

**TNA Legislative Calendar of Bills for Week of February 26, 2018
and Report of bills considered this week.**

Monday, February 26, 2018

2:00pm - House Hearing Rm III, Joint Council on Pensions and Insurance -- CHAIR B. Watson (R); VICE CHAIR C. Sargent (R); T. Harper (D); G. McCormick (R); T. Gardenhire (R); S. McDaniel (R); C. Fitzhugh (D); K. Camper (D); K. Calfee (R); M. Norris (R); K. Brooks (R)

SB2198 Swann A. -- **Allocation of health care resources and services in the treatment of cancer patients.** Requires that utilization review agents intending to make changes to preauthorization requirements or restrictions that impact health care resources and services for cancer patients to provide contracted health care provider with written notice. Requires the health care providers be notified no less than 30 days prior to the requirement of restriction is implemented.

HB2299 - J. Moon - 02/05/18 - Referred to House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee. POSITION --- Monitoring

SB2412 Kyle S. -- **Study on the issue of transparency in the state purchasing of prescription drugs.** Requires the comptroller of the treasury to study the issue of transparency in the purchasing of prescription drugs by the state and to make recommendations for increasing transparency in the purchasing of prescription drugs through the group insurance plan for state employees administered by the state insurance committee and the medical assistance program in the TennCare waiver operated by the bureau of TennCare. Requires the comptroller to report any findings and recommendations on or before January 15, 2019, to the various committees outlined in the section. HB2465 - J. Deberry Jr. - 02/07/18 - Referred to House State Government Subcommittee. POSITION --- Monitoring

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

10:30am - House Hearing Rm I, House Health Committee -- CHAIR C. Sexton (R); VICE CHAIR S. Kumar (R); R. Williams (R); S. Whitson (R); B. Terry (R); R. Staples (D); P. Sherrell (R); B. Ramsey (R); J. Ragan (R); S. Jones (D); D. Jernigan (D); J. Holsclaw, Jr. (R); M. Hill (R); G. Hicks (R); R. Gant (R); J. Favors (D); J. Faison (R); J. Clemmons (D); S. Butt (R)

HB1542 Ramsey B.-- **Aging caregiver priority provisions - referral list for the TennCare CHOICES program.** Applies aging caregiver priority provisions to persons eligible for the TennCare CHOICES program.

SB1494 - F. Haile - 01/17/18 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee. **POSITION** – Neutral

HB1510 Whitson S. -- **Tennessee Public Safety Behavioral Health Act.** Requires public safety employers to provide not less than ten visits or sessions with a mental health service provider for the purpose of treating PTSD through the employee's health benefits or otherwise, in addition to any other behavioral or mental health benefits offered. Prohibits public safety employers from engaging in the retaliatory treatment of public safety employees seeking or utilizing mental health service providers or behavioral health programs.

SB1797 - B. Ketron - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION** – Neutral

HB69 Smith E. -- **Expansion of TennCare waiver.** Directs the commissioner of finance and administration to submit a waiver request to the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services to enable the state to provide medical assistance to the existing TennCare II waiver population and persons with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty line by means of a block grant of

federal funds.

SB118 - R. Briggs - 04/04/17 - Taken off notice in Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. **POSITION**
- Neutral

HB2251 Matlock J. -- **Use of state funds to support or promote elective abortions prohibited.** Establishes that is the policy of the state to favor childbirth and family planning services that do not include elective abortions or the promotion of elective abortions within the continuum of care or services and to avoid the direct or indirect use of state funds to promote or support elective abortions. Directs the commissioner of finance and administration to submit to the federal centers for medicare and medicaid services a waiver amendment to the existing TennCare II waiver to require the exclusion of a provide from the program if the bureau of TennCare finds that inclusion of the provider in the program would result in the direct or indirect use of state funds to promote or support elective abortion. Requires the commissioner to implement the waiver amendment within 10 business days if the waiver amendment is approved.

