**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – March 21, 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](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**

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).

**IN THE NEWS**

**Over a Dozen States Looking at Private Equity Investment in Health Care**

As evidence emerges on the clinical and economic consequences, policy makers at the state level are exploring ways to regulate private-equity involvement in physician practices, ambulatory surgical centers, and hospitals.

Over the past 10 years, private-equity firms have increasingly acquired and consolidated physician practices across several medical specialties. There were 75 private-equity physician practice acquisitions in 2012 and 484 such acquisitions in 2021, [more than a six-fold increase](https://www.antitrustinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AAI-UCB-EG_Private-Equity-I-Physician-Practice-Report_FINAL.pdf).

There are two ways states have already started to regulate private-equity firms in health care: 1) states have passed laws requiring increased state oversight for, and transparency of, private-equity health care acquisitions; 2) states have regulated the commercialization of health care through corporate practice of medicine laws. Read more [here](https://www.lexisnexis.com/community/insights/legal/capitol-journal/b/state-net/posts/state-lawmakers-scrutinize-private-equity-s-healthcare-acquisitions?utm_source=National+Conference+of+State+Legislatures&utm_campaign=8495b539f7-Today_March_17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-8495b539f7-384624934), [here](https://www.axios.com/2025/01/15/prospect-bankruptcy-private-equity), and [here](https://www.axios.com/2025/03/17/private-equity-health-care-state-legislation).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ALASKA**

[SB 133](https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/34/Bills/SB0133A.PDF) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by the Labor and Commerce Committee, SB 133 requires health insurers to respond to nonurgent prior authorization (PA) requests within 72 hours, urgent requests within 24 hours; insurers must make their PA standards publicly available; ensures patients with Stage 4 advanced metastatic cancer do not need to undergo step therapy. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Labor and Commerce Committee.

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1816](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1816.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Lee Johnson (R), HB 1816 prohibits the use of artificial intelligence in the generation of medical records unless approved by the FDA and verified by a quality assurance laboratory. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health, Welfare, and Labor Committee.

**CALIFORNIA**

[AB 260](https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB260/id/3178773) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D), AB 260 establishes reimbursement parity between in-person and telehealth services under Medi-Cal managed plans. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[AB 510](https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB510/2025) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Assemblymember Dawn Addis (D), AB 510 mandates any appeal or grievance concerning an adverse determination must be reviewed by a licensed physician with expertise in the relevant clinical area; the review must occur within two business days, or within 24 hours if the patient's health is at imminent risk; if the timeline is not met, the request is automatically approved. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[AB 512](https://trackbill.com/bill/california-assembly-bill-512-health-care-coverage-prior-authorization/2656027/) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Assemblymember John Harabedian (D), AB 512 requires health insurers to respond to prior authorization requests within 48 hours for standard requests and 24 hours for urgent requests; mandates qualified professionals for decision making; prohibits artificial intelligence tools from relying solely on group datasets. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[AB 536](https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB536/2025) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Joe Patterson (R), AB 536 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing coverage for colorectal cancer screenings, except when services are provided by out-of-network providers. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and is pending referral.

[AB 539](https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB539/2025) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo (D), AB 539 requires approved prior authorization requests to remain valid for a minimum of one year. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[AB 1196](https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/AB1196/2025) – Hospital

Introduced by Assemblymember Jamie Gallagher (R), AB 1196 revises requirements for cardiac surgical teams in general acute care hospitals mandating a team of one surgeon and two qualified assistants, who can either be physician's assistants or registered nurses. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

**COLORADO**

[HB 1227](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/2025a_1227_01.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Representative Anthony Hartsook (R), HB 1227 makes it a felony to assault emergency medical care providers when they are engaged in any function related to medical care; establishes second-degree assault by strangulation against a health care worker, when committed with a deadly weapon, can be charged as a crime of violence which mandates incarceration. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**CONNECTICUT**

[SB 1329](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/S/PDF/2025SB-01329-R00-SB.PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by the Judiciary Committee, SB 1329 requires courts to reduce the economic damages awarded by the amount of collateral sources paid in professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[SB 1530](https://www.cga.ct.gov/2025/TOB/S/PDF/2025SB-01530-R00-SB.PDF) – Licensure

Introduced by the Government Administration and Elections Committee, SB 5130 prohibits licensing bodies from denying or disciplining health care providers based solely on actions related to gender-affirming health care services that are legal in the state. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Government Administration and Elections Committee.

