



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 supervisors in the state have their own association, which is called the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors 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 2020 Iowa counties worked within the 2nd Session of the 87th General Assembly to develop 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.

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, 2020. 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.

ISAC PRIORITIES UPDATE

Before COVID-19 Pandemic

Mental Health and Disability Services

Long-term sustainable funding for Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Services system again rose to the top of ISAC's legislative priorities going into this session. The tone was set when Governor Reynolds in her Condition of the State address called for a portion of an increase in sales tax be dedicated to mental health funding. This original plan, the Invest in Iowa Act, was no longer feasible due to the financial strains placed on Iowans as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Backfill

Legislation passed in 2013 put in place a 10% reduction of the taxable valuation of commercial and industrial property, and with it, funding to backfill the reduction in future property tax revenue to local governments. The legislation called for fully funding the lost revenue for three years starting in FY 2015 and then capping the backfill at the FY 2017 level moving forward. The standing, limited appropriation would take legislative action to not be fully funded, but in years past we've seen such legislation that would either phase-out or significantly reduce the reimbursements. With your help, we continue to stress the importance of the backfill to legislators, hoping they understand that without it counties would be facing property tax increases or reduction in services. Fortunately, those efforts paid off, and the backfill was fully funded at over \$152 million, \$29 million of which goes to counties.

Water Quality and Quantity Management, Natural Resources, and Outdoor Recreation

Funding for the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Trust Fund has long been a legislative priority for ISAC, and we were extremely pleased when the Governor asked for a full penny sales tax increase which would have fully funded the Trust, also in the Invest in Iowa Act. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic eliminated any chance of a sales tax increase.

Weight Limits on Secondary Roads

Legislation adopted in 2018 allowed vehicles transporting materials or equipment to or from a construction site to operate on secondary roads under the primary road weight limits. Secondary roads and bridges were not designed for that level of weight, and it was estimated that weight limits would need to be posted on around 3,500 bridges. We sought to reverse this decision or at least restrict the increased weight to hard-surface roads. Unfortunately, there was little interest from legislators to reverse their previous action.

UPDATED COVID-19 Pandemic Priorities

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISAC adjusted its legislative priorities to reflect the political landscape while maintaining some of the long-time legislative priorities.

Fund Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Services Regions

It was still our hope that funding for Iowa's mental health and disability services regions would be addressed by the Iowa Legislature as they resumed session. The demand for services during the pandemic had dramatically increased and previous budget shortfalls remained, but except for \$5 million that was appropriated to Polk County, no other funding for the other MH/DS regions was provided. After adjournment, ISAC was pleased that Governor Reynolds recognized the need for funding and set aside \$30 million in CARES Act funding for all Iowa's MH/DS regions.

Direct and Flexible CARES Act Funding to Iowa Counties

While nothing was passed by the Iowa Legislature when they reconvened after the COVID-19 suspension, the Governor shortly after adjournment announced that \$125 million of the Iowa CARES Act funds would be dedicated to Iowa counties and cities for expenses in association with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope that this much needed funding will be distributed shortly. In addition, ISAC has continued to push that if there would be another round of federal stimulus that this funding would go directly to counties for pandemic related expenses and losses in revenue because of it.

Maintain the Property Tax Backfill

As described in the previous column, the commercial and industrial property tax backfill was fully funded for FY 2021. When the legislative session resumed the priorities of the legislature and the state revenue landscape had changed. We remained vigilant and delivered the message that counties, like all levels of government, were facing increased costs and decreased revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic and now was not the time to reduce or phase-out the backfill.

Local Government Liability Protection

SF 2338, which contains liability protection for local government in relation to COVID-19 response, was passed by the Iowa Legislature and signed by the Governor.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

HF 717 – Veterans Preference

LB

All County Officials

This bill makes changes to the veterans preference law by requiring that additional information be provided to veterans in the case of being terminated, demoted, or not hired. It also places additional requirements on employers and expands timelines for appeal.

