

**LOUISIANA
HEALTH CARE COMMISSION
2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
HEALTH ISSUES**

Presented by:

B. Ronnell Nolan, HIA, CHRS
Health Agents for America, Inc.

HB 184 - HUVAL

- Provides that an applicant for a producer license that applies within two years of the expiration of the previous license shall be exempt from examination.
- Present law requires that an applicant for a producer license applying for renewal within five years of the expiration date of his license is exempt from the requirement of an examination.
- Proposed law changes present law by requiring that an applicant apply within two years of the expiration of the previous license to be exempt from the requirement of an examination.

HEADED TO THE SENATE INSURANCE

HB 186 - MONToucET

- Requires that a notification concerning supplemental breast cancer screening be transmitted to patients pursuant to any screening mammogram or breast ultrasound examination.
- A requirement that, in addition to any letters or reports to patients pursuant to any screening mammogram or breast ultrasound examination as may be required by federal law, the following notice be transmitted to patients pursuant to such mammograms and ultrasound examinations: "If your mammogram or ultrasound examination demonstrates that you have dense breast tissue, which could hide abnormalities, and you have other risk factors for breast cancer that have been identified, you might benefit from supplemental screening tests that may be suggested by your ordering physician.
- Required by proposed law may be transmitted by either regular mail or certified mail via the U.S. Postal Service, or by any other commercial mail delivery service.
- **Pending Senate Introduction**

HB 257 - SEABAUGH

- Proposed law changes present law authorizing health insurance issuers to require health care providers to be credentialed, as follows:
 - (1) Changes the definition of a "health care provider" to specifically include a dentist licensed to practice dentistry by the La. State Board of Dentistry.
 - (2) Changes the definition of a "health insurance issuer" to specifically include a dental benefit plan, including an entity defined as a dental service contractor in present law.
 - (3) Provides that a provider who has been credentialed by a health insurance issuer for any location in the state and is current on all credentialing at that location shall be considered credentialed for all locations at which that provider may legally practice medicine or dentistry, provided that each of the following conditions are met:

Passed House Insurance – scheduled to be heard on the House Floor 5/6/15

HB 260 - WILLIAMS

- Establishes the Sickle Cell Patient Navigator Program to be administered by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals under the direction of the La. Sickle Cell Commission.

- **Pending House & Welfare**

HB 307 - JACKSON

- Proposed law prohibits an insurer, including an entity contracted with the state for the provision of Medicaid services and the Office of Group Benefits programs, from denying payment for services provided to a person admitted under an emergency certificate on the basis of medical necessity.
- **Pending House & Welfare**

HB 319 - SIMON

- Prohibits the dispensing of an interchangeable biological product if the prescription requires the named product and requires notification to the prescriber when an interchangeable biological product is dispensed.
- **Pending House & Welfare**

HB 329 - ARMES

- Mandates that the state Office of Group Benefits offer coverage for treatment of morbid obesity through gastric bypass surgery or other methods recognized by the National Institutes of Health.
- **Pending House Appropriations**

HB 351 - LEBAS

- Applies to health insurance plans offered by the Office of Group Benefits the prohibition on requiring employees or retirees to obtain prescription drugs from a mail order pharmacy as a condition of receiving payment for such drugs, or imposing a copayment fee not imposed upon employees or retirees who utilize the designated mail order pharmacy.
- **Pending House Appropriations**

HB 397 - POPE

- Authorizes early refills for a topical ophthalmic product. Proposed law authorizes a pharmacist to dispense previously authorized refills on an original prescription for a topical ophthalmic product at 70% of the predicted day.
- **Pending Senate Health and Welfare**

HB 436 - JOHNSON

- Increases the maximum fee that may be imposed by the Dept. of Health and Hospitals for prescription services provided by the Medicaid program to \$0.20 per prescription, and requires health insurance issuers to reimburse the pharmacy or pharmacist for payment of the fee when the pharmacy or pharmacist makes a claim for reimbursement of the fee.
- **Pending House Health and Welfare**

HB 440 - LEBAS

- Proposed law provides that, notwithstanding any other provision of present law relative to pharmacy and pharmacist claims, a health insurance issuer or a pharmacy benefit manager shall not directly or indirectly charge or hold a pharmacist or pharmacy responsible for a fee for any step of or component or mechanism related to the claim adjudication process.
- Pending House Appropriations

