

Tracking List: AzCEP

Upcoming Hearings and Calendars

HB2035 - Insurance; claims; appeals; provider credentialing

Sponsor

Rep. David L. Cook (R)

Summary

Sets out a series of new requirements that a “health care insurer” (defined) must provide to a “health care provider” (defined) in the event that they deny a health care services claim either in whole or in part. The new requirements include providing the health care provider with a phone number and email address of someone equipped to answer questions about the claim denial. At the request of the health care provider, the insurer must respond within 15 days with the following information: detailed reasoning around why a claim was denied due to lack of medical necessity if applicable, the health care provider’s right to dispute the decision of the insurer along with the details needed to navigate the insurer’s internal grievance process including deadlines and the health care provider’s right to request a hearing if the internal grievance process is unresolved, and direction towards appropriate regulatory authorities if the insurer falls outside of the jurisdiction of the Arizona Department of Insurance and Financial Institutions. Requires insurers to provide within 30 days a written response to a filed grievance unless a longer timeframe is agreed to. Outlines the requirements of the written response and requirements for a claims dispute hearing. Reduces the number of calendar days that an insurer has to conclude the process of credentialing an applicant within their billing system from 100 calendar days to 45 calendar days and outlines requirements for confirmation of receipt of an application for credentialing. AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

03/19/2024 S - DPA - Senate Appropriations

Ch. 18, Laws 2024 (HB2042 - Food preparation; sale; cottage food)

Sponsor

Rep. Travis Grantham (R)

Summary

Contains a series of changes related to the regulation of “cottage food products” (defined). Cottage food products must bear a label that clearly states the name and registration number of the food preparer; list all ingredients in the product as well as its date of production; must contain a statement saying “This product was produced in a home kitchen that may process common food allergens and is not subject to public health inspection.” Requires disclosure whether the product was produced in a facility for individuals with developmental disabilities. Defines the information required online or on a label that clearly indicate the producer of the food. Cottage food producers selling their products online must have the same disclosures listed previously somewhere on their site with the exception of the disclosure regarding facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities. Cottage food producers are required to complete a food handler training course from an accredited program and maintain their certification, as well as register with the Arizona Department of Health Services. Cottage food producers are not allowed to store food products or food preparation equipment outside

their home. Outlines the conditions under which a cottage food vendor may deliver food products. Products containing dairy, meat or poultry are required to be sold by the food preparer and delivered to the consumer in person; cottage food that requires temperature control or is “potentially hazardous” (defined) must be kept at an appropriate temperature during transport, cannot be transported more than once by the cottage food vendor and cannot be transported more than 2 hours by the cottage food vendor. Cottage food sold by a “third party platform” (defined) must be sold in a separate section of the third party’s store or from a separate display case from non-homemade food items and the third party must display a sign indicating that the food is homemade and exempt from state licensing and inspection. Cottage food products are not allowed to be used as ingredients in food products being sold at a permitted retail food establishment nor may it contain marijuana or its byproducts. Cottage food may only contain ingredients sourced legally. “Home kitchens” (defined) may not operate as commissaries. (More). AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 85, Laws 2024 (HB2045 - Dangerous drugs; definition; xylazine)

Sponsor

Rep. Selina Bliss (R)

Summary

Modifies the list of “dangerous drugs” (defined) within the criminal code to include xylazine. Exempts licensed veterinarians who lawfully acquire and administer any dangerous drug in the course of their professional and legal practice. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 20, Laws 2024 (HB2051 - Joint training; surveyors; providers)

Sponsor

Rep. Selina Bliss (R)

Summary

The Arizona Department of Health Services is required to operate joint training sessions for supervisors, compliance officers, and investigators, as well as the skilled nursing providers and assisted living providers whom the officers regulate. These sessions will provide updates on the survey process and changes to how compliance is determined. The sessions may be conducted in person or remotely. ADHS can use gifts, grants or donations to pay for the sessions. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 21, Laws 2024 (HB2071 - Dentists; registration; civil penalty; repeal)

Sponsor

Rep. Selina Bliss (R)

Summary

Adds “devices” to drug dispensing requirements for dentists. Repeals the penalties for a dentist that dispenses drugs in a non-emergency situation for a profit without being registered with the Board. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 87, Laws 2024 (HB2079 - Food handler certificate; volunteers; limits)

Sponsor

Rep. Laurin Hendrix (R)

