

## 2017 MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Legislators wrapped up the 2017 Session early Saturday morning after working all night long. For the past week, legislators have worked long days to complete outstanding legislation. Both chambers moved a great number of bills. Additionally, all the appropriations bills were sent to the Governor. These bills will result in significant cuts within the Health and Human Services appropriations budgets that will impact the Department of Public Health and the Department of Human Services. Many programs will be negatively impacted by these cuts.

- To read legislative bills in their entirety, access the legislative website at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation>
- In the text box, type in the bill letters (SF or HF) followed by the bill #.
- Legislators contact information can be located at: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators>
- It is important that legislators hear from us! Our voices make a difference. Please thank them for their efforts to find compromises and protect important mental health needs.

### MENTAL ACCESS HEALTH BILLS:

#### **MENTAL HEALTH REGION FUNDING BILL**

Although many did not believe it was possible to pass a mental health levy bill this year, **SF 504** passed the Senate on Tuesday with a vote of 46-4 and passed the House yesterday with a vote of 97-1. The Governor still needs to sign the legislation but once enacted, the provisions will address many long term incongruities and defines the process to examine this more thoroughly in the future. Senator Pam Jochum stated, "One of the few bright spots in the 2017 legislative session was passage of the mental health levy. Although the bill does not solve all of the problems with mental health funding, it does provide equity among the counties within each region."

**SF 504 MH/DS LEVY RATE (formerly SSB 1187)** (From the Ways & Means Committee) Establishes a regional per capita expenditure target for MH/DS services and the property tax levy, and a formula for determining amount. Increases the amount annually by an inflation factor. Many mental health advocates have weighed in on this bill. Senator Feenstra, floor manager of the bill, said the bill is a "key part" of a long effort to fix some of the funding problems in the MH/DS regions. He said that it brings equity in funding and protects property taxpayers. Senator McCoy, who voted against the bill along with other Polk County Democrats, said that the bill treats Polk County and Broadlawns unfairly.

- Keeps provisions that establish a regional approach to determining the amount of funding contributed by counties to provide mental health services.
- Creates a mechanism to ensure that existing fund balances within some Mental Health and Disability Services (MHDS) regions are spent down. In excess of 25% of county services fund be used for services.
- Requests an interim study on the viability of the MH/DS funding provisions in the bill, to meet in 2020 interim and report in 2021.
- Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations relating to the delivery of, access to, and coordination and continuity of mental health, disability, and substance use disorder services.

**DIED IN 2nd FUNNEL: HF 546 MH SERVICES IN REGIONS** (Human Resources; formerly HSB 156)  
Floor Manager: Koester. Would have required MH/DS regions to add core services.

**SF 498 FEDERAL BLOCK GRANTS & HF 624 (withdrawn) (Appropriations) (formerly SSB 1181 and HSB 193)** Kraayenbrink (C), Garrett, Ragan. Appropriates the money from the federal block grants. Total \$436.31 million. Administration & Regulation (\$62.5 million); Economic Development (\$119.38 million); Health & Human Services (\$90.13 million); Justice System (\$1.75 million); Transportation (\$152.5 million). Appropriates the money from the federal block grants. Senate Appropriations (Hinson, Rogers)

and Running-Marquardt) recommended passage. **UPDATE:** Senate Passed; House passed 97-0; Sent to Governor.

**DIED in 2nd FUNNEL: SF 369 PSYCHIATRIC BED TRACKING** (Mathis) (Human Resources). Directs DHS to require state MHIs and hospitals licensed for in-patient psychiatric services participate in the psychiatric bed tracking system and report on the number of beds available for persons with MI/SA disorders. See HF 257. **UPDATE:** Passed Senate Human Resources.

### **THERAPY/TREATMENT BILLS:**

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 215 AUTISM COVERAGE** (Commerce; HSB 41) Floor Manager: Best. Requires health care coverage for public employees who are not state employees to include coverage for autism spectrum disorders. Establishes maximum benefit amounts, preauthorization requirements. Effective after January 2018. **UPDATE:** On house floor, amendment filed. H 1017 by Smith to includes master/independent social workers as providers for autism services. FAILED; H 1174 by Best - Includes supervisory services under applied behavior analysis. Treatment plans reviewed every three months in the first year, and every six months after. ADOPTED; The House PASSED the bill as amended 96-0 along with the Senate. The bill was then signed by the Governor.

