



Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics 2017 Regular Legislative Session Report

The 2017 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature convened on Monday, April 10, 2017 and adjourned on Monday, June 8, 2017. Because this was an odd numbered year, the session was a fiscal session which meant the legislators were limited in the number and scope of bills they filed.

The Louisiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics kept its members and other interested individuals up to date on what was happening with the key legislative instruments that were being tracked, and sent out numerous alerts and call to action requests throughout the session. A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to make phone calls and/ or send emails. YOUR VOICE MATTERS and impacts what happens at the state level. We appreciate every one of you.

There were a total of 1,446 instruments filed- 1,061 on the House and 385 on the Senate. Not all of the instruments filed made it through the full legislative process, but the Chapter tracked just over 100 instruments.

To view all of the reports and updates from the session, go to: <http://www.laaap.org/advocacy-legislation>

Helpful links to see the status of bills:

[Act Numbers to Bills Passed](#)

[Bill Numbers to Acts](#)

[Vetoed Bills](#)

This legislative report contains all of the bills the Chapter tracked and is sorted by topics along with the full list. Each week of the session, the LA AAP shared a recap of the week's action with members. Links to those reports are below.

Weekly Action Recaps

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From the lobbyist desk:

The LA AAP Chapter was able to contract with RM Strategies during the legislative session. They were the boots on the ground and the voice in the ears of the legislators. Below is a highlight recap from them.

Recap of the 2017 Regular Session

The Louisiana 2017 Regular Session started off with a huge burden of balancing the deficit facing the state. The legislature was unable to balance the budget during the regular session, hence the Governor called the 2nd extraordinary session of 2017 minutes after the regular session ended.

Education:

Regarding K-12 education, HB 79, which prohibits the use of corporal punishment on students with disabilities, passed both chambers. The Senate Education committee also created the definition for what is corporal punishment because it wasn't established in current law. HB 412, which allows students to bring their sunscreen to school without a prescription will be signed into law. This will hopefully help decrease the skin cancer rate within the state.

Criminal Justice Reform:

During the session, there was a huge push for criminal justice reform due to the state having the highest incarceration rate in the nation, as well as a huge recidivism rate. There will be a change in the probation of prisoners, administrative parole, parole, and medical parole. The sentencing standards were revised, and for habitual offenders, there was a decrease to certain minimum sentences as well as removing nonviolent and nonsexual crimes. Child Support Standards were also changed to allow for temporary suspension while the obligor is incarcerated. Several laws regarding juveniles reduced the sentence time. Finally, there is now a rehabilitation period before releasing of the prisoner.

Healthcare:

The major bills passed that pertain to healthcare include SB 59, HB 436, and HB 179. SB 59 requires drug manufacturers provide specific pricing information to the Board of Pharmacy and this information will be available on a website. HB 436 requires the drug manufacturers to report quarterly the current wholesale acquisition of prescription drugs to the Board of Pharmacy. HB 179 adds devices of a robotic nature to the Right to Try Act, a state law that allows experimental drugs and treatment for persons with a terminal illness.

Opioid Epidemic:

The legislature also took a huge step toward stopping the opioid epidemic in the state. HB 192 states that first time opioid prescriptions can only be written for a seven-day supply (there are conditions if their illness requires more than seven days). HB 490 creates the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education which will coordinate parish-level data on opioid overdoses. There were some changes to insurance policies as well. HB 407 allows insurance agents to negotiate a fee with the insured for individual health insurance policies. HB 435 requires that facility members from hospitals must provide the patient with a list of providers, to allow the patient to determine if the providers are in-network or out-of-network.

Recap of the 2017 Extraordinary Session #2

The second Extraordinary Session of 2017's focus was balancing the budget. The legislature was able to fully fund TOPS, provide no cuts to Higher education, but provided cuts to healthcare. The FY 2017-2018 will have \$28.2 B for the ordinary operating expenditures of the executive branch. This is a 6.2% increase over the FY 2016-2017. When all funds are added together (appropriations for the operation of the judiciary and the legislature, money judgments, and ancillary funding) the total for FY 2017-2018 is \$32.6B.

Budget Break Down:

\$28.2B General Appropriations

- \$13.1B in federal funds
- \$8.7B in state general funds
- \$2.9B in statutory dedications
- \$2.6B in fees and self-generated revenues
- \$960M in interagency transfers

SGF Allocation:

- Healthcare: \$2.4 B
- Higher Ed: \$1.0 B
- Public Safety and Juvenile Justice: \$613 M
- Other Requirements: \$487 M
- General Government: \$392 M
- Children and Family Services: \$173 M
- PreK-12 Education and Special Schools: \$3.6 B

Capital Construction Budget:

Total Capital Outlay 2017-2018 Budget: \$3.8B

- Priority 1 (P1) = \$930M
Reauthorization of previously funded projects and eligible for a cash line of credit
- Priority 2 (P2) = \$118M
Proposed new funding for projects and eligible for a cash line of credit
- Priority 5 (P5) = \$1.3B
Both reauthorizations of existing funding & proposed new funding for projects and eligible for a non-cash line of credit.

Budgetary Review:

Several review boards have been established to check on the budget. HB 590 requires that the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget make recommendations on special funds that dedicate state revenue, and requires 50% of funds to be reviewed every two years. SB 232 creates the Cash Management Review Board which must review all state agency required state treasury escrow funds. Finally, HB 132 requires the Commissioner of Administration to review and approve the initial allocation of expenditures by category each fiscal year.

