**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – March 14, 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 plays 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 or Cory Bloom, State Affairs Associate, at 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**

California: April 9, Sacramento, California

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

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

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ALABAMA**

[SB 190](https://alison.legislature.state.al.us/files/pdf/SearchableInstruments/2025RS/SB190-int.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Steve Livingston (R), SB 190 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing prostate cancer screenings for high-risk men, including those under 40. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee.

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1424](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1424%2FHB1424022720251113.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Representative Lee Johnson (R), HB 1424 requires health insurers to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[SB 139](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FSB139.pdf) – Restrictive Covenant **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Justin Boyd (R), SB 139 voids restrictive covenant agreements in a physician's employment contract. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law March 4.

**ARIZONA**

[HB 2808](https://www.azleg.gov/legtext/57leg/1R/bills/HB2808H.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Ralph Heap (R), HB 2808 prohibits the medical board from taking an action against a licensee causing them to waive a fundamental legal right or liberty without a compelling interest. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**CALIFORNIA**

[SB 535](https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB535/id/3134931) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Senator Laura Richardson (D), SB 535 requires health insurers to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

**CONNECTICUT**

[HB 7101](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/H/PDF/2025HB-07101-R00-HB.PDF) – Insurance

Introduced by the Joint Committee on Human Services, HB 7101 establishes a commission to study the feasibility and economic impact of a single-payer universal health program for the state. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Joint Committee on Human Services.

[SB 1507](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/S/PDF/2025SB-01507-R00-SB.PDF) – Corporate Practice of Medicine

Introduced by the Public Health Committee, SB 1507 prohibits private equity from controlling health care institutions and prohibits interference with health care providers; professional judgment. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Public Health Committee.

**FLORIDA**

[SB 1210](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1210/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Trauma Funding

Introduced by Senator Jonathan Martin (R), SB 1210 creates new civil fines from traffic infractions resulting in a crash with another vehicle to be allocated to the state trauma fund; penalties vary based on the severity and recurrence of the infractions, fines range from $500 to $5,000 and license suspensions from three months to one year. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Transportation Committee.

**GEORGIA**

[HB 654](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/234043) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Lisa Campbell (D), HB 654 prohibits health insurers from denying payment for covered medical tests, procedures, or prescription drugs if the test, procedure, or prescription drug is prescribed by a licensed health care professional. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Hopper.

**ILLINOIS**

[SB 2203](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/SB/PDF/10400SB2203.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Graciela Guzman (D), SB 2203 requires annual impact assessments and governance programs for automated decision tools in health care. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Assignments Committee.

[SB 2259](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/SB/PDF/10400SB2259.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Laura Fine (D), SB 2259 requires health facilities using artificial intelligence (AI) for patient communications to include disclaimers and contact instructions, unless a human licensed health care professional reads and reviews the AI generated communication. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Assignments Committee.

**IOWA**

[SF 562](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SF562.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Sarah Trone Garriott (D), prohibits health insurers from using artificial intelligence in decision making; determinations must be based on clinical information; must respond to prior authorization (PA) requests within 48 hours for urgent requests, ten calendar days for non-urgent requests; requests for additional information must be made within 24 hours after receipt of a PA request; insurers are requires to publish statistics on PA approvals and denials on their website, updated annually. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce Committee.

[SF 575](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SF575.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, SF 575 creates a health care professional incentive program to attract and retain professionals in underserved areas, by offering income bonuses up to $200,000 per professional. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

**KANSAS**

[SB 291](https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/documents/sb291_00_0000.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by the Assessment and Taxation Committee, SB 291 allows optometrists to use medical devices; remove non-perforating foreign bodies from the cornea, conjunctive or eyelids; scraping the cornea for diagnostic tests; closing the tear drainage structure of the eye; express conjunctival follicles; debridement of the corneal epithelium; removal of chalazion; remove and biopsy skin lesions without known malignancy; laser capsulotomy, trabeculoplasty and peripheral iridotomy. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Assessment Taxation Committee.

