



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – WEEK #7

In unfortunate news this week, after committing to holding a committee hearing on SB 979 and SB 1016 (the priority transition to practice legislation for APRNs) on Tuesday of next week, Sen. Justin Brown **cancelled the hearing for the Senate Emerging Issues & Professional Registration Committee on Tuesday**. In addition to the APRN bills, there were two CRNA bills that were teed up for hearing at the same time. Unfortunately a reason for the cancellation has not yet been provided and we will continue to work with the bill sponsors and committee members to get the bills rescheduled for a hearing. This is an incredibly disappointing development given the number of individuals and organizations that were planning to testify in favor of the legislation on behalf of APRNs across the state and the countless number of others who were planning to submit written testimony. We will continue to push for a hearing on these bills and will advise when they have been rescheduled.

Coincidentally, Sen. Brown also filed SB 1672 this week, which is an ill-advised and unnecessary attack on health care providers and patients throughout Missouri. In this piece of legislation, Brown is seeking to "define the practice of medicine". But the devil is in the details. Specifically, the bill does the following:

- The practice of medicine is defined as "examination, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, operation, prescription, recommendation, etc. as well as evaluating a patient or rendering an oral, written, or otherwise documented opinion.
- It is also defined as offering to examine, evaluate, diagnose, treat, operate, prescribe, recommend, prevent, dispense, or perform surgery for any human injury, disease, pain, deformity, ailment, or physical or mental condition.
- Using the term "doctor" by indicating or implying that a person is licensed, willing/able to practice the healing arts is prohibited to non-physician providers.

The bill further declares that a licensed medical professional acting within their scope can continue to work as long as a "physician remains actively involved in the practice of medicine for each patient and remains the primary and responsible party for the examination, evaluation, diagnosis, and determination of appropriate treatment or surgery, and a physician may not properly delegate this primary responsibility to any other person".

Collectively, this means that an APRN (or any other non-physician provider) could not examine, evaluate, diagnose, treat, or prescribe unless a physician is "actively involved" and is the primary party doing the things that NPs across the state do every single day. This would essentially cease expedited and immediate treatment for hundreds of thousands of Missourians, specifically those in rural and underserved areas across the state.

As you can see, this legislation is incredibly detrimental to APRNs and patients alike and we will be fighting back against this alongside countless other provider organizations to defeat this measure from advancing. We may be asking for your grassroots efforts on this matter in the near future, but we encourage you to join us and engage for the fight against this unnecessary, arbitrary, and capricious attack on advanced care providers.

In other activity this week, the Senate had a short 2.5 day work week but still managed to pass four bills including a DNR bill, a tourism bill, wage garnishment bill, and an accountant's licensing bill. Like their House counterparts, members of the Senate heard hundreds of bills in committee as well, and Democrats continue to use tools at their disposal to slow down the legislative process in the state's upper chamber.

Unlike the Senate, the House this week chose to work on Monday despite being a state holiday. And much like you would expect in the seventh week of session, both floor activity and a massive number of bills were being heard and/or voted out of committee. The House didn't shy away from tackling tough issues this week either, as representatives debated matters such as Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs), regulation of cannabis products and several property tax initiatives. Hearings this week were plentiful as lawmakers prep bills for floor time and committee substitutes have taken shape on a number of policy proposals that are headed to the floor.

For AMNP, our immediate focus is to obtain a hearing in the Senate Emerging Issues Committee **on SB 979 and SB 1016 (the APRN transition to practice bills)**. 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

Given the delay caused by the hearing cancellation, we are asking ALL APRNs to draft written testimony to the committee members that focuses on how removing the antiquated laws and regulations will benefit all Missourians **BUT DO NOT SEND IT YET**. We will advise when the right time is to send it.

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 tailor 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.
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- 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.

Once we have a rescheduled hearing date we will advise when to share your written testimony that you have drafted.

