



ABOUT ISAC

The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation. The organization was incorporated on October 8, 1964. ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. ISAC is comprised of several statewide associations called affiliates. For example, all the county treasurers in the state have their own association, which is called the Iowa State County Treasurers' Association and is one of ISAC's affiliates. In total, there are 16 of these associations that are affiliated with ISAC.

The main purpose of ISAC is to secure and maintain cooperation among the counties and county officials, promote comprehensive study and resolution of local problems, provide methods of interchange of ideas among various county officials, and promote and work for the enactment of legislation that is most beneficial to the citizens of Iowa. Counties pay voluntary dues to belong to ISAC. In return, ISAC provides a number of services to member counties, such as training, benefit programs, education, technical assistance, and intergovernmental services.

ISAC's mission is to promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa. ISAC's vision is to be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.



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INTRODUCTION

In 2019 Iowa counties participated with the 1st Session of the 87th General Assembly in the development of many important public policy decisions. These bill summaries are organized according to ISAC areas of interest. In addition, all appropriations bills are located in the section entitled “Appropriations.” All members should look through this section to see appropriations items that are of interest. Most appropriations bills contain multiple topics so there is probably something in there for everyone.

Generally, bill summaries should be easy to find since the category subjects are so distinct. For example, a bill dealing with property tax reform would be found under “Taxation and Finance.” However, there are some occasions where a bill could logically fit under more than one category. We have cross-referenced those bills for your convenience.

Please note that text in shaded areas indicates bills that have been vetoed or portions of bills that have been line-item vetoed by the Governor.

ISAC PRIORITIES UPDATE

Mental Health and Disability Services

Significant mental health and disability services (MH/DS) legislation was codified this session when the Iowa Legislature passed HF 690, a bill that establishes a Children's Mental Health System in Iowa. This new system utilizes the existing adult regional based MH/DS system for service delivery and requires a children's mental health coordinator in each of the regions. Further, it outlines what core and core plus services are or could be provided to children and adds members specifically focused on children to the regional governance boards. Unfortunately, no additional revenue was given to the counties and regions to provide these new services nor were counties granted the ability to generate sufficient revenue by eliminating or adjusting the mental health levy caps. ISAC was pleased that the mental health carry-forward balance restrictions of 20/25% were increased to 40% with passage of HF 691. This legislation also extends the deadline for implementation to FY 2024 and allows counties to recertify their budgets to reflect the new changes in the law.

Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Backfill

With major discussions taking place during the 2018 legislative session about phasing-out or reducing the commercial and industrial property tax backfill, it became clear it should be a top legislative priority for 2019. The backfill is a standing, limited appropriation from the state to local property taxing jurisdictions to make up for the lost revenue due to the legislatively imposed rollback on taxable values for commercial and industrial property. Without the backfill, counties and

other local jurisdictions could be forced to choose between increasing property tax asking or reducing services that their residents desire and depend on. Because the backfill is a standing appropriation it would take legislative action for it to not be fully funded. We were pleased that once again the governor's proposed budget included full funding, and as the legislative session adjourned no action was taken to reduce or eliminate the backfill. Full funding of the commercial and industrial property tax backfill in fiscal years beyond 2020 will remain very important to Iowa's counties.

Water Quality, Natural Resources, and Outdoor Recreation

This session brought little activity to address Iowa's need to provide adequate, sustainable, and dedicated state financial resources to address statewide concerns related to Iowa's water quality issues. In addition, nothing was done to fund I-WLL via the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreational Trust Fund that could focus on water concerns as well as promote public health and increase the quality of life in Iowa by ensuring enhanced opportunities for outdoor recreation.

INTRODUCTION

At the end of each summary, you may find the effective date for the bill or certain portions of the bill. If no effective date is listed, the bill is effective July 1, 2019. On the title line of each summary you will find the initials of the ISAC staff member(s) who summarized the bill. Their initials are:

JC - Jamie Cashman, Government Relations Manager

KH - Kristi Harshbarger, General Counsel

LB - Lucas Beenken, Public Policy Specialist

As always, this summary is not intended to report on every bill down to the smallest detail. As the name says, it is a "summary." While we strive for completeness and accuracy, time and space restrictions prevent us from including everything on a piece of legislation. If you think a bill might have some specific application for your office, please get a copy of the enrolled bill and review it in detail for yourself. You can get an enrolled bill by calling the Legislature's Legislative Information Office at 515.281.5129 or at <http://www.legis.iowa.gov>.

We always want to improve this product. After you have read this book please let us know what additional information you would like to see in next year's summary book.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

HF 325 – Nonambulatory Hunting License

LB Conservation, Recorders

This bill allows nonambulatory hunters to use authorized weapons for the hunting season when using an any sex deer hunting license rather than being limited to shotgun or muzzleloading rifle. If a deer tag is filled, the license will not be valid in subsequent seasons.

HF 389 – Boat Registration

LB Recorders

This bill modifies provisions related to boat registration and titling. Under the bill: registration renewal can be done in any county; replacement registration or title can be done in any county; notice of change of address or change of name can be done in any county; the renewal deadline is moved to 60 days after expiration; and the \$5 penalty for expiration is moved from May 1 to July 1. The bill also changes from 15 days to 30 days the time a dealer has to forward moneys and applications to the county recorder when transferring boats, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles.

HF 595 – Salary of the Deputy County Auditor for Elections

JC Auditors, Supervisors

This bill allows the deputy county auditor for elections to be paid 85% of the salary of the county auditor.

HF 689 – Veterans Service Officer Removal

LB Supervisors, Veterans

This bill dictates that the county veterans service officer shall only be removed from office by the County Commission of Veteran Affairs, subject to the approval of the board of supervisors.

HF 692 – Election Omnibus

JC Auditors, Supervisors

This bill makes a number of technical and significant policy changes pertaining to elections in Iowa.

Division I.

- Makes technical changes in relation to hospital board of trustees elections.