**FLORIDA**

[SB 616](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/616/BillText/Filed/PDF) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Jonathan Martin (R), SB 616 allows adult children and parents of adult children to recover damages for mental pain and suffering in professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

**GEORGIA**

[SB 130](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/233959) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Senator Mike Hodges (R), SB 130 expands medical education funding and loan programs to those who agree to practice medicine in underserved rural areas upon graduation. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[SB 142](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/legislation/document/20252026/231990) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Kim Jackson (D), SB 142 creates a pathway for international medical graduates (IMGs) to obtain medical licensure in the state, starting with a non-renewable provisional license valid for up to two years; after remaining in good standing, IMGs may apply for a limited license which can be held for two years and can lead to a full medical license. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

**HAWAII**

[SR 161](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/SCR201_.PDF) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Mike Gabbard (D), SR 161 is a resolution supporting the reactivation of the state health authority to transition to a single payer health care system. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**ILLINOIS**

[HB 3726](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/HB/PDF/10400HB3726.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Kimberly du Buclet (D), HB 3726 requires the state tobacco quit line to provide information and counseling on lung cancer screening; requires retailers to display information on eligibility, effectiveness, and contact details for the quit line. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[HB 3728](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/HB/PDF/10400HB3728.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Anna Moeller (D), HB 3728 allows certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice independently and prescribe Schedule II through V controlled substances. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Rules Committee.

[HB 3782](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/HB/PDF/10400HB3782.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Sonya Harper (D), HB 3782 mandates a treatment which received prior authorization approval remain valid for the duration of the condition or treatment length. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Rules Committee.

[SB 2294](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/SB/PDF/10400SB2294.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Laura Fine (D), SB 2294 requires health care facilities to implement comprehensive violence prevention programs which include reporting requirements, identification of security needs, and systems to flag individuals with a history of violence; prohibits discouragement of reporting violence. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Assignments Committee.

[SB 2450](https://ilga.gov/legislation/104/SB/PDF/10400SB2450.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Karina Villa (D), SB 2450 prohibits disciplinary actions against a health care provider's authorization to practice based solely on their involvement in any health care service that is permitted under state law. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Assignments Committee.

**IOWA**

[HF 303](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/HF303.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by the Commerce Committee, HF 303 requires health insurers to respond to prior authorization (PA) requests within 48 hours in urgent cases and 10 calendar days for non-urgent cases; insurers must annually review and potentially eliminate PA requirements for services routinely approved. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Commerce Committee.

[HF 754](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/HF754.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, HF 754 introduces a rural health care funding model and new incentive program aimed at recruiting and retaining health care professionals in high-demand areas by offering loan repayments or income bonuses. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

[SF 231](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGi/91/SF231.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, SF 231 requires health insurers to respond to prior authorization (PA) requests within 48 hours in urgent cases and 10 calendar days for non-urgent cases; insurers must annually review and potentially eliminate PA requirements for services routinely approved. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**KANSAS**

[HB 2366](https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/measures/documents/hb2366_00_0000.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee, HB 2366 allows naturopaths to order diagnostic imaging studies, perform laboratory examinations, and prescribe prescription-only drugs. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**MAINE**

[LD 682](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0297&item=1&snum=132) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator David Haggan (R), LD 682 reinstates criminal penalties for individuals who perform abortions without proper licensing or after viability, with specific provisions for Class C and Class D crimes based on the circumstances of the violation. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[LD 1128](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0747&item=1&snum=132) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Cassie Julia (D), LD 1128 mandates naturopathic doctors establish a 12-month collaborative relationship with a physician before prescribing non-controlled legend drugs. The bill was introduced in the Legislature and referred to the Health Coverage Committee.

**MARYLAND**

[HB 1489](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1489f.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Delegate Ashanti Martinez (D), HB 1489 requires Medicaid to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Government Operations Committee.

**MASSACHUSETTS**

[HD 97](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H97) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative David Rogers (D), HD 97 requires artificial intelligence deployers to implement risk management policies, conduct impact assessments, and notify consumers when in use. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Advanced Information Technology, Internet, and Cybersecurity Committee.

