



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK #6

After weeks of preparation and some delays with filibusters, both the House and Senate spent an earnest amount of time this week with bills on the floor in both chambers. While the first week or two is ordinarily ceremonial and unproductive, the weeks following see committees hearing testimony on bills in mass. That committee process generally takes 2-3 weeks for the bills to be heard, amended, and voted out before being teed up for debate on the floors of their originating chambers. While high-priority bills can be fast-tracked, this is the pace of most legislation and we have entered the space where bills are on the calendar and ready for full consideration.

For the Senate this week, the upper chamber perfected five bills while debating, but not taking action on another four. The bills passed ranged from repealing administrative entities to DOR fee offices to sewage regulation, among others. They have also noticed two health care bills for hearings next week including SB 841, filed by Sen. Mike Bernskoetter, that includes a substantial number of health care provisions that were nearly passed in the 2025 legislative session. Provisions include changes for epinephrine delivery devices, workplace violence in health care settings, administration of vaccines, insurance coverages and prior authorization, and a host of other health care related matters. That bill will be heard on Wednesday at 8AM in the Senate Committee of Seniors, Families, and Health. Separately, SB1423, filed by Sen. Sandy Crawford, will be heard in the Senate Emerging Issues and Professional Registration on Wednesday at 12:30PM.

On the House side, representatives more than tripled the Senate volume, passing 18 bills ranging from online exploitation to workers compensation to gender transition procedures to speech pathologist, dietitian, and dental professions. House committees continue to blaze through countless bills to add to the growing list of bills on the perfection calendars.

Both the House and Senate will have a short week as they will be off for President's Day on Monday.

Perhaps the most important item for APRNs is that the Senate Emerging Issues Committee will **hear testimony on SB 979 and SB 1016 (the APRN transition to practice bills) on Tuesday, February 24th**. This is THE HIGHEST PRIORITY LEGISLATION FOR AMNP, as it permits APRNs to practice without a collaborative practice agreement (CPA) after 2,000 hours of practice in a CPA. Specifically, the bills do the following:

- Permit APRNs to prescribe Schedule II stimulants for behavioral health patients
- Exempts APRNs with 2,000+ hours to practice independently
- Exempts APRNs from all other barriers that are only applicable to those who elect to remain in a CPA or do not have 2,000 documented hours within a CPA

As you may recall, these bills were heard in the same committee last year. While the committee chairman did grant a hearing, the witnesses in favor of the bills were cut short in their testimony despite many traveling a considerable distance and taking time away from patients to advocate for this critical legislation. Given this expectation again this year, we are asking ALL APRNs to submit written testimony to the committee members that focuses on how removing the antiquated laws and regulations will benefit all Missourians.

Your testimony should be succinct, identify you as a constituent if you are a constituent of the senator that you are submitting testimony to, focus on facts, avoid attacking anyone or anything, and narrowly tailored to how NPs can help patients. Key points to consider include:

- NPs are highly educated health care professionals with a minimum of a master's degree and many with doctorate level education.
- NPs generally have extensive clinical experience from practicing as RNs prior to obtaining additional education.
- NPs are licensed by the state of Missouri and regulated by the Missouri Board of Nursing. Any NP acting outside the scope of their training and education can be disciplined or lose their license.
- These CPAs are inhibiting access to care in critical areas of the state where health care is desperately needed.
- The Missouri Rural Health Transformation Plan promises to examine and revise these archaic laws or it could lose hundreds of millions in funding for not achieving significant reforms by the end of 2027.
- 30+ states throughout the U.S. allow NPs to practice without a collaborative practice agreement. All states surrounding Missouri do not require a CPA, leading to many NPs on the borders leaving to practice in other states.
- NPs naturally collaborate with physicians and other providers inside the health care delivery system. Much like family practice physicians refer patients to other specialists (oncology, cardiology, etc.) NPs recognize when something is outside their scope and refer patients accordingly. They do NOT need a law to ensure that happens.
- There is a SIGNIFICANT lack of physicians in Missouri, especially in rural and underserved areas. Having NP providers ensures access to care and limits the amount of further deterioration because patients are seen and treated rather than waiting months for an appointment.
- NPs live and work in every county in Missouri. Many that currently work across the border will return back to work in their communities if they have the option to provide care for their fellow citizens.

