



HUSCH BLACKWELL STRATEGIES

Pharmacists Legislative Report

SB3/HB14 **CRIMINAL LAW: Revises definition of abortion.**

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Love Jr., Harold

Summary: Clarifies that the term "abortion," as defined for the offense of criminal abortion, does not include the use of contraceptives, including any device, medication, biological product, or procedure that is generally intended for use in the prevention of pregnancy, whether specifically intended to prevent pregnancy or for other health needs, or the disposal of embryos resulting from fertility treatments, including healthcare services, procedures, testing, medications, treatments, or products. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 2, 2025) FISCAL IMPACT: NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/15/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 01/28/25 - Referred to House Population Health Subcommittee.

SB25 **HEALTH CARE: Availability of medical and health records of a minor.**

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark ,

Summary: Clarifies that a child's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian may access and review all mental health treatment, medical, rehabilitation, and prescription records of the child, including those records related to treatments available to unemancipated minors without parental consent. Allows an employee of a local education agency to provide bandages, gauze, or ice packs for the treatment of minor cuts, scrapes, bumps, and bruises. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/15/25 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

SB125/HB474 **EDUCATION: Study on possible expansion of all state-funded financial aid and scholarship programs.**

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Vaughan, Kevin

Summary: Requires the Tennessee higher education commission, in consultation with the department of labor and workforce development, to study all state-funded financial aid and scholarship programs in this state to determine whether programs may be expanded to provide greater financial aid opportunities for individuals interested in pursuing a workforce credential. Requires the commission to report its findings and any legislative recommendations to the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over higher education and to the education committee of the senate no later than January 15, 2026. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 25, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/16/25 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/05/25 - Referred to House Higher Education Subcommittee.

SB164/HB18 **TENNCARE: Temporary TennCare benefits program.**

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff , Rep. Baum, Charlie

Summary: Directs the bureau of TennCare to establish a temporary TennCare benefits program to provide medical assistance on a temporary basis to certain individuals who do not qualify for enrollment in TennCare, CoverKids, or a successor program. Requires the bureau to submit a waiver to the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services by December 31, 2025.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 6, 2025) STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE General Fund FY26-27 & Subsequent Years \$128,382,900 EXPENDITURES General Fund FY26-27 \$234,686,300 FY27-28 & Subsequent Years \$233,686,300 Total Positions Required: 169 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FY26-27 \$2,057,164,800 FY27-28 & Subsequent Years \$2,048,164,800 OTHER FISCAL IMPACT Passage of this legislation could result in a decrease in state expenditures for the Uninsured Adult Healthcare Safety Net. The extent of any change in expenditures is dependent on the number of individuals who will receive healthcare services from Medicaid, rather than the Uninsured Adult Healthcare Safety Net, and cannot be reasonably determined. HB 18 - SB 164

Senate Status: 01/27/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Insurance Committee 02/19/25.

SB178/HB22 **PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Governing body to provide public with opportunity to comment at meeting.**

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam , Rep. Davis, Elaine

Summary: Requires a governing body subject to the open meetings laws to reserve a period of public comment to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on any matter germane to the jurisdiction of the governing body regardless of whether the matter is listed on the agenda for the meeting.

Fiscal Note: (Dated December 23, 2024) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/27/25 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Public Service Subcommittee 02/19/25.

SB194/HB26 **JUDICIARY: Unborn Child Protection Act of 2025.**

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Bulso, Gino

Summary: Establishes the "Unborn Child Protection Act of 2025," which prohibits the sale, manufacture, or distribution of abortion-inducing drugs in the state. Specifies that a person or entity who mails or delivers an abortion-inducing drug into this state and the mailing or delivery results in the death of an unborn child is strictly liable in the amount of \$5,000,000 in damages for the death of the unborn child. Specifies that an action brought pursuant to this subsection must be commenced within five years of the death of the unborn child.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 6, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 01/27/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Population Health Subcommittee 02/18/25.

SB205/HB70 **TENNCARE: TennCare health benefit plan - coverage and reimbursement for biomarker testing for preeclampsia.**

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther

Summary: Requires a TennCare health benefit plan renewed or issued on or after July 1, 2025, by a health insurance carrier to provide coverage and reimbursement for biomarker testing for preeclampsia in pregnant women. Defines "biomarker testing" to mean the analysis of a patient's tissue, blood, or other biospecimen for the presence of a biomarker using a method of analysis approved by the federal food and drug administration (FDA), including, but not limited to, single-analyte tests, multiplex panel tests, whole genome sequencing, protein expression, whole exome, and whole transcriptome.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 01/28/25 - Referred to House TennCare Subcommittee.