[HD 1140](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1140.Html) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Daniel Donahue (D), HD 1140 allows advanced practice registered nurses to conduct diagnostic evaluations, determine medical necessity, and issue certifications, written orders, prescriptions, or treatment recommendations; replaces terms like "treating physician" to "treating provider" to reflect inclusion. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[HD 1172](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1172) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative John Gaskey (R), HD 1172 requires health insurers provide coverage for detransition-related treatments. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[HD 1210](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H1210) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Bradley Jones (R), HD 1210 requires patients to be informed when artificial intelligence is used in their health care communications; patients must be provided with how to contact a human health care provider. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[HD 1227](https://legiscan.com/MA/bill/H1227/2025?utm_campaign=rss&guid=5fajYVk0aIqn0DfH8REa9F) – Biomarker

Introduced by Representative Meghan Kilcoyne (D), HD 1227 requires health insurers to provide coverage for biomarker testing; in cases where prior authorization is needed, decisions on standard cases must be made within 72 hours, and decisions on urgent cases must be made within 24 hours. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[HD 1255](https://trackbill.com/bill/massachusetts-house-bill-1255-an-act-relative-to-reducing-unnecessary-delays-in-patient-care/2693067/) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Christopher Markey (D), HD 1255 requires health insurers to respond to prior authorization requests within 24 hours. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[HD 1286](https://trackbill.com/bill/massachusetts-house-bill-1286-an-act-relative-to-colorectal-and-breast-cancer-screenings/2694013/) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Edward Philips (D), HD 1286 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing colorectal and breast cancer screenings. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[HD 2393](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2393.Html) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Marjorie Decker (D), HD 2393 enters the state into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[H 2442](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2442) – Surgical Smoke

Introduced by Representative James Hawkins (D), HD 2442 requires hospitals and surgical facilities to use smoke evacuation systems. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Committee.

[HD 2459](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2459) – Concurrent Surgery

Introduced by Representative Hannah Kane (R), HD 2459 requires informed consent for concurrent surgical procedures; patients scheduled for elective concurrent surgical procedures must receive written notice and informed consent at least 14 days prior, those scheduled for secondary emergency concurrent procedures must receive notice at least 48 hours in advance. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[HD 2484](https://trackbill.com/bill/massachusetts-house-bill-2484-an-act-relative-to-anesthesiologist-assistants/2695165/) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Jay Livingstone (D), HD 2484 requires anesthesiologist assistants to practice under the supervision of a licensed anesthesiologist. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[HD 2557](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/H2557) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Representative Marcus Vaughn (R), HD 2557 requires public buildings with a maximum occupancy of at least 300 people, to have bleeding control kits and trained personnel for bleeding emergencies; each building must have a trained bleeding control kit designee on staff; provides good Samaritan protections. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[H 5159](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H5159) – Corporate Practice of Medicine **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative John Lawn (D), H 5159 provides oversight and regulation of the health care market to review private equity health care acquisitions to ensure transparency, accountability, and equitable access to health care services. Governor Maura Healey (D) signed the bill into law March 8.

[S 46](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S46) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Michael Moore (D), S 46 requires determinations of medical necessity to be made by a health care professional; artificial intelligence tools must be open to inspection for audits and base their determinations on an insured's medical history and individual clinical circumstances, rather than solely on group datasets. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Information Technology and Cyber Security Committee.

[S 770](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S770) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator John Keenan (D), S 770 mandates health insurers must cover services ordered if the service is covered under the insured's plan and adheres to the carrier's clinical review criteria; prohibits health insurers from denying payment for medically necessary services due to administrative or technical defects. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[S 796](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S796) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Mark Montigny (D), S 796 requires health insurers to respond to prior authorization requests within 24 hours. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[S 809](https://legiscan.com/MA/bill/S809/2025) – Biomarker

Introduced by Senator Jacob Oliveria (D), S 809 requires health insurers to provide coverage for biomarker testing; prior authorization for biomarker testing must be processed within 72 hours, or 24 hours if a delay poses a significant health risk. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Financial Services Committee.

