

## **ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – July 10, 2026**

### **STATE AFFAIRS WORKGROUP**

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### **ACS STATE AFFAIRS PRIORITY ISSUES**

- Prior Authorization/Downcoding
- Restrictive Covenants
- Private Equity/Corporate Practice of Medicine
- Scope of Practice
- Cancer
- Rural Surgery
- Professional Liability
- Continuing Medical Education/Maintenance of Certification
- Trauma

For more information regarding ACS State Affairs Policy Priorities in your state, please contact Catherine Hendricks, State Affairs Manager, at [chendricks@facs.org](mailto:chendricks@facs.org). To view a complete list of bills ACS State Affairs is tracking, visit our online [State Legislative Tracker](#).

### **ACS GRANT PROGRAM**

State Chapters are eligible to apply for ACS State Advocacy Grants and may use funds towards their annual state advocacy day, to hire a lobbyist, or other relevant advocacy functions such as travel costs for members, catering, venue rentals, printing, and more. To learn more information regarding the ACS State Advocacy Grants, apply [here](#).

### **STATUS OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS**

Legislatures not in session: Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas have no legislative session in 2026. Most states have adjourned for this session, except for the following: California, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Alaska and South Carolina are in special session. State legislative session information for 2026 can be found [here](#).

### **LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

#### **ALABAMA**

##### **HB 605 – Rural Workforce **ENACTED****

Introduced by Representative Jamie Kiel (R), HB 605 provides limited immunity from state and federal antitrust laws to rural health care professionals who engage in collaborative activities designed to improve health care delivery in rural areas; health care professionals must obtain a certificate from the state detailing the nature, scope, and anticipated effects of their collaborative activities, and demonstrating these activities are reasonably necessary to further the state's rural health policy. Governor Kay Ivey (R) signed the bill into law April 16.

## ALASKA

### [SB 89](#) – Scope of Practice **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Loki Tobin (D), SB 89 allows physician assistants (PAs) to obtain temporary permits and be recognized as an “attending physician”; allows supervision through telecommunications; prohibits restrictive covenants; the medical board is responsible for establishing a scope of practice for PAs which excludes surgery. Governor Mike Dunleavy (R) signed the bill into law June 19.

## CALIFORNIA

### [SB 964](#) – Prior Authorization

Introduced by Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (D), SB 964 allows health care professionals the authority to adjust the dose or frequency of a previously approved prescription drug for an enrollee with a chronic condition or cancer without requiring prior authorization or subsequent utilization management. The bill passed the Senate and is now in the Assembly Health Committee.

### [SB 1146](#) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Senator Lena Gonzalez (D), SB 1146 requires any artificial intelligence (AI) generated advertisement for health-related consumer products or services must include a disclosure stating AI was used; exceptions for content created with a licensed physician's consent; the attorney general has enforcement power. The bill passed the Senate and is in the House Appropriations Committee.

### [SB 1311](#) – Licensure

Introduced by Senator Aisha Wahab (D), SB 1311 modifies the Licensed Physicians from Mexico Program, extending and clarifying application windows and participant caps through 2045; allowing up to 275 active licenses at a time; provides eligibility, orientation, continuing education, and peer review requirements for participating physicians; allows for the issuance of a nonrenewable three-year license to eligible physicians. The bill passed the Senate and is before the House Appropriations Committee for consideration.

## LOUISIANA

### [HB 475](#) – Artificial Intelligence **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Stephanie Berault (R), HB 475 requires health professionals to obtain a patient's verbal consent before recording medical visits for artificial intelligence transcription. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law June 2.

### [HB 766](#) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Aimee Freeman (D), HB 766 requires health insurers to cover orally administered anti-cancer medications the same as intravenous treatments; prohibits cost sharing to disadvantage oral medications. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law June 8.

### [HB 1196](#) – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Aimee Freeman (D), HB 1196 requires health insurers to cover colorectal cancer screening; any colonoscopy done for screening must be covered as a screening service, even if a polyp or tissue is removed during the procedure; a follow-up colonoscopy after an initial screening, must also be covered as a routine screening. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law June 2.

**SB 84 – Cancer **ENACTED****

Introduced by Senator Brach Myers (R), SB 84 requires health insurers to provide no cost sharing prostate cancer screenings, including digital rectal examinations and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) testing; expands coverage for men between the ages of 40 and 49. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law May 22.

