



Capitol Focus

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- .. Click on "Contact your Legislator" in the left-side menu.
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- .. Click on the link for your legislator. Their contact information will be displayed.

Capitol Focus is a weekly activities summary of the Colorado Legislature for CAHSA members, provided by staff of the Colorado Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Contact Laura Landwirth, executive director, at cahsa@cahsa.org.



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What's new at the Capitol?

What is the Governor up to?

Who are my legislators?

The General Assembly convened on January 13th and just over a week later our CAHSA Legislative Task Force is already hard at work. At our conference call earlier this week, the task force reviewed eight bills. Of those eight bills, we determined a position of support on the following:

HB1005 HOME HEALTH CARE, sponsored by Rep. Massey & Sen. Foster

This bill makes telemedicine eligible for reimbursement under the state's medical assistance program in order to comply with direction from the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.

HB1027 MEDICAID HOSPICE LIFE EXPECTANCY, sponsored by Rep. Tyler, Rep. Roberts & Sen. Williams

Currently, Colorado law requires a certified medical prognosis of life expectancy of 6 months or less for a patient for hospice care to be provided under Medicaid. This bill increases the life expectancy prognosis to 9 months if the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) receives the necessary federal authorization.

HB1053 MEDICAID COMMUNITY LONG-TERM CARE SAVING, sponsored by Rep. Riesberg & Sen. Boyd

Subject to the receipt of sufficient moneys through gifts, grants, or donations, the bill directs HCPF to contract for a study of Medicaid recipients who receive services under a home- and community-based waiver to evaluate whether cost savings can be realized from changes to reimbursement methods for alternative care facilities. This bill was drafted at the request of CAHSA and we will provide a more detailed description in an upcoming issue of *Capitol Focus*.

HB1061 COLORADO MEDICAL DONATION PROGRAM, sponsored by Rep. Merrifield & Sen. Tochtrop

The bill establishes the Colorado medical donation program for the purpose of allowing certain facilities to donate medications, medical devices, and medical supplies to eligible patients in Colorado. The program is modeled after the "Colorado Cancer Drug Repository Act" established by the general assembly in 2005. The state board of health (state board) is required to administer the program. Under the program, specific health facilities are allowed to donate, receive, and dispense approved medications, medical devices, and medical supplies to patients who are uninsured or underinsured. The bill specifies that participation by facilities is voluntary and that certain medications are exempted from the program.

SB061 MEDICAID HOSPICE ROOM AND BOARD CHANGES, sponsored by Sen. Tochtrop & Rep. Soper

Subject to the receipt of any necessary federal authorization, the bill requires the department of health care policy and financing to pay a nursing facility directly for inpatient services provided to a Medicaid recipient who elects to receive hospice care rather than paying the hospice provider who then pays the nursing facility. The bill directs HCPF, subject to the receipt of sufficient gifts, grants, or donations, to pay the state's costs of preparing the request to seek federal authorization to pay the nursing facility directly.

In addition to the above bills we also are working with sponsors Rep. Casso & Sen. Sandoval of HB1070 SAFETY IN DAY TREATMENT CENTERS to draft an amendment to direct HCPF to promulgate regulations to allow adult day programs to offer restricted environments.

If you have any questions re' these bills please don't hesitate to contact me at laura@cahsa.org. For more frequent update of activities at the State Capitol follow us on Twitter as CAHSA.