Iowa

In 2019, the Iowa legislature introduced several bills concerning healthcare price and competition. The legislature enacted SF 563, which requires pharmacy benefit managers to disclose in reports to the Insurance Commissioner rebates and fees received. It also requires health carriers to reduce cost sharing requirements for prescription drugs for enrollees. Other noteworthy pending legislation include HF 96, which would provide comprehensive universal single-payer healthcare coverage and a healthcare cost control system, and SF 19, which requires disclosure of the prices charged for health services rendered by health care providers and hospitals. SF 18/HF 162 seeks to eliminate the certificate of need process for new or changed institutional health services.

In the 2018 legislative session. The legislature’s attempts at drug price transparency failed (SF 2026 and SSB 3161). Of the bills that were passed, Governor Reynolds signed a bill to provide telehealth coverage, but vetoed SF 2316, which would have expanded individuals eligible for small-group health coverage in the state. The governor’s actions could boost association health plans (AHPs) in Iowa, which the state plans to launch in 2019.

In the 2017 legislative term, Iowa was relatively inactive in regard to healthcare price transparency, cost, and competition legislation. The state approved a bill that corrects an apparent oversight that has allowed lawmakers to avoid paying hundreds of thousands of dollars each year in health insurance premiums. However, Iowa did not pass legislation concerning constituent healthcare price transparency, cost, and competition.