

Texas Nurses Association Nursewatch



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Legislative Update

The main APRN Alliance initiative, SB 681 by Hancock, was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee last week. While it is not the committee that we had hoped it would be referred to, we are emboldened by the response from media outlets around the state about how the bill will affect patients all around Texas.

Our strong nursing and business coalition will continue working to get support in the House and we hope to get the companion, HB 1415 by Klick, referred to committee soon so that we can get a hearing date set!

House committees have been set and are starting work in earnest this week.

House Appropriations subcommittees will begin work this week with early morning meetings every day through the week. Public Health will have its first meeting of the legislative session at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, for an organizational meeting.

For those keeping track, you can likely set a recurring calendar reminder for this time and date for the Public Health committee, every week at the same time for the remainder of session. I would be very surprised if the committee missed a Tuesday meeting from here on out.

Finally, HB 5 by Frank will be heard in the Human Services committee at 9:00 a.m. Monday morning this week to discuss the Department of Family & Protective Services and the foster care system overhaul that has been much discussed in the media.



NLAC
Nursing Legislative Agenda Coalition

In Case You Missed It

Last week at the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Sen. Charles Schwertner set multiple abortion bills for hearing. The hearing got a little heated early on when an activist against the bills continued to speak loudly over the Chairman's requests to stop speaking. Chairman Schwertner stated that the speaker had gone over her time, and seemingly in frustration, Sen. Schwertner hit the gavel loudly to get the speaker to stop. In doing so, he missed the wood block and instead hit the glass table, shattering it! See below.



Rulemaking Update - February 21, 2017

Adopted Rules:

Department of Aging and Disability Services – DADS has adopted rules regarding contracting to provide Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The rule implements SB 169 (84th), which requires PACE provider programs to keep military members on the list while on active duty or for up to one year after active duty ends. The rules also allow an agency to remove an individual from an interest list if they fail to respond to a PACE vacancy after 30 days

In Addition:

HHSC has announced its intent to submit an amendment to the Texas State Plan for Medical Assistance under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The amendment will update fees, rates, and charges for Durable Medical Equipment, prosthetics, orthotics, and supplies; Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment Services (EPSTD); and physicians and other practitioners. HHSC is also submitting a request to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to add High Medical Needs Support registered nurse and licensed vocational nurse, and to add administrative penalties and methods of remediation for non-compliant program providers.



Support our efforts at the Texas Capitol from the comfort of home. Join the growing list of nurses that are investing in their profession and their future by supporting Texas Nurse PAC with a contribution. Go to www.texasnurses.org and click on Texas Nurse PAC under the Advocacy tab to get started.