[S 1482](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1482) – Surgical Smoke

Introduced by Senator Joanne Comerford (D), S 1482 requires hospitals and surgical facilities to use smoke evacuation systems. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[S 1534](https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/S1534) – Corporate Practice of Medicine

Introduced by Senator Paul Feeney (D), S 1534 mandates only clinicians with independent practice authority can own health care practices; restricts management service organizations from exerting control over clinical decisions, patient records, or employment based on clinical history. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[S 1619](https://legiscan.com/MA/bill/S1619/2025) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Senator Michael Rush (D), S 1619 requires public buildings with a maximum occupancy of at least 300 people, to have bleeding control kits and trained personnel on staff at all times; the number of kits per building will be determined by a formula informed by research from the American College of Surgeons; provides good Samaritan protections. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[S 1628](https://legiscan.com/MA/bill/S1628/2025) – Corporate Practice of Medicine

Introduced by Senator Bruce Tarr (R), S 1628 mandates only clinicians with independent practice authority can own and control health care practices. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Public Health Committee.

**MINNESOTA**

[HF 88](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF88&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Liz Reyer (D), HF 88 changes the title "physician assistant" to "physician associate." The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

[HF 95](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF95&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Mary Clardy (D), HF 95 requires health insurers to provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening and diagnostic tests for all residents; mandates no cost-sharing for additional necessary diagnostics; establishes an education program to raise awareness about colorectal cancer. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

[HF 1838](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF1838&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Andy Smith (D), HF 1838 prohibits the use of artificial intelligence in the utilization review process. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee.

[HF 1913](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF1913&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Licensure/Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Representative Anquam Mahamoud (D), HF 1913 allows the issuance of a limited license to individuals who have practiced medicine outside the United States for at least 60 months after passing medical examinations and securing a collaborative agreement within a hospital; the limited license holders are required to work in a rural or underserved urban area; limited license holders may obtain a full and unrestricted medical license after two years of practice. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

[HF 2465](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2465&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Trauma System Funding

Introduced by Representative Jeff Backer (R), HF 2465 mandates an annual licensing base fee for hospitals; revenue from this fee supports trauma hospital designations. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

[HF 2500](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF2500&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Alex Falconer (D), HF 2500 prohibits the use of artificial intelligence in approving or denying prior authorization requests. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Commerce, Finance, and Policy Committee.

[SF 2391](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2391&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Alice Mann (D), SF 2391 creates a patient compensation fund to manage medical malpractice claims; covers portions of medical malpractice claims exceeding the maximum insurance coverage of a health care professional; funded by membership fees and premium surcharges collected from health care professionals. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

[SF 2607](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2607&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Robert Kupec (D), SF 2607 stipulates changes in coverage terms or clinical criteria by utilization review organizations will not apply until the next plan or calendar year for enrollees who have already received prior authorization; exceptions include situations where the FDA deems a drug or device unsafe, or when independent research or guidelines recommend changes due to patient harm. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SF 2620](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2620&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Stark/Anti-Kickback/Referral

Introduced by Senator Melissa Wiklund (D), SF 2620 prohibits intentionally offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving any form of remuneration, such as kickbacks, in connection with services covered by federal health care or family programs. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SF 2649](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF2649&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Liz Boldon (D), SF 2649 requires cigarette retailers to advertise lung cancer screening resources at the point of sale. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee.

**MISSISSIPPI**

[SB 2415](https://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2025/pdf/SB/2400-2499/SB2415SG.pdf) – Telemedicine **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Walter Michel (R), SB 2415 requires health insurer to provide reimbursement parity between in-person and telemedicine services until 2029. Governor Tate Reeves (R) signed the bill into law March 12.

**MISSOURI**

[SB 696](https://www.senate.mo.gov/25info/pdf-bill/intro/SB696.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Patty Lewis (D), SB 696 prohibits abortions based on the sex or race of the unborn child or diagnosis of Down Syndrome; establishes an eighteen-week gestational age limit for abortions except in cases of medical emergency; violations may result in license suspension, revocation, or a class B felony charge. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

**MONTANA**

[HB 435](https://legiscan.com/MT/bill/HB435/2025) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Jodee Etchart (R), HB 435 requires licensees to report if they are physically or mentally impaired to their medical board and any actions against them that could affect their qualifications or fitness to practice; provides liability immunity for those who report misconduct in good faith. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Business and Labor Committee.

[SB 334](https://legiscan.com/MT/bill/SB334/2025) – Medicaid

Introduced by Representative Jane Gillette (R), SB 334 expands Medicaid to able-bodied adults who meet community engagement requirements. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee.

