



“Be sure you put your feet in the right place, then stand firm.”

- Abraham Lincoln

Thursday February 16, 2017

www.IowaHouseRepublicans.com

House Republican Talking Points

2017-18 House Republican Budget Principles

House Republicans are committed to these principles to produce a balanced and sustainable state budget:

1. We will spend less than the state collects;
2. We will not use one-time money to fund on-going needs;
3. We will not balance the budget by intentionally underfunding programs; and
4. We will return unused tax dollars to Iowa's taxpayers.

Collective Bargaining Reform

The bill doesn't affect private sector workers. The Federal Government has always held jurisdiction over private sector labor relations and reforms to Chapter 20 does not change this fact.

The bill doesn't take away or modify Iowa's public pensions. In Iowa, public pensions have always been excluded from the scope of collective bargaining.

The bill doesn't take away health insurance. Page 46, line 3 of bill explicitly states the employer must offer health insurance.

The bill does not remove "proper cause" protections for public employees.

Public safety employees are exempt from the changes made in HSB 84.

Employees have protections against discrimination, harassment, retaliation or any other unlawful practices. It is already illegal for employers to discriminate against employees on based on protected characteristics such as basis of race, color, religion, age, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, creed, sexual orientation, sexual identity or disability. Iowa employers with four or more employees must comply with these laws. This bill does nothing to undo those protections.

The scope of negotiations outlined in Chapter 20 only refers to the ability of a union to bargain those items with an employer. The changes in the bill have no effect on an individual employee's rights to discuss or negotiate on their own accord with their employer about any topics they feel are imperative to their employment.

A pragmatic long-term change reflecting today's economic realities is needed regarding Iowa's collective bargaining law.

Constructive cooperation, not obstruction and fear-mongering, is needed regarding collective bargaining. Collective bargaining advocates are arguing the law has worked well for 40 years and changes are not necessary. Yet that did not stop those same advocates from serious attempts to significantly expand collective bargaining in 2007 and 2008.

The bottom line is that school boards, mayors, city councilors, county supervisors along with state government leaders will have more flexibility to do the jobs taxpayers elected them to do which is to manage state resources and quickly and effectively respond to their concerns.

Public employees will afforded more freedom, choice and independence in the workplace. They will finally have the ability to directly influence their take home pay based on individual performance.

Tax Credits

House Republicans looked at the possibility at reducing the fiscal impact of tax credits to the budget. The non-partisan Legislative Services Agency said that any changes to tax credits would have little to no positive fiscal impact to the FY 2017 budget.

Tax credits are eligible to be redeemed over several years and, in some cases, can also be transferrable – leading to difficulties in accurate predictions for the amount to be redeemed in any one year.

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Changing the amount of credits that could be issued in FY 17 would almost have no impact since the state accounts for these credits in the budget once they are claimed – not when issued. This means any change, like lowering the cap on the amount of credits the Iowa Economic Development Authority can issue in a fiscal year, would take several years until the reduction would have an impact on the budget.

Moving forward into the decision making for the FY18 budget, House Republicans are interested in looking at the effectiveness of our current list of tax credits. The three largest tax credits in terms of revenue impact on the FY 17 budget are the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Research Activities Tax Credit and the Historic Preservation and Cultural and Entertainment District Tax Credit.

Tax Dollars for Abortion Providers

House Republicans have consistently ap-

proved measures which opposed taxpayer funding for abortion providers. Senate File 2, which is currently on the Senate Debate Calendar addresses this issue. Planned Parenthood is an abortion provider in Iowa and is worried about losing state funding as a result of new restrictions approved by the 2017 Legislature. A simple solution is for Planned Parenthood to stop conducting abortions. By ending the practice, no taxpayer dollars would be in jeopardy.

Appropriations

(Contact Brad Trow at 1-3471)

Revenue Estimating—How other states do it and how this critical process can be improved

With the next meeting of the Revenue Estimating Conference approaching, there are some questions about how Iowa's process works and how it compares to the ways other states forecast their future revenue. And as there are fifty states, there are fifty different processes for determining how much tax revenue a state will generate.

