THE 87TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SUPPORT

Behavioral Health
- Senate Bill 672 by Sen. Dawn Buckingham, MD, and House Bill 2834 by Rep. Greg Bonnen, MD: Would implement a mental health collaborative care model in Texas Medicaid. SB 672 was voted out of the House Human Services Committee and awaits a hearing on the House floor. HB 2834 was heard in the House Human Services Committee and left pending.

Insurance
- House Bill 410 by Rep. Julie Johnson: Would prohibit prior authorizations for state-mandated covered procedures like mammograms, cancer screenings, and diabetes management, and others. HB 410 was heard in the House Insurance Committee and left pending.
- House Bill 907 by Representative Johnson: Would allow limited prior authorizations for autoimmune medications. HB 907 was voted out of the House and awaits receipt by the Senate.
- House Bill 1586 by Rep. Eddie Lucio III: Would prohibit brown bagging or white bagging, which requires medications be purchased from a specialty pharmacy. HB 1586 was heard in the House Insurance Committee and awaits a hearing on the House floor.
- House Bill 2035 by Representative Johnson: Would protect the prudent layperson standard regardless of final diagnosis. HB 2035 was heard in the House Insurance Committee and left pending.
- House Bill 2142 by Rep. Hubert Vo: Would require annual Texas Department of Insurance audits of health plans’ prior authorization compliance. HB 2142 was voted out of the House Insurance Committee and awaits a hearing on the House floor.
- House Bill 2668 by Rep. Four Price: Would eliminate copay accumulators, allowing patients to apply coupons toward their deductibles and out-of-pocket costs. HB 2668 was heard in the House Insurance Committee and left pending.
- House Bill 3459 by Representative Bonnen: Would gold card physicians whose prior authorizations are approved more than 80% of the time, and require a peer-to-peer utilization review to be done by a physician in the same or a similar medical specialty. HB 3459 was voted out of the House Insurance Committee and awaits a hearing on the House floor.

Liability
- Senate Bill 6 by Sen. Kelly Hancock and House Bill 3659 by Rep. Jeff Leach: Would provide liability protection for health care professionals during a pandemic or other disaster. SB 6 was voted out of the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee and awaits a hearing on the House floor. HB 3659 was heard in the House Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee and left pending.

Meaningful Health Coverage
- House Bill 133 by Rep. Toni Rose: Would provide 12 months’ postpartum Medicaid coverage. HB 133 was voted out of the House and awaits a hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.
- House Bill 290 by Rep. Philip Cortez: Would provide one year of continuous Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage for children. HB 290 was voted out of the House and awaits committee referral in the Senate.
- House Bill 3871 by Representative Johnson and Senate Bill 117 by Sen. Nathan Johnson: Would create the “Live Well Texas” program to provide health care coverage to uninsured working Texans. HB 3871 awaits a hearing in the House Human Services Committee. SB 117 awaits a hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. (These are the Medicaid expansion bills and will not be heard this session.)

Medical Billing Tax
- House Bill 1445 by Rep. Tom Oliver, MD: Would prohibit medical billing tax from being implemented. HB 1445 was signed by the governor.

Medical Education

Public Health
- House Bill 4272 by Rep. Stephanie Klick: Would address barriers to retention of disaster-related records in ImmTrac2 and ensure patients have a direct portal at the Department of State Health Services to opt out of ImmTrac2. HB 4272 is scheduled for a hearing on the House floor on Wednesday, May 5.
- Senate Bill 248 by Senator Johnson: Would require permits to sell e-cigarettes. SB 248 was heard yesterday in the House Ways and Means Committee and left pending.
- Senate Bill 969 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst: Would address public health data timelines and uniformity. SB 969 was voted out of the Senate and awaits a hearing in the House Public Health Committee.

Telemedicine
- House Bill 4 by Representative Price and Senate Bill 412 by Senator Buckingham: Would make permanent Medicaid/CHIP waivers allowing audio-only coverage. HB 4 was voted out of the House and awaits a hearing in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. SB 412 was heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and left pending.
- House Bill 5 by Rep. Trent Ashby: Would push for broadband expansion and create a broadband development program to award funds for development. HB 5 was voted out of the Senate and returned to the House with amendments, in which the House did not concur. HB 5 will go to a conference committee for resolution.
- House Bill 980 by Rep. Art Fierro: Would ensure payment parity for telemedicine visits. HB 980 was heard in the House Insurance Committee and left pending.
- Senate Bill 5 by Sen. Robert Nichols: Would create a state broadband development office to promote the expansion of access to broadband service in the state. SB 5 was voted out of the Senate and awaits a hearing in the House State Affairs Committee.
End of Life

- **Senate Bill 917** by Sen. Bryan Hughes and House Bill 2609 by Rep. Tan Parker: Would require medically inappropriate treatment of a patient until transfer if it can be arranged, and jeopardizes physician right to moral conscience. SB 917 was heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and left pending. HB 2609 was voted out of the House Public Health Committee and awaits a hearing on the House floor.


Liability


Public Health

- **Senate Bill 968** by Senator Kolkhorst: Would require the state to stockpile personal protective equipment, requires legislative extension of a public health emergency, provides for an expert panel, and prohibits issuing or requiring vaccine passports. SB 968 was voted out of the Senate and awaits a hearing in the Senate State Affairs Committee.

- **Senate Bill 1310** by Sen. Bob Hall: Would require physicians to provide lengthy ingredients list and obtain additional informed consent for provision of vaccinations. SB 1310 was heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and left pending.

- **Senate Bill 1313** by Senator Hall: Would allow individuals to determine if they want to comply with public health emergency control measures such as quarantine. SB 1313 was voted out of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and is on the Senate Intent Calendar.

Scope of Practice


- **House Bill 2029** by Representative Klick and Senate Bill 915 by Senator Hancock: Would allow advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to independently prescribe medication, order and interpret diagnostic tests, and prescribe devices and durable medical equipment. HB 2029 was heard in the House Public Health Committee and left pending. SB 915 awaits a hearing in the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.

- **House Bill 2340** by Representative Klick and Senate Bill 993 by Senator Hancock: Would allow optometrists to perform eye surgery. HB 2340 was heard in the House Public Health Committee and left pending. SB 993 was heard in the Senate Business and Commerce Committee and left pending.

- **House Bill 4362** by Representative Klick: Would expand scope of practice for APRNs, optometrists, and psychologists. HB 4362 awaits a hearing in the House Public Health Committee.

Disclaimer: Bill status was current at the time of printing. You can find up-to-date information on priority bills in TMA's Grassroots Action Center.