

2020 INFONET Bill (Signed)

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
HF2340	Out-of-State Special Education	Allows Educational Savings Plan Trust funds to be used for out-of-state elementary and secondary school expenses for children requiring special education. Effective back to January 1, 2020.	Passed House (96-0); Passed Senate (49-0); Signed
HF2372	Driver's License/ Autism Designation	Exempts farmers and hired hands using special trucks from chauffeur licensing requirements, but was amended in the final days of the legislative session to allow a person to request that their license note that they have an autism spectrum disorder. Medical proof is required; the note will be added to the Department of Transportation (DOT) database so law enforcement will know when they are confronting a person with autism spectrum disorder. In addition, the DOT and the MH/DS Commission are to work together to develop an educational materials to build awareness about this option. Effective 7/1/2020.	Passed House (77-20); Passed Senate (49-0); Signed
HF2486	Use of County Seals/Elections	Originally a non-controversial bill allowing county seals used on ballots to be flat (not raised) and not include county treasurer's name; the bill was amended to include additional election changes, including requiring the Secretary of State to first get approval of the Legislative Council before exercising emergency powers. The Legislative Council can approve or change the plan for the exercise of those powers. County auditors are only allowed to reduce up to 35% of its polling sites during emergencies, and the reductions in locations must be made proportionately in urban and rural areas. Also binds the voting of Electoral College delegates to the way the state voted. Effective 7/1/2020.	Passed House (95-2); Passed Senate (31-16); Signed
HF2561	Transplant Discrimination	Prohibits the discrimination against people with disabilities in the determination if they are eligible for an organ transplant. Many hospitals require the person receiving the transplant be able to live independently after recovery; this bill states that living independently includes being able to demonstrate they have the supports needed to provide for their daily care. Effective 7/1/2020.	Passed House (99-0); Passed Senate (48-0); Signed
HF2585	Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Replaces the terms "deaf" and "hearing impaired" with "deaf or hard of hearing" and "speech impaired" with "persons with speech disorders" in Iowa Code. Effective 7/1/2020.	Passed House (97-0); Passed Senate (47-0); Signed

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
HF2589	Medical Cannabidiol (mCBD) Act	<p>Makes several changes to Iowa's mCBD program that are in line with the mCBD Board's recommendations, including allowing physician assistants and nurse practitioners to authorize use, allowing dispensaries to hire pharmacists, allowing individuals with felony convictions to access these medications, renaming "untreatable pain" with the more commonly used "chronic pain," addressing issues with the different types of THC, taking DOT out of issuing cards (IDPH will do that), giving the mCBD Board more flexibility to meet as needed, and replacing the current 3% THC cap (the part of the cannabis plant that gets you high) with a 90-day 4.5 gram allowance. Also makes a few changes not included in the recommendation of the mCBD Board, including adding two conditions allowed to access mCBD (severe, intractable autism with self-injurious or aggressive behaviors, PTSD), allowing a terminally ill patient (defined as life expectancy as less than a year) to exceed the THC limits, and requiring IDPH to conduct an "observational effectiveness study" of medical CBD to determine the effectiveness of its use in treatment of the condition authorized under law. States that having a CBD card does not mean a person is immune to workplace drug testing requirements, and allows workplaces to continue to place restrictions on the use of any THC-containing product, including ones used medicinally. Restrictions above do not apply to FDA-approved prescription medications. Effective 7/1/2020.</p>	Passed House (52-48); Passed Senate (32-17); Signed