Iowa's process to set revenue projections, the Revenue Estimating Conference, is laid out in Iowa Code section 8.22A. The law requires a three-member panel to convene at least three times a year where they review and set estimates for revenue, tax refunds, interest earned by the state, and gaming revenue. The three members include a representative of the Executive branch (usually the director of the Department of Management), a representative of the Legislative branch (usually the fiscal services director of LSA), and a member of the public mutually agreed to by the other members.

The group meets generally meets in October, December, and March to do their work. The key meeting is in December, where the panel sets the official revenue estimate for the upcoming fiscal year. The March meeting can play a key role in the budgeting process, if the panel's revenue projection for the upcoming year is reduced from their December forecast. When this occurs, the General Assembly is required to use the lower number as the revenue estimate for the next fiscal year.

In 2015, the National Association of State Budget Officers published **Budget Processes in the States** which includes a review of process each state uses to project future revenue. The majority of states utilize some process where the executive and legislative branches come to agreement on a revenue forecast. How they get to those

consensus projections can vary greatly.

South Dakota starts the budgeting process with the governor submitting his budget and revenue estimate to the Legislature in early December each year. The process then shifts to the Legislature's Joint Appropriations Committee, which receives revenue projections from the Legislative Research Council (their version of LSA) and the governor's Bureau of Finance and Management. Within the first 20 days, the Joint Appropriations Committee must decide which projection they will use for the state's budget.

Missouri's forecasting process is unique in the fact that it is not established in state law. While the governor is required by law to include a revenue estimate as part of their budget recommendation, the legislature is not statutorily bound by this. They instead use a practice where the state's budget office, both chambers of the legislature, and a professor from the University of Missouri develop a staff-level consensus estimate. From here, the Governor and legislative leaders decide whether or not to accept the staff recommendations and agree on a consensus estimate. Since this is not required by state law, there have been years when actual consensus was not reached.

Of the neighboring states, the one with the process most similar to Iowa's is Nebraska. Their revenue forecast is established by Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board. This is a nine-member board, with four members appointed by the Governor and five appointed by the Legislature. Those appointed to these positions are required to have expertise in economics, economic forecasting, or tax policy and they serve four year terms. The Board receives revenue estimates from the Nebraska De-

partment of Revenue and the Legislature's Fiscal Office and then develops a consensus revenue forecast.

In Minnesota, the process for estimating state revenue is significantly different than what happens in Iowa. Revenue forecasting is an exclusive function of the executive branch, with the governor's budget agency – Minnesota Management and Budget – being responsible for publishing five-year revenue estimates twice a year. That agency's Economic Analysis Division is the formal revenue estimating group, which makes formal estimates in November and February each year. They also issue economic updates in January, April, July, and October and makes revisions to the estimate. Wisconsin has a similar approach. The revenue estimates are made by the Department of Revenue.

So what is the best approach to estimating state revenue? Some groups have tried to lay out best practices for revenue forecasting. The left-leaning Center for Budget and Policy Priorities identifies five practices that they feel are necessary to improve states' revenue forecasting process. The five practices are:

- The governor & legislature should jointly produce the revenue estimate
- The forecasting body should include outside experts
- The forecast and its assumptions should be published and made easily accessible on the internet
- Meetings of the forecasting group should be open to the public
- Estimates should be revised during the year

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Legislative Budget Work Now Turns to FY 2018, As Size of Budget Pie is Set

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According to their survey, Iowa is one of fifteen states that utilize all five practices. But, CBPP's best practices all focus on process.

“They do not focus on the accuracy of the forecasts.”

Which is really the key data point.

One group that has not only reviewed state forecasting practices, but also assists states to improve their process is the Pew Center for the States. The Pew Center worked with the Nelson Rockefeller Institute of Government in 2011 to study state revenue

forecasts and why states were experiencing greater volatility in tax revenue. In their 23 year review of state revenue forecasts, the study came to an interesting conclusion. States were more likely to under-estimate state revenue, producing greater ending balances. The study found that in 16 of the 23 years examined, state revenue forecasts were lower than the actual revenue brought into the states.

During the timespan of the study, there were three recessions. The Pew-Rockefeller study determined that forecasting errors got larger in each succeeding recession. They also determined that the use of consensus forecasting processes does not mean a more accurate forecast. It does make the forecast less susceptible to political forces.

