

March 3, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members: Hugh Kelly, Matthew Conaway, Mark Smith

Absent Council Members: Kristen Aller, Rob Roozeboom, Brady Werger, Brittney Drinovsky, Roxanne Cogil, Carol Cross

Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer

Public: None

Bill Updates – Post Funnel

Crowe stated that it was funnel week this week and said that Amy Campbell said she has never seen a session like this. There are a lot of bills being introduced and passed out of subcommittees quickly. Kelly asked if anything came of extending the absentee ballot period. Crowe stated that she believes that bill is dead. Lovelace stated that the restrictive bills on voting have also died so that is a positive. Crowe shared the bill tracker on the DD Council website.

HF3: Public Assistance Reform - Crowe stated that there are two public assistance bills that are still alive. These bills could negatively affect people on Medicaid and/or food assistance. The problem is the asset test and it could have severe ramifications.

There are bills that discuss eliminating diversity and inclusion programs at State universities. These could affect people with disabilities.

HF96: Non-Medical Switching Prescription Drugs - The non-medical switching bill is still alive which addresses insurance companies not being able to switch prescriptions due to costs.

HF151: Mental Health Practitioner Loan Program – This bill is still alive

HF161: Health Care Damage Awards – This is the tort reform bill and it has already passed.

HF243: Autism Spectrum Disorder Coverage – This bill is still alive

HF566: HHS Boards & Commissions – We have been monitoring this bill because it will affect some of the councils we work with. Lovelace pointed out that this bill would try to eliminate the Brain Injury Council but this may not be possible because they may receive Administration for Community Living (ACL) funds.

HR9: Disabilities Awareness Month - Our resolutions are alive in the House and Senate.

HSB109 & SF295: Guardianships/Conservatorships - We are supporting the Senate bill, not the House bill.

HSB126: Governor's Reorganization Bill - This bill has a lot of amendments that were attempted to be added. These amendments will come up again when they are debated on the floor.

HSB206: Student Discipline - This bill is new. This is not supposed to relate to children on an Individualized Education Program (IEP). We will monitor.

SF7: Direct Support Professional Tax Exemption – This bill is alive. It would provide income tax exemption for a person who is paid by a non-profit for services to persons with disabilities.

SF210: Brain Health – This bill is alive and well.

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.

SF253: Mental health Provider Loan Repayment Program – This bill is alive and well.

SF297: Medical Care Refusal - This is a new bill and is alive and well.

SF357: Death Penalty – This bill is alive and the DD Council may want to register for or against or undecided on this.

SF483: School Employee Seizure Training – This is the bill that Cogil has been working on. It is now out of the Senate and House committees.

SF494: Public Assistance Reform - Public assistance on the Senate side is worse than the one on the House side and it is alive.

SSB1196: Hospital/Nursing Visitation Policies - This is a new bill and the intent of the bill is to address hospitals not being allowed to deny visitors due to restrictions due to diagnosis.

Increasing limits for home and vehicle modification under the Intellectual Disability (ID) waiver bill is still alive.

Crowe stated that Representative Josh Turek has introduced some good bills. The ones we would have liked to have seen gone through are now dead. These bills can be reintroduced next session.

The bill that would have made a new waiver for autism did not survive. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is looking at the waiver program though, so this was not surprising.

Crowe stated Representative Josh Turek also introduced a bill that addressed van accessible handicapped parking spaces, but this bill did not survive.

Representative Josh Turek also introduced a bill about disability education in the school system. This bill would have helped prevent bullying. The bill died but it was introduced so it could be brought up again next year.

Other Happenings at the Capitol

Crowe stated there have been lots of groups at the capitol lately. Some of the groups that have been there in the last week are Autism Society, Brain Injury Alliance, Realizing Educational and Career Hopes (REACH) students, and the Department of Human Rights (DHR). DHR had their Youth Advisory Council there and put out a position paper on mental health excused absences. Lovelace wonders what will happen to this group when DHR merges under HHS.

March as Disabilities Awareness Month

March 9th the proclamation will happen at the Capitol. It will be introduced in the House and hopefully in the Senate also. This can be viewed live online also. The DD Council put together a handout that will be distributed the same day to the legislators. This handout encourages legislators to involve people with disabilities and their families in decision making.

Capitol Chat and Snapshot

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Topics that have been covered and ones that we could cover were discussed. Crowe was speaking with Josie about what should be supported with policy in relation to guardianship and conservatorship and noted that this is a topic on which we could be doing more education. A senator has asked for more information about available transportation for people who are disabled and getting to medical appointments. We could perhaps help facilitate some of these conversations or survey our advocates. Smith stated there was an article about Medicaid claw back. When a person on Medicaid passes away, the state can claim their assets to recover costs to Medicaid. He stated that Iowa is one of the more aggressive states with this program. There was a story on National Public Radio (NPR) about this and Smith will send this article to Crowe and Lovelace.

Smith asked about HF3. If this passes, will people lose their food assistance benefits? Crowe stated that on the Senate side, this would only apply to new applicants. On the House side, this is not clear. Lovelace stated this does have to get federal approval.

Action Items

None