

Legislative Newsletter

Jan. 24, 2020



As we start getting a preview of issues affecting local government, it appears the prisoner's medical expense bill is actually a workable piece of legislation this year. Our lobbying team is working closely with the Iowa Hospital Association and the Sheriff's Association to make one drafting change that makes a big difference for counties.

House Study Bill 518 places the primary responsibility for medical cost and copays on the incarcerated party, meaning the government would have to ask about the prisoner's insurance at the time of intake and requires a hospital or medical provider to ask about insurance at the time of admission.

Page three of the bill, paragraph "c" states that if a prisoner's health insurance is denied, the "hospital or medical provider shall submit any bill for reimbursement of medical aid to the governmental entity within thirty days of treatment OR shall submit any written denial of coverage to the governmental entity within thirty days of receipt of the denial."

Gary Grant, CEO
Cell 319.721.5977
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO
Cell 319.361.2834
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel
Cell 515.321.5825
mvmalloy83@gmail.com

L&L Murphy Consulting / Grant Consulting

The “or” would have provided the option of the hospital to just stick the county - the payor of last resort - with the bill. We have told other stakeholders about this concern and are working on amendments to the draft. Changing “or” to “and” would provide more protection to the county where treatment was provided.

The public records bills (**House Study Bill 504 - 506**) all passed out of subcommittees late in the week, as well.

Introduced this week include:

House File 2113: One of two cell tower siting bills. This bill strikes prohibitions against local governments that require environmental testing for radio frequency emissions when siting cell phone towers and against prohibiting a cell phone tower because of radio emissions.

House File 2114: This second bill regarding cell siting allows cities and counties to adopt ordinances to opt out of the Cell Siting Act. Makes such an ordinance good for ten years.

House Study Bill 545 is a Secretary of State clean up bill. It makes changes to the administration of elections, including on petitions, county auditor seals, cancelling a registration on the notice of death, absentee ballots, and requiring attesting voters to show identification. The Sec. of State would be able to order an audit prior to any election.

Finally, making a reappearance this year is township emergency responders funding. **House File 2069** would permit the voters in a township to vote to require the township to provide EMS, if such services are not provided by the county.

Gary Grant, CEO
Cell 319.721.5977
gary@grantconsultingllc.com

Larry Murphy, CFO
Cell 319.361.2834
larry@llmurphy.com

Meghan Malloy, General Counsel
Cell 515.321.5825
mvmalloy83@gmail.com