic, the County Attorney's Office and local media highlighted a participant, Sharneeka Evans, who was able to resolve a warrant for a probation violation. The media coverage emphasized how quickly she met with a judge, received a new court date, and could move forward without fear of arrest.

Unfortunately, the Polk County Attorney's office did not do appropriate due diligence when running the clinic. Evans has an extensive and violent criminal history. Records indicate she had previously pushed someone down a flight of stairs, struck another person with a glass bottle, and attacked another with a bat. She has consistently failed to meet probation requirements or pay many of her outstanding fines. Nevertheless, she was deemed an appropriate participant in this warrant clinic – despite her violent history and despite Polk County Attorney Graham claiming the warrant resolution clinic was for individuals with non-violent warrants.

Less than one week after resolving her outstanding warrant, Evans was charged with first degree murder for the death of Ashley Hall.

House Republicans have continually stood for public safety for law abiding Iowans and serious consequences for violent lawbreakers. This session and in years past, House Republicans have championed bills to keep Iowans safe, including a three strikes bill to ensure habitual offenders actually serve prison time, a bail reform bill and bills increasing penalties for serious crimes. This Warrant Resolution Clinic is the opposite of law and order.

After learning about the failures of this Warrant Resolution Clinic, the House Government Oversight Committee met last week to hear from the public and consider a bill banning future clinics. During the committee meeting, Representatives asked questions of Justin Allen, the first assistant at the Polk County attorney's office (second in command) who admitted the office did not consider the criminal history of Evans, or any participant, before clearing warrants. When asked if the Polk County Attorney's Office would have done anything differently in light of the horrific incident, Allen answered with a resounding no.

The Polk County Warrant Resolution Clinic was a violation of the public's trust. County attorneys are expected to protect the community putting the safety of law abiding Iowans ahead of the needs of criminals. None of that happened in this clinic. What's even more concerning is the Polk County Attorneys Office has insisted time and again that this clinic was a good thing for the community and for public safety, and that if given the opportunity they would do it again without any additional changes. It is actions and statements like this show why these warrant clinics must be ended and to ensure public safety is preserved in our state.

On Wednesday, the House advanced HF 2787, to prohibit future warrant resolution clinics in Iowa. Warrants need to be resolved through the current system that truly protects the public. The bill passed by a vote of 71-20 and is now headed to the Senate for consideration.

(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)

State Government

Licensure Compacts Heading to Governor's Desk

Two pieces of legislation to provide more freedom and remove licensure barriers for professionals to work in Iowa or to live in Iowa and practice in border states are heading to the Governor's desk to be signed into law.

[House File 2498](#), is focused on improving access to specialized healthcare by making it easier for podiatrists to practice across state lines. Iowa would join the Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact, an agreement among participating states that allows licensed podiatrists to work in multiple states without needing to obtain a separate license in each one. Instead, providers who meet a shared set of standards can apply for compact privileges, streamlining what has traditionally been a time-consuming and repetitive licensing process. At the same time, the bill maintains important safeguards. Each participating state, including Iowa, would still retain the authority to regulate and discipline providers practicing within its borders. This ensures that while access is expanded, accountability and professional standards are not compromised. The compact also establishes uniform eligibility requirements, meaning that only qualified providers can participate.

HF 2498 will address gaps in access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas of Iowa where specialists can be harder to find. Allowing out-of-state podiatrists from other compact states to practice in Iowa and vice versa simplifies the process for podiatrists to practice across state lines. The compact will go into effect once four states enact the legislation. If enacted Iowa, will be the second state to do so (Maryland has enacted it) and would be involved in the rulemaking of the compact.

As with podiatrists, [Senate File 2139](#), is a licensure compact for athletic trainers. Similar to the podiatrists licensure compact, SF 2139 would allow more freedom to practice across state lines while providing safeguards for Iowa to regulate and discipline practitioners. If enacted, Iowa would be the seventh state to enact the compact and would activate the interstate compact. States that have already enacted the athletic trainer compact include South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Additionally, Missouri and Minnesota are considering the legislation.

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

Are Electric Vehicles Paying into the Road Use Tax Fund to Support Iowa Roads?

A way for electric vehicles to contribute to the cost of Iowa's roads has now been in full effect for two years now, and tax and fee collections are picking up.

Back in 2019, the Legislature passed House File 767. This bill created a series of new registration fees and fuel taxes for alternatively fueled vehicles. The bill increased vehicle registration fees starting in 2020, and provided for a tax on hydrogen used as fuel and electricity purchased at a non-residential charging station. The latter changes began in Fiscal Year 2024.

This law considered groundbreaking and viewed by transportation policy experts around the country as a template for other states to follow.

These fees and taxes are deposited into the Road Use Tax Fund. So how much is being collected? Between Fiscal Year 2020 and 2023, the state deposited \$2 million into the Road Use Tax Fund from the increased registration fees. By the end of 2025, that cumulative amount has risen to \$7.4 million. As for the tax on hydrogen fuel or electricity purchased at a non-residential charging station, the DOT collected \$402,989 from this tax in Fiscal Year 2025.

These figures are a small amount when considering what the state takes in for gas taxes and regular vehicle registration fees. But the amount is growing as is the number of electric vehicles on Iowa roads.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

House Ways and Means Committee Passes Proposed Constitutional Amendment

This week the House Ways and Means Committee passed Senate Joint Resolution 11 on a party line vote. Under this proposed constitutional amendment, passage of any bill that increases the individual income tax rate or the corporate income tax rate, or the rate of any other type of tax based upon income would require the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of members elected to each house of the general assembly. This requirement does not apply to taxes imposed at the option of a local government.

Additionally, under this amendment, passage of any bill that establishes a new tax on any type of income would also require the affirmative votes of at least two-thirds of the members elected to each house of the general assembly. When SJR 11 is adopted on the House floor, the proposed amendment will be submitted for a vote of the people on the November 2026 ballot. If passed it amends Iowa's constitution. With consistent criticism from Democrats targeting income tax reductions, this amendment is needed to protect future generations of Iowans from income tax increases spearheaded by Democrats.

(Contact: Kristi Kiouss 2-5290)