



Government Relations

PHARM

SB502/HB916 **TENNCARE: Report on use and cost of opioids and other controlled substances in prescription drug program.**

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Rudder, Iris

Summary: Extends, from January 15 to February 1 of each calendar year, the due date of the annual report required to be submitted by the bureau of TennCare to certain legislative committees on the use and cost of opioids and other controlled substances in the prescription drug program for the TennCare program. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: House Insurance committee amendment 1 (005100) defines "clinician-administered drug" as an outpatient prescription drug other than a vaccine that cannot reasonably be self-administered by the patient, has been ordered administration by a healthcare provider, and is administered by a healthcare provider in an outpatient center or clinical setting. Defines "commercial health insurance policy" as health insurance coverage through a policy issued by a health insurance entity. Defines various health insurance terms. Prohibits a health insurance entity from conditioning, denying, restricting, or refusing to authorize or approve, fail to cover, or reduce payment to a participating healthcare service provider for a clinician-administered drug because the drug is purchased and administered by a participating healthcare services provider or obtained through a pharmacy that is not contracted in the health insurance entity's network. Requires a health insurance entity to pay a participating healthcare services provider at the provided rate for the clinician-administered drug. Adds various prohibitions onto health insurance providers to prevent the refusal of payment or authorization of use of the drug. House Insurance committee amendment 2 (006048) excludes managed care organizations that is participating in the medical assistance program or the CoverKids program. Prohibits a specialty pharmacy participating in the health insurance entity's specialty network from refusing to provide a clinician-administered drug based on the covered person's inability to pay the portion of the cost of such drug for which the covered person is responsible under the terms of the health insurance coverage.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 26, 2023) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 03/21/23 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee deferred to the first calendar of 2024.

House Status: 02/13/24 - House Insurance Committee recommended. Sent to House Calendar & Rules.

SB620/HB1414 **FAMILY LAW: Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act.**

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark , Rep. Raper, Kevin

Summary: Enacts the "Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act", which declares that the ability of a parent to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of that parent's child is a fundamental right. Details how to bring a suit for potential violations of this act. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated March 24, 2023) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/06/24 - Senate Judiciary Committee deferred to 02/27/24.

House Status: 02/07/23 - Referred to House Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee.

SB869/HB282 **HEALTH CARE: Practice of pharmacy.**

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Baum, Charlie

Summary: Authorizes as part of the practice of pharmacy the prescribing of dietary fluoride supplements, certain immunization agents, opioid antagonists, and certain other drugs and products. Makes various other changes to pharmacy practice including professional judgement and health and safety. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 24, 2023) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/06/23 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 01/24/23 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB1170/HB1457 **HEALTH CARE: Due date for renewal of fees by professional or registered nurse.**

Sponsors: Sen. Swann, Art , Rep. Cochran, Mark

Summary: Increases the length of notice the executive director of the board must give a person holding a current licensure registration to practice as a professional or registered nurse that the renewal fee is due, from 60 days to 65 days prior to the due date of the renewal fee. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: Senate Commerce & Labor Committee amendment 1 (006457) expands the scope of practice of physician assistants and makes changes to collaboration requirements for physician assistants. Authorizes a physician assistant with greater than 6,000 hours of postgraduate clinical experience to apply to the Board of Physician Assistants (Board) for an endorsement on the physician assistant's license and to practice independently without a collaborating physician. Establishes that a physician assistant with fewer than 6,000 hours of postgraduate clinical experience must collaborate with a physician and may only hold a minority ownership interest in a healthcare setting. Authorizes a physician assistant to render emergency medical services in cases where immediate diagnosis and treatment are necessary to avoid disability or death. Establishes that a physician assistant who has received an endorsement certifying greater than 6,000 hours of postgraduate clinical experience may prescribe, dispense, order, administer, and procure appropriate medical devices, legend drugs, and controlled substances that are within the physician assistant's scope of practice, experience, and training, if the physician assistant has registered and complied with all applicable requirements of state law and rules and the federal drug enforcement administration. Requires the Board to monitor the prescriptive practices of physician assistants through site visits. Takes effect January 1, 2024.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 3, 2023) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 03/28/23 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee deferred to first calendar of 2024.