Division II.

- Makes additional technical changes and policy changes with specific language addressing auditors:
 - Allows the secretary of state (SOS) to gather additional information from auditors when addressing technical infractions.
 - Gives the SOS additional authority in addressing cybersecurity threats in counties.
 - Requires auditors to send a voter acknowledgement mailing within 48 hours if a voter registration form is received within 14 days of a regularly scheduled election.

Division III.

- Makes numerous policy changes in relation to the conduct of elections:
 - Requires a county seal instead of the county auditor’s signature on all primary and general election ballots.
 - Bans auditors from participating in an absentee ballot drive other than for their own candidacy.
 - Bans the auditor’s name from appearing on a ballot unless it is when they are running for office.

Division IV.

- Bans a highway contractor, who is also a city or county official that would oversee road contracts, from voting on a contract if that elected official is the low bidder. That city or county official must also state their conflict of interest. This division takes effect on January 1, 2023.

Division V.

- Requires the auditor to make several changes in how candidates are placed in order on election ballots.

Division VI.

- Makes technical changes to implement combined city/school elections.

Division VII.

- Requires that “In order for an absentee ballot to be counted, the return envelope must be received in the commissioner’s office before the polls close on election day or be clearly post marked by an officially authorized postal service barcode or bear an intelligent mail barcode traceable to a date of entry into the federal mail system not later than the day before the election and received by the commissioner not later than noon on the Monday following the election.”

HF 698 – Pioneer Cemeteries

LB Auditors, Supervisors

This bill allows the board of supervisors and the county cemetery commission to jointly decide to authorize the commission to maintain jurisdiction over a cemetery with between 13 and 24 burials in the last 50 years after it no longer qualifies as a pioneer cemetery.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

SF 86 – Organ Donor Designation

LB

Recorders

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to include on hunting, fishing, and fur harvester license application forms a section where applicants can request indication on the license that the individual is an organ/anatomical donor and requires DNR to revise the licenses to provide space for such a designation. Minors at least 14 years of age can request the designation with the permission of a parent or guardian.

SF 563 – Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reporting

JC

Auditors, Supervisors

This bill requires that each pharmacy benefit manager (PBM) in Iowa provide an annual report to the insurance commissioner outlining all the prescription drug benefits that are provided to persons under health carriers that have a contract with a PBM.

SF 170 – County Agricultural Extension Council Vacancies

JC

Auditors

This bill changes the deadline by which county agricultural extension councils must file their annual financial reports to county auditors from August 1 to September 1. Further, it changes the requirement to fill a vacancy on the council from the next 'pending' election to the next 'general' election.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (May 3, 2019)

SF 283 – Public Contract Conflict of Interest

LB

All County Officials

This bill increases the value thresholds for public contracts of political subdivisions that can be entered into by certain officers and employees of the political subdivision. The current contract threshold of \$1,500 for county officers and employees and the various thresholds for cities and schools are all increased to \$6,000. The public bid process remains in place for these contracts.

SF 502 – Notice to Employees of Ombudsman Information

KH

All County Officials

This bill requires counties to have procedures for notifying all new employees of the authority of the ombudsman and to provide them with the toll-free number of the ombudsman. Additionally, this bill clarifies that civil claims made against a county for reprisal shall be limited to three times the annual wages and benefits of the aggrieved employee and that claims for which one cannot be retaliated against must be made in good faith. The bill also adds county human resource managers to the list of persons that disclosures to are protected from reprisal.

SF 507 – Certain Falls Excluded from Workers' Compensation

KH

County Attorneys

This bill added a category of falls – those that “idiopathic or unexplained falls from a level surface onto the same level surface” as specifically excluded as an accident that can arise out of and in the course of employment. Thus, such falls are not compensable under Iowa’s workers’ compensation chapter.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

HF 288 – Military and Veterans Benefits

LB

Veterans

This bill eliminates the requirement that a line of duty injury occur in a combat zone for a veteran to qualify for the Injured Veterans Grant Program and requires the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Commission of Veterans Affairs and the National Guard to develop a report on the sustainability of the program. The bill also establishes an expedited professional licensing process for spouses of active duty military members re-located to Iowa on military orders and charges the state licensing boards with developing procedures.

HF 289 – Distribution of Gambling Game Receipts

KH

Veterans

This bill specifies that veterans organizations exempt from federal taxes under IRS Code Section 501(c)(19) are among the organizations that a qualified sponsoring organization may donate receipts from gambling games.

HF 570 – Brain Injury Waiver

JC

Community Services

This bill eliminates the monthly budget cap for those that are on the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services Brain Injury Waiver. The bill further requires the Iowa Department of Human Services to track the average amount that is appropriated per waiver recipient each fiscal year and to provide that information in an annual report to the Iowa General Assembly by October 1, 2019.

HF 623 – Prior Authorization for Medication-Assisted Treatment

JC

Community Services

This bill requires that the Iowa Department of Human Services adopt rules to require that Medicaid covers at least one form of medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse.

HF 681 – Requesting National Criminal History Checks

KH

Community Services

This bill creates a process for organizations that provide care or placement services for children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities to request a national criminal history record check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) on persons that will have access to these categories of individuals. There may be a fee associated with these requests and DPS shall adopt rules to administer this process.