### **SUBSTANCE USE BILLS:**

**SF 415 GOOD SAMARITAN LAW – ALCOHOL ONLY** (formerly SSB 1088) Floor Manager: Zaun. Establishes immunity for persons under the legal age for various alcohol offenses, including the loss of a driver's license for a juvenile, if the person seeks emergency assistance for due to an alcohol overdose or for the victim of certain crimes. Requires the person to fulfill certain conditions for immunity, including cooperating with the police. Requires that if the person receiving immunity is under 18 and was drinking, or in possession of, alcohol, that the juvenile court be informed. **UPDATE:** AMENDED (Strikes/Changes immunity protections related to drug offenses.) Senate PASSED the bill 49-0; PASSED House 97-0; Floor Manager: Jones.

**HF 524 PRESCRIPTION CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** (Proposed Committee bill by Chairperson Baudler) (Public Safety; formerly HSB 89) Floor Manager: Klein. Requires pharmacies to do daily reporting of controlled substance prescriptions that are covered under drug prescribing and dispensing program. Requires coverage by health insurance plans for abuse-deterrent opioid drugs as preferred drugs. Includes limits on cost sharing. Makes definitions and includes exclusions for various kinds of health benefit plans. **UPDATE:** H 1220 by Klein - Allows the BOP to enter into an agreement for the exchange of information for the prescription monitoring program with any state, rather than just border states. ADOPTED. The House PASSED the bill as amended 96-0; Senate Judiciary amended and recommended passage; H-1341 by the Senate - Strikes the daily reporting requirement. ADOPTED. H 1461 by Klein - Strikes the Senate amendment and the bill. Allows the BOP to enter into agreements with other states for the exchange of prescription monitoring. Medical Cannabidiol: Expands the diseases covered under medical cannabis, including MS, ALS, intractable pain, terminal illnesses and other illnesses. Establishes an advisory board to add conditions. Establishes timelines for starting the program, including that medical cannabidiol be available by December 2018. Limits the amount of THC to less than 3%. Requires an RFP by the DPH for licensing up to two manufacturers and up to five dispensaries. Includes various requirements for the manufacturers and dispensaries. Includes fees, reciprocity, affirmative defenses, a ban on smoking medical cannabis and other related provisions. Requires the BOP to change the schedule for various cannabidiol investigation products if the federal government does so. ADOPTED. The House CONCURRED & PASSED the bill as amended 83-11. The Senate CONCURRED in S 3388 & PASSED the bill as amended 33-7. It now GOES to the Governor.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: SF 332 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PRECURSORS.** (Proposed Board of Pharmacy Bill) (Judiciary; SSB 1085) FM: Garrett. Adds four synthetic opioids as Schedule I Controlled Substances and an analogue of fentanyl to Schedule II. Removes combination drugs with hydrocodone

from Schedule III, making them Schedule II substances. Makes additional changes to drugs on the various schedules. **UPDATE:** Senate AMENDED & PASSED 13-0; House Judiciary Subcommittee Requires a juvenile court officer to notify the school about a juvenile in custody. **UPDATE:** The Senate PASSED the bill 49-0 **UPDATE:** House passed 98-0 (Floor Manager: Gustafson) 3-30-17; Signed by Governor.

**HF 296 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES (Public Safety; Successor to HSB 61) Floor Manager: Klein.**

Temporary: Allows the BOP to designate substances as temporary controlled substances by rule. Repeals the designation in two years if the Legislature does not act. Fentanyl: Increases penalties for fentanyl offenses to Class B felony/50 years and Class B felony/25 years offenses. Imitation: Rewrites provisions on imitation controlled substances and adds penalties for the sale or distribution of such substances. Makes penalties the same as for Schedule I controlled substances. Requires a law enforcement officer to make an attempt to notify the parents of a juvenile for an offense involving imitation drugs, unless it is not in the best interest of the child. Requires a juvenile court officer to notify the school about a juvenile in custody. **UPDATE:** PASSED 19-0. House passed 89-4; Senate Judiciary recommended passage 3-30-17. Senate amended Strikes the minimum sentence provisions. Does not require a signature on an electronic prescription if the substance is not a controlled substance passed 48-2 on 4/19/17; it now RETURNS to the House for action. S 3351 by the Senate - Strikes the minimum sentence provisions. Does not require a signature on an electronic prescription if the substance is not a controlled substance. ADOPTED. H 1425 by Isenhardt & Abdul-Samad - Adds protections from criminal charges for persons who seek assistance for an overdose victim. RULED NOT GERMANE; MTSR FAILED. The Senate PASSED the bill as amended 48-2 (4/19) the House CONCURRED & PASSED the bill as amended 93-2; To the Governor.