So how do states improve their forecasting process? The Pew study suggests that

states should take time to analyze those situations where the estimate was off. States like Indiana and Michigan undertook reviews of their forecasting process in the aftermath of missing projections during the Great Recession. Another recommendation, which Iowa already does, is the frequency of projections and the need to update these forecasts during the legislative session. Iowa's process is set up to protect against political influence, which also is a recommendation from the Pew study. Finally, they suggest looking for ways to expand the expertise used in making forecasts.

Today, Iowa is amongst many states looking for ways to help improve the accuracy of their revenue forecasts. While creating a process that is 100 percent accurate every year would be an impossible quest, exploring new ideas that help the process is a task that will be a priority in the remainder of the 2017 legislative session.

Agriculture

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096)

ISU Extension Announces Workshop Aims to Keep Palmer Amaranth off the Farm



Pictures accessed from Iowa State Extension press releases

On Friday, February 10, 2017, the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach issued a press release in which it acknowledged that Palmer amaranth, a new weed to Iowa and a serious threat to production agriculture, has now been discovered in at least 48 Iowa counties. Farmers, farmer advisers and others interested in learning to identify and manage this new threat will want to attend a “Keep Palmer amaranth off your farm” workshop being held across eastern Iowa.

Free, two-hour meetings are planned for both eastern and southeastern Iowa in the following locations.

- Feb. 27, 11:30 a.m., with a light meal; ISU Extension and Outreach Jones County Office, 800 N Maple St. #2, Monticello. Pre-register by calling 319-465-3224.
- March 1, 6:30 p.m., with refreshments, Heartland Acres Agribition Center, 2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Independence. Pre-register by calling 319-334-7161.
- March 2, 6:30 p.m., with a light meal, ISU Extension and Outreach Washington County Office, 2223 250th St., Washington. Pre-register by calling 319-653-4811.
- March 6, 1:30 p.m., with refreshments – Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Jefferson County, 2606 West Burlington Ave., Fairfield. Pre-register by calling 641-472-4166.
- March 6, 7 p.m., with refreshments – ISU Extension and Outreach Appanoose County, 501 N. 12th St – Suite 4, Centerville. Pre-register by calling 614-856-3885.

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- March 7, 11 a.m., with a light meal – ISU Extension and Outreach Monroe County, 219 B Ave West, Albia. Pre-register before March 2 by calling 641-932-5612.
- March 21, 1:30 p.m., with refreshments – ISU Extension and Outreach Mahaska County, 212 N I St., Oskaloosa. Pre-register by calling 641-673-5841.
- March 21, 6:00 p.m., with a light meal; ISU Extension and Outreach Iowa County Office, 223 West Welsh St., Williamsburg. Pre-register by calling 319-668-1052.

- March 23, 6:30 p.m. – Roberts Memorial Building, 20497 Hwy 1, Keosauqua. Pre-register by calling 319-293-3039.

- March 28, 1:30 p.m. – Pin Oak Marsh Lodge, 45996 Hwy 14, Chariton. Pre-register by calling 641-774-2016. March 20, 6 p.m., with a light meal; Traer Public Library, 531 2nd St., Traer. Pre-register by calling 641-484-2703.

March 30, 6:30 p.m., with refreshments; ISU Extension and Outreach Johnson County Office, 3109 Old Highway 218 S., Iowa City. Pre-register by calling 319-337-2145.

In a related matter, legislation has been

introduced in the Iowa House to assign Palmer Amaranth to the state list of primary noxious weed and to the list of invasive plants that are prohibited to be imported, sold, offer to sell, or distribute in the state and that bill, House File 175, has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee for its consideration. A subcommittee was held on that bill on Monday, February 13, 2017. The recent outbreak occurred in part because of palmer amaranth seeds were included in wildlife plot seed packages that were used in Iowa and other state in the upper Midwest. Historically, this has been a more significant problem in the Southern Corn belt and Delta states.