HF 690 – Children’s Mental Health Services

JC

Community Services, Supervisors

This bill establishes a Children’s Mental Health System in Iowa under the current regional based mental health governance and delivery system and puts in Iowa Code the following:

Codifies a Children’s Behavioral Health State Board in the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) to advise and oversee the children’s system to be co-chaired by directors of DHS and the Iowa Department of Education with the following voting members:

- DHS director (or designee)
- Iowa Department of Education director of human services (or designee)
- Iowa Department of Public Health director (or designee)
- Iowa Department of Workforce Development director (or designee)
- Mental Health and Disability Services (MH/DS) Commission member
- Nominee of the state court administrator
- Nominee of the Early Childhood Iowa Office
- Children’s mental health services provider
- Child welfare services provider
- Administrator of an area education agency
- Educator, counselor, or administrator of a school district
- Representative of an established advocacy organization
- Parent or guardian of a child that is utilizing or has utilized behavioral health services
- County sheriff
- Pediatrician
- Health care system
- MH/DS Region CEO

This legislation places the following responsibilities on the MH/DS Regions:

- Provide staffing that shall include one or more children’s disability coordinators.
- Add additional information to the annual plan related to children’s behavioral health. Each core service shall have a description, needs projection, and eligibility requirements addressed.
- Add school attendance and education to the list of outcomes for the regional services system.
- Submit a plan to DHS by April 1, 2020 that describes how children’s behavioral health services will be implemented.

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Core Services that are required to be provided include:
 - Treatment designed to ameliorate a child's serious emotional disturbance including all of the following:
 - Prevention, early identification, early intervention, and education;
 - Assessment and evaluation relating to eligibility for services;
 - Medication prescribing and management; and
 - Behavioral health outpatient therapy.
- Comprehensive facility and community-based crisis services, including all of the following:
 - Mobile response;
 - Crisis stabilization community-based services;
 - Crisis stabilization residential services; and
 - Behavioral health inpatient treatment.
- Core Plus Services to be implemented as funds available:
 - Treatment designed to ameliorate a child's serious emotional disturbance including, but not limited to, behavioral health school-based therapy.
 - Support for community living
 - Family support
 - Peer support
 - Therapeutic foster care
 - Respite care
 - Transition services for children to adult mental health services
 - Day habilitation
 - Job development
 - Supported employment
 - Prevocational services
 - Educational services
 - Service coordination including physical health and primary care that follow the principles of system of care
 - Care coordination
 - Health homes
 - Fund services for children not covered by Medicaid or other third-party payer and who meet the following criteria:
 - Under the age of 18 and resident of the state of Iowa
 - Diagnosed with a serious emotional disturbance
 - Child's family has a family income equal to or less than 500% of federal poverty level as defined by the most recently revised poverty income guidelines published by the United States department of health and human services
- A child's family whose household income is above 150% but not more than 500% of the federal poverty level shall be eligible for behavioral health services subject to copayment, a single statewide sliding fee scale, or other cost-sharing requirements approved by the department

The bill also makes changes to the current regional governing board structure. New voting members include:

- One adult person who utilizes MH/DS or an actively involved relative of such adult (currently on board, but non-voting)
- Representative of the education system in the region
- A parent of a child accessing behavioral health services in the region
- Non-voting members now include:
 - Adult services provider in the region (currently on board)
 - Children's behavioral health service provider in the region
 - The regional governing board will add another regional advisory committee to support development and implementation of the children's system

HF 691 – Mental Health Region Ending Fund Balance Restrictions

JC *Community Services, Supervisors*

This bill modifies the current restrictions placed on county mental health carry forward balances of 20/25% depending on the size of the region to 40% for all sizes of mental health and disability services (MH/DS) regions and extends the implementation date to FY 2024. It also allows counties to recertify their budgets as a result of this legislation and for MH/DS regions to amend their budget and service plans for FY 2019 and FY 2020.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (May 1, 2019)

SF 341 – Service Animals in Housing

JC *Community Services, Veterans Affairs*

This bill puts in place a process for individuals to prove they are in need of an assistance or service animal. If proven, it further requires that landlords must waive any lease restrictions pertaining to assistance or service animals and places any responsibility for damages caused by the assistance or service animals on the renter.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HF 487 – Single Point-of-Contact Towers

LB Emergency Management, Sheriffs, Supervisors, Zoning

This bill prohibits a local authority in a county with a population of 15,000 or less from rejecting an application for the installation of a tower or transmission equipment in the unincorporated area if it is certified to be for the First Responder Network Authority. The provisions of the bill sunset two years after the effective date.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (March 25, 2019)

HF 701 – Nonconforming Uses

LB Supervisors, Zoning

This bill prohibits counties and cities from adopting and enforcing any ordinance, regulation, or restriction on the continuance of a lawful, pre-existing, nonconforming use in the case of the replacement of manufactured, modular, or mobile homes within a manufactured home community or mobile home park as long as the original number of dwelling units is not increased. Exceptions to the prohibition include when a discontinuance is necessary for the safety of life or property, the nonconforming use has been discontinued beyond a time set by ordinance, the replacement substantially changes the overall nature of the present use, or the replacement obstructs shared driveways or sidewalks.

HF 750 – Groundwater Protection Fund

LB Supervisors

This bill makes changes to the authority and duties of the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs). Among the changes, the bill authorizes DALs to use funds currently allocated from the Groundwater Protection Fund for the cost-share program for agricultural drainage well closures to fund programs, projects, and activities to improve the quality of both groundwater and surface water.

SF 93 – Abatement of Public Nuisances

LB County Attorneys, Environmental Health, Supervisors, Zoning

This bill provides changes to the procedures and timelines for declaring and abating a public nuisance. The six-month vacancy requirement for a building to be considered abandoned is removed. The bill places the authority to receive complaints or inspect property independently with the individual or department responsible for county or city building inspections and regulations. Defined as the responsible building official, this individual is responsible for determining if a property is both abandoned and in need of abatement. The hearing for offering mortgagees and lienholders the chance to abate the nuisance is eliminated if an interested party provides proof of intent to do so. These provisions do not apply to buildings or structures located on agricultural land or mobile/manufactured homes within a manufactured home community or mobile home park.

SF 548 – Land Acquisition Restrictions

JC Conservation, Supervisors

This bill bans the use of nonpoint source water pollution control projects from acquiring property using state revolving funds that will be donated to a political subdivision, DNR, or the federal government after July 1, 2019.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HF 423 – Suspension of Medicaid for Prisoners

JC *Community Services, Sheriffs*

This bill clarifies that prisoners held in a county jail would have their Medicaid eligibility status suspended for only the period they are confined.