Below are the bills that the LA AAP Supported

[HB 67](#), Norton: Creates the crime of unlawfully supplying a child with an Uzi submachine gun
Killed on final passage by vote of 21 to 59

[HB 79](#), Foil: Prohibits corporal punishment for certain students with exceptionalities.
The Senate provided for a definition of corporal punishment, expanded the group of students in which such punishment is prohibited.
6/16/2027 Becomes Act 266; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 111](#), Bishop: Requires instruction in litter prevention and awareness for public school students in certain grades
Becomes Act 72; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 118](#), Hoffmann: Levies an additional state excise tax on cigarettes
Did not advance

[HB 208](#), Carter, S.: Provides relative to foods and beverages sold to students in public schools
Involuntarily deferred

[HB 250](#), Pylant: Authorizes local needle exchange programs
Becomes Act 40; Effective June 3, 2017

[HB 271](#), Hoffmann
Levies an additional state excise tax on vapor products and electronic cigarettes
Did not advance

[HB 317](#), Bagley: Provides for the acceptance of a child surrendered for adoption by the Department of Children and Family Services
Becomes Act 59; Effective June 3, 2017

[HB 412](#), LeBas: Authorizes the possession and application of sunscreen at public schools
HB 412 applies to public and charter schools. Removes liability for school employees and volunteers related to application to the child. During House floor debate, an amendment attempted to remove the requirement that the sunscreen needed to be FDA approved. It failed, but was adopted on the House floor. Another proposal on House floor was relative to those in K-5. It stated a school nurse, not other school staff members, would have to apply the sunscreen if the child was in school because of fear for accusations for inappropriate touch. This amendment failed. The bill defines sunscreen as a “compound topically applied to prevent sunburn.”
Becomes Act 341; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 452](#), Abramson: Makes requirement for in-service training relative to suicide prevention applicable to nonpublic and charter school teachers and other employees
Expands the required training to nonpublic and charter schools. It was already in law for public schools.
Becomes Act 86; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 459](#), Bacala: Creates and provides for a task force on coordination of Medicaid fraud detection and prevention initiatives
Becomes Act 420; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 490](#), Leger: Creates the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education
Becomes Act 88; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 492](#), Magee: Provides for an independent claims review process within the Medicaid managed care program

Becomes Act 349; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 497](#), Norton: Prohibits corporal punishment in public elementary and secondary schools

Killed on final passage by vote of 34 to 61

[HB 531](#), Hoffmann: Prohibits the use of tobacco products on school property

Becomes Act 351; Effective June 22, 2017

[HB 533](#), Hunter: Provides relative to drinking water standards

HB533 was heavily amended in committee.

Becomes Act 263; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 557](#), Seabaugh: Provides for criminal background checks relative to early learning centers, school employees, registered family child care providers and in-home providers

Provided for background checks relative to early learning centers, school employees, registered family child care providers, and in-home providers in accordance with Federal requirements that the state make such provisions. Failure to pass this legislation could result in a loss of millions in Child Development Fund money for the state of Louisiana.

Becomes Act 423; See Act for Effective Date

[HB 584](#), Leger: Creates a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education in Louisiana

Becomes Act 353; Effective August 1, 2017

[HCR 51](#), Jackson: Authorizes and directs the La. Department of Health to issue rules requiring reporting of immunization information

Enrolled in the House

[HCR 58](#), Hilferty: Requests an evaluation and report concerning prospective implementation of a "baby box" program as a means of reducing infant mortality

Enrolled in the House

[HCR 60](#), Hoffmann: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to twenty-one

The bill was intended to study the practicality of such a law, but committee members still had concerns. It was involuntarily deferred and will not be heard again this session.

Passed unanimously off the House floor but failed to pass out of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee

[SB 14](#), Luneau: Amends the definition of "auto-injector" for purposes of emergency medical services

6/12/2017 Becomes Act 106; Effective June 12, 2017

[SB 24](#), Morrell: Exempts diapers and feminine hygiene products from state and local sales and use tax

Failed to pass out of committee

[SB 27](#), Morrell: Constitutional amendment to exempt diapers and feminine hygiene products from state sales and use tax

Passed committee but was not heard on the Senate floor so it did not advance

[SB 42](#), Johns: Creates the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board
LA AAP was able to be added as a member of the advisory board.
Becomes Act 181; Effective June 12, 2017

[SB 54](#), Mizell: Provides for the unlawful exploitation of children
Becomes Act 376; Effective August 1, 2017

[SB 55](#), Mills: Provides relative to prescribers of controlled dangerous substances
Adds required education for prescribers and clarifies who/ when prescription monitoring program (PMP) is to be accessed. SB 55 which initially required prescribers of schedule II drugs to utilize the prescription monitoring program and for those with a controlled dangerous substance license to verify that they had received three hours of CME in year one and three hours over each subsequent three-year period. After significant work, the bill was amended to eliminate the “schedule II” language and replace it with “opioids”, and reduce the commitment to three hours of CME only one time for the renewal of the CDS license.
Becomes Act 76; See Act for Effective Date

[SB 66](#), Barrow: Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet and the Child Poverty Prevention Council of Louisiana
Becomes Act 237; Effective August 1, 2017

[SB 85](#), Colomb: Authorizes the state Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to survey students regarding certain risk behavior associated with chronic health conditions
This bill is similar to ones presented in the past that have failed. This year the measure passed out of Senate Health & Welfare committee but failed to pass the Senate floor.
Failed to pass floor by vote of 14 yays and 22 nays.