**KENTUCKY**

[SB 132](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/sb132/bill.pdf) – Moral Conscience

Introduced by Senator Donald Douglas (R), SB 132 prevents physicians from being compelled to participate in medical procedures conflicting with their moral, religious, or ethical beliefs. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Committees.

[SB 153](https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/sb153/bill.pdf) – Medicaid

Introduced by Senator Craig Richardson (R), SB 153 establishes a prepayment review process for Medicaid claims; all claims must be reviewed and responded to within 15 days. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Committee on Committees.

**MAINE**

[LD 955](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0411&item=1&snum=132) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Joseph Martin (R), LD 955 prohibits artificial intelligence (AI) based denials without a physician's review; requires regular reporting on AI systems by carriers to the bureau of insurance. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee.

[LD 961](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0620&item=1&snum=132) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Kristi Mathieson (D), LD 961 allows advanced practice registered nurses to practice without supervision. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services Committee.

**MINNESOTA**

[HF 2172](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2172&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Representative Jeff Backer (R), HF 2172 establishes reimbursement parity between telehealth and in-person medical services. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee.

[SF 2441](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2441&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator John Hoffman (D), SF 2441 prohibits health insurers from denying providers the right to contract as in-network providers based on geographic location. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

**MONTANA**

[SB 361](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=2ee9e2b8-ac00-4cd2-b3d6-d82c0f447888) – Medicaid

Introduced by Representative Josh Kassmier (R), SB 361 prohibits denial of Medicaid claims by health insurers based on submission timing or documentation issues; claims must be processed within three years. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee.

[SB 446](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=724fce83-f531-4c5e-a34a-1ac2c00f816b) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Vince Ricci (R), SB 446 requires a state-licensed physician with a specialty relevant to the condition under review to make adverse determinations and review grievances. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee.

[SB 447](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=75003b64-cbf9-46e4-abda-d604a6c9a2fe) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Vince Ricci (R), SB 447 extends prior authorization (PA) approvals for chronic conditions for the duration of the condition; prohibits PA for generic drugs not classified as controlled substances; mandates adverse determinations during PA be accompanied by a list of covered therapeutic alternatives; requires PA determinations be made by a physician specializing in the relevant condition. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee.

[SB 449](https://docs.legmt.gov/download-ticket?ticketId=abf56bcb-7532-427a-a566-57e89fdc17e1) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Vince Ricci (R), SB 449 requires health insurers to honor prior authorizations (PA) for at least 90 days after enrollees switch plans; prohibits retroactive denials of service once PA is granted; requires health insurers to accept and respond to PA requests electronically. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee.

**NEVADA**

[SB 244](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/SB/SB244.pdf) – Medicaid

Introduced by Senator Roberta Lange (D), SB 244 requires Medicaid to cover obesity treatments including surgery and FDA-approved weight management. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 294](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/SB/SB294.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Edgar Flores (D), SB 294 allows physician assistants with more than 4,000 hours of supervised practice the ability to practice independently. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

**NEW JERSEY**

[A 5419](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5419_I1.PDF) – Criminalization

Introduced by Assemblymember Gregory Myhre (R), A 5419 prohibits health care professionals from providing gender-affirming care to individuals under 21 years old; violations can result in professional misconduct charges. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[A 6362](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6362) – Licensure

Introduced by Assemblymember Philip Palmesano (R), A 6362 enters the state into the interstate medical licensure compact. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[A 6334](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6334) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Assemblymember Carrie Woerner (D), A 6334 establishes reimbursement parity between in-person and telehealth services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[A 6561](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6561) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember David Weprin (D), A 6561 requires health insurers to cover image-guided breast biopsies; provide no cost-sharing lung cancer screenings without prior authorization. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[A 6648](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6648) – Utilization Review