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
HF2627	Governor's Professional Licensure Reform	<p><u>Universal Licensure</u>: Makes significant changes to professional licensure in Iowa, allowing anyone licensed in another state that moves to Iowa (or relocates with a military spouse) to be automatically licensed in Iowa, as long as they 1) have a license in good standing in another state; 2) have been practicing one year without complaints or disciplinary action; 3) have passed an exam required by another state; 4) have substantially the same scope of practice; 5) have never had their license suspended or revoked (or voluntarily surrendered); and 6) passed any Iowa-specific exams required. The person is still required to pay for the Iowa license and comply with all Iowa laws (including mandatory reporting). If a person worked in a profession that did not require licensure in their previous state (but does in Iowa), a board may honor that experience and license the person, even if they do not meet all the additional requirements for such licensure in Iowa law. <u>Waiver of Licensure Fees</u>: Waives professional licensure fees for individuals with household incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level (for new licensees only). <u>Criminal Convictions</u>: Allows an applicant to petition a licensing board to determine if their criminal history would disqualify them from licensure (allows the board to charge up to \$25 fee for making that determination). Makes sexual abuse, sexual violence, dependent adult abuse, and domestic abuse assault all grounds for denial of an electrical or plumbing license only if they pose an unreasonable risk to public safety). Other felony convictions and misdemeanor offenses are not grounds for licensure denial, revocation, or suspension, unless they are directly related to the profession and pose a danger to the public. Prohibits a board from disqualifying a person from licensure because of a criminal conviction (unless the conviction causes a public safety hazard or is directly related to the profession). <u>Other Changes</u>: Eliminates the hospital licensing board; requires professional licensing boards extend license expirations until June 30, 2021 (because of COVID). Requires all boards to allow for electronic CEUs. Effective 6/25/2020. A full fiscal analysis of this bill is available here.</p>	Passed House (62-35); Passed Senate (32-17); Signed

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
HF2629	Future Ready Iowa	Implements the Governor's Future Ready Iowa plan. Creates an Expanded Registered Apprenticeship Opportunities Program to provide financial assistance to encourage sponsors of apprenticeship programs with 20 or fewer apprentices to maintain apprenticeship programs in high-demand occupations. Establishes an Iowa Child Care Challenge Program to encourage and enable businesses, nonprofit organizations, and consortiums to establish local child care facilities and increase the availability of quality, affordable child care for working Iowans. Effective 7/1/2020. Makes other changes; more information here .	Passed House (97-0); Passed Senate (49-0); Signed

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
HF2643	Omnibus Continuing Resolution	<p>Extends the current year's budget for another year, with a few changes (total spending \$4.341 billion, which is \$52.4 million less than FY 2020). Requires the Department of Management, in consultation with the Legislative Services Agency, to determine how to spend federal funds received, and reallocate state funds should revenues be insufficient in FY 2020. <u>Changes from last year's appropriations:</u> Increases funds for the Iowa School for the Deaf by \$237,000 and the Iowa Braille & Sight Saving School by \$100,000; increases funds to the Family Investment Program (FIP) by \$1.5 million; reduces funds for Medicaid by \$56.7 million (total \$1.46 billion is within the expected range needed), reduces State Supplementary Assistance by \$464,000, reduces funding for Glenwood by \$333,000 (this was a one-time increase made earlier in the session, so the amount returns to the pre-supplemental level). Increase the children's health insurance program by \$16.5 million. Transfers decategorization carryover funds expiring to Medicaid instead of the General Fund (about \$500,000). Cuts funding to the Secretary of State by \$235,000 (total \$1,874,870). Fully funds Homestead and Elderly/Disabled Property Tax Credits, but uses \$5.3 million from the Taxpayer Relief Fund to do so. <u>MHDS Regional Changes:</u> Allocates \$5 million from the Grow Iowa Values Fund to the Polk County MH/DS Region, and allows the county to shift funds from other sources to supplement the MH/DS levy (reporting of those shifts is required). Allows DHS to force a region to engage in mediation to resolve a dispute (with costs borne by the county and/or region per governance agreement). Counties joining (or assigned to) a region are required to operate according to their existing governance agreements until the new regional governance agreement is amended. In reviewing a region's compliance, DHS is allowed to use annual audits, regional governance agreements, and annual service and budget plans to make the determination, and allows DHS to request and review financial documents, contracts, and audits (as well as perform onsite interviews and reviews to gather information). Outlines methods to allocate a region's cash flow amount when a county leaves the region (divided out by percentage of county population; applicable to all agreements entered into after July 1, 2020). Requires an annual independent audit of each region, and requires DHS to approve all regional governance agreements that are in compliance with the law. Requires DHS to facilitate the division of the County Social Services MH/DS region into two separate regions (new regions to be fully operational by July 1, 2021). <u>Election Law Changes:</u> Requires a registered voter to fill out all parts of the absentee ballot request form, and an auditor to contact voters who send in incomplete or illegible absentee ballot requests by phone or email within 24 hours (or send a notice to the address listed on the form). Prohibits the auditor from using the voter database to look up the information (current law just states that the auditor is to find the information through the best means available). In addition</p>	Passed House (51-41); Passed Senate (30-17); Signed / Line-Item Vetoed

