

Legislative Report – 84th Regular Texas Legislative Session

The report that follows includes all bills followed by Board staff that were enacted by the Texas Legislature. Bills included in the April 2015 Board Report (Item 1.3) which were not enacted by the legislature are not included in this report. Nursing, Legal and Operations staff member assistance was instrumental in following and reporting on the bills included in this report. The staff members which reported on the bills are listed by their initials in the first column of the report. There were no bills impacting the Nursing Practice Act passed in the 84th Regular Legislative Session.

Recommendation

This item is for informational purposes only. No action is required.

Bill Number	Bill Summary	Author(s)	Implications for BON/NPA	Effective Date
<p>HB 1</p> <p>General Appropriations Bill</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>State of Texas budget for fiscal years 2016-2017.</p> <p>House Bill 1 provides the revenue and spending parameters for all state entities.</p>	<p>Representative John Otto</p>	<p>The Texas BON was authorized the base budget from fiscal years 2014 and 2015 plus the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expert Witness Costs 2. 15 FTEs 3. Merit Salary Funding 4. Health Profession Council Costs 5. 2.5% Employee Increase to cover costs of employee retirement contribution. 6. Funding to Expand in Hobby Building 	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>HB 6</p> <p>Dedicated Revenue Funds</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Dedicated fund balances available for budget certification.</p> <p>Relating to the creation and re-creation of funds and accounts, the dedication and rededication of revenue, and the exemption of unappropriated money from use for general governmental purposes.</p>	<p>Representative John Otto</p>	<p>The bill would abolish all funds, accounts, and revenue dedications created or recreated by the Eighty-fourth Legislature, Regular Session, 2015, unless specifically exempted under separate sections of this bill. Any funds, accounts, or revenue dedications abolished under this bill would be deposited to the credit of the unobligated portion of the General Revenue Fund. The bill would define the entities to which this bill would apply; and it would provide for the abolition of new or re-created funds, accounts, and revenue dedications, unless they were specifically exempted in the bill.</p>	<p>6/19/2015</p>
<p>HB 7</p> <p>Dedicated Revenue Funds</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Reduction of the collection of Dedicated-Revenue Fees.</p> <p>Relating to certain fiscal matters affecting governmental entities; reducing or affecting the amounts or rates of certain taxes, assessments, surcharges, and fees.</p>	<p>Representative Drew Darby</p>	<p>Among other provisions, the bill would implement certain recommendations in the Legislative Budget Board policy report, "Further Reduce Reliance on General Revenue-Dedicated Accounts for Certification of the State Budget" (February 2015) submitted to the Eighty-fourth Legislature, 2015</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

<p>HB 9</p> <p>Employees Retirement System</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Raising member contributions to the Employees Retirement System.</p> <p>Relating to the Employees Retirement System of Texas.</p>	<p>Representative Dan Flynn</p>	<p>HB 9 amends Government Code to increase the member contribution rate from 7.2 percent in fiscal year 2016 and 7.5 percent in fiscal year 2017 to 9.5 percent in both fiscal years and beyond. The member contribution rate would be reduced beyond fiscal year 2017 if the state contribution rate is less than 9.5 percent. The bill would also increase the contribution rate for members of the legislature from 8.0 to 9.5 percent in fiscal year 2016 and beyond. The bill would eliminate the 90-day membership waiting period, which would allow for retirement contributions by the state and members to the Employees Retirement System Retirement Program (ERS Retirement) to begin on the first day of employment.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 19</p> <p>Veterans and Military Families/ Mental Health Programs</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to a preventive services program and mental health programs for veterans and military families.</p> <p>Requires the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to develop and implement a preventive services program for veterans and military families who had committed, had experienced, or were at a high risk of family violence or abuse or neglect. Allows the program to be established as a pilot initially in certain areas at the discretion of DFPS. Requires the Texas Veterans Commission and the Department of State Health Services to coordinate and administer the mental health program for veterans. The program is required to</p>	<p>Representative Susan King</p>	<p>Does not change NPA. Nurses who provide care to veterans and military families need to be aware of new programs available to assist veterans prevent violence, abuse, or neglect and restore mental health.</p>	<p>6/4/2015</p>
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	encourage local communities to collaborate in coordinating locally accessible resources available to veterans and military service members.			
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HB 21 Investigational Drugs SC/CS	Relating to authorizing patients with certain terminal illnesses to access certain investigational drugs, biological products, and devices that are in clinical trials. HB 21 would be known as the "Right To Try Act." An investigational drug has successfully completed phase one of a clinical trial but has not yet been approved by the FDA for general use and remains in the clinical trial. A patient may receive an investigational drug, biological product, or device, after signing an informed consent form and provide it to the manufacturer. Under this bill, a state of Texas official, employee, or agent could not block or attempt to block an eligible patient's access to an investigational drug, biological product, or device.	Representative Kyle Kacal	Assists terminally ill patients in obtaining investigational drugs, biological products or device in clinical trials. Nurses working with terminally ill patients will be required to know consent requirements and receive instruction, supervision and training for competency when encountering unfamiliar medications, products or devices to ensure a safe environment.	9/1/2015
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HB 437 Military Benefits MM	Health benefits for veterans upon state re-employment. Relating to eligibility to participate in health benefit programs for certain state employees reemployed after military service.	Representative John Raney	The bill would amend Insurance Code to provide insurance coverage on the first day of reemployment for employees who return to their state position upon discharge, separation or release from active military duty. All affected agencies anticipate that any costs associated with implementing the bill could be absorbed within existing resources.	9/1/2015
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<p>HB 495</p> <p>Nursing Education Grants</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to the use of money from the permanent fund for health-related programs to provide grants to nursing education programs.</p> <p>Provides funds whereby the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board can award grant funds to nursing programs selected to carry out research that will benefit many nursing programs across Texas.</p>	<p>Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>Does not impact the NPA but is beneficial to nursing programs in the state.</p>	<p>5/29/15</p>
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<p>HB 505</p> <p>Dual Credit Courses</p> <p>BH</p>	<p>Relating to a prohibition of limitations on the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a public high school student may enroll.</p> <p>HB 505 prohibits the Commissioner of Education or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from passing a rule which would limit: the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school; the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll each semester or academic year; or the grade levels at which a high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course.</p>	<p>Representative Eddie Rodriguez</p>	<p>May have future implications for nursing education programs considering admission of high school graduates who have completed dual credit courses.</p>	<p>5/23/2015</p>
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<p>HB 577</p> <p>Military Benefits</p>	<p>Claim of Discrimination.</p> <p>Relating to pay, benefits and requirements for state active duty service members.</p>	<p>Representative Dan Flynn</p>	<p>The bill would amend the Texas Government Code as it relates to state active duty military service. Under the provisions of the bill, claims of discrimination by military service members on state active duty would be exempt from</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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MM			the jurisdiction of the Texas Workforce Commission's civil rights division, and a member of the Texas Military Forces called to state active duty is subject to certain regulations established for continued military membership.	
HB 635 Fetal Remains Disposal KB	Relating to the disposition of fetal remains. Requires hospitals to release the remains of an unintended intrauterine fetal death on request of a parent of an unborn child, in a manner appropriate under law and the hospital's practice for disposition of a human body.	Representative Four Price	Does not change NPA. Nurses practicing in hospital settings will need to be aware of this new legal requirement to release fetal remains upon parental request in these situations.	9/1/2015
HB 685 Public Information MM	Request for Public Information. Relating to the production of public information under the public information law.	Representative Kenneth Sheets	HB 685 will allow a political subdivision of the state to refer open records requestors to the political subdivision's website in response to the request when appropriate.	9/1/2015
HB 764 Collection, use and security of data collected by DSHS. CS	Relating to the use, collection and security of health care data collected by the Department of State Health Services. Requires DSHS to collect data using a database to collect certain data from providers. Requires patients to receive a written notice from their provider when their data is being	Representative Susan King	Amends the Health and Safety Code Section 108.009, 108.011(d), 108.13(a), 108.0132, 108.0136 Requires DSHS to maintain a database with submitted and collected data. Patients who have data collected by Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) will be required to receive a notice from a health care facility and/or physician. The information collected will be required to meet best practices and national standards for public research and consumer use of data collected.	9/1/2015