SB223/HB172 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Registration of persons licensed to practice a healing art who were in the medical corps of the military.*Sponsors:* Sen. Jackson, Ed , Rep. Martin, Brock*Summary:* Requires a person who is licensed to practice a healing art; who was an officer in the commissioned medical corps of the army, the navy, the air force, or the public health service of the United States; and who was subsequently discharged, instead of honorably discharged, to register with the appropriate board licensing that profession. Broadly captioned.*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 20, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.*House Status:* 01/28/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.**SB226/HB470 STATE GOVERNMENT: Professionals' Freedom of Religion Act.***Sponsors:* Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Rudd, Tim*Summary:* Enacts the "Tennessee Professionals' Freedom of Religion Act." Specifies that it is unlawful for a governmental entity to deny, revoke, suspend, or take other adverse action against an individual's license for the following: (1) Refusing to affirm a statement or oath that is contrary to the individual's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions; (2) Expressing sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions in any context, including a professional context, as long as the services provided otherwise meet the standard of care or practice for that profession; or (3) Providing faith-based services that otherwise meet the standard of care or practice for that profession. Makes it unlawful for a governmental entity to take any adverse action against a licensee or applicant for licensure based on such person's beliefs or the lawful expression of those beliefs, to the extent protected under the United States Constitution or the Constitution of Tennessee.*Fiscal Note:* (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Referred to House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.**SB240/HB207 CRIMINAL LAW: Expands the offense of organized retail crime.***Sponsors:* Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Zachary, Jason*Summary:* Expands the offense of organized crime to include knowingly removing or evading any component of an anti-shoplifting or inventory control device, activating or interfering with a fire alarm system, using an online marketplace or social media platform to coordinate a meeting to sell stolen merchandise, returning stolen or counterfeit merchandise to a retail merchant, purchasing or possessing merchandise for resale knowingly the items are stolen, and using any instrument to facilitate theft. Increases the penalty of this offense if the defendant engages in the destruction of property or uses a weapon.*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.*House Status:* 02/03/25 - Referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.**SB259/HB853 HEALTH CARE: Review of a child's health and medical records by parent or legal guardian.***Sponsors:* Sen. Pody, Mark , Rep. Reneau, Michele*Summary:* Clarifies that a child's parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian may access and review all health and medical records of the child, including those records related to treatments available to unemancipated minors without parental consent. Allows an employee of a local education agency to provide bandages, gauze, or ice packs for the treatment of minor cuts, scrapes, bumps, and bruises. Broadly captioned.*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 24, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.**SB264/HB385 TAXES BUSINESS: Certification by TennCare of an eligible healthcare providers' unreimbursed costs.***Sponsors:* Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Butler, Ed*Summary:* Requires TennCare to certify an eligible healthcare provider's unreimbursed costs as charitable contributions made exclusively for public purposes to TennCare. Requires TennCare to submit a statement of the total amount of charitable contributions to the eligible healthcare provider by January 31 of the following year. Requires eligible healthcare providers to pay a \$25.00 fee each year by January 15 in order to receive such certification. Defines "unreimbursed costs" as an amount equal to the difference between one hundred 125% of the average federal Medicaid reimbursement rate and the TennCare reimbursement rate paid to an eligible healthcare provider by the division or a managed care organization for healthcare services provided by an eligible healthcare provider to a TennCare recipient. Defines "eligible healthcare provider" as a healthcare provider who participates as a provider in the TennCare program, a successor Medicaid program, or a group practice that holds a contract with the division or a managed care organization participating in the TennCare program or a successor Medicaid program.*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Referred to House TennCare Subcommittee.**SB291/HB465 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Denial of license application due to prior criminal conviction.***Sponsors:* Sen. Bailey, Paul , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther*Summary:* Changes, from 30 days to 60 days, the amount of time an individual, applicant, licensee, certificate holder, or registrant has to file a petition after receiving written notice of a denial of an application due to past criminal history.*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 25, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT*Senate Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.**SB299/HB830 HEALTH CARE: Membership of the medical cannabis commission.***Sponsors:* Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Terry, Bryan*Summary:* Revises the qualifications for membership on the medical cannabis commission to include a patient caregiver and a subject matter expert with knowledge of how cannabis is cultivated, processed, shipped, distributed, or prescribed for medical use. Specifies that the recommendations made by the commission to the general assembly may include policy recommendations.*Fiscal Note:* (Dated January 30, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Set for Senate Judiciary Committee 02/18/25.*House Status:* 02/10/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.**SB302/HB420 COMMERCIAL LAW: Tennessee Consumer Protection and Subscription Renewal Act.***Sponsors:* Sen. Harshbarger, Bobby , Rep. Rudd, Tim*Summary:* Enacts the "Tennessee Consumer Protection and Subscription Renewal Act," which prohibits a business from requiring submission of credit or debit card information, or other payment information for an automatic renewal offer or continuous service offer containing a free gift or trial. Defines "affirmative consent" for purposes of subscription renewals to mean a clear, affirmative act signifying a consumer's freely given, specific, informed, and unambiguous agreement to the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service terms and includes a written statement, including a statement written by electronic means, or an unambiguous affirmative action. Requires a business to obtain affirmative consent from a consumer to the agreement containing the automatic renewal offer terms or continuous service offer terms. Makes other changes related to automatic renewal offers and continuous service offers.*Senate Status:* 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.*House Status:* 02/05/25 - Referred to House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.**SB331/HB204 TENNCARE: TennCare report regarding 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, in consultation with the perinatal advisory committee and with the assistance of relevant state agencies, must report to legislative committees concerning aspects of quality and outcomes in perinatal care for the last two available fiscal years or calendar years, as may be available. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 17, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/13/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/03/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB334/HB372 TENNCARE: Tennessee Medicaid Modernization and Access Act of 2025.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Hulsey, Bud