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
SF2144	Supplemental Appropriations	Makes supplemental appropriations for FY2019-2020, including flood recovery (\$21 million) and Glenwood State Resource Center (\$333,000). Effective 2/13/2020. For more details click here .	Passed Senate (48-0); Passed House (100-0); Signed
SF2261	Student Behavioral Health Screenings	Allows schools to provide behavioral health screenings to students in person or via telemedicine. Schools may contract with a provider or nationally recognized behavioral health organization to provide services in person or via telehealth (but must obtain prior parental or guardian consent). Services may be provided in school or in an AEA, but no new medications can be prescribed via telehealth. Requires private insurance and Medicaid to pay for services, and rates must be equal if done in person or via telehealth, and makes the school or AEA an approved site of service. Effective 7/1/2020.	Passed Senate (50-0); Passed House (92-4); Signed
SF2323	Guardianship Initial Care Plans	Requires initial care plans for guardianships and conservatorships for minors and adults established before January 2020 be filed with the previously scheduled annual report. Effective back to 1/1/2020.	Passed Senate (49-0); Passed House (95-1); Signed
SF2338	COVID-19 Response and Back-to-Business Limited Liability Act	Originally a bill to address gaps in Iowa's medical malpractice law, the bill was amended to give Iowa businesses, including long-term care residential providers and health professionals, liability protection for potential civil lawsuits due to COVID exposure, as long as the businesses have followed public health guidance and the exposure was not intentional or caused by reckless disregard. Health care providers are also not civilly liable for personal injury or death caused by unintentional COVID infection. Effective 6/18/2020, and retroactive back to 1/1/2020.	Passed Senate (31-18); Passed House (52-44); Signed
SF2356	Dyslexia Education	Establishes an advanced dyslexia specialist endorsement, a dyslexia consultant in Department of Education (DE), and Iowa Dyslexia Board; requires each AEA to maintain a dyslexia specialist; and requires certain school district employees to complete the Iowa Reading Research Center dyslexia overview module. Effective 7/1/2020.	Passed Senate (49-0); Passed House (98-0); Signed

Bill #	Title	Description	Final Status
SF2360	Therapeutic Classrooms/ Physical Intervention	<p>Requires the Department of Education (DE) to develop and implement guidelines for classroom management and establishes a grant program for therapeutic classrooms. DE (in consultation with AEAs) is to provide guidance to all schools on responses to behavior in the classroom, restraint of a student, evidence-based interventions, and educating individuals in the least restrictive environment. Requires teacher preparation programs to include development and implementation of individualized education programs (IEPs), behavior intervention plans, preparation for educating individuals in the least restrictive environment, and strategies to address student violent behavior. Appropriates \$2.6 million for a Therapeutic Classroom Incentive Grant Program for schools (which may collaborate with non-profit agencies, MH/DS regions, and institutions providing children's mental health services) for the establishment fo therapeutic classrooms, which are specially designed to support students whose emotional, social, or behavioral needs interfere with the student's ability to be successful in their current educational environment, with or without supports. Requires use of these classrooms for special education students be in line with least restrictive environment and other federal requirements, and inline with the student's IEP. Schools can be reimbursed for the costs of transporting students to therapeutic classrooms that are more than 30 miles away. Prohibits IEPs and behavioral intervention plans from including "classroom clears" as a strategy to calm the student. Prohibits a school or the Board of Educational Examiners from retaliating against an employee who comes into physical contact with a student as allowed by current law. Appropriates \$2.6 million for the grant program (\$1.6 million for the incentive fund, \$500,000 for DE to establish the guidelines and standards for classroom management, and \$500,000 for transportation reimbursement). Effective 7/1/2020.</p>	Passed Senate (48-1); Passed House (95-3); Signed