	collected by DSHS.		DSHS would also be required to maintain security measures to protect data collected.	
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HB 855 Mobile and Overall Website Compatibility JB	Relating to the compatibility of state agency websites with certain devices and Internet browsers. This bill seeks to implement standardization among all state websites, making them compatible with the majority of computers and mobile devices currently on the web. Requires agencies to ensure that their websites are compatible with the three major web browsers.	Representative Scott Sanford	The BON will have to add a link section to the top three internet web browsers determined by popularity of use on the internet, this will be updated as web browser acceptance changes. Secondly, once the top web browsers are determined, BON staff will have to verify that the BON website is compatible with the top three browsers.	9/1/2015
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HB 966 Group Benefits MM	Employee Benefits. Relating to the creation of an optional consumer-directed health plan for certain individuals eligible to participate in the group benefits program provided under the Texas Employees Group Benefits Act and their qualified dependents.	Representative Myra Crownover	The bill would amend Insurance Code to require the Employees Retirement System to establish a consumer-directed health plan, which would include a high deductible health plan and a health savings account as an option for Group Benefit Program participants. Participation in the program would be voluntary.	9/1/2015
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HB 1052 Designating September as Hydrocephalus Awareness Month CS	Relating to designating September as Hydrocephalus Awareness Month. Amends the Government Code to change Hydrocephalus Awareness Month from October to September.	Representative Tim Parker	Amends the Government Code to change Hydrocephalus Awareness Month from October to September. National Hydrocephalus Awareness Month was declared as September. With passage of this bill, national and local Hydrocephalus Awareness Month will occur in September.	6/1/2015
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<p>HB 1083</p> <p>Mental Health assessment of certain TDCJ inmates</p> <p>DB</p>	<p>Relating to a mental health assessment of certain inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.</p> <p>Prior to confinement of an inmate in administrative segregation, an appropriate medical or mental health care professional must perform a mental health assessment of the inmate.</p>	<p>Representative Marisa Marquez</p>	<p>Requires an appropriate medical or mental health care professional to perform a mental health assessment of an inmate prior to confinement in administrative segregation.</p> <p>The confinement will not occur if the assessment indicates that type of confinement is not appropriate for either the medical or mental health condition of the inmate.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1295</p> <p>Contracts</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Contract Disclosure.</p> <p>Relating to the disclosure of research, research sponsors, and interested parties by persons contracting with governmental entities and state agencies.</p>	<p>Representative Giovanni Capriglione</p>	<p>The bill would amend the Education Code to require state agencies to disclose information produced through research contracts with institutions of higher education in certain circumstances. HB 1295 would apply only to a contract for a governmental entity or state agency that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • required an action or vote by the governing body of the entity or agency before the contract could be signed; or • had a value of at least \$1 million. 	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1446</p> <p>Victim Services/Sex Offenses</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to reimbursement of certain medical costs for victims of certain sex offenses, compensation to victims of stalking for relocation and housing rental expenses, and the creation of a governor's program for victims of child sex trafficking.</p> <p>Expands the uses of the crime victims compensation fund that is</p>	<p>Representative Tony Dale</p>	<p>Nurses who practice in settings where such forensic medical examinations are performed should be aware of funding available for certain patients who victims of certain sex offenses and are eligible for assistance from the victims compensation fund and/or the governor's program for children who are victims of sex trafficking.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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	<p>administered by the Office of the Attorney General to include reimbursement to the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for certain exam costs and would allow the fund to be used to make payments on behalf of individuals who received forensic medical examinations for alleged sexual assaults under Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 56.06 or art. 56.065 and would authorize the attorney general to make such payments. Requires the governor to establish and implement a program to provide comprehensive, individualized services to address the rehabilitation and treatment needs of child victims of sex trafficking.</p>			
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<p>HB 1550</p> <p>Administration of Epinephrine by pharmacists</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to administration of epinephrine by pharmacists.</p> <p>Allows a pharmacist to administer epinephrine through an auto-injector device to a patient in an emergency.</p>	<p>Representative John Zerwas</p>	<p>Amends current Board of Pharmacy rules. Allows a pharmacist to administer epinephrine through an auto-injector device. The pharmacist could maintain, administer and dispose of these devices according to the board's rules. The bill would require a pharmacist to report the use of the device to a patient's primary care physician (PCP) if the patient has a PCP. The pharmacist would not be liable for civil damages for administer epinephrine in good faith. The bill would prevent the pharmacist from receiving payment for the administration of epinephrine, but would allow the pharmacist to seek reimbursement of the cost of the device itself.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p> <p>The Board of Pharmacy will have until 1/1/16 to adopt rules. A pharmacist could administer epinephrine through an auto-injector device allowed by law in effect before 9/1/15.</p>
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<p>HB 1583</p> <p>Block Scheduling at Public Junior colleges</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to block scheduling for certain associate degree and certificate programs at public junior colleges.</p> <p>Ensure continuous scheduling of required courses that will allow students to complete program or certificate requirements without interruption in their education.</p>	<p>Representative Travis Clardy</p>	<p>Does not impact the NPA but may assist students by requiring consistent and stable course scheduling.</p>	<p>6/3/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1595</p> <p>Testing for Communicable Diseases</p> <p>LL</p>	<p>Relating to testing certain defendants or confined persons for communicable diseases.</p> <p>If a person is arrested and their bodily fluids come in contact with a peace officer, magistrate, or correctional facility employee, the court can direct testing for infectious diseases.</p>	<p>Representative Andrew Murr</p>	<p>A person who is arrested and has bodily fluids come into contact with a peace officer, a magistrate, or a correctional facility employee may be tested for infectious diseases. It may be voluntarily or at the direction of the court.</p>	<p>6/17/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1666</p> <p>Liability for Training Exercises for Emergency and Disaster Volunteers</p> <p>BC</p>	<p>Relating to the liability of certain persons for damages arising from training exercises to prepare the persons to respond to certain emergencies.</p> <p>Expands the Good Samaritan Law participants. Extends immunity from liability to emergency and disaster volunteers during planning and training exercises.</p>	<p>Representative Dennis Bonnen</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1670</p> <p>Possession and removal of a placenta from a hospital or birthing center</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the possession and removal of a placenta from a hospital or birthing center.</p> <p>Requires a hospital or birthing center to allow a patient (or spouse of patient if she is incapacitated or deceased) who is negative of infectious diseases to remove a placenta, without a court order and after signing an acknowledgement form unless a physician or hospital/birthing center policy requires a pathological examination.</p>	<p>Representative Susan King</p>	<p>Amends the Health and Safety Code Subtitle H, Title 2, Chapter 172. Assists the patient, or spouse of the woman if the woman is incapacitated or deceased, to take possession and remove the placenta without a court order from the hospital or birthing center she has given birth in if she tests negative for infectious diseases and signs a form acknowledging: the spread of blood-borne diseases and the placenta is for personal use and is not being sold. The hospital or birthing center will retain the signed acknowledgement for records. This section does not prohibit pathological examination ordered by a physician or required hospital or birthing center policy. DSHS to create education information to inform on the website.</p>	<p>1/1/2016</p>
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<p>HB 1678</p> <p>Continuation of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD).</p> <p>Requires a GCPD to develop long-range plans for people with disabilities in coordination with multiple state agencies. Also, they will create a centralized repository for all state plans in a website. GCPD will have systematic reviews to identify any gaps in service or room for improvement.</p>	<p>Representative Richard Raymond</p>	<p>Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. Continues the GCPD until September 1, 2027. GCPD will no longer report the compliance with the federal Americans of Disabilities Act (ADA), collect and evaluate data on state agency employees with disabilities and create a long-range state plan for people with disabilities with recommendations. The GCPD will identify long-range plans for people with disabilities in Texas create by state agencies, agencies committees and non-profit organizations with a plan and link on the GCPD's website, if available. GCPD will review and analyze long-range plans described above to identify gaps in state laws and services for people with disabilities and produce a biennial report to the governor and legislature.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1679</p> <p>Continuation of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation of the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD).</p> <p>Continuation of TCDD to identify and address the needs of Texans with developmental disabilities by awarding grants to non-profit and for-profit entities that serve developmental disabilities population, funds projects that develop skills to assist for full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>Representative Richard Raymond</p>	<p>Continues the TCDD until September 1, 2027. Ensures Texas will continue receiving \$5 million annually in federal funding for developmental disability services. More than 475,000 people in Texas have developmental disabilities, but only 20-25% receives government developmental disabilities services. The council awards non-profit and for-profit entities that serve developmental disabilities population. TCDD funds projects in leadership and advocacy skills, community inclusion, health and fitness promotion and employment services. TCDD performs outreach and education programs in communities to work forward full inclusion of people with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p>5/23/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1771</p> <p>Employee Benefits</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Sick Leave Benefits.</p> <p>Relating to the donation of sick leave by state employees.</p>	<p>Representative John Raney</p>	<p>The bill would amend Government Code to allow state employees to donate any amount of their accrued sick leave to another employee at the same agency who has exhausted their own sick leave and any sick leave pool amounts available to them. Neither employee may receive or provide remuneration in exchange for the donation of sick leave.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1832</p> <p>Business Continuity Plans</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Confidentiality of Agency Business Plans.</p> <p>Relating to the requirements for and confidentiality of state agency continuity of operations plans.</p>	<p>Representative Joe Pickett</p>	<p>The bill would amend the Labor Code and Government Code allowing certain agency plans and materials to be exempt from disclosure.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 1874</p> <p>Palliative Care</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of the Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council.</p>	<p>Representative John Zerwas</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>SC</p>	<p>HB 1874 would create a Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council to assess the availability of patient-centered and family focused palliative care. The bill also would require the Health and Human Services Commission, in coordination with the advisory council, to establish a statewide palliative care information and education program.</p> <p>The 16 member Council includes nursing representatives as follows: 2 APRNs who are Board Certified in hospice and palliative care; 5 health care professionals which includes nurses. Reports are due no later than October 1 of each even-numbered year to the standing committee of the Senate and the House with primary jurisdiction over health matters.</p>			

<p>HB 1878</p> <p>Reimbursement of providers under Medicaid program for telemedicine medical services in school-based settings.</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the reimbursement of providers under the Medicaid program for the provision of telemedicine medical services in a school-based setting.</p> <p>Requires reimbursement to a physician, who is an authorized health care provider for Medicaid, for telemedicine medical services provided by a physician, even if the</p>	<p>Representative Jodie Laubenberg</p>	<p>Amends the Government Code 531.0217 by adding Subsections (c-4) and (g-1) and amending Subsection (g). 531.0217(c-1)(1) Bill ensures Medicaid reimbursement to an authorized physician for telemedicine in a school-based setting. Bill allows a health professional, such as a school nurse, to be present while the child receives telemedicine from a physician. The rule does not specifically state “school nurse”, but a “health care provider” who is authorized to assist during</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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	<p>physician is not the primary care physician or provider to a child in primary or secondary school-based setting after the parent or legal guardian provides consent and a health professional is present with the patient during treatment.</p>		<p>the telemedicine medical services is delegated and supervised by the physician. Telemedicine medical service provided to a child will include a summary of the service including exam findings, prescribed or administered medications and patient instructions. School-based telemedicine treatment model has already been implemented in Medicaid waiver program 1115. Approval of bill will allow the program to continue and may allow expansion to other school districts. Statute requires patient's primary care physician to be notified if patient receives telemedicine.</p>	
<p>HB 1890</p> <p>Legacy Modernization Planning, Applications Development Pilot, and Standardization of Solutions</p> <p>JB</p>	<p>Relating to the development and implementation of a statewide strategy for legacy system modernization.</p> <p>This bill creates many new functions for the Department of Information Resources (DIR) that will affect State agencies but will not affect higher education agencies.</p> <p>First, DIR will be responsible for the modernization of the state's many legacy systems. DIR will determine the greatest legacy security vulnerabilities and, using funding from budgets of the affected agencies, remediate identified vulnerabilities. DIR will then develop the plan for upgrading the legacy systems.</p> <p>Second, DIR will create an application portfolio management program as a pilot.</p>	<p>Representative Gary Elkins</p>	<p>The BON has already moving forward with a plan to modernize legacy system ahead of DIR. The BON will likely have additional reporting required to DIR.</p> <p>The pilot for the application portfolio management will not affect the BON unless the pilot is adopted as permanent by the Texas Legislature in the next biennium for all state agencies or the BON is chosen to participate as a pilot agency.</p> <p>How DIR will implement the shared solutions portion of the bill is unknown at present. DIR could set up a repository as a knowledge base for State agencies to use or set up a review process that would require any new IT solution to be run through DIR to be validated by some reporting process.</p>	<p>6/15/2015</p>