Summary: Enacts the "Tennessee Medicaid Modernization and Access Act of 2025," which aligns TennCare's current Medicaid reimbursement rates for key services, meaning obstetrics/gynecology, primary care, outpatient mental health, and substance use disorder treatment with the Medicare fee schedule or average commercial rates, whichever is higher. Requires the department of health to consult with the bureau of TennCare to conduct an annual review to ensure TennCare reimbursement rates align with changes in the Medicare fee schedule and average commercial rates and with the CMS 2024 final rule. Defines CMS annual rule to mean the May 2024 guidelines set by CMS updating Medicaid reimbursement rates. Provides healthcare provider of key services that is entitled to receive TennCare reimbursement to submit a written request for an administrative hearing following an allegation of a delay in payment or receipt of erroneous reimbursement. Provides that the general assembly must appropriate funds under the general appropriations act.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House TennCare Subcommittee 02/18/25.

SB343/HB398 HEALTH CARE: Licensing board response to inquiry regarding prescriber identified as high-risk prescriber.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Martin, Brock

Summary: Increases, from 30 to 45, the number of days a licensing board has to respond to the department of health after the department has inquired about the status of an action or lack of action taken against a prescriber whose prescribing patterns of controlled substances have been identified as representing a statistical outlier, or if the prescriber is identified as a top prescriber or a high-risk prescriber. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 29, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/05/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB359/HB1203 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Issuance of license subject to a private advocacy order.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Allows the board of medical examiners, during an informal initial application interview held in an executive session, to issue a license under a private advocacy order requiring the applicant to maintain advocacy of a peer assistance program. Allows the board of medical examiners to take disciplinary action against an individual practicing under a private advocacy order that failed to maintain the advocacy of the peer assistance program. Establishes that private advocacy orders are confidential, privileged, and not public records unless a practitioner fails to maintain advocacy resulting in a formal disciplinary proceeding.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB363/HB389 HEALTH CARE: Assessment of discipline or a penalty against a healthcare provider for a violation of pain management rules

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Reduces, from 30 days to 14 days, the period of time within which a licensing board that assesses discipline or a penalty against a healthcare provider for a violation of pain management rules must notify the department of health of such discipline or penalty. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 28, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/05/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB370/HB967 TAXES GENERAL: Taxes and fees collected by merchants and sellers.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Hawk, David

Summary: Requires the amount of a state or local tax or fee that is separately listed on the payment invoice to be excluded from the amount on which an interchange fee is charged for that electronic payment transaction. Requires a payment card network to deduct the amount of a tax imposed from the calculation of interchange fees specific to each form or type of electronic payment transaction at the time of settlement. Requires a payment card network rebate an amount of interchange fee proportionate to the amount attributable to the tax or fee. Requires a deduction or rebate to occur at the time of settlement if the merchant or seller can capture and send the relevant tax or fee amounts during the sale as part of finalizing the transaction. Requires the payment card network to accept proof of tax or fee amounts collected on sales subject to an interchange fee if the merchant or seller cannot capture and send the relevant tax or fee amounts during the sale at the time. Defines "electronic payment transaction" as a transaction in which a person uses a debit card, credit card, or other payment code or device, issued or approved through a payment card network to debit a deposit account or use a line of credit, whether authorization is based on a signature, personal identification number, or other means. Defines "payment card network" as an entity that directly, or through licensed members, processors, or agents provides the proprietary services, infrastructure, and software that routes information and data to conduct debit card or credit card transaction authorization, clearance, and settlement; or a merchant or seller uses in order to accept as a form of payment a brand of debit card, credit card, or other device that may be used to carry out debit or credit transactions. Defines "interchange fee" as a fee established, charged, or received by a payment card network for the purpose of compensating the issuer for its involvement in an electronic payment transaction. Defines "settlement" as the transfer of funds from a customer's account to a seller or merchant upon electronic submission of finalized sales transactions to the payment card network.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/11/25 - Referred to House Banking & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee.

SB396/HB132 VETERANS & MILITARY AFFAIRS: Emergency management powers of the governor.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul , Rep. Zachary, Jason

Summary: Limits the duration of a state of emergency declared by the governor to 30 days. Authorizes the general assembly to terminate, extend, or renew a state of emergency by joint resolution. Establishes an ad hoc legislative council to extend a state of emergency during the interim between legislative sessions and specifies membership of council.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 9, 2025) OTHER FISCAL IMPACT If the General Assembly is not in-session and a decision is needed whether to renew an initial declaration of emergency beyond 30 days, an ad-hoc legislative council will need to be convened. In such case, there would be an increase in state expenditures of at least \$4,400.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate State & Local Government Committee.

House Status: 01/28/25 - Referred to House Public Service Subcommittee.

