

2021 Final Status of Tracked Bills

These bills passed and became law. All bills are effective on July 1, 2021 unless noted.

Bill #	Title	Summary	Vote
HF707	Legal Interpreters/ Translators	Requires ASL sign language interpreters for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals in legal proceedings. Takes effect November 1, 2021.	House (93-0); Senate (45-0)
HF835	Iowa ABLE Transfers	Allows funds to be transferred from Special Needs or Supplemental Needs Trusts to an individual's Iowa ABLE savings account.	House (95-0); Senate (46-0)
HF839	Older Adult Financial Exploitation	Allows bankers and financial planners to report suspected financial exploitation of adults age 65+ or dependent adults of any age without fear of being sued for the reporting.	House (95-0); Senate (46-0)
HF848	Broadband Internet Expansion	Defines broadband by the speed of uploads and downloads and makes other requirements for Internet Services Providers getting money to build out high speed (broadband) Internet in rural and other underserved areas. Takes effect on April 28, 2021.	House (94-0); Senate (47-0)
HF862	Infrastructure Budget	Restores last year's cuts to recreational trails (\$500,000), state parks (\$1 million), and public transit (\$1 million). Adds new funds for school safety and emergency services, community tree replacement to repair damage from the derecho, and ChildServe building expansion.	House (55-35); Senate (39-7)
HF864	Judicial Branch Budget	Increases court funding for judge/staff salary raises, Story County Pilot District Self-Help Center to help those who are representing themselves in court, and public defender (to pay for increased deaf/hard-of-hearing interpreter costs).	House (53-36); Senate (45-0)
HF867	Administration/ Regulation Budget	Spends \$149.6 million (\$74.6 million increase), including new funding for broadband grants (\$100 million) and financial exploitation of older/dependent adults investigations (\$75,000).	House (55-37); Senate (47-0)
HF868	Education Budget	Increases funding for the Department for the Blind (\$528,723 including funding for another Independent Living teacher), AEA children's mental health training (\$1.1 million), vocational rehabilitation (\$300,000), Iowa School for the Deaf and education services for blind by (\$359,295). No change for child health specialty clinics, independent living programs, Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Program. Adds new funds for the therapeutic classrooms (\$2,626,075). Directs the Department of Education (DE) to develop standards for school equity coordinators and First Amendment free speech, and develop guidance for parents/guardians who have concerns about school districts.	House (51-38); Senate (28-17)
HF889	COVID-19 Vaccine Passport Ban	Prohibits state and local governments from issuing a COVID-19 vaccine passport or ID card with vaccine history included on it. Prohibits any business, non-profit, or governmental body from requiring proof of a COVID-19 vaccination before entrance (but allows screening measures like temp checks; health care facilities are exempted). Any violation results in loss of all state funds or grants. Takes effect May 20, 2021.	House (58-35); Senate (32-16)