	Third, DIR will develop measures to ensure that state agencies are using similar or share solutions.			
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HB 1908 Offenders with mental impairments DB	Relating to the continuity of care for offenders with mental impairments. Amends the Health and Safety Code to ensure, to the extent feasible, that each offender with a mental impairment is identified and qualified for the continuity of care system and serve adults with severe and persistent mental illness who are experiencing significant functional impairment due to a mental health disorder.	Representative Elliott Naishtat	Nurses may be working with offenders who have mental impairments and thus need to be aware of provisions for offenders with mental impairments to be identified and receive services.	9/1/2015
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HB 1912 New Position with DIR to Track All State Data JB	Relating to employment of a statewide data coordinator in the Department of Information Resources (DIR). A new position to be added at DIR to account for all of the data the State is collecting and then figure out ways to share the data or make its collection better. This position will be reviewed in 2021 to see if it is needed.	Representative Gary Elkins	The BON will respond to DIR's requests as this positions and project develops. Possible providing data sets to DIR that can be used and or shared.	9/1/2015
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<p>HB 2014</p> <p>Teachers Certification and Military Experience</p> <p>JQ</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of military personnel to obtain certification to teach career and technology education classes in public schools.</p> <p>Currently the State Board of Educator Certification (SBOE) requires licenses for those wishing to teach trade and industries skills in public and career schools. Military personnel who learn and perform such skills in the military are not issued licenses. The bill provides an avenue for military personnel to receive teacher certification based on their trades and industries training and experience while serving in the military.</p>	<p>Representative Kenneth Sheets</p>	<p>This bill is specific to trade and industries skills courses taught in public and career schools and regulation by the SBOE. It does not include language that implies healthcare skills or licenses.</p> <p>This bill does not have any implications for the NPA and/or Rules and Regulations, agency operations, practice of nursing, or nursing education.</p>	<p>6/17/2015</p>
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<p>HB 2020</p> <p>Duties of EMT-Paramedics</p> <p>DB</p>	<p>Relating to the scope of duties of an emergency medical technician-paramedic and a licensed paramedic.</p> <p>Allows certified emergency medical technician-paramedic to provide advanced life support within a healthcare facility's emergency department or urgent care clinical setting under the delegation and direct supervision of a licensed physician.</p>	<p>Representative Armando Martinez</p>	<p>Allows certified emergency medical technician-paramedic to provide advanced life support within a healthcare facility's emergency department or urgent care clinical setting under the delegation and direct supervision of a licensed physician. Nurses maybe working alongside EMT-Paramedics in emergency departments or urgent care clinical settings.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 2055</p> <p>Sentinel Surveillance for Emerging & Neglected Tropical Diseases</p> <p>LL</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a sentinel surveillance program for emerging and neglected tropical diseases.</p> <p>Establishes a surveillance program for emerging appearing in a specific population for the first time or that is increasing in incidence and neglected tropical diseases (a parasitic or bacterial disease that occurs solely in the tropics, is largely endemic in the developing world; and has a potential to spread thru international travel or trade).</p>	<p>Representative Sarah Davis</p>	<p>Allows for the establishment of a surveillance program to monitor diseases (parasitic or bacterial) that occur mostly in the tropics, is largely endemic in the developing world, and has the potential to spread through international travel or trade. The department responsible for the program will release medical, epidemiological, or toxicological information to the appropriate entities (medical personnel, state agencies, health authorities, etc.) in order to identify, monitor, and refer individuals infected with an emerging or neglected tropical disease.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 2079</p> <p>Postpartum Depression Awareness Month</p> <p>DB</p>	<p>Relating to the designation of May as Postpartum Depression Awareness Month.</p> <p>The month of May is designated as postpartum depression awareness month to encourage identification of signs, symptoms, treatment options, and to create and update materials for perinatal mental health.</p>	<p>Representative Senfronia Thompson</p>	<p>Programs and activities may be utilized to circulate information to mothers and mothers-to-be to increase awareness of postpartum depression.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 2131</p> <p>Designation of Centers of Excellence for Fetal Care and Healthy</p>	<p>Relating to the designation of centers of excellence to achieve healthy fetal outcomes in this state.</p> <p>Department of State Health Services, in consultation with the Perinatal Advisory Council, shall adopt the rules necessary for a health care entity or program in this</p>	<p>Representative Sarah Davis</p>	<p>Department of State Health Services, in consultation with the Perinatal Advisory Council, shall adopt the rules necessary for a health care entity or program in this state to be designated as a center of excellence for fetal diagnosis and therapy. A subcommittee will be formed to ensure the health care entity or program receives the appropriate designation. To be eligible, the health care</p>	<p>12/1/15 to adopt rules, 9/1/16 to begin designating health center entities.</p>
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Outcomes CS	state to be designated as a center of excellence for fetal diagnosis and therapy. A subcommittee will be formed to ensure the health care entity or program receives the appropriate designation.		entity would have to provide comprehensive maternal, fetal and neonatal health care for pregnant women with high-risk pregnancies complicated by one or more fetuses with anomalies, genetic conditions, or compromise caused by a pregnancy condition or by exposure.	
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HB 2134 Public Information Request DJ	Relating to allowing a governmental body to seek clarification of a public information request is sent by e-mail.	Representative Cindy Burkett	The BON can seek clarification to a confusing POA request by e-mailing the requestor back at the email address rather than by sending it by certified mail only.	9/01/2015
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HB 2154 SOAH DJ	Relating to functions and operations of the State Office of Administrative Hearings.	Representative Harold Dutton	SOAH formalized its practice of dismissing defaults to the referring agency. This affirms the BON's practice of entering a default revocation after a SOAH dismissal an referral back to the Board.	9/01/2015
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HB 2171 Maintaining Immunization Registry with a Consent after the Individual becomes an Adult. CS	Relating to information maintained in the immunization registry with the consent of an individual after the individual becomes an adult. Requires an individual's parent, managing conservator or guardian to submit written or electronic consent to maintain individual's immunization information to be included in ImmTrac before the individual is 18. Immunization information will now be stored until the individual is 26 years old unless	Representative J.D. Sheffield	Amends the Health and Safety Code Section 161.007 to require an individual's parent, managing conservator, or guardian to submit a written or electronic consent to maintain information in the immunization registry ImmTrac. Written or electronic consent for an individual younger than 18 years old is required to submit to DSHS before the individuals 18 th birthday. This information would be available until he/she is 26 years old unless consent is withdrawn. If an individual does not renew consent before 26 years old, their immunization records will be purged. Right now records are purged on the	9/1/2015
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	the consent is withdrawn. If the individual fails to renew their consent, their immunization registry will be purged at 26 years old.		individual's 19 th birthday causing increased healthcare costs for revaccination for school, military and travel.	
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<p>HB 2340</p> <p>Regulation of Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers</p> <p>GV</p>	<p>Relating to regulation of prescribed pediatric extended care centers; amending a provision subject to a criminal penalty.</p> <p>The 83rd Legislature enacted SB 492 which established a regulatory framework for prescribed pediatric extended care (PPEC) centers. This bill further clarifies some issues. DADs will approve facilities, Health and Human Service Commission will establish a reimbursement rate for the licensed PPEC and a parent or guardian will not need to be present when a child receives services at a center.</p>	<p>Representative J.D. Sheffield</p>	<p>Amends the Health and Safety Code</p> <p>Section 1. Section 248A.051(a) by adding that a applicant for a PPEC license may not provide services under that license until the department issues the license.</p> <p>Section 2. Section 248A.052(d) The department shall conduct concurrently the inspections necessary to determine if the applicant and the center meet the requirements of this chapter and the rules and standards adopted under this chapter. The department may not require that a center admit a child as a prerequisite for any inspection.</p> <p>Section 3. Section 248A.151. Admission criteria for minor client; <u>Adult accompaniment</u></p> <p>Section 4. Section 248A.151(c) A minor client's parent, legal guardian, or managing conservator is not required to accompany the client when: (1) the client receives services in the center, including therapy services delivered in the center but billed separately; or (2) the center transports or provides for the transport of the client to and from the center.</p> <p>Section 5. Health and Human Service Commission will establish a reimbursement rate for the licensed PPEC</p> <p>Section 6. If before implementing any provision a state agency determines that a waiver or</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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			authorization from a federal agency is necessary, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver is granted.	
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HB 2358	Licensure Exemption	Representative Eddie Lucio III	HB 2358 amends current law relating to the exemption from certain registration and licensing requirements and taxes for certain businesses and employees who enter this state in response to a disaster or emergency. Rapid response and the restoration of critical infrastructure following a natural disaster or similar emergency in Texas often involve out-of-state businesses and agencies, but the fact that each state has its own tax system, business registration, and occupational licensing requirements often creates unnecessary obstacles during times when swift, efficient, and coordinated efforts are required.	9/1/2015
Licensure	Relating to the exemption from certain registration and licensing requirements and taxes for certain businesses and employees who enter this state in response to a disaster or emergency.			
MM				

HB 2390	Employee Wellness Plans	Representative Dwayne Bohac	The bill would amend the Civil Practice and Remedies Code to limit civil liability arising from an employee wellness program. The bill would prohibit a civil action against an employer for establishing or requiring participation in an employee wellness program, unless the program discriminated against an employee based on factors such as gender, age, or income; or the cause of action was based on intentional or reckless conduct.	9/1/2015
Employee Benefits	Relating to civil liability arising from an employee wellness program.			
MM				

HB 2463	Relating to the continuation of the functions of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services and certain other functions.	Representative Richard Raymond	Does not change NPA. Nurses who provide care to clients receiving services provided by DARS will need to be informed of how to advocate for clients navigating program function transfers and program access.	9/1/2015
Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative				