SB420/HB870 INSURANCE HEALTH: Pharmacy benefits.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Rudder, Iris

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.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 31, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB421/HB1239 HEALTH CARE: Prescribing of buprenorphine products for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther
Summary: Authorizes certain prescribing physician assistants and nurse practitioners to prescribe buprenorphine products for the treatment of opioid use disorder when the physician assistant or nurse practitioner is employed by or contracts with a state correctional facility or county or municipal jail, and certain other conditions are met, including having an active registration with the federal drug enforcement agency. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB422/HB406 HEALTH CARE: Promulgation of rules regarding oversight of facilities that manufacture, warehouse, and distribute medical devices.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Martin, Brock
Summary: Lowers from every three years to every two years, the time within which the advisory committee composed of medical device industry representatives and a representative of the department of economic and community development must review rules regarding the board of pharmacy's oversight of facilities that manufacture, warehouse, and distribute medical devices in order to review the advancements of new medical device technologies. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status: 02/05/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB424/HB1208 HEALTH CARE: Allows services authorized in a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement to include weight management services.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Kumar, Sabi
Summary: Permits the services authorized in a collaborative pharmacy practice agreement to include weight management services.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB428/HB37 HEALTH CARE: Adoption or emendation to a state preferred drug list by insurer.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Davis, Elaine
Summary: Authorizes an insurer, for purposes of group insurance plans offered to state employees, to adopt or amend a state preferred drug list (PDL). Requires the insurer to ensure that reimbursement is provided to a healthcare prescriber or hospital that provides a non-opioid treatment to a covered employee under the group insurance plan.
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status: 01/28/25 - Referred to House Public Service Subcommittee.

SB432/HB866 HEALTH CARE: Copy of patient's medical records provided upon receipt of written request by patient.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Hicks, Tim
Summary: Requires a healthcare provider to provide to a patient or a patient's authorized representative a copy of the patient's medical records within 20 working days of receipt of a written request by the patient or representative instead of 10 working days. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note: (Dated January 29, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status: 02/06/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB436/HB1198 TENNCARE: Use of biosimilar drugs as a cost-saving measure.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Kumar, Sabi
Summary: Adds mandating the use of biosimilar drugs as a cost-saving measure the bureau of TennCare may implement. Adds that a health carrier, health benefit plan, or utilization review organization may require a patient to try a biosimilar product prior to providing coverage for the equivalent branded prescription drug. Requires the TennCare pharmacy advisory committee to consider as a factor the use of biosimilar drugs in the committee's recommendation to the bureau of TennCare on any drugs to be added to the state preferred drug list.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 12, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB449/HB533 HEALTH CARE: Fertility Treatment and Contraceptive Protection Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Rudder, Iris
Summary: Declares that an individual has a right to engage in activities associated with fertility treatment and contraception. Clarifies that the laws of this state do not prohibit an activity associated with fertility treatment or contraception. Specifies that the law of this state clearly and unambiguously acknowledges the right of an individual to perform, and the right of an individual to receive or use, fertility treatment and contraceptives in this state. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 3, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.
House Status: 02/05/25 - Referred to House Population Health Subcommittee.

SB460/HB516 HEALTH CARE: Annual report on hypodermic syringe exchange program.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , 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.
Fiscal Note: (Dated January 30, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.
House Status: 02/05/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB465/HB464 HEALTH CARE: Immunity from prosecution when seeking medical assistance for drug overdose.

Sponsors: Sen. Gardenhire, Todd , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther
Summary: Removes the limitation that a person who is experiencing a drug overdose only has immunity from being arrested, charged, or prosecuted on the first drug overdose. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.
House Status: 02/05/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB474/HB387 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Prohibits a healthcare provider from inquiring as to a patient's ownership of firearm ammunition.

Sponsors: Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Butler, Ed

Summary: Prohibits a healthcare provider from inquiring as to a patient's ownership, possession of, or access to firearm ammunition or firearm accessories. Prohibits a healthcare provider from denying future treatment of a patient based upon a patient's ownership or control of a firearm, firearm ammunition, or firearm accessories. Subjects the healthcare provider to disciplinary action and a fine of \$1,000 if the healthcare provider makes such inquires.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/05/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB550 HEALTH CARE: Required specialist of substance abuse prevention on the medical cannabis commission.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard ,

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.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 1, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB551/HB991 HEALTH CARE: Appointments to the board of medical examiners.

Sponsors: Sen. Reeves, Shane , Rep. Hale, Michael

Summary: Allows, instead of requires, the governor to consult with medical groups in making appointments to the board of medical examiners.

Fiscal Note: (Dated January 31, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB569/HB693 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Makes changes to the practice of pharmacy.

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

Summary: Makes certain changes to the practice of pharmacy, including removing the present prohibition on requiring a patient to pay an administrative fee for pharmacist-provided hormonal contraceptives when the patient is insured or covered and receives a pharmacy benefit that covers the cost of the hormonal contraceptives.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/19/25.

SB584/HB688 HEALTH CARE: Buffer stock of necessary medicines and healthcare supplies.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Camper, Karen

Summary: Authorizes the commissioner to develop and maintain an essential buffer stock of necessary medicines and healthcare supplies to be distributed during a natural or man-made disaster, mass casualty event, or public health emergency. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB604/HB614 INSURANCE HEALTH: Disclosure of maximum allowable cost lists - destruction of shared information.

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul , Rep. Travis, Ron

Summary: Requires a pharmacy services administrative organization or similar entity that receives maximum allowable cost list or related information from a contracted pharmacy to destroy the shared information within five business days of receipt of a written request for destruction from the sharing pharmacy. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/05/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB619/HB657 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Information for public dissemination by board regulating a healthcare provider.