SB2148 - M. Bell - 02/05/18 - Referred to Senate Health & Welfare Committee. **POSITION** - Neutral

HB2167 Ramsey B. -- **Recognition of hospitals with stroke-related designations.** Requires the board for licensing health care facilities to establish a procedure for recognizing hospitals that have stroke-related designations. Recognizes a hospital as a stroke-related designation if the hospital has an active certification as a comprehensive stroke center, primary stroke center, at acute stroke-ready hospital capable of providing neuroendovascular treatment. Authorizes the board to remove reference to facility's stroke-related designation if a hospital does not comply with board establish procedures. Establishes guidelines for pre-hospital assessment, treatment, education, and transport of patients. **Amendment Summary:** House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (013370) deletes the language "responders" and substitutes the language "Providers".

SB2513 - B. Ketron - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION**
- Neutral

HB2348 Williams R. -- **Prescribing of opioids to non-pregnant women of child-bearing age.** Requires a specific prescriber who prescribes a five day supply of opioids to a non-pregnant women of child-bearing age to inform the patient of the risk of fetal injury and neonatal abstinence syndrome in the event of pregnancy while on therapy. **Amendment Summary:** House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (013387) requires health care prescribers to inform women of childbearing age of the risk of fetal injury resulting from opioids when prescribing more than a five-day supply of opioids. Requires that patients receive counseling on effectiveness and obtaining contraceptive services. Encourages the health care prescriber to minimize fetal exposure in the case that pregnancy occurs during treatment.

SB2674 - P. Bailey - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION**
- Neutral

1:30pm - House Hearing Rm IV, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee -- CHAIR T. Goins (R); R. Akbari (D); M. Curcio (R); S. Jones (D); W. Lamberth (R); J. VanHuss (R)

HB1749 Faison J. -- **Medical Cannabis Act.** Enacts the "Medical Cannabis Act," which establishes the medical cannabis commission for regulation of cannabis-related health care. Specifies that the commission shall consist of nine members and specifies appointing process for members. Specifies that the official domicile for the commission is Nashville and that all meetings of the commission are to be held in Nashville. Specifies compensation for members of commission and specifies duties of commission. Defines "medical cannabis establishment" to mean a cultivation facility, testing facility, processing facility, dispensary, wholesaler, or other medical cannabis entity licensed by the commission. Establishes licensure process for medical cannabis establishments and specifies grounds for the commission to immediately revoke a medical cannabis establishment license.

Requires each medical cannabis establishment to have the capability to send data to and receive data from the electronic verification system established by the commission. Also requires each dispensary to check the electronic verification system established by the commission prior to dispensing any cannabis product. Establishes process for voters of a municipality or county to permit the retail sale of medical cannabis product at a licensed dispensary within the territorial limits of such county or municipality, by a majority vote, at a local option election. Requires the medical cannabis commission to promulgate rules governing the transportation of cannabis and cannabis products on public highways in the state and requires the commission to consult with the commissioner of safety in promulgating these rules. Establishes other provisions regarding medical cannabis. (74 pp.)
SB1710 - S. Dickerson - 01/24/18 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. **POSITION** - Neutral

3:00pm - House Hearing Rm II, House Business & Utilities Subcommittee -- CHAIR J. Holsclaw, Jr. (R); K. Calfee (R); J. Moon (R); M. Sparks (R); J. Powell (D); P. Marsh (R); C. Johnson (R); M. Gravitt (R); B. Gilmore (D); K. Vaughan (R)

HB2412 Lollar R.-- **Medical hardship and the payment of student loans.** Requires Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) to establish criteria that permit a debtor to retain a license when the debtor's default or delinquency is the result of a medical hardship that prevented the debtor from working in their licensed field and where the medical hardship significantly contributed to the default or delinquency. Prohibits TSAC from issuing a final determination of delinquency or default to the supreme court for a debtor who meets the criteria of this section. **Amendment Summary:** Senate Commerce and Labor Committee amendment 1 (013419) rewrites the bill so that organizations are discouraged rather than prohibited from revoking licenses for professionals who are delinquent on student loan payments.