<p>Services</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Includes provision for services administered by the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to take effect, unless HB 2304, SB 200 or similar legislation of the 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 is enacted, becomes law, and provides for the transfer of the department's functions. Sunset did not recommend continuing DARS, but instead recommended consolidating DARS with the other health and human services agencies in a functional approach under the Health in Human Services Commission, as provided in separate legislation. As a result of the passage of SB 200,84th Legislature, Regular Session, DARS is subject to abolishment under the Texas Sunset Act on 9/1/15.</p>			
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<p>HB 2498</p> <p>EMS Compact Licensing</p> <p>BC</p>	<p>Relating to a compact with other states regarding the licensure of emergency medical services personnel and the authority of those personnel to perform job duties in this state and other states.</p> <p>Licensing compact for emergency services personnel to cross state lines to provide care in non-declared states of emergency. EMS personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.</p>	<p>Representative John Zerwas</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>Effective 9/1/15</p>
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<p>HB 2574</p> <p>Minors/ Heatstroke Awareness</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to increasing awareness of the danger of heatstroke for a child left unattended in a motor vehicle.</p> <p>Amends the Health and Safety Code to include required information about the danger of a heatstroke for a child left unattended in a motor vehicle among the information in the resource pamphlet that a hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse midwife, or midwife who provides prenatal care during gestation or at delivery to the infant's mother, the father if possible, or another caregiver. Facilities must comply by 1/1/16 and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must make the informational materials in the pamphlet available on its website by 12/1/2015.</p>	<p>Representative Eric Johnson</p>	<p>Does not change NPA. Nurses practicing in settings where prenatal care during gestation or at delivery of an infant will need to incorporate this new required teaching into their practice in accordance with DSHS rules/guidelines by 1/1/16.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 2588</p> <p>Reporting Protection/ Peer Review</p> <p>SE</p>	<p>Relating to disclosure by nursing homes and assisted living facilities regarding certification or classification to provide specialized care, treatment, or personal care services to residents with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders; adding requirements for an occupational license.</p> <p>Amends the Health and Safety Code to require the disclosure</p>	<p>Representative Elliott Naishtat</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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	statement that the institution provides services to residents with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to include whether or not the institution is certified for the provision of specialized care and treatment of such residents.			
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HB 2628 THECB Review of Curricula JH	Relating to the development and alignment by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) of curricula for certain educational programs. Requires THECB to periodically review each field of study curriculum to ensure alignment with student interest, academic, and industry needs. Also amends current law relating to the development and alignment by the THECB of curricula for certain educational purposes. Facilitates transfer of credits.	Representative Travis Clardy	May facilitate students' progression and transfer of credits.	9/1/2015
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HB 2646 Disclosure of Information Regarding Communicable Diseases LL	Allows for the release of information related to individuals with communicable diseases to 1st responders & certain entities.	Representative Helen Giddings	Allows for the release of medical or epidemiological information to governmental entities that provide first responders who may respond to a situation involving a potential communicable disease of concern and need the information to properly respond or to a local health department for a designated monitoring period based on the potential risk.	9/1/2015
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<p>HB 2696</p> <p>Reducing workplace violence</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to a study on reducing workplace violence against nurses.</p> <p>Amends Chapter 105 of the Health and Safety Code to authorize the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies (TCNWS) to conduct a study on workplace violence against nurses in certain health care facilities to the extent existing funding is available. Authorizes the Health and Human Services Commission executive commissioner to adopt rules to conduct the study. The TCNWS will coordinate the study with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the Texas Board of Nursing (TBON) and may contract with an independent researcher to conduct all or part of the study. The TCNWS Advisory Committee will have oversight for the study to be completed with findings published by December 1, 2016.</p>	<p>Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>Board staff will coordinate with TCNWS and DSHS as it relates to the study. The TBON executive director will continue to serve on the TCNWS Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>6/19/2015</p>
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<p>HB 2697</p> <p>Continuing Care Facilities</p>	<p>Relating to services provided by continuing care facilities.</p> <p>Expands definition of continuing care in Health and Safety Code to include the furnishing of services</p>	<p>Representative Rick Galindo III</p>	<p>The expansion of continuing care to include an individual's residence may increase demand for nursing care in home settings. BON may need to examine resources available to nurses practicing in these settings, particularly with regard to delegation.</p>	<p>6/19/2015</p>
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<p>HB 3078</p> <p>Pre-Nursing Curriculum for Undergraduate Professional Nursing Programs</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of an advisory committee to recommend a uniform pre-nursing curriculum for undergraduate professional nursing programs offered by public institutions.</p> <p>Sets up an advisory committee of at least 16 members (including a representative from the Board of Nursing) to set up a uniform pre-nursing curriculum to facilitate the transfer of credits and a core pre-nursing curriculum. The advisory committee will make a recommendation to legislature.</p>	<p>Representative Drew Darby</p>	<p>Does not currently impact the NPA but may affect future education rules related to nursing curriculum requirements.</p>	<p>6/18/2015</p>
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<p>HB 3092</p> <p>Pilot Program by DPRS to Provide Protective Services to Persons Determined to be at Risk of Future Harm from Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a pilot program to provide protective services to certain persons determined to be at risk of future harm from abuse, neglect and exploitation.</p> <p>Permits Adult Protective Services (APS) In-Home to test a pilot project using the “Risk of Recidivism” assessment tool to predict likelihood of future harm and determine if a client qualifies for intensive care services.</p>	<p>Representative Toni Rose</p>	<p>Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. Amends the Human Resources Code Subchapter E, Chapter 48 to create a pilot project to provide protective services to persons at risk of future harm. DPRS, using existing resources, to develop and implement pilot program to determine if an elderly person is at risk for future harm, abuse, neglect or exploitation, but who is not in a state of abuse, neglect or exploitation. DPRS will use the “Risk of Recidivism” assessment tool designed by the National Council on Crime and Delinquency to predict the likelihood of future harm and determine if the client qualifies for intensive care services. By 12/15/17, DFPS must submit a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, and certain legislative committees evaluating the program and recommending whether to continue eliminate or expand the program. Pilot expires 9/1/19.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 3337</p> <p>Training</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Tuition Reimbursement</p> <p>Relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.</p>	<p>Representative Travis Clardy</p>	<p>HB 3337 clarifies that a state agency may only pay for tuition reimbursement, for an agency employee or administrator who seeks reimbursement, for a program course that has been successfully completed by that employee or administrator. This bill also requires a state agency to adopt rules requiring that before an agency employee or administrator may be reimbursed for tuition expenses, the executive head of that agency must authorize the tuition reimbursement payment.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 3348</p> <p>Public Junior College Baccalaureate Degree Programs</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.</p> <p>Requires the THECB to authorize baccalaureate degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a degree program in the field of dental hygiene.</p>	<p>Representative Travis Clardy</p>	<p>Adds dental hygiene to other approved baccalaureate degrees in junior colleges in the fields of applied sciences and applied technology.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 3374</p> <p>Down Syndrome</p> <p>DB</p>	<p>Relating to information regarding Down syndrome.</p> <p>This bill requires healthcare providers to provide information on Down syndrome to expectant parents when administering a test or diagnosing Down syndrome. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is required to make current, evidence-based information regarding Down syndrome available on their web site.</p>	<p>Representative Geanie Morrison</p>	<p>Nurses who may be administering a test for Down syndrome or advanced practice registered nurses who may be diagnosing Down syndrome, would be required to provide specific evidence-based information on Down syndrome and to provide the DSHS evidence-based information on Down syndrome (once available from DSHS).</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>HB 3433</p> <p>Hospital Level of Care Designations</p> <p>BC</p>	<p>Relating to level of care designations for hospitals that provide neonatal and maternal care.</p> <p>Requires adoption of rules related to level of care designations for hospitals that provide neonatal and/or maternal care and complete level of care designations with a time frame.</p>	<p>Representative J.D. Sheffield</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>6/16/2015</p>
<p>HB 3438</p> <p>Surplus Property</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>State Surplus Property</p> <p>Relating to the transfer of surplus or salvage state agency property.</p>	<p>Representative Debbie Riddle</p>	<p>The bill would direct the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) to advertise surplus state property on the commission's website. Under current law, that responsibility lies with the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The bill also would authorize TFC to establish a procedure by which a state agency could receive a return on small value items through the transfer of similar items.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>HB 3439</p> <p>Surplus Property</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>State Surplus Property</p> <p>Relating to the donation of property from a state agency to an assistance organization or a local governmental entity.</p>	<p>Representative Debbie Riddle</p>	<p>The bill would authorize a state agency to donate surplus or salvage property to a local governmental entity or assistance organization if the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) determines that the state would benefit from the donation. TFC could charge the entity receiving the donation up to 10 percent of the market value of the property in order to cover the costs associated with the donation. An agency would have to notify the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts of the donation and of any benefit received.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

<p>HB 3519</p> <p>Home Telemonitoring Reimbursement</p> <p>BC</p>	<p>Relating to reimbursement for home telemonitoring services under Medicaid.</p> <p>Extends home telemonitoring medical reimbursement through 2019. HHSC must amend contracts.</p>	<p>Representative Bobby Guerra</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>HB 3781</p> <p>Pilot Program by DPRS to Provide Protective Services to Persons Determined to be at Risk of Future Harm from Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the creation of the Texas Health Improvement Network.</p> <p>Permits the executive officer of The University of Texas System and nominated by participants in the network to advise the network on the healthcare needs of the state for the Texas Health Improvement Network. The Texas Health Improvement Network is established to address urgent health care challenges and improve the health care system.</p>	<p>Representative Myra Crownover</p>	<p>Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. The Texas Health Improvement Network is established to address urgent health care challenges and improve the health care system. The purpose of the network is to: reduce the per capita costs of health care, improve the individual experience and improve the health residents of Texas. The network will consist of experts in nursing and other medical fields. An advisory council selected by the executive officer of the University of Texas System and participants nominated in the network will be developed with leaders in population health, public health and leaders in behavioral health, business, insurance, philanthropy, education and health law.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>HB 3994</p> <p>Notice of and consent to an abortion for a minor</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to notice of and consent to an abortion for a minor and associated requirements; amending provisions subject to criminal penalty.</p> <p>Amends the Family Code 33.002 and 33.003 by establishing requirements for a minor seeking an abortion without parental, conservator or guardian signature.</p>	<p>Representative Geanie Morrison</p>	<p>Family Code sec. 33.002 requires a physician to give 48 hour notice to a parent, managing conservator or guardian before forming an abortion on a pregnant, unemancipated minor. Under 33.003, a pregnant minor who wishes to have an abortion without notifying one of her parents, conservator or her guardian may file an application for a court order authorizing the minor for an abortion to be performed and to exempt the minor from the notification requirement. CSHB 3994 requires a physician to</p>	<p>1/1/2016</p>