House Status: 01/30/24 - Taken off notice in House Health Subcommittee.

SB1394/HB1227 **MENTAL HEALTH: Public posting of the written minutes of each Tennessee opioid abatement council meetings.**

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Requires the department of mental health and substance abuse services to make available on its public website an electronic copy of the written minutes of each meeting of the Tennessee opioid abatement council. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 5, 2023) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/06/23 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/02/23 - House sponsor changed from Tom Leatherwood to Mary Littleton.

SB1575 **PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Occupational licensing - proof of citizenship.**

Sponsors: Sen. Roberts, Kerry ,

Summary: As an alternative for an applicant for a health-related professional license or certificate having to show US citizenship or authorization to work in the United States as verified by the SAVE program, allows the applicant to show proof of application for a valid visa that would authorize the applicant to lawfully work in the United States. Requires the board of medical examiners to grant a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine to certain temporary licensees who are in good standing two years after the temporary licensee begins practicing medicine at a healthcare provider in this state as a temporary licensee, rather than two years after the date of initial licensure. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 01/29/24 - Withdrawn in Senate.

SB1677/HB1824 MENTAL HEALTH: Companies involved in pending or future claims regarding opioids.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Farmer, Andrew
Summary: Adds The Kroger Co. to the list of companies that are released by the attorney general and reporter for pending or future claims regarding opioids.
Senate Status: 02/12/24 - Senate passed.
House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Finance, Ways & Means Subcommittee 02/21/24.

SB1765/HB1956 GOVERNMENT REGULATION: Importation of prescription drugs from Canada.

Sponsors: Sen. Lamar, London , Rep. Miller, Larry
Summary: Requires the department of finance and administration, in collaboration with the department of health and the bureau of TennCare, to apply for federal approval to import prescription drugs from Canada. Requires the department to notify the governor, speaker of the house of representatives and speaker of the senate upon receipt of federal approval. Requires the department of finance and administration to develop a plan to implement a program within six months of federal approval. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 02/20/24.
House Status: 01/25/24 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB1829 AGRICULTURE: Medical Autonomy Related to Cannabis Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Lamar, London ,
Summary: Enacts the "Medical Autonomy Related to Cannabis Act" which allows the growing and selling of medical marijuana for sale or transfer to a medical marijuana dispensary. Allows an individual to engage in the personal use of medical marijuana if certain conditions are met. Allows for the prohibition of marijuana possession by private property owners. Detail violations of using medicinal marijuana. Details the application and license fees for medical marijuana micro-grow licensees. Allows for a local sales tax of 3% on all medicinal marijuana sales. Removes marijuana from drug sniffing dogs categories and drug paraphernalia definitions. (45pps). Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 01/29/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB1881/HB2857 INSURANCE HEALTH: Provider-based telemedicine requirements.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Hill, Timothy
Summary: Removes from the definition of "provider-based telemedicine" the requirement that the healthcare service provider or the provider's practice group or healthcare system have an established provider-patient relationship that is documented by an in-person encounter within 16 months prior to the interactive visit.
Senate Status: 02/13/24 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee deferred to 02/27/24.
House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB1904/HB2039 TAXES BUSINESS: Tax credits equal to unreimbursed TennCare costs for certain healthcare providers.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Butler, Ed
Summary: Authorizes business, excise, and franchise tax credits equal to unreimbursed TennCare costs for eligible healthcare providers that provide healthcare services to TennCare recipients. Allows a refund to be issued in lieu of a tax credit on the condition that the refund be used to make a charitable contribution.
Senate Status: 01/29/24 - Referred to Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee.
House Status: 01/25/24 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB1915/HB1859 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Occupational licensing for individuals with a criminal record.

Sponsors: Sen. Niceley, Frank , Rep. Davis, Elaine
Summary: Prohibits certain licensing authorities from automatically barring an individual from licensure because of the individual's criminal record. Requires the licensing authority to provide individualized consideration of an individual's criminal record and circumstances. Specifies which convictions a licensing authority may consider in deciding for licensure. Makes other changes related to licensure determinations and criminal records including not using a vague term in its consideration and its notice or decision, including good moral character, moral turpitude, or character and fitness. (11pp). Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 01/29/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status: 01/30/24 - Referred to House Business & Utilities Subcommittee.