[SB 91](#), Peterson: Prohibits the use of corporal punishment for certain students with exceptionalities
Was not heard in committee.

[SB 116](#), Mills: Provides for the Work Out Now: WON Louisiana Legislative Commission
Becomes Act 187; Effective June 12, 2017

[SB 133](#), Morrell: Provides relative to immunizations required prior to enrolling in school
SB 133 by Senator Morrell as originally filed would have required licensed child care centers to report to parents if they do not have a 100% vaccination rate among the children in their center. The LA AAP reached out to Senator Morrell to express our support of his bill along with the other healthcare advocates. In our discussions with the Senator, he indicated that he had experienced significant concern and pushback from the opposition leading him to offer a substitute measure which passed out of committee by a vote of 4 yays and 1 nay. The substitute bill requires each licensed center to provide a written copy of all health-related policies established by that center to the parent or guardian of each child. It further provides that such policies are binding. There was one red card against the new bill. The opposing testimony was not focused specifically on the substitute bill but was general commentary against the use of vaccinations.
Substitute bill adopted SB 255

[SB 158](#), Milkovich: Provides relative to bullying
It removes the necessity for a staff member to get parental consent before asking whether bullying is occurring, and the bill clarifies that staff will not be punished if physical force is needed to protect students. Committee members approved amendments that require detailed reports of bullying be kept on

file and gives victims the choice to transfer schools or forces the bully to transfer.

Did not advance out of Education Committee

[SB 171](#), Barrow: Provides for an income tax credit for physicians who provide uncompensated care to indigent patients

Did not advance

[SB 180](#), Morrell: Restores the sales and use tax exemption for medical devices

This bill restores the sales and use tax exemption for medical devices, moved favorably out of committee with technical amendments. Currently Louisiana is the only state that taxes medical devices.

Becomes Act 426; Effective June 23, 2017

[SB 255](#), Morrell: Provides relative to health-related policies established by certain early learning centers

This was a substitute bill for SB133 which would have required all licensed early learning centers to notify parents about their immunization rates with a few exceptions. SB255 was offered as a substitute and will require each licensed early learning center to provide a written copy of all health-related policies established by the center including policies for accidents, allergic reactions, fever, illness, immunizations and injuries. This has to be given to parent/ guardian and are binding.

Becomes Act 256; Effective June 14, 2017

Below are the bills that the LA AAP Opposed

[HB 51](#), Pugh: Increases the medical malpractice cap in certain circumstances

Did not advance

Not heard in committee.

[HB 479](#), Horton: Provides relative to prenatal neglect and reporting thereof

This bill originally required reporting of and creating a plan of safe care for women who use prescribed controlled substances. The LA AAP met with LDH and many other concerned groups prior to debate in committee to work on a substitute bill that limited physicians/hospital exposure. *A big Thank You to Berkley Durbin and MedicineLouisiana for leading that endeavor.* HB 479 was reported out of committee by substitute.

Substitute bill adopted: HB 678

[HB 526](#), Reynolds: Provides for time frames in the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Act

Did not advance

[HB 539](#), Amedee: Removes requirement that certain students in approved home study programs provide documentation of immunization against meningococcal disease

LA AAP was able to keep this bill from being heard in committee which was a big win. This was the second year this bill was brought to session and the second year we have been able to keep it from going before the committee. The bill would have removed the requirement for notification, via a vaccine assurance statement, of meningococcal vaccine at age 11 for those enrolled in an approved home study program. As part of the information gathering in preparation to oppose this instrument, the Chapter was able to find out the following information from the Department of Education: For the 2016-2017 school year there are 12,792 home study students. Only students who are 11 years old are required to provide a response to the immunization assurance which equaled 1,987 students, or 16% of all home study students.

Of that, 83% of students required to provide this information stated that they had received the immunization. The other 17% stated that for either personal or religious reasons they had not. The Chapter worked closely with the Office of Public Health and State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry to inform the Representative on the public safety issues that removing this notification could cause. The chapter also sent emails to committee members and call to actions to members. Ultimately, we won this round.

[SB 156](#), Lambert: Provides relative to juvenile detention facilities
Did not advance.

Below are final dispositions of bills by categories followed by a full report of all bills tracked.

The bills the Chapter tracked were divided into the following categories:

- Medicaid/LDH
- Criminal/ Juvenile Justice
- Education
- Finance
- Healthcare/ Health
- Insurance

Medicaid/LDH | Last Action Taken

[HB 152](#), Bacala: Provides for implementation and funding of a Medicaid managed long-term services and supports system
5/10/2017 Involuntarily deferred

[HB 159](#), Miller, D.: Requires certain mental health providers to be licensed under the Behavioral Health Services Provider Licensing Law
Becomes Act 33; Effective June 3, 2017

[HB 177](#), Moreno: Eliminates restrictions on SNAP benefits eligibility for persons with prior drug convictions
5/11/2017 Substitute bill adopted: HB 681

[HB 281](#), Norton: Requires the Louisiana Department of Health to implement the Medicaid health home option for persons with serious mental illness
The bill would have required the Louisiana Department of Health to implement the Medicaid health home option for persons with serious mental illness.
6/2/2017 Recommitted to committee on Finance

