**Legislative Session Approval and Veto Process**

The 2021 Legislative Session drew to a close on May 19, 2021. Although 2,067 bills were introduced in the Iowa Legislature this Session, 169 pieces of legislation made it to the Governor’s desk.

This Digest details legislation enacted by the 2021 Legislature and signed or vetoed by the Governor. The 2021 Session is the first of a two-year biennium of the 89th General Assembly. Bills introduced in this Session that did not make it to the Governor’s desk are alive for consideration in the 2022 Session, subject to funnel deadlines next year. The information section of this digest includes position papers on issues of key interest to Iowa schools that guided our advocates during the Session. We encourage members to share these resources with legislators and stakeholders who might advocate with them during the Interim and into the 2022 Session.

**Process for Signature:** The Governor has 30 days to review all legislation passed by the Legislature in the closing days of the Session:

* Bills received by the Governor during the last three calendar days of session (except Sundays) must be signed or vetoed within 30 calendar days. Governor Reynolds completed her approval/veto action on June 17, before the June 20 deadline.
* The Governor may exercise three types of vetoes: the veto, item veto, and pocket veto.
  + **Veto** indicates the Governor’s disapproval of an entire bill.
  + **Item veto** may be used only for bills which appropriate funds. This action strikes a specific item of an appropriations bill.
  + **Pocket veto** occurs when the Governor fails to take action within 30 calendar days on a bill received within the last three calendar days of session (except Sundays). The entire bill fails to become law in this situation. This rule is in contrast to the process during the Session prior to the last three days, wherein lack of action within three days means the bill becomes law.
* The Legislature may petition to convene a special session, which requires signatures of 2/3rds of the legislators. Additionally, the Iowa Constitution requires a 2/3rds majority vote in both chambers to override a veto.

**Redistricting Following the 2020 Census**

* The requirement to approve redistricting maps following the 2020 Census is anticipated to require a special session. The Iowa Legislature is required to approve new maps of legislative districts by the Sept. 15 deadline. School boards have more time to redraw director district boundaries following the census: Iowa Code 275.23A subsection 2 includes the deadline for action, no earlier than November 15 in the year following the year of the Census (in this case, November 15, 2021) and not later than May 15 of the second year (in this case, May 15, 2022).
* [Radio Iowa](https://www.radioiowa.com/2021/08/12/census-data-delivery-is-trigger-delayed-iowa-redistricting/) reported on August 12:
  + “The boundaries for Iowa’s congressional districts and for Iowa House and Senate districts are redrawn every 10 years based on the updated census count.
  + By law, the non-partisan Legislative Services Agency is to produce a series of new district maps within 45 days of getting the data. With this year’s delay, the legislature is unlikely to meet the September 1 deadline for approving a plan.
  + The Iowa Supreme Court is responsible for overseeing redistricting if lawmakers fail to meet that deadline, but the court has signaled that due to this year’s circumstances, it will allow the legislature to keep following the redistricting process beyond September 1.
  + If legislators reject the first set of proposed maps, the Legislative Services Agency has up to 35 days to present lawmakers with a second batch. If the second set it rejected and a third set of redrawn districts is required, legislators can propose and vote on changes to that third set. The first two plans cannot be altered before legislators vote on them.”
* *We expect a special legislative session to approve the maps. The Governor has indicated her intent to act only on the legislative maps and not take up any additional legislation during the special session.* [*Des Moines Register Coverage*](https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2021/08/12/iowa-got-2020-census-results-data-today-heres-what-means-redistricting-politics-legislature/5543494001/) *of the release of census data, impact on the process, and timing of redistricting decisions reported that legislative leaders expected the special legislative session in late September or early October.*

To follow along with the redistricting process or learn more, check out the Temporary Redistricting Legislative Committee webpage here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/committees/meetings/meetingsListComm?groupID=587&ga=89&session=1>