HF 516 – E-911 Service Board Voting Membership

JC *Sheriffs*

This bill adds the county sheriff or designee along with a representative from a city police department to be a voting member on the Joint 911 Service Board.

HF 685 – Prisoner Medical Expense Responsibility

JC *Sheriffs, Supervisors*

This bill requires that the Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association, and the Iowa Hospital Association review the current process for the payment of medical aid for prisoners held in county jails. From this review, the groups are to make recommendations related to prisoner payment and responsibility, cooperative payment processes, and payment rates. These recommendations are to be submitted via a report to the Iowa General Assembly by December 15, 2019.

HF 694 – Emergency Medical Services Compact

JC *Emergency Management, Sheriffs*

This bill allows for the creation of an Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Compact which will make it possible for licensed Iowa EMT's and paramedics to practice in states that are a part of the compact.

SF 377 – Tort Immunity for First Responders

JC *Emergency Management, Sheriffs*

This bill provides the same immunity from tort liability that is currently offered to municipalities for claims based out of an act or omission in connection with emergency response services to nonprofit corporations providing the same services. This immunity would only be extended pursuant to a written contract with a city, county, township, or benefitted fire district.

SF 570 – Immunity for Architects and Engineers

KH *County Attorneys, Emergency Management, Engineers, Sheriffs, Supervisors*

This bill provides for immunity from liability, other than reckless or willful and wanton misconduct, for licensed architects and professional engineers when providing voluntarily (or only for expense reimbursement) services at the request of a national, state, or local public official in the event of a disaster emergency proclaimed by the governor or president.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (May 10, 2019)

SJR 18 – Right to Bear Arms Constitutional Amendment

JC *All County Officials*

This proposed amendment adds the following language to the Iowa Constitution: "The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The sovereign state of Iowa affirms and recognizes this right to be a fundamental individual right. Any and all restrictions of this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny."

TAXATION AND FINANCE

HF 772 – Empower Rural Iowa Act

LB

Supervisors

This bill, cited as the Empower Rural Iowa Act, makes changes to the Broadband Grants Program and the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program. The bill establishes additional criteria for qualifying for the competitive broadband grants, authorizes the Office of the Chief Information Officer to increase the minimum upload and download speeds for grant eligibility, and extends the sunset of the program from July 1, 2024 to July 1, 2030. The bill also increases funding for the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program from \$20 million to \$25 million annually, with \$10 million reserved for housing projects in small cities. An additional \$10 million is allocated for housing projects in counties declared a major disaster by the president on or after March 12, 2019, and within which residents are eligible for federal individual assistance.

Effective Date: Changes to the Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program effective upon enactment (May 20, 2019)

HF 779 – Tax Code Changes

LB

Assessors, Auditors, Supervisors

This bill makes changes to the state tax code including income, property, and sales tax provisions. The bill allows certain long-distance telephone companies to be classified as competitive long-distance telephone companies, and with such a classification the property would be centrally assessed by the Department of Revenue the same as other commercial property.

Effective Date: The provisions relating to classification for telephone company property are effective upon enactment (May 16, 2019) and apply retroactively to July 1, 2018. The provisions have a future repeal date of July 1, 2021, applicable to assessment years beginning January 1, 2022, and after.

SF 634 – Property Tax Limitations

LB

All County Officials

This bill places limitations on property tax revenue growth for counties and cities and puts in place additional public notice requirements in certain circumstances. For fiscal years 2020 and beyond, the prior year's actual property tax revenue from the Basic and Supplemental funds is divided by the taxable valuation for the coming fiscal year to get the "effective property tax rate" that would generate the same amount of property tax revenue as the preceding fiscal year. With an additional public notice, public hearing, and resolution a board of supervisors could set a levy rate higher than the effective property tax rate. If the levy rate to be set would produce more than 102% of the previous year's property tax revenue, the same procedure would be required along with a 2/3 vote of the board. The limitations and procedures apply to the General funds and Rural funds separately, and the levy rate limitations of \$3.50 per thousand for General and \$3.95 per thousand for Rural still apply. The deadline for certifying budgets is moved from March 15 to March 31 and protest timelines are also adjusted. The bill also clarifies that the assessor must use the most current version of the state appraisal manual.

Effective Date: Changes to setting levy rates and budgets apply to fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

TRANSPORTATION

HF 418 – Commercial Driver’s License

LB

Treasurers

This bill updates requirements for commercial driver’s licenses to conform with the Code of Federal Regulations including driver training and application processes. The bill authorizes rulemaking authority to allow a person between the ages of 18 and 21 to operate a commercial vehicle for interstate commerce if federal law allows it. The bill expands the entities authorized to be a third-party driving skills test administrator to include a nonprofit organization that serves as a trade association for Iowa-based motor carriers. The bill also directs the Department of Transportation to conduct a study on access to the driving skills test required for a commercial driver’s license.

HF 537 – Public Utility Right-of-Way Fees

LB

Engineers, Supervisors

This bill limits permit fees for the use of a public right-of-way for utilities to management costs associated with the requested use and not the activity in the right-of-way and amends the definition of management costs to mean reasonable, direct, and fully documented costs actually incurred. The bill provides that the limit on fees shall not prohibit voluntary agreements between a public utility and local government to share services or arrange for in-kind services in lieu of a fee.

HF 643 – Deaf Designation on Driver’s License

LB

Sheriffs, Treasurers

This bill provides for a designation on an individual’s driver’s license to denote deaf or hard-of-hearing status. When a driver’s license is marked with this designation, the status must be noted in the electronic database used by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and law enforcement agencies to access registration, title, and driver’s license information. The bill authorizes DOT to adopt rules to establish criteria for the designation.