SB2306 - L. Harris - 02/20/18 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee recommended with amendment 1 (013419), which rewrites the bill so that organizations are discouraged rather than prohibited from revoking licenses for professionals who are delinquent on student loan payments. Sent to Senate Calendar Committee. **POSITION** - Neutral

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

10:30am - House Hearing Rm IV, House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee -- CHAIR R. Lollar (R); C. Halford (R); A. Holt (R); B. Mitchell (D); J. Reedy (R); J. Shaw (D); R. Tillis (R)

*****HB2288, was scheduled for consideration in House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee this week, at that time testimony was presented by supporters and was then reset to the calendar for next Wednesday, February 28, at which time TNA will be allowed to give testimony in opposition.**

HB2288 Ramsey B.-- **Changes in veterinary licensing classifications.** Changes veterinary licensing classification from veterinary technician to veterinary nurse. Authorizes the board of veterinary medical examiners to adapt rules in accordance with the UAPA related the practice, application process, license renewal, license fee, and penalties. Requires that licensed veterinary technicians in good standing on or before January 1, 2019 be granted a registered veterinary nurse license upon renewal.

SB2154 - M. Bell - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 03/01/18.

TNA STRONGLY OPPOSES HB2288 for the following reasons:

- ❖ **TNA believes the title registered nurse has always been linked to the provision of care of humans**
- ❖ **TNA believes the Registered Veterinary Nurse initiative would undermine the title “nurse”**
- ❖ **TNA believes in transparency of those who provide care for human beings and those who care for other forms of life and should remain distinctive.**
- ❖ **No other state has enacted such legislation**

HB2327 Ramsey B. -- **Local governments to designate smoking areas.** Authorizes local government to regulate smoking in age-restricted venues, hotels, and private clubs that do not meet the definition of a "club."

SB2525 - B. Ketron - 02/05/18 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. **POSITION** - Supports

12:00pm - House Hearing Rm II, House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee -- CHAIR K. Keisling (R); J. Zachary (R); R. Travis (R); J. Towns Jr. (D); D. Thompson (D); T. Rudd (R); D. Powers (R); J. Matheny (R); T. Hill (R); R. Gant (R)

HB2355 Terry B. -- **Prescribed claim form by healthcare providers on the department's website.** Authorizes the commissioner of commerce and insurance to make available to healthcare providers on the department's website any prescribed claim form for reporting by healthcare providers. Broadly captioned. SB2165 - M. Green - 02/05/18 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. **POSITION** – Monitoring for amendment

12:30pm - Senate Hearing Rm I, Senate Health & Welfare Committee -- The committee will have Budget Hearings by the TN Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and the TN Department of Health. -- CHAIR R. Crowe (R); VICE CHAIR F. Haile (R); 2ND VICE CHAIR J. Hensley (R); R. Briggs (R); B. Massey (R); S. Kyle (D); E. Jackson (R); B. Watson (R); A. Swann (R)

SB2513 Ketron B. -- **Recognition of hospitals with stroke-related designations.** Requires the board for licensing health care facilities to establish a procedure for recognizing hospitals that have stroke-related designations. Recognizes a hospital as a stroke-related designation if the hospital has an active certification as a comprehensive stroke center, primary stroke center, at acute stroke-ready hospital capable of providing neuroendovascular treatment. Authorizes the board to remove reference to facility's stroke-related designation if a hospital does not comply with board establish procedures. Establishes guidelines for pre-hospital assessment, treatment, education, and transport of patients. **Amendment Summary:** House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (013370) deletes the language "responders" and substitutes the language "Providers".

HB2167 - B. Ramsey - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Committee 02/27/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB1797 Ketron B. -- **Tennessee Public Safety Behavioral Health Act.** Requires public safety employers to provide not less than ten visits or sessions with a mental health service provider for the purpose of treating PTSD through the employee's health benefits or otherwise, in addition to any other behavioral or mental health benefits offered. Prohibits public safety employers from engaging in the retaliatory treatment of public safety employees seeking or utilizing mental health service providers or behavioral health programs.