[HB 306](#), Johnson: Provides relative to pharmacy reimbursement by managed care organizations
Requires managed care organizations' base of reimbursement for prescription drugs to be at least equal to the legacy Medicaid rate. It also repeals multiple current laws which allow a reimbursement dispute process and authorize MCOs to negotiate the ingredient cost reimbursement in its contracts with providers.
Becomes Act 301; Effective October 1, 2017

[HB 397](#), Edmonds: Provides relative to the Medical Assistance Programs Fraud Detection Fund
5/18/2017 *Referred to committee on Finance*

[HB 405](#), Hoffmann: Provides relative to the Medicaid disability services system
6/1/2017 *Recommitted to committee on Finance*

[HB 414](#), Leger: Revises license and bed fee amounts for facilities and providers licensed by the La. Department of Health
Revises license and bed fee amounts for facilities and providers licensed by the La. Department of Health. This bill increases fees and creates a revenue gain to the state \$265,000. Despite vigorous debate in opposition. The bill was reported favorably with amendments. The amendments remove adult residential care providers from the listing of facilities to which the license fee increases provided in proposed law would apply, restores and amend present law relative to adult residential care provider license application and renewal fees to decrease the amount of such fees from \$600 to \$500, and makes technical changes.
6/5/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[HB 459](#), Bacala: Creates and provides for a task force on coordination of Medicaid fraud detection and prevention initiatives
HB 459 creates a six-member task force to improve the state's Medicaid fraud detection and prevention process. After thorough evaluation, the task force is expected to develop recommendations that can facilitate systemic changes and specifically impact fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicaid system.
Becomes Act 420; Effective August 1, 2017

[HB 486](#), Johnson: Provides relative to the state central registry for child abuse and neglect
Becomes Act 348; See Act for Effective Date

[HB 492](#), Magee: Provides for an independent claims review process within the Medicaid managed care program
HB 492 is designed to provide relief to Medicaid providers inundated with claims denials. The legislation creates a uniform appeals process by utilizing an independent reviewer for claims appeals and sets forth a clearly delineated process of time frames and required information so that all managed care plans will have the same process that is fair and equitable. The department indicated that possibly 5 additional staff would be necessary to implement the process. The legislation is modeled after the Tennessee Medicaid program, who informed Legislative staff that they utilized 1.5 additional staff. *Becomes Act 349; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 681](#), Moreno: Eliminates restrictions on eligibility for certain public assistance for persons with prior drug convictions
Becomes Act 265; Effective October 1, 2017

[HCR 8](#), Barras: Provides for a hospital stabilization formula
Enrolled in the House

[HCR 55](#), Norton: Creates a task force to study Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness
Enrolled in the House

[HCR 86](#), Thomas: Urges and requests the La. Dept. of Health to finalize plans for implementing hospital payment reform within the Medicaid program

HCR 86 urges and requests Louisiana Department of Health and governance bodies of Louisiana hospitals to finalizes plans for implementing hospital payment reform within the Medicaid program. The bill promotes transparency by requiring LDH to provide payments to providers for all services obtained by beneficiaries of state-funded health programs. It asks for detailed records of all state and federal funds and rates for individual and aggregate payments to each provider. These payment records will be available on the LDH website.

Enrolled in the House

[HR 224](#), Edmonds: Urges and requests the Louisiana Department of Health and the commissioner of administration to issue a Request for Proposals or Request for Applications for the purpose of providing managed long term services and supports

Enrolled in the House

[SB 75](#), Mills: Provides relative to the health professional licensing boards created within the Louisiana Department of Health

5/23/2017 Involuntarily deferred

[SB 188](#), Hewitt: Provides relative to Medicaid recipient work requirements

SB 188 would have provided for work requirements for certain Medicaid beneficiaries. LDH testified to the difficulties in implementation and the bill in concept was turned into SR 163 to determine feasibility.

4/10/2017 Referred to committee on Health & Welfare

[SB 205](#), Morrell: Provides relative to boards and commissions and disciplinary adjudications

SB 205 in its original form would have moved the final adjudication proceeding for licensees of boards and commissions to an administrative law judge. A substitute bill was filed which changed the content to only address the Home Builder's Association.

5/18/2017 Substitute bill adopted SB 257

[SB 257](#), Morrell: Provides relative to the Louisiana State Board of Home Inspectors

6/22/2017 Becomes Act 328; Effective August 1, 2017

Criminal/ Juvenile Justice | Last Action Taken

[HB 43](#), Horton: Prohibits the possession of imitation firearms, projectiles, or ammunition on or within a certain distance of school property or at school-sponsored functions

4/10/2017 Withdrawn prior to introduction

[HB 45](#), Mack: Provides relative to sentencing and parole of certain juvenile offenders sentenced to life imprisonment and terms of imprisonment of more than thirty years

4/10/2017 Referred to committee on Administration of Criminal Justice

[HB 74](#), Marcelle: Provides relative to disposition of children after adjudication of certain felony-grade delinquent acts

5/10/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[HCR 2](#), Foil: Requests the Louisiana State Law Institute to study tutorship and the legal capacity of an emancipated minor

5/18/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HCR 110](#), Leger: Urges and requests the Institute for Public Health and Justice and the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to study behavioral health issues in the criminal justice system

6/4/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[SB 16](#), Claitor: Provides relative to certain juveniles sentenced to life without parole

6/15/2017 *Becomes Act 277; Effective August 1, 2017*

[SB 54](#), Mizell: Provides for the unlawful exploitation of children

6/23/2017 *Becomes Act 376; Effective August 1, 2017*

[SB 156](#), Lambert: Provides relative to juvenile detention facilities

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Judiciary B*

[SCR 38](#), Morrell: Creates the Task Force on Secure Care Standards and Auditing.

