**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – January 11, 2025**

**STATE AFFAIRS WORKGROUP**

Arnold Baskies, MD, FACS (NJ); Ali Kasraeian, MD, FACS (FL); Kevin Koo, MD, FACS (MN); David Santos, MD, FACS (TX); and Kelly Swords, MD, FACS (CA). The Workgroup will play a critical role in identifying state advocacy priorities, setting new policy objectives, and evaluating state advocacy grant applications among other duties.

**ACS STATE AFFAIRS PRIORITY ISSUES**

* Trauma System Funding and Development
* Cancer Screening, Testing, and Treatment
* Insurance and Administrative Burden
* Professional Liability
* Criminalization of Physician Care
* Access to Surgical Care
* Health Equity

For more information regarding ACS State Affairs Policy Priorities in your state, please contact Catherine Hendricks, State Affairs Manager, at [chendricks@facs.org](mailto:chendricks@facs.org) or Cory Bloom, State Affairs Associate, at [cbloom@facs.org](mailto:cbloom@facs.org). To view a complete list of bills ACS State Affairs is tracking, visit our online [State Legislative Tracker.](https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/QGjJBFIfORzJNAtlNvfp/)

**ACS GRANT PROGRAM**

State Chapters are eligible to apply for ACS State Advocacy Grants and may use funds towards their annual state advocacy day, to hire a lobbyist, or other relevant advocacy functions such as travel costs for members, catering, venue rentals, printing, and more. To learn more information regarding the ACS State Advocacy Grants, apply [here](https://www.facs.org/advocacy/state-legislation/chapter-state-advocacy-grant-program/).

**STATE ADVOCACY DAYS**

Virginia: January 22; Richmond, Virginia

Delaware: January 28; Dover, Delaware

Montana: February 12; Helena, Montana

Indiana: February 18; Indianapolis, Indiana

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

State legislative session dates can be found [here](https://www.multistate.us/resources/2025-legislative-session-dates).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**FLORIDA**

[HB 87](http://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/87/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Joe Casello (D), HB 87 expands covered cancers to include acute myeloid leukemia. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

**INDIANA**

[HB 1116](https://fastdemocracy.com/bill-search/in/2025/bills/INB00013539/) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Cindy Ledbetter (R), HB 1116 allows advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances for weight reduction or obesity. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

**MAINE**

[LD 107](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0072&item=1&snum=132) – Biomarker

Introduced by Representative Samuel Zager (D), LD 107 requires health insurance coverage for biomarker testing. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Committee.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[HD 83](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD83/House/Bill/Text) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Representative Marcus Vaughn (R), HD 83 mandates the installation of bleeding control kits in public buildings; public buildings must have ACS trained and certified designee on staff at all times; provides Good Samaritan protections; allocates funds for the bleeding control kits and the training of designees; the number of kits required per building is determined by a formula. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HD 245](https://www.bing.com/search?pglt=41&q=Masachusetts+HD+245&cvid=455128bbc36a42f784e667c74ce1ce74&gs_lcrp=EgRlZGdlKgYIABBFGDkyBggAEEUYOTIGCAEQABhAMgYIAhAAGEAyBggDEAAYQDIGCAQQABhAMggIBRDpBxj8VdIBCDU0NzBqMGoxqAIAsAIA&FORM=ANNAB1&PC=U531) – Cancer

Introduced by Carmine Gentile (D), HD 245 establishes an advisory council to conduct studies, implement public education programs, and reports on insurance coverage and screening benefits to address pancreatic cancer. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[HD 271](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD245) – Concurrent Surgery

Introduced by Representative Hannah Kane (R), HD 271 mandates informed consent for concurrent surgical procedures; obligates facilities to disclose the practice publicly. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

**MISSOURI**

[HB 710](https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills251/hlrbillspdf/1783H.01I.pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Representative Jeff Knight (R), HB 710 requires a telemedicine encounter meets the same standard of care as an in-person visit; no prescribed drug or treatment to a patient unless there is an established patient-physician relationship. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[SB 522](https://www.senate.mo.gov/25info/pdf-bill/intro/SB522.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Ben Brown (R), SB 522 allows certified registered nurse anesthetists to administer controlled substances in Schedules II-V during anesthesia care without prescriptive authority. The bill was pre-filed in the Senate for the 2025 legislative session.