HF 2236 – Veterans Record Fees

LB

Recorders, Veterans

This bill provides that the county recorder shall not charge for the examination or copying of records necessary to complete claims for veterans benefits.

HF 2312 – Veterans Home Application

LB

Veterans

This bill removes the requirement that a veteran seeking admission to the Iowa Veterans Home submit an affidavit signed by two members of the commission of veterans affairs in the county of their residence certifying certain eligibility requirements for admission.

HF 2382 – Veterans Confidentiality

LB

Assessors, Veterans

This bill makes the names and addresses of recipients of the disabled veterans property tax credit and the military service property tax exemption confidential and not subject to the open records law. The bill would not affect individual online real estate records but would prohibit the release of bulk lists of recipients.

HF 2389 – State Administrative Rules

KH

All County Officials

This bill makes several technical changes to Iowa Code Chapter 17A relating to the state administrative rules process. The bill adds requirements for fiscal impact statements for all rule filings that have at least \$100,000 of expenditures or combined expenditures of \$500,000 within five years. Previously, fiscal impact statements were only required for notices of intended action and rules filed without notice that met these expenditure thresholds. The bill also changes the terms for members of the Administrative Rules Review Committee and allows a state agency to develop alternative electronic access means for filings that contain proprietary information.

HF 2481 – Certificate of the Treasurer

LB

Auditors, Recorders, Treasurers

This bill provides that a certificate of the treasurer issued for subdivision plats certifying the property is free from certified taxes and special assessments would expire when the auditor delivers the new tax list to the treasurer.

HF 2486 – Use of County Seal and Election Matters

JC

Auditors, Treasurers

This legislation makes a number of substantive changes on the use of the official county seal and the conduct of elections by doing the following:

- No longer requires that the official county seal contain the name “treasurer” and that it be a raised seal.
- Eliminates the requirement that the name, address, and phone number of the person that is responsible for circulating the petition page be on the nomination papers.
- Requires the Iowa Secretary of State (SOS) to seek approval from the Legislative Council on any emergency powers the SOS would like to enact in the conduct of elections.
- County auditors are banned from reducing a polling site by more than 35%.
- Those that are selected to be an elector in a presidential race must vote for the winner in Iowa.

HF 2502 – Weapons Policies in Public Buildings

JC

All County Officials

This bill would ban local governments from prohibiting weapons in a courthouse or other public building unless they could provide screening equipment and armed personnel.

HF 2528 – Mutual Aid Compacts

JC

Emergency Management, Supervisors

This bill adds the elected chief executive officer of the participating government or the elected chief executive officer’s designee authorized to enter into contracts on behalf of the participating government in a mutual aid agreement for assistance among local governments. It further allows the elected chief executive officer of the participating government or the elected chief executive officer’s designee to request assistance of another participating government.

HF 2565 – Set-Off Procedures

LB

Treasurers

This bill moves set-off procedures administered by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to under the purview of the Department of Revenue (IDR). Under the bill, IDR is required to establish rules and procedures for setting off liabilities owed by an individual to a public agency, for child support claims, or certain other debts, against claims owed to the individual by a public agency

Effective Date: January 1, 2021, or the effective date of rules adopted by DOR, whichever is later.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

HF 2627 – Professional Licensing Procedures and Public Records

KH

All County Officials

This bill contains two Divisions. Division 1 makes changes to the process for obtaining various professional licenses and requires that in order to deny someone a license related to criminal convictions, the conviction must relate to the duties and responsibilities of the profession. Division II covers miscellaneous topics, but of interest to counties are the changes to the public records laws to more specifically allow the electronic examination of public records.

Effective Date: Division I is effective January 1, 2021, and Division II is effective upon enactment (June 25, 2020).