6/8/2017 *Enrolled in the Senate*

Education | Last Action Taken

[HB 34](#), Pugh: Relative to management of public postsecondary education, abolishes the Board of Regents and the management boards and transfers their powers, duties, and responsibilities to a newly created Louisiana Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees

5/17/2017 *Involuntarily deferred*

[HB 79](#), Foil: Prohibits corporal punishment for certain students with exceptionalities

6/16/2017 *Becomes Act 266; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 91](#), Foil: Dedicates a portion of riverboat gaming revenue to the TOPS Gaming Income Fund to provide additional funding for TOPS

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Appropriations*

[HB 111](#), Bishop: Requires instruction in litter prevention and awareness for public school students in certain grades

6/7/2017 *Becomes Act 72; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 113](#), Broadwater: Removes termination of the authority of public postsecondary education management boards to establish and increase student fees

6/16/2017 *Becomes Act 293; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 117](#), Foil: Raises the minimum grade point average required for initial eligibility for a Taylor

Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award
5/30/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[HB 194](#), Reynolds: Raises the minimum GPA required for initial eligibility for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) Opportunity Award and provides for exceptions granted with respect to enrollment requirements for initial and continuing eligibility
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[HB 208](#), Carter, S.: Provides relative to foods and beverages sold to students in public schools
5/2/2017 *Involuntarily deferred*

[HB 390](#), Carter, G.: Provides relative to TOPS award amounts and for procedures for reducing award amounts in the event of insufficient funding
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[HB 412](#), LeBas: Authorizes the possession and application of sunscreen at public schools
6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 341; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 452](#), Abramson: Makes requirement for in-service training relative to suicide prevention applicable to nonpublic and charter school teachers and other employees
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 86; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 497](#), Norton: Prohibits corporal punishment in public elementary and secondary schools
5/8/2017 *Killed on final passage by vote of 34 to 61*

[HB 531](#), Hoffmann: Prohibits the use of tobacco products on school property
6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 351; Effective June 22, 2017*

[HB 539](#), Amedee: Removes requirement that certain students in approved home study programs provide documentation of immunization against meningococcal disease
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[HB 584](#), Leger: Creates a special fund for the purpose of funding early childhood education in Louisiana
6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 353; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 656](#), Shadoin: Imposes a state ad valorem tax and provides for the dedication of the avails of the tax to the TOPS Fund for the support of higher education
4/20/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[SB 13](#), Morrish: Provides relative to student eligibility to participate in the Student Scholarships for Educational Excellence Program
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[SB 71](#), Donahue: Provides relative to TOPS award amounts
6/3/2017 *Becomes Act 44; Effective June 3, 2017*

[SB 73](#), Milkovich: Allows each public school governing authority to determine the education content

standards and assessments to be used in the schools under its jurisdiction

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[SB 85](#), Colomb: Authorizes the state Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to survey students regarding certain risk behavior associated with chronic health conditions

5/17/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[SB 91](#), Peterson: Prohibits the use of corporal punishment for certain students with exceptionalities

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[SB 110](#), Luneau: Provides for residency requirements for TOPS recipients and for repayment of a TOPS award under certain circumstances

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[SB 133](#), Morrell: Provides relative to immunizations required prior to enrolling in school

5/8/2017 *Substitute bill adopted SB 255*

[SB 255](#), Morrell: Provides relative to health-related policies established by certain early learning centers

6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 256; Effective June 14, 2017*

Finance | Last Action Taken

[HB 1](#), Henry: Provides for the ordinary operating expenses of state government for Fiscal Year 2017-2018

This is the state's budget bill. By law, we are required to approve a balanced budget by the end of the fiscal year. This was not done in the regular session and was the reason for the second special session.

[HB 64](#), Henry: Provides for the ancillary expenses of state government

6/26/2017 *Becomes Act 48; Effective July 1, 2017*

[HB 103](#), Leger: Provides relative to the amount of the earned income tax credit

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[HB 118](#), Hoffmann: Levies an additional state excise tax on cigarettes

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[HB 175](#), Jones: Increases the amount of the earned income tax credit

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[HB 236](#), Shadoin: Eliminates certain constitutional dedication of revenue and certain treasury funds

6/5/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[HB 255](#), Carter, G.: Allows for the use of the Budget Stabilization Fund for the state costs associated with a declared disaster

5/31/2017 *Referred to committee on Finance*

[HB 271](#), Hoffmann: Levies an additional state excise tax on vapor products and electronic cigarettes
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[HB 397](#), Edmonds: Provides relative to the Medical Assistance Programs Fraud Detection Fund
5/18/2017 *Referred to committee on Finance*

[HB 427](#), Miller, D.: Provides relative to the tax credit for certain medical providers
HB 427 by Rep. Miller, D. provides relative to the tax credit for certain medical providers. It was heard on the Senate floor where it received an amendment that states this tax credit is only earned after approval by Louisiana Department of Health.
6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 342; Effective January 1, 2018*

[HB 458](#), Amedee: Eliminates certain statutory dedications of funds and eliminates certain dedications into certain funds
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Appropriations*

