



APRN's from all across Missouri filled the halls of the Capitol this week as the Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners hosted the first AMNP Advocacy Day of the 2020 legislative session. After a briefing by AMNP's lobbyists on 2020 APRN legislation and a discussion about how to make visits to legislators effective, veteran NP's and student NP's joined forces to visit with legislators in their offices and on the floor of the House and Senate. Throughout the visits, messages of patient-first initiatives such as access to care and quality of care were conveyed to legislators. The feedback was exceedingly positive, with most reporting overwhelmingly supportive legislators that are eager to help solve Missouri's health care dilemma. In addition to visiting with House and Senate members and their staff, several veteran NP advocates met with Dr. Randall Williams (the Director of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services), members of Governor Parson's policy team, and key committee members of House and Senate committees that will be tasked with hearing testimony on APRN issues this legislative session. Pictures from the day will be posted to AMNP's social media platforms, and we'll be hosting another Advocacy Day on April 8th. To get signed up and earn 4 FREE CE's, visit us at www.missourinp.org and click on the events tab to learn more.

In addition to NP's taking action on Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Seniors, Families, and Children heard testimony on SB 714, the APRN licensure bill filed by Sen. Eric Burlison. In more than an hour of testimony from both supporters and opponents alike, committee members were demonstratively positive towards supporters while simultaneously showing skepticism for opponents who struggled to provide valid reasons to oppose an APRN license. Supporters contended that a separate APRN license under the Board of Nursing is essential to recognize the additional education and skillset of APRN's, create a distinction for discipline or revocation between an APRN license and RN license, simplify the billing verification process (particularly for insurers), and define the role of an APRN by codifying it in statute. Opponents generally acknowledged the benefits of APRN's in their role in the healthcare delivery system, but contended that APRN's should be licensed under the Board of Healing Arts rather than the Board of Nursing. The majority of those testifying in opposition supported APRN licensure with that unacceptable caveat. Supporters included the Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners, BJC Health Systems, Rural Health Clinics, SSM Health System, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Missouri Nurses Association, Leading Age Missouri, AARP, and Missouri Health Care Association. Opponents consisted of the Missouri State Medical Association, College of Emergency Physicians, Society for Anesthesiologists, College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Missouri Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons. A vote on the measure is expected in the near future and we will keep you informed of when that occurs. In the meantime, if you

haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to send Sen. Burlison an email thanking him for his steadfast support for Missouri's APRN's. You may email him a thank you note to eric.burlison@senate.mo.gov.

In general activity this week, both chambers got to work in a big way to make up for the abbreviated weeks in the first few weeks. The pace picked up almost palpably this week, with committee activity and floor action feeling like it was months into session rather than weeks. As a result, bills are starting to stack up on both the House and Senate perfection and informal calendars. Expect to see both chambers attack Republican Caucus priorities in the push up to spring break.

In the House this week, much of the attention was focused on the passage of Rep. Holly Rehder's HB 1693 (her perennial prescription drug monitoring program bill). This bill has long been a top priority for Rehder and the Speaker, and after several attempts to amend the bill (including one amendment offered by Rep. Hill to require the program to sunset after 5 years that consumed hours of debate), Rehder successfully passed the measure out of the House without an amendment with many in her own caucus voting against the measure and a substantial percentage of Democrats voting in favor. The final perfection vote was 95 – 56 in favor of adopting the program, but the bill will require one more vote before heading to the Senate. In addition to the PDMP bill, House members perfected 6 other measures and sent eight other bills to the Senate.

In the upper chamber this past week, the Senate finally sent their top priority to the House after passage last week and a filibuster the week prior. The "Cleaner Missouri" bill filed by Sen. Hegeman, which seeks to address the redistricting portion of the original Clean Missouri approved by voters in November of 2018, received its final vote in the Senate on Monday before heading to the House where it is expected to receive a warm welcome. The Senate also took up some contentious tort reform bills dealing with asbestos litigation and another attempting to address punitive damages. Both bills were laid over as senators seek to develop a compromise before bringing the issue back to the floor. The Senate also passed SB 600 and SB 580.