Summary

Exempts the law applies to food service volunteer handlers at school, extraneous to normal food service activities at the establishment in question. Mandates that a county cannot require a volunteer that serves or handles food fewer than three times a year to obtain a food handler certificate or participate in food handler training and certification programs if the volunteer is managed by a certified food protection manager or “person in charge” (defined). AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 24, Laws 2024 (HB2093 - Emergency services; prudent layperson; definition)

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Parker (R)

Summary

Adds language to the definition of emergency services that allows a prudent layperson with standard medical knowledge to attest to the medical condition and symptoms of a person suffering from a medical condition warranting emergency intervention. Includes mental health and the potential of the

person in need causing harm to others as part of the jeopardy factors to determine if emergency services are warranted. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 26, Laws 2024 (HB2113 - Medical assistants; scope of practice)

Sponsor

Rep. Julie Willoughby (R)

Summary

Permits a medical assistant to record the findings of a Doctor of Medicine, communicate medical advice, interpretation of test results and documented orders, and obtain, process and communicate medication or procedure prior authorization as documented and ordered by a Doctor of Medicine, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 130, Laws 2024 (HB2116 - Fatality review; information; access)

Sponsor

Rep. Julie Willoughby (R)

Summary

Permits law enforcement to withhold information or reports from a Child Fatality Review Team (Team) or a Maternal Mortality Review Program (Program) if releasing them would interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution. Requires a Team or Program to establish a process for approving any contact with a close contact or family member of the deceased and to adopt policies requiring trauma informed interview techniques and education of available support services. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/10/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 132, Laws 2024 (HB2137 - Developmental delays; infants; toddlers (Infants; toddlers; developmental delays))

Sponsor

Rep. Julie Willoughby (R)

Summary

Requires that Intergovernmental Agreements developed and implemented by the Department of Economic Security (ADES) include options available to a family based on assessed needs and outcomes of infants or toddlers as part of the initial Individualized Family Service Plan (Plan) for early intervention programs and services for toddlers with developmental delays. Requires the ADES to inform the family if a service option is not covered by early intervention programs in part or whole and to maintain compliance with federal law. Requires the ADES to develop a community resources guide in electronic format and defines the information that must be included in the guide, including mandatory updates, and requires the guide be made available to all involved parties. Permits a family to engage an audiologist pursuant to state law and that the ADES provide all appropriate hearing and speech development services or equipment, and to develop a process for parents to choose services in a natural environment and for families referred to the program who request a different service coordinator. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/10/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 28, Laws 2024 (HB2174 - School personnel; emergency glucagon administration)

Sponsor

Rep. Beverly Pingerelli (R)

Summary

Permits school district governing boards and charter school governing bodies to request an annual standing order for glucagon from authorized medical professionals and when a standing order is in place, a school may stock glucagon at school sites for emergency administration by appropriately licensed medical personnel. Permits a school district to accept monetary donations or apply for grants to purchase glucagon or may participate in third party programs to obtain glucagon at no cost, fair market, or reduced price. Requires any "employee or contractor" (defined) implementing a Diabetes Medical Management Plan, in whole or part, pursuant to state law, to provide the school with a written statement signed by a licensed health professional that the person administering the plan has received proper training pursuant to state law. Requires that the training requirements in this legislation be renewed at regular intervals prescribed by the school district governing board or charter school governing body. Permits appropriately licensed medical personnel to train professional and voluntary diabetes care assistants and provides immunity from civil liability for the consequences of good faith adoption and implementation of diabetes management policies or procedures. Permits glucagon to be purchased, stocked and administered as needed by authorized and certified personnel and exempts the administration of glucagon from standard medical processes such as physical or mental health status examination. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 116, Laws 2024 (HB2203 - Public retirement plans; liabilities; administration)

Sponsor

Rep. David Livingston (R)