Separately, 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 registered nurses	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
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 designations are reserved for the use of licensed physicians	Rep. Cathy Jo Loy (R)	2026-01-08 H - Read Second Time
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)	2026-02-16 H - Read Second Time

SB979	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Sen. Nick Schroer (R)	2026-02-20 S - Committee hearing cancelled - 2/24/26 - 10:00 am - SCR 1 - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
SB1016	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Sen. Patty Lewis (D)	2026-02-20 S - Committee hearing cancelled - 2/24/26 - 10:00 am - SCR 1 - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
SB1672	Establishes provisions relating to the practice of medicine	Sen. Justin Brown (R)	2026-02-17 S - Introduced and Read First Time

AMNP TRACKED BILLS WITH ACTION IN THE LAST 7 DAYS

Bill #	Bill Title	Sponsor	Last Action
HB1813	Modifies provisions relating to licensure reciprocity	Rep. Mark Nolte (R)	2026-02-18 H - Public hearing completed - House-Professional Registration and Licensing - House-Professional Registration and Licensing
HB2300	Creates provisions relating to professional licensing	Rep. Philip Oehlerking (R)	2026-02-20 H - Scheduled for Committee Hearing - 02/25/2026, 8:30 AM - House - Professional Registration and Licensing, HR 7 2/25/26 8:30 AM - House - Professional Registration and Licensing, HR 7
HB2372	Modifies provisions relating to health care	Rep. Tara Peters (R)	2026-02-18 H - Referred to committee - House-Rules-Administrative - House-Rules-Administrative

HB2974	Modifies provisions relating to licensure reciprocity	Rep. Melanie Stinnett (R)	2026-02-18 H - Referred to committee - House-Rules-Administrative - House-Rules-Administrative
HB3010	Creates provisions relating to prior authorization of health care services	Rep. Melanie Stinnett (R)	2026-02-19 H - Public hearing completed - House-Health and Mental Health - House-Health and Mental Health
HB3330	Creates provisions relating to nutrition prescriptions issued by licensed health care providers	Rep. Yolanda Young (D)	2026-02-18 H - Read Second Time
HB3352	Modifies provisions relating to physician licensure	Rep. Melanie Stinnett (R)	2026-02-19 H - Read Second Time
HJR187	Proposes a constitutional amendment relating to health care professionals	Rep. Matthew Overcast (R)	2026-02-16 H - Read Second Time
SB841	Modifies provisions relating to health care	Sen. Mike Bernskoetter (R)	2026-02-18 S - Hearing Conducted - Senate-Families, Seniors and Health - Senate-Families, Seniors and Health
SB979	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Sen. Nick Schroer (R)	2026-02-20 S - Committee hearing cancelled - 2/24/26 - 10:00 am - SCR 1 - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
SB1016	Modifies provisions relating to advanced practice registered nurses	Sen. Patty Lewis (D)	2026-02-20 S - Committee hearing cancelled - 2/24/26 - 10:00 am - SCR 1 - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
SB1247	Provides that certified registered nurse anesthetists may select, issue orders for, and administer certain controlled substances	Sen. Ben Brown (R)	2026-02-20 S - Committee hearing cancelled - 2/24/26 - 10:00 am - SCR 1 - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration

SB1423	Modifies provisions relating to health care providers	Sen. Sandy Crawford (R)	2026-02-17 S - Hearing Conducted - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
SB1445	Provides that certified registered nurse anesthetists may select, issue orders for, and administer certain controlled substances	Sen. Patty Lewis (D)	2026-02-20 S - Committee hearing cancelled - 2/24/26 - 10:00 am - SCR 1 - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration - Senate-Emerging Issues and Professional Registration
SB1672	Establishes provisions relating to the practice of medicine	Sen. Justin Brown (R)	2026-02-17 S - Introduced and Read First Time
SB1691	Modifies provisions relating to licensure reciprocity for health care professionals providing for telehealth services	Sen. Jamie Burger (R)	2026-02-19 S - Introduced and Read First Time
SB1695	Modifies provisions relating to the admissibility of evidence resulting from peer review committees for health care professionals	Sen. Stephen Webber (D)	2026-02-19 S - Introduced and Read First Time

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 25** – [AMNP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol

March

- **March 4** – [STLNAP](#) sponsored APRN Day at the Capitol
- **March 10-11** – [MOAPRNFA](#) 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** – [SILNAP](#) 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** – [SILNAP](#) 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.