**ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – April 25, 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**

District of Columbia: May 17, District of Columbia

**STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

Legislative adjournments: Arkansas (4/16), Georgia (4/4); Idaho (4/4); Indiana (4/24); Kansas (4/11); Kentucky (3/28); Maryland (4/7); Mississippi (4/3); New Mexico (3/22); South Dakota (3/31); Tennessee (4/22); Utah (3/7); Virginia (2/22); Washington (4/27); West Virginia (4/12), and Wyoming (3/6).

**LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

**ARKANSAS**

[HB 1424](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1424%2FHB1424040120251504.pdf) – Bariatric Surgery **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Lee Johnson (R), HB 1424 requires health insurers to provide coverage for bariatric surgery. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

[HB 1429](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1429%2FHB1429040720251118.pdf) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Matthew Shepard (R), HB 1429 allows mammography interpreting physicians to be available via telecommunication rather than on-site. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 17.

[HB 1916](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FHB1916%2FHB1916040220250949.pdf) – Professional Liability **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Mary Bentley (R), HB 1916 amends state law to include gender-affirming interventions on minors as a basis for malpractice claims which can result in punitive or compensatory damages. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders signed the bill into law April 16.

[SB 601](https://arkleg.state.ar.us/Home/FTPDocument?path=%2FBills%2F2025R%2FPublic%2FSB601%2FSB601040920251123.pdf) – Licensure **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Bart Hester (R), SB 601 creates a pathway for international medical graduates (IMGs) to acquire licensure; IMGs must have an active, unrestricted license to practice in a foreign country, and have practiced medicine actively in the four years preceding their application; applicants must have their credentials evaluated by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates; must commit to a two year period of practice in an underserved or health professional shortage area and have a full-time employment offer. Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

**CALIFORNIA**

[AB 980](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB980&version=20250AB98098AMD) – Utilization Review

Introduced by Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D), AB 980 requires the use of clinical criteria for utilization reviews (UR); allows for administrative or civil penalties for violations related to UR. The bill was introduced in the Assembly and referred to the Health Committee.

[ACR 66](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billPdf.xhtml?bill_id=202520260ACR66&version=20250ACR6699INT) – Cancer

Introduced by Assemblymember Diane Dixon (R), ACR 66 designates May 2025 as skin cancer awareness month. The resolution was introduced in the Assembly and is pending referral to a committee.

**COLORADO**

[SB 301](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/2025a_301_01.pdf) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Barbara Kirkmeyer (R), SB 301 allows health care providers to adjust the dose or frequency of a chronic maintenance drug without requiring prior authorization (PA); the drug must be previously approved, and the dose or frequency must not have been adjusted more than twice without PA; excludes opioids. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**MAINE**

[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 repeals state law requiring a certified nurse practitioner to practice for at least 24 months under the supervision of a physician or supervising nurse practitioner. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Coverage Committee.

[LD 1757](https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP1175&item=1&snum=132) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Kristi Mathieson (D), LD 1757 requires osteopathic licensure applicants who graduated from an accredited osteopathic medical school after 2025 to complete at least 36 months in a graduate educational program and pass the COMLEX-USA exam; sets the osteopathic licensure fee at $600. The bill was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

**MICHIGAN**

[SB 245](https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billintroduced/Senate/pdf/2025-SIB-0245.pdf) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Jeff Irwin (D), SB 245 requires clean claims to be paid by health insurers within 45 days after receipt; allows civil cause of action to be filed against health insurers for bad faith practices when settling a claim. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Finance, Insurance, and Consumer Protection Committee.

**MINNESOTA**

[HF 1011](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=HF1011&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Robert Bierman (D), HF 1011 prohibits optometrists from administering drugs by sub-tenon, retrobulbar, or intravitreal injection; prohibits optometrists from administering or prescribing oral antivirals for more than ten days or steroids to be administered or prescribed for more than 14 days without consultation with a physician. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

[SF 1144](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1144&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Erin Quade (D), SF 1144 prohibits optometrists from administering drugs by sub-Tenon, retrobulbar, or intravitreal injection; prohibits optometrists from administering or prescribing oral antivirals for more than ten days or steroids to be administered or prescribed for more than 14 days without consultation with a physician. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

[SF 3408](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF3408&version=0&session=ls94&session_year=2025&session_number=0&format=pdf) – Student Loan Repayment

Introduced by Senator Torrey Westrom (R), SF 3408 amends state law to include medical residents and physicians in emergency medicine to the health professional education loan forgiveness program. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**MISSOURI**

[HB 225](https://documents.house.mo.gov/billtracking/bills251/hlrbillspdf/0321S.03C.pdf) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Jeff Myers (R), HB 225 requires physicians applying for licensure to submit fingerprints. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Crime and Public Safety Committee.