**SB 275 – Insurance **ENACTED****

Introduced by Senator Brach Myers (R), SB 275 requires health insurers to reimburse certified registered nurse anesthetists the same as physicians for equivalent services. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law May 15.

**SB 439 – Cancer **ENACTED****

Introduced by Senator Gerald Boudreaux (D), SB 439 expands existing cancer screenings, precancer screenings, including esophageal cancer, must be provided by employers to all eligible firefighters and fire service employees. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law May 22.

**SB 465 – Insurance **ENACTED****

Introduced by Senator Patrick McMath (R), SB 465 accelerates timeframes for health insurers to pay or deny; the standard payment period for nonelectronic claims, is reduced from 45 to 30 days, and for prior-authorized (PA) claims, from 60 to 10 days; electronic claims with PA must now be processed within 10 days, those without PA remains at 25 days; shortens the period insurers can retroactively deny or recoup payments from 18 months to 180 days. Governor Jeff Landry (R) signed the bill into law June 1.

**NEW JERSEY**

**A 4852 – Telemedicine **ENACTED****

Introduced by Assemblymember Andrea Katz (D), A 4852 allows state licensed physicians to prescribe Schedule II controlled substances provided through audio and video without an in-person exam. Governor Mikie Sherrill (D) signed the bill into law July 8.

**OHIO**

**SB 162 – Insurance **ENACTED****

Introduced by Senator Louis Blessing (R), SB 162 revises the current 24-month insurer takeback timeframe, decreasing it to the same timeframe given to a provider to submit a claim; prohibits health insurers from changing timeframes during a contract period; prohibits insurers from charging a provider for appealing a determination of overpayment. Governor Mike DeWine (R) signed the bill into law July 8.

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### [HB 5164](#) – Surgical Smoke **VETOED**

Introduced by Representative Lee Hewitt (R), HB 5164 requires all licensed hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities to adopt and implement policies to reduce exposure to surgical smoke during procedures likely to generate it using a smoke evacuation system. Governor Henry McMaster (R) vetoed the bill May 19. The attempt at a veto override failed June 25.

### **VERMONT**

#### [H 583](#) – Corporate Practice of Medicine/Restrictive Covenants **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Alyssa Black (D), H 583 prohibits the corporate practice of medicine; prohibits restrictive covenants. Governor Phil Scott (R) signed the bill into law June 15.

#### [H 771](#) – Certification of Need

Introduced by Representative Joshua Dobrovich (R), H 771 exempts ambulatory surgical centers from the state's certificate of need (CON) requirements, allowing them to be established and licensed without undergoing the CON process. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Care Committee.

#### [H 776](#) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Monique Priestley (D), H 776 prohibits artificial intelligence (AI) tools from making final adverse coverage decisions, only a licensed health care provider can make such determinations; requires AI based decisions in utilization review processes are based on an individual's medical and clinical history and the specific circumstances of the case, not just group data; health insurers must disclose their use of AI in written policies, including details about human oversight, and must review and update AI tool performance quarterly. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Care Committee.

#### [S 64](#) – Scope of Practice **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Becca White (D), S 64 allows “qualified” optometrists to perform surgery to remove lesions, excision and repair of non-recurrent chalazia, excision and biopsy of non-recurrent lesions of the adnexa, repair of eyelid laceration; laser capsulotomy, peripheral iridotomy, and trabeculoplasty; corneal crosslinking; injections into the eyelid or adnexa; allows vaccinations for systemic health reasons during a declared public health emergency; requires reporting of an adverse event to the state board of optometry; provides a long list of surgical procedures optometrists are not allowed to perform; requires a separate designation for advanced therapeutic procedures specialty to perform additional procedures. Governor Phil Scott (R) signed the bill into law June 18.

#### [S 142](#) – Licensure **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Wendy Harrison (D), SB 142 authorizes the medical board to issue provisional licenses to internationally trained physicians, allowing them to practice at approved health care facilities under supervision; after completion of the provisional period, a full license may be granted. Governor Phil Scott (D) signed the bill into law June 18.

#### [S 163](#) – Scope of Practice **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Becca White (D), S 163 updates statutory definitions to include advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) alongside physicians; ensures patients may have either a physician or an APRN as their attending provider; requires that APRNs coordinating care have access to physician consultation and support; patients have the right to receive information, give informed consent, and know the identity and professional status of their attending provider; case records must be signed by the attending provider. Governor Phil Scott (D) signed the bill into law May 6.