



Governmental Services Group

This week was surprisingly slow given that there are now only four full weeks left of the legislative session. At this time, the Legislature has still only truly agreed and finally passed one bill this session, HB 3014, a supplemental budget bill sponsored by Representative Smith. Four weeks really isn't much time, and the Senate is planning to move committee hearings to the morning so floor time can begin at 11 a.m. to move bills straight through the day.

The Senate will likely be spending a majority of their time in the coming weeks working on the budget bills that were sent over from the house last week. They will have to work diligently to meet the May 6th appropriations deadline. Working through Fridays and an expedited mark-up process are looking to be more and more likely.

In addition to this, the Senate Appropriations voted to pass HJR 117, sponsored by Representative Smith, out of committee this week with an 8-5 vote. This resolution would ask voter approval to reverse the decision to permanently expand Mo HealthNet. It is anticipated that when HJR 117 hits the Senate floor, there could be long debate and filibusters by opposition, who want to keep in place the original expansion that voters approved in 2020.

Still, some bills continue to move that are high priority items. Senator Hough's Fast Track workforce development bill, SB 672 had its hearing Thursday morning in front of the House Economic Development Committee. The bill has continued to have strong support from business leaders and educational systems.

Additionally, there is still no Congressional map. We will continue to keep you informed of the latest in Jefferson City.

Vaccines

HB 1709, sponsored by Representative Buchheit-Courtway, provides it is unlawful discriminatory practice to require any person to receive a medication, vaccination, or injection that has not been fully authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration, is allowed under an emergency use authorization, or is undergoing safety trials. This bill was perfected on the House floor this week.

Vaccines

HB 2452, sponsored by Representative Cook, modifies provisions relating to the administration of medications by pharmacists.

This bill modifies several provisions relating to the administration of medications by pharmacists. First, this bill modifies the definition of a medication therapeutic plan by repealing language defining it by the prescription order so long as the prescription order is specific to each patient for care by a pharmacist.

This bill also repeals language from current law defining the practice of pharmacy as including the administration of specific vaccines by written physician protocol for specific patients and adds language defining the practice of pharmacy as including the ordering and administering of U.S. FDA-approved or authorized vaccines to persons at least 7 years of age or the CDC-approved age, whichever is older, pursuant to rules promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy and the Board of Registration for the Healing Arts or rules promulgated under a state of emergency.

Currently, any pharmacist who accepts a prescription order for a medication therapeutic plan must have a written protocol from the referring physician. This bill repeals this provision and permits a pharmacist with a certificate of medication therapeutic plan authority to provide medication therapy services pursuant to a statewide order issued by the Department of Health and Senior Services or pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician.

The bill repeals provisions of current law requiring pharmacists to administer vaccines by protocol in accordance with treatment guidelines established by the CDC and provisions requiring a pharmacist who is administering a vaccine to request a patient remain in the pharmacy a safe amount of time after administration of the vaccine to observe any adverse reactions.

This bill allows a licensed pharmacist to order and administer medication approved or authorized by the FDA to address a public health need, as authorized by the state or federal government, during a state or federally-declared public health emergency. Additionally, a licensed pharmacist may administer medication pursuant to a statewide standing order issued by the Director of the Department of Health and Senior Services, if a physician, or a physician on behalf of the Director, to address a public health need.

This bill was perfected on the House Floor this week.

MO Healthnet

HJR 117, sponsored by Representative Smith, proposes a constitutional amendment relating to MO HealthNet. Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment changes provisions relating to eligibility and requirements for MO HealthNet. HJR 33 was voted out of the Senate Appropriations Committee DO PASS.

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