HF 767 – Electric Vehicle Fees

LB

Engineers, Supervisors, Treasurers

This bill establishes an additional registration fee for automobiles or motorcycles with battery operated electric motors or plug-in electric motors. After a three-year phase-in the additional annual fee will be \$130 for battery electric motor vehicles, \$65 for plug-in electric motor vehicles, and \$9 for a motorcycle that is either battery or plug-in electric motor operated. The bill establishes excise taxes on hydrogen and electric fuel. For hydrogen used as a special fuel the tax is \$0.65 per gallon and for electric fuel the tax is \$0.026 per kilowatt hour.

Effective Date: Division I on registration fees and Division II on hydrogen fuel excise taxes are effective January 1, 2020. Division III on electric fuel excise taxes is effective July 1, 2023.

HF 769 – Special Truck Weight Limits

LB

Engineers, Supervisors

This bill increases the weight limit for special trucks used for certain farming and commodity transportation purposes from 32 tons to 39 tons and strikes the exemption for special trucks from the maximum weight table for commercial vehicles. The bill also provides an additional registration fee of \$25 per ton between 32 and 38 tons and \$10 per ton between 38 and 39 tons.

SF 140 – Special Minor’s Driver’s License

LB

County Attorneys, Sheriffs

This bill provides changes to the limitations on special minor’s driver’s licenses for students traveling to an accredited nonpublic school. Currently, a student between the ages of 14 and 18 with a special minor’s license can travel up to 25 miles between their residence and their nonpublic school of enrollment and up to 25 miles between their residence or school to another school or facility for extracurricular activities. The bill increases those limits to 50 miles. Currently, a student is not eligible for a special minor’s driver’s license if their accredited nonpublic school is more than 25 miles from their residence. The bill increases that limit to 50 miles.

SF 208 – Transporter Length Limits

LB

County Attorneys, Engineers, Sheriffs

This bill increases the maximum allowable length for a stinger-steered automobile transporter from 75 feet to 80 feet, maximum extension beyond the front bumper from three feet to four feet, and maximum extension beyond the rear bumper from four feet to six feet. These changes bring the state into compliance with federal law.

SF 302 – Automated Driving Vehicles

LB

County Attorneys, Sheriffs, Supervisors

This bill authorizes the operation on public roads of driverless-capable vehicles without a human driver physically present and vehicles with an automated driving system if a licensed human driver is present. The bill puts in place requirements and standards for the vehicles and drivers. The bill prohibits a political subdivision from imposing additional requirements or taxes on driverless-capable and automated driving system vehicles.

TRANSPORTATION

SF 303 – Replacement Driver’s License

LB

Treasurers

This bill allows an individual attaining the age of 21 to apply electronically for a replacement driver’s license or nonoperator’s identification card even if the previous renewal was done electronically. Current law prohibits an applicant, regardless of age, from applying electronically if their previous renewal was done electronically. The bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to notify individuals approaching the age of 21 of their eligibility for electronic application and requires DOT to develop educational materials to raise awareness of the eligibility.

SF 555 – Implements of Husbandry

LB

Engineers, Supervisors

This bill includes certain sprayers and spreaders of plant food, agricultural limestone, and agricultural chemicals as self-propelled implements of husbandry and increases the maximum allowed weight for such vehicles to 25,000 pounds per axle.

SF 629 – Raw Forest Transport Weight Limits

LB

Engineers, Supervisors

This bill sets maximum axle weights for permitted vehicles transporting raw forest goods, directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to distribute a share of permit fees to local governments, and requires DOT to consult with the local authority (county engineer) to determine the most appropriate route when these permitted vehicles will be traveling on secondary roads.

APPROPRIATIONS

HF 756 – Federal Block Grant Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill authorizes the receipt and expenditure of federal block grant funds for federal fiscal years 2020 and 2021 and dictates certain procedures and conditions for the use of the funds. Funding levels are the same for both fiscal years.

To the Department of Human Services
Community Mental Health Services Block Grant.....\$5,377,612
Social Services Block Grant\$15,314,187
Child Care and Development Block Grant.....\$69,199,586

To the Department of Human Rights
Community Services Block Grant.....\$7,740,152
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Block Grant.....\$54,554,297

To the Economic Development Authority
Community Development Block Grant\$25,000,000

To the Department of Transportation
Surface Transportation Block Grant\$158,600,000

HF 759 – Administration and Regulation Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes appropriations from the state general fund and other funds to various administrative and regulatory state agencies for FY 2020 and includes policy provisions.

To the Iowa Public Information Board.....\$339,343 (no change)

From the Road Use Tax Fund
To the Administrative Hearings Division of the Department of Inspections and Appeals\$1,623,897 (no change)
To the Department of Management\$56,000 (no change)
To the Office of the Treasurer of State.....\$93,148 (no change)

\$195,400 (+\$75,000) is appropriated from the Address Confidentiality Program Revolving Fund to the Secretary of State's Office for administration of the Address Confidentiality Program (Safe At Home).

In addition to the appropriations, the bill requires that the first \$750,000 in fees collected in FY 2020 for the furnishing of certified abstracts of vehicle operating records shall be transferred to the lowAccess revolving fund for the purpose of maintaining and expanding electronic access to government records.

The bill also requires the Department of Revenue to prepare and issue a State Appraisal Manual at no cost to counties and cities.

HF 765 – Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes infrastructure-related appropriations from a number of sources to various state departments and agencies for FY 2020.

From the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF)

To the Department of Cultural Affairs
For the Iowa Great Places program\$1,000,000 (no change)

To the Department of Natural Resources
For lake restoration and water quality projects.....\$9,600,000 (no change)
For water trails and low head dam safety grants.....\$500,000 (no change)

APPROPRIATIONS

To the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
 For the Water Quality Initiative Fund\$5,200,000 (no change)
 For the Agricultural Drainage Well Water Quality Assistance Fund..... \$0 (-\$1,875,000)
 • \$1,875,000 was appropriated for this fund in the Agriculture and Natural Resources budget.

