

SENATE BILLS**SB06-001 *Lower-cost Prescription Drugs*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Hagedorn (D)

Rep. Madden (D)

Requires the department of health care policy and financing ("department") to apply for federal authorization, as necessary, to enter into a multi-state drug purchasing pool ("purchasing pool") for the benefit of the state's Medicaid recipients. Establishes the Colorado cares Rx program ("program") in the department to allow an eligible person, any political subdivision of the state, and any business to purchase prescription drugs at the discounted rate negotiated by the entity administering the program. Refers the question of whether the state of Colorado shall enact these measures to reduce the cost of prescription drugs to the electors of Colorado at the next general election.

Status: 05/26/2006 Governor Action - Vetoed**SB06-019 *Mandatory Emergency Medical Care Coverage in Auto Insurance*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Tochtrop (D)

Rep. M. Carroll (D)

Adds emergency medical care coverage as part of the required coverages to be included in all automobile insurance policies issued in Colorado. Specifies that the coverage is for all reasonable, necessary, and accident-related emergency medical care provided by a first responder at the scene of or immediately after a motor vehicle accident or provided by or at a hospital. Requires the coverage to be provided regardless of fault. If the injured person for whom emergency medical care coverage is provided is found not at fault in causing the accident, allows the carrier that paid emergency medical care coverage to recover the amount paid from the party at fault in the accident after the injured person is fully compensated for injuries resulting from the accident. Makes the emergency medical care coverage primary to any medical payments or health insurance coverage and applies to coinsurance or deductible amounts required under the insured's health coverage plan.

Status: 03/10/2006 Senate Committee on Appropriations Postpone Indefinitely**SB06-047 *Health Assurance Districts*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Hanna (D) Rep. Riesberg (D)

Allows a health assurance district to be formed in any area of the state rather than only in rural areas. Authorizes a district to seek voter approval to levy a sales tax in the district to generate revenues to provide health care services. Maintains the authority for a district to levy a property tax in the district to generate revenues to provide health care services. For any district that has the authority to levy a property tax or a sales tax, allows the district to seek voter approval to levy both a property tax and a sales tax. Authorizes any health assurance district to contract with or work in cooperation and in conjunction with a health service district or any other existing health care provider or service in order to provide health care services to residents of such districts. Upon voter approval, allows any county in the state to impose an additional sales tax for the purpose of providing health care services in the county.

Status: 05/26/2006 Governor Action - Vetoed**SB06-059 *Program For Dental Screenings In Schools*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Tapia (D) Rep. Frangas. (D)

Establishes a pilot program as part of the children's dental assistance and fluoridation program ("program") to provide dental screenings for all students beginning 1st grade at designated schools within 2 school districts. Authorizes the department of public health and environment to select the school districts and to contract with a private entity willing to contribute an amount equal to or greater than the general fund appropriation for the pilot program. Directs the private entity to contract with dental professionals to conduct the screenings and to refer the student to other professionals or programs for additional dental services. Authorizes general fund appropriations for the program.

Status: 05/08/2006 House Consideration of First Conference Committee Report result was to Adhere**SB06-099 *Vaccines Mercury Pregnant Women Children*****(Oppose)**

Sen. Evans (R)

Prohibits the administration of vaccines containing more than a specified amount of mercury to pregnant women and children under 3 years of age. Requires insurers to pay for vaccines that do not contain mercury. Allows the executive director of the department of public health and environment to exempt the use of vaccines that contain mercury if the executive director finds, and the governor concurs, that an actual or potential public health emergency exists, there are not sufficient vaccines available that do not contain mercury, and it is necessary that pregnant women and children under 3 years of age receive the vaccine.

Status: 02/23/2006 Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Postpone Indefinitely

SB06-122 *Kid Substance Abuse Treatment Fund***(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Traylor (R)

Rep. Weissmann (D)

Creates the adolescent substance abuse prevention and treatment fund. Requires the fines imposed for certain underage drinking crimes to be credited to the fund. Allows the general assembly to appropriate moneys in the fund to the division of alcohol and drug abuse in the department of human services for adolescent substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.

Status: 06/01/2006 Governor Action - Signed**SB06-136 *Nursing Teacher Loan Forgiveness*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Tapia (D)

Rep. Butcher (D)

Authorizes the Colorado commission on higher education to establish a nursing teacher loan forgiveness pilot program for persons who teach courses in nursing at a Colorado public institution of higher education for a period of at least 5 consecutive academic years after receipt of an advanced degree. Specifies other required conditions for the loan forgiveness.