	<p>Requires physicians to verify minor's age by viewing a valid governmental record of identification. Requires a minor to file in her county of residence and a court to appoint a guardian ad litem. Bill removes time line for a court decision. Details the established criteria for a judge to consider when granting an abortion to a minor without parent, conservator or guardian.</p>		<p>assume a pregnant patient is a minor unless she presents a valid governmental record of identification or the physician is prohibited to perform an abortion without written consent of a child's parent, managing conservator or legal guardian. A pregnant minor can only file a court order in the minor's county of residence (or a neighboring county if the town has less than 10,000). The court would appoint a guardian ad litem, but the guardian ad litem could not serve as the minor's attorney. Also, this bill removes the time requirement for the court or court of appeals to issue written findings of fact. The court's decision would consider if the minor was mature and well-informed, whether the abortion would be in the best interest of the minor and whether notification of attempt to obtain a consent would lead to physical, sexual or emotional abuse.</p>	
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<p>HB 4001 Occupational License for Rehabilitation Services in Certain Home and Community Support Services. CS</p>	<p>Relating to providers of certain home and community support services; authorizing fee, providing penalties and requiring an occupational license.</p> <p>Requires a license for provision of habilitation services delivered by home and community support services agency.</p>	<p>Representative Richard Raymond</p>	<p>SB 7 by Senator Jane Nelson, enacted in the 83rd Texas Legislative Session, requires HHSC to put in place a cost-effective option for attendant and habilitation services for people with disabilities under Star+Plus, a Medicaid managed care provider. Individuals on a 1915(c) Medicaid waiver interest list who meet eligibility and coverage requirements would be eligible to provide assistance to individuals with acquiring, retaining, or improving skills related to the activities of daily living and social and adaptive skills necessary. The HHSC executive commissioner by rule would set minimum standards for home and community support services. DADS would have to include info about the provision of person-centered services to training materials for representatives in the department who survey home and community support services agencies.</p>	<p>1/1/2016</p>
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<p>SB 18</p> <p>Measures to Support or Enhance Graduate Medical Education in this State to Permanently Fund Supporting Graduate Medical Education and Expand Residency to Rural and Underrepresented Medical Specialties.</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to measures of support or enhance graduate medical education in this state, including transfer of certain assets from the Texas Medical Liability Insurance Underwriting Association to permanent fund supporting graduate medical education and the authority of the association to issue new policies.</p> <p>Establishes an approved mental health first aid training program to school district employees and school resource officers.</p> <p>Amends strategies for graduate medical education to ensure residency spots to accommodate medical school graduates and prevent residents leaving Texas. This bill will help ensure there are enough residency spots and potentially attract out-of-state graduates as well. This bill will provide a channel for funding to address the shortage of doctors in rural areas and in certain areas of practice. Opponents state this bill could affect the Texas Medical Liability Joint Underwriting Association (JUA) who offers necessary services for medical professionals, including nurse practitioners and children's hospitals.</p>	<p>Senator Jane Nelson</p>	<p>Amends strategies for graduate medical education (GME) by specifying types of residency programs targeted for expansion, supporting existing residency slots, studying and targeting areas of critical medical care shortage and establish a permanent fund for GME. GME programs could apply for grants to support the number of first-year residency programs that as of July 1, 2013 have been approved and accredited at the residency site but went unfilled. New and expanded grant programs would be awarded for the duration of an individual's residency rather than limiting the grant for three consecutive years. This bill would require Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to prioritize funding programs focused on medical specialties that are at critical shortage levels in the state. The Health Professions Resource Center would conduct research to identify the medical specialties and subspecialties and produce a report by May 1 every even-numbered year to the appropriate boards. Also, establishes a permanent fund for supporting GME.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 20</p> <p>State Contracting</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>State Agency Contracting</p> <p>Relating to state agency contracting</p>	<p>Senator Jane Nelson</p>	<p>The bill would amend the Government Code to require the State Auditor's Office to consider auditing contracts entered by the Health and Human Services Commission that exceed \$100 million in annual value. The bill would require the Comptroller of Public Accounts (CPA), in cooperation with the Governor's budget and policy staff, to conduct a study examining the feasibility and practicality of consolidating state purchasing functions and reducing the number of vendors authorized to contract with the state. The bill would amend the Government Code to require agencies to retain records related to contracts for at least seven years after the expiration of the contract. The bill would prohibit the employment of former state employees and officers within the first two years after state employment if those employees participated in a procurement related to the hiring entity. The bill would amend the Government Code to specify that purchasing information reported by state agencies in the statewide uniform accounting system should include solicitation and contracting information, as defined by CPA. The bill would require institutions of higher education to participate in the training and certification process offered by CPA to state agencies. The bill would amend the Government Code to allow CPA to contract with entities that administer cooperative purchasing programs and agreements. The bill would require agencies to submit a certain number of requests for pricing on purchases made through multiple award contract schedules at the Department of Information Resources (DIR) depending on the value of the goods, services, and contracts. Agencies would be prohibited from making purchases for commodities in a single fiscal year in excess of \$1 million under a</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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			<p>single contract in a multiple award schedule. Agencies would also be required to receive approval for statements of work on DIR information technology commodity contracts worth more than \$50,000. The bill would require agencies and institutions of higher education to comply with certain reporting requirements for each contract with a value exceeding \$1 million, and to comply with certain additional requirements for each contract with a value exceeding \$5 million. Agencies would be required to develop a risk analysis procedure and identify certain types of contracts for enhanced contract or performance monitoring. The bill would also require agencies, including the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), to post online a list of the contracts the entities have entered along with the statutory authorities and request for proposals associated with the procurements. The bill would amend the Government Code to require agencies to use the vender performance tracking system to determine whether to award a contract to a vendor reviewed in the system. CPA would be required to develop an evaluation process to rate vendors on an "A" through "F" scale. CPA would be required to establish in rule how these ratings affect a vendor's eligibility for state contracts and the grades on the scale that disqualify a vendor from state contracting. The tracking system would be accessible to the public on CPA's website. The bill would also require agencies to consider prior vendor performance when renewing a contract or considering a rebid for a Additionally, CPA could bar vendors from participating in state contracts if more than two contracts between the vendor and the state have been terminated by the state within the last three years.</p>	
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<p>SB 34</p> <p>Security of Information Technology Networks.</p> <p>JB</p>	<p>Relating to a report concerning information security for this state's information resources.</p> <p>The Department of Information Resources (DIR) required to report on the security of the State's information technology systems every other year. All data that could put the state at risk to be omitted.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>The BON is already working with DIR on security reporting and updating. No impact on the BON.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 66</p> <p>Epinephrine Auto-Injectors in Schools</p> <p>KB/CS</p>	<p>Relating to the use of epinephrine auto-injectors on public school and open enrollment charter school campuses and at or in transit to or from off-campus school events.</p> <p>Requires the commissioner of the Department of State Health Services, in consultation with the commissioner of education and an advisory committee composed of physicians with expertise in treating anaphylaxis and at least one registered nurse employed by a school district or open-enrollment charter school as a school nurse to adopt rules for school districts to keep unassigned epinephrine auto-injectors available on campus and at school events to treat anaphylaxis and have staff who are well trained in how to recognize and respond to it.</p>	<p>Senator Chuy Hinojosa</p>	<p>Nurses practicing in school settings will need to be informed of rules adopted by the advisory committee to determine the impact on their practice and need to participate in training of school personnel and school volunteers.</p> <p>These rules will include the amount of training required for school personnel and school volunteers. Each school must have one or more school personnel members or school volunteers authorized and trained to administer epinephrine. If an epinephrine auto-injector is used, a report is required no later than the 10th business day after the date of use and the report will go to the commission of education and the commissioner of state health services. A physician or person who has been given delegated prescriptive authority under Occupations Code Chapter 157 may prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors in the name of the school district or open enrollment charter school. Epinephrine auto-injectors can be prescribed as a non-patient specific standing order to be administered to a person believed to experiencing anaphylaxis. A pharmacist may</p>	<p>5/28/2015</p>
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			dispense an epinephrine auto-injector to a school district or open-enrollment charter school without requiring the name or any other identifying information related to the user. Parents will receive written notice when the policy is implemented and at the start of the school year.	
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SB 133 School Mental Health First Aid Training KB/CS	Relating to mental health first aid training for school district employees and school resource officers. Amends Health and Safety Code to expand the types of school district employees beyond educators who are eligible to receive mental health first aid training to include school district employees and school resource officers. This training is provided through grant funding by the Department of State Health Services (DSHS).	Senator Charles Schwertner	Relevant to nurses who practice in school settings. Chapter 1306 1001.2015 was added to the Health and Safety Code, Subchapter H, Chapter 1001 will provide an approved mental health first aid training program, administered by health first aid trainers at no cost to school district employees and school resource officers.	6/17/2015
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SB 195 Prescriptions for Certain Controlled Substances, Access to Information about those Prescriptions and the Duties of	Relating to prescriptions for certain controlled substances, access to information about those prescriptions, and the duties of prescribers and other entities registered with the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration; authorizing fees. Transfer rulemaking authority over the state's prescription drug monitoring program and related	Senator Charles Schwertner	Transfers rulemaking authority over the state's prescription drug monitoring program and related duties from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy. This bill will require a person to register or be exempt from registration with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration under the federal Controlled Substance Act to manufacture, distribute and analyze or dispense a controlled substance or conduct research with a controlled substance under the Texas Controlled Substance Act.	9/1/2015
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Prescribers and other Entities Registered with the FDA CS	duties from the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy.			
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SB 200 Health and Human Services Commission Functions KB	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and the provision of health and human services in this state. Continues the HHSC until 9/1/27, and continues the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) with a Sunset date of 9/1/23. It requires consolidation of the state’s health and human services agencies in two phases to be completed in 2017. The functions of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) will transfer to HHSC and be abolished, while DFPS and DSHS will be maintained as separate agencies to perform certain functions. Sets guidelines for Medicaid managed care organizations. DSHS will be maintained as a separate state agency with control over its public health functions, including health care data collection.	Senator Jane Nelson	The impact of this consolidation is unknown. Nurses who provide care for patients receiving services provided by these agencies will need to stay informed of transitions of care in order to assist patients with navigating through a changing state health care system.	9/1/15, except Article 3 takes effect 1/1/16, excluding Sections 3.02(b) and 3.42, which take effect 9/1/15; Sections 1.23(a), (b), and (c) take effect 9/1/16; and Sections 1.16 through 1.19 and 1.23(d) and (e) take effect 9/1/17.
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<p>SB 203</p> <p>Continuation and Functions of the Texas Health Services Authority as a Quasi-Governmental Entity and the Electronic Exchange of Health Care Information.</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating the continuation and functions of the Texas Health Services Authority as a quasi-governmental entity and the electronic exchange of health care information.</p> <p>Establishment of an advisory committee to create standards on the privacy and security standards for electronic sharing of protected health information to be created by September 2, 2021.</p>	<p>Senator Jane Nelson</p>	<p>Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. Amend Section 181.206 of the Health and Safety Code to establish an advisory committee that includes one representative of the Texas Health Services Authority and one representative of a nonprofit organization with relevant knowledge and experience in establishing a statewide health information exchange to collaborate to ensure that the health information exchange system is interoperable with the electronic health information infrastructure. Effective September 2, 2021, the privacy and security standards will be created for the electronic sharing of protected health information.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p> <p>Advisory committee expires by 9/2/21. Standards must be created by 9/1/21</p>
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<p>SB 206</p> <p>DFPS</p> <p>SC</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Family and Protective Services and procedures applicable to suits affecting the parent-child relationship, investigations of child abuse and neglect, and conservatorship of a child; affecting fee amounts and authorizing an administrative penalty.</p> <p>SB 206 would continue the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) until September 1, 2027.</p> <p>The bill would make various changes to Family Code, Ch. 263, which governs the review of</p>	<p>Senator Charles Schwertner</p>	<p>Amends the Family Code, Education Code, Government Code, and Human Resources Code.</p>	<p>9/1/2016</p>
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	<p>placement of children under the care of DFPS, and Ch. 264, which governs child welfare services. The bill also would make changes to other sections of the Family Code, adoption, investigations of child abuse or neglect reports, prevention and early intervention services, and educational services for children in foster care. The bill would change procedural elements associated with the agency's assuming and managing conservatorship of children who were separated from their parents because of suspected or proven abuse or neglect. Some changes would be designed to protect children who were in the care of the state including those governing adoption, investigations of child abuse or neglect reports, prevention and early intervention services, and educational services for children in foster care. For example, the bill would require shorter timelines for the completion of home studies and background checks in certain situations.</p> <p>The Legislative Budget Board estimates SB 206 would have a negative net impact of \$1.4 million to general revenue through fiscal 2016-17.</p>			
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<p>SB 207</p> <p>Continuation and Functions of the Office of Inspector General of the HHSC</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the authority and duties of the office of inspector general of the Health and Human Services Commission.</p> <p>Modifies rulemaking, duties and operations of the Office of the Inspector General for the Health and Human Services Commission.</p>	<p>Senator Chuy Hinojosa</p>	<p>Modifies rulemaking, duties and operations of the Office of the Inspector General for the Health and Human Services Commission. These duties include the HHSC executive commissioner to perform administrative support services to operate OIG. OIG would coordinate with the executive commissioner and staff of programs under OIG's purview when performing functions related to the prevention of fraud, waste and abuse in the HHSC system and enforcement of state law related to the provision of those services, including audit utilization reviews, provider education and data analysis. The OIG specifies that a payment hold may be utilized with the OIG's consultation with the state's Medicaid fraud control unit. A SOAH judge would have to decide if a payment hold should continue. OIG will be subject to a Sunset Review in 2021.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 208</p> <p>TWC Sunset</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).</p> <p>Approves the continuation of TWC following Sunset Review with recommendations for changes in services.</p>	<p>Senator Donna Campbell</p>	<p>Does not impact the NPA but important since the BON and TWC co-regulate nursing programs that require TWC approval.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 212</p> <p>Purchasing</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>State Agency Purchasing</p> <p>Relating to the abolishment of the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities and the transfer of its functions to the Texas Workforce Commission.</p>	<p>Senator Brian Birdwell</p>	<p>The bill would abolish the Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities (Council) and transfer responsibility for the administration and oversight of the State Use Program from the Page 1 of 2 Council to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The bill would require TWC to establish a thirteen-member advisory committee to assist in establishing performance goals for the State Use Program and in setting</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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			<p>criteria for certifying a community rehabilitation program for participation in the State Use Program. The bill would require TWC to provide administrative support for the advisory committee upon request; the committee would meet semi-annually. The bill would require the Comptroller of Public Accounts (Comptroller) to assist TWC in determining fair market values, ensuring best rates, testing goods and services, and any other support necessary to implement the provisions of the bill. Currently, statute requires the Council be reimbursed from the central nonprofit agency contracted by the Council to manage the day-to-day operations of the State Use Program. The bill would transfer the reimbursement to TWC and the Comptroller and would require that the reimbursements also cover the costs associated with providing support to the advisory committee.</p>	
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<p>SB 219</p> <p>Health and Human Services Commission</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to the provision of health and human services in this state, including the powers and duties of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and other state agencies, and the licensing of certain health professionals; clarifying certain statutory provisions; authorizing the imposition of fees.</p> <p>Amends and repeals provisions of Family Code, Health and Safety Code, Human Resources Code and Occupations Code relating to the provisions of health and human services in an attempt to clarify and update language to reflect current HHSC functions. Updates</p>	<p>Senator Charles Schwertner</p>	<p>Nurses need to be informed of statutory changes with potential impact on individuals navigating access to services amidst the changes to the state health care system.</p>	<p>4/2/2015</p>
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	<p>language using person-first respectful language. Establishes rulemaking process for the state's health and human services agencies and the rulemaking authority granted to the executive commissioner of HHSC.</p>			
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<p>SB 239 Mental Health Professional Student Loan Repayment Assistance KB</p>	<p>Relating to student loan repayment assistance for certain mental health professionals.</p> <p>Creates a student loan repayment program subject to legislative funding to be administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to assist certain mental health professionals including APRNs with a nationally recognized certification in psychiatric or mental health nursing. Eligibility requirements are specified including practice from one to five consecutive years in a mental health professional shortage area and providing services to Medicaid recipients, CHIP enrollees or individuals in state juvenile or adult correctional facilities. Maximum amounts for loan repayment assistance are specified including \$60,000 as the maximum assistance for eligible APRNs.</p>	<p>Senator Charles Schwertner</p>	<p>Should facilitate more nurses desiring to become psychiatric or mental health nurse practitioners to enroll in advanced practice nursing education programs in that assistance for the repayment of student loans would be available. Repayment of student loans include enrollment in an institution of higher education, a private or independent institution of higher education, or a public or private out-of-state institution of higher education accredited by a recognized accrediting agency.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 273</p> <p>Concealed Handgun</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Concealed Handgun Prohibition Information</p> <p>Relating to certain offenses relating to carrying concealed handguns on property owned or leased by a governmental entity; providing a civil penalty.</p>	<p>Senator Donna Campbell</p>	<p>The bill would prevent a state agency or political subdivision from communicating to a concealed handgun license holder carrying a handgun that he or she is prohibited from carrying a handgun on the premises if such conduct is not prohibited by Section 46.03 or 46.035, Penal Code. The bill would also provide for civil penalties of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for a first offense and \$10,000 to \$10,500 for subsequent violations. Each day of a continuing violation would be a separate violation. The bill would require the attorney general to investigate a complaint on behalf of a citizen of this state or an individual licensed to carry a concealed handgun if the individual so requests and presents evidence that his or her right to carry a concealed handgun was violated under this section. The attorney general or appropriate county or district attorney would be permitted to sue the responsible state agency or subdivision. After recovering reasonable expenses incurred by the attorney general, any civil penalty collected under this section would be deposited to the credit of the compensation to victims of crime fund.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 339</p> <p>Medical Use of Low-THC Cannabis for a Child with Intractable Epilepsy</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the medical use of low-THC cannabis and the regulation of related organizations and individuals; requiring a dispensing organization to obtain a license to dispense low-THC cannabis and any employee of a dispensing organization to obtain a registration; authorizing fees.</p> <p>Establishes the dispensing, prescribing and administration of</p>	<p>Senator Kevin Eltife</p>	<p>The Department of Public Safety will issue and renew licenses to operate as a dispensing organization to each applicant who satisfies the requirements. The Department of Public Safety shall establish and maintain a secure online compassionate-use registry that contains the name of the physician who registers as a prescriber for a patient, the name and date of birth of the patient, the dosage prescribed, the means of administration ordered, and the total amount of low-THC required to fill the patient's prescription. Plus, the amount of low-THC cannabis dispensed. Medical use means the</p>	<p>6/1/2015</p>
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	low-THC cannabis by a registered, American Board of Psychiatric and Neurology Certified physician and a second qualified physician to concur that the benefit of use outweighs the risk associated with low-THC cannabis use for a child with intractable epilepsy.		ingestion by means of administration other than by smoking of a prescribed amount. A physician who is qualified to prescribe low-THC to a patient dedicates a significant portion of clinical practice to epilepsy and is American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology Certified in epilepsy or neurology with special qualifications in child neurology. A patient may receive a prescription for low-THC cannabis if the patient is diagnosed with intractable epilepsy and the benefit outweighs the risk associated with low-THC cannabis use and a second qualified physician has concurred with the determination.	
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SB 373	Relating to increased oversight by the Department of State Health Services of hospitals that commit certain violations.	Senator Royce West	None.	9/1/2015
Hospital Violations				
BC	Bill Analysis – Amends Health and Safety Code; requires the hospital to develop and implement a plan to address deficiencies that may have contributed to preventable adverse event. Authorizes inclusion of staff training and education, supervision requirement for certain staff, increased staffing requirements, increase reporting to DSHS, and review and amendment of hospital policies related to patient safety. This bill requires DSHS to carefully and frequently monitor hospital’s adherence to the plan and to enforce compliance.			