Summary

Provides that if an active or inactive member is reemployed in the same retirement plan under the system with a subsequent employer, assets equal to the actuarially accrued liability earned with the previous employer through the date of reemployment shall transfer to the subsequent employer and all benefit liabilities for the member are attributed to that employer. Requires actuarially accrued liability to be computed using the actuarial methods and assumptions prescribed by the system's actuary and adopted by the Arizona State Retirement Board (Board). Exempts all trust funds administered by the Board from the presumption of a violation. Requires the board to adopt policies for monies presumed to be abandoned, including requirements for the notification of the presumed owner and for distributing the monies if the owner establishes entitlement in the monies. Creates a presumption that monies are abandoned two years after listed circumstances. Removes prohibition for a participant of the defined contribution plan to take loans on any portion of the accumulated assets in the participant's annuity account. Adds that a supplemental defined contribution plan is in addition to and does not replace an employee's existing state defined benefit OR DEFINED CONTRIBUTION retirement plan. Adds to definition of "Eligible group" to include Elected Officials' Defined Contribution Retirement System and The Public Safety Personnel Defined Contribution Retirement Plan. Makes the contributions and employer account asset transfers section retroactive to August 6, 2016, and the employer and member contributions section retroactive to August 9, 2017. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/09/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 66, Laws 2024 (HB2245 - Narcotic drugs; fentanyl; sentencing)

Sponsor

Rep. Quang H. Nguyen (R)

Summary

Requires that anyone convicted of possession of a narcotic drug for sale or convicted of transporting of narcotics for sale, importing narcotics into Arizona, offering to transport or import narcotics for sale or convicted of selling, transferring or offering to sell or transfer a narcotic drug and the violation includes selling another person fentanyl in the amount of 200 grams or more, the person shall be sentenced to a minimum of five calendar years in prison, with the maximum potential sentence being 15 calendar years in prison and the presumptive sentence being 10 calendar years in prison for a first offense. Repeat offenders will be sentenced to a minimum of 10 calendar years in prison, with the maximum potential sentence being 20 calendar years in prison and the presumptive sentence being 15 calendar years. Allows for the presumptive term to be upgraded to mitigated or aggravated based on state law. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/02/2024 G - Signed

HB2323 - DCS; specialty medical evaluations

Sponsor

Rep. Kevin Payne (R)

Summary

Prohibits the Superior Court from issuing an order authorizing the Arizona Department of Child Safety (ADCS) to take temporary custody of a child, or a determination of "exigent circumstances" (defined) based solely on the sworn testimony of a physician or health care provider who performs evaluations for the ADCS or who has not conducted a physical examination of the child. Requires the court to consider the opinion of a licensed physician or healthcare provider obtained by the person against whom the allegation of suspected abuse or neglect is being made. Sets rules of evidence for preliminary protective hearings and defines circumstances when ADCS is required to refer a child for a specialty medical evaluation and the credentials the examining physician must possess. Defines notification requirements for ADCS and the parents or guardians under investigation regarding the referred exam and examining specialist and allows objections but does not bind ADCS to refer the child to a mutually agreed upon specialist. Stipulates that a child's parent or legal guardian, or the attorney of the child, or the child's parent or legal guardian, can obtain an alternative opinion, and the ADCS must consider that alternative opinion.(more) AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

03/25/2024 S - Senate Consent Calendar - Object: Yes

HB2378 - Continuation; PSPRS

Sponsor

Rep. Neal Carter (R)

Summary

The statutory life of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Board of Trustees is extended 5 years to January 1, 2029. Retroactive to July 1, 2024

Last Action

05/21/2024 S - Hearing Scheduled - 05/22/2024 - Third Reading, Floor

Ch. 95, Laws 2024 (HB2424 - Licensed health aides)

Sponsor

Rep. Julie Willoughby (R)

Summary

Adds “by affinity or consanguinity” to the definition of “licensed health aide” as relates to family members and includes people who perform “routine ventilator care” under their scope of practice to the same definition. Designates people with the same supervision requirements as Certified Nursing Assistants under the definition of “licensed health aide.” Permits an applicant to allow their prospective employer to discuss their application with the Arizona State Board of Nursing. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 72, Laws 2024 (HB2444 - Grievance process; payment methods; report)

Sponsor

Rep. Steve Montenegro (R)

Summary

Requires a health insurer to accept tangible checks as a form of acceptable payment, and, if a health care provider opts out of a method of payment, that decision remains in effect until they opt back into that method of payment, or they enter a new contract. Requires that before August 2 of each year, the Arizona Department of Insurance (ADI) post a report on the ADI publicly accessible website that includes the total number of grievances received, the average time to resolve a “grievance” (defined), and the percentage of grievances where a health care insurer’s decision was overturned. Stipulates that this bill does not preclude efforts to collect monies for medical services not covered under an insurance policy, or when a procedure is medically necessary and a payment on the claim was not made due to a denial or disallowance because of frequency, and that the provider is limited to the rates prescribed in the provider’s fee schedule. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/02/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 143, Laws 2024 (HB2447 - Child safety; department continuation; procedures (Department of child safety; continuation))