Sponsors: Sen. Harshbarger, Bobby , Rep. Hicks, Tim

Summary: Allows a healthcare provider to petition a relevant board after completing a peer assistance or treatment program contract to remove information from public dissemination regarding the adverse action and consent order after 10 years from the probation date indicated in the consent order. Requires the relevant board to review and make a determination on a removal request submitted and requires the board, upon approving the request, to remove the information from any place the information is made public. Authorizes the division of health related boards to promulgate rules to effectuate such petition process. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 12, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/19/25.

SB669/HB1226 HEALTH CARE: Pandemic declaration.

Sponsors: Sen. Taylor, Brent , Rep. Lafferty, Justin

Summary: Deletes all references to the world health organization. Requires a pandemic to be declared by the federal centers for disease and prevention control, rather than the world health organization, with a subsequent declaration of a state of emergency by the governor for the governor to have exclusive jurisdiction to issue executive orders and directives related to the pandemic until the pandemic ceases to exist.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/19/25.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB707/HB821 CRIMINAL LAW: Access to age-restricted products - tobacco, smoking hemp, and vapor products.

Sponsors: Sen. Massey, Becky , Rep. Slater, William

Summary: Changes the apparent age required from under 30 to under 50 for a seller or distributor of tobacco, smoking hemp, vapor product, or smokeless nicotine to demand proof of age before continuing the transaction.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/05/25 - Introduced in the House

SB739/HB668 COMMERCIAL LAW: Extension of cancellation and return policy period.

Sponsors: Sen. Harshbarger, Bobby , Rep. Jones, Renea

Summary: Extends the cancellation period for individuals who purchase, subscribe to, or receive products, services, or memberships in any organization from 30 days to 45 days, provided that services have not been rendered, products are unused and in their original condition, or memberships have not been utilized. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 3, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/06/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB809/HB836 AGRICULTURE: Tennessee Cannabis Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Yarbro, Jeff , Rep. Miller, Larry

Summary: Enacts the "Tennessee Cannabis Act," which allows adults to use, possess, and transport not more than 60 grams of marijuana, except that not more than 15 grams of that amount may be in the form of marijuana concentrate. Details specifics of what the adult is required to do in order to have personal use. Authorizes retail marijuana operations if certain aspects are met. Describes violations of actions not authorized by the passing of this act. Specifies that the department of agriculture promulgates all necessary rules for the administration and enforcement of this act. Requires an annual report to be submitted and details the process of obtaining a license to operate as a marijuana establishment. Allows marijuana and marijuana products to be taxable as tangible personal property and subject to sales and use taxes. Prohibits the use of gas chromatography mass spectrum tests to determine a person's bail, parole, probation, or suspended sentence. (36pp.). Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Criminal Justice Subcommittee 02/19/25.

SB817/HB760 **HEALTH CARE: Prescribing and dispensing of bronchodilator rescue inhalers.**

Sponsors: Sen. Lowe, Adam , Rep. Darby, Tandy

Summary: Allows a healthcare practitioner to prescribe a bronchodilator rescue inhaler to be maintained for use in the name of an authorized entity, under a standing protocol from the healthcare practitioner. Allows a pharmacist to dispense a bronchodilator rescue inhaler established by a prescription issued in the name of an authorized entity. Requires an authorized entity that is prescribed and dispensed a bronchodilator rescue inhaler to designate an employee to maintain the inhaler in a secure location that allows the inhaler to be administered in an emergency situation. Allows said designated employee to administer the bronchodilator rescue inhaler when a physician is not immediately available. Encourages each school in an LEA and public charter school to keep a bronchodilator rescue inhaler in a minimum of two locations in the school. Allows school nurses or other trained school personnel to utilize the supply of a bronchodilator rescue inhaler. Provides immunity from liability for a designated employee, authorized entity, prescribing healthcare practitioner, school nurse, or other trained school personnel if a person is injured or harmed due to the administration of a bronchodilator rescue inhaler. Defines "authorized entity" as an entity that may, at any time, have allergens present that are capable of causing a severe allergic reaction. Defines "bronchodilator rescue inhaler" medication used to relieve asthma symptoms or respiratory distress along with devices and device components needed to appropriately administer the medication, including, but not limited to, disposable spacers. Defines "healthcare practitioner" as a physician or other healthcare provider who has prescriptive authority. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/19/25.

SB839/HB984 **HEALTH CARE: Report on aggregate claims data on inpatients and outpatients with coded drug poisonings.**

Sponsors: Sen. Pody, Mark , Rep. Warner, Todd

Summary: Extends from March 1 to April 1, the date by which the department of health must submit to the governor, the speaker of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and legislative committees with subject matter jurisdiction over health a report with de-identified aggregate claims data on every inpatient and outpatient discharge that includes coded drug poisonings as reported for the calendar year two years prior to the current year by licensed hospitals to the commissioner of health. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 5, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB881/HB1244 **INSURANCE HEALTH: Establishes standards for pharmacy benefits managers to use when processing and paying claims.**

