



Quality Early Care and Education

SF 2376 – Education Appropriations Bill

This appropriations bill addresses many issues:

- Provides \$12.7 million new dollars for grants for the Four-Year-Old Preschool Program through the Department of Education;
- Provides \$1,721,400 for Early ACCESS – of this \$383,769 is for CHSC

Community Empowerment (ECI) specific funding:

- School Ready Grants - \$5,728,907 (Quality Improvement (\$2,229,368), General Aid (\$1,562,274), and Administrative (\$758,635) are included in this funding stream as well as state-level funding for professional development (\$825,030), state office allocation (\$354,600)
- Preschool Tuition Assistance - \$7,583,912
- Family Support -\$13,153,653

Community Empowerment Policy Changes:

- The members of an area board shall be elected officials or members of the public who are not employed by a provider of services to or for the area board.

HF 2526 – Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill

This appropriations bill addresses many issues:

- Child Care Assistance - \$32,325,964 (of the funds appropriated in this section - \$936,974 shall be used for the Quality Rating System and \$432,453 for CCR&R).
- TANF transfer of \$16,382,687 for child care assistance (of the amount appropriated in this section - \$200,000 shall be used for child care education opportunities).

SF 2088 – State Government Reorganization Bill

This bill contains significant changes to Iowa Empowerment and Early Childhood Iowa:

State Level Changes:

- A new Code section is created for the Early Childhood Iowa Initiative (ECI) which is essentially the same in definitions, intent and desired results as the set of desired results under the Empowerment Initiative.
- The Early Childhood Iowa Initiative coordination center is located in the Department of Management.
- An Early Childhood State Board is established (same concept as Empowerment Board).
- ECI State Board has increased transparency and statewide data collection and reporting requirements. State Board will also establish and enforce statewide performance measures.
- Prohibits program providers that receive funding from serving on state ECI Board.
- A Stakeholder Advisory Council of Early Childhood is established under the ECI State Board (formerly ECI Council with legislative coordination by IDPH).
- Department of Management will have fiscal and data reporting oversight and rulemaking authority. ECI State Board will have rulemaking authority for program implementation.
- The funding streams including school ready grant program, early childhood programs grant, and first years first account. They remain the same as under the Empowerment Initiative. This bill does not appropriate any money or FTE's. Those decisions, as in previous years, are determined in the appropriations bill(s).
- Inserts requirement that at least 60 percent of state and local family support funding must be spent on programming that include a home visitation component.
- Administrative costs under the school ready grants for Empowerment remain at 3 percent (current Code).
- Allows local boards to pick fiscal agent but gives authority to DOM to establish criteria for local fiscal agent responsibilities.

Local Empowerment Area Level Changes:

The Bill replaces current re-designation process with a 'levels of excellence' rating system that allows for more recognition of each level of achievement. It also changes the requirements for designation of the local boards, now called

	<p>Early Childhood Iowa Areas (ECI) including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ECI area may not encompass more than four counties, and all counties in an Area must have contiguous borders. • For a single county to serve as an Area, it must have a minimum population of children ages zero to 5 in excess of 5,000, based on the latest U. S. Census data. • Counties that do not meet that criterion must combine with at least one other county to serve as an Early Childhood Iowa Area. Inserts language for financial transition for local areas that are merging. Allowable carry forward funding from merging areas can be transferred to the successor board. • Local board membership cannot include a service provider or person working for any other entity that receives funding from Early Childhood Iowa • State ECI Board may offer funding flexibility for those local ECI areas that receive the highest designation of excellence – but only to the extent that is allowed by Legislative Appropriation. • Secure the unique student identifier with programs that receive funding through ECI
<p><u>HF 2531</u> – Standings Appropriations Bill</p>	<p>This bill has many funding and policy issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$11,000,000 – At Risk Children (Shared Visions is included in this funding stream) • \$4,000,000 – additional new dollars for Four Year Old Preschool Program for new grants to school districts
<p><u>SF 2366</u> – Education Supplemental Appropriations bill</p>	<p>This bill promotes a backfill from across the board reduction in from last year funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iowa Empowerment Preschool Tuition Assistance – \$877,215* • Four Year Old Preschool Program – \$1,194,569 • Shared Visions - \$1,144,389 <p>*Language in Education appropriations bill allows for these Empowerment Preschool Tuition dollars to not revert.</p>
<p><i>Child Well-Being & Development</i></p>	
<p><u>HF 2526</u> – Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill</p>	<p>This bill has many funding and policy issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOPES - \$738,203 • 1st Five - \$329,885 • Audiological Services and hearing aids for children

	<p>\$187,890</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>hawk-i</i> - \$23,637,040 (of these funds \$128,950 is to be used for outreach)
<p><u>SF 2201</u> – Insurance Commissioner’s Bill</p>	<p>Provides Health Insurance Accountability by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When applying for a rate increase, health insurance companies must notify policyholders they are applying for the increase, provide justification for the increase, and give the contact information for the Iowa consumer advocate of insurance. • Providing a new online consumer guide on health insurance for those looking to purchase insurance • Requiring the Iowa Insurance Commissioner and Consumer Advocate to provide an legislative report by Oct. 31st including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall status of health care spending and health insurance in Iowa (includes rate increase data, health care expenditures, ranking factors that raise or lower costs and other relevant data)
<p><u>HF 2531</u> – Standings Appropriations Bill</p>	<p>This bill has many funding and policy issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Abuse Prevention Income Tax Check Off - Allows individuals to donate money to the child abuse prevention program when they file their Iowa income taxes.
<p><i>Child & Family Economic Success</i></p>	
<p><u>SF 2380</u> – Review of Tax Credits Bill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Established a legislative tax expenditure committee which shall be composed of ten members of the general assembly, consisting of five members from each house, to be appointed by the legislative council. In appointing the five members of each house to the committee, the council shall appoint three members from the majority party and two members from the minority party. This Committee shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate any tax expenditure available under Iowa law and assess its equity, simplicity, competitiveness, public purpose, adequacy, and extent of conformance with the original purposes of the legislation that enacted the tax expenditure, as those issues pertain to taxation in Iowa. For purposes of this section, "tax expenditure" means

	<p>an exclusion from the operation or collection of a tax imposed in this state. Tax expenditures include tax credits, exemptions, deductions, and rebates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain a system for making available to the public information about the amount and effectiveness of tax expenditures, and the extent to which tax expenditures comply with the original intent of the legislation that enacted the tax expenditure. • Review of tax expenditures and budget estimates. • Requires the Committee to submit a report on a statement of the policy goals of the tax expenditure and a return on investment calculation for the tax expenditure.
<p><u>SF 2356</u> – Health Care Reform</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates an interim study regarding premium assistance for individuals with income between 200.0% and 300.0% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). • Expands the provider network for the current IowaCare Program and directs the Department of Public Health to develop a plan for coordination of care for individuals with diabetes. • Creates the Iowa Insurance Information Exchange that is established in the Insurance Division of the Department of Commerce.
<p><u>HF 2526</u> – HHS Appropriations Bill</p>	<p>Expands categorical federal food assistance program eligibility provisions to 160 percent of the federal poverty level and eliminates the asset test from eligibility requirements.</p>