**HF 523 MEDICAL EXAMINER ACCESS TO DRUG PRESCRIBING INFORMATION (Klein) (Public Safety; formerly HF 332)** Allows the BOP to give information from the Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program to the state medical examiner and county medical examiner, pursuant to investigations.

**UPDATE:** House Public Safety recommended amendment and passage. **UPDATE:** The House PASSED the bill 96-0; Senate Judiciary voted out 13-0 on 3-28-17. Placed on Senate Unfinished Business Calendar on 4/7/17

**HF 532 PRESCRIPTION MONITORING (R Taylor) (Human Resources; formerly HF 322).** Requires a prescriber to register with the Iowa Prescription Monitoring Program when the practitioner registers, or renews the registration, with the Board of Pharmacy. **UPDATE:** Amended and PASSED House 95-1. Senate Human Resources PASSED 12-0 on 3/30/17. Floor Manager: Shipley. Placed on Unfinished Business Calendar.

**HF 579 COCAINE/OTHER OFFENSE PENALTIES.** (formerly HF 377) Cocaine: Increases the amounts of cocaine base to trigger certain felony penalties: up to 20 grams for Class C felonies; 20-100 for Class B (25 years); 100 for Class B (50 years). Sentences: Does not require certain Class C drug offenders to serve a mandatory minimum if the offender has not been convicted of a forcible felony. Allows a court to impose a standard sentence without a mandatory minimum if the court finds a compelling reason that not imposing a standard sentence would be a substantial injustice and that a sentence other than a standard sentence is not needed to protect the public. Excludes some offenses for consideration as a standard sentence. Attempted Murder Police: Does not allow an offender convicted of attempted murder of a police officer to earn good time or early release and requires such an offender to serve 100% of the sentence. Reconsideration: Allows sentences other than Class A or Class B sentences to be reconsidered. **UPDATE:** House passed 3/20/17 97-0; to Senate on Unfinished Business Calendar

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: SF 332 CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES/PRECURSORS.** (Proposed Board of Pharmacy Bill) (Judiciary; SSB 1085) FM: Garrett. Adds four synthetic opioids as Schedule I Controlled Substances and an analogue of fentanyl to Schedule II. Removes combination drugs with hydrocodone from Schedule III, making them Schedule II substances. Makes additional changes to drugs on the various schedules. **UPDATE:** Senate PASSED the bill 49-0; House passed 98-0; (Floor Manager: Gustafson); Signed by Governor.

**SF 470 CANNABIDIOL SCHEDULE II** (Public Safety; formerly SF 282) Floor Manager: Greene. Requires the Board of Pharmacy to move a cannabidiol product to Schedule II upon notice that the federal government has moved such a product to Schedule II. Strikes the July 2017 repeal of the Medical Cannabidiol Act. **UPDATE:** PASSED out of Senate Human Resources. On Senate Unfinished Business Calendar. Companion to HF 52

**SF 506 MEDICAL MARIJUANA** Legislators spent much of the last day of the session in negotiations on medical marijuana and reached a resolution Saturday morning adopting a more modest medical cannabidiol bill than approved by the full Senate earlier in the week. The bill expands the covered diseases and includes provisions for manufacturing and dispensaries. The current medical cannabidiol law expires this July. Representative Klein, who worked on the issue for much of the session, said that the bill is a “significant step forward.” Senator Schneider said that bill doesn’t do as much for lowans as SF 506 MEDICAL MARIJUANA, but it will give more lowans access to medical cannabidiol. Senator Bolkom said that the bill is too limited. He said that the cannabidiol products will not help as many patients as the broader provisions of SF 506, which allow the use of more cannabis products. He said that the medical cannabidiol is not effective in treating all of the illnesses covered under the bill.