SF 2137 – Mortgage/Bond Maturity Filings

LB

Recorders

This bill authorizes a grantor, mortgagor, or other holder of real estate debt to file extension agreements related to maturity dates or indebtedness without the dual signature/filing of the borrower.

SF 2188 – Hazard Mitigation

JC

Emergency Management, Supervisors

This bill allows for the state of Iowa to participate in hazard mitigation or flood recovery projects on a local level if the federal government provides financial assistance but is not covered by a Governor's disaster proclamation.

SF 2300 – Real Estate Held in Trust

LB

Recorders

This bill excludes a fiduciary from the exemption for providing certain disclosure statements to a transferee at the time of a real estate transfer from a trust if the fiduciary was an owner or occupant of the real estate in the 12 months prior to the transfer.

SF 2338 – Civil Actions Related to the Novel Coronavirus

KH

All County Officials

Division I of the bill relates to evidence of recoverable medical expenses in a case for civil damages. Division II of the bill limits the liability surrounding civil actions brought for exposure to COVID-19. A person who possesses or is in control of a premises (which would include counties) is not liable for exposure to COVID-19 unless the exposure was intentional or done with reckless disregard or malice. The bill also contains a safe harbor from being liable for civil damages in connection with injuries sustained as a result of COVID-19 exposure so long as the person was following any "federal or state statute, regulation, order, or public health guidance related to COVID-19."

Effective Date: Division II applies retroactively to January 1, 2020

SF 2348 – Restoration of Voting Rights

JC

Auditors, County Attorney

This bill provides a series of stipulations where a person convicted of a felony can have their voting rights restored. They are as follows:

- Full completion of any term of confinement, parole, or probation.
- Full completion of any special sentence related to a sex crime.
- Victim restitution must be paid in full.

Effective date is based on passage of constitutional amendment HJR 14 or similar amendment which calls for the restoration of rights with the completion of sentence.

SF 2400 – Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Fund

LB

IT, Supervisors

This bill changes the name of the Connecting Iowa Farms, Schools, and Communities Broadband Grant Fund to the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Fund. The bill also makes changes to the grant program by implementing different speed standards as well as a tiered system for grants based on buildout speeds. Finally, the bill allows the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to use federal funds received by the state in COVID-19 relief packages for helping communications service providers with broadband installation.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (June 25, 2020)

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

HF 2220 – Age Eligibility for Participation in PALS Program

JC *Community Services*

This bill clarifies that those that are eligible to participate in the “Preparation for Adult Living Services Program” may do so when they turn the age of 18.

HF 2221 – Service on a Local Board of Health

JC *Public Health*

This bill allows for a physician assistant or a nurse practitioner to serve on a local board of health to fill the slot of a physician which is currently required in Iowa Code.

HF 2269 – Elimination of Medicaid Waiver Cap

JC *Community Services*

This bill mandates that the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) remove the monthly budget cap for those that are eligible for the Medicaid home and community-based services elderly waiver. It further requires DHS to collect and report the average amount of each waiver recipient.

SF 2261 – Telehealth Mental Health Services for Students

JC *Community Services*

This bill allows for public schools and area education agencies to contract with mental health providers to be able to provide mental health services for students through telehealth means.

SF 2268 – Raising Minimum Age for Tobacco and Vaping Products

JC *Public Health*

This bill raises the minimum age for the purchase and use of tobacco and alternative nicotine products such as vaping from 18 to 21 years of age.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HF 2238 – Minor Food Stand Sales

LB Environmental Health, Supervisors, Zoning

This bill prohibits a county, city, or other regulatory authority from adopting or enforcing an ordinance or rule requiring a permit, fee, or license to sell food at a stand operated by a minor.

HF 2475 – Permitting for Sewer and Water Distribution Lines

JC Environmental Health, Public Health

This bill allows local utilities to be able to be permitted on sewer and water distribution line extensions if those plans were reviewed by a licensed engineer.