Sponsor

Rep. Steve Montenegro (R)

Summary

The statutory life of the Department of Child Safety is extended 4 years to July 1, 2028. Retroactive to July 1, 2024. AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

04/10/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 96, Laws 2024 (HB2480 - Group homes; random drug screening)

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Parker (R)

Summary

Requires the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) to develop and implement policies and procedures to conduct random drug screenings of employees at group foster homes on a quarterly basis that comply with state law pertaining to the drug testing of employees. Prohibits a group foster home employee from having contact with any child living at the home before an initial drug screening. Permits the ADHS to drug screen any employee involved in an accident or incident that injures a child and requires the home to submit the results of random drug screenings to the ADHS within 48 hours of receiving the results. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

HB2484 - Schools; health care services; posting

Sponsor

Rep. Barbara Parker (R)

Summary

Requires each school district or charter school that provides routine health care services to students in the school's health office to provide to a parent or guardian the health care credentials, if any, of each individual who provides the services, but does not require release of personally identifiable information. AS PASSED SENATE.

Last Action

04/03/2024 H - House Minority Caucus - Y

Ch. 123, Laws 2024 (HB2582 - Pharmacists; collaborative practice agreements)

Sponsor

Rep. John Gillette (R)

Summary

“Provider” definition in the context of a collaborative practice agreement with a pharmacist, is expanded to include a certified midwife or a licensed physician assistant. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/09/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 178, Laws 2024 (HB2599 - Health care appeals)

Sponsor

Rep. David Livingston (R)

Summary

Requires a Utilization Review Agent to develop and implement a plan covering the criteria that applies to Utilization Reviews “Adverse Determinations” (defined) as outlined. Provides guidelines and rules for insurers regarding adverse determinations and appeals. Permits a member who was denied a service that has already been provided to initiate an appeal. Includes questions of appropriateness, including health care setting, level of care or effectiveness of a covered benefit, in the review and appeal processes. Clarifies rules for adverse determinations of services already provided. Adds grandfather clauses. Defines “individual plan”, “health care setting”, “advanced practice registered nurse”, “physician or other health care professional”, and “provider”. Requires additional items for the independent review organization to consider for claims or requests for services denied for reasons other than as experimental or investigational. Requires a Utilization Review Agent to select a provider for a member's appeal of certain adverse determinations. Requires that the rationale for a decision be included in any written decision. Permits a member to appeal or to pursue an external review if that member has exhausted an insurer's internal review process. Defines the external review process. Requires a health care insurer and an independent review organization to maintain all records related to an internal and external appeals process and exception requests for at least three years after the completion of the appeals process or exception request process. Effective January 1, 2025. (More). AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/23/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 181, Laws 2024 (HB2677 - Abortion ban; repeal)

Sponsor

Rep. Stephanie Stahl Hamilton (D)

Summary

Repeals the state ban on abortion procedures and administration of abortion inducing drugs originally enacted in 1864. Removes the associated criminal penalties for the same. AS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

Last Action

05/02/2024 G - Signed

HB2686 - Health profession regulatory boards

Sponsor

Rep. Selina Bliss (R)

Summary

Sets requirements and timelines for how complaints are handled by an Arizona Health Profession Regulatory Board (AHPRB). These requirements include the conditions for when a person who files a complaint can remain anonymous, how to handle complaints made by unidentified persons, how to handle potential criminal offenses, how to handle false or fraudulent complaints, how to inform a respondent about an investigation, conditions for evaluations or actions resulting from complaints and/or investigations, how to post policies, what information can be requested from applicants, conditions for suspending applications, and defining "without prejudice." AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

05/21/2024 S - Hearing Scheduled - 05/22/2024 - Third Reading, Floor

SB1020 - Newborn screening; Duchenne muscular dystrophy

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Requires that congenital disorders added to the core and secondary conditions list of the recommended uniform screening panel be added to the Arizona newborn screening panel within two years of its addition. Requires by December 31, 2024, that Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy be added to the Arizona newborn screening panel.