Status: 06/01/2006 Governor Action - Signed**SB06-141 *Health Facility Reporting Requirements*****(Oppose)**

Sen. Tochtrop (D)

Rep. Riesberg (D)

Establishes the "Health Care Transparency Act", which is an annual reporting requirement for hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers ("facilities") that receive reimbursement or payment under Medicaid or Medicare. Details the facilities' reporting requirements. Requires the executive director of the department of public health and environment to annually determine the cost incurred by the department in completing the requirements of the act and to apportion those costs among the facilities and charge the same as an increase in the facilities annual license fee. Authorizes the director to assess daily penalties for the failure of a facility to file the required report. Requires the director to annually prepare and transmit a report to the governor and specified committees of the general assembly that analyzes specific information that the facilities reported to the department. Requires the department to make the report's findings available on its internet website.

Status: 05/04/2006 House Second Reading Lost with Amendments**SB06-145 *Healthy Cities Act*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Shaffer (D)

Rep. McCluskey (R)

Authorizes a local government to charge a fee on the gross or net revenue of certain medical providers located within its territorial boundaries for the purposes of obtaining federal financial participation under the state's Medicaid program to reimburse providers for unreimbursed Medicaid costs. Requires the local government to certify to the department of health care policy and financing the amount paid to qualified providers for unreimbursed Medicaid costs, which shall include the distribution of the fee collected. Requires the local government to pay qualified providers within the local government's territorial boundaries consistent with the department's calculation of the unreimbursed Medicaid costs for the qualified providers within that territorial boundary. Requires the department to amend the state Medicaid plan, effective July 1, 2006, for the purpose of paying for unreimbursed Medicaid costs incurred by qualified providers. Requires the medical services board to define unreimbursed Medicaid cost by rule. Requires the department to distribute to a local government that has certified payment to qualified providers the federal financial participation received for eligible unreimbursed Medicaid costs of the qualified providers within the local government's territorial boundaries.

Status: 05/05/2006 Governor Action - Became Law**SB06-165 *Telemedicine Chronic Care Pilot Program*****(Support (Level 2))**

Sen. Hagedorn (D)

Rep. Gardner (R)

Endorses the use of telemedicine and provides that medical services and other health care services rendered via telemedicine are reimbursable under the "Colorado Medical Assistance Act", and under health care coverage or health insurance policies, to the same extent as such services would be if rendered in person. States that a patient always has the option of choosing an in-person consultation or treatment. Authorizes the executive director of the department of health care policy and financing to adopt rules regarding telemedicine consultations. Directs the department of health care policy and financing to contract for the conduct of pilot programs for the rendition of medical services via telemedicine under the act. States that the pilot programs will evaluate the management of, and treatment of patients with, congestive heart failure and diabetes or diabetes-related conditions. Provides for sunset review of the administration of the pilot programs. Prohibits conflicts of interest by persons evaluating the pilot programs in connection with the sunset review or otherwise. Removes the transfer of medical data and education related to health care services from the existing definition of "telemedicine" in the "Colorado Medical Practice Act".

Status: 06/02/2006 Governor Action - Signed

SB06-208 Health Care Reform Committee**(Monitor)**

Sen. Hanna (D) Rep. Larson (R)

Creates the health care reform committee for the purpose of studying comprehensive state health care reform and universal health care coverage. Authorizes the appointment of 4 legislative members, 11 non legislative members, and 2 ex officio members to the committee. Directs the general assembly to treat, as it deems necessary, the legislative recommendations made by the committee as legislation made by an interim committee.

Status: 06/02/2006 Governor Action - Signed**SB06-217 Distinguished Teaching Physician License****(Support (Level 1))**

Sen. Groff (D)

Rep. T. Carroll (D)

Authorizes the state board of medical examiners (board) to issue a distinguished foreign teaching physician license to applicants in place of a temporary physician license. Removes the 5-year limit for which the license may be annually renewed. Continues to allow a qualified applicant who is not offered the rank of associate professor to be granted a temporary license. Grants rulemaking authority to the board.

Status: 05/25/2006 Governor Action - Signed**HOUSE BILLS****HB06-1045 Reporting Hospital-acquired Infections****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. McCluskey (R)

Sen. Keller (D)

Requires a hospital to collect data on hospital-acquired infection rates for specified clinical procedures and to routinely submit its hospital-acquired infection data to the national healthcare safety network in accordance with national healthcare safety network requirements and procedures. Creates an advisory committee to assist the department of public health and environment ("department") in the development of all aspects of the department's methodology for collecting, analyzing, and disclosing information collected, including collection methods, formatting, and methods and means for release and dissemination. Compels the department to create an annual report summarizing the biennial reports, comparing infection rates for each individual hospital in the state, discussing findings, making conclusions, and spotting trends. Requires patient confidentiality to be maintained during the reporting. Designates all information and materials obtained and compiled by the department as confidential, not subject to disclosure. Makes failure to comply with the reporting requirement sanctionable. Provides the department with compliance oversight of the reporting.