To the Department of Transportation
 For recreational trails..... \$1,500,000 (+\$500,000)

To the Treasurer of State
 For county fair infrastructure improvements.....\$1,060,000 (no change)
 • The money is distributed to all 106 county fairs in the Association of Iowa Fairs (\$10,000 each).

To the Judicial Branch
 For furniture and equipment for justice centers in Dallas, Floyd, and Johnson Counties\$193,620

To the Economic Development Authority
 For the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Fund.....\$5,000,000 (no change)

To the Department of Public Safety
 For costs associated with the Statewide Interoperable Communications System \$3,719,355 (+\$2,367,689)

From the Technology Reinvestment Fund

To the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 For the implementation of a statewide mass notification and emergency messaging system\$ 400,000 (no change)

To the Department of Human Rights
 For the continued development and implementation of the Criminal Justice Information System\$1,200,000 (no change)

To the Department of Management
 For the continued implementation of an online database for budget and financial information\$ 45,000 (no change)
 For the upgrade of the local government budget and property tax system \$ 120,000 (-\$480,000)

To the Secretary of State
 For the continued development and implementation of a new voter registration system\$ 2,100,000
 • Appropriations approved in the amounts of \$1,050,000 in FY 2019, \$2,100,000 in FY 2020, and \$1,400,000 in FY 2021 through FY 2023.

HF 766 – Health and Human Services Appropriations

LB, JC

All County Officials

This bill makes appropriations from various sources for human services, aging, veterans, and public health programs for FY 2020, makes changes to FY 2019 appropriations, and contains various policy provisions.

General Fund Appropriations

To the Department of Aging
 For case management for the frail elderly, adult day services, and other services\$11,191,441 (+\$148,517)

To the Department of Public Health (IDPH)
 For addictive disorders treatment and prevention/cessation programs.....\$25,110,000 (+\$305,656)
 For strengthening local health care delivery systems..... \$5,594,677 (+\$624,525)
 • For rural psychiatric residencies to address underserved areas \$400,000 (new appropriation)
 • For psychologists in urban and rural mental health professional shortage areas \$48,000 (-\$69)
 To local boards of health for services that promote healthy aging.....\$7,662,464 (no change)
 For the Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES) program care \$734,000 (-\$841)
 For infectious diseases prevention and care\$1,796,426 (no change)
 For public protection..... \$4,093,383 (-\$1,756)
 • Of this amount, \$304,000 (-\$700) is to be credited to the emergency medical services fund.
 • Of this amount, \$504,000 (-\$796) is for childhood lead poisoning prevention, testing, and remediation.

APPROPRIATIONS

To the Department of Veterans Affairs
 For the Iowa Veterans Home\$7,162,976 (no change)
 For the county commissions of veterans affairs fund\$990,000 (no change)

To the Department of Human Services (DHS)
 From moneys received under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant
 For child and family services\$32,380,654 (no change)

From the general fund
 For medical assistance (Medicaid)..... \$1,427,379,707 (-\$60,761,668)
 For state supplementary assistance..... \$7,812,909 (-\$2,437,964)
 For child and family services \$89,071,761 (+\$4,131,987)
 • For group foster care maintenance and services..... \$34,536,000 (-\$648)
 • For decategorization service funding pools and governance boards..... \$1,717,000 (-\$753)
 • For continuation and expansion of child protection sites \$630,000 (-\$240)
 • For continuation of minority youth and family projects \$371,000 (-\$250)
 • For funding of the community circle of care collaboration for children and youth in NE Iowa (formerly the substance abuse and mental health services administration grant)..... \$851,000 (-\$595)
 • For continuation of a system of care grant in Cerro Gordo and Linn Counties\$235,000 (no change)
 • For continuation of a system of care grant in Polk County.....\$211,000 (-\$872)
 For the state mental health institute at Cherokee..... \$14,216,149 (+\$345,895)
 For the state mental health institute at Independence.....\$19,165,110 (+\$1,651,489)

Amendment to FY 2019 Appropriation
 For medical assistance (Medicaid)..... \$1,488,141,375 (+\$150,300,000)
 Effective Date: This appropriation is effective upon enactment (May 3, 2019) and applies retroactively to FY 2019.

Miscellaneous Policy Provisions

This bill appropriates \$306,000 to establish and maintain a statewide 24-hour crisis hotline in IDPH to support the children’s mental health system that was created in HF 690. It also requires DHS to inform the legislature within 30 days of the execution of a Medicaid managed care contract or amendment and also within 30 days if DHS should make the decision to return the incentive payment withholding amount to a managed care organization based on performance and how that was determined.

SF 600 – Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations

LB Emergency Management, Engineers, Sheriffs, Supervisors, Treasurers

This bill makes appropriations for FY 2020 from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) and the Primary Road Fund to the Department of Transportation (DOT).

From RUTF
 For drivers’ licenses production costs/central issuance\$3,876,000 (no change)
 For county issuance of drivers’ licenses and vehicle registrations and titles.....\$1,406,000 (no change)
 For costs associated with the Statewide Interoperable Communications System\$114,302 (-\$382,889)
 This payment was previously funded by the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and the E911 Fund. It is now partially funded through RUTF and the Primary Road Fund (see below) and the RIIF Fund (see HF 765).

From the Primary Road Fund
 For costs associated with the Statewide Interoperable Communications System \$702,142 (-\$2,352,030)

APPROPRIATIONS

SF 608 – Economic Development Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes appropriations from the general fund and other funds for various economic development programs for FY 2020 and includes policy provisions.

To the Department of Cultural Affairs
For the Iowa Great Places program\$150,000 (no change)

To the Iowa Economic Development Authority
For financial assistance to Iowa's councils of governments \$275,000 (+\$75,000)
For the High Quality Jobs Program\$11,700,000 (-\$1,950,000)

To the Department of Workforce Development
For the workforce development board and field office operations..... \$6,675,650 (-\$1,250,000)

- Of the total appropriation \$150,000 is designated for the state library for licensing of an online resource to assist persons with enhancing job skills and vocational test-taking abilities.