IDALS; ISU Unveil Iowa Pest Resistance Management Plan

On Monday, January 30, 2017, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship issued a press release in which Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey, Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Associate Dean Dr. John Lawrence and Iowa farmer Larry Buss of Logan today announced the release of the Iowa Pest Resistance Management Plan. The full plan and additional information about pest resistance management efforts can be found at www.ProtectIowaCrops.org. The Iowa-specific plan seeks to engage farmers on the issue of pest resistance management with the goal of keeping technology and tools such as pesticides, seed treatments, and biotechnology products and native traits available and effective.

The Iowa Pest Resistance Management Plan's goal is to document and promote holistic and integrated management solutions that will effectively and sustainably control pests, including insects, weeds and

plant disease. This includes postponing or delaying resistance development, foster methods of early detection, and then mitigating, to the extent possible, the spread of pest resistance. The plan includes chapters that address governance, the state of the science, pilot projects, and communication and outreach. As the plan is implemented, pilot projects of active pest resistance management will be established to encourage adoption of science-based resistance management efforts and to develop adaptive management approaches. These pilots will also seek to examine approaches to encourage successful, voluntary pest resistance management adoption.

The pilot projects will identify key stakeholders within a defined community and will be inclusive, bringing all potential players to the table. The pilot projects will work to establish incentives and novel approaches to encourage the community to work together to address the identified pest-resistant problems. These projects are intended to deal

with resistance issues that are imminent or already present with the objective of minimizing the potential of further resistance development. It is expected that the first round of pilot projects will be selected this April and get underway in May so they can be operating during the growing season this year. A broad cross-section of the Iowa agriculture industry was involved in putting the plan together, including IDALS, ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Agribusiness Association of Iowa, Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee, Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Independent Crop Consultants Association, Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, Iowa Soybean Association, Pesticide Resistance Action Committees, Practical Farmers of Iowa, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Commerce

(Contact Brittany Telk at 1-3452)

Alcohol Law Reform Taking over Policy Committees

It has been widely publicized that the ABD and IEDA have been having shareholder meetings to discuss the somewhat archaic alcohol laws and all they entail. These meetings have included information and input from all shareholders in an effort to find consensus and reform to bring the laws up to date; more in-line with current practices and to find parity with the three tier system. The first crack at overhaul has been introduced and assigned to State Government, but that is not the only committee with alcohol bills.

The House Commerce Committee has been assigned a couple bills dealing with native wineries. One bill would allow native wineries the ability to sell liquor by the glass, so long as the liquor was purchased from a class E liquor license holder (like a grocery store), while the second bill allows native wineries to receive two class C winery permits and to sell wine by the glass at the winery as well as other winery-owned retail locations. The same players that have attended the alcohol reform meetings over the last year are voicing their frustra-

tions with the system at these smaller, winery-specific bills.

The ABD's first bill does not address these winery concerns, but there has been a clear indication there will be more licensing/permitting reform coming in the next couple of years. While there has not been a general consensus as to how everyone feels about the bills presented before the Commerce committee, there is a consensus that something must be done.

Economic Growth

(Contact Brittany Telk at 1-3452)

So What's a Laborshed?

In this year's IEDA Miscellaneous Omnibus bill, the Authority suggests a change to the [Targeted Jobs Withholding Tax Credit program](#) by altering the definition of a targeted job.

This program was created in 2006 for incentivizing the creation of jobs and increasing economic development in border cities. It allows an approved "pilot" city to enter into a withholding agreement: 1) with a business that is locating to its community from another state and is creating targeted jobs within a pilot city; or 2) an existing Iowa business that is creating ten new targeted jobs or makes a qualifying investment of \$500,000 within an urban renewal area. The applicable code section defines a targeted job as a job that pays "a wage at least equal to the countywide average wage."

And while the program has been using countywide average wage since its inception, it does not match similar programs

administered by the IEDA. For instance, the High Quality Jobs Program –one of the most popular IEDA incentive programs, uses a different wage quantifier; specifically, a [laborshed](#) which is defined as the wage level represented by those wages within two standard deviations from the mean wage within the laborshed area in which the eligible business is located, as calculated by the authority, using the most current covered wage and employment data available from the department of workforce development for the laborshed area. The Iowa department of workforce development (IWD) determines the employment centers and defines the boundaries of each laborshed area. IWD defines laborshed areas by surveying commuters within the various zip code areas surrounding an employment center, combining the zip code areas into as many as three zones, and determining how many people commute from a zip code to the employment center from each zone. The zones reflect the fact that as the dis-

tance from an employment center increases, the number of people willing to commute to the employment center decreases. When determining the applicable laborshed wage, the authority will use the closest laborshed area, as determined by road distance between the employment center and the zip code of the project location.

