



# Capitol Focus

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## Politics Online: Fast & Updated Information

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*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](mailto:cahsa@cahsa.org).



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*What's new at the Capitol?*

*What is the Governor up to?*

*Who are my legislators?*

We expected to have a budget update for you this week in follow-up to figure-setting for state fiscal year 2010-2011 by the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) analyst for the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) scheduled for earlier this week. However, that activity was delayed until next week. Instead, this week I am providing an update regarding the status of bills for which we have a position of support. Please note that the status listed is based on information provided by our lobbyist today and subject to change.

**HB 1005, Home Health Care.** This bill makes telemedicine eligible for reimbursement under Medicaid along with several payment related changes. It is currently assigned to House Appropriations Committee.

**HB 1017, Individualized Negotiated Agreements for Affordable Housing.** This bill will give local governments and private developers the right to make voluntary individualized agreements for the creation of affordable multi-family rental housing. The bill clarifies that developers may make voluntary agreements with municipalities and counties whereby, for example, developers could receive something of value in exchange for keeping rents affordable on some portion of their privately developed rental housing. This bill has passed the House with amendments and has been assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

**HB 1027, Medicaid Hospice Life Expectancy.** This bill increases the required prognosis of life expectancy of 6 months or less to 9 months or less for a patient for hospice care to be provided under Medicaid. It is currently assigned to House Appropriations Committee.

**HB 1053, Medicaid Community Long-Term Care Savings.** This bill directs HCPF to contract for a study of a tiered rate reimbursement methodology for alternative care facilities to determine if any cost savings could be realized by implementing such a program. The bill also calls for the Department of Human Services to contract for a study of the cost effectiveness of the Older Coloradans Act programs. Both studies are subject to receipt of gifts, grants, or donations. The bill will be heard in Senate Health & Human Services on March 24.

**HB 1122, Medical Orders Scope of Treatment (MOST).** This bill provides that a MOST form that is properly executed and signed by an adult's physician, advanced practice nurse or physician's assistant, shall have the same force and effect as a physician's order with respect to medical treatment of the adult who is the subject of the MOST form. The bill requires emergency medical service personnel, a health care provider, or a health care facility to comply with a MOST form. This bill is assigned to Senate Health & Human Services Committee.

**SB 61, Medicaid Hospice Room and Board Changes.** This bill directs HCPF to pay the state's cost of seeking federal authorization to pay a nursing facility directly for inpatient services provided to a Medicaid recipient rather than paying the hospice provider, who then pays the nursing facility. Subject to gifts, grants, or donations. This bill has been assigned to Senate Appropriations.

**SB 115, Facilities May Donate Unused Medications.** This bill allows a licensed health care facility to donate unused medications to another patient in the facility or to a nonprofit entity. This bill is laid over in the House for second reading.

Please contact me at [laura@cahsa.org](mailto:laura@cahsa.org) if you have questions re' these or any other bills.