



## Bills we're watching 2017

Last updated 2/22/2017

**HB 9 & SB 37 Pharmacy Drug Distribution/Manufacturing:** (Rep. Saddler, R-Eagle River; Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - The Alaska Board of Pharmacy can regulate drug wholesalers that send medical drugs to Alaska.

**HB 24 & SB 20 List U-47700 as a Controlled Substance:** (Rep. Millett, R-Anchorage; Sen. Meyer, R-Anchorage) - Would classify U-47700 as a schedule IA controlled substance.

**HB 25 Insurance Coverage for Contraceptives:** (Rep. Claman, D-Anchorage) - Outlines specific contraceptives that health insurers must cover.

**HB 26 Nursing Mothers in Workplace:** (Rep. Tarr, D-Anchorage) - Requires employers to provide unpaid break time as well as a private and sanitary space for nursing.

**HB 30 Paid Sick Leave:** (Rep. Tarr, D-Anchorage) - Requires employers to provide their employees with paid sick leave at the rate of at least one hour for every 40 hours of work.

**HB 43 & SB 19 New Drugs for the Terminally Ill "Right to Try":** (Rep. Grenn, I-Anchorage; Sen. Wielechowski, D-Anchorage) - This would allow the terminally ill to try potentially lifesaving drugs not yet approved by the Federal Drug Administration.

**HB 54 Voluntary Termination of Life:** (Rep. Drummond, D-Anchorage) - Permits doctors to prescribe medication to people suffering from terminal illnesses who want to end their life. Currently, this is only permissible in six other states.

**HB 79 & SB 40 Omnibus Workers' Compensation:** (Governor) – This is the first significant workers' compensation reform in over a decade, the purpose is to reduce program costs, discourage fraud, and improve service to injured workers.

**HB 89 Licensing Radiologic and Nuclear Medicine Technologist:** (Rep. Tuck, D-Anchorage) - Radiologists and X-ray technicians would need to acquire a state license to work.

**HB 123 Disclosure of Health Care Costs:** (Rep. Spohnholz, D-Anchorage) - Clinics and hospitals would have to publish the "average undiscounted" charges for the top 50 procedures or services. Reporting entities would be required to post health care price information on their premises, online, and to the state.

**SB 10 Adult Foster Care for Disabled; Medicaid:** (Sen. Dunleavy, R-Wasilla) - Would offer Medicaid community-based waivers for adult foster care homes, establish an adult foster care home license and procedures at DHSS, and provide for the transition of severely disabled individuals from foster care to adult foster care homes.

**SB 15 E-Cigs: Sale to and Possession by Minor:** (Sen. Stevens, R-Kodiak) – Prohibits a minor from possessing an electronic smoking product, or a product containing nicotine similar to the current ban on minors possessing tobacco.

**SB 32 Prescriptions for Biological Products:** (Sen. Hughes, R-Palmer) - Allows a pharmacist to substitute an FDA-approved interchangeable biosimilar for a prescribed originator biologic without first seeking approval from the physician. ASHNHA wrote a letter of support stating, “biosimilars and interchangeable biological products offer potential for increasing accessibility and affordability as they provide competition for biologic drugs in a similar way that generic drugs do for brand-name drugs.”

**SB 36 Optometry & Optometrists:** (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Allows the Optometry Board the authority to regulate its practice the same as the other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing.

**SB 38 Pharmacy Benefits Managers:** (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Requires Pharmacy benefits managers to register with the state and regulates audits they can conduct on pharmacies.

**SB 41 List Tramadol as IVA Controlled Substance:** (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Would list Tramadol and related drugs as Schedule IVA restricted.

**SB 49 Physical & Occupational Therapy Practice:** (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Results in changes to the membership of the State Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Board. It also includes clarifications in regards to foreign-educated applicants.

**SB 62 Repeal Certificate of Need Program:** (Sen. Wilson, R-Wasilla) - The state would stop regulating health care facilities and services through the Certificate of Need program.

**SB 63 Regulation of Smoking:** (Sen. Micciche, R-Soldotna) - Prohibits people from smoking indoors at public places of work.