Last Action

03/20/2024 H - DP - House Appropriations

Ch. 75, Laws 2024 (SB1021 - Scope of practice; process; repeal)

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Removes the definition of "Increase the scope of practice" as it is applied to "Health Professional Group" (HPG), and makes the section not applicable to regulatory entities that were legislatively enacted before August 7, 1985. Removes report criteria covered under 32-3106 and the option of a

HPG proposing to increase their scope of practice to send copies of mandated written reports to the regulatory board of the health professional and the Arizona Department of Health Services for review and comment. Repeals the option of a HPG to seek the introduction of legislation if their report is not heard by an appropriate legislative committee. Repeals the exemption of an HPG seeking to increase the scope of practice to refile a report if there is no significant change. Repeals the mandate that said HPG notify the Legislature and appropriate health committee chairpersons by November 1 if the HPG intends to pursue an increase in scope of practice. Replaces "increased scope of practice" with "certification, registration or licensure" in the section outlining exemptions to reporting. Repeals Sec. 4, 32-3106.

Last Action

04/02/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 101, Laws 2024 (SB1025 - DUI threshold; drivers (DUI; transportation network drivers))

Sponsor

Sen. John Kavanagh (R)

Summary

Adds conditions to the commercial motor vehicle stipulation for individuals with an alcohol level of .04 or more. Adds three applications: A commercial vehicle that requires a person to obtain a commercial license, a transportation network company vehicle, and a vehicle for hire, and the person operating the vehicle is a transportation network company driver as defined by law. Adds transportation network company driver in physical control of a transportation network company vehicle, and a vehicle for hire to those affected by criteria for blood testing to determine if the operator is considered intoxicated, possibly intoxicated or not intoxicated. AS PASSED SENATE.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 104, Laws 2024 (SB1048 - Child fatality review teams; duties)

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Makes changes to the membership of the State Child Fatality Review Team. Removes the Office of Planning and Health Status Monitoring in the Arizona Department of Health Services, Parent Assistance Office of the Supreme Court as members of the team and replaces the required public member of the state child fatality review team with a local child fatality review team member if one is available. Removes the staggered three-year term limit on members of the team. Directs the team to, beginning January 1, 2025, to develop an annual statistical report on the incidence and causes of child fatalities and near fatalities with recommendations for improvement identified by the Department of Child Safety for each covered year and submit that report to the Governor and legislature by November 15 of each year and that it include plans or progress toward the implementation of

recommendations. Requires a detailed written response to all recommendations made to a state agency, board or commission, including an implementation plan be submitted to the Governor and legislature within sixty days of receipt of the annual statistical report on incidence and causation of child fatalities in Arizona. Removes a psychiatrist or psychologist licensed in Arizona as a required member of Local Child Fatality Review Teams and replaces them with a Mental Health Specialist. Permits interviewing of family members of the deceased child or woman by members of the local Child Fatality Review Team, or a member's designee and directs the state team to develop a process for approving, contacting and interviewing said person. Requires any person conducting the interview be trained in trauma informed interview techniques and educated on the support services available to the family member. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 169, Laws 2024 (SB1062 - Behavioral health professionals; addiction counseling)

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Replaces, "psychiatric mental health" in statute with "psychiatric and mental health."
Replaces "substance abuse" and "chemical dependency or substance abuse" with "addiction" (defined) or derivatives of either term. Requires that a "licensed substance abuse technician" (defined,) "licensed associate substance abuse counselor" (defined,) or a "licensed independent substance abuse counselor" (defined) change their license designation by the existing renewal date. Exempts the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners from rule making for one year beyond the effective date. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/23/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 47, Laws 2024 (SB1067 - DCS; group homes; investigations)

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Requires a hotline worker to prepare an Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) report if the identity of a person suspected of "abuse" (defined) is an employee of a child welfare agency, the child victim is placed with the agency and the agency is licensed and contracted with DCS. When warranted, requires a DCS report include the name, address and location of the employee of a child welfare agency suspected of abuse if the child victim is placed with the agency and the agency is licensed and contracted with the DCS. Adds an employee of a child welfare agency where the child is placed that is licensed and contracted with DCS as one of the required investigative veins when that employee is suspected of child abuse and a report has been filed from a hotline intake employee.