SB2008/HB2170 INSURANCE HEALTH: Pharmacy benefits - availability of financial or other product assistance for a prescription drug.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Williams, Ryan
Summary: Prohibits an insurer, pharmacy benefits manager, or third-party administrator from changing or conditioning the terms of health plan coverage based on availability of financial or other product assistance for a prescription drug. Establishes certain procedures for calculating an enrollee's contribution to an applicable cost sharing requirement. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 02/20/24.
House Status: 01/31/24 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB2011/HB2903 TENNCARE: Use of drugs for the treatment of pain.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Kumar, Sabi
Summary: Requires the division of TennCare to ensure that a non-opioid drug approved by the United States food and drug administration for the treatment or management of pain is not disadvantaged or discouraged with respect to coverage relative to an opioid or narcotic drug for the treatment or management of pain on the preferred drug list. Makes other changes regarding the use of opioids and non-opioid drugs including notification to the patient and potential addiction if the person has a high risk of, or has a history of, controlled substance abuse or misuse. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/21/24.
House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 02/20/24.

SB2016/HB2086 HEALTH CARE: Requirements for 340B entities receiving federal grant funds.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther
Summary: Requires a 340B entity that receives federal grant funds through § 317 or § 318 of the Public Health Service Act to enter into an agreement with the department on such terms and conditions as the commissioner may require in order to be eligible to receive in-kind funds from the state or a political subdivision of the state on or after July 1, 2024. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 01/31/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status: 01/30/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2019/HB2060 HEALTH CARE: Prescribed buprenorphine products.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Hicks, Tim
Summary: Increases from 50 to 100 the number of patients to whom a licensed nurse practitioner or physician assistant who is authorized to prescribe Schedule II or III drugs may prescribe buprenorphine products. Increases from four to 10 the maximum number of licensed nurse practitioners or physician assistants who prescribe buprenorphine products that a physician may supervise or collaborate with at one time. Makes other changes relative to the use of buprenorphine products. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 01/31/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status: 01/30/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2031/HB2123 GOVERNMENT REGULATION: Report of requirements for prescribing and dispensing medication in contiguous states.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Requires the commissioner study laws in contiguous states concerning requirements for prescribing and dispensing medication and submit a report of findings to the chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate, the chair of the health committee of the house of representatives, and the legislative librarian on or before December 31, 2024. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 01/31/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 01/29/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2048/HB1825 CRIMINAL LAW: Increase in the limit on the amount of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine base that a pharmacy may sell.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John , Rep. Farmer, Andrew

Summary: Increases the limit on the amount of products containing ephedrine or pseudoephedrine base, or their salts, isomers, or salts of isomers that a pharmacy may sell or a person may purchase in a 30-day period from 5.76 grams to 7.2 grams. Removes the limit on the amount of such products that may be purchased or sold within a one-year period.

Senate Status: 01/31/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 01/25/24 - Referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

SB2080/HB1683 GOVERNMENT REGULATION: Obsolete references to federal law pertaining to prescription of controlled substances.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William

Summary: Removes obsolete references to federal law that pertain to the prescription of certain controlled substances. Part of Administration Package.

Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/21/24.

House Status: 02/15/24 - Set for House Floor on 02/22/24.

SB2104/HB2502 AGRICULTURE: Tennessee Medical Autonomy Related to Cannabis Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Lamar, London , Rep. Harris, Torrey

Summary: Enacts the "Tennessee Medical Autonomy Related to Cannabis Act," which authorizes a licensed medical marijuana grower, including a director, manager, or employee of the grower, acting within the scope of the grower's license to operate a facility to grow marijuana for sale or transfer to a medical marijuana establishment, including the sale or transfer of seeds, flower, mother plants, mature plants, immature plants, or clones and possess medical marijuana or medical marijuana-related products. Details who can engage in the personal use of medical marijuana and how they are protected from prosecution. Details violations of using medicinal marijuana and punishments if convicted. Describes that the department of agriculture has rule-making authority and oversight. Details the application and license fees. Allows for licenses to be revoked and reinstated. Authorizes a local sales tax at a rate not to exceed 3% on the sale of medical marijuana and medical marijuana products. Describes how the collected tax is allocated. (45pp.). Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2125/HB2557 TENNCARE: Eligibility for minor child.