The reason for this requested change, the IEDA asserts, is because the laborshed wage is a better indicator than a countywide average. It will also, as mentioned, bring the program into more compliance administratively for the Authority. This bill also makes smaller changes; transferring the Targeted Small Business program from the DIA to the IEDA's purview as the Authority already processes many of the applications and another technical change to the Sports Tourism Program.

Source: Iowa Economic Development Authority

Education

(Contact Jason Chapman at 1-3015)

Governor's Computer Science Bill Under Consideration

A bill brought forward by the Governor on computer science education has made its way to both Senate and House committees for consideration. It's the only education policy piece he mentioned in his Condition of Iowa speech in January and was the subject of a tour around the state by the Lt. Governor last fall.

The bills (HSB 107 and HSB 1047) put emphasis on the benefits of computer science education and what it could mean for the workforce of Iowa's future.

The language would require that every high school offer at least one high-quality com-

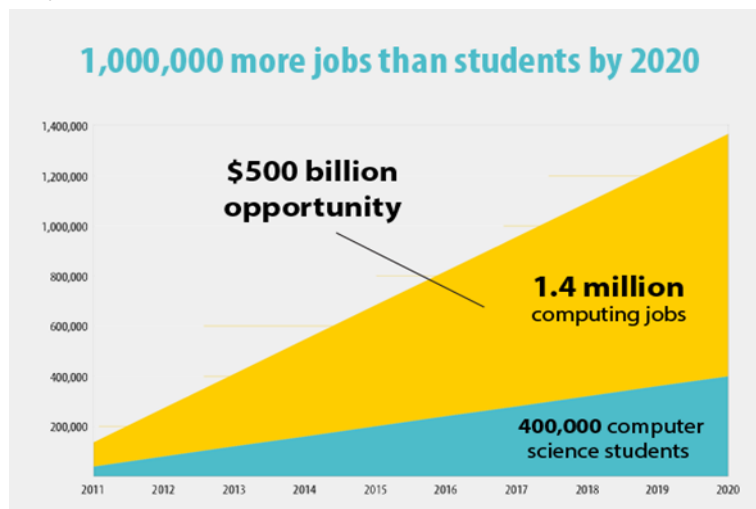
puter science course, that every middle school offer an exploratory computer science curriculum, and every elementary school include an introduction to computer science basics course. Additionally the plan would require the establishment of high-quality computer science standards, an incentive fund for professional development for teachers, and the convening of an advisory group to recommend how to count computer science as a math credit toward high school graduation.

The effort is based on information put out by Code.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing computer science opportunities for high school students across

the country. The information contained some pretty startling figures to back up their efforts.

An info-graphic on their website claims:

- Computer Science is the highest paid college degree
- Computer programming jobs are growing at 2 times the national average
- Less than 2.4% of college students graduate with a degree in computer science
- 9 out of 10 schools don't offer computer programming classes



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Nationally they estimated that by the year 2020 there will be 1.4 million computing jobs available, yet only 400,000 computer science students – a gap of 1 million. Who's going to fill those positions? It is likely employees will be imported from other countries to fill the slots if American students aren't prepared.

Here are more specific numbers to Iowa:

- Iowa currently has 3,973 open computing jobs, which is 3.2 times the average demand rate in the state
- The average salary for a computing occupation in Iowa is \$76,309, which is almost double the average salary in the state. The existing open jobs alone represent over \$303M opportunity in annual salaries.
- Iowa had 380 computer science graduates in 2014 (and only 16% were fe-

male)

- Only 211 high school students in Iowa took the AP CS exam in 2016, and only 17% of Iowa schools with AP programs offered AP Computer Science in 2015-16.

And this is where the disconnect between what students need, what parents want for their kids, and what schools are offering comes into play.