<p>HF891</p>	<p>Health & Human Services (HHS) Budget</p>	<p>Spends \$2.048 billion (an increase of \$59.4 million). <u>NO CHANGE IN FUNDING</u>: Aging & Disability Resource Centers, substance use disorder treatment, donated dental programs for people with disabilities, children’s audiology programs, brain injury, suicide prevention, epilepsy, autism, habilitation provider technical assistance, Iowa ABLE administration, state supplemental assistance, and state autism coverage for uninsured/underinsured families. <u>MEDICAID FUNDING (\$44.2 million increase)</u>: Increases for Home and Community Based Service/HCBS waiver providers (\$11,002,240), habilitation providers (\$7,134,214), home health providers (\$2 million), children's mental health HCBS waiver to reduce waiting list (\$1,031,530), Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children/PMIC (\$3.9 million), ambulance services, nursing homes (\$19 million), and pharmacist dispensing fees (\$567,445). <u>OTHER FUNDING</u>: Adds new funding (\$425,000) for one Center of Excellence to encourage innovation and collaboration among regional health providers to transform health care delivery. Increases funding for special foods for individuals with inherited metabolic disorders such as phenylketonuria/PKU (\$35,000) and two new rural psychiatric residencies (\$200,000). Increases funding for MHIs (\$1.2 million for Cherokee, \$450,735 for Independence). Cuts funding for Glenwood by \$1.9 million and increases funding for Woodward by \$1.3 million. <u>LAW CHANGES</u>: Prohibits the Board of Social Work and Board of Behavioral Science from requiring licensed social independent worker (LSIW), marital and family therapist (LMFT), and mental health counselor (LMHC) supervision be completed in-person; prohibits boards from requiring supervised clinical experience hours for LMFTs and LMHCs in excess of the hours required for LISWs; and allows LMFTs and LMHCs to supervise social workers going for their LISW. States that federal COVID-19 regulations during the emergency supersede state administrative rules (i.e. Medicaid "flexibilities" allowed by federal government are to remain in effect, despite state rules that may be to the contrary). Allows Polk County to transfer other county funds into the MH/DS Regional Services Fund. Requires DHS to review its policies and applicable state and federal laws to make sure pediatric health services provided to Medicaid-eligible children are consistent with the EPSDT (Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis Treatment) Program, including occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, and applied behavior analysis (report and recommendations to make consistent are due 10/1/2021).</p>	<p>House (54-34); Senate (43-1)</p>
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HF895	Federal Appropriations	Every two years the Legislature passes this bill that directs the estimated \$368.1 million in federal block grants to the appropriate department (the amount is determined by Congress, not the legislature, so this is not a controversial bill). <u>COVID-19 FUNDS</u> : Creates a separate fund for COVID-19 recovery funds, including those coming from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. It is estimated there will be \$1.5 billion total available for spending. Directs the Governor to use the funds for 1) public health emergency response, including assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, and hard-hit industries (tourism, travel, hospitality); 2) premium pay for essential workers; 3) provision of government services at risk because of declining revenues; and 4) investments in water, sewer & broadband infrastructure.	House (86-1); Senate (48-0)
SF160	School Instruction Delivery	Requires schools to offer full-time in person learning options for students during the pandemic. Allows parents/guardians to notify the school district specifying instruction delivery method for students. Applies to schools providing coursework using both in-person and online instruction. Takes effect January 29, 2021.	Senate (29-18); House (59-39)
SF252	Rental Housing Vouchers	Prohibits cities/counties from adopting ordinances that prohibit landlords from refusing to accept federal housing vouchers. Existing ordinances in effect at the beginning of 2021 are unenforceable after January 1, 2023. Takes effect April 30, 2021.	Senate (31-18); House (56-38)
SF413	Early Voting & Auditor "Reform"	Requires mail-in votes (absentee) to be received in the county auditor's office before the close of the polls (postmarks no longer count; currently they can be received for another week if postmarked before election day). Changes voter pre-registration deadline to 15 days before the election (currently 10 days). Closes the polls an hour early (until 8 pm); moves voters who do not vote regularly to "inactive status" and requires voters to do something to move back to active status. Changes the earliest date a person can request an absentee (vote by mail) ballot to 70 days before the election (from 120 days); changes early voting period from 29 days to 20 days; begins mail-in ballot request period 70 days out from the election (instead of 120 days); prohibits a candidate on the ballot from helping a voters who do not speak English or have a visual or physical disability to fill in their ballots; allows only a voter's immediate family, member of their household, or caregiver to deliver a voted absentee ballot to an official dropbox, mail, or auditor office (no friends, neighbors, candidate volunteers). Makes "unlawful delivery of ballot" a serious misdemeanor. Eliminates "home rule" for county auditors and strips them of many duties, as well as making anything but strict adherence to laws and Secretary of State directives a class "D" felony (election misconduct). Bars auditors from establishing satellite voting centers without receiving a new petition each election cycle and limits drop boxes to one location per county (and requires enhanced security and pickups at least four times per day). Prohibits county auditors from mailing requests for absentee ballots to voters unless they have specifically requested one. Takes effect March 8, 2021.	Senate (30-18); House (57-37)