<p>SB 374</p> <p>State Agency Employment</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>E-Verify</p> <p>Relating to requiring state agencies to participate in the federal electronic verification of employment authorization program, or E-verify.</p>	<p>Senator Charles Schwertner</p>	<p>In late 2014, Governor Perry signed an executive order requiring all state agencies to use the federal E-verify program. The E-verify program is an online system that compares information about a new employee's identification to data from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Social Security Administration to ensure employment eligibility. S.B. 374 seeks to codify this executive order.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>SB 389</p> <p>Military</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Military Employment</p> <p>Relating to the placement of military occupational specialty codes on certain notices of state agency employment openings.</p>	<p>Senator Jose Rodriguez</p>	<p>SB 389 amends the Government Code to require the classification officer in the office of the state auditor, each state fiscal biennium, to research and identify the military occupational specialty code for each branch of the United States armed forces that corresponds to each position contained in the state's position classification plan and to report the officer's findings in the same manner as provided by the Position Classification Act for the officer's biennial report of certain salary rate study findings.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>SB 425</p> <p>Facility charges for Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities</p> <p>Bonnie C</p>	<p>Relating to health care information provided by and notice of facility fees charged by certain freestanding emergency medical care facilities.</p> <p>Freestanding facilities required to post: that the facility charge rates are comparable to hospital ERs; may charge facility fee; facility or provider may not be with health benefit plan provider network; and that physician may bill separately from facility.</p>	<p>Senator Charles Schwertner</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