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

Summary: Establishes standards for pharmacy benefits managers when processing and paying claims. Removes limits on aggregate penalties for violations of law made by pharmacy benefits managers. Requires pharmacy benefits managers to pay the clean parts of a claim within 30 days of receiving a claim on paper from a provider, and notify the provider in writing why the remaining portion of the claim will not be paid and notify the provider in writing of all reasons why the claim does not constitute a clean claim and will not be paid and what substantiating documentation and information is required to adjudicate the claim. Requires the pharmacy benefits manager to meet certain percentage requirements regarding paying clean claims or face fines. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB907/HB767 **TAXES BUSINESS: Exemption - receipts from the sale of certain prescription drugs or medicines.**

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Hicks, Gary

Summary: Exempts from business tax, receipts from the sale of a prescription drug or medicine with a cost for a 30-day equivalent supply that exceeds the Medicare cost threshold for 2025 plan years and services necessary for proper preparation, storage, handling, administration, patient education, or post-sale monitoring of such exempted drugs or medicines.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/05/25 - Introduced in the House

SB955/HB1044 **HEALTH CARE: Medical Ethics Defense Act.**

Sponsors: Sen. Haile, Ferrell , Rep. Terry, Bryan

Summary: Enacts the "Medical Ethics Defense Act," which specifies that a healthcare provider must not be required to participate in or pay for a healthcare procedure, treatment, or service that violates the conscience of the healthcare provider. Species that the right is limited to a particular healthcare procedure, treatment, or service, and does not waive or modify any duty a healthcare provider may have to provide or pay for healthcare procedures, treatments, or services that do not violate the healthcare provider's conscience. Prohibits a civil cause of action, a criminal prosecution, or discriminatory action based on the exercised right. Details whistleblower and free speech protection of the individual or healthcare provider. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/11/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB1010/HB1220 **HEALTH CARE: Tennessee Contraceptive Freedom Act.**

Sponsors: Sen. Oliver, Charlane , Rep. Johnson, Gloria

Summary: Creates the Tennessee Contraceptive Freedom Act. Establishes that every individual has a fundamental right to make decisions about the individual's reproductive health care, including the fundamental right to use or refuse contraceptives or contraceptive supplies. Requires a healthcare provider to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception and family planning to consenting patients and refer consenting patients to a healthcare provider that can provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception and family planning. Prohibits these rights from being limited or otherwise infringed through a limitation or requirement unless a party can provide evidence based on the safety of the contraception. Requires health insurance carriers and public health agencies to ensure affordable access to a wide range of contraceptive methods for all consenting individuals. Prohibits access to contraceptives from being limited by an individual's sex, race, age, gender, income, ability to pay, number of children, marital status, citizenship, or motive. Prohibits this state from administering, implementing, or enforcing any law, rule, or other provision having the force and effect of law that infringes on one's right to contraceptives. Defines "contraception" as an action taken to prevent pregnancy, including the use of contraceptives, emergency contraceptives, fertility awareness-based methods, and sterilization procedures. Defines "contraceptive" as a device, medication, biological product, or procedure that is intended for use in the prevention of pregnancy, whether specifically intended to prevent pregnancy or for other health needs, legally marketed under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. Defines "family planning" as all forms of contraception.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1030/HB1156 **FAMILY LAW: Immunizations for children.**

Sponsors: Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Lynn, Susan

Summary: Deletes the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian to ensure that such person's child receives vaccines as recommended by guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the American Academy of Pediatrics. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1031/HB1157 HEALTH CARE: Restore Trust in Public Health Messaging Act.

Sponsors: Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Lynn, Susan

Summary: Enacts the "Restore Trust in Public Health Messaging Act," which prohibits the promotion, distribution, or endorsement information regarding an FDA regulated product in a manner that conflicts with or does not accurately reflect the FDA approved or FDA-authorized label for such product. Allows for public complaints. Specifies corrective action upon notice of violation. Requires the removal of nonconforming materials by January 15, 2026. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1039/HB1102 HEALTH CARE: Drug or alcohol test or screen for a patient who is pregnant.

Sponsors: Sen. Bowling, Janice , Rep. Salinas, Gabby

Summary: Prohibits a healthcare facility from authorizing a licensed healthcare professional from performing a drug or alcohol test or screen on a patient who is pregnant, less than one year postpartum, or a newborn without written and oral consent. Allows for a drug or alcohol test or screen to be performed without the consent of the patient if, in the healthcare professional's judgment, an emergency exists and the patient or newborn is in immediate need of medical attention, and an attempt to secure consent would result in a delay of treatment that could increase the risk to the patient's or newborn's life or health. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

House Status: 02/11/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB1064/HB1160 HEALTH CARE: List of psychotropic medications and side effects of each medication.

Sponsors: Sen. Bailey, Paul , Rep. Lynn, Susan

Summary: Requires the department of health on or before January 1, 2026, to submit a report with a list of each drug that is psychotropic medication pursuant to current law and the side effects of each medication to the chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate and the chair of the committee of the house of representatives having jurisdiction over health-related matters. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1081/HB714 TAXES SALES: Tax remittance schedule to offset transaction fees.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Baum, Charlie

Summary: Requires the commissioner of revenue, in cooperation with the treasury, to establish a sales tax remittance schedule for the purpose of allowing dealers making sales to offset the transaction fees associated with the collection of sales tax.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/05/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1153/HB1205 HEALTH CARE: Prohibits physicians from treating themselves or their immediate family.

