

This Week at the Iowa Capitol | Week 15 Report | April 24, 2026

## Iowa Lawmakers Still Working - Session Now in Overtime

The Iowa Legislature was supposed to finish its work on April 21. That did not happen. The sticking points are familiar ones — property tax, budgets, and a handful of bills dealing with eminent domain (forcing landowners to sell their land for pipelines) and mineral rights (drilling for hydrogen and other minerals beneath a landowner's property). Property tax reform is a top priority for Republicans and the Governor. They share a common goal — reducing property taxes — but cannot agree on the best way to make that happen.

**What does this mean for lawmakers?** When the session goes past 100 days, lawmakers stop getting their daily expenses paid. That is extra pressure to wrap things up quickly. They also lost their individual staff, called clerks. Clerks help legislators answer emails, connect with constituents, organize their calendars, and file paperwork. Without clerks, legislators have to do all the administrative work themselves.

**What happens next?** Lawmakers will keep meeting until they finish budget bills, agree on property tax reforms, and finalize other key issues. As you will read in the next section, we have a budget agreement that has legislators hoping to end the session next week, but details still need to be worked out. Legislators have primary elections coming up in June, so they want to finish as soon as possible.

**What can I do?** Read this update and scroll to the end where we have a pre-written message ready to go to your legislators, asking them to end this session strong by supporting policies that give Iowans a chance to be fully integrated into their communities!

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## House & Senate Agree on Budget

Governor	House Target	Senate Target	Final Agreement
\$9.67 billion	\$9.662 billion	\$9.623 billion	\$9.659 billion

House and Senate legislative leaders have agreed to an overall spending limit for the next budget year, which begins July 1, 2026.

- The Senate raised their budget by \$20 million.
- The final agreed-to spending limit is \$9.659 billion (\$3 million below the original House target).

House and Senate budget chairs will be meeting today (Friday) and over the weekend to work out details on the nine budget bills. You may start to see details on these final agreements early next week. Here is how each individual budget fared under the agreement:

- **Administration & Regulation:** \$73,301,113 (\$30,000 **below** original House target)
- **Agriculture & Natural Resources:** \$47,505,670 (\$244,000 **above** original House target)
- **Economic Development:** \$39,948,145 (\$400,00 **below** original House target)
- **Education:** \$1,042,048,417 (\$4.6 million **below** original House target)
- **Health & Human Services:** \$2,560,094,417 (\$344,000 **above** original House target)
- **Justice Systems:** \$938,006,002 (\$1.5 million **above** House target)

The House Health & Human Services (HHS) Budget and House Education Budget got new bill numbers after being voted out of committee this week. We have updated our budget tracker - you can see it below and can always find the most current version [here](#). As amendments are introduced, we'll put links into this online document.

Administration/ Regulation	Agriculture/ Natural Resources	Economic Development	Education	Health/ Human Services	Infrastructure (RIIF)	Judicial Branch	Justice Systems	Standings	Transportation
<a href="#">SF 2479 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2487 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2485 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2482 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2483 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2484 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2486 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">SF 2481 (Details)</a>		<a href="#">SF 2478 (Details)</a>
\$73.1 million (\$613,000)	\$46.9 million \$300,000	\$38.4 million (\$1.9 million)	\$1.05 billion \$14.9 million	\$2.56 billion \$980,000	\$196.3 million* RIIF \$39.3 million* TRF	\$221.8 million (no change)	\$714.2 million \$11.1 million		\$495.3 million* (\$18.2 million)
Senate Floor	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	Senate Floor	Senate Floor		Senate Floor
<a href="#">HF 2768 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">HF 2771 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">HF2772 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">HF 2783 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">HF 2782 (Details)</a>		<a href="#">HF 2769 (Details)</a>	<a href="#">HF 2770 (Details)</a>		<a href="#">HSB 763 (same as SF 2478)</a>
\$73.3 million (\$413,000)	\$46.8 million \$150,000	\$39.3 million (\$989,000)	\$1,041 billion \$9.5 million	\$2.561 billion \$4 million		\$222.8 million \$1 million	\$714.3 million \$11.2 million		\$495.3 million* (\$18.2 million)
House Floor	House Floor	House Floor	House Floor	House Floor		House Floor	House Floor		House Appropriations Committee

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## Policy News

The Legislature took action on a number of policy bills this week. Another bill is on its way to the Governor’s desk to be signed into law:

- [HF 2523](#) allows parents to consent to their child's **mental health or substance use commitment** (rather than go to court when a child refuses). This was done to help stop delays in care for children in crisis.

The Senate voted on the following bills this week:

- [SF 2480](#) adds a 5-cent tax on **vape and nicotine products** and uses the money (\$3 million/year) for pediatric cancer research at the University of Iowa. The bill passed 44-0. The House has scheduled a subcommittee for Monday (4/27) at 12:30 p.m. to discuss. Anti-smoking groups say the five-cent per container tax is not enough to change behaviors or stop young people from using these highly addictive products.
- [SF 2428](#) is the **“disruptive student” bill** that lists the steps a school will take to discipline students causing classroom disruptions. The House had amended the bill to require training on Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and created a pilot program to allow one rural and one urban school to have separate schools for students receiving special education services and students whose behaviors create

classroom disruptions. The Senate changed the bill to require all teachers working with a student to actually read the student's IEP. If the House accepts this change, it will go to the Governor.