HB1510 - S. Whitson - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Committee 02/27/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2257 Norris M. -- **Requirements for prescribing, dispensing, and reporting of opioids.** Authorizes commissioner of health to establish the morphine milligram equivalent calculation for an opioid drug. Requires use of the calculation established by the federal centers for disease

control and prevention for that drug, given that there s no such existing rule. Changes requirements of healthcare practitioners to check a controlled substance database when prescribing and dispensing the substances to patients, and to check the database every six months, instead of annually, of the patient s treatment. Provides the health commissioner with control of this database. Forbids practitioners from providing more than a five-day supply of opiates to patients, a ten-day supply in situations where refilling the prescription would prove difficult for the patient. Restricts the use of opiates to the treatment of patients in severe conditions where traditional treatment methods have been tried, and only after consultation with the patient. Requires the health commissioner to file a report on the effect of these restrictions by no later than November 2021. Part of administration package.

HB1831 - D. Hawk - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. -- **POSITION**
– Monitoring for amendment

SB2674 Bailey P. -- **Prescribing of opioids to non-pregnant women of child-bearing age.** Requires a specific prescriber who prescribes a five day supply of opioids to a non-pregnant women of child-bearing age to inform the patient of the risk of fetal injury and neonatal abstinence syndrome in the event of pregnancy while on therapy. **Amendment Summary:** House Health Subcommittee amendment 1 (013387) requires health care prescribers to inform women of childbearing age of the risk of fetal injury resulting from opioids when prescribing more than a five-day supply of opioids. Requires that patients receive counseling on effectiveness and obtaining contraceptive services. Encourages the health care prescriber to minimize fetal exposure in the case that pregnancy occurs during treatment.

HB2348 - R. Williams - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Committee 02/27/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2498 Johnson J. -- **Tennessee Ultrasound Sonographer Act.** Enacts the Tennessee Ultrasound Sonographer Practice Act, which sets to establish minimum education, training, and certification guidelines and safety protocols for ultrasound sonographers in non-clinical 3D/4D ultrasound boutiques. Creates a board of ultrasound sonographers appointed by the governor and each member will serve without compensation but are entitled to reimbursement of any travel expenses incurred. Sets the guidelines and duties of the board. Permits the board to grant a license without examination to a person under certain circumstances. Requires the board to prescribe or develop the examinations to determine competence in the field for qualified applicants at least once each calendar year. Permits the board to impose a fine of no more than \$500 on a licensee or applicant for each violation of a law or rule relating to the profession regulated by the board.

HB2321 - C. Sargent - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB1670 Green M. -- **Honoring prescription for person displaced by natural disaster.** Permits a pharmacist to honor a valid prescription written by a physician in another state or territory for a person from another state or territory that has been displaced by a disaster.

HB1695 - J. Pitts - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** – TNA
Supports with amendment to change language to make applicable to healthcare prescribers.

SB1258 Norris M. -- **Definition of device in the Tennessee Pharmacy Practice Act of 1996.** Adds a requirement to the definition of "device" as used in the Pharmacy Practice Act of 1996 that a device be used to administer a prescription drug.

HB630 - C. Sexton - 02/14/17 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** - Neutral

B2359 Yarbro J. -- **Authorizes needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program.** Allows county and district health departments to petition for approval from county legislative bodies to create needle and hypodermic syringe exchange programs.

HB2675 - C. Fitzhugh - 02/07/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2376 Bowling J. -- **Costs imposed by physician certification requirements.** Requires the comptroller of the treasury to study the cost associated with maintaining physician certification

requirements, along with an analysis of how the cost will affect healthcare services in the state. Requires the comptroller to devise and send a report of their findings, to select house and senate committees.

HB2354 - B. Terry - 02/07/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2704 Bowling J. -- **Written notice mailed or given to a patient if extremely dense breast tissue is found.** Clarifies that a physician must provide a written notice directly to the patient by either handing the written notice directly to the patient or mailing a written notice to the patient's home address if extremely dense breast tissue is found in mammogram testing.

HB2634 - S. Kumar - 02/07/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2190 Lundberg J. -- **Guidelines for testing for opioids for the treatment of chronic pain.** Requires the commissioner of health to develop guidelines for testing for opioids used to treat chronic pain by following the guidelines developed by the centers for disease control and prevention (CDC) as they relate to baseline drug testing and periodic follow up testing.