Sponsors: Sen. Kyle, Sara , Rep. Shaw, Johnny

Summary: Requires that on and after July 1, 2025, a minor child who is enrolled in TennCare or the CoverKids program remains eligible for TennCare or the CoverKids program until the minor child reaches six years of age. Prohibits the Bureau of TennCare from subjecting the minor child to a redetermination of eligibility or disenrollment except under certain circumstances, including the minor child no longer residing in the state. Requires the director to submit any necessary federal waiver request by December 31, 2024. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB2136/HB2318 HEALTH CARE: Scope of practice of physician assistants and advanced practice nurses.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Williams, Ryan

Summary: Makes revisions to the authorized scope of practice of physician assistants and advanced practice nurses who meet certain qualifications (35 pp.).

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2138/HB2144 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Ambulatory surgical treatment centers engaged in the practice of pharmacy.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Martin, Greg

Summary: Allows the board of pharmacy to license ambulatory surgical treatment centers engaged in the practice of pharmacy. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 01/31/24 - Withdrawn in House.

SB2139/HB2358 HEALTH CARE: Procedure for certain specialty medications to be returned to and re-dispensed.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Carringer, Michele

Summary: Establishes a procedure for specialty medications, defined as prescriptions to treat cancer, symptoms of cancer treatment, and prescriptions for blood and blood components, to be inspected, restocked, and resold if unused by a healthcare provider. If a specialty medication is deemed eligible for restocking by an authorized pharmacy, the pharmacy will reimburse the entity that originally paid for the medication, including TennCare. The authorized pharmacy will maintain records of credits or reimbursements, including specific information about the healthcare provider who returned the medication and other relevant details about the medicine. Additionally, the legislation mandates that drug manufacturers must maintain active commercial general liability insurance to cover any claims related to restocking specialty medication. Individuals acting in good faith in accordance with restocking specialty medication are immune from civil liability and prosecution. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2141/HB2311 EDUCATION: Availability of opioid antagonists in schools.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Baum, Charlie

Summary: Requires the principal or head of a school that maintains an opioid antagonist at the school to ensure that the opioid antagonist is stored in accordance with manufacturer instructions. Prohibits a school from prohibiting a student, employee, or visitor from possessing an opioid antagonist while the person is on school property or attending a school-sponsored activity held at a location that is not school property.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Education Administration Committee 02/21/24.

SB2176/HB2902 HEALTH CARE: Removal of the polysomnographic professional standards committee meeting.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Removes the requirement for the polysomnographic professional standards committee to conduct at least one meeting each year between the years 2007 and 2010. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2231/HB2275 HEALTH CARE: Requirements to qualify for employment as a surgical technologist.

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed , Rep. Marsh, Pat

Summary: Replaces the current requirements to qualify for employment as a surgical technologist with successfully completing a nationally accredited surgical technology program recognized by the health facilities commission.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2246/HB2093 HEALTH CARE: Posting of nonresidential buprenorphine guidelines and standards.

Sponsors: Sen. Swann, Art , Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Requires health-related boards that license practitioners authorized to prescribe buprenorphine-containing products to post nonresidential buprenorphine guidelines and standards on the licensing board's website no more than 10 days after receipt of the guidelines. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 01/29/24 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB2253/HB2001 HEALTH CARE: Extension of time period a provider must send a claimant's medical records.

Sponsors: Sen. Stevens, John , Rep. Farmer, Andrew

Summary: Extends, from three business days to five business days, the time in which a provider must send a claimant's medical records to a requesting party after receipt of payment for the records.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 01/25/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2258/HB1710 HEALTH CARE: Adults suffering from terminal disease - right to die.

Sponsors: Sen. Campbell, Heidi , Rep. Freeman, Bob

Summary: Creates a process whereby an adult suffering from a terminal disease may request medication for the purpose of ending the adult's life in a humane and dignified manner if certain requirements are met. Broadly captioned. (18pp.)