**NEVADA**

[AB 382](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/AB/AB382.pdf) – Biomarker

Introduced by Assemblymember Tanya Flanagan (D), AB 382 requires health insurers expand coverage for biomarker testing to include all medical conditions, removing previous cancer-specific and medically necessary limitations. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[AB 399](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/AB/AB399.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Assemblymember Rebecca Edgeworth (R), AB 399 requires health insurers to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[AB 463](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/AB/AB463.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Assemblymember Shea Backus (D), AB 463 prohibits health insurers from requiring prior authorization (PA) for covered emergency services; requires health insurers to publish their PA requirements online; urgent PA response times must be within 48 hours for non-urgent care and 24 hours for urgent care; approved PA requests are valid for 12 months. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[AB 470](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/AB/AB470.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Assemblymember Heidi Kasama (R), AB 470 prohibits health insurers from requiring prior authorization (PA) for covered emergency services; requires health insurers to publish their PA requirements online; urgent PA response times must be within 48 hours for non-urgent care and 24 hours for urgent care; approved PA requests are valid for 12 months; establishes a gold card program. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[SB 378](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/SB/SB378.pdf) – Hospital

Introduced by Senator Fabian Donate (D), SB 378 prohibits noncompete covenants from applying to physicians. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 387](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/SB/SB387.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Roberta Lange (D), SB 387 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing annual lung cancer screenings using low-dose computed tomography for individuals aged 50 to 80 with a significant smoking history. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[SB 397](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/SB/SB397.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator James Ohrenschall (D), SB 397 allows naturopaths to order and perform physical and laboratory examinations for diagnostic purposes and perform surgeries; amends the definition of "physician" to include naturopaths. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

[SB 398](https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/83rd2025/Bills/SB/SB398.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Lori Rogich (R), SB 398 requires health insurers to respond to non-urgent prior authorization (PA) requests within 48 hours and urgent requests within 24 hours; adverse determinations must be made by qualified physicians; prohibits insurers from denying claims for emergency services and mandates a response to follow-up care requests within 60 minutes;

requires insurers to exempt a physician from the requirement to obtain PA for specific services if the insurer has granted PA for those services at a rate of 80 percent or more during the previous year. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Commerce and Labor Committee.

**NEW JERSEY**

[A 5288](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A5500/5288_I1.PDF) – Insurance

Introduced by Assemblymember John Azzariti (R), A 5288 prohibits health insurers from setting time limits on anesthesia services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

**NEW MEXICO**

[HB 374](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0374.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Gail Armstrong (R), HB 374 redefines 'occurrence' to include all claims for damages from a single patient’s harm as one event, regardless of the number of providers or mistakes involved. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[HB 378](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0378.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Rod Montoya (R), HB 378 imposes a cap of $600,000 on the total recoverable amount per occurrence for malpractice-related injuries or deaths, excluding punitive damages and past and future medical care; personal liability of health care providers is reduced from $250,000 to $200,000. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[HB 379](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0379.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Rod Montoya (R), HB 379 limits punitive damages to no more than thirty times the state median annual household income; punitive damages against a health care provider will be the personal liability of the provider and can only be awarded if there is clear and convincing evidence of the deliberate disregard for the rights or safety of others. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[HB 570](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/house/HB0570.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Jenifer Jones (R), HB 570 prohibits prior authorization for FDA approved drugs for treating diabetes and high blood pressure. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 477](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0477.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Martin Hickey (D), SB 477 eliminates the need for prior authorization and prohibits step therapy for medications approved by the FDA when prescribed for the treatment or prevention of cancer. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Public Affairs Committee.

[SB 500](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0500.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator David Gallegos (R), SB 500 prohibits health care providers from performing or providing information about gender transition procedures to minors; violations can result in disciplinary actions including license suspension and private legal actions. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

[SB 508](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/bills/senate/SB0508.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Heather Berghmans (D), SB 508 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing coverage for preventive, reproductive, and gender-affirming health care services. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Finance Committee.

