

## **ACS State Affairs Legislative Update – June 12, 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, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Alaska, South Carolina, and Virginia are in special session. State legislative session information for 2026 can be found [here](#).

### **IN THE NEWS**

#### **[An untapped surgical tech pipeline for hospitals](#)**

As hospitals face shortages of surgical technologists and surgical first assistants, health care leaders are recognizing athletic trainers as qualified technicians for operating room roles when working under the supervision of a physician and meeting state and facility requirements. Licensed athletic trainers can serve as surgical first assists in most states and are trained to perform tasks such as scrubbing into surgery, assisting with procedures, suturing, documenting cases, and supporting patient care before and after surgery. Roughly 300 to 400 athletic trainers were already working in the OR assisting surgeons. Read more [here](#).

## **LEGISLATIVE TRACKING**

### **ARIZONA**

#### **HB 2686** – Ambulatory Surgical Centers **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Ralph Heap (R), HB 2686 requires physicians performing surgeries at ambulatory surgical centers (ASC) to annually provide and update their call-coverage plans to the ASC, including hospital coverage; noncompliance constitutes unprofessional conduct. Governor Katie Hobbs (D) signed the bill into law June 4.

### **CALIFORNIA**

#### **SR 118** – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Roger Niello (R), SR 118 designates September 2026 as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, urging increased public awareness, informed discussions about screening, and vigilance in early detection, particularly among high-risk groups. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules Committee.

### **COLORADO**

#### **HB 1139** – Artificial Intelligence **ENACTED**

Introduced by Representative Junie Joseph (D), HB 1139 mandates health insurers using artificial intelligence (AI) must ensure these systems base decisions on individual clinical data rather than solely on group data, and that any denial or delay of coverage based on medical necessity must be reviewed and approved by a licensed clinician or physician; prohibits the use of AI systems as the sole basis for adverse coverage determinations and requires periodic review, documentation, and compliance with anti-discrimination laws. Governor Jared Polis (D) signed the bill into law June 2.

### **CONNECTICUT**

#### **SB 391** – Cancer **ENACTED**

Introduced by the Joint Committee on Judiciary, SB 391 seeks to expand options for breast cancer screening, diagnosis, and treatment for women in state prison. Governor Ned Lamont (D) signed the bill into law June 4.

### **LOUISIANA**

#### **SR 160** – Professional Liability **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Senator Patrick Connick (R), SR 160 creates a medical malpractice task force to study and recommend improvements to the state's medical review panel process; explore ways to make the process more efficient, such as using expert certification, pre-suit affidavits, or expedited scheduling to reduce frivolous claims and resolve legitimate cases faster. The resolution was adopted June 1.

### **MARYLAND**

#### **SB 496** – Bariatric Surgery **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Stephen Hershey (R), SB 496 requires the Medicaid program to cover bariatric surgery and FDA-approved medications for chronic weight management in patients with obesity. Governor Wes Moore (D) signed the bill into law May 31.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

### [S 3102](#) – Biomarker

Introduced by Senator Jacob Oliveira (D), S 3102 requires health insurers to cover biomarker testing for diagnosis and treatment when supported by scientific evidence; prior authorization or utilization review must be approved or denied within 72 hours or 24 hours for urgent requests. The bill was introduced in the Senate and is awaiting referral to a committee.

## **MICHIGAN**

### [HB 6058](#) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Joseph Aragona (R), HB 6058 creates a streamlined licensure process for individuals licensed in other states without additional examination; applicants must hold an out-of-state license for at least one year, must meet state standards with no disciplinary actions or pending investigations; license applications must be granted or denied within 90 days. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Regulatory Reform Committee.

### [HB 6060](#) – Licensure

Introduced by Representative Mark Tisdell (R), HB 6060 fast tracks state licensure for health professionals from other states or Canadian provinces; applicants must hold an out-of-state license for at least one year and must meet state standards; license applications must be granted or denied within 90 days; for military, the bill requires initial licensure without examination if the applicant holds a substantially equivalent license, demonstrates competency, and passes a criminal history check. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Regulatory Reform Committee.