<p>SB 460</p> <p>Pharmacy Board</p> <p>DB</p>	<p>Relating to the licensing and regulation of pharmacists and pharmacies.</p> <p>The bill amends both the Texas Occupations Code, and the Health and Safety Code. The Health and Safety Code is amended to allow a pharmacist to dispense up to a 30 day supply of a dangerous drug in the event of a disaster with specifications. The Texas Occupations Code is amended in relation to the Texas State Board of Pharmacy (such as complaints; pharmacist records, examinations; licensing of pharmacy's; and notification of pharmacy location change).</p>	<p>Senator Charles Schwertner</p>	<p>Nurses and more specifically APRNs with prescriptive authority, need to be aware that in the event of a natural or manmade disaster a pharmacist may dispense up to a 30 day supply of a dangerous drug without the authorization of the prescribing practitioner.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 664</p> <p>Military</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Military Employment</p> <p>Relating to employment termination for falsification of military record in obtaining employment or employment benefits.</p>	<p>Senator Van Taylor</p>	<p>SB 664 amends the Labor Code to authorize an employer to discharge an employee, regardless of whether the employee is employed under an employment contract with the employer, if the employer determines, based on a reasonable factual basis, that the employee, in obtaining the employee's employment or any benefit relating to the employee's employment, falsified or otherwise misrepresented any information regarding the employee's military record in a manner that would constitute a fraudulent or fictitious military record offense. The bill establishes that an employment contract entered into by an employer with an employee discharged by the employer as a result of such a falsification or misrepresentation is void and unenforceable as against public policy. S.B. 664 authorizes an employee who was employed by an employer under an employment contract on</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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			the date of the employee's termination and who believes the employee was wrongfully terminated for such a falsification or misrepresentation to bring suit against the employer in a district court in the county in which the termination occurred for appropriate relief, including rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's previous job, payment of back wages, and reestablishment of employee benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if the employee had not been terminated.	
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SB 791 Education on Congenital Cytomegalovirus in Infants GV	Relating to education about congenital cytomegalovirus in infants. Amends the Health and Safety Code to include education about congenital cytomegalovirus in infants.	Senator Lois Kolkhorst	Amends the Health and Safety Code to state that a hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse midwife, or midwife who provides prenatal care to a pregnant woman during gestation or at delivery of an infant shall provide the woman and the father of the infant, if possible, or another adult caregiver for the infant, with a resource pamphlet that includes information of the incidence of cytomegalovirus, birth defects caused by congenital cytomegalovirus, and available resources for the family of an infant born with congenital cytomegalovirus.	9/1/2015
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SB 805 Military MM	Military Employment Relating to the employment of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference.	Senator Donna Campbell	SB 805 amends the Government Code to remove as conditions on a veteran's eligibility for a veteran's employment preference that the veteran is competent, has served in the military for a minimum of 90 consecutive days during a national emergency or was discharged from military service for an established service-connected disability, and was honorably discharged from military service. The bill removes as conditions on the eligibility of a veteran's surviving spouse or orphan for a veteran's employment preference that the veteran served in the military for a minimum of	9/1/2015
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			<p>90 consecutive days during a national emergency and that the spouse or orphan is competent. The bill changes the definition of "veteran" used for purposes of statutory provisions governing a veteran's employment preference to a definition that includes a person who has served in the Texas military forces, in addition to persons who have served in the U.S. armed forces. C.S.S.B. 805 removes a statutory provision entitling an individual who qualifies for a veteran's employment preference to a preference in employment with or appointment to a public entity or for a public work of the state and instead entitles such an individual to a preference in employment with or appointment to a state agency. The bill defines "state agency" for this purpose as a board, commission, council, committee, department, office, agency, or other governmental entity in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government, including an institution of higher education. The bill removes the application of statutory provisions governing such employment preferences to a public entity or public work, including provisions establishing certain requirements relating to investigating applicants, reporting to the comptroller of public accounts, listing open positions with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), and responding to complaints. The bill instead applies those provisions to a state agency. The bill removes a statutory provision providing for complaints about a decision relating to a veteran's employment preference to be filed with the governing body of the public entity or public work and instead provides for those complaints to be filed with the executive director of 84R 28296 15.126.1008 Substitute Document Number: 84R 24672 2 the state agency. C.S.S.B. 805 removes statutory</p>	
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			<p>language restricting the positions in which a veteran with a disability is entitled to a preference for employment or appointment over all other applicants who are not veterans with a service-connected disability and who do not have a greater qualification to positions for which a competitive examination is not held and instead requires a state agency to provide to an individual entitled to a veteran's employment preference for employment or appointment over other applicants for the same position who do not have a greater qualification a veteran's employment preference, in the following order of priority: a veteran with a disability, a veteran, a veteran's surviving spouse who has not remarried, and an orphan of a veteran if the veteran was killed while on active duty. The bill removes a statutory provision establishing that a veteran's employment preference does not apply to the position of private secretary or deputy of an official or department or to a person holding a strictly confidential relation to the appointing or employing officer. C.S.S.B. 805 removes the requirement that an individual whose duty is to appoint or employ individuals for a public entity or public work of the state give preference in hiring to individuals entitled to a veteran's employment preference so that at least 40 percent of the employees of the public entity or public work are selected from individuals given that preference. The bill instead requires each state agency to establish a goal of hiring, in full-time positions at the agency, a number of veterans equal to at least 40 percent of the total number of employees of the agency and authorizes an agency to establish a veteran employment goal greater than that percentage. The bill removes the requirement that a public entity or public work,</p>	
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			<p>when possible, give 10 percent of the veteran's employment preferences to qualified veterans discharged from the U.S. armed services within the preceding 18 months. The bill removes a statutory provision that exempts a public entity or public work that has at least 40 percent of its employees who are entitled to a veteran's employment preference from the requirements to investigate the qualifications of an applicant who is entitled to a veteran's employment preference and to employ the applicant if the applicant meets certain criteria. C.S.S.B. 805 authorizes a state agency to designate an open position as a veteran's position and only accept applications for that position from individuals who are entitled to a veteran's employment preference. The bill authorizes an agency to hire or appoint for an open position within the agency an individual entitled to a veteran's employment preference without announcing or advertising the position if the agency uses the automated labor exchange system administered by the TWC to identify an individual who qualifies for a veteran's employment preference and if the agency determines the individual meets the qualifications required for the position. C.S.S.B. 805 requires each state agency that has at least 500 full-time equivalent positions to designate an individual from the agency to serve as a veteran's liaison and authorizes an agency that has fewer than 500 full-time equivalent positions to make such a designation. The bill requires each state agency that designates a veteran's liaison to make available on the agency's website the liaison's individual work contact information. The bill requires a state agency, for each announced open position at the agency, to interview at least one individual qualified for a veteran's</p>	
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			<p>employment preference if the total number of individuals interviewed for the position is six or fewer or a number of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference equal to at least 20 percent of the total number interviewed for the position if the total number of individuals interviewed for the position is more than six. C.S.S.B. 805 removes a requirement for an officer or the chief executive of a public entity or public work of the state or an individual whose duty is to appoint or employ an applicant for a position with a public entity or public work of the state, as applicable, to appoint or employ an applicant entitled to a veteran's employment preference if the applicant is of good moral character and can perform the duties of the position. The bill specifies that the statutory provision entitling an individual who is entitled to a veteran's hiring preference to a preference in retaining employment if the agency that employs the individual reduces its workforce also applies to an individual entitled to an appointment preference if the state agency that appoints the individual reduces its workforce. C.S.S.B. 805 requires the comptroller to make each quarterly report filed by a state agency with regard to veteran employment preferences available to the public on the comptroller's website. The bill revises the requirement that the report state the percentage of the total number of employees hired by the agency during the reporting period who are persons entitled to a veteran's employment preference by providing for the inclusion in that percentage of appointed employees who meet such criteria. The bill establishes a deadline of not later than December 1 of each year for the comptroller's annual report to the legislature that compiles and analyzes information the comptroller</p>	
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			receives from state agencies in such quarterly reports. SB 805 includes a decision of a state agency relating to appointing an individual entitled to a veteran's employment preference among the employment decisions relating to such a preference that may be appealed by filing a written complaint with the executive director of the state agency.	
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SB 806 College Credit for Heroes Program JQ	Relating to the College Credit for Heroes program. The College Credit for Heroes program facilitates the award of academic education credit for military veterans to achieve maximum academic or workforce education credit at institutions of higher education for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service. The program design expedites entry of veterans into the workforce.	Senator Donna Campbell	This bill requires that THECB provide updates to the legislators demonstrating grantee outcomes and the development, monitoring, and adherence to best practices for those veterans seeking credit through the College Credit for Heroes program. This bill may have implications for the NPA and/or Rules and Regulations, agency operations, practice of nursing, or nursing education in that THECB, higher education institutions, and nursing education programs work closely to award maximum but appropriate credit that may be relevant to nursing education for veterans seeking nursing careers, and that access to nursing education can be delayed or expedited dependent upon the practices of the regulating or higher education entity.	6/19/2015
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SB 807 Occupational License Application	Relating to occupational license application and examination fees for certain military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.	Senator Donna Campbell	SB 807 amends the Occupations Code to require a state agency that issues an occupational license to waive the license application and examination fees paid to the state for an applicant who is a military service member or	9/1/2015
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<p>and Exam Fees for Military Service Members, Veterans, and Spouses</p> <p>MM</p>			<p>military veteran whose military service, training, or education substantially meets all of the requirements for the license or who is a military service member, military veteran, or military spouse who holds a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the license in Texas.</p>	
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<p>SB 914</p> <p>Council on Long-Term Care Facility Surveys and Informal Dispute Resolution</p> <p>SC</p>	<p>Relating to a council on long-term care facility surveys and informal dispute resolution.</p> <p>Creates an interdisciplinary council to study and making recommendations regarding a consistent survey and informal dispute resolution process for LTC facilities.</p> <p>The 16 member Council includes nursing representatives as follows: 2 regional quality assurance nurses who oversee multiple LTC facilities; 2 active LTC facility DONs; and 2 LTC facility administrators (who may or may not be nurses).</p>	<p>Senator Lois Kolkhorst</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p> <p>Note: Act Expires 6/1/17</p>
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<p>SB 947</p> <p>Off-Campus Employment Positions Through the Texas College Work-Study Program</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to a study and report by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) on the feasibility of providing off-campus employment positions through the Texas college work-study program.</p> <p>Requires a feasibility study by THECB related to collaborating with businesses to provide work-study placements through off-campus work opportunities.</p>	<p>Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>5/22/2015</p>
<p>SB 949</p> <p>Release of Certain Child Fatality and Near-Fatality Information on Abused or Neglected Children.</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the release of child fatality and near-fatality information for abused and neglected children.</p> <p>Amended the release of certain child fatality and near-fatality information on abused or neglected children by creating a public report for information on the investigation of the child fatality or near-fatality.</p>	<p>Senator Carlos Uresti</p>	<p>Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. Amended Family Code 261.203(b) if after a child abuse or neglect investigation is completed the department determines a child's death or a child's near death fatality was caused by abuse or neglect, the department on request shall promptly release investigation information not prohibited from release under federal law. The department shall publish an annual aggregated child fatality report including information on the parent or conservator, past abuse history, if family-based programs were offered prior to the fatality and types of abuse and neglect reported in the investigation. Report will be public on the department's website.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>SB 1032</p> <p>Employee Benefits</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>Alternative Work Site</p> <p>Relating to authority for certain state employees to work flexible hours and to work from home or other authorized alternative work sites.</p>	<p>Senator Kirk Watson</p>	<p>SB 1032 amends the Government Code to authorize the administrative head of a state agency to adopt an agency policy that authorizes the supervisor of an employee of the agency to permit the employee to work from an alternative work site, including the employee's residence, as the employee's regular or assigned temporary place of employment. The bill requires such a policy to identify factors the</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