**MONTANA**

[HB 218](https://bills.legmt.gov/#/lc/bill/2/LC1814) – Scope of Practice **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Greg Hertz (R), HB 218 allows optometrists to provide in-office surgical procedures and laser surgical procedures limited to the anterior segment of the eye and adnexa. Governor Greg Gianforte (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

[SB 347](https://bills.legmt.gov/#/lc/bill/2/LC3474) – Licensure **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Sue Vinton (R), SB 347 mandates interns or resident physicians are no longer exempt from licensing requirements; allows individuals who have completed the first year of an approved residency program and are in good standing to qualify for a physician’s license. Governor Greg Gianforte (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

[SB 361](https://bills.legmt.gov/#/lc/bill/2/LC1894) – Medicaid **ENACTED**

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. Governor Greg Gianforte (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

**NEW JERSEY**

[A 4163](https://pub.njleg.state.nj.us/Bills/2024/A4500/4163_R2.PDF) – Biomarker **ENACTED**

Introduced by Assemblymember Shavonda Sumter (D), A 4163 requires health insurers and Medicaid to provide coverage for biomarker testing for the diagnosis, treatment, management or disease monitoring; must be accessible without causing significant disruption to patient care; establishes timelines for utilization review. Governor Phil Murphy (D) signed the bill into law April 23.

**NEW MEXICO**

[HB 36](https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/25%20Regular/Amendments_In_Context/HB0036.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Dayan Hochman-Vigil (D), HB 36 allows optometrists to use a laser for treatment of capsular clouding or other defects and to structures within the ocular anterior segment of the eye for the prevention or treatment of glaucoma. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**NEW YORK**

[S 7470](https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2025/S7470) – Insurance

Introduced by Senator Brad Holyman-Sigal (D), S 7470 requires prior authorization exemptions for a health care professional if they have a 90% approval rate for a particular service within the past six months; prohibits health insurers from retroactively denying or reducing payments for services covered by automatic pre-authorization. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Insurance Committee.

**NORTH DAKOTA**

[SB 2076](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/69-2025/regular/documents/25-8085-03000.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by the Human Services Committee, SB 2076 mandates prior authorization is allowed exclusively for drugs where non-authorized alternatives are ineffective, cause adverse reactions, or are not supported by medical research. Governor Kelly Armstrong (R) signed the bill into law April 17.

[SB 2280](https://ndlegis.gov/assembly/69-2025/regular/documents/25-1180-05000.pdf) – Prior Authorization **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Scott Meyer (R), SB 2280 requires prior authorization (PA) review entities to make their requirements available online and notify health care professionals of any changes within 60 days; adverse determinations must be made by a licensed professional with relevant experience; non-urgent denials must be made within seven days, non-urgent denials must be within 72 hours; prohibits PA for emergency medical services; requires annual reporting to insurance commissioner on PA requests and outcomes. Governor Kelly Armstrong (R) signed the bill into law April 21.

**OKLAHOMA**

[HB 2051](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20COMMITTEE%20SUBS/SCSH/HB2051%20SCSH.PDF) – Licensure/Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Preston Stinson (R), HB 2051 establishes a framework for medical school graduates to practice under the supervision of a physician; medical school graduates must enter into a collaborative agreement by the end of the calendar year from when they graduate with a supervising physician; allows a temporary, nonrenewable license for supervised medical school graduates valid for two years. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health and Human Services Committee.

**PENNSYLVANIA**

[HB 1140](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/text/PDF/2025/0/HB1140/PN1449) – Insurance

Introduced by Representative Nancy Guenst (D), HB 1140 requires health insurers to provide no-cost sharing coverage for voluntary sterilization surgeries. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Insurance Committee.

[HR 199](https://www.palegis.us/legislation/bills/2025/hr199) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Milou Mackenzie (R), HR 199 designates October 2025 as breast cancer awareness month and October 17th, 2025, as national mammography day. The resolution was filed in the House and is pending introduction.

**TEXAS**

[SB 3055](https://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/89R/billtext/pdf/SB03055I.pdf) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Senator Mayes Middleton (R), SB 3055 authorizes independent practice for advanced practice registered nurses who have either held an unencumbered license for 10 years or 20,000 hours in any state or practiced for 8,000 hours under a supervising physician's prescriptive authority agreement. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the State Affairs Committee.