The House voted on the following bills:

- [HF 2676](#) - the Governor's **Make America Healthy Again** bill - is back in the Senate again. The bill limits the foods that can be in school lunches, limits how many hours young students can be on technology and sets standards for number of hours of physical activity in grade schools, and includes a psychologist compact that will allow out-of-state licensed psychologists to more easily provide services in Iowa. It is important to note that there is an exception to the technology limits in schools - they do not apply to assistive technology or technology included in a student's IEP or 504 plan. If the Senate accepts the House changes (just modifying physical education requirements in schools), the bill will go to the Governor.
- [SF 2422](#) is the Senate's bill to enact the President's "One Big Beautiful Bill" changes to **Medicaid and SNAP eligibility**. The Senate bill had locked the state into Medicaid managed care, which means legislators would have to approve any plan to end managed care. The House amended the bill and sent it back to the Senate for reconsideration. It does NOT include the managed care requirement. The House amendment looks a lot like their original plan for this, including expanding the MEPD program to 300% of the federal poverty level, requiring annual Medicaid provider rate reviews, requiring Medicaid to develop a new cost-based reimbursement model for HCBS providers that is rebased every four years (right now they do not have a rate review at all), and eliminates the need for ChildServe and On With Life to go through an exception to policy to continue their rates. You can see the differences between the amendment and the Senate bill (and the original House plan) [here](#).

One bill was scheduled for debate this week, but did not get done. They are not on the debate list for Monday either, so that may mean they are in trouble.

- [SF 2474](#), which requires the Iowa Department of Education to list where automatic electronic defibrillators (AEDs) are in schools around the state and which schools have adopted a **Cardiac Emergency Response Plan**. An amendment was filed to keep the Iowa Dyslexia Board until 2032 (it was set to end in 2027). If the House does pass this bill without an amendment, it goes to the Governor. If they amend it, it will have to go back to the Senate for approval. Adding another step in the process in these final days could kill the bill.

And finally, the legislature saved a controversial resolution to be brought up at the end of session. [SJR 11](#) is a resolution (not a bill) that would require an amendment to the Iowa Constitution. This amendment would **require a "supermajority" to pass bills that increase taxes**. A "supermajority" means that two-thirds of both the House and Senate must vote for the bill. Some Iowans think it undemocratic to require more than a simple majority (half) of the legislators to pass bills that increase taxes. Taxes are what pay for services and supports that people with disabilities may need, like Medicaid and home and community based waiver services. That is why this resolution could affect State budgets that impact Iowans with disabilities.

Constitutional amendments go through a much different process than a regular bill. They must be passed twice by the Legislature, in two different two-year cycles, and then approved by the voters. Since the Legislature already passed this in 2024, **passage this year would mean Iowans will be voting on it this November!**

There is a House subcommittee meeting this resolution ([SJR 11](#)) on Monday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m. You can watch/listen to this virtually by clicking [here](#) (or calling 1-408-418-9388 - Access Code: 24870830912).

Watch the **Iowa DD Council's Bill Tracker**  
for real-time updates on these and other bills [here](#).

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## DON'T WAIT - ACT NOW!

**Let's end this legislative session strong** by encouraging legislators to support policies that support the independence of Iowans with disabilities!

Please take a few minutes of your time to send a message to your legislator - we've already got it drafted, so all you need to do is hit send!

**Just click on the Take Action button below to get started.**



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### The Iowa DD Council wants to hear from YOU!

Read our draft five-year state plan and let us know if you agree on our direction or if there's anything we're missing. Read the plan and submit your comments at: [iowaddcouncil.org/state-plan](http://iowaddcouncil.org/state-plan)

You can also watch/listen to the listening post held by the Iowa DD Council [here](#).

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## Do you want to learn about being a leader?

**If so, the Youth Leadership Academy (YLA) is for you!** At YLA you will learn how to become a leader and advocate for yourself and others. You will build your leadership skills - things like goal setting, networking, mentoring, self-determination, disability rights, advocacy, and civic engagement. All sessions are virtual and FREE! YLA is for youth and young adults with disabilities ages 14–21.

**Youth Leadership Academy will be held July 27-31, 2027.** Online sessions daily from 10 am -12:30 pm. Graduation and service project at Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines on August 4. Learn more and sign up at: [iowaddcouncil.org/yla](http://iowaddcouncil.org/yla).

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Find all the bills we are tracking at:

[\*\*iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker\*\*](http://iowaddcouncil.org/bill-tracker)

Take action on bills by emailing your legislators at:

[\*\*iowaddcouncil.org/take-action-center\*\*](http://iowaddcouncil.org/take-action-center)

Find local legislative town hall meetings in our calendar at:

[\*\*iowaddcouncil.org/calendar\*\*](http://iowaddcouncil.org/calendar)

Find our bills of the week at:

[\*\*Iowaddcouncil.org/bill-of-the-week\*\*](http://iowaddcouncil.org/bill-of-the-week)