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 01/10/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2274/HB2897 HEALTH CARE: Pharmacy to notify person of lowest available cost of a prescription drug. Broadly captioned.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Requires a pharmacy to make all reasonable effort to contact and notify a person refilling a prescription the lowest available cost of the prescription drug.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2275/HB2907 HEALTH CARE: Limiting a physician's ability to prescribe medication for themselves and family.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Prohibits a physician from administering a scheduled drug to themselves, or from prescribing, dispensing, or administering medication for immediate family, unless the treatment is minor or in an emergency situation. Prohibits the supervisee of a physician from administering or dispensing medications to a supervising or collaborating physician's immediate family unless it is an emergency situation. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (013260) prohibits a physician from prescribing, dispensing, or administering medication for, or otherwise treating, the physician's own self, except in short-term, acute, emergency situations. Prohibits a physician from prescribing, dispensing, or administering medication for, or otherwise treating, immediate family unless such treatment is for minor, self-limited illnesses or acute, emergency situations. Prohibits a supervisee from prescribing, dispensing, or administering medication for, or otherwise treating, a supervising or collaborating physician or the supervising or collaborating physician's immediate family, unless there is an established provider-patient relationship between the supervisee and the physician, including a chart.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Health Committee 02/21/24.

SB2276/HB2904 HEALTH CARE: Establishes the board of pharmacy and the board of nursing are employees of the department of health.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Establishes the director board of pharmacy and the director board of nursing operate under the supervision and control of the division of health related boards. Establishes that employees of the board of pharmacy and the board of nursing are employees of the department of health. Captioned Broadly.

Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Senate Health & Welfare Committee recommended. Sent to Senate Calendar Committee.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Health Committee 02/21/24.

SB2292/HB2668 HEALTH CARE: Changes date annual report treatment for opiate addiction is due.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Hawk, David

Summary: Changes date that the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services Department is required to submit an annual report on use of medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction from February fifteenth to February 1st. Brudly Captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/05/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2297/HB2308 HEALTH CARE: Prescribing a buprenorphine product for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Allows for qualifying healthcare providers who work in hospitals, including hospitals exempt from licensure, and an affiliated clinic operating under the hospital's license to prescribe buprenorphine products. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2298/HB2377 HEALTH CARE: Annual report from department of health regarding data on needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Adds the legislative librarian as a party to which the department of health must submit an annual report based on data received by a county or district health department that operates a needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program, including the number of people served, number of needles, syringes, and supplies dispensed and returned to the program, number of naloxone kits distributed, and the number and type of treatment referrals provided. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2299/HB2376 TENNCARE: Annual report on quality and outcomes in perinatal care.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Changes from March 1 to January 15 the date by which the bureau of TennCare must submit an annual report to the general assembly concerning aspects of quality and outcomes in perinatal care for the previous two years that includes a description of initiatives by managed care organizations to improve key performance indicators of perinatal care outcomes, and a determination of the effectiveness of managed care organizations' initiatives toward improving perinatal care outcomes to residents in each health region of the state. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2300/HB2378 HEALTH CARE: Adds legislative librarian to receiver of a report by the commissioner in supervising dentists and dental equipment.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Adds the legislative librarian as a party to which the commissioner must submit an annual report on the work done by the commissioner in supervising dentists and dental equipment in the various state institutions, as well as in distributing literature throughout the state to inform the public on proper dental care. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2303/HB2573 TENNCARE: Third-party reimbursement from TennCare for professional services rendered by an employed psychologist.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Hicks, Gary

Summary: Expands the facilities that can qualify for third-party reimbursement from TennCare, a managed care plan, or a third-party payor for certain services. Expands the number of persons who can render such reimbursable services to an employed psychologist with a provisional or temporary license, psychology intern, and postdoctoral fellow, rather than just for services rendered by a psychologist with a provisional or temporary license. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB2328/HB2076 INSURANCE HEALTH: Recoupment of overpayments made to a healthcare provider.

Sponsors: Sen. Yager, Ken , Rep. Martin, Brock

Summary: Establishes procedures for recoupment of overpayments made to a healthcare provider by certain health insurance entities. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Insurance Subcommittee 02/20/24.