[SM 25](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/memorials/senate/SM025.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Pete Campos (D), SM 25 requests the creation of a joint task force to review and improve the medical malpractice system. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[A 5130](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A5130) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Assemblymember Michaelle Solages (D), A 5130 allows physician assistants with more than 3,600 hours of practice to practice independently. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[A 5160](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A5160) – Diversity Equity and Inclusion

Introduced by Assemblymember Michaelle Solages (D), A 5160 requires all physicians to complete biennial training focused on diversity, inclusion, and the elimination of bias to maintain their professional licenses. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[A 5176](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A5176) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Michaelle Solages (D), A 5176 mandates no cost-sharing cancer screenings for various types of cancer including breast, cervical, colon, prostate, testicular, and ovarian cancer to underserved populations; creates outreach campaign to raise awareness about cancer detection and education services. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[A 6728](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6278) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Assemblymember Phil Steck (D), A 6278 requires health insurers to provide electronic notifications for prior authorization of prescriptions. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[A 6771](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6771) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Assemblymember Karines Reyes (D), A 6771 requires certified registered nurse anesthetists with less than 3,600 hours of practice to work under the direction of a qualified physician; those with more experience can function in an interdependent role as a member of a care team. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[A 6835](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/A6835) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Assemblymember John McDonald (D), A 6835 allows individuals involved in medical review meetings to testify if they are parties to related legal actions in professional liability cases. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Higher Education Committee.

[S 4641A](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S4641A) – Restrictive Covenants

Introduced by Senator Sean Ryan (D), S 4641A prohibits non-compete agreements for physicians unless they earn $500,000 or more annually. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Labor Committee.

[S 4689](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S4689) – Step Therapy

Introduced by Senator Cordell Cleare (D), S 4689 requires health insurers to report annually regarding the number of step therapy override requests received, the types of health care providers submitting requests, and the outcomes of requests; non-confidential information regarding override requests must be made publicly accessible via a website; written notice must be provided sixty days in advance of new restrictions or requirements for step therapy. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 4721](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S4721) – Step Therapy/Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Patricia Fahy (D), S 4721 mandates if a health insurer does not make a determination on a prior authorization request within established time periods, it will automatically be considered approved; failure to meet time periods for a step therapy protocol approval or override determination will be deemed an override of the step therapy protocol. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Committee.

[S 4964](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S4964) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Jamaal Bailey (D), S 4964 removes the requirement for licensees to obtain a declination from an association or apply for insurance through a plan as condition for procuring insurance. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 5302](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S5302) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Jessica Scarcella-Spanton (D), S 5302 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing colorectal cancer screenings for average-risk individuals starting at age 35; requires annual notifications to insured individuals about covered screenings. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[S 6551](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S6551) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Jamaal Bailey (D), S 6551 includes image-guided biopsies under mandatory health insurance coverage for breast cancer screening. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

[H 455](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/House/PDF/H455v0.pdf) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Representative Keith Kidwell (R), H 455 repeals certificate of need laws. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[S 315](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2025/Bills/Senate/PDF/S315v0.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Jim Burgin (R), S 315 prohibits the use of artificial intelligence as the sole basis for adverse determinations; requires urgent prior authorization requests be decided upon within 24 hours.

**OREGON**

[HB 5049](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB5049/A-Engrossed) – Trauma System Funding

Introduced by the Ways and Means Committee, HB 5049 allocates $331,824 to the Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

[SB 451](https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB451/A-Engrossed) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Deb Patterson (D), SB 451 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing cervical cancer screenings and follow-up exams. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health Care Committee.

**PENNSLYVANIA**

[HB 926](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/HB0926/PN0974) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Representative Leanne Krueger (D), HB 926 requires health facilities to establish committees for workplace violence prevention, conduct annual risk assessments, and provide employee training. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Labor and Industry Committee.

[SB 271](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/SB0271/PN0225) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Senator Amanda Cappelletti (D), SB 271 requires health insurers to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[HB 5430](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5430.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Kathleen Fogarty (D), HB 5430 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[HB 5465](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/HouseText25/H5465.pdf) – Single Payer

Introduced by Representative David Morales (D), HB 5465 establishes a single-payer health care system. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Finance Committee.

[S 270](https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText/BillText25/SenateText25/S0270.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Elaine Morgan (R), S 270 prohibits gender transition procedures for minors; violators can be held civilly liable. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

[HB 4142](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4142_20250305.htm) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Representative Christopher Hart (D), HB 4142 increases the limit on recoverable damages on claims against governmental entities involving licensed physicians to $2.5 million. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee.