[HB 500](#), Seabaugh: Provides relative to the fees and grants eligible for the business-supported child care tax credit
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[SB 24](#), Morrell: Exempts diapers and feminine hygiene products from state and local sales and use tax
4/26/2017 *Recommitted to committee on Finance*

[SB 27](#), Morrell: Constitutional amendment to exempt diapers and feminine hygiene products from state sales and use tax
4/26/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[SB 67](#), Fannin: Provides relative to certain appropriations
6/26/2017 *Becomes Act 399; Effective August 1, 2017*

[SB 226](#), Hewitt: Eliminates certain statutory dedications and eliminates certain dedications of certain funds
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Finance*

Healthcare/ Health | Last Action Taken

[HB 67](#), Norton: Creates the crime of unlawfully supplying a child with an Uzi submachine gun
HB 67 by Rep. Norton creates the crime of unlawfully supplying a child with an Uzi submachine gun and was reported favorably with amendments by a 7-6 vote. Some representatives were concerned with the scenario of a gun collector allowing their child to hold a weapon with no ammunition in the weapon. This law means that person could be subjected to criminal charges. The approved amendment changes oozy weapon to any fully automatic gun.
5/25/2017 *Killed on final passage by vote of 21 to 59*

[HB 75](#), Miguez: Provides with respect to copies of death certificates
6/1/2017 *Becomes Act 7; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 118](#), Hoffmann: Levies an additional state excise tax on cigarettes
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[HB 154](#), Carpenter: Authorizes the disclosure of autopsy-related documents to the Department of Children and Family Services at no charge
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 141; Effective June 12, 2017*

[HB 172](#), Horton: Enacts the "Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Prevention Act" relative to requiring retailers of internet capable devices to install a digital blocking capability prior to sale or lease to a consumer
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Commerce*

[HB 179](#), Stokes: Provides relative to devices authorized for use by the Right To Try Act
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 292; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 192](#), Moreno: Provides for limitations on the prescribing of opioids
HB 192 limits the initial prescription of an opioid to a seven day supply, but allows for a longer prescription with a medical chart notation indicating reasons and whether non opioid alternatives are available. The measure also establishes certain requirements for the pharmacist involved, including dispensing and PMP recording procedures.
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 82; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 225](#), Pearson: Adds certain substances to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law
9/6/2017 *Becomes Act 100; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 250](#), Pylant: Authorizes local needle exchange programs
6/3/2017 *Becomes Act 40; Effective June 3, 2017*

[HB 271](#), Hoffmann: Levies an additional state excise tax on vapor products and electronic cigarettes
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Ways & Means*

[HB 305](#), Johnson: Provides for the regulation of the practice of physical therapy
6/16/2017 *Becomes Act 300; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 314](#), Thomas: Requires LSU hospitals and public-private partnership hospitals to accept certain patients transferred by other hospitals
4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Health & Welfare*

[HB 317](#), Bagley: Provides for the acceptance of a child surrendered for adoption by the Department of Children and Family Services
6/3/2017 *Becomes Act 59; Effective June 3, 2017*

[HB 321](#), Gisclair: Establishes a permit fee for milk and dairy farms and plants
5/15/2017 *Substitute bill adopted: HB 684*

[HB 412](#), LeBas: Authorizes the possession and application of sunscreen at public schools

6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 341; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 426](#), Marino: Suspends child support while a parent is incarcerated

5/10/2017 *Substitute bill adopted: HB 680*

[HB 436](#), Talbot: Requires drug manufacturers to provide information regarding prescription drug prices
HB 436 now requires drug manufacturers and pharmacy marketers to report the wholesale acquisition cost information to the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy.

6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 220; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 479](#), Horton: Provides relative to prenatal neglect and reporting thereof

5/3/2017 *Substitute bill adopted: HB 678*

[HB 486](#), Johnson: Provides relative to the state central registry for child abuse and neglect
Present law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to maintain a central registry of all reports of abuse and neglect to provide information of past reports of child abuse or neglect of children to assist in the proper evaluation of current reports of abuse or neglect which may include a pattern of incidents. The proposed law requires DCFS to maintain all reports of abuse and neglect in a state repository in which there is a state central registry containing only certain justified reports of abuse and neglect. The bill was reported favorably with amendments. The amendments require an appeal request be sent to the division of administration in lieu of DCFS and makes technical changes.

6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 348; See Act for Effective Date*

[HB 490](#), Leger: Creates the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education

6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 88; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 531](#), Hoffmann: Prohibits the use of tobacco products on school property

6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 351; Effective June 22, 2017*

[HB 533](#), Hunter: Provides relative to drinking water standards

6/15/2017 *Becomes Act 263; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 539](#), Amedee: Removes requirement that certain students in approved home study programs provide documentation of immunization against meningococcal disease

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[HB 557](#), Seabaugh: Provides for criminal background checks relative to early learning centers, school employees, registered family child care providers and in-home providers

6/26/2017 *Becomes Act 423; See Act for Effective Date*

[HB 586](#), Hunter: Requires certain publicly funded healthcare facilities and providers to institute policies relative to continuity of patient care

HB 586 by Rep. Hunter requires certain publicly funded healthcare facilities and providers to institute policies relative to continuity of patient care and was changed to a substitute bill during committee. The substitute bill adds more transparency. Rep. Hunter agreed to cut the bill if parties in dispute can work out an agreement before the end of the session.