Introduced by Assemblymember Pamela Hunter (D), A 6648 prohibits health insurers from reversing previous determinations of medical necessity, downgrading or bundling claim coding affecting medical necessity determinations; mandates peer-reviewed clinical review tools and criteria consistent with medical and scientific evidence; no prior authorization for emergency services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 5657](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S5657) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator James Skoufis (D), S 5657 enters the state into the interstate medical licensure compact. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[S 6151](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S6151) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Kevin Parker (D), S 6151 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing breast cancer mammography screenings; requires coverage for follow-up diagnostic testing. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 6269](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S6269) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Jamaal Bailey (D), S 6269 limits attorney’s fee to 33.33 percent of the amount recovered; plaintiff’s attorney who believe they are entitled to more compensation may apply to the court; sets fee structure for attorney fees based on the amount of damages awarded. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

[H 390](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H390v0.pdf) – Surgical Smoke

Introduced by Representative Carla Cunningham (D), H 390 mandates the use of smoke evacuation systems in hospitals and surgical facilities. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[S 287](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/Senate/PDF/S287v0.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Gale Adcock (D), S 287 mandates only licensed health care professionals make determinations on health care service necessity; prohibits sole reliance on artificial intelligence for these decisions. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[S 684](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0684.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Bridget Valverde (D), SB 684 prohibits health insurers from requiring prior authorization for prescriptions of generic medication. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[S 701](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0701.pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Senator Pamela Lauria (D), SB 701 allows physicians licensed outside the state to provide telemedicine services to patients in-state when medically and clinically appropriate. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

[H 4103](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4103_20250226.htm) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative B.J. Cox (R), H 4103 expands the scope of practice for optometrists to allow prescribing or using diagnostic and therapeutic pharmaceutical agents delivered by any route of administration; perform surgery where tissue is injected, cut, burned, frozen, sutured, epilated, vaporized, coagulated, or photodisrupted by the use of surgical instrumentation such as, but not limited to, a scalpel, cryoprobe, laser, electric cautery, or ionizing radiation. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

**TEXAS**

[HB 3812](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03812I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Greg Bonnen (R), HB 3812 requires utilization review to be conducted under the direction of a physician licensed in the state to practice medicine; the medical board is empowered to investigate allegations of medically unfounded utilization reviews. The bill was introduced in the Senate and filed.

[HB 3943](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03943I.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Ann Johnson (D), HB 3943 prohibits health insurers from offering higher reimbursement rates to non-affiliated providers; affiliated providers cannot receive higher reimbursement than non-affiliated providers for the same services; prohibits health insurers from steering patients to affiliated providers. The bill was introduced in the House and filed.

[HB 4018](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04018I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Suleman Lalani (D), HB 4018 mandates artificial intelligence (AI) tools do not override the decision-making of health care providers; prohibits AI as the sole basis for denying, delaying, or modifying services based on medical necessity. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 4585](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04585I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative David Spiller (R), HB 4585 prohibits the use of artificial intelligence in utilization review under Medicaid. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[SB 1822](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB01822I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Nathan Johnson (D), SB 1822 requires health insurers to disclose the use of artificial intelligence in utilization reviews. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 1955](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB01955I.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Tan Parker (R), SB 1955 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing coverage for cancer-related screenings and genetic testing for enrollees who have an increased risk of developing cancer, if ordered by a health care professional and supported by nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2012](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02012I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Donna Campbell (R), SB 2012 requires physicians involved with prior authorization determinations provide a full printed name, unique identifier, credentials including board certification and area of expertise; the amount of time spent evaluating information before making a determination must be documented. The bill was introduced in the Senate and filed.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

[HB 3123](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3123%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Dean Jefferies (R), HB 3123 mandates patients with dense breast tissue be informed about their condition and potential risks. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[HB 3215](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3215%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Kayla Young (D), HB 3215 establishes a state-funded pilot program for early cancer detection screenings for firefighters. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[HB 3235](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3235%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Sean Hornbuckle (D), HB 3235 mandates health insurers provide coverage for breast cancer screenings, including one baseline mammogram for women aged 30 to 39, annual mammograms for women aged 40 and over, and additional screenings for women under 40 with a family history or other risk factors for breast cancer; facilities must include breast density information in their reports to patients. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Finance Committee.

[HB 3339](https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3339%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Delegate Anitra Hamilton (D), HB 3339 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Finance Committee.