HB1871 - C. Sexton - 01/31/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2482 Niceley F. -- **Informing patients before administering vaccinations.** Requires the prescribing practitioner or qualified healthcare provider to provide the patient with a list of the vaccine's ingredients, possible side effects, and information about the federal vaccine adverse event report system prior to administering the vaccination.

HB2488 - A. Holt - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB2361 Crowe R. -- **Report on the implementation of the Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2016.** Requires the commissioner of health to conduct a study on issues related to the impact of the Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2016 on healthcare access and healthcare status. Requires that the findings be reported to the health committee of the house of representatives and the health and welfare committee of the senate on or before January 15, 2019.

HB2220 - C. Sexton - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

SB1926 Briggs R. -- **New Healthcare Practitioner Act.** Enacts the New Healthcare Practitioner Act, which establishes a license for a new practitioner. Outlines the duties of the board of medical examiners in carrying out this act. Requires an applicant for this licensure to possess a doctor in medical science from a program that meets the criteria laid out in the section. Prohibits any person to function as a new healthcare practitioner unless the person holds a valid new healthcare practitioner license issued by the board. Requires every new healthcare practitioner to biennially pay a licensing renewal fee set by the board. Revokes a license at the expiration of 60 days after the registration was required if a new healthcare practitioner fails to renew their license and pay the biennial license fee within 60 days after license renewal becomes due.

HB2122 - R. Williams - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18.

TNA OPPOSES SB 1926 for the following reasons:

- The bill sponsors cite a lack of access to primary care in rural areas as rationale for the need for a new license and practice authority for select PAs (PAs who receive a practice doctoral degree; currently Tennessee has only one college that confers a practice doctoral degree for PAs).
 - If access to primary care is the focus problem, there are other solutions. Data shows that Tennessee Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Certified Nurse Midwives, elect to practice in Tennessee rural areas at a higher rate than Tennessee physicians. We are not aware of data that support the premise that PAs would elect to practice in rural

areas.

- Evidence is lacking which supports the creation of a new education model and license for PAs. This model is not in place in any other state **and is not** actively supported by national and state PA associations.
- The bill ignores APRN's who are already in place. There is an abundance of evidence supporting the quality, cost-effectiveness, and acceptability of their care. What is the basis for differentiating between APRNs and PAs?
- TNA has a concern about an approach that designates the provider's authority to practice based on geography.
- If passed, the bill would set precedents that TNA does not support. The bill has been touted as a model for APRN practice authority. However the bill includes terms that have been previously rejected by TNA as inappropriate for APRNs, including:
 - o The bill limits new practitioners to practice only in a team care model with one or more physician leaders. TNA has previously-rejected the idea of team-based care that only allows for physicians as team leaders. TNA opposes an idea that is not patient-centered
 - o The bill specifies that the Board of Medical Examiners would set rules and regulations for the new practitioner.
 - o The bill requires two additional years of training at a program at a medical school. TNA does not agree that APRNs need additional education or the notion that APRN education needs to be based on the same model used for medical education.
- The bill has been characterized as a "pathway to independent practice". TNA believes this bill actually further restricts current APRN practice.

SB2348 Swann A.-- **Healthcare Billing Collections Act of 2018.** Protects privately negotiated rate of reimbursement between a health insurance carrier and a healthcare provider as a trade secret and confidential commercial information. Prohibits non-participating healthcare providers from recovering certain billed charges in civil actions against an enrollee.

HB2259 - M. Curcio - 02/21/18 - House Civil Justice Subcommittee deferred to 03/07/18. **POSITION** - Monitoring

SB2350 Swann A. -- **Prohibited actions by physicians.** Prohibits physicians from misrepresenting charges for their services to patients. Authorizes board of medical examiners to take punitive actions against a physician licensed by the board for such misrepresentation.

HB2257 - M. Curcio - 02/05/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** -Monitoring

SB2352 Massey B. -- **Study on adequacy of resources to assist children and youth impacted by the opioid epidemic.** Calls for the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services to report to the house health committee and the senate welfare committee on the adequacy of resources to help children affected by the opioid epidemic by January 15, 2019.