Status: 05/25/2006 Governor Action - Signed**HB06-1056 School Vending Machines And Nutrition****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Madden (D)

Sen. Hanna (D)

Requires each school district board of education to adopt a policy providing that, by the 2008-09 school year, at least 50% of all items offered in vending machines located in public schools of the school district meet acceptable nutritional standards.

Status: 04/11/2006 Governor Action - Vetoed**HB06-1058 Crimes Against Children Surcharge****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Pommer (D)

Sen. Williams (D)

Creates a schedule of surcharges to be paid by offenders who commit crimes against children to the clerk of the court where the conviction occurs. Outlines the collection and distribution of the surcharge funds.

Status: 6/07/2006 Governor Action - Signed**HB06-1125 Motor Vehicle Restraining Devices****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Coleman (D)

Sen. Groff (D)

Makes it a primary offense, punishable as a class B traffic infraction, for a driver to operate a motor vehicle without the driver, certain children, and all front-seat passengers wearing fastened safety belts. Specifies that it is the intent of the general assembly that the statutory prohibition against profiling be strictly observed by each law enforcement officer who stops or contemplates the stop of a motor vehicle driver for an alleged restraining device violation.

Status: 05/03/2006 House Considered Senate Amendments - Result was to Concur - Not Repassed

HB06-1145 Colorado Methamphetamine Legislative Committee and Task Force

(Support (Level 2))

Rep. Solano (D)

Sen. Teck (R)

Establishes a legislative oversight committee ("committee") to examine methamphetamine manufacture, distribution, and abuse in the state of Colorado; programs for the prevention of, intervention in, and treatment of methamphetamine abuse; and the response from law enforcement and the criminal justice system. Requires the committee to report annually to the general assembly on the issues studied. Authorizes the committee to propose legislative changes based on the recommendations from the state methamphetamine task force. Creates the state methamphetamine task force ("task force") to examine specific issues concerning the best practices for the prevention, intervention, and treatment of methamphetamine abuse and the response of the criminal justice system and to provide guidance and recommendations to the legislative oversight committee. Requires the task force to obtain input from groups in the state affected by the issues studied by the task force. Makes payment of the committee and task force dependent upon contributions, grants, and donations. Establishes the prevention, intervention, and treatment of methamphetamine abuse cash fund. Repeals the committee and the task force, effective July 1, 2010. Limits the daily retail sale of methamphetamine precursor drugs ("methamphetamine precursors") to not more than a total of 4 grams of one or more methamphetamine precursors per individual. Prohibits public access to methamphetamine precursors in stores prior to sale. Prohibits the retail sale of a methamphetamine precursor to a minor under the age of 18 years. Specifies that it is an affirmative defense if the person performing the sale reasonably relied on identification furnished by the person receiving the methamphetamine precursor. Clarifies that the child abuse crime of manufacturing a controlled substance in the presence or proximity of a child under the age of 16 years is a strict liability offense. Specifies that it is a child abuse crime to knowingly cause or permit a child under the age of 16 years to be kept or put in or near a place where a controlled substance is manufactured. Specifies that it is not a defense if a person charged with the crime was not a person who manufactured methamphetamine or who possessed a methamphetamine precursor with intent to manufacture methamphetamine

Status: 06/06/2006 Governor Action - Signed

HB06-1151 Felony Child Abuse

(Support (Level 2))

Rep. Hefley (R)

Sen. Groff (D)

Adds specific severe emotional conditions as a basis for the felony crime of child abuse, and specifies the evidence by which such severe emotional damage may be proven. Makes a 5-year statutory appropriation.

Status: 06/07/2006 Governor Action - Signed

HB06-1154 Heirloom Birth & Marriage Certificates

(Monitor)

Rep. Berens (R)

Sen. Hanna (D)

Directs the office of state registrar of vital statistics to issue heirloom birth certificates and marriage certificates. Establishes the heirloom birth certificate fund and the heirloom marriage certificate fund, and specifies the use of the moneys in these funds. Monies not used to cover the cost of the certificates will be directed to the infant immunization fund.

Status: 05/17/2006 Governor Action - Signed

HB06-1162 Restrict Minor Drivers Under Eighteen

(Support (Level 2))

Rep. M. May (R)

Sen. Williams (D)

Increases the age of minor drivers that are subject to specific restrictions from under 17 years of age to under 18 years of age. Enhances the penalty for minor drivers under 18 years of age who violate the traffic laws concerning the use of restraining devices and seatbelts in motor vehicles.