To the Public Employment Relations Board
For salaries, support, maintenance, and miscellaneous purposes.....\$1,492,452 (no change)

- Of the total appropriation, \$15,000 is designated for the maintenance of the online database with searchable access to collective bargaining information.

From the Skilled Worker and Job Creation Fund (SWJCF) to the Iowa Economic Development Authority
For the establishment and administration of the Housing Needs Assessment Grant Program.....\$100,000
For the establishment and administration of the Rural Innovation Grant Program\$300,000

SF 609 – Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes appropriations from the general fund and other funds for agriculture and natural resources programs for FY 2020 and includes policy provisions.

From the General Fund

To the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs)
For a local food and farm program coordinator\$75,000 (no change)
For the Water Quality Initiative Fund\$3,000,000 (no change)

To the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
For flood management and dam safety.....\$1,510,000 (no change)

- Of this amount, up to \$400,000 may be used to install stream gauges for tracking and predicting flood events and for compiling necessary data to improve flood frequency analysis.

For the Agricultural Drainage Wells Closure Program.....\$1,875,000 (new appropriation)

- This appropriation was previously funded by the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF).

From the Environment First Fund

To the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (DALs)
For the conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP)\$1,000,000 (no change)

- Permits DALs to use these funds in combination with other Environment First Fund (EFF) monies to match federal funds provided from the federal Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program.

For flood and erosion control, water quality, and conservation\$900,000 (no change)

For soil and water conservation administration\$3,800,000 (no change)

For the soil and water conservation cost share program.....\$8,325,000 (no change)

- This appropriation is to be used for administration of soil and water conservation programs and to support soil and water conservation districts.
- Of this amount, \$490,000 is appropriated to the Loess Hills development and conservation fund

APPROPRIATIONS

For the Water Quality Initiative Fund\$2,375,000 (no change)
 To the Iowa Resources Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Fund\$12,000,000 (no change)

- Of this amount, \$1 million is dedicated to the maintenance and repair of state parks before the remaining funds are allocated according to the REAP distribution formula.

To the Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
 For water quality monitoring\$2,955,000 (no change)
 For regulation of animal feeding operations\$1,320,000 (no change)
 For air quality monitoring\$425,000 (no change)
 For flood management and dam safety\$375,000 (no change)

From Various Special Funds

For groundwater quality\$3,455,832 (no change)
 For enforcing snowmobile laws\$100,000 (no change)
 For underground storage tank programs\$200,000 (no change)

Various Provisions

This bill allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) use unencumbered and unobligated FY 2019 funds from the Resources Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Open Spaces Fund for repairing DNR property damaged by flood waters.

Effective Date: This provision is effective upon enactment (May 13, 2019).

SF 615 – Justice System Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes appropriations from the general fund and other funds to the justice system for FY 2020 and includes policy provisions.

To the Department of Corrections
 For reimbursement for county confinement of state prisoners\$1,082,635 (-\$492,457)
 For offender mental health and substance abuse treatment\$28,065 (no change)

To the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy\$980,767 (+\$9,426)

- The bill also includes a supplemental appropriation of \$285,982 for FY 2019 to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy for costs associated with maintenance, relocation, salaries, and other expenses.

To the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
 For E911 Communications\$250,000 (no change)

- This appropriation from the E911 Emergency Communications Fund is for costs associated with implementation, support and maintenance of the functions of the E911 program manager and for an annual state audit of the fund.

Miscellaneous Policy Provisions

Prohibits the Attorney General from prosecuting or otherwise taking action in civil or criminal legal proceedings, in a court outside of Iowa, in which the state may be a party or have an interest without being requested to do so by the governor, executive council, or general assembly. (Vetoed by the Governor: May 22, 2019)

SF 616 – Judicial Branch Appropriations

LB

County Attorneys, Supervisors

In addition to making appropriations for the judicial branch for FY 2020, this bill includes a number of policy provisions and intent statements. It requires the judicial branch to continue its effort to collect delinquent fines, penalties, court costs, fees, and surcharges and calls for semiannual reports on the collections effort. It states that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the offices of the clerks of court operate in each county and should be accessible to the public as much as reasonably possible. The bill increases the salaries for justices, judges, and magistrates.

APPROPRIATIONS

SF 638 – Standing Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes appropriations for property tax credits and other programs and implements miscellaneous policy provisions.

Tax Credit, Exemption, and Replacement Claim Appropriations

Requires the full funding of the homestead, agricultural land and family farm, elderly and disabled, and military service exemption refund as required by law. Also requires the full funding of the Business Property Tax Credit and replacement claims as provided in SF 295 (2013). The amounts below are the estimated state obligation with the Agricultural Land Tax Credit, Commercial/Industrial Replacement Claims, and Business Property Tax Credit being a specific limited amount.

• Homestead Tax Credit.....	\$130,316,500
• Agricultural Land Tax Credit.....	\$39,100,000
• Elderly and Disabled Tax Credit.....	\$30,895,000
• Military Service Exemption Refund.....	\$1,352,000
• Commercial/Industrial Replacement Claims.....	\$152,114,544
• Business Property Tax Credit.....	\$125,000,000

Miscellaneous Policy Provisions

- Allows the issuance of specialty blackout (black background and white letters) license plates. The annual registration fee will be \$35, and the personalized plate fee will be an additional \$30.
- Provides that groundwater hazard statements must be recorded at no charge.
- Establishes the Flood Recovery Fund under the control of the Flood Mitigation Board and provides a supplemental appropriation of \$15 million for FY 2019. The board is authorized to award funds to political subdivisions within a county that has a presidential disaster declaration and where FEMA's Individual Assistance Program has been activated. Funds shall be used for flood response, recovery, or mitigation.
- Makes changes to the qualification for, election and term of, and service of members of the State Judicial Nominating Commission. The most senior judge of the Supreme Court will no longer serve as chair of the commission, but rather the commission will choose from among its membership. With the senior justice no longer on the commission, the governor will appoint nine members instead of eight, with appointees being subject to Senate confirmation. Commissioners appointed and elected will serve staggered six-year terms with a one term limit.
- Makes changes to the selection and term of the chief justice of the Supreme Court. In each odd-numbered year the justices will select a chief justice to serve a two-year term.