**TEXAS**

[HB 18](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00018I.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Representative Gary VanDeaver (R), HB 18 establishes grant programs to improve the financial stability and operational viability of rural hospitals. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Public Health Committee.

[HB 149](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB00149I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Giovanni Capriglione (R), HB 149 requires clear disclosures to patients when interacting with artificial intelligence systems involved in health care; fines ranging from $10,000 to $200,000 with additional penalties for ongoing non-compliance. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Government Efficiency Committee.

[HB 2639](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB02639I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Suleman Lalani (D), HB 2639 requires prior authorization determinations for health care services to be made by a physician of the same specialty as the requesting provider. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[HB 2641](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB02641I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Suleman Lalani (D), HB 2641 prohibits preauthorization for antineoplastic cancer treatments. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 2659](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB02659I.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Suleman Lalani (D), HB 2659 requires mammography facilities to provide patients with specific notes based on their reported breast density. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 2677](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB02677I.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Representative Senfronia Thompson (D), HB 2677 mandates Medicaid reimbursement for bariatric surgery. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 2922](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB02922I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative David Spiller (R), HB 2922 prohibits artificial intelligence from being the sole basis for health care decisions based on medical necessity or appropriateness. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 3127](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03127I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Salman Bhojani (D), HB 3127 requires prior authorization response times to be no greater than three calendar days. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 3794](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03794I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Drew Darby (R), HB 3794 allows advanced practice registered nurses to practice independently. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 3845](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB03845I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Tom Oliverson (R), HB 3845 prohibits health insurers from compensating utilization review agents based on the volume of adverse determinations or reductions in services; prohibits utilization review agents from incentivizing or pressuring employees to make adverse determinations. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 4102](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04102I.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Hubert Vo (D), HB 4102 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 4168](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04168I.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Elizabeth Campos (D), HB 4168 requires physicians to declare proper supervision and delegation of medical acts to non-physician providers on their registration renewal applications. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 4255](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04255I.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Don McLaughlin (R), HB 4255 allows the medical board to issue medical licenses to individuals with nonviolent property felony conditions if they had a license previously, completed penalty requirements, and paid all fines. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 4455](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04455I.pdf) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Salman Bhojani (D), HB 4455 requires health care providers using artificial intelligence (AI) to implement an automated messaging system to inform patients about the use of AI in their care and provide contact information for a health care provider available to address any questions or concerns. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 4681](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB04681I.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Representative Tom Oliverson (R), HB 4681 requires health insurers to provide a written explanation of benefits, including plain-language descriptions of services and identifying codes; requires any changes to prior authorization (PA) be prominently displayed on the insurer’s website; changes to PA must be communicated in writing to affected parties 60 business days before taking effect. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 5178](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB05178I.pdf) – Biomarker

Introduced by Representative Donna Howard (D), HB 5178 requires health insurers to provide coverage for biomarker testing. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 5311](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB05311I.pdf) – Medicaid

Introduced by Representative James Talarico (D), HB 5311 establishes a Medicaid buy-in program to provide health coverage to uninsured individuals who qualify depending on household income. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[HB 5343](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/HB05343I.pdf) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Representative Ryan Guillen (R), HB 5343 establishes reimbursement parity between in-person and telemedicine services. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

[SB 1257](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB01257I.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Bryan Hughes (R), SB 1257 requires health insurers to cover adverse effects and reversals of gender transition procedures. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SB 1859](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB01859I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Mayes Middleton (R), SB 1859 allows advanced practice registered nurses to practice independently. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2181](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02181I.pdf) – Truth in Advertising

Introduced by Senator Brent Hagenbuch (R), SB 2181 mandates advertisements must include the health professional's name and professional identification; requires health professionals use specific designation based on their licenses and restricts the use of medical titles by individuals not licensed to practice medicine. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2380](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02380I.pdf) – Professional Liability

Introduced by Senator Jose Menendez (D), SB 2380 grants immunity from criminal liability to health care practitioners for acts or omissions in their services unless they are criminally negligent, reckless, knowing, or intentional. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2432](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02432I.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Tan Parker (R), SB 2432 mandates no cost-sharing cancer screenings for firefighters starting in their fifth year of employment and every three years thereafter. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2695](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02695I.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Senator Lois Kolkhorst (R), SB 2695 establishes programs to support students from counties with populations under 25,000 in pursuing medical education by providing scholarships, stipends, and guaranteed admission to participating medical schools. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2729](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02729I.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery

Introduced by Senator Molly Cook (D), SB 2729 requires health insurers provide coverage for bariatric surgery under Medicaid. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 2792](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB02792I.pdf) – Workplace Violence

Introduced by Senator Royce West (D), SB 2792 seeks to address harassment of hospital personnel on hospital property; expands the definition of harassment to include acts where an individual with the intent of assaulting or harassing hospital personnel working on hospital property to come into contact with bodily fluids, unless the contact occurs in the ordinary course of delivering health care services is a criminal offense. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

[SB 3021](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB03021I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Cesar Blanco (D), SB 3021 allows advanced practice registered nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists and clinical nurse specialists to practice independently after practicing for three years under physician supervision. The bill was filed in the Senate and is pending introduction.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

[HB 2007](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb2007%20intr.pdf) – Ambulatory Surgical Centers

Introduced by Speaker Roger Hanshaw (R), HB 2007 ends the certificate of need process. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Human Resources Committee.

[HB 2049](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb2049%20intr.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Delegate Evan Worrell (R), HB 2049 allows physician assistants to own practices. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[HB 2072](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb2072%20intr.pdf) – Moral Conscience

Introduced by Delegate Jonathan Pinson (R), HB 2072 allows health care providers to refuse participation in gender transition-related procedures based on religious or conscientious objections. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[HB 3150](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3150%20intr.pdf) – Rural Health Workforce

Introduced by Delegate Joe Ellington (R), HB 3150 increases loans from $10,000 to $20,000 per academic year in the medical student loan program; requires recipients to practice in designated shortage areas. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Education Committee.

[HB 3308](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3308%20intr.pdf) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Delegate Chris Anders (R), HB 3308 ends the certificate of need process. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[HB 3311](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb3311%20intr.pdf) – Certificate of Need

Introduced by Delegate Wayne Clark (R), HB 3311 exempts counties with a 0.5% or greater population growth in a single year from the certificate of need process. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[SB 30](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb30%20intr.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Jack Woodrum (R), SB 30 requires health insurers to provide coverage for medically necessary treatments related to cleft lip and palate for children up to age 19, including oral and facial surgery. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[SB 119](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb119%20intr.pdf) – STOP THE BLEED®

Introduced by Senator Tom Takubo (R), SB 119 requires each county board of education to develop a program that includes the placement of bleeding control kits in classrooms and common areas of schools; schools must conduct biennial training for faculty and staff on recognizing and managing life-threatening bleeding; curriculum for students in grades nine through twelve will incorporate bleeding control training; bleeding control kits must be inspected annually and restocked after each use; school personnel are granted immunity from civil liability for actions taken in use of kits. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Education Committee.

[SB 156](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb156%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Laura Chapman (R), SB 156 requires health insurers to provide no cost-sharing diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Human Resources Committee.

[SB 167](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/bill_status/bills_text.cfm?billdoc=sb167%20intr.htm&yr=2025&sesstype=RS&i=167) – Telemedicine

Introduced by Senator Laura Chapman (R), SB 167 allows out-of-state medical providers to continue practicing telemedicine in the state; requires an in-person visit within 12 months of the initial telemedicine services. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[SB 262](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb262%20intr.pdf) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Laura Chapman (R), SB 262 requires health insurers provide coverage for annual breast cancer screenings, including mammograms and ultrasounds, for women over 40 and those under 40 with risk factors. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Banking and Insurance Committee.

[SB 279](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb279%20intr.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Senator Michael Azinger (R), SB 279 prohibits gender transition surgeries, treatments, and therapies for minors under the age of 21; penalties for violations can include license revocation and fines up to $10,000 per occurrence. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

[SB 660](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2025_SESSIONS/RS/bills/sb660%20intr.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Thomas Willis (R), SB 660 allows physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners to practice independently; prohibits relevant boards from proposing any rules that would require physicians’ oversight. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Resources Committee.

**WISCONSIN**

[AB 104](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2025/related/proposals/ab104.pdf) – Criminalization

Introduced by Representative Scott Allen (R), AB 104 prohibits gender transition medical interventions for minors; violations may result in license revocation. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health, Aging and Long-Term Care Committee.