5/22/2017 *Substitute bill adopted: HB 690*

[HB 678](#), Horton: Provides relative to prenatal neglect and reporting thereof
6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 359; Effective July 1, 2017*

[HB 680](#), Marino: Provides relative to child support when a parent is incarcerated
6/15/2017 *Becomes Act 264; Effective January 1, 2019*

[HB 684](#), Gisclair: Establishes a permit fee for milk and dairy farms and plants
6/3/2017 *Killed on final passage by vote of 23 to 12*

[HB 690](#), Hunter: Requires adoption of administrative rules relative to continuity of patient care for certain publicly funded healthcare facilities and providers
5/25/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[HCR 17](#), Hoffmann: Requests a study and recommendations concerning reporting of child abuse and neglect in military families
5/31/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HCR 51](#), Jackson: Authorizes and directs the La. Department of Health to issue rules requiring reporting of immunization information
6/7/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HCR 55](#), Norton: Creates a task force to study Louisiana's current statewide system of healthcare delivery for Medicaid enrollees with serious mental illness
6/7/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HCR 58](#), Hilferty: Requests an evaluation and report concerning prospective implementation of a "baby box" program as a means of reducing infant mortality
6/4/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HCR 59](#), Hoffmann: Creates a study group to make recommendations concerning the potential establishment of an independent health professions scope of practice review committee
HCR 59 would have created a study group to make recommendations concerning the potential establishment of an independent health professions scope of practice review committee but the resolution was voluntarily deferred by the author without discussion in House Health and Welfare, which he chairs.
5/9/2017 *Referred to committee on Health & Welfare*

[HCR 60](#), Hoffmann: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to twenty-one
5/30/2017 *Referred to committee on Health & Welfare*

[HCR 61](#), Norton: Creates the Louisiana Bullying Awareness and Treatment Task Force
6/2/2017 *Referred to committee on Health & Welfare*

[HCR 100](#), Edmonds: Declares the proliferation of pornography among Louisiana children to be a public health hazard
6/4/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HR 177](#), Hoffmann: Requests the Louisiana Department of Health to study the desirability and feasibility of increasing the minimum age to purchase tobacco products to twenty-one
6/2/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[HR 208](#), Norton: Creates the Louisiana Bullying Awareness and Treatment Task Force
6/7/2017 *Enrolled in the House*

[SB 14](#), Luneau: Amends the definition of "auto-injector" for purposes of emergency medical services
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 106; Effective June 12, 2017*

[SB 34](#), Boudreaux: Provides relative to emergency ground ambulance service providers
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 179; Effective June 12, 2017*

[SB 35](#), Colomb: Provides exemptions from arrest and prosecution to persons lawfully in possession of medical marijuana
6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 319; Effective June 22, 2017*

[SB 38](#), Morrell: Provides with respect to mental health counselors
SB 38 repeals current restrictions on mental health counselors to assess, diagnose, or provide treatment to individuals with serious mental illnesses. SB 38 also repeals the definitions for "serious mental illness" in present law.
6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 235; Effective June 14, 2017*

[SB 39](#), Boudreaux: Provides relative to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
SB 39 added clarity to the legislation passed last year which restructured the board appointments for the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners.
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 162; Effective June 12, 2017*

[SB 42](#), Johns: Creates the Louisiana Human Trafficking Prevention Commission and Advisory Board
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 181; Effective June 12, 2017*

[SB 55](#), Mills: Provides relative to prescribers of controlled dangerous substances
6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 76; See Act for Effective Date*

[SB 59](#), Mills: Provides relative to prescription drug price information
SB 59 requires the Board of Pharmacy to develop a website to contain prescription drug pricing information with various data elements categorized by the therapeutic category.
6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 236; Effective June 14, 2017*

[SB 66](#), Barrow: Provides relative to the Children's Cabinet and the Child Poverty Prevention Council of Louisiana
SB 66 by Sen. Barrow provides relative to the Children's Cabinet and the Child Poverty Prevention Council of Louisiana and passed favorably with multiple amendments. The first major amendment states that after the two year mark of the bill, the Director of the Children's Trust Fund must report successes

and failures to the legislative bodies on Health and Welfare, the second added a representative to the LA Children's Policy Institute Advisory Board, and the rest were technical changes.

6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 237; Effective August 1, 2017*

[SB 75](#), Mills: Provides relative to the health professional licensing boards created within the Louisiana Department of Health

5/23/2017 *Involuntarily deferred*

[SB 85](#), Colomb: Authorizes the state Department of Education and the Louisiana Department of Health to survey students regarding certain risk behavior associated with chronic health conditions

5/17/2017 *Returned to the calendar subject to call*

[SB 88](#), Long: Provides for a rural health clinic look-alike

4/27/2017 *Engrossed, recommitted to committee on Finance*

[SB 96](#), Johns: Provides relative to the prescription monitoring program

6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 241; Effective June 14, 2017*

[SB 106](#), Bishop: Requires public postsecondary institutions to develop and implement an action plan to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies

SB 106 by Sen. Bishop requires public postsecondary institutions to develop and implement an action plan to address the prevention of unplanned pregnancies. During the discussion, committee members recognized the purpose of this bill is not to divide pro-life and pro-choice individuals, but simply aims to help young women stay in school throughout pregnancy. The bill was reported favorably and referred to the Legislative Bureau.