Sponsors: Sen. Crowe, Rusty , Rep. Kumar, Sabi

Summary: Prohibits physicians from prescribing, administering, or dispensing medication for, or otherwise treating, themselves or their immediate family except for minor, self-limited, short-term, or urgent, emergency situations. Prohibits physicians from treating themselves with or prescribing to family members a scheduled drug. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1209/HB1188 EDUCATION: Discrimination in educational institutions.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul , Rep. Grills, Rusty

Summary: Prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or marital status against a student or an employee in a public institution of education. Requires public institutions of education to treat harassment or discrimination against students or employees, or resulting from institutional policies or programs on their campuses, motivated by or including antisemitic intent in an identical manner to discrimination motivated by race. Requires Title VI coordinators to be designated to monitor antisemitic discrimination and harassment at K-12 schools and institutions of higher education. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Education Committee.

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1235/HB1237 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Membership on state regulatory and health related boards.

Sponsors: Sen. Rose, Paul , Rep. Zachary, Jason

Summary: Prohibits the exclusion of persons from membership on state regulatory and health-related boards on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and national origin. Prohibits such boards from establishing or operating under race-based policies pertaining to their composition. Creates a private cause of action against a board and its officers, employees, and agents for such practices. Removes requirement that appointing authorities strive to ensure certain boards and commissions are represented by members of racial minorities. Broadly captioned.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1240/HB1351 MENTAL HEALTH: Annual report on medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction.

Sponsors: Sen. Jackson, Ed , Rep. Littleton, Mary

Summary: Requires the department to submit its annual report of data collected related to the use of medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction by department-funded providers for the prior fiscal year by March 1 of each year instead of February 14 each year. Broadly captioned.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 6, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to Senate Judiciary.

House Status: 02/12/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk.

SB1270/HB1304 INSURANCE HEALTH: Claims experience report to a plan sponsor or administrator of an ERISA.

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

Summary: Requires an insurance company and health maintenance organization, upon request, to provide a claims experience report to a plan sponsor or administrator of an ERISA (Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974) group health plan. Specifies contents of such a report; revises provisions relating to reinsurance and risk insurance. Revises provisions relating to the readability, content, and style of life and health insurance policies. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate

House Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB1283/HB111 HEALTH CARE: Required pregnancy serological tests.

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

Summary: Adds as a disease for which a laboratory must test during a standard serological test of a pregnant woman hepatitis C antibody (anti-HCV) with automatic reflex to HCV RNA if anti-HCV is reactive and makes certain other changes to the process of conducting required pregnancy serological tests. Part of Administration Package.

Fiscal Note: (Dated February 12, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT

Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Population Health Subcommittee 02/18/25.

SB1284/HB1311 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES: Removal of requirement for board members to sign a license before issuance.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William
Summary: Removes the requirement that a license be issued by the health related board be signed by members of the board prior to issuance. Authorizes the presiding officer of the board to divide the board into panels of three or more to conduct contested case hearing or disciplinary matters. Clarifies that patient billing records are a part of the medical and practice records that providers must make available to the department upon the department's request for inspection. States that identifying information of certain parties in a contested case hearing involving disciplinary charges filed against a provider must only be produced by the provider to a subpoena from a law enforcement agency. Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1315/HB1329 TAXES GENERAL: Reduction of administrative fee percentage.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William
Summary: Reorganizes various boards and agencies in Tennessee. Removes the board of court reporting from the list of entities that are set to terminate on June 30, 2025. Specifies participation by electronic or other means. Moves the regulatory power of the board of court reporting to the commissioner of commerce and insurance. Details responsibilities of the delegated powers. Allows an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state but who has a valid license in good standing as a certified public accountant from another state to be granted practice privileges in this state, if at the time the individual was licensed, the individual showed evidence of having successfully completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination. (20 pp.). Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1316/HB1330 STATE GOVERNMENT: Less is More Act of 2025.

Sponsors: Sen. Johnson, Jack , Rep. Lamberth, William
Summary: Reorganizes various boards and agencies in Tennessee. Removes the board of court reporting from the list of entities that are set to terminate on June 30, 2025. Specifies participation by electronic or other means. Moves the regulatory power of the board of court reporting to the commissioner of commerce and insurance. Details responsibilities of the delegated powers. Allows an individual whose principal place of business is not in this state but who has a valid license in good standing as a certified public accountant from another state to be granted practice privileges in this state, if at the time the individual was licensed, the individual showed evidence of having successfully completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination. (20 pp.). Broadly captioned. Part of Administration Package.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the House

SB1372/HB651 INSURANCE HEALTH: All-products clause in a network participation agreement with healthcare provider.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Williams, Ryan
Summary: Prohibits a health insurance entity or TennCare MCO from including an all-products clause in a network participation agreement with a healthcare provider, and makes certain other changes related to MCO network adequacy. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/10/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB1382/HB858 HEALTH CARE: Step therapy - study on ease of access.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Alexander, Rebecca
Summary: Requires the commissioner of commerce and insurance to conduct a study on the ease of access for patients and prescribing practitioners to insurers' online processes to request step therapy exceptions to determine whether insurers in this state are complying with the current law requirement for ease of access in a manner that does not impose any unnecessary barriers to making an exception request. Requires the commissioner to deliver findings and recommendations from the study to the chief clerks of the senate and house of representatives and the legislative librarian no later than December 15, 2025.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/06/25 - Held on House clerk's desk.

