

August 2022

2022 Legislative Session Update



Bill	Action / Status	Bill Summary
HB149 / Expanding Access to Healthcare	Passed Senate. In House Rules.	Bill includes: Medicaid Expansion APRN Independent Practice CON Reform Telehealth Surprise Billing
SB408 / Rural Healthcare Access & Savings Plan Act	Passed House. In Senate Rules.	House version of Medicaid Expansion
SB345 - PA Team-based Practice	Passed Senate. Amended and Passed by House. Returned to Senate. In Senate Rules	Amends regulation of PA practice in N.C. Eliminates required physician supervision in a team-based setting. Maintains supervision requirement in non-team-based settings.
HB277 / SB249 – SAVE Act	HB277 in House Rules. SB249 in Senate Rules	APRN Independent Practice bill
HB93 - Req. Opioid Antagonist Ed	Passed House. In Senate Rules	Mandates patient education with each opioid prescription.
HB538 / SB475 – Transparency in Evidence Stds	HB538 in House Judiciary SB475 in House Rules	This bill states that the term “insurance” as used in NC Rules of Evidence prohibits parties from introducing evidence of any payments made by insurance under the collateral source rule.
HB539 / Protecting Properly Insured Individual	Referred to Committee on Health	This bill modifies the evidence that may be used to establish the amount of recoverable medical expenses for a personal injury claim. This bill specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limits the evidence offered to prove past medical expenses. • Requires providers to timely submit a claim to an injured party’s health insurer or health plan. • States that calculating an injured party’s provider/medical charges by using any method other than described by statute amounts to an unfair claim settlement practice.
HB72 - Audiology Modifications	In House Health. Serial referral to House Rules.	This bill modifies the audiology practice act in the NC General Statutes. Negotiations have been ongoing with the audiologists. Final amendments were submitted to the audiologists for modification of the pending bill. Those changes are still pending.
HB755 - Parent's Bill of Rights	Passed Senate. In House Rules.	The bill would require health care practitioners (not just physicians) and health care facilities to obtain written consent from the minor’s parent before providing, soliciting, or arranging treatment for a minor child. Any health care practitioner who violates the parental consent requirement is subject to disciplinary action including a fine or up to \$5,000.00.

<p>HB1039 - Medical Debt De-Weaponized Act</p>	<p>In House Banking, with serial referrals to Health and Rules.</p>	<p>Requires all large health care facilities to develop a written medical debt mitigation policy Requires large health care facilities to take actions before seeking payment for any emergency or medically necessary care. Specifies when patients must qualify for financial assistance under the mitigation policy and sets maximum charges depending on the patient's household income. Establishes acceptable methods for determining eligibility for financial assistance. Requires large health care facilities to publicize the mitigation policy. Prohibits medical creditors and/or medical debt collectors from taking certain specified collection actions to collect debts owed for health care services. Requires large health care facilities to post price information of their websites, including a list of gross charges for all health care services and a list of the amount that Medicare would reimburse for the health care service. Prevents a spouse from having to assume liability for the medical debt or nursing home debt of his or her spouse or any other person age 18 or older. Requires a medical creditor or medical debt collector to provide an itemized bill to the patient within 60 days of the request. Limits maximum interest rate on medical debt. Specifies requirements for medical debt payment plans. Creates a private right of action against any medical creditor or medical debt collector who violates the bill's requirements. Authorizes the Attorney General enforce the bill's requirements and requires the Attorney General to established a complaint process for aggrieved patients.</p>
<p>HB703 - Breast Cancer Diag Imaging Parity</p>	<p>Passed House. In Senate Rules.</p>	<p>This bill would eliminate out-of-pocket costs for medically-necessary diagnostic breast imaging following an abnormal mammogram result or other medically-necessary purpose.</p>
<p>HB868 - Telehealth Licensure Reciprocity</p>	<p>In House Health. Serial referral to House Rules.</p>	<p>This bill would permit the NC Medical Board to issue a license to practice medicine through telehealth services for licensees that meet certain requirements: (1) holds a full and unrestricted license ne in another state; (2) registers with the Board; (3) does not have any current or pending disciplinary actions; (4) has not been the subject of disciplinary action for the past five years; (5) designates a duly appointed registered agent for service of process in NC; (6) has med mal coverage which includes coverage for telehealth services to patients not located in the provider's home state; and (7) does not have an office in NC and does not currently provide in-person health care services to patients located in NC. (8) practices medicine in a manner consistent with the applicant's scope of practice and the prevailing professional standard of care.</p>
<p>SB380 - Interstate Medical Licensure Compact</p>	<p>In Senate Rules.</p>	<p>Establishes the purpose of the Compact, including a streamlined process licensure in multiple states. Establishes eligibility requirements for licensure through the Compact. Establishes application and renewal procedures. Establishes the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission. Provides for rulemaking procedures. Provides dispute resolution procedures. Requires the Commission to establish a coordinated database and reporting system. Establishes procedures for disciplinary actions. Requires licensure reinstatement procedures following disciplinary.</p>
<p>SB711 - NC Compassionate Care Act</p>	<p>Passed Senate. In House Rules.</p>	<p>Defines cannabis-related terms. Requires DHHS to issue registry identification cards to qualified patients/caregivers. Establishes processes for the application for, and issuance of, registry identification cards. Provides protections for the medical use of cannabis for registry identification cardholders. Establishes the Medical Cannabis Production Commission and requires the Commission, in consultation with the NC Medical Care Commission, to adopt rules establishing qualifications and requirements for licensure of medical cannabis suppliers, for the production of medical cannabis by a medical cannabis supplier, and for the proper regulation of medical cannabis centers and cannabis products facilities operated by medical cannabis suppliers. Requires the Medical Cannabis Production Commission to establish a medical cannabis supply system. Establishes requirements for a Medical Cannabis Supplier License.</p>
<p>SB666 – Update Reqs./Advance Health Directives</p>	<p>Passed Senate. In House Rules.</p>	<p>This bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for a health care power of attorney to be valid if it is signed in the presence of two qualified witnesses <u>or</u> acknowledged before a notary public. • Makes conforming changes to the statutory health care power of attorney form. • Allows an advance health directive to be valid if it has been signed in the presence of a notary public <u>or</u> two witnesses. • Makes conforming changes to the statutory Advance Directive form. • Allows health care powers of attorney and advance health directives to be electronically filed with the NC Secretary of State.

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Physicians Running for NC General Assembly Seats



Rep. Kristin Baker, MD

Psychiatry

Republican / Incumbent

House District 82

Cabarrus County

www.electkristinbaker.com



Timothy Reeder, MD

Emergency Medicine

Republican

House District 9

Pitt County

www.drreeder.com



Cheryl Russo, MD

Cardiology

Republican

Senate District 42

Mecklenburg

www.russofornc.com



Key Contacts are Critical



Relationships with elected officials are crucial to maximizing advocacy effectiveness. Relationships are built through political engagement and participating during the legislative process. There has never been a time when the health care policy issues under consideration are of such consequence, so we need to take our advocacy efforts to the next level. That is a realistic and attainable goal if we can entice more members to be willing to be a **Key Contact**. A simple but significant part of the formula is the willingness to connect with legislators. Are you willing to be a Key Contact for your members of the NC General Assembly and the US Congress? It is not time consuming and you'll be provided the information necessary to convey accurate and effective messages.

YES. I will be a key contact for . . .

my members of the NC General Assembly

my members of Congress

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Thank you for your advocacy involvement!