**HF 520 MEDICAL CANNABIDIOL** (Public Safety; formerly HSB 164) Makes changes to the current provisions on medical cannabidiol, including striking the current July 2017 repeal date. Defines debilitating conditions as intractable epilepsy and other conditions as recommended by UI medical school. Sets the fee for a cannabidiol card from the DPS at \$100, or \$25 for patients receiving public assistance. Makes the patient and caregiver information confidential. Growers: Establishes provisions for the DPS to license growers, cannabidiol manufacturers and dispensaries. Includes licensing considerations. Includes prohibited activities for growers, manufacturers and dispensaries, and inspection requirements. Requires the DPS to set fees and to use the fees, along with card fees, for implementation. Other: Establishes reciprocity. Prohibits smoking or vaping cannabidiol. Establishes an affirmative defense for health care practitioners, growers, manufacturers, dispensaries and growers. UI: Requires annual reports by the UI college of medicine on cannabidiol, including recommendations for additional covered debilitating conditions. **UPDATE:** PASSED Committee. On House Unfinished Business Calendar. House Public Safety approved which extends the current law and require the Board of Pharmacy to move a cannabidiol product to Schedule II upon notice that the federal government has moved such a product to Schedule II,

### **PUBLIC SAFETY BILLS:**

**DIED IN 2nd FUNNEL: SF 453 MH DISCLOSURES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT** (formerly SF 75) Allows a MH professional to disclose the mental health status of a person to a law enforcement professional to the extent necessary to prevent a serious and imminent threat. **UPDATE:** AMENDED & PASSED 12-0; (Includes additional details/requirements on the disclosures such as good faith, which the disclosures comply with standards of ethical conduct, that the threat be to a person and the individual has the capacity to carry out the threat. Establishes immunity for failing to disclose the information and requires only reasonable efforts by the MH professional to disclose information.)

**SF 401 (formerly SF 22) SEX ABUSE PROTECTIVE ORDERS** (Companion to HF 375) Allows persons to file for civil protective orders before an arrest is made for sexual abuse. Allows the court to file an order on a finding of the preponderance of the evidence. Allows the person to seek assistance without paying court costs. Requires the collection of data for the DPS. **UPDATE:** The Senate PASSED the bill 49-0 (3/8); the House PASSED the bill 94-4. It now GOES to the Governor.

**HF 375 SEX ABUSE PROTECTIVE ORDERS** (Heartsill) (Judiciary). Allows persons to file for civil protective orders before an arrest is made for sexual abuse. Allows the court to file an order on a finding of the preponderance of the evidence. Allows the person to seek assistance without paying court costs. Requires the collection of data for the DPS. See SF 22. **UPDATE:** AMENDED & PASSED 17-4; FM: Heartsill (Establishes an automated victim notification system for protective orders. On House Unfinished Business Calendar. Companion to SF 401.

**HF 214 (formerly HSB 15) SEX OFFENDERS.** (Proposed Department of Public Safety bill). Floor Manager: Heartsill. Requires sex offenders to register when the offender is placed in a treatment facility that allows the offender to leave for part of a day. Makes the definition of a sexually violent predator uniform in different parts of the Code (a person who has been convicted of or charged with a sexually violent offense and who suffers from a mental abnormality which makes the person likely to engage in sexually violent offenses). Makes it a child endangerment if a person required to register as a sex offender knowingly takes control of a child, or who knowingly has unsupervised access to a child. Excludes certain persons (parents, guardians or a person married to and living with a parent or guardian). **UPDATE:** AMENDED & PASSED Committee 19-0. Placed on Debate Calendar.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 544 DEPENDENT ADULT DEGRADATION.** Floor Manager: Bergan. Successor to HSB 146. Makes personal degradation of a dependent adult by a caretaker in a DIA program or facility an act of dependent adult abuse and defines such acts. Allows the provisions to be cited as Jackie's Law. **UPDATE:** The House PASSED the bill 93-0; Senate PASSED and bill was signed by the Governor.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 263 DOMESTIC ABUSE/GPS STALKING.** Monitoring: Requires persons who violate no-contact orders or who are convicted of domestic abuse subject to a risk assessment. Allows a court to order electronic monitoring. Offenses: Requires a person convicted of a third offense for domestic abuse to serve at least 1/5 of the sentence. Requires a person convicted of harassment in a domestic relationship to serve a mandatory minimum of one year. Requires a person convicted of a 3rd offense for stalking in a domestic relationship to serve a minimum sentence of five years. Prohibits deferred judgements in such cases. Strikes the requirement that a stalker induce the fear of dying or injury and defines the course of conduct as one that would make a reasonable person feel terrorized or intimidated. GPS: Makes GPS stalking a serious misdemeanor. Good Time: Changes certain domestic abuse, stalking and harassment offenses to Class B offenses for earning good time (from 1 2/10 possible to 15/85 possible). Requires such offenders to complete domestic abuse treatment programs. Risk: Requires the Board of Parole, in conjunction with the DOC, to develop a validated risk assessment model. **UPDATE:** The House approved the bill on a 90-8 vote, but after significantly amending the bill. HF 263 is attached to SF 422 DOMESTIC ABUSE/GPS STALKING, and Senator Schneider will be the floor manager. PASSED HOUSE 48-8; PASSED SENATE 90-8; Signed by Governor.