SB2329/HB2354 COVID-19: Prohibition of mask mandates related to COVID-19.

Sponsors: Sen. Yager, Ken , Rep. Zachary, Jason

Summary: Prohibits a government entity, school, or local education agency from implementing a mask mandate related to COVID-19 or from requiring an employee of a government entity to wear a face covering as a condition of employment.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Public Service Subcommittee.

SB2351/HB1660 EDUCATION: Antidiscrimination practices of institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Ragan, John

Summary: Prohibits certain institutions of higher education from defining discriminatory practices in their antidiscrimination policies in a manner inconsistent with the definition of discriminatory practices in state law. Prohibits certain institutions of higher education from establishing or recognizing forms of discrimination in their antidiscrimination policies in a manner inconsistent with the forms of discrimination recognized as legally actionable by this state. Requires the Tennessee higher education commission to establish a process for persons to file a complaint alleging that an institution is not complying with such prohibitions. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/05/24 - Taken off notice in House Higher Education Subcommittee.

SB2359/HB1726 FAMILY LAW: Prohibits immunization requirement as a condition of adoption or fostering.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Gant, Ron

Summary: Prohibits the department of children's services from requiring an immunization as a condition of adopting or overseeing a child in foster care if an individual or member of an individual's household objects to immunization on the basis of religious or moral convictions. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Judiciary Committee 02/20/24.

House Status: 01/11/24 - Referred to House Children & Family Affairs Subcommittee.

SB2361/HB2213 INSURANCE HEALTH: Denying coverage of a prescription drug or drug regime based on step therapy protocols.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Alexander, Rebecca

Summary: Prohibits a health carrier, health benefit plan, or utilization review organization from using step therapy protocols as a basis to restrict, delay, or deny coverage of a prescription drug or drug regimen for the treatment of cancer or associated conditions if it is consistent with best practices, supported by peer-reviewed evidence-based medical literature, or is approved by the US FDA. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 01/31/24 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB2362/HB2122 HEALTH CARE: Continuing education for healthcare professionals.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Requires the department to create a continuing education program for the purpose of providing healthcare professionals with information and training relative to public and office safety. Broadly captioned.

Amendment Summary: Amendment 1 (013621) changes the requirement for the department of implementing the program within six months to making the program available on the board's website within six months.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Health Committee 02/21/24.

SB2380/HB2554 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Review of board of pharmacy rules regarding the oversight of facilities that manufacture medical devices.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Hazlewood, Patsy

Summary: Requires the board of pharmacy to send notice to the chairs of the government operations committees of the senate and house of representatives within 10 days of the conclusion of the triennial review of board rules regarding the oversight of facilities that manufacture, warehouse, and distribute medical devices performed by an advisory committee that consists of board members. Authorizes the board to send such notice by electronic means. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2393/HB2597 MENTAL HEALTH: Decreasing deadline for filing report on opioid abatement fund.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Baum, Charlie

Summary: Shortens, from September 30 to September 15, the deadline in which opioid fund deposits, abatement strategies, and disbursement or expenses paid from the fund must be reported to executive and legislative branch officials. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/05/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2396/HB2816 HEALTH CARE: Performing of detransition procedures by gender clinics.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Faison, Jeremy

Summary: Requires gender clinics accepting funds from this state to perform gender transition procedures to also perform detransition procedures. Requires insurance entities providing coverage of gender transition procedures to also cover detransition procedures. Requires certain gender clinics and insurance entities to report information regarding detransition procedures to the department of health. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/07/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2403/HB2361 HEALTH CARE: Medical cannabis commission required to have a substance abuse prevention specialist.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Carringer, Michele

Summary: Clarifies that one of the persons appointed to the medical cannabis commission by the speaker of the senate must be a specialist in the area of substance abuse prevention. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/21/24.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB2419/HB2445 TENNCARE: Determining level of funding, medical items, and services received by patient.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Alexander, Rebecca

Summary: Requires that when deciding on medical necessity, the bureau shall take into consideration the patient's overall condition and use such overall condition as a factor to determine the level of funding and what medical items and services the patient receives, even if such determination does not result in the least costly course of diagnosis or treatment. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Insurance Committee 02/20/24.