6/22/2017 *Becomes Act 321; Effective June 22, 2017*

[SB 111](#), Mizell: Requires proof of identification from parents for an unemancipated minor child to obtain an abortion based upon parental consent and requires court-ordered counseling if it is suspected that the minor is a victim of criminal sexual exploitation

6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 165; Effective August 1, 2017*

[SB 116](#), Mills: Provides for the Work Out Now: WON Louisiana Legislative Commission

6/12/2017 *Becomes Act 187; Effective June 12, 2017*

[SB 122](#), Ward: Provides relative to cruelty to juveniles committed by an employee of a child day care center

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Judiciary C*

[SB 133](#), Morrell: Provides relative to immunizations required prior to enrolling in school

5/8/2017 *Substitute bill adopted SB 255*

[SB 158](#), Milkovich: Provides relative to bullying

6/2/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

[SB 171](#), Barrow: Provides for an income tax credit for physicians who provide uncompensated care to indigent patients

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Revenue & Fiscal Affairs*

[SB 180](#), Morrell: Restores the sales and use tax exemption for medical devices

6/23/2017 *Becomes Act 426; Effective June 23, 2017*

[SB 194](#), Cortez: Provides relative to regulation of advertising by the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners

Among the most contentious bills before Senate Health and Welfare was **SB 194** by Sen. Cortez. The bill would have repealed the current LSBME authority to regulate physician advertising of board membership or certification and the authority to determine which board certifications the physician is allowed to advertise. The committee heard testimony from Louisiana cosmetic surgeons, the key proponents of the proposed bill, and plastic surgeons from around the state, who were adamantly opposed. The plastic surgeons insisted this was not about “turf wars”, but about public safety and truthful advertising of one’s credentials. These opponents of the bill explained that since a lay person associates “board certification” with demonstrated mastery of a practice area, a professional board should have uniform, rigorous standards, and its members should achieve a high level of competence in order to advertise this unique qualification to the public. The proponents argued that the current requirements tied exclusively to ACGME residency programs created a constitutional issue. Throughout the conversation, the committee agreed that current law infringes on certain physicians’ 1st Amendment rights to freely advertise their professional board. However, committee members agreed the two groups of physicians should bring their concerns to the LSBME, not the Louisiana State Legislature, and the bill was voluntarily deferred.

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Health & Welfare*

[SB 216](#), Tarver: Provides for physician assistants executing emergency certificates relative to alleged mental illness or substance abuse

SB 216 in its original form allowed a physician’s assistant under the supervision of a physician to execute an emergency certificate. Senate Finance Chairman, LaFleur whose wife is a PA, handled the bill on behalf of Sen. Tarver. The bill was amended during the committee hearing to include nurse practitioners then further amended to require the NP to obtain a verbal approval from the collaborating physician.

6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 254; Effective August 1, 2017*

[SB 255](#), Morrell: Provides relative to health-related policies established by certain early learning centers

6/14/2017 *Becomes Act 256; Effective June 14, 2017*

[SCR 21](#), Mizell: Requests Louisiana medical schools, prescriber licensing boards, and prescriber trade associations to take all necessary steps to eliminate pain as the fifth vital sign and to increase prescriber education and awareness on assessing, identifying, and treating the symptom of pain.

6/3/2017 *Enrolled in the Senate*

[SCR 111](#), Mizell: Requests school districts to distribute information regarding the public health risks associated with pornography and to encourage parents to install Internet filters on their home computers to protect children from the harms of pornography.

6/1/2017 *Referred to committee on Education*

Insurance | Last Action Taken

[HB 6](#), Hollis: Exempts Louisiana residents from the assessment of penalties for noncompliance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

5/8/2017 *Referred to committee on Insurance*

[HB 51](#), Pugh: Increases the medical malpractice cap in certain circumstances

HB 51 created a separate recovery limitation for plaintiffs who died as a result of mal practice.

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Civil Law & Procedure*

[HB 137](#), Jenkins: Provides relative to the filing of requests for medical review panels

HB 137 addresses filing of requests for medical review panels and electronic submissions. Rep. Jenkins worked with the Patient Compensation Fund representatives to amend the instrument to satisfy all parties.

6/16/2017 *Becomes Act 294; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 165](#), Anders: Provides for identification of dental benefit plan coverage

6/3/2017 *Becomes Act 34; Effective January 1, 2018*

[HB 435](#), Talbot: Requires disclosure to patient of out-of-network providers prior to surgery

HB 435 moved favorably out of House Insurance committee with significant amendments. The language in the Balance Billing Disclosure Act relative to facilities was changed to be more patient friendly. The patient is now required to sign indicating the notification was received, and a list of the facility-based physicians contracted with the facility will be included with the disclosure. The penalty provisions around unfair trade practices were also changed to reflect more appropriate penalties for both the health plans and the hospitals for non-compliance. The bill amends existing provisions of law that address nonemergency surgical procedures only.

6/16/2017 *Becomes Act 306; Effective August 1, 2017*

[HB 526](#), Reynolds: Provides for time frames in the Louisiana Medical Malpractice Act

HB 526 would have extended time periods and deadlines outlined in the Medical Malpractice Act for both private and public services. The bill addressed the cap on recoverable damages, although the language was confusing on economic and non-economic damage restrictions. It also required that not more than one of the medical review panelists could be from the same specialty of practice or have previous association with the defendant physician, which would have rendered the panel process moot.

4/10/2017 *Referred to committee on Civil Law & Procedure*