A survey conducted by Google in 2015, called "Searching for Computer Science", found that 90% of parents want their child to study computer science, yet

"only 40% of schools offer it."

Thus, we get further disconnects, such as this: 71% of all new jobs in STEM are in computing. Yet only 8% of STEM graduates are in Computer Science. And this occurs in a climate where computer science majors can earn 40% more than the college average in a field that has 500,000 current openings in every industry in every state.

The work of Code.org has led to a total of 31 states plus DC allowing computer science to count towards math or science graduation requirements. The legislation now before the legislature might put Iowa on that list.

Read more from Code.org: <https://code.org/advocacy/state-facts/IA.pdf>

Read the Google report: http://services.google.com/fh/files/misc/searching-for-computer-science_report.pdf

Iowa's Community Colleges Boost Iowa's Economy

A new study put out by the Department of Education last week provides proof of the impact that Iowa's Community Colleges have on the state's economy. It points to a contributed \$5.4 billion in income, the equivalent of creating 107,170 new jobs

\$55 million, a 37% increase in funding.

The study found that Iowa's community colleges collectively contributed \$5.4 billion into the state's economy (equal to 3.3% of the state's Gross State Product) and supported 107,170 jobs - roughly 6% of all jobs in Iowa - during fiscal year 2014-15.

Among the study's findings:

- During the analysis year, past and present students generated \$4.6 billion in added income for the state, which is equivalent to supporting 87,905 jobs.
- The top industries impacted by Iowa's community colleges include health care and social assistance; manufacturing; finance and insurance; and construction.
- For every dollar of public money invested in Iowa's community colleges, \$3.50 in benefits is returned to taxpayers and the average annual rate of return is 10.4%.
- For every dollar that a student spends

on a community college education in Iowa, that student receives \$6.50 per hour in higher future income with an average annual rate of return of 25.3%.

- The average associate degree completer will see an increase in earnings of \$9,500 each year when compared to someone with a high school diploma or equivalent. Over a working lifetime, this increase in earnings amounts to an undiscounted value of approximately \$418,000 in higher earnings.
- The total benefits to society, which include increased lifetime earnings, associated increases in business output and social savings, equal \$15.2 billion (in present value form).
- To read the full report, visit the Iowa Department of Education's website: <https://www.educateiowa.gov/documents/economic-impact-community-colleges/2017/02/analysis-economic-impact-and-return-investment>

"House Republicans have been strong supporters of Community Colleges,"

over the past 7 years, knowing the good work they do on behalf of Iowa's students and continuing workforce needs. Prior to House Republican control, the Community Colleges weathered a \$32 million reduction in state funding during the 2008 recession (\$180 million to \$148 million from 2009 to 2010). Since taking control in 2011, House Republicans have increased general fund appropriations to the community colleges by

Environmental Protection

(Contact Lew Olson at 1-3096)

DNR Announces that 'Hub and Spoke Recycling Report' now Available

On Thursday, February 9, 2017, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources issued a press release in which it announced that the [Rural Iowa Hub & Spoke Recycling Project Final Report](#) is now available on the DNR's waste planning and recycling webpage - be sure to click on "Studies and

Reports." DNR has contracted with SCS Engineers to conduct the study, leading to recommendations for implementing a Hub and Spoke recycling system as a means of increasing rural recycling participation, while maintaining and improving rural recycling efficiencies and economics. The study

included identifying existing rural recycling services, service providers, and recycling gaps, and providing strategies to fill recycling gaps, including a hub and spoke recycling system.

Human Resources

(Contact Carrie Malone at 5-2063)

AmeriHealth Caritas Reduces Provider Rates and Moves Case Management In-House

Many Iowa Medicaid providers were notified in the last week that the rates they contracted with to provide services with Iowa's privately managed Medicaid program would be reduced. One of the three managed care companies (MCOs), AmeriHealth Caritas, notified community-based providers that effective April 1, 2017 AmeriHealth would be changing the reimbursement

structure for providers.

In addition to decreasing rates, AmeriHealth Caritas announced it would be bringing case management services in-house. Case managers assess a member's needs and help to coordinate services for the member. Both of the other MCOs (Amerigroup Iowa and United Healthcare) currently have inter-

nal case management services.