			<p>state agency will consider in evaluating whether a position is suitable for an alternative work site, including whether the position requires on-site resources, whether the provision of in-person service is essential to the position, and whether in-person interaction is essential to the position; to require an employee who will work from an alternative work site to enter into an agreement with the agency that establishes the employee's responsibilities and requirements for communicating with and reporting to the agency; and to provide for the revocation of an employee's permission to work from an alternative work site if the position is no longer suitable for an alternative work site based on the identified factors or the employee violates the agreement between the employee and the agency. S.B. 1032 requires the Department of Information Resources (DIR), not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year, to compile and submit a report to the legislature regarding the agencies that have adopted an alternative work site policy and authorizes the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to assist in creating the report. The bill requires the report to include a list of agencies that have adopted a policy; a description of the policies' requirements; an estimate of the number of employees who work from an alternative work site under a policy; an assessment of the productivity, efficiency, and value to taxpayers of employees working from an alternative work site under a policy; an assessment regarding the policies' effect on congestion; and any other information DIR determines to be relevant and beneficial. S.B. 1032 authorizes a state employee who works from an alternative work site as part of an approved agency policy, with the approval of the employee's supervisor, to complete all or part of the employee's working</p>	
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			hours, including compensatory time and overtime, at times other than the regular working hours established for state employees. The bill subjects an employee who works from an alternative work site to existing agency compensatory time and overtime policies.	
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SB 1128 Physician or Other Provider Requirement of Obtaining a Blood Sample from a Third Trimester Woman or Child Born to an Undiagnosed Mother to test for Syphilis. CS	Relating to certain diagnostic testing during pregnancy. Amended the requirement of a physician or other person permitted to attend to a pregnant woman by taking a blood sample to test for diagnostic testing including syphilis. If a child is born to an undiagnosed mother, the child will also be required to have a blood test to test for syphilis. A report will be produced on odd-numbered years to report on early and late congenital syphilis cases in Texas.	Senator Judith Zaffirini	Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. Amended Health and Safety Code 81.090 by requiring physician or other person permitted by law to attend to a pregnant woman by taking a blood sample (no earlier than 28 th week of pregnancy) to test for diagnostic testing including syphilis. A physician or other person is required to obtain a blood sample of a child if a woman delivers a newborn child with no diagnostic test in prenatal records for syphilis and HIV. A report on odd-numbered years will be created to report to legislature the number of early congenital syphilis and of late congenital syphilis that were diagnosed in this state.	9/1/2015
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SB 1129 Transportation of a Person with Mental Illness DB	Relating to the transportation of a person with a mental illness. When a person with mental illness is transported, restraint is limited to apprehension, detention, or transportation of the patient. The patient must be able to sit upright without undue difficulty unless being transported by ambulance.	Senator Judith Zaffirini	If a nurse is involved in the transport of or restraint for transport of a person with mental illness except by ambulance, then the person must be able to sit upright without undue difficulty.	6/17/2015
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<p>SB 1189</p> <p>Multidisciplinary Studies Associate Degree Programs at Public Junior Colleges</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of a multidisciplinary studies associate degree program at each public junior college.</p> <p>Students would complete the core curriculum plus courses in the planned major, emphasizing transferability to a four-year major.</p>	<p>Senator Kel Seliger</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1235</p> <p>Pain Management Clinics</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to defining the duties and penalties concerning pain management clinics.</p> <p>Amends Section 168.001, Occupations Code to define "operator" to include owner, medical director or physician affiliated with the pain management clinic in any capacity. This definition is intended to broaden the ability of law enforcement to prosecute and punish individuals participating in pill mill clinic activities. Specifies that any of the aforementioned operators is considered to be operating the pain management clinic. Specifies operating and owning a pain management clinic is engaged in the practice of medicine includes, but is not limited to, all supervision and delegation activities related to the pain management clinic. Specifies violation of statute regulating pain management</p>	<p>Senator John Whitmire</p>	<p>New definition of operator may increase law enforcement activity aimed to cease pill mill clinics with a resultant increase in complaints against nurses allegedly involved in pill mill activity.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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	clinics is subject to criminal prosecution just as a violation of the Medical Practice Act involves the practice of medicine.			
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<p>SB 1243</p> <p>Unused Prescription Medication Donations Pilot</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to a pilot program for donation and redistribution of certain unused prescription medications; authorizing a fee.</p> <p>Amends the Health and Safety Code to require the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to establish a pilot program for the donation and redistribution of prescription medications in one or more municipalities, whereby a donor may donate certain unused prescription medications to DSHS. Defines charitable drug donor to include certain licensed nursing facilities, physician, pharmacy, pharmaceutical seller or manufacturer, or the licensed health care professional responsible for administration of drugs in a penal institution in Texas. Requirements are outlined to ensure medications are not compromised or illegally diverted. Authorizes DSHS to only accept donated medications that are inspected by a licensed pharmacist, USFDA approved and sealed in an unopened tamper-evident unit dose. Controlled substances, parenteral medications and medications</p>	<p>Senator Konni Burton</p>	<p>Provides limited immunity to employees acting in good faith in providing or administering prescription drugs in the pilot from professional disciplinary action for harm caused by such actions with exception. Nurses practicing in settings participating in the pilot will need to be informed of and comply with requirements established by DSHS to implement the pilot.</p>	<p>9/1/15</p> <p>Applies to medication donated, accepted, provided, or administered on or after 1/1/16.</p>
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	<p>requiring refrigeration are excluded. Outlines instances and settings where DSHS may distribute donated medications. Prohibits clinics, physicians or other licensed health care professionals from charging for or reselling the donated medications, but allows for a nominal handling fee to be assessed. Provides civil, criminal and professional disciplinary immunity for health care personnel participating in the pilot with exceptions. Requires a feasibility study be completed first by DSHS to be submitted by 9/1/16. Requires DSHS to establish a database and central repository by 12/1/15. Post implementation, DSHS will be required to report biennially to the legislature on the results of the pilot.</p>			
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<p>SB 1267</p> <p>SOAH Contested Cases</p> <p>DJ</p>	<p>Relating to contested case proceedings conducted under the Texas Administrative Procedure Act.</p>	<p>Senator Craig Estes</p>	<p>The BON will experience more appeals associated with its final decisions on SOAH pfd. It is easier for Respondents to bring lawsuits to appeal final decisions of the agency. Normally, many of these were decided on procedural grounds before the requirement that the transcripts be purchased and administrative record created. There will probably be higher costs associated with transcripts and staff time document preparation and creation. The Texas Attorney General will represent the Board.</p>	<p>9/01/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1279</p> <p>Designated Emergency Infant Care Providers for Certain Abandoned Children</p> <p>GV</p>	<p>Relating to designated emergency infant care providers for certain abandoned children.</p> <p>The bill amends the Family Code to add freestanding emergency medical care facilities licensed under Chapter 254, Health and Safety Code, to the types of locations at which a parent can leave a newborn and be exempted from criminal prosecution, but only if the trial for the offense occurs on or after September 1, 2015.</p>	<p>Senator Donna Campbell</p>	<p>Amends the Family Code Section 1. Section 262.301(1) to add (C) a freestanding emergency medical care facility licensed under Chapter 254, Health and Safety Code.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1455</p> <p>Agency Reports</p> <p>MM</p>	<p>State Agency Reports</p> <p>Relating to certain required reports, plans, and other documents prepared by state agencies and institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>SB 1455 replaces the requirement that the LBB review and approve or disapprove a state agency's biennial operating plan or biennial operating plan amendment not later than the 60th day after the date the plan or amendment to the plan is submitted with the requirement that the LBB review and approve or disapprove the biennial operating plan for a state fiscal biennium on or before the 60th day after the last day of the regular legislative session held during the calendar year during which that state fiscal biennium begins. The bill establishes separate deadlines for the LBB in reviewing and approving or disapproving an amendment to a biennial operating plan based on the date the amendment is submitted to the LBB, authorizes the LBB to extend the deadline for LBB action on an amendment while waiting for the submission of certain additional information, and revises the circumstances under which an amendment is considered approved. The bill removes the specification that a biennial operating plan is</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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			<p>considered to be approved on the 61st day after the date the plan is submitted if the LBB does not disapprove the plan before that date. C.S.S.B. 1455 requires the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC), not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, to report directly to the governor all improvements and repairs that have been made and the condition of all property under its control, rather than electronically submitting a report on that information on July 1 of each even-numbered year to certain entities. The bill removes the biennial July 1 deadline by which the TFC must complete its study on the amount of each state agency's administrative office space in Travis County to identify locations that exceed certain space limitations. The bill removes the specification that the summary of TFC findings on the status of state-owned buildings and current information on construction costs to be included in the TFC master facilities plan be electronically submitted in a report to certain entities. The bill changes from before July 1 of each even-numbered year to not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year the date by which the TFC is required to electronically submit a master facilities plan.</p>	
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<p>SB 1462</p> <p>Opioid Antagonists</p> <p>SC</p>	<p>Relating to the prescription, administration, and possession of certain opioid antagonists for the treatment of suspected opioid overdoses.</p> <p>SB 1462 would allow certain individuals to be prescribed an opioid antagonist and would provide for the prescription, dispensation, administration,</p>	<p>Senator Royce West</p>	<p>Amends the Health and Safety Code.</p> <p>Refers to Emergency Room Personnel which includes nurses administering opioid antagonists under standing orders.</p> <p>Refers to Prescribers which includes APRNs.</p>	<p>9/1/15</p>
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	<p>storage, distribution, and possession of opioid antagonists. An “opioid antagonist” would be defined as a drug that binds to opioid receptors and blocks or otherwise inhibits the effects of opioids from acting on those receptors. An “opioid-related drug overdose” would mean a condition, evidenced by symptoms such as those specified in the bill, that a layperson would reasonably believe to be the result of the consumption or use of an opioid.</p> <p>An authorized prescriber could prescribe and a pharmacist could dispense an opioid antagonist to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) A person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose;or (2) A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of an opioid-related drug overdose. <p>The opioid antagonist could be prescribed or dispensed either directly or under a standing order.</p> <p>The bill would allow a person or organization acting under a standing order to store and distribute an opioid antagonist, provided they did not request or receive compensation. The bill would authorize emergency services personnel to administer an opioid antagonist to a person who appeared to be suffering an opioid related drug overdose, as clinically indicated. The bill would</p>			
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	allow any person to possess an opioid antagonist, regardless of whether the person held a prescription for it.			
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<p>SB 1470</p> <p>Reciprocity Agreements for Postsecondary Distance Learning Courses</p> <p>JH</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment of state authorized reciprocity agreement for postsecondary distance learning courses.</p> <p>Authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to enter on behalf of the state into a state authorization reciprocity agreement among districts and territories regarding the delivery of postsecondary distance education that establishes comparable standards.</p>	<p>Senator Kirk Watson</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>5/23/2015</p>
<p>SB 1560</p> <p>Regulation of chemical dependency treatment facilities</p> <p>DB</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of chemical dependency treatment facilities and certain other facilities.</p> <p>Amends the Health and Safety Code in relation to chemical dependency treatment facilities licensed by the Department of State Health services. Requires consent for treatment and consent to or refusal of prescription medication administration. Information related to prescribed medications is required to be given to the patient. Upon request, a written list of prescribed medication required to be given to patient.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>Nurses working in chemical dependency treatment facilities need to be aware of the requirements for consent for treatment and consent to or refusal of medication administration.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

<p>SB 1574</p> <p>Emergency Response Employee Exposure to Diseases or Parasites</p> <p>BC</p>	<p>Relating to emergency response employees or volunteers and others exposed or potentially exposed to certain diseases or parasites and to visa waivers for certain physicians.</p> <p>This bill relates including emergency response personnel's exposure or potential exposure to certain diseases or parasite. This bill requires entities to designate an infection control officer.</p>	<p>Senator Carlos resti</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
<p>53</p> <p>Hospital Identification Requirements</p> <p>KB</p>	<p>Relating to the identification requirements of certain health care providers associated with a hospital.</p> <p>Amends Section 241.009, Health and Safety Code to include new requirements for identification badges of a health care provider licensed under Title 3 (Health Professions), Occupations Code. It requires a hospital to adopt a policy requiring a health care provider who is providing direct patient care in the hospital to wear a visible photo identification badge that clearly states the type of license held by the provider. Included in the requirements are for the applicable provider to display "licensed vocational nurse," "registered nurse," "nurse practitioner," "nurse midwife," "nurse anesthetist," or "clinical nurse specialist" if the provider</p>	<p>Senator Donna Campbell</p>	<p>New requirements are not in conflict with Board rule 217.10(b), Display of Designations. Nurses practicing in hospital settings will need to be aware of the new requirements to anticipate the need to comply by 9/1/19.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

	holds a license of that title. Hospitals are required to implement these new photo identification badge requirements by 9/1/19.			
<p>SB 1844</p> <p>Commission to Report Best Practices.</p> <p>JB</p>	<p>Relating to the establishment and functions of the Interagency Data Transparency Commission.</p> <p>This Bill creates the Interagency Data Transparency Commission which is made up of different members, including the Department of Information Resources (DIR) position created by HB 1912. The goal of the Commission is to understand all data collected by the State, identify duplicity, and report back to the Texas Legislature on data collected, what is duplicated or repeated work by state agencies, as well as recommendations on what data should be shared.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>The BON will respond to the Commission via the DIR position established in HB 1912 concerning requests for data collected by the agency and as well as how the data is used.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>

<p>SB 1877</p> <p>Creation and Maintenance of a Data Use Agreement.</p> <p>JB</p>	<p>Relating to the development and maintenance by each state agency of a data use agreement for the state agency's employees and to training related to that agreement.</p> <p>Every State Agency to create and maintain a data use agreement with employees. That will need to be updated at least biennially.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>BON required to keep a data use agreement to be acknowledged by all staff and any contracted employees that work with or could come into contact in any way with BON data. Data use agreement to be kept up to date and reviewed biennially.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1878</p> <p>Study on Stronger Electronic Security.</p> <p>JB</p>	<p>Relating to a study on the feasibility of implementing more secure access requirements for certain electronically stored information held by the state.</p> <p>The Department of Information Resources (DIR) tasked with evaluating current state of IT security for the State as a whole and reporting their findings to the Texas Legislature next session.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>BON to respond to DIR as information is requested in accordance with their study.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1880</p> <p>DFPS Investigations of Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation of Individuals</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to the authority of the Department of Family and Protective Services to investigate abuse, neglect, or exploitation of individuals receiving services from certain providers.</p> <p>Clarifies statutes governing DFPS investigations of abuse and neglect and the agency's authority to investigate all allegations provided through managed care organizations.</p>	<p>Senator Judith Zaffirini</p>	<p>Does not affect NPA/Board Rules. Clarifies statutes governing DFPS investigations of abuse and neglect and the agency's authority to investigate all allegations to services provided through managed care organizations. SB 1880 prohibits DFPS from investigating reports of alleged abuse by a provider if the provider is licensed, certified or registered by a state agency that has the authority to investigate. Also requires the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to establish a procedure for forwarding investigation reports to appropriate providers and health and human service agencies as well as resolve disagreements between DFPS and other HHS agencies.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1899</p> <p>Expansion of EMS Settings</p> <p>BC</p>	<p>Relating to the regulation of emergency medical services.</p> <p>This bill expands the settings where individuals (EMS-Paramedic) provide health care services.</p>	<p>Senator Donna Campbell</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>6/19/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1902</p> <p>Nondisclosure Criminal History</p> <p>DJ</p>	<p>Relating to an order of nondisclosure of certain history record information.</p>	<p>Senator Charles Perry</p>	<p>Many criminal records associated with deferred adjudications are now subject to routine or automatic orders of non-disclosure once probation is ended. It is likely the BON's minor criminal history policy will have to be amended to reflect the legislature's intent to have some minor criminal history remain confidential.</p>	<p>9/01/2015</p>
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<p>SB 1928</p> <p>Local Government and Community Input in Refugee Placement</p> <p>CS</p>	<p>Relating to ensuring local government and community input in any federal refugee resettlement program established in this state.</p> <p>Allows the Executive Commissioner of HHSC to adopt rules to ensure local government and community input is included in any refugee placement.</p>	<p>Senator Kel Seliger</p>	<p>Executive commissioner shall adopt rules to ensure that local government and community input is included in any refugee placement resettlement program through quarterly meetings to obtain feedback from local governmental entities including municipal officials, local school districts, and representatives from local law enforcement.</p>	<p>9/1/2015</p>
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