**SF 468 STALKING OFFENSES.** Includes the repeated use of technological devices to track someone under stalking offenses. Makes it stalking if a person engages in a purposeful course of conduct to terrorize or intimidate another person and does not require that fear of death or bodily injury be

induced in the stalked victim. **UPDATE:** The Senate PASSED the bill 49-0; it now GOES to the House Referred to Judiciary.

### **CHILDREN'S WELLBEING BILLS:**

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 543 (formerly HF 276) DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN** Floor Manager: Bacon. Deems that an unmarried child who is drug-endangered can be the subject of a CHINA. Deems it child abuse for the parent responsible for the child to allow the child to be drug endangered. Defines drug endangered as the child being in the presence or the house of dangerous drug use or manufacture (meth lab). **UPDATE:** The House PASSED the bill 93-0; Senate passed 48-0 on 4/10/17; Signed by Governor.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 545 (formerly HSB 80) CHILD ABUSE DEATHS.** Floor Manager: R Taylor. Requires specific information on the cause and the circumstances in cases of child abuse deaths or near-deaths to be released, including information on previous abuse investigations. **UPDATE:** The House PASSED the bill 96-0; the Senate PASSED the bill 48-0. Governor signed 4-21.

**SF 361 (formerly SF 78) CHILD CUSTODY DELEGATION.** Allows a parent or guardian to designate a person to have custody over a child, through a Power of Attorney. Limits the POA to a year and allows the parent to revoke it at any time. Directs the DHS and the Judicial Branch to develop forms. **UPDATE:** PASSED 13-0; Senate passed 47-2 3/22/17; To House Judiciary subcommittee.

**HF 161 SEX ABUSE AWARENESS.** Floor Manager: Heartsill. Directs the BEE to adopt rules that CE requirements include training on sexual abuse awareness and sexual assault training. Requires schools to offer abuse awareness and prevention in K-12 human growth (sex education) courses. Requires the DOE to develop age appropriate materials. Requires the DOE to seek federal funds. **UPDATE:** PASSED 14-6; House passed 98-0 3/27/17; Senate Judiciary subcommittee recommended passage 3/28/17

**SF 360 SAFE HAVEN ACT** (Human Resources; Successor to SF 183) FM: Chapman. Includes various EMS facilities and licensed child-placement agencies as institutions where a child can be left under the newborn Safe Haven act. Includes requirements on being open 24 hours a day. **UPDATE:** AMENDED (Requires the facilities to be open 24 hours a day.) Senate passed 48-0 3/28/17; Referred to House Human Resources 3/28/17

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 547 (formerly HSB 177) DHS BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS** FM: Heaton. Requires background investigations of applicants, and every 10 years for employees and vendors who have access to income tax information. Requires the DHS to pay for the investigation, unless other arrangements are made in a contract. **UPDATE:** H 1178 by Heaton - Makes the separate background check for state employees discretionary rather than mandatory; maintains the federal background check. Makes corrections and conforming changes. ADOPTED. The House PASSED the bill as amended 91-0; Senate passed 49-0; 4/3/17; Governor signed 4/12/17.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 576 TEMPORARY STAFFING CHECKS** (Human Resources; Successor to HSB 147) Floor Manager: R Taylor. Requires a temporary staffing agency that contracts with a healthcare facility or assisted living program to do background checks on prospective employees. Requires the DHS to evaluate any criminal record or founded abuse record. Requires a staffing agency to notify the facility, and the person, if it discovers a record of founded abuse or a conviction. Requires an employee of an agency to report a criminal conviction or a founded abuse report. Makes an agency liable for damages, civil penalties and attorney fees. **UPDATE:** Governor signed 4/12/17.