AmeriHealth currently has the largest number of Iowa Medicaid's special-needs population. It is unclear whether AmeriHealth plans to reduce rates for other providers in the future.

Judiciary

(Contact Amanda Wille at 1-5230)

Supreme Court Ruling Limits Officers Ability to Check for a Driver's License

A split ruling by the Iowa Supreme Court may significantly change how law enforcement officers approach vehicle stops. In a 4-3 decision the Court reversed the conviction of a Scott County man for driving while barred based on an unconstitutional traffic stop.

In August of 2014, an officer was randomly checking the license plates of passing vehicles, searching for stolen vehicles or outstanding warrants tied to the owner. The officer spotted a car registered to a woman whose driver's license had been suspended. The officer could not see the driver, so he pulled over the car. The officer determined the driver, Jayel Antrone Coleman, was the brother of the vehicles owner. He then asked Coleman for his driver's license, registration and proof of insurance. Coleman only had an Iowa ID, and was barred from driving.

Coleman was charged and convicted of driving while barred. He appealed his conviction arguing that since the reason for the

traffic stop was resolved, there was no reason for the officer to extend the stop by asking for his license, insurance and registration. The Iowa Court of Appeals rejected this argument and Coleman appealed to the Supreme Court.

Justice Brent Appel wrote for the majority. They concluded that it was a violation of Article I Section 8 of the Iowa constitution to keep a driver after the reason for a traffic stop has been resolved. Once the officer determined that Coleman was not the owner, the reason for the stop was satisfied and any additional action was unconstitutional, even though Coleman did not have a driver's license and was driving while barred. The majority opinion also raised concerns of racial profiling "... unlimited discretion to stop vehicles on the open road may give rise to allegations of racial discrimination, characterized by the descriptive phrase 'driving while black.'" The Courts decision overturned 30 years of legal precedent in Iowa that allowed officers to ask for a driver's license during routine traffic stops.

Justices Thomas Waterman, Edward Mansfield and Bruce Zager dissented in the case. Justice Waterman wrote the dissenting opinion. "Until today, a police officer who lawfully stopped a motorist could ask to see his driver's license, especially when the officer knew the driver was not the car's registered owner. Almost all Iowans, I believe, would find this activity completely unobjectionable and, indeed, mundane. But not the majority." All three justices agreed that Iowans expect to show a driver's license during a traffic stop because it helps officers determine who should and shouldn't be on the road. Drivers like Coleman, who had been barred from driving and had numerous convictions for driving while barred, driving while suspended, drug, and OWI convictions.

While the full impact of this ruling won't be known for some time, it could be significant. If an officer is unable to check a driver's license, dangerous barred drivers may escape arrest and endanger other drivers on the road.

State Government

(Contact: Mackenzie Nading 1-3626)

Alcoholic Beverage Division Comprehensive Review

In August 2016 Governor Branstad and Lieutenant Governor Reynolds asked the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division, in partnership with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, to perform a comprehensive review of Iowa's current alcohol laws housed in Iowa Code Chapter 123. To accomplish this request, the ABD and EDA created a working group taskforce that was comprised of members who represented

breweries, wineries, distilleries, wholesalers, the restaurant association, public safety, the general public, and other interested parties. This working group met 8 times over the course of five months, and interested parties were able to express concerns, proposed changes, or benefits of the current 3-tier alcohol system outline by Chapter 123. In January 2017, the working group adjourned their final meeting, and on Febru-

ary 1 the ABD delivered the final comprehensive report to the Governor and Lieutenant Governor of their findings along with a bill request for the 87th General Assembly to consider.

