

# HUMAN RESOURCES

IOWA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

END OF SESSION, 2009

- HEALTH CARE REFORM** Senate File 389 creates expansion and retention programs to increase health care coverage of children, including a dental only plan for *hawk-i* members. Requires Department of Human Services to provide coverage under Medicaid or *hawk-i* to eligible children. Establishes medical work-force shortage initiatives. Directs the Legislative Health Care Commission to develop a health care reform strategic plan including recommendations. [SF 389 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]
- PUBLIC HEALTH MODERNIZATION** House File 811 establishes a voluntary accreditation of public health agencies and an adoption of standards. A new Governmental Public Health Advisory Council is established to propose standards that will be used as the basis for voluntary accreditation. In addition, a new Governmental Public Health Evaluation Committee is established to collect data to find gaps in service delivery effectiveness and needs. [HF 811 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]
- DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS NAME CHANGE** Senate File 204 changes the name of the Department of Elder Affairs and Commission on Elder Affairs to the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) and the Commission on Aging. In addition, the bill makes changes involving the Office of the Substitute Decision Maker, the Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate, the Senior Internship Program, and the Elder Abuse Prevention Initiative. [SF 204 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]
- SHAKEN BABY PREVENTION PROGRAM** Senate File 101 establishes a Shaken Baby Prevention Program within the Department of Public Health (IDPH). The voluntary program is for parents and adults responsible for the care of a child, to educate them about the dangers of shaken baby syndrome. In addition, the IDPH is required to work with experts in child abuse prevention, child health, and parent education in developing the plan. [SF 101 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]
- NURSING HOMES REGULATIONS** SF 433 increases fines for severe incidents, which result in serious harm or death at a nursing facility. The bill conforms with federal guidelines related to surveyor conflict of interest and related to timeframes the Department of Inspections and Appeals should follow regarding notifying facilities of deficiencies and related to return visits to check corrected practices. In addition, the bill establishes health care training requirements for surveyors/inspectors. [SFF 433 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]
- HCBS ASSISTED LIVING WAIVER** House File 317 requires the Department of Human Services to apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for a home and community based services assisted living waiver. Quarterly updates must be provided to the Legislature on its progress. [HF 317 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]

**INDIVIDUAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
ACCOUNTS**

House File 672 clarifies enrollment language by conforming to federal language regarding Individual Development Accounts (IDA). The bill shifts income eligibility to the time of enrollment, allowing for an ongoing eligibility. In addition, the bill eliminates the age limit of 59 ½ years old. IDA's provide low-income individuals and families access to matched savings accounts and other financial tools. The objective is to enable low-income families and individuals to become economically self-sufficient. The bill will apply to all accounts that have been opened since July, 1, 2008.

[HF 672 Signed by Governor, Effective retroactively to July 1, 2008]

**PMIC RATE CHANGE**

Senate File 236 implements a new reimbursement rate that is acuity-based for psychiatric medical institution for children (PMIC) services. The Department of Human Services is to work with providers to develop the rate. The rate change is to offset the out-of-state costs, and to reduce the number of out-of-state placements.

[SF 236 Signed by Governor, Effective May 22, 2009]

**CERTIFIED RETIREMENT  
COMMUNITIES**

Senate File 291 establishes a certified retirement communities program within the Department of Elder Affairs. The purpose is to recognize and promote communities in Iowa that have made themselves attractive destinations for retirees. Retirement communities must apply for certification and meet certain qualifications. A fund is created consisting of fees paid by applicants of the program.

[SF 291 Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009]

**SERVICE ANIMAL COVER-  
AGE UNDER MEDICAID**

HF 488 allows for service animals to be covered under Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waivers. Medicaid will only cover the cost of maintenance for the service animal, with a limit of \$500 per year. A service animal is professionally trained and certified by a recognized certification entity to assist a person with a disability in meeting specific personal care needs or engaging in daily activities.

[HF 488 Sent to Governor]

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**OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST**

- HF 122 Precursor Substances List and Database Extension (Signed by Governor, Effective April 2, 2009)
- HF 314 Department of Public Health Omnibus Bill (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009)
- HF 315 Iowa Collaborative for Youth Development Council and Iowa Youth Advisory Council (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009)
- HF 317 Home and Community Based Assisted Living Waiver (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009)
- HF 319 Child Support Regulations (Signed by Governor, Effective March 23, 2009)
- HF 380 Department of Public Health Policy Bill (Signed by Governor, Effective April 10, 2009)
- HF 381 Pharmacy Support Registration Program (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009)
- HF 562 Child Care Advisory Council Membership and Duties (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009)
- SF 152 DHS Foster Care Omnibus (Signed by Governor, Effective July 1, 2009)