HF 2477 – Agricultural Experience Zoning

LB Supervisors, Zoning

This bill prohibits a county from requiring a conditional or special use permit, exception, or variance for certain promotional or educational agricultural activities on property for which the primary use is agricultural production.

HF 2512 – Agricultural Zoning

LB Supervisors, Zoning

This bill prohibits a county from requiring an application, approval, or fee in determining if land or buildings are primarily used for agricultural purposes and qualify for the exemption from certain zoning regulations. The bill makes changes to the procedure for adoption of amendments to the county's comprehensive plan. Finally, the bill limits membership to the county zoning commission and board of adjustment to eligible electors residing in the unincorporated area of the county.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (June 1, 2020), except for provisions related to comprehensive plans and amendments (July 1, 2020).

SF 2195 – Commercial Elevator Exceptions

LB Zoning

This bill provides an exception to the Iowa State Elevator Code requiring a commercial elevator for a building that is in a federally designated national historic district, and where the owner of the building owns a commercial business on the first floor of the building, the building has no more than two stories above the first floor, the owner lives on one of the upper floors, and sufficient protocols are in place to ensure that only the owner, personal guests, or government officials use the residential elevator.

SF 2196 – Iowa Cell Siting Act Extension

LB Supervisors, Zoning

This bill extends the future repeal date of the Iowa Cell Siting Act from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2025. The original legislation passed in 2015 established a grant program and property tax exemption to incentivize the expansion of broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas of the state. The grant program was established but did not receive an appropriation, while the property tax exemption is a 10-year exemption on the value added through new construction. The Act established uniform regulations, definitions, timelines, and requirements for the application process and siting of cell towers. It outlines 13 things that an authority (governing body) cannot do when receiving, considering, and deciding on an application for cell tower siting and construction. Finally, the Act established an appraisal process for determining lease rates if the tower will be constructed on public property and a market rate cannot be agreed on.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HF 2411 – Sobriety and Drug Monitoring Program

LB County Attorneys, Sheriffs, Treasurers

This bill makes changes to the Sobriety and Drug Monitoring Program. The bill eliminates participation in the program as a condition for being issued a temporary restricted driver's license and the requirement that the individual must be eligible for a temporary restricted license before participating in the program. The bill also makes changes to the ignition interlock device requirements by maintaining that all vehicles owned or operated by the individual must have the device installed unless the program participant is ineligible for a temporary restricted license or does not have a vehicle registered in their name.

HF 2647 – Justice Reform

JC County Attorneys, Sheriffs

This bill provides a number of changes pertaining to the conduct of a peace officer by doing the following:

- Gives the Iowa Attorney General the authority to investigate when a death has been caused by a peace officer.
- Bans the use of chokeholds by peace officers.
- Bans the hiring of peace officers from other states and from Iowa due to their certification being taken away due to "serious misconduct", which includes the use of excessive force.
- Requires de-escalation and prevention of bias training for peace officers in Iowa.

SF 457 – Criminal Fines, Fees, and Court Debt Collection

KH County Attorneys and Sheriffs

This is a sweeping bill that makes changes to civil and criminal fees, charges, fines, and court costs. Many of the changes are directed at using a portion of court surcharges for the Division of Criminal Investigation crime lab. A portion of the surcharges will also go to the Juvenile Detention Home Fund, Victim Compensation Fund, and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education Fund. Of importance to counties, 46% of the Criminal Services Surcharge Fund will go the Juvenile Detention Home Fund. Additionally, the bill creates an Emergency Medical Services Fund which can be used to match dollar for dollar in the purchase of emergency medical services equipment by counties and also provides grants for the education, training, and delivery of emergency medical services by counties. Finally, the bill makes changes to the process for restitution and reimbursement related to jail fees and criminal restitution.

SF 526 – Blue Alert Program

JC Sheriffs

This bill creates a "Blue Alert" cooperative agreement between the Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS) and local law enforcement to provide assistance in the apprehension of a suspect that may have been involved in the serious injury or death of a peace officer. If that were determined the DPS will send out a blue alert informing law enforcement details related to the suspect.