HB 461- SIMON

- Provides for the regulation of telemedicine by the La. State Board of Medical Examiners.
- Proposed law retains present law but adds a reference to the provision of present law requiring physicians to hold an unrestricted license to practice medicine in La. or a telemedicine license issued by the LSBME.
- **Pending House Health and Welfare**

HB 498 - TALBOT

- Provides for transparency in health services pricing and healthcare quality measures through requirements for the Dept. of Health and Hospitals to publish on-line certain data on health services.
- **Pending House Health and Welfare**

HB 552 - THIERRY

- Provides relative to the scope of practice of chiropractic and institutes the term "chiropractic physician" in lieu of "chiropractor" in law.
- **Pending House Health and Welfare**

HB 602 - JOHNSON

- Provides for collection by the health insurance issuer of applicable coinsurance or deductible amounts owed by an insured under any contract providing for a high deductible.
- **Pending House Insurance**

HB 701 - WHITNEY

- Prohibits abortion based on sex selection and provides for civil actions pursuant to violations of the prohibition.
- Pending House Health and Welfare

HCR 4 - EDWARDS

- Proposed resolution expresses the intent of the legislature that present law establishes the standard of care that physicians are required to use in the practice of telemedicine, and declares that any administrative rules proposing to establish a standard of care that differs from the standard specified in law are inconsistent with the intent of the legislature.
- Pending House final passage - Sched. for 5/5/15

SB 10 -PETERSON

- Proposed constitutional amendment directs the Department of Health and Hospitals, effective January 1, 2016, to administer a state program that makes available to every legal resident of this state whose income is at or below 138% of the federal poverty level access to health insurance with essential health benefits, as provided by federal law and related rules and regulations.
- **Pending Senate Health and Welfare**

SB 56 - NEVERS

- Proposed law amends present law definition of "practice of chiropractic" to mean holding one's self out to the public as a chiropractor and as being engaged in the business of, or the actual engagement in, the examining, evaluating, and diagnosing patients of all ages for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of neuromuscular and musculoskeletal injuries, conditions, or disorders which interfere with biomechanical and neurological function and treating by adjustment, manipulation, and the use of the physical and other properties of heat, light, water, electricity, sound, massage, therapeutic exercise, mobilization, mechanical devices, and other physical rehabilitation measures.
- **Pending Senate Health and Welfare**

SB 115 - MILLS

- Provides with respect to the practice of physician assistant
- Proposed law amends present law to include to the shortage areas of skilled health personnel the urban medically under-served areas of Louisiana.
- Proposed law amends present law's legislative intent to provide physician assistants practice medicine as delegated by a physician.
- Proposed law amends present law supervising limit from two to four physician assistants per primary supervising physician and clarifies that the physician must be approved by the board as a supervising physician.
- Pending Senate final passage - Sched. for 5/4/15

SB 143 - MILLS

- Provides relative to prescribed marijuana for therapeutic uses and the development of rules and regulations by the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners
- Pending Senate final passage - Sched. for 5/4/15

SB 154 - SMITH

- Proposed law retains present law and requires an individual who intends to succeed to a position as director, officer, or employee, or who controls at least ten percent of the entity to undergo an investigation and criminal background check.
- **Pending House Insurance**

SB 173 - HEITMERER

- Proposed law provides for health insurance coverage for the treatment of morbid obesity which is defined as the condition that exists when a person has a body mass index greater than 40 kilograms per meter squared and also has the two comorbidity factors of diabetes and hypertension.
- Proposed law requires any group insurance plan providing comprehensive major medical benefits which is issued or renewed in this state on or after October 1, 2015, or notwithstanding the provisions of R.S. 22:1106, any prepaid entity that participates in the Louisiana Medicaid Program to provide coverage for the medically necessary expenses of the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity
- **Pending Senate Finance**

SB 216 - MORRISH

- Provides for the reorganization of the Louisiana Department of Insurance
- Proposed law changes the office of health insurance to the office of health, life, and annuity. Adds the office of consumer services and removes the division of minority affairs as part of the composition of the department.
- Pending Senate final passage - Sched. for 5/4/15

SCR 43 - CLAITOR

- Requests that the citizens of La. recognize the lifesaving benefits of routine colorectal screening examinations and schedule such examinations as deemed appropriate by their physicians.

- **Signed by the Speaker**