HB2580 - J. Ragan - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** - Monitoring

SB2142 Haile F. -- **Certain controlled substances to be dispensed by a pharmacy in a lockable container.** Requires that drugs containing controlled substances included in schedule II be dispensed in a lockable container by the pharmacy. In cases where the prescription is for a person under the age of 18 the person's legal guardian is responsible for selecting the combination to the container. The

pharmacy and personnel are not liable for providing an ultimate user's combination code.
HB2173 - T. Goins - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** -Neutral

SB1491 Kyle S.-- **Infant Mortality Reduction Program Act.** Requires the department of health to establish a program that provides for the distribution of baby boxes to parents at the birth of their child. Requires the department to coordinate with medical facilities to maintain, store, and distribute the baby boxes.

HB1506 - J. Powell - 02/22/18 - Set for House Health Subcommittee 02/28/18. **POSITION** - Monitoring

SB2322 Kyle S. -- **Physician ownership interests in pharmacies.** Permits a physician to write a prescription for a drug that is not a Schedule II controlled substance that may be referred to and filled by a pharmacy in which the physician has an ownership interest.

HB2473 - H. Love Jr. - 02/07/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** -Neutral

SB2642 Watson B. -- **Increased penalties for healthcare providers.** Increases the civil penalty from \$500 per day to \$1,000 per day that any person performs, offers to perform, or holds such person out as performing an activity without possessing the valid certification needed to perform that health care activity. **Position:** Neutral

HB2267 - G. Hicks - 02/05/18 - Referred to House Health Subcommittee. **POSITION** -Neutral

3:00pm - House Hearing Rm III, House Health Subcommittee -- CHAIR B. Terry (R); J. Clemmons (D); J. Faison (R); J. Favors (D); M. Hill (R); S. Kumar (R); C. Sexton (R); P. Sherrell (R); J. Ragan (R)

HB2510 Favors J. -- **Prescribing of buprenorphine by certain nurse practitioners.** Permits a licensed psychiatric nurse practitioner or physician assistant in this state for at least three years and has no limitations or conditions imposed on the practitioner's licensure within the prior three years by the board of nursing or the committee on physician assistants to prescribe buprenorphine.

SB2095 - S. Dickerson - 02/05/18 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. **POSITION** Support

HB2220 Sexton C. -- **Report on the implementation of the Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2016.** Requires the commissioner of health to conduct a study on issues related to the impact of the Tennessee Prescription Safety Act of 2016 on healthcare access and healthcare status. Requires that the findings be reported to the health committee of the house of representatives and the health and welfare committee of the senate on or before January 15, 2019.

SB2361 - R. Crowe - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION** - Neutral

HB2239 Faison J. -- **Redefines physicians and physician assistants' professional relationship.** Changes references to the professional relationship between physicians and physician assistants from "supervisory" to "collaborative." Makes similar changes to references to the professional relationship between physicians and advanced practice registered nurses. **Amendment Summary:** Senate Commerce & Labor Committee 1 (013076) specifies that the activities of the physician assistant are appropriate in collaboration with the physician and that the prescriptive practices of physician assistance and the collaborating physicians with whom such physician assistants are rendering services will be monitored by the board and the committee.

SB1515 - B. Massey - 02/20/18 - Senate Commerce & Labor Committee recommended with amendment 1 (013076). Sent to Senate Calendar Committee. **POSITION** -Neutral

HB2459 Johnson C. -- **Risk assessment regarding the prescription of opioids.** Requires a medical facility to provide certain information about the risks of opioids while pregnant, and options for

contraceptives for women ages 15 to 44 before the prescription of opioids.

SB2485 - R. Briggs - 02/05/18 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. **POSITION** -Neutral

HB2122 Williams R. -- **New Healthcare Practitioner Act**. Enacts the New Healthcare Practitioner Act, which establishes a license for a new practitioner. Outlines the duties of the board of medical examiners in carrying out this act. Requires an applicant for this licensure to possess a doctor in medical science from a program that meets the criteria laid out in the section. Prohibits any person to function as a new healthcare practitioner unless the person holds a valid new healthcare practitioner license issued by the board. Requires every new healthcare practitioner to biennially pay a licensing renewal fee set by the board. Revokes a license at the expiration of 60 days after the registration was required if a new healthcare practitioner fails to renew their license and pay the biennial license fee within 60 days after license renewal becomes due.