**SF 443 CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES** (formerly SSB 1114) Excludes care for children by a bona fide religious institution from the definition of a children's residential facility. Requires the institution claiming the exemption to notify the DHS to allow a limited schedule of inspections. **UPDATE:** AMENDED & PASSED 9-5; FM: Kraayenbrink (A Strike & Replace: Establishes an exception for educational/residential school run by a bona fide religious institution.) On Senate Unfinished Business Calendar 3/31/17. Companion to HF 602

**HF 602 (formerly HSB 186) CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.** Exempts a bona fide religious institution running children's facility from requirements on educational programs if the facility contracts for educational services with a school district or becomes an accredited private school. Requires the facility to be in operation by the effective date of the bill. Effective on enactment. **UPDATE:** PASSED House 58-40 3/27/17; to Senate attached to SF 443.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 133 GUARDIAN AD LITEM.** (Proposed Committee on Judiciary bill by Chairperson Baltimore) Does not allow a person to serve both as the guardian ad litem and as the attorney for a child in custody proceedings. Requires the guardian ad litem to be a practicing attorney and to be solely responsible for the best interests of the minor child. Includes additional details on the duties of the GaL. Requires the court to order that parents and guardians execute any release needed by the GaL. Deems the court to charge to the party responsible for court fees for court costs, unless the court determines that the responsible party is indigent. Attorney: Allows the appointment of an attorney for the child. Prohibits the attorney from testifying or serving as a witness. Includes fee provisions. Investigators: Directs the Supreme Court to establish standards for child care investigators and for family reporters. Allows a court to order a childcare investigator to gather specific information on home conditions, parenting abilities and other related matters. Includes fee provisions. **UPDATE:** House Floor Manager: Hinson. PASSED Senate Committee 13-0; Senate passed 49-0 4/3/17; Governor signed 4/12/17

### **MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE:** ;

**DIED IN 2nd Funnel: SF 458 PSYCHIATRIC LOAN REPAYMENTS** (formerly SF 285) Floor Manager: Segebart. Directs the DPH to establish a psychiatric practitioner loan repayment program. Includes implementing and other provisions. **UPDATE:** AMENDED & PASSED 12-0; (Changes the definition of a psychiatric practitioner. Passed Senate, ayes 48, nays 0. [S.J. 656](#).

**HF 544 DELEGATING PSYCHOLOGICAL DUTIES** (Heaton) (Human Resources). (formerly HSB 146) Allows licensed psychologists to delegate authority for certain services as designated by the BOP (licensed or provisionally licensed persons, applicants and interns). Includes criteria for delegating the service. Requires the BOP to adopt rules on the subject. **UPDATE:** PASSED Committee; On Calendar

### **INVOLUNTARY TREATMENT REGULATIONS:**

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 234 MH ADVOCATE REPORTS** (Human Resources; Successor to HF 50) Floor Manager: Koester. Requires MH advocates to file reports for persons who are involuntarily committed when the advocate believes a report is necessary, rather than quarterly. Strikes requirements that the MH advocate report includes the actions taken with each patient and the amount of time spent on those actions. **UPDATE:** The House PASSED the bill 98-0; Senate passed 48-0 on 4/10/17. Governor signed on 4/21.

**SIGNED BY GOVERNOR: HF 593 MH COMMITMENT EXAMS.** Allows MH professionals to do exams and treat patients, submit reports to the court and prescribe medications if authorized to do so, in certain

voluntary and Involuntary commitments. Allows the MH professional to examine a person who appears to have a serious MI but a commitment application has not yet been filed. Gives the MH professional protections against liability. **UPDATE:** The House PASSED the bill 99-0; House PASSED the bill 99-0; Senate passed HF 593 49-0 on 3-29-17; Signed by Governor into law.