Status: 04/13/2006 Governor Action - Signed

HB06-1175 Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act**(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. M. May (R)

Sen. Williams (D)

Enacts the "Colorado Clean Indoor Air Act" (act). Makes legislative findings and declares that the purpose of the act is to preserve and improve the health, comfort, and environment of the people of this state by limiting exposure to tobacco smoke. Specifies that, to reduce the levels of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, smoking shall not be permitted in any indoor enclosed area, including, but not limited to: Public meeting places; elevators; government-owned or -operated means of mass transportation, including, but not limited to, buses, vans, and trains; taxicabs and limousines; grocery stores; gymnasiums; jury waiting and deliberation rooms; courtrooms; child day care facilities; health care facilities, including hospitals, health care clinics, doctor's offices, and other health care related facilities; any place of employment not exempted; food service establishments; bars; limited gaming facilities; indoor sports arenas; restrooms, lobbies, hallways, and other common areas in public and private buildings, condominiums, other multiple-unit residential facilities, hotels, and motels; at least 75% of the sleeping quarters within a hotel or motel that are rented to guests; bowling alleys; billiard or pool halls; retirement facilities and nursing homes, not including any private residence; public buildings; auditoria; theaters; museums; libraries; public schools, nonpublic schools, and other educational and vocational institutions; and facilities in which games of chance are conducted. In the case of employers who own facilities exempted from this act, requires those employers to provide a smoke-free work area for every employee requesting not to have to breathe environmental tobacco smoke and establishes that every employee has a right to work in an area free of environmental tobacco smoke. Makes exceptions to the general prohibitions of smoking for private homes, residences, and automobiles; limousines under private hire; hotel or motel rooms if the total percentage of the hotel or motel rooms in which smoking is permitted does not exceed 25%; retail tobacco businesses; cigar-tobacco bars; the enclosed smoking areas of a municipally operated international airport; and the out door area of any business.

Status: 03/27/2006 Governor Action - Signed**HB06-1249 Pregnant Minor Authorize Medical Care****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Judd (D)

Sen. Takis (D)

Allows a minor to authorize medical care related to treatment of a pregnancy.

Status: 04/22/2006 Governor Action - Became Law**HB06-1269 Nursing Faculty Fellowship Program****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Cloer (R)

Sen. Tochtrop (D)

Creates a nursing faculty fellowship program to fund qualified nursing faculty positions at schools of nursing in Colorado. Under the program, provides for an annual payment of up to \$10,000 for up to 3 years for a qualified position in a nursing school.

Status: 04/24/2006 Governor Action - Signed**HB06-1278 Colorado Hospital Report Card****(Support (Level 2))**

Rep. Weissmann (D)

Sen. Keller (D)

Creates a comprehensive hospital information system. Requires the executive director of the department of public health and environment to rely upon the assistance and advice of a duly constituted association for hospitals to implement the act. Allows the executive director to reject or revoke acceptance of the association. If the association is rejected or has acceptance revoked, creates the Colorado commission for hospital statistics. Requires the executive director to establish the Colorado Hospital Report Card.

Status: 06/02/2006 Governor Action - Signed

To guide its advocacy work, The Children's Hospital looks to its board-level Advocacy Committee, which provides leadership and direction in identifying and prioritizing advocacy efforts, analyzing the many pieces of legislation that may affect children's health and determining which should be top priorities.

SUPPORT-1: A priority bill for The Children's Hospital, usually introduced by and/or sponsored by TCH. TCH dedicates substantial resources to advocating for the legislation's passage and sends regular action alerts/updates to the Advocacy Network. TCH lobbies for the bill and often works with the media to highlight the issue. TCH arranges testimony in legislative committee hearings, often providing its own physicians, nurses or other employees as experts.

SUPPORT-2: Because of its potential to positively impact kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH allows the bill sponsors to list TCH as a supporter. TCH tracks the bill's status and may alert the Advocacy Network before critical votes. TCH may lobby for the bill or arrange expert testimony in committee hearings as appropriate.

MONITOR: Because of its potential impact on kids, kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH monitors the bill's status but does not take an official position.

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2006 Bills of Interest
Updated 6.08.06

OPPOSE-1: Because of its potential to negatively impact kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH makes opposition to the bill a priority issue, bringing to bear significant resources including lobbying efforts, work with the media, and grassroots action. TCH arranges testimony in legislative committee hearings, often providing its own physicians, nurses or other employees as experts.

OPPOSE-2: Because of its potential to negatively impact kids' health, hospitals or health care in general, TCH officially opposes the legislation. TCH tracks the bill's status and may alert the Advocacy Network before critical votes. TCH may lobby for the bill or arrange expert testimony in committee hearings as appropriate.