The following give recommended changes to Iowa's Alcohol laws were made by the group:

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1. Create greater parity among Iowa beer, wine, and spirits manufacturers
2. Streamline licensing for Iowa beer manufacturers and wholesalers
3. Allow a limited expansion of off-premises retail privileges for retailers manufacturing beer
4. Increase collaboration between the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the Iowa Wine and Beer Promotion Board
5. Endorse a further review of licensing, administrative actions, and administrative appeals for reform opportunities

Currently assigned to the House State Government Committee is House Study Bill 108, a proposed bill that seeks to reform

portions of Chapter 123 as proposed by the working group. Some highlights of the proposed legislation are as follows:

1. Makes technical corrections and updates the code where it was needed as advised by the Alcoholic Beverage Division
2. Streamlines the licensing process by combining certain licenses and licensing fees, removing a license class that was not widely used, and creating new categories of licenses that better fit the needs of establishments
3. Reforms micro-distillery regulations, allowing for more flexibility when selling product both on and off premise

The ABD reports that in the future they to make it easier to understand, more effi-

“wish to continue to reform Chapter 123”

cient, and workable for all interested parties. When it comes to Iowa’s sale of alcoholic beverages, many parties have a stake. Working groups like this are an important step in the process of reforming state legislation that impacts such a wide ranging group of interests.

Natural Resources

(Contact Carrie Malone at 5-2063)

Paddlefish Season Opens March 1

The paddlefish fishing season opens March 1 on the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers and runs through April 15. You must have a valid Iowa fishing license and a special paddlefish license and unused transportation tag.

If you catch a jaw-tagged fish, it will be

numbered under the lower jaw. The Iowa DNR would like you to call the number on the tag and give them some additional information about the paddlefish and the location of capture.

The Iowa DNR and other state fisheries agencies tag paddlefish to better under-

stand and manage populations. Tagging provides valuable information to estimate population size, fish movement and growth.

For more information about Iowa’s special paddlefish season, visit the DNR website [here](#).

Transportation

(Contact: Ashely Beall 1-3440)

House Transportation Committee Update

HF 289 passed on the House Floor on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 with a vote of 98-0. This bill which is effective upon enactment, will allow the treasurer’s office in Clay and Carroll County to issue Driver’s Licenses, non-operator’s identification cards, and persons with disabilities identification devices on a permanent basis.

The House Transportation Committee met

Tuesday, February 14, 2017 and passed two bills unanimously (20-0) out of committee. The first being HSB 68 which requires the money collected by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) be transferred directly to the treasurer of state to be deposited in the general fund. Prior to this bill, this money would be transferred from the DAS to the Department of Transportation then the treasurer of state’s office.

The second bill that passed in committee was HSB 71. This study bill allows a right turn on a red light from another lane that is designated for right turns or a left lane designated for left turns onto a one way street. This bill also gets rid of the requirement that you must turn into the left-most lane of the other one way street when turning left on a red light.

Veterans Affairs

(Contact Kristi Kious at 2-5290)

Applications Now Available for National Veterans Golden Age Games

The application period has officially started for the National Veterans Golden Age Games put on by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). All Veterans ages 55 and older and enrolled in VA health care may complete applications online at www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov. Applications are accepted now through March 1.

The 2017 National Veterans Golden Age

Games will take place from May 7-11 in Biloxi, Mississippi. Nearly 800 athletes are expected to compete in the national, multi-sport competition for senior Veterans.

Veterans compete in events such as air rifle, badminton, boccia, bowling, cycling, golf, horseshoes, nine ball, powerwalk, shuffleboard, swimming, table tennis, and track and field. There are also exhibition events that include air pistol, archery, bas-

ketball, blind disc golf and pickleball.

VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System is the host of this year’s games. The Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System provides care for more than 50,000 Veterans throughout Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida.

Ways & Means

(Contact Kristi Kiouss at 2-5290)

Tax Filing Software Now on Smartphones

Last week the Internal Revenue Service announced that taxpayers now have the ability to use their smart phones and tablets to electronically prepare and file their federal and state tax returns through IRS Free File.

Taxpayers may access the products using mobile devices in two ways:

- Use the IRS app, IRS2Go
- Use the device's browser to go to www.irs.gov/freefile and select the "Free File Software Lookup Tool" or "Start Free File Now" to find the appropriate software

The IRS2Go app is available for Android and iOS devices.

Taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$64,000 or less will find one or more free software options. The Free File software allows for free electronic tax preparation and filing as well as direct deposit of refunds. Some taxpayers may need their 2015 adjusted gross income if they filed a return, in order to validate their identities and complete the electronic filing process.