Adds the employee suspected of abuse to all notification requirements. Requires an administrative law judge overseeing a hearing into abuse of a child by a employee of a child welfare agency where the child was placed that was contracted by the agency at the time of the abuse or the neglect of a child by a parent, guardian or custodian, to determine if the allegations against any or all of the above hold merit and are deserving of subsequent action. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 171, Laws 2024 (SB1071 - Peer support teams; information; disclosure)

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Includes "or "Peer Support Team Member"" (defined) to those who cannot be compelled to disclose information given in confidence during a critical response incident from a "designated person" (defined) during a legal proceeding, trial, or investigation before any agency of the state or political subdivision of the state, unless the designated person voluntarily agrees to testify. AS SIGNED BYGOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/23/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 106, Laws 2024 (SB1163 - Homeopathic medicine; qualifications (Homeopathic medicine; integrated medicine; qualifications))

Sponsor

Sen. Janae Shamp (R)

Summary

Requires the Board of Homeopathic and Integrated Medical Examiners elect a vice president in addition to other prescribed elected positions and removes the requirement to elect a secretary-treasurer. Requires the Board meet with the Acupuncture Board of Examiners (ABE) each January to set financial compensation for staff and operating expenses sharing. Stipulates that the Executive Director of the ABE serve as the Executive Director of the Board and perform all necessary administrative duties, including employing personnel to carry out Board functions. Requires the Board to award a license to practice homeopathic medicine to an eligible applicant who has completed an approved training or academic program. Establishes separate examination requirements for licensure as a homeopathic or integrated physician and requires the Board to issue a license without examination if an applicant holds, or has passed the examination to hold, a certification from the Council for Homeopathic Certification or its equivalent. Sets requirements for the board regarding licensing renewal, changes in licensee circumstances, and penalties for misrepresenting license or

certification status. Establishes rules for unprofessional conduct, license suspension or revocation and restoration. (More) AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/08/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 51, Laws 2024 (SB1165 - Pharmacy audit; procedures; prohibition)

Sponsor

Sen. Janae Shamp (R)

Summary

Prohibits an auditing entity, when conducting a wholesale invoice audit, from auditing the claims of another auditing entity or reversing a finding of discrepancy if the dispensed quantity is correct, supply invoices and government codes all match, the proper paperwork and reports are present, and quantities dispensed match all appropriate inventories and invoices. Allows a validation to require information that is required under the federal Drug Supply Chain Security Act. Prohibits a Pharmacy Benefits Manager from reimbursing a nonaffiliated pharmacy in an amount less than the amount reimbursed for an "affiliated pharmacy" (defined) for providing the same product. tends to ten days (from five days) after receiving a pharmacy's request, the time for an auditing entity to provide supporting documentation that the pharmacy supplier provided. Prohibits an auditing entity from retroactively reducing a claim payment after adjudication of the claim unless the original claim was found to have been fraudulent, the claim was a duplicate for which the pharmacy had already received payment, or the original reimbursement was an overpayment made in error. Requires the Pharmacy Benefits Manager to submit an annual report to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) that details the difference in reimbursement amounts paid to an affiliated pharmacy and a nonaffiliated pharmacy for providing the same product. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 77, Laws 2024 (SB1173 - Licensed professional counselors; compact)

Sponsor

Sen. David Gowan (R)

Summary

Establishes the Arizona Counseling Compact (Compact) to facilitate the interstate practice of licensed professional counselors. Lists requirements for the privilege to practice and participation in the Compact. Lists requirements for obtaining a new home state license based on a privilege to practice. Lists rules for the practice of telehealth. Outlines a remote state's authority to take adverse action against a professional counselor's license issued by the home state. Establishes the Counseling Compact Commission as an instrumentality of the compact states and consisting of one member from

each compact state. Lists membership requirements, rules of administration, powers, and duties of the Commission. Requires the use of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states. Effective on the date the compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state. (more) AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/02/2024 G - Signed

SB1238 - Obstetric services; rural communities; recommendations

Sponsor

Sen. Janae Shamp (R)

Summary

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is required to convene stakeholders and staff to develop recommendations to ensure that obstetrics and gynecology services are provided in low-volume, high-risk rural communities in Arizona. By December 31, 2025, ADHS is required to report the recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. This self-repeals June 30, 2026.