SF 2191 – Prisoner Medical Costs

JC Sheriffs, Supervisors

This bill provides a system of payment for prisoner medical costs in county jails that would first look to be covered by private insurance or other sources such as Medicaid/Medicare or through veterans benefits. If the prisoner is not covered by these means, the bill provides best practices for resolution for payment between counties and the medical provider.

SF 2259 – Safety Equipment Donations

LB Emergency Management, Sheriffs, Supervisors

This bill allows a fire department, emergency medical services (EMS) provider, or law enforcement agency to donate used vehicles or equipment to similar agencies that provide fire protection, EMS services, or law enforcement services. The bill also exempts the state, local government, or other donating agency from tort liability claims arising from the performance, lack of performance, condition, age, or packaging of the donated equipment.

SF 2275 – Eluding Law Enforcement

JC County Attorneys, Sheriffs

This bill increases the penalties for drivers convicted of eluding a peace officer for the second or subsequent times by raising it to an aggravated misdemeanor. It provides an additional penalty for those same drivers if they are convicted of going over 25 miles over the posted limit and it results in the bodily injury or death of a person, participating in a felony, possessing narcotics, and driving while intoxicated. This penalty would now be a Class D felony.

SF 2373 – 911 Dispatchers

JC Sheriffs

This bill adds 911 dispatchers to the definition of first responders in Iowa Code.

TAXATION AND FINANCE

HF 760 – Hotel/Motel Tax

LB

Supervisors

This bill changes from 31 consecutive days to 90 days the threshold at which a transient guest qualifies to be exempt from state and local hotel/motel taxes when staying in lodging that would otherwise be subject to the tax. The bill also exempts from the hotel/motel tax lodging rented to friends and family of a hospital patient by a nonprofit.

HF 2641 – State and Local Tax Policy Omnibus

LB

All Elected Officials

This bill makes changes to a number of state and local tax policies. Among changes affecting counties are:

- Requires the county recorder to collect sales tax and remit to the Iowa Department of Revenue (IDR) when a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle is registered if there is not satisfactory evidence that the sales tax has already been paid.
- Changes the effective date of HF 2565 to the later of January 1, 2021, or when rules are adopted by IDR.
- Expands the definition of municipality to include two or more contiguous municipalities that form an entity for the purpose of creating a reinvestment district and use the program for the diversion of sales tax and hotel/motel funds.
- Allows the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) to extend the time period for new districts to June 30, 2025, and to extend the 20-year time period for reinvestment districts an additional five years.
- Requires assessor appointments to be confirmed by IDR before they are effective.
- Prohibits an assessor or deputy assessor from personally assessing property owned by them or their immediate family.
- Requires the approval of the county attorney for the conference board to hire outside counsel for all litigation or proceedings involving the assessor or conference board.
- Prohibits counties and cities from adopting or enforcing any regulation, restriction, or other ordinance, including conditional use permit requirements, related to short-term rental properties and also prohibits a county from charging a license or permit fee for short-term rental properties.
- Allows the creation of a Rural Improvement Zone (RIZ) district for a private development that is adjacent or abuts to a private or public lake rather than just a private lake.

- Authorizes the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) to issue “Flying Our Colors” specialty license plates with navy blue along the top, red along the bottom, and white background with black letters/numbers in the middle. In addition to the regular registration fee, there would be an additional \$10 fee for standard letter/number plates and an additional \$5 beyond the regular fee for custom plates. The regular fees shall be deposited into the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF), and the additional special fees shall be deposited into the Flood Mitigation Fund.

TRANSPORTATION

HF 2235 – CDL Ban for Human Trafficking

LB

Treasurers

This bill permanently disqualifies an individual from operating a commercial motor vehicle if they are convicted of a felony involving the use of a commercial vehicle for human trafficking.