[SB 524](https://www.senate.mo.gov/25info/pdf-bill/intro/SB524.pdf) – Trauma

Introduced by Senator Mike Henderson (R), SB 524 establishes criteria and processes for designating a hospital as a trauma center; lists requirements for national certification, data submission, and compliance with established guidelines, including those from the American College of Surgeons. The bill was pre-filed in the Senate for the 2025 Legislative Session.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

[HB 232](https://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/lsr_search/billText.aspx?id=303&type=4) – Moral Conscience

Introduced by Representative Mark Pearson (R), HB 232 prohibits adverse actions against healthcare workers for refusing to participate in health care services based on religious, moral, or ethical convictions; requires health care institutions prominently display notices informing providers of this right; allows affected providers to seek damages in the result of violations. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

**NEW JERSEY**

[A 5105](https://pub.njleg.gov/Bills/2024/A5500/5105_I1.HTM) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Assemblymember Nancy Munoz (R), A 5105 requires instruction on bleeding control for students in grades nine through twelve as part of the district’s health and physical education. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Education Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[A 443](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A443) – Step Therapy

Introduced by Assemblymember John McDonald (D), A 443 limits the requirement for patients to try and fail on more than two drugs for the same condition before coverage is provided for the prescribed drug; prevents newly enrolled patients from repeating step therapy protocols completed under a previous plan within the past year. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[A 580](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A580) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Amy Paulin (D), A 580 requires mammography providers to notify patients of dense breast tissue; makes dense breast tissue a medical necessity for insurance coverage of breast ultrasound. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[A 609](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A609) – Telehealth

Introduced by Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal (D), A 609 mandates insurance coverage for telehealth services, including reimbursement parity with in-person services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 768](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S768) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Cordell Cleare (D), S 768 mandates breast cancer screenings for incarcerated individuals be conducted according to nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee.

[S 911](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S911) – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Introduced by Senator James Sanders (D), S 911 mandates two hours of diversity and bias training biennially for license renewal. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[S 987](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S987) – Opioids

Introduced by Senator Samra Brouk (D), S 987 mandates insurance coverage for abuse-deterrent opioid medication; prohibits increased patient costs or prescriber disincentives. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[S 1006](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S1006) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Senator Samra Brouk (D), S 1006 establishes a pilot program to address healthcare worker shortages through promotional campaigns and tours; the program is designed to promote and market healthcare employment opportunities in areas suffering workforce challenges. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[S 1063](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S1063) – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Introduced by Senator Jose Serrano (D), S 1063 mandates licensed medical professionals complete cultural awareness and competence training as part of continuing medical education requirements; $5 fee to complete training; training is required every licensure cycle; mandates hospitals verify training completion before granting privileges. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

**TENNESSEE**

[HB 27](https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/HB0027.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative Aftyn Behn (D), HB 27 prohibits the state from denying, restricting, or criminalizing actions taken regarding pregnancy and reproductive health care, including abortions. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[SB 25](https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/114/Bill/SB0025.pdf) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Senator Mark Pody (R), SB 25 clarifies state law to allow an employee of a local education agency to use a bleeding control kit and treat minor cuts on a minor without seeking parental consent first. The bill was pre-filed in the Senate for the 2025 legislative session.

**TEXAS**

[HB 296](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00296I.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Caroline Harris Davila (R), HB 296 establishes licensure criteria for physicians educated or licensed in foreign countries; must be licensed in good standing in their current country; must have completed post graduate training or practiced as a physician for two years; must be proficient in English and authorized to work in the U.S.; a provisional license may be issued to those with job offers in the state. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 994](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00994I.pdf) – Licensure

introduced by Representative Brian Harrison (R), HB 994 establishes licensing criteria for physicians educated or licensed in Australia, Canada, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, or United Kingdom; must be English proficient; authorized to work in the U.S.; the Board must approve or deny applications within 120 days; a provisional license may be issued to those with job offers in the state. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1132](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01132I.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Tom Oliverson (R), HB 1132 establishes an alternate medical license for a physician who has not received training to perform abortions or a procedure prohibited by state law; licensees must pass a designated exam within seven years. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1756](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB01756I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Christian Manuel (D), HB 1756 allows advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to function as licensed independent practitioners; granting APRNs the authority to prescribe and order drugs, including controlled substances; empowers the Texas Board of Nursing to regulate APRNs. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