## **NEW JERSEY**

### [S 4347](#) – Pre-hospital Blood

Introduced by Senator Kristin Corrado (R), S 4347 authorizes advanced life support (ALS) providers to administer blood transfusions to patients before they reach the hospital, under the supervision of a trauma- or emergency-trained physician; requires at least two trained ALS providers during transfusions, regular audits, reporting, and strict protocols for handling transfusion reactions and blood product storage. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee.

## **NEW YORK**

### [K 1537](#) – Cancer **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Representative Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn (D), K 1537 designates September 2026 as Prostate Cancer Awareness month to raise awareness, promote early detection, and advance health equity, especially in underserved communities. The resolution was adopted June 1.

### [K 1580](#) – Cancer **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Assemblymember Harry Bronson (D), K 1580 designates October 2026 as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of awareness, research, early detection, and addressing disparities in breast cancer outcomes. The resolution was adopted June 3.

### [K 1583](#) – Cancer **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Assemblymember Linda Rosenthal (D), K 1583 designate November 11, 2026, as Lung Cancer Screening Awareness Day to promote public awareness and early detection of lung cancer through recommended screening practices. The resolution was adopted June 3.

#### [J 2288](#) – Stop the Bleed **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Senator Gustavo Rivera (D), J 2288 designates May 2026 as Stop the Bleed month to raise awareness and promote public training in bleeding control, aiming to reduce preventable trauma deaths. The resolution was adopted June 4.

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

#### [H 565](#) – Artificial Intelligence

Introduced by Representative Timothy Reeder (R), H 565 restricts health insurers on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in billing, claims, and utilization review; prohibits using AI algorithms as the sole reason to deny utilization review or prior authorization requests; bans health care providers from using AI for coding, billing, or documentation if those systems are designed to promote or result in upcoding; violations are considered unfair and deceptive trade practices under state law, making them legally actionable. The bill passed the House and is in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **OHIO**

#### [HB 963](#) – Scope of Practice

Introduced by Representative Kellie Deeter (R), HB 963 replaces the physician assistant (PA) supervision model with the collaboration model; PAs are legally responsible for their own services and must participate in quality assurance systems; expands medical services a PA can perform; mandates reimbursement parity. The bill was introduced in the House and is awaiting referral to a committee.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

#### [HB 2591](#) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Keith Harris (D), HB 2591 establishes a grant program to fund educational campaigns on prostate cancer; provides grants to health care providers and facilities to create and administer educational campaigns aimed at increasing public knowledge and awareness of prostate cancer and the importance of prostate health. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Committee.

#### [HB 2592](#) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Keith Harris (D), HB 2592 requires a patient must be directly notified within five days of an abnormal prostate-specific antigen test; notification must include the name of the practitioner, test date, date results were sent, a lay summary of the results, specific advisory statements, and contact information for obtaining a full report. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Committee.

#### [HB 2593](#) – Cancer

Introduced by Representative Keith Harris (D), HB 2593 requires the health department to launch a multilingual public education campaign on prostate health and cancer, establishes a

dedicated fund for its support, and sets a six-month implementation timeline. The bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Health Committee.

[HR 524](#) – Cancer **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Representative Jordan Harris (D), HR 524 establishes June 2, 2026, as Cancer Action Day, urging legislative action to address cancer disparities and improve access to prevention, detection, and treatment services statewide. The resolution was adopted June 3.

[SR 331](#) – Cancer

Introduced by Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver (R), SR 331 designates June 2, 2026, as 'Cancer Action Day' in Pennsylvania to raise awareness, honor those affected by cancer, and support advocacy for improved cancer prevention and healthcare access. The bill was introduced in the Senate and referred to the Rules and Executive Nominations Committee.

**RHODE ISLAND**

[SR 3345](#) – Professional Liability **ADOPTED**

Introduced by Senator Mark McKenney (D), SR 3345 establishes a twelve-member special legislative commission tasked with conducting a comprehensive study of the impact of medical malpractice on healthcare providers and healthcare costs within the state. The resolution was adopted June 4.

**TENNESSEE**

[SB 1692](#) – Licensure **ENACTED**

Introduced by Senator Becky Massey (R), SB 1692 creates a pathway for active military servicemembers and their spouses who move to the state due to military orders, to have their out-of-state occupational licenses recognized without having to requalify; relevant licensing authorities must clearly display information on their websites and application materials. Governor Bill Lee (R) signed the bill into law May 27.