SB2466/HB2843 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Condition for charging fees.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Miller, Larry

Summary: Adds as a condition for allowing the board to be able to charge a fee for reviewing and approving preclicensing general contractor education courses that the fee amount is listed on the board's website. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2468/HB2413 CRIMINAL LAW: Retail sale of marijuana.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Dixie, Vincent

Summary: Allows for a person or entity to grow, process, manufacture, deliver, sell, or possess marijuana and can be sold in retail not exceeding an amount of 0.5 oz or 14.175 grams. Also imposes a 12% tax on the retail sale of marijuana. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

SB2588/HB2097 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Issuance of advisory opinions by state regulatory boards and state health related boards.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Requires state regulatory boards within the department of commerce and insurance to issue advisory opinions upon request to any person who is certified, licensed, or registered by such state entities. Also requires state health related boards within the department of health to issue advisory opinions upon request.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 01/30/24 - Referred to House Department & Agencies Subcommittee.

SB2616/HB2869 HEALTH CARE: Minimum age requirement for membership on the medical cannabis commission.

Sponsors: Sen. Niceley, Frank , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Reduces minimum age requirement for membership on the medical cannabis commission from 30 years of age to 25 years of age. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2638/HB2367 COMMERCIAL LAW: Bans pharmaceutical advertisements in newspapers, online, and on TV in this state.

Sponsors: Sen. Niceley, Frank , Rep. Lynn, Susan

Summary: Prohibits pharmaceutical advertisements in newspapers, online, and on television in this state. Specifies that a violation constitutes a violation of the Consumer Protection Act of 1977. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/06/24 - Referred to House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

SB2738/HB2913 HEALTH CARE: Removes outdated requirement for submission of apprentice plan.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther

Summary: Removes an outdated requirement that the apprentice plan developed by the boards and commissions of the various medical professions, in consultation with the division of health-related boards, be submitted to the speakers, the government operations committees of the senate and house of representatives, the commissioner of commerce and insurance, the commissioner of health, and the commissioner of labor and workforce development on or before December 31, 2014. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2747/HB2935 HEALTH CARE: Medical Ethics Defense Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Faison, Jeremy

Summary: Enacts the "Medical Ethics Defense Act," which specifies that a medical practitioner, healthcare institution, or healthcare payer has the right not to participate in or pay for any medical procedure or service which violates the conscience of the medical practitioner, healthcare institution, or healthcare payer, as long as the exercise of this right does not impair the obligations, duties, or responsibilities required of the practitioner, institution, or payer under an existing contract. Specifies that the exercise of the right of conscience is limited to objections to a particular medical procedure or service on the basis of conscience. Clarifies that this section does not waive or modify any duty a medical practitioner, healthcare institution, or healthcare payer may have to provide other medical procedures or services that do not violate the practitioner's, institution's, or payer's conscience. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/01/24 - Introduced in the House

SB2810/HB2622 HEALTH CARE: Allows the board of pharmacy to license ambulatory surgical treatment centers under certain conditions.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Martin, Greg

Summary: Allows the board of pharmacy to license ambulatory surgical treatment centers that have designated either a pharmacist-in-charge or a medical director licensed as a physician as the person of authority and responsibility for compliance with pertaining laws and rules. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/14/24 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/21/24.

House Status: 02/14/24 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/20/24.

SB2812/HB2374 INSURANCE HEALTH: Information used by health insurance carriers to calculate payments to healthcare providers.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Requires a health insurance carrier to provide certain information used by the health insurance carrier to calculate payments paid to the healthcare provider within 10 calendar days, rather than 10 business days, of receipt of a written request from a healthcare provider. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Filed for Introduction

House Status: 02/01/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB2818/HB2446 HEALTH CARE: Notice from board of pharmacy regarding drugs deemed misbranded or adulterated.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Alexander, Rebecca

Summary: Extends from 10 to 14 days the period following receipt of notice from the board of pharmacy within which an owner or person in possession of drugs or devices that have been deemed misbranded or adulterated must request a show cause hearing before the board on the applicability of the adulterated drug or device statute. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/01/24 - Filed for Introduction

House Status: 02/01/24 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.