**VIRGINIA**

[HB 1596](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1012247.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Nadarius Clark (D), HB 1596 mandates coverage of mammograms, prostate cancer screenings; requires telemedicine services coverage, including the use of patient monitoring and audio-only communication technology. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1635](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1012421.PDF) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Delegate Joshua Cole (D), HB 1635 allows certified nurse midwives and licensed certified midwives to practice independently after completing 1,000 hours of practice and have an attestation from a licensed physician or an independent practice midwife; permits certified midwives to prescribe controlled substances from Schedule II through VI. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1647](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1012477.PDF) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Delegate Cliff Hayes Jr. (D), HB 1647 mandates anesthesiologist assistants (AA) be licensed by the board of medicine; outlines the criteria for licensure; mandates licensed AA work under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist and within the scope of their training and experience. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1700](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1012715.PDF) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Delegate Nadarius Clark (D), HB 1700 mandates the development and implementation of bleeding control programs and kits in all public elementary and secondary schools; including the placement of bleeding control kits in accessible locations; incorporating kits into drills and emergency plans; ensures school board employees receive appropriate training in kit usage; provides Good Samaritan protections. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1714](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1012767.PDF) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Delegate Vivian Watts (D), HB 1714 classifies battery committed against a health care provider while in performance of their duties a Class I misdemeanor. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1828](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013259.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Shelly Simonds (D), eliminates cost-sharing for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 1898](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013564.PDF) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Delegate Rodney Willett (D), HB 1898 allows optometrists with a therapeutic pharmaceutical agent certification to prescribe and administer Schedule II-V controlled substances. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.

[HB 2085](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1015032.PDF) – Insurance

Introduced by Delegate Irene Shin (D), HB 2085 requires carriers pay claims within 40 days of receipt; carriers must notify claim submitters of any defects within 30 days; carriers must offer alternative payment methods that do not impose transaction fees if a credit card or electronic fund transfer is used; carriers must disclose bundling and down coding policies to providers. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[HB 2097](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1015091.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Terry Austin (R), HB 2097 extends no cost sharing prostate cancer screenings to individuals aged 50 and over at risk; 45 and over at high risk; and 40 and over at higher risk; mandates coverage for mammograms. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[HB 2099](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1015109.PDF) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Delegate Michelle Maldonado (D), HB 2099 requires carriers pay claims within 40 days of receipt; carriers must notify claim submitters of any defects within 30 days; carriers must offer alternative payment methods that do not impose transaction fees if a credit card or electronic fund transfer is used; carriers must disclose bundling and downcoding policies to providers. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[HB 2119](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1015185.PDF) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Delegate Wendell Walker (R), HB 2119 expedites the certificate of need process for healthcare projects in "medical deserts" defining criteria for such areas. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[HB 2113](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1015235.PDF) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra (D), HB 2133 mandates no cost-sharing insurance coverage for breast examinations for high-risk individuals. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[HB 2146](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1015285.PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Delegate Eric Zehr (R), HB 2146 extends the statute of limitations to 20 years for professional liability actions involving minors undergoing gender transition procedures. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 Legislative Session.

[SB 740](https://track.govhawk.com/public/bills/1954639) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Mamie Locke (D), SB 740 requires physicians to complete continuing medical education on unconscious bias and cultural competency as part of their license renewal. The bill was pre-filed in the Senate for introduction in January 2025.

[SB 882](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013702.PDF) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Mamie Locke (D), SB 882 establishes a licensing framework for anesthesiologist assistants in Virginia. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Education and Health Committee.

[SB 892](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013729.PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Glen Sturtevant (R), SB 892 requires medical malpractice plaintiffs cases to obtain a written expert opinion certifying a deviation from the standard of care. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Courts of Justice Committee.

[SB 904](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013765.PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator William Stanley (R), SB 904 increases the cap on professional liability lawsuits and exempts cases involving patients aged 10 or younger from increases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Courts of Justice Committee.

[SB 910](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013783.PDF) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Senator William Stanley (R), SB 910 eliminates the certificate of need program to streamline the establishment and expansion of medical care facilities. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Education and Health Committee.

[SB 917](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013974.PDF) – Collective Bargaining

Introduced by Senator Scott Surovell (D), SB 917 establishes a framework for collective bargaining for public employees. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[SB 925](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013801.PDF) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Christopher Head (R), SB 925 requires carriers pay claims within 40 days of receipt; carriers must notify claim submitters of any defects within 30 days; carriers must offer alternative payment methods that do not impose transaction fees if a credit card or electronic fund transfer is used; carriers must disclose bundling and downcoding policies to providers. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[SB 926](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013384.PDF) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Bill DeSteph (R), SB 926 classifies assaults against healthcare providers as a Class 1 misdemeanor with a term of confinement in jail for 15 days. The bill was introduced in the Senate and Referred to the Courts of Justice Committee.

[SB 946](https://lis.blob.core.windows.net/files/1013825.PDF) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Bill DeSteph (R), SB 946 classifies assaults against healthcare providers as a Class 1 misdemeanor with a term of confinement in jail for 15 days. The bill was introduced in the Senate and Referred to the Courts of Justice Committee.

**WYOMING**

[HB 115](https://wyoleg.gov/2025/Introduced/HB0115.pdf) – Moral Conscience

Introduced by Representative Pepper Ottman (R), HB 0115 prohibits adverse licensing actions against health care providers for refusing to participate in health care services based on their ethical, moral, or religious beliefs. The bill was pre-filed in the House for the 2025 legislative session.