HF 2310 – Transporting Loads of Excessive Size

LB

Engineers, Sheriffs

This bill increases the allowable width, length, and height for a vehicle or combination of vehicles transporting divisible loads of hay, straw, stover, or bagged livestock bedding. The bill also eliminates the annual permit allowing the aforementioned vehicles to operate in excess of the width, length, and/or height restrictions.

HF 2360 – Senior Driver's Licenses

LB

Treasurers

This bill relates to the length of issuance of a driver's license and increases the upper age limit for shorter issuance periods. Currently, a driver's license issued to an individual 72 years of age or over is valid for two years. The bill allows for an issuance for six years for those 72 years of age and older but not to exceed the 80th birthday and changes the two-year issuance to those 78 years of age and older.

Effective Date: September 1, 2020

HF 2372 – Chauffeur License Exemption

LB

Sheriffs, Treasurers

This bill exempts a farmer or hired farm help from needing a chauffeur's license to operate a special truck owned by the farmer and used for transporting farm products within 100 miles of land owned or rented by the farmer. The bill also provides for an optional designation on a driver's license or nonoperator's identification denoting the individual's autism spectrum disorder status.

SF 388 – Iowa Medal of Honor Highway

LB

Engineers, Sheriffs

This bill renames U.S. Highway 20 running from Dubuque to Sioux City the Iowa Medal of Honor Highway. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is charged with adopting rules as well as procuring and installing signs designating the new name.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (June 17, 2020).

SF 2025 – Shared County Engineer

LB

Engineers, Sheriffs

This bill removes the requirement that counties sharing a county engineer be contiguous.

SF 2091 – Odometer Disclosure Statements

LB

Treasurers

This bill conforms requirements for odometer disclosure statements prior to issuance of certificate of title and registration following the transfer of a motor vehicle with regulations set forth by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Effective Date: January 1, 2021.

SF 2403 – Ethanol and Biodiesel Fuel Tax

LB

Engineers

This bill makes changes to the motor fuel excise tax schedule which is determined by the market share of ethanol-blended gasoline. The excise fuel tax for gasoline will remain the same but changes were made to the per gallon tax on E-15 or higher ethanol-blended gasoline based on the E-15 market share. The bill also extends the tax schedule for diesel and biodiesel fuels to July 1, 2026.

APPROPRIATIONS

HF 2642 – 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 2021.

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 \$8,600,000 (-\$1,000,000)

For water trails and low head dam safety grants \$250,000 (-\$250,000)

To the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

For the Water Quality Initiative Fund\$5,200,000 (no change)

To the Department of Transportation

For recreational trails \$1,000,000 (-\$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 counties with a population less than 400,000 \$211,455

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 \$3,960,945 (+\$241,590)

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 \$1,400,000 (+\$200,000)

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 \$ 624,000 (+\$504,000)

APPROPRIATIONS

HF 2643 – General Fund Appropriations and Policy Omnibus

LB, JC

All County Officials

This bill appropriates dollars from the general fund for FY 2021 and also contains policy provisions. With some exceptions the FY 2021 budget is status quo and both line-item and standing appropriations will be funded at the FY 2020 amounts. Highlighted below are budget and policy changes of interest to counties.