Last Action

04/01/2024 H - RET ON CAL - House Committee of the Whole

Ch. 54, Laws 2024 (SB1250 - AHCCCS; claims)

Sponsor

Sen. Thomas "T.J." Shope (R)

Summary

Adds a deadline of 60 days for a health care insurer to respond to an inquiry regarding a claim for payment for any health care item or service. Previously there was no deadline. Prohibits denial of payment of a claim submitted by the state based solely on lack of prior authorization if the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System Administration (AHCCS) authorized the item or service. Removes the requirement that a copy of the yearly report on health care insurer compliance be submitted to the director of the Arizona state library, archives and public records. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

03/29/2024 G - Signed

SB1295 - Advanced practice registered nurses; compact

Sponsor

Sen. Janae Shamp (R)

Summary

Establishes the Interstate Commission of "Advanced Practice Registered Nurses" (defined) (APRN) Compact (Compact), a joint public agency for greater coordination and cooperation among states in the areas of APRN licensure and regulation. Lists the general purposes of the Compact, requirements for member states regarding multi-state licensing, and authorities of a party state licensing board. Requires all party states to participate in a coordinated licensure information system of all APRNs, licensed registered nurses and licensed practical or vocational nurses, and lists required information. Establishes the Interstate Commission of APRN Compact Administrators (Commission). Specifies rules for membership, voting, meetings, bylaws, and financial records. Lists the powers of the Commission. Requires the Commission, in consultation with the administrator of the coordinated licensure information system, to formulate procedures for the identification, collection and exchange of information under this compact. Specifies reporting requirements and nondisclosure of personal information. Specifies the Commission's financial obligations and powers. Provides qualified immunity, defenses and indemnification to administrators, officers, executive director, employees and representatives of the Commission. Requires rulemaking and specifies procedures for regular and emergency rulemaking, lists rules for oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement. Provides that this Compact comes into limited effect when it has been enacted into law in seven party states for the sole purpose of establishing and convening the commission to adopt rules relating to its operation, does not supersede any state law related to APRN scope of practice and is severable. AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

03/28/2024 H - RET ON CAL - House Committee of the Whole

Ch. 182, Laws 2024 (SB1309 - Mental health evaluations; information; consent.)

Sponsor

Sen. Catherine Miranda (D)

Summary

Expands requirements relating to applications and petitions for court-ordered behavioral health evaluations. Requires a petition that requests a determination that the patient is chronically resistant to treatment to allege facts that support the request. Specifies that an application made by a peace officer or licensed health care professional does not require notarization. Outlines duties and prohibitions of a screening or evaluation agency upon receipt of an application or petition for a court-ordered evaluation. Requires the agency to immediately note on the application the time and date of receipt and to log the information; to accept and consider relevant past and present behavioral health history of the patient from persons who have a significant relationship with the patient. Prohibits the agency from declining to process a petition or application for court-ordered evaluation due to a lack of witnesses. Specifies individuals who may provide informed consent for a voluntary evaluation. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Last Action

05/06/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 163, Laws 2024 (SB1311 - Mental health; oversight; data; documentation.)

Sponsor

Sen. Catherine Miranda (D)

Summary

Declares the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) the agency responsible for monitoring, overseeing and evaluating state agencies that provide mental health services including overseeing contracts, auditing performance of associated parties, collecting performance data as prescribed by this legislation and formulating official reports to be filed by established deadlines. Requires the AHCCCS to evaluate data collection forms and update them as needed. Removes the requirement that a screening agency destroy an application that has not been acted on for six months and stipulates that, if it is determined that a proposed patient does not need evaluation, the medical director of the screening agency or the medical director's designee must make a written statement of the reasons why the proposed patient does not need an evaluation and retain the application together with the medical director's statement and any records or reports concerning the prepetition screening. Requires that an application for emergency admission be accompanied with a written statement by the medical director of the evaluation agency stating the reasoning, when a person admitted for emergency evaluation is released. Requires the admitting agency consider whether a person is a danger to self or others as a result of a mental disorder, and a screening agency that denies an evaluation to state the denial in writing on the application form and include confirmation by the medical director of the agency or a designee. Requires the medical director of a screening agency who determines that a person no longer needs an evaluation after a petition has already been prepared to make a written statement of the reasons why the evaluation was determined to be no longer necessary. Requires the AHCCCS develop recommendations to improve the availability and transparency of information related to members with serious mental illness designations, including how to facilitate data extraction for analysis purposes. Defines required reports by the AHCCCS and applicable deadlines. (more) AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/16/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 83, Laws 2024 (SB1367 - Occupational license; criminal record)

Sponsor

Sen. Shawna Bolick (R)

