

HUMAN RESOURCES

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2010

HEALTH CARE REFORM

SF 2356 expands the provider network for the IowaCare Program to include community health centers. IowaCare members will be able to access primary care at the new expanded provider network. In addition, the Iowa Insurance Information Exchange is established. The Exchange will be a central location where Iowans can obtain information about health care coverage options, including comparison of benefits, premiums, and out-of-pocket expenses.

[Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

OFFICE OF LTC RESIDENT ADVOCATE

Senate File 2263 establishes the office of the Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate. The office will be in the Iowa Department on Aging. The duties of the office are to receive, analyze, and investigate complaints of residents of long-term care facilities.

[Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Senate File 2266 establishes the structure, powers, and duties of the local boards of health. The bill also provides an optional process for counties to merge and create a district board of health.

[Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS FORM LLC

Senate File 153 allows physician assistants to form professional limited liability companies. A physician assistant still must perform medical services under the supervision of a licensed physician.

[Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

OBSCENE MATERIALS

Senate File 393 expands the definition of child abuse to when a parent or guardian knowingly forces a child to view obscene materials. If the child is likely to suffer harmful effects of being forced to view obscene materials, then the child can be adjudicated as a child in need of assistance (CINA).

[Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

HOSPITAL PROVIDER ASSESSMENT

Senate File 2388 implements a self-imposed assessment on the largest hospitals in Iowa. The funds collected are matched with federal funds and paid back to hospitals to increase provider rates. The State of Iowa will be able to use the remaining funds for health related purposes. The assessment is a three year pilot project. The assessment must be approved by the federal government and will not be implemented until July 1, 2010.

[Sent to Governor, Effective upon enactment]

HOME MODIFICATION FOR ELDERLY WAIVER

Senate File 2267 requires the Department of Human Services to review the requirements for home modification under the Medicaid HCBS Elderly Waiver, including the lifetime cap. DHS is required to report their plan to increase the lifetime cap to the Legislature by December 31, 2011.

[Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS House File 2283 removes the requirement of a federal background check every four years for child care providers and other individuals subject to the law. The bill now authorizes DHS to adopt rules regarding a national background check for child care providers and all others subject to the check. [Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

ADULT ABUSE REGISTRY Senate File 2333 sets regulations for hospital inspectors. In addition, the bill sets up a due process system for individuals investigated for dependent adult abuse in facilities. A person must be notified if they are being investigated for dependent adult abuse. The bill makes changes to when a person is placed on the central abuse registry while being investigated, and changes to the appeal process time frame. [Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

IOWA NEEDS NURSES NOW INITIATIVE Senate File 2384 creates an Iowa nursing workforce data clearinghouse in the Department of Workforce Development. In addition, creates financial aid options for nurse educators through private and public funds. The bill also creates an infrastructure fund for grants for nursing schools to purchase clinical educational equipment. [Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010]

OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

- HF 2144 Iowa Department of Public Health Omnibus bill (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2183 Updates the membership and the duties of State Board of Health (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2193 Updates Iowa Code to incorporate the adoption of the National Scope of Practice Model for Emergency Medical Services providers. (Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2402 Requires the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) to establish a plan to implement a stroke triage system and registry. (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- HF 2403 Updates the state uniform controlled substance act with federal guidelines (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2117 Allows licensed optometrists to prescribe pharmaceutical delivering contact lenses. (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2149 Requires background checks for certified nurse aids prior to training program (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2156 Updates Iowa code to renew the IowaCare program (Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2158 Updates Iowa code regarding child support recovery to comply with federal law (Sent to Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2202 Updates state code with the federal Americans with Disability Act (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2010)
- SF 2331 Allows all licensed chiropractors to participate as a hawk-i provider (Sent to Governor Effective July 1, 2010)