



Bills we're watching 2018

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

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. The bill passed both House and Senate.

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. This bill passed the House.

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) – Workers' compensation reform bill. The stated 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 90 Occupational Licensing Fees: (Rep. Kito, D-Juneau) - Proposes to spread the total cost of investigation charges across all licensees regardless of profession. This new investigative surcharge would be in lieu of the current amount that licensees pay in their overall license fee.

HB 103 Optometry & Optometrists: (Rep. Spohnholz, D-Anchorage) - HB 103 modernizes and updates the Alaska Optometry Statutes, as many parts are over 50 years old. It allows the Board of Examiners of Optometry the authority to regulate its practice the same as other prescribing health professions such as dentistry, medicine and nursing. This bill was signed into law.

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. This bill passed the House, not yet scheduled in the Senate.

HB 148 & SB 77 Second Class Borough Service Areas: (Rep. Chenault, R-Nikiski) - Allows a second class borough to establish a service area for emergency services. The bill passed the House and was amended by the Senate then sent back to the House.

HB 153 & SB 62 Repeal Certificate of Need Program: (Rep. Eastman, R- Wasilla; Sen. Wilson, R-Wasilla) - The state would stop regulating health care facilities and services through the Certificate of Need program. ASHNHA opposes the CON repeal bill and supports the need to reform the program through regulation.

HB 159 & SB 79 Opioids; Prescriptions; Database; Licenses: (Governor) - The bill limits the prescription of opioids, increases the use of the prescription drug monitoring database and includes a number of other provisions. The bill was signed into law in 2017.

HB 162 & SB 81 DHSS Cent. Registry; License; Background Check: (Governor) - The intent of the bill is to improve the background check process and protect vulnerable citizens.

HB 164 & SB 83 Protect: Vulnerable Adults/Long Term Care: (Governor) - This bill would clarify DHSS' and the Ombudsman's role in investigating a report of abuse or neglect of an older Alaskan. The bill was signed into law in 2017.

HB 174 & SB 91 Extend Disaster Emergency: Opioid Epidemic: (Governor) - Extends the Governor's declaration of a disaster emergency to coordinate a response to the opioid epidemic. The bill was signed into law in 2017.

HB 176 Ground Emer. Medical Transport Payments: (Rep. Fansler D-Bethel) - Public EMS providers are eligible to access supplemental federal funding for emergency medical transportation of Medicaid patients.

HB 191 Maintenance Of Certification: Doctors: (Rep. Reinbold, R-Eagle River) - Limits hospitals' ability to require physicians to participate in maintenance of certification.

HB 193 Health Care Services; Balance Billing: (Rep. Grenn, I-Anchorage) - Complex legislation that seeks to avoid balance bills in the emergency department. While we understand the concern about balance billing in the emergency department, this bill is too complex and would have unintended consequences for hospitals and the health care system. We do not support the bill in its current form.

HB 196 Opioid Tax: (Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins, D-Sitka) - This bill would impose an excise tax of one cent on a morphine milligram equivalent of an opioid in certain circumstances.

HB 215 DHSS: Public Health Fees: (House Finance) Allows DHSS to establish fees for services provided. ASHNHA has advocated for a process that allows for dialogue with the public before new fees are imposed. This bill passed the House.

HB 219 Crim Hist Check: St Employees/Contractors: (Governor) - Creates new security procedures for state employees who have access to federal tax information.

HB 234 Extend Alaska Health Care Commission: (David Guttenberg, D-Fairbanks) - In 2015 the Commission was defunded. This bill would extend the commission in statute (but without funding).

HB 236 Extend Senior Benefits Payment Program: (Rep. Kawasaki) - Would result in the Alaska Senior Benefits Program continuing through 2022. The bill passed the House.

HB 240 & SB 38 Pharmacy Benefits Managers: (David Guttenberg, D-Fairbanks; Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Requires Pharmacy benefits managers to register with the state and regulates audits they can conduct on pharmacies.

HB 262 Military Spouse Courtesy License: (Rep. Kawasaki, D-Fairbanks) - Requires the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development to report annual information on temporary courtesy licenses issued.