- Funding to the Department of Human Services (DHS) for medical assistance (Medicaid) was reduced by \$56.8 million and for state supplementary service by \$464,000.
- Appropriates \$5 million from the Grow Iowa Values Fund to the Polk County Mental Health/Disability Services (MH/DS) Region.
- Requires the Polk County MH/DS Region to draw down Medicaid funds if available and allows Polk County to transfer other county funds into the County MH/DS Fund.
- Gives DHS additional authority over MH/DS Regions in terms of reviewing audits and other financial information and requires DHS approval of MH/DS region 28E agreements.
- Mandates DHS to facilitate and all counties in the County Social Services MH/DS Region to participate and to discuss the membership of the region. Based on these discussions, a new region may be formed if it meets population and other requirements in the formation of a region.
- Allows a county leaving one MH/DS region to retain its ending fund balance.
- Funds the Homestead Tax Credit at the FY 2020 level but transfers \$2.8 million from the Taxpayer Relief Fund to make up for the projected shortfall.
- Funds the Elderly/Disabled Tax Credit at the FY 2020 level but transfers \$2.5 million from the Taxpayer Relief Fund to make up for the projected shortfall.
- Allocates \$140,000 to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) for the implementation of HF 2647, a criminal justice reform bill that includes law enforcement training including de-escalation techniques.
- Requires a sworn written statement by law enforcement confirming the inventory of property seized during the execution of a search warrant.
- Extends the future repeal of the standing, limited appropriation for the Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program from June 30, 2021, to June 30, 2023.
- Updates language contained in HF 2512 by clarifying that members of the county zoning commission and board of adjustment must reside in the unincorporated area of the county.
- Requires the judicial branch to continue its effort to collect delinquent fines, penalties, court costs, fees, and surcharges, and calls for semiannual reports on collection efforts.
- States that it is the intent of the General Assembly that the offices of the clerks of court operate in each county and be accessible to the public as much as reasonably possible.
- Allows a civil case (including a jury trial) to be moved to a contiguous county even if it's in a different judicial district so long as the districts are adjacent.
- Allows a county hospital to borrow funds secured by hospital revenue or issue noncurrent debt for working capital or general financing needs to sustain operations.
- Eliminates the ability of the county auditor to utilize "best means available" in determining missing information on an absentee ballot request (ABR) form.
- Requires the county auditor to contact the voter through mail, email, or by phone within 24 hours to ascertain the missing information on the ABR form.
- Prohibits a county auditor from utilizing I-Voters to provide the voter identification number and that can only be given out to the voter after they have answered two questions about their identity such as their date of birth, residential address, middle name, or last four digits of their social security number.

APPROPRIATIONS

HF 2644 – Transportation, Infrastructure, and Capitals Appropriations

LB

Emergency Management, Engineers, Sheriffs, Supervisors, Treasurers

This bill makes appropriations for FY 2021 from the Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) and the Primary Road Fund to the Department of Transportation (DOT).

From the Road Use Tax Fund (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 \$72,889 (-\$41,413)

This payment was previously funded by the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) and the E911 Fund. It is now partially funded through Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) and the Primary Road Fund (see below) and the RIIF Fund (see HF 2642). The increase in RIIF funding and decreases in RUTF and Primary Road Fund creates a net decrease of \$14,172.

From the Primary Road Fund

For costs associated with the Statewide Interoperable Communications System \$487,793 (-\$214,349)

SF 2144 – Flood Recovery Supplemental Appropriations

LB

All County Officials

This bill made supplemental appropriations for FY 2020 including \$21 million to the Flood Recovery Fund under the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and \$333,000 to the Department of Human Services for the state resource center at Glenwood.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (February 13, 2020)

SF 2408 – Supplemental Appropriations and Emergency Authority

LB

All County Officials

This bill made supplemental appropriations for FY 2020 and put in place status quo funding for the first two months of FY 2021 as the General Assembly suspended the legislative session due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the supplemental appropriations was \$89 million for medical assistance (Medicaid) and \$525,000 for the state hygienic laboratory. The bill also provided certain transfer authority, authorized the use of certain Economic Emergency Fund dollars, appropriated 10% of the Economic Emergency Fund end balance to be used at the discretion of the Governor, and allowed the full balance to be used for purposes approved by the Governor and Legislative Council.

Effective Date: Upon Enactment (March 17, 2020)

2020 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.