SF450	Dependent Adult Abuse	Adds the death of a dependent adult that occurs because of something a caregiver didn't do to the definition of dependent adult abuse.	Senate (47-0); House (92-0)
SF562	Sexual Exploitation of Minors	Expands sexual exploitation of a counselor/therapist/school employee to include adults being paid for educating or training a minor outside of a school. Eliminates the current criminal statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse (which is currently 10 years for most crimes). This allows charges to be filed at any time. Goes into effect May 12, 2021.	Senate (48-0); House (84-2)
SF568	Elections	Adds corrections to earlier Election Bill (SF 413) by allowing a voter who has a physical or visual disability to certify a person to handle their ballot using an approved form to designate a "delivery agent." Delivery agents must give voters a receipt for their ballot, deliver the ballot in person to the election office, and show valid ID (they cannot mail or put it in a dropbox). Delivery agents are only allowed to handle two voters' ballots per election. Requires a person voting a provisional ballot to show proof of residency and identification to vote in the polling place or at a county auditor's office (proof must be received by Noon on the Monday following the election). Allows a county auditor to reject a petition for a satellite voting station if the site is not accessible, cannot meet requirements for ballot security and voting secrecy, the owner of the property refuses (unless the site is also a polling site), or staffing shortages (after "reasonable efforts" to staff are made).	Senate (30-17); House (54-33)
SF592	Transportation Budget	Funds rest area maintenance, including new funds needed to install adult changing stations (\$400,000).	Senate (48-0); House 90-0)
SF615	Standings Budget	Cuts AEA funding (\$15 million). No change in funding for Special Olympics (\$100,000). Allows a county to tax separately for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and allows an ambulance service and others to deliver EMS training (currently only hospitals & colleges).	Senate (46-0); House (55-31)

SF619

Tax Cuts, Telehealth &
MHDS Funding

REGIONAL MH/DS SYSTEM: Changes the way the regional mental health and disability services (MHDS) system is funded, from a system based on county property taxes to a 100% state-funded system. Counties currently pay \$116.8 million for services. The bill eliminates the MHDS property tax levy over two years and replaces it with a new automatic (standing) appropriation (\$60 million in first year). Regions would enter performance-based contracts with the Department of Human Services for the funds. The total per capita (per person) amount for the year beginning July 1, 2021 is \$37 (\$15.86 state, \$21.14 county property taxes). After that the state will fund the entire system: \$38 per capita (beginning July 1, 2022), \$40 per capita (beginning July 1, 2023), \$42 per capita (beginning July 1, 2024), and after the previous year's appropriation would be multiplied by a growth factor (based on sales tax growth) up to 1.5%. An incentive fund is created with \$3 million and any per capita funds returned to state because a region has reserves in excess allowed (regional fund balances are not to exceed 40% in the first year, 20% in the second year, and 5% after that). Regions will have quarterly per capita payments reduced by the amount they are over. Regions can apply for incentive funds if they do not have enough to pay for budgeted services. Polk County is allowed to transfer both funds and in-kind services from Broadlawns Hospital for fiscal years the first three years. Another bill (HHS Budget) allows Polk County to transfer funding from other sources to support these services if state funds are not sufficient for one year only. DHS is to the effectiveness of the regions. TAX CHANGES: Allows the income tax cuts passed in 2018 to go into effect in 2022; allows families earning up to \$90,000 (instead of \$45,000) to get the childcare tax credit; phases out the state inheritance tax over two years; eliminates property tax replacement funds from cities and counties (\$150 million); and adds new tax credit to help elderly (over 70 years old) homeowners earning less than 250% of the federal poverty level to protect against assessment increases. OTHER CHANGES: Requires health insurance plans to pay equally for services delivered to a person with a mental health condition, whether it is done in-person or via telehealth. This only applies to state-regulated health plans, not Medicaid and self-insured plans regulated by the Federal government. Raises the State Housing Trust Fund cap from \$3 million to \$7 million (adding more money for affordable housing and homeless programs). Makes nonprofit food banks sales tax exempt.

Senate (29-14);
House (64-28)