Effective Date: The provisions relating to the Flood Recovery Fund and the Judicial Nominating Commission are effective upon enactment (May 8, 2019).

2019 BILLS THAT FAILED

Getting bills through the Legislature is important to ISAC, but sometimes things that did not happen can also measure the success of a legislative session. ISAC policy statements and input from the legislative policy committee are principally used as the guideline for ISAC staff in opposing legislation. The following is a list of bills that ISAC opposed that were successfully defeated. Also listed are failed bills that ISAC supported.

The following is a list of bills that ISAC opposed that were successfully defeated.

SSB 1078/HSB 49 – Elections Technical Bill
SSB 1123 – Cover Crop Property Tax Exemption
SSB 1124/HF 216 – County Supervisor Districts
SSB 1155/HF 117 – County Compensation Boards
SSB 1252 – Pipeline Assessments
SF 38 – Homestead Assessment Adjustments
SF 49 – Assessor Retention Vote
SF 52/HF 529 – Public Defender Records
SF 183 – Bond Elections
SF 238 – Immunization Discrimination
SF 343/HF 253 – Traffic Camera Ban
SF 410 – Primary Election Run-offs
SF 411 – Appraisal Manual and Assessor Reappointment
SF 511 – Septic System Requirements
SF 535 – Fireworks Sales
SF 575 – Elections Changes
SF 626/HF 708 – Groundwater Hazard Statements
SF 633 – Housing Development Taxes
HSB 240 – County Zoning
HF 54 – School Bond Elections
HF 55 – September Primary Election Date
HF 56 – Nonpartisan County Elections
HF 168 – Fuel Tax Decrease
HF 169 – County Veteran Service Officer Removal
HF 187 – Fluoride in Drinking Water
HF 234 – Senior Assessment Freeze
HF 254 – Business Incubator Property Exemption
HF 279 – Abolishing County Compensation Boards
HF 774 – Automated Traffic Devices

The following is a list of bills supported by ISAC that failed to pass this session.

SSB 1213/HSB 2 – Competitive Bidding Alternatives
SF 55/HF 693 – Township EMS
SF 76 – Electronic Communications While Driving
SF 95 – Local Employment Laws
SF 109/HF 379 – Banning Casino Smoking
SF 114/HF 567 – Excessive Speed Deaths
SF 149 – Property Improvement Exemption
SF 154 – Business Property Tax Credit
SF 157 – Therapist/Counselor Reimbursements
SF 167 – MH Professional Student Loan Repayment
SF 191 – Childcare Waiting List
SF 263 – Protecting Veterans
SF 340 – Veteran Prisoners
SF 356 – Construction Trucks
SF 362 – Local Bidding Qualification
SF 376/HF 504 – MH/Suicide Prevention Education
SF 389/HF 481 – Driving in the Left Lane
SF 457 – Criminal Surcharges
SF 472/HF 558 – EMS Levies
SF 478 – Snow Plow Emergency Lights
SF 596/HSB 149 – Emergency Generator Exemption
HSB 168 – Poll Closing Time
HSB 171 – Electronic Absentee Ballot Requests
HSB 179 – Future Ready Iowa Appropriations
HSB 232 – Beverage Container Handling Fees
HF 38 – Child Burials
HF 77 – REAP Fund Appropriation
HF 98 – Suicide Prevention Training
HF 111 – Cell Tower Siting
HF 141/HF 201 – Master Matrix Study Committee
HF 143/HF 200 – CAFO Project Manager
HF 181/HF 198 – Bottle Bill Updates
HF 296 – Medicaid Waiver Enrollment
HF 386 – Veteran Driver's License
HF 427 – Suicide Prevention
HF 543 – MH/DS Coverage
HF 556 – Covered MH Services
HF 624 – Psychiatric Bed Tracking System
HF 635 – Fireworks Ordinances and Infractions
HF 760 – Hotel/Motel Taxes
HF 785 – Rural Revitalization

NOTES

2018 - 2019 LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Chair: Burlin Matthews, Clay County Supervisor and ISAC 2nd Vice President

Assessors

Pam Jensen, Adair County
Tom Van Buer, Johnson County

Auditors

Heidi Burhans, Madison County
Dennis Parrott, Jasper County

Community Services

Lori Elam, Scott County
Shane Walter, Sioux County

Conservation

Dan Cohen, Buchanan County
Matt Cosgrove, Webster County

County Attorneys

Darin Raymond, Plymouth County
Matt Wilbur, Pottawattamie County

Emergency Management

Thomas Craighton, Franklin County
Lorie Glover, Black Hawk County

Engineers

Lyle Brehm, Tama/Poweshiek County
Dan Eckert, Dickinson County

Environmental Health

Eric Bradley, Scott County
Brian Hanft, Cerro Gordo County

Information Technology

Micah Cutler, Hardin County
Michelle Fields, Greene County

Public Health

Chris Estel, Jefferson County
Kevin Grieme, Siouxland District

Recorders

Chad Airhart, Dallas County
Megan Clyman, Davis County

Sheriffs and Deputies

Tony Thompson, Black Hawk County
Lonny Pulkrabek, Johnson County

Supervisors

Eugene Meiners, Carroll County
Henry Van Weelden, Mahaska County

Treasurers

Sharon Gonzalez, Linn County
Tracey Marshall, Cass County

Veterans Affairs

Patty Hamann, Cedar County
Chris Oliver, Wright County

Zoning

Joe Buffington, Henry County
Josh Busard, Johnson County