To submit written testimony to the committee, please use the following email addresses but

DO NOT SEND THE TESTIMONY UNTIL 2/23/26 AT THE EARLIEST.

PLEASE AVOID SENDING THE TESTIMONY PRIOR TO THAT DATE.

TITLE	FIRST	LAST	EMAIL	PHONE
Chairman	Justin	Brown	Justin.Brown@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-5713
Vice Chairman	Jamie	Burger	jamie.burger@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-2459
Senator	Ben	Brown	Ben.Brown@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-3678
Senator	Lincoln	Hough	Lincoln.Hough@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-1311
Senator	Patty	Lewis	patty.lewis@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-6607
Senator	Tracy	McCreery	Tracy.McCreery@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-9762
Senator	Nick	Schroer	Nick.Schroer@senate.mo.gov	(573) 751-1282

In other action related to APRNs this week, Rep. Matthew Overcast filed HJR187 that would place a referendum on the ballot to permit APRNs to practice without a CPA if passed by voters.

Unlike traditional legislation, the HJR would be placed on the November ballot for approval of the measure rather than going the traditional legislative path of getting it passed by both chambers and signed by the governor. With the HJR (House Joint Resolution), the measure automatically goes on the ballot if approved by the House and Senate. Much like the other pieces of APRN legislation, we do not anticipate that HJR 187 will be referred to committee because of Speaker Patterson's position on APRNs.

Separately, the House Committee on Professional Registration and Licensing heard testimony on HB 2557 this week. The bill, filed by physician and state representative George Hruza, requires that Emergency Departments MUST have a physician on staff 24 hours a day. The bill received support from physician associations and one lone individual supporter, with strong opposition from a variety of health care providers and other stakeholders (including associations). Opponents rightfully argued that moving forward with this requirement would shutter additional rural hospitals that already are at risk of closure. The list of hearing witnesses is as follows:

SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Missouri State Medical Association	Golden Valley Memorial Hospital
Dr. Joanne Loethen	Craig Foster
Arie Dienoff	Missouri Hospital Association
Missouri College of Emergency Physicians	Laurie Sparr
	Marcy Markes
	Margaret Benz
	Marjorie Cole
	Hannibal Regional Health System
	Mosaic Life Care
	Sarah Berry
	Suzanne Oppermann
	Terry Thomas
	Dr. Travis Hawks
	Mercy Aurora
	Hermann Area Hospital
	Emergency Nurses Association

We will work with our stakeholder colleagues to ensure that this bill does not advance but encourage you to connect with your state representative to advise them of your opposition to this bill and the effects it would have on rural healthcare.

In the meantime, please continue to stay engaged and informed on APRN and health care related legislation.

For APRN-specific legislation, here is the current status of those bills:

APRN LEGISLATION STATUS

Bill #	Bill Title	Sponsor	Last Action
HB1635	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time

	registered nurses		
HB1636	Modifies provisions relating to the requirements for collaborative practice arrangements between physicians and advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
HB1989	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. Dave Hinman (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
HB2067	Modifies provisions relating to the prescriptive authority of advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. David Casteel (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
HB2287	Modifies provisions relating to prescriptive authority for advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants	Rep. Chris Brown (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
HB2391	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. Marty Joe Murray (D)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
HB2556	Specifies that certain medical titles or specialty	Rep. Cathy Jo Loy (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time

	designations are reserved for the use of licensed physicians		
HB3040	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-01-22 H - Read Second Time
HB3065	Modifies provisions relating to the requirements for collaborative practice arrangements between physicians and advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-01-27 H - Read Second Time
HB3099	Modifies provisions relating to the prescriptive authority of advanced practice registered nurses	Rep. Marty Joe Murray (D)	2026-01-28 H - Read Second Time
HB3217	Modifies provisions relating to collaborative practice arrangements with physicians	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-02-05 H - Read Second Time
HJR187	Proposes a constitutional amendment relating to health care professionals	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-02-12 H - Introduced and Read First Time
SB979	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice	Sen. Nick Schroer (R)	2026-01-08 S - Referred to committee - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration

	registered nurses		
SB1016	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Sen. Patty Lewis (D)	2026-01-08 S - Referred to committee - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration

AMNP TRACKED BILLS WITH ACTION IN THE LAST 7 DAYS

Bill #	Bill Title	Sponsor	Last Action
HB1614	Adds certain 7-OH products to the list of Schedule I controlled substances	Rep. Bill Allen (R)	2026-02-09 H - Referred to committee - House-Emerging Issues - House-Emerging Issues
HB1813	Modifies provisions relating to licensure reciprocity	Rep. Mark Nolte (R)	2026-02-12 H - Referred to committee - House-Professional Registration and Licensing - House-Professional Registration and Licensing
HB1894	Creates provisions relating to health care provider participation in health insurance plans	Rep. Wendy Hausman (R)	2026-02-12 H - Referred to committee - House-Insurance - House-Insurance
HB2300	Creates provisions relating to professional licensing	Rep. Philip Oehlerking (R)	2026-02-12 H - Referred to committee - House-Professional Registration and Licensing - House-Professional Registration and Licensing
HB2557	Creates provisions relating to staffing requirements for emergency departments in hospitals	Rep. George Hruza (R)	2026-02-11 H - Public hearing completed - House-Professional Registration and Licensing - House-Professional Registration and Licensing

HB3088	Creates provisions relating to conduct affecting health care provider networks	Rep. Dane Diehl (R)	2026-02-12 H - Referred to committee - House-General Laws - House-General Laws
HB3225	Modifies provisions relating to tort actions based on improper health care	Rep. Bridget Walsh Moore (D)	2026-02-09 H - Read Second Time
HJR187	Proposes a constitutional amendment relating to health care professionals	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-02-12 H - Introduced and Read First Time
SB841	Modifies provisions relating to health care	Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R)	2026-02-12 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing - 02/18/2026, 8:30 AM - ** REVISED for TIME and BILLS ** - Senate-Families, Seniors and Health, SCR 1 2/18/26 8:30 AM - ** REVISED for TIME and BILLS ** - Senate-Families, Seniors and Health, SCR 1
SB1423	Modifies provisions relating to health care providers	Sen. Sandy Crawford (R)	2026-02-12 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing - 02/17/2026, 12:30 PM - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration, Senate Lounge 2/17/26 12:30 PM - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration, Senate Lounge
SB1644	Creates provisions relating to conduct affecting health care provider networks	Sen. Brad Hudson (R)	2026-02-12 S - Referred to committee - Senate-Insurance and Banking - Senate-Insurance and Banking
SB1664	Creates the "Honest Billing Act" regarding payment for health care services	Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R)	2026-02-12 S - Introduced and Read First Time

Additionally, APRN organizations continue to hold Advocacy Days each Wednesday throughout the legislative session. We invite you to join us at the Capitol to learn more about what is happening with APRN legislation, how YOU can help, and visit with legislators to put a constituent face on the issues that are impeding you from providing care.

To register for the AMNP Advocacy Days – [CLICK HERE](#). We will meet in advance of the legislative visits to brief on the status of APRN legislation and then reconvene afterwards to debrief. We STRONGLY encourage you to attend one or more Advocacy Days this year hosted by AMNP, MONA, STLNAP, and MO APRN FPA. The dates for these days are listed below.

2026 APRN ADVOCACY DAYS

February

- **February 18** – [MONA](#) sponsored Nurses Day at the Capitol
- **February 25** – [AMNP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol

March

- **March 4** – [STLNAP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol
- **March 10-11** – [MOAPRNFPA](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol and annual meeting
- **March 24** – [MONA](#) sponsored Nurses Day at the Capitol
- **March 25** – [AMNP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol

April

- **April 1** – [STLNAP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol
- **April 8** – [MOAPRNFPA](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol
- **April 15** – [MONA](#) sponsored Nurses Day at the Capitol
- **April 22** – [AMNP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol

May

- **May 6** – [STLNAP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol
- **May 13** – [MOAPRNFPA](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol

As you can see, there are significant opportunities for progress this session and we will be actively advocating for your interests every single week. If you have any questions, we can help you in any way, or you'd like to visit the Capitol and would like someone to show you around, please don't hesitate to contact us by phone at 573.533.5062 or by email at nursepractitioners@missourinp.org.