SB1389/HB638 TENNCARE: TennCare or CoverKids coverage based on vaccination status.

Sponsors: Sen. Watson, Bo , Rep. Carringer, Michele
Summary: Prohibits a healthcare provider who participates in the TennCare or CoverKids programs from refusing to provide healthcare services to an enrollee based solely upon the enrollee's refusal to obtain a vaccine or immunization. Prohibits the bureau from reimbursing a healthcare provider in violation of such prohibition. Requires the director to adopt rules. Broadly captioned.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/10/25 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee.

SB1403/HB1179 INSURANCE HEALTH: Extends period of audit notice for a pharmacy - three weeks.

Sponsors: Sen. Hensley, Joey , Rep. Friitts, Monty
Summary: Extends from two to three weeks the period of notice that must be provided to a pharmacist or pharmacy prior to an initial on-site audit for each audit cycle by a covered entity, pharmacy benefits manager, the state or its political subdivisions, or an agent of such entity by sending written notice to the pharmacist or pharmacy. Broadly captioned.
Fiscal Note: (Dated February 8, 2025) NOT SIGNIFICANT
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/12/25 - Caption bill held on House clerk's desk pending amendment.

SB1414/HB1242 INSURANCE HEALTH: Expands provisions prohibiting discrimination against 340B entities.

Sponsors: Sen. Briggs, Richard , Rep. Helton-Haynes, Esther
Summary: Prohibits a drug manufacturer, agent, or affiliate from denying, restricting, prohibiting, discriminating against, or otherwise limiting the acquisition or delivery of a 340B drug to a 340B entity or an authorized location. Prohibits drug manufacturers from imposing additional requirements on 340B entities as a condition for receiving 340B drugs. Prohibits requiring a 340B entity to reverse, resubmit, or clarify a claim after initial adjudication unless it is part of normal business operations and unrelated to the 340B program. Prohibits excluding claims from 340B entities that would result in a net loss to the covered entity. Prohibits imposing requirements on the number of 340B entities, contract pharmacies, or inventory management systems. Prohibits imposing audit requirements, accreditation, recertification, credentialing, or recredentialing standards that are not also required of non-340B providers. Prohibits any requirement determined by the commissioner of finance and administration to interfere with a 340B entity's ability to access drug discounts. Prohibits entities contracting with 340B entities for drug dispensing, administration, or consulting from interfering with, prohibiting, restricting, or limiting a 340B entity's contracts or prospective business relationships. Prohibits such entities from denying, restricting, or interfering with a 340B entity's choice of 340B drugs acquired, delivered, or distributed. Establishes that a person in violation of this may face a civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation and each package of 340B drugs involved in a violation constitutes a separate offense. Authorizes enforcement by the commissioner of finance and administration or the attorney general, either jointly or separately. Defines "340B entity" as a covered entity participating in the federal 340B drug discount program including the entity's pharmacy or pharmacies, or any pharmacy or pharmacies under contract with the 340B entity to dispense drugs on behalf of the 340B entity. Defines "claim" as a request from a 340B entity to be reimbursed for the cost of filling, refilling, or administering a prescription drug or for providing a medical supply or device.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/12/25 - Referred to House Insurance Subcommittee.

SB1421/HB1033 COMMERCIAL LAW: Affirmative defense that may be utilized by a covered entity that is the subject of a data breach.

Sponsors: Sen. Akbari, Raumesh , Rep. Dixie, Vincent
Summary: Creates an affirmative defense that may be utilized by a covered entity that is the subject of a data breach, if the covered entity's cybersecurity program meets certain criteria at the time the breach occurs.
Senate Status: 02/10/25 - Introduced in the Senate
House Status: 02/11/25 - Referred to House Civil Justice Subcommittee.

HB376 PROFESSIONS & LICENSURE: Discriminatory practices prohibited regarding membership of state regulatory and health related boards.

Sponsors: Rep. Zachary, Jason
Summary: Prohibits the exclusion of persons from membership on state regulatory and health related boards on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and national origin. Prohibits such boards from establishing or operating under race-based policies pertaining to their composition. Creates a private cause of action against a board and its officers, employees, and agents for violations. Broadly captioned.
House Status: 02/05/25 - Referred to House Department & Agencies Subcommittee.

HJR7 JUDICIARY: Constitutional amendment - defines person.

Sponsors: Rep. Bulso, Gino
Summary: Proposes an amendment to Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee to declare that a person shall not be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall a person be denied equal protection of the law; defines "person" to include every human being from fertilization to natural death.
House Status: 02/12/25 - Set for House Civil Justice Subcommittee 02/19/25.

HJR28 HEALTH CARE: Constitutional amendment - right to forgo medical treatment.

Sponsors: Rep. Bulso, Gino
Summary: Proposes an amendment to Article I of the Constitution of Tennessee to grant a person the right to forgo medical treatment.
House Status: 01/29/25 - Referred to House Cities & Counties Subcommittee.