HF 254 - Business Incubator Property Exemption
HF 2060 - School Board Elections
HF 2070 - Nonpartisan County Elections
HF 2191 - ATV Use
HF 2205 - Bottle Bill Repeal
HF 2518 - County Supervisor Pay
HF 2611 - Senior Homestead Freeze
HSB 503 - Public Record Copying Charges
HSB 664 - Elections and Voting
SF 411 - Assessor Retention
SF 535 - Fireworks Sales
SF 575 - Elections Changes
SF 626 - Groundwater Hazard Statements
SF 2014 - Vegetable Gardens
SF 2083/HF 2611 - Senior Homestead Freeze II
SF 2104 - Property Tax Limits
SF 2158 - ATVs on Secondary Roads
SF 2368 - Federal Housing Vouchers
SF 2388 - Local Animal Regulation
SSB 3128 - Renewable Energy Regulation

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

HF 386 - Veterans Driver's License
HF 693/SF 55 - Township EMS
HF 2008 - Social Worker Reimbursement
HF 2033 - Road Transfer Requirements
HF 2064 - Census Appropriations
HF 2092 - Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance
HF 2114 - Cell Tower Siting
HF 2143 - Casino Smoking
HF 2144 - Fireworks Fee
HF 2146 - Drainage Project Bids
HF 2192 - Telehealth Payments
HF 2206 - Beverage Container Handling Fee
HF 2222 - Medicaid Mental Disease Waiver
HF 2224/2225 - Sports Betting Funds I/II
HF 2256 - Mailing Absentee Ballots
HF 2264 - Pension Benefit Exclusions
HF 2308 - Open Meetings
HF 2326/SF 2353 - Surface Water Drainage
HF 2375/SF 2248 - Electronic Device Use
HF 2421 - Military Service Verification
HF 2450 - Public Safety Communications Systems
HF 2491 - Texting in School Zones
HF 2530/SF 2386 - Reunification After Disaster
HF 2552/SF 2175 - Drainage District Notice Statements
HF 2574 - Driver's License Fees
HF 2583/SSB 3130 - Jail Costs and Restitution
HF 2602 - EMS Property Taxes
HF 2603 - Community Action and Tourism Fund
HF 2604 - Local Public Safety Grants
HF 2605 - Connecting Iowa Grants
HF 2618 - County Veterans Training Appropriation
HF 2628/SF 2406 - Homeowner Disaster Aid
HF 2639 - Speeding Fines for EMS
HSB 509 - EMS Property Tax Timeline
HSB 549 - Veterans Benefit Advertising
HSB 676/SF 2265 - Vehicle Registration and Titling
SF 114/HF 567 - Excessive Speed Deaths
SF 263 - Protecting Veterans
SF 376/HF 504 - Suicide Prevention Education
SF 478 - Snow Plow Emergency Lights
SF 2027 - Suicide Prevention
SF 2226 - County Voting Centers
SF 2369 - Land Banks
SF 2370 - Contacting Veterans
SF 2394 - County Courthouse Jurisdiction
SSB 3094 - Medicaid Streamlining
SSB 3119 - Digitizing County Records

NOTES

2019 - 2020 LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Chair: Carla Becker, Delaware County Auditor and ISAC 1st Vice President

Assessors

Pam Jensen, Adair County
Tom Van Buer, Johnson County

Auditors

Pat Gill, Woodbury County
Shelley Wolf, Bremer County

Community Services

Shane Walter, Sioux County
Russell Wood, Franklin 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

Kathy Babcock, Chickasaw County
Lynelle Drier, Wapello County

Recorders

Stacie Herridge, Story County
John Murphy, Dubuque County

Sheriffs and Deputies

Brian Gardner, Linn County
Randy Rowland, Linn County

Supervisors

Ken Abrams, Worth County
Dawn Smith, Cedar County

Treasurers

Tracey Marshall, Cass County
Kris Rowley, Dickinson County

Veterans Affairs

Patty Hamann, Cedar County
Chris Oliver, Wright County

Zoning

Joe Buffington, Henry County
Josh Busard, Johnson County