HB 266 & SB 124 Abortion Procedures; Child Surrender: (Rep. Tilton, R-Wasilla; Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Requires physicians to use a method of terminating a pregnancy that provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive and provides for the child to be put up for adoption.

HB 268 Opioid Prescription Warning: (Rep. Gara, D- Anchorage) - Requires prescribers to let patients know about the potentially addictive qualities of these drugs when they are prescribed. Providers must also offer information about opioid use being a potential risk factor for future heroin addiction.

HB 271 Regulation Of Smoking: (Rep. Claman, D-Anchorage) - This bill prohibits smoking in certain places

HB 274 Extend: Board of Psychologists/Psych Assoc.: (Rep. Kito, D-Juneau) - Extends the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners to June 30, 2026.

HB 312 Crimes Against Medical Professionals: (Rep. Claman, D-Anchorage) - ASHNHA supported legislation that addresses violence towards healthcare workers. The bill passed the House and has one committee (Judiciary) of referral in the Senate.

HB 313 Recovery Of Payment By Insurance Provider: (Rep. Grenn, I-Anchorage) - Does not allow health care insurers to seek recovery of an amount mistakenly paid more than 18 months after the date of the claim with some exceptions. ASHNHA has written a letter of support.

HB 356 & SB 193 Medical Assistance Work Requirement: (Rep. Kopp, R-Anchorage, Sen. Kelly, R- Fairbanks) - Requires DHSS to apply for a waiver to establish work requirements for certain adults who are eligible for the state medical assistance program.

HB 358 Insurance Coverage For Telehealth: (Rep. Spohnholtz, D-Anchorage) - Insurance companies that provide mental health benefits and offer coverage in the group or individual market would be required to provide coverage for mental health services provided through telehealth.

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. The bill passed the Senate.

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 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 63 Regulation of Smoking: (Sen. Micciche, R-Soldotna) - Prohibits people from smoking indoors at public places of work. ASHNHA wrote letter of support. The bill passed the Senate.

SB 76 Alcoholic Beverage Control; Alcohol Reg: (Sen. Micciche, R-Soldotna) - Comprehensively reforms the section of state law covering alcohol sales.

SB 108 Medical Licensing/State Medical Board: (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Gives the executive secretary of the State Medical Board, or other Board delegate, expanded authority to review and issue licenses. Also creates a certification program for medical assistants.

SB 112 Workers Compensation; Drug Database & Test: (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Comprehensive reform to the state's workers' compensation system.

SB 119 Health Care Costs: Disclosure; Insurers: (Sen. Hughes, R-Palmer) - Clinics and hospitals would have to publish how much their most common procedures and services cost. Also includes a 'Right to Shop' consumer incentive program.

SB 126 Visiting Physicians With Sports Teams: (Sen. MacKinnon, R-Eagle River) - Provides an exemption for Alaska state licensure for physicians accompanying out-of-state sports teams if physician is licensed in another state. The bill passed the Senate.

SB 127 Criminal Law; Parole; Probation; Sentencing: (Sen. Costello, R-Anchorage) - An omnibus bill with a number of revisions to the criminal code.

SB 128 Marijuana Edu/Treatment Fund/Program: (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Establishing the marijuana education and treatment fund and administering a comprehensive marijuana use education and treatment program.

SB 129 Health Insurance Payments: (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - Annuls the 80th percentile rule and replaces it with 300 percent of Alaska's Medicare payment for the medical service provided.

SB 136 Restitution; Bail; Bonds; Undertakings: (Sen. MacKinnon, R-Eagle River) - A bill related to bail, restitution, forfeiture and other crime bill issues.



SB 161 Dentistry: Temporary Permit: (Senate Health & Social Services) - It would allow the Board of Dental Examiners to grant a temporary license when a dentist is suddenly incapacitated.

SB 169 Medicaid: Behavioral Health Coverage or purposes of medical assistance coverage: (Sen. Giessel, R-Anchorage) - The department may require behavioral health clinic services to be provided by or under the supervision of a psychiatrist.

SB 209 Prescription Drug Pricing: (Sen. Wielechowski, D-Anchorage): Requires notifications to consumers regarding prescription drug pricing in certain circumstances.