In committee activity this week, the House heard testimony on HB 2326 (a bill invalidating non-compete agreements for several classes of people in the health care profession). Additionally, a decent number of bills were referred to committee this week, many of which AMNP is tracking to ensure no damaging provisions will be included. On the Senate side, committee activity matched the pace of the House with a multitude of bills heard in hearings throughout the week. As mentioned above, AMNP's primary focus in hearings this week was primarily SB 714, but AMNP Advocacy Committee Chair Laura Kuensting also testified in favor of SB 533 (a workplace violence measure geared towards hospitals and other health care facilities). Expect to see even more activity this next week when lawmakers return.

As always, if you have a question on any House or Senate bill, you'll be visiting the Capitol and would like assistance, or if we can be of service in any other way, please don't hesitate to contact us. You may reach us by phone at 573-533-5062 or by email at nursepractitioners@missourinp.org

ACTION ON BILLS OF INTEREST/BILLS TRACKED

HOUSE BILLS	
1305	Modifies provisions relating to epinephrine auto-injectors
	Referred: Health and Mental Health Policy
1442	Modifies and adds provisions relating to professional licensure
	Referred: Rules - Administrative Oversight
1513	Establishes the "Missouri Freedom to Choose Health Care Act"
	Referred: Health and Mental Health Policy
1693	Establishes the "Narcotics Control Act"
	Referred: Fiscal Review
1775	Adds provisions relating to prescriptions for ephedrine
	Referred: Local Government
2125	Modifies provisions relating to emergency medical services
	Public Hearing Completed (H)
2256	Establishes Missouri as a member of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
	Referred: Professional Registration and Licensing
2305	Modifies provisions relating to the MO HealthNet drug utilization review board
	Referred: General Laws
2326	Adds provisions relating to non compete agreements for health care professionals
	Public Hearing Completed (H)
2379	Modifies provisions for health care for children
	Referred: Health and Mental Health Policy
2412	Enacts provisions relating to payments for prescription drugs
	Referred: Health and Mental Health Policy
2413	Prohibits a licensed health care professional from charging, billing, or soliciting payment for anatomic pathology services which were not personally rendered
	Referred: Downsizing State Government
2431	Establishes provisions relating to radiologic licensure
	Read Second Time (H)
2463	Establishes the "Narcotics Control Act"
	Introduced and Read First Time (H)
2464	Enacts an opt out patient consent model for health information exchange supporting health care providers
	Introduced and Read First Time (H)
2468	Modifies an insurance mandate relating to breast cancer screening and evaluation
	Introduced and Read First Time (H)
2475	Prohibits health care providers from requiring pelvic examinations prior to performing an abortion, except when medically necessary and when performed at the medically appropriate time.
	Introduced and Read First Time (H)

SENATE BILLS

523	Modifies provisions relating to controlled substances
Reported from committee	
533	Requires hospitals to adopt workplace violence prevention plans
Hearing conducted	
548	Extends the sunset on certain health care provider federal reimbursement allowances
Hearing conducted	
609	Limits certain uses of funds from any state-settled opioid cause of action
Perfected, 3rd Read	
647	Establishes the Fresh Start Act of 2020
Hearing conducted	
670	Modifies provisions relating to athletic trainers
Reported from committee	
677	Establishes the Narcotics Control Act and provides for the incineration of certain controlled substances
Reported from committee	
689	Modifies provisions relating to licensing requirements for certain professionals
Reported from committee	
706	Establishes a "Prescription Abuse Registry" and modifies provisions relating to ephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, and pseudoephedrine
Hearing conducted	
714	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses
Hearing conducted	
790	Establishes the "Truth in Medicine Act"
Referred to Health & Pensions	
814	Modifies provisions relating to medication-assisted treatment
Referred to Seniors, Families, and Children	