Summary

Changes the lookback period for felony offenses to three years from seven years for making decisions regarding qualification for a license, permit, certificate or other state recognition. Adds to considerations for determining if a person's criminal record disqualifies the person from obtaining a license, permit, certificate or other state recognition whether the person would qualify for a fingerprint clearance card without a good cause exception. Requires that each agency's yearly report on petition statistics be posted on the agency's website. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

04/03/2024 G - Signed

Ch. 184, Laws 2024 (SB1402 - Health care; costs; reimbursement)

Sponsor

Sen. Janae Shamp (R)

Summary

Allows health insurers to provide a savings incentive program for medically necessary covered health care services priced below the insurer's usual reimbursement. Allows the program to enable an eligible enrollee to apply the amount paid toward the deductible and out-of-pocket maximum and to be reimbursed for a portion of the difference between the price the enrollee paid and the insurer's usual reimbursement. AS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

Last Action

05/06/2024 G - Signed

SB1406 - International medical licensees; provisional licensure

Sponsor

Sen. Janae Shamp (R)

Summary

Allows the Arizona Medical Board (AMB) to grant a provisional medical license to an "international medical licensee" (defined) who has an offer for employment as a physician at any health care provider that operates in a county with a population of less than one million persons, whose federal immigration status allows the person to work as a physician in the US, who meets the statutory requirements for medicine and surgery licensure and, if applicable, the additional requirements for students graduating from an unapproved allopathic school of medicine. Allows AMB to require an international medical licensee to provide evidence of substantially similar medical training; evidence of satisfactory passage of exams; a complete license application; and payment of all required licensing fees. Outlines AMB powers regarding applications. Outlines requirements of a licensee, including working under the supervision of a licensed physician. Requires the licensee to speak the English language at a level sufficient to communicate with patients about medical conditions and treatments. Requires the international medical licensee's employer to notify AMB if the licensee is terminated or leaves employment for any reason. Outlines AMB powers regarding termination and discipline. Requires a provisional license to automatically be converted into a full medical license after four years if the licensee engages in the practice of medicine in Arizona for four years in an area that is designated as medically underserved and is not disciplined by the board during the four-year period of the provisional license. Exempts the Arizona Medical Board and the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery from rulemaking requirements. Effective January 1, 2025. AS PASSED BY SENATE.

Last Action

04/04/2024 H - DP - House Committee of the Whole

Ch. 200, Laws 2024 (SB1609 - Behavioral health; AHCCCS; health facilities (AHCCCS; personal health information))

Sponsor

Sen. Justine Wadsack (R)

Summary

Requires Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) contractors to minimize duplicative paperwork requirements and limit the number of contractors and entities receiving personal information of members with serious mental illnesses receiving treatment. Prohibits financial gain from any member's personal health information. AHCCCS to develop and implement processes to monitor its contractors' oversight of peer specialists to ensure that the peer specialists meet qualifications and receive the required supervision and training. Requires peer specialists to complete training that includes psychosis-specific content, including anosognosia. Requires annual reports from the Administration. Requires a health care institution that is transferring or discharging a patient to provide to the patient a 30-day supply of all prescription and over-the-counter medications the patient was given in the previous ten days that are ongoing or to be taken as needed, including clear, documented instructions. Requires the AHCCCS to establish requirements regarding discharge of AHCCCS members with a serious mental illness from inpatient psychiatric facilities and to define the processes and responsible entities to ensure continuity of care, including verification against the AHCCCS member's treatment plan of medication, doses, schedules, quantities and routes of administration by a qualified entity. Defines AHCCCS survey and reporting requirements. AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

05/29/2024 G - Signed

SB1678 - Secure behavioral health residential facilities (Secure state mental health facilities)

Sponsor

Sen. David Gowan (R)

Summary

Prohibits a secure behavioral health residential facility (SBHRF) or the Arizona State Hospital (ASH) that provides services to patients civilly placed in the SBHRF by court order from providing services to any other class of individuals. Prohibits a SBHRF that provide services to persons committed to the SBHRF by a court order finding the person dangerous and incompetent to stand trial from providing services to any other class of individuals. Requires the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to submit separate annual reports, by September 1, that include the number of available beds for persons in SBHRFs for civilly-placed persons and for those committed by court order finding the person dangerous and incompetent to stand trial. Includes the AHS in the definition of Secure State Mental Health Facility. AS PASSED HOUSE.

Last Action

04/03/2024 H - DPA - House Committee of the Whole