SB1926 - R. Briggs - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18.

TNA OPPOSES HB 2122 for the following reasons:

- The bill sponsors cite a lack of access to primary care in rural areas as rationale for the need for a new license and practice authority for select PAs (PAs who receive a practice doctoral degree; currently Tennessee has only one college that confers a practice doctoral degree for PAs).
 - If access to primary care is the focus problem, there are other solutions. Data shows that Tennessee Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), including Nurse Practitioners, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, and Certified Nurse Midwives, elect to practice in Tennessee rural areas at a higher rate than Tennessee physicians. We are not aware of data that support the premise that PAs would elect to practice in rural areas.
- Evidence is lacking which supports the creation of a new education model and license for PAs. This model is not in place in any other state **and is not** actively supported by national and state PA associations.
- The bill ignores APRN's who are already in place. There is an abundance of evidence supporting the quality, cost-effectiveness, and acceptability of their care. What is the basis for differentiating between APRNs and PAs?
- TNA has a concern about an approach that designates the provider's authority to practice based on geography.
- If passed, the bill would set precedents that TNA does not support. The bill has been touted as a model for APRN practice authority. However the bill includes terms that have been previously rejected by TNA as inappropriate for APRNs, including:
 - The bill limits new practitioners to practice only in a team care model with one or more physician leaders. TNA has previously-rejected the idea of team-based care that only allows for physicians as team leaders. TNA opposes an idea that is not patient-centered
 - The bill specifies that the Board of Medical Examiners would set rules and regulations for the new practitioner.
 - The bill requires two additional years of training at a program at a medical school. TNA does not agree that APRNs need additional education or the notion that APRN education needs to be based on

the same model used for medical education.

- The bill has been characterized as a "pathway to independent practice". TNA believes this bill actually further restricts current APRN practice.

HB1695 Pitts J. -- **Honoring prescription for person displaced by natural disaster.** Permits a pharmacist to honor a valid prescription written by a physician in another state or territory for a person from another state or territory that has been displaced by a disaster.

SB1670 - M. Green - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION – TNA Supports with amendment to change language to make applicable to healthcare prescribers.**

HB1506 Powell J. -- **Infant Mortality Reduction Program Act.** Requires the department of health to establish a program that provides for the distribution of baby boxes to parents at the birth of their child. Requires the department to coordinate with medical facilities to maintain, store, and distribute the baby boxes.

SB1491 - S. Kyle - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION - Monitoring**

HB2580 Ragan J. -- **Study on adequacy of resources to assist children and youth impacted by the opioid epidemic.** Calls for the commissioner of mental health and substance abuse services to report to the house health committee and the senate welfare committee on the adequacy of resources to help children affected by the opioid epidemic by January 15, 2019.

SB2352 - B. Massey - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION - Monitoring**

HB1831 Hawk D. -- **Requirements for prescribing, dispensing, and reporting of opioids.** Authorizes commissioner of health to establish the morphine milligram equivalent calculation for an opioid drug. Requires use of the calculation established by the federal centers for disease control and prevention for that drug, given that there is no such existing rule. Changes requirements of healthcare practitioners to check a controlled substance database when prescribing and dispensing the substances to patients, and to check the database every six months, instead of annually, of the patient's treatment. Provides the health commissioner with control of this database. Forbids practitioners from providing more than a five-day supply of opiates to patients, a ten-day supply in situations where refilling the prescription would prove difficult for the patient. Restricts the use of opiates to the treatment of patients in severe conditions where traditional treatment methods have been tried, and only after consultation with the patient. Requires the health commissioner to file a report on the effect of these restrictions by no later than November 2021. Part of administration package.

SB2257 - M. Norris - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. **POSITION - Monitoring for amendment**

HB1747 Hill M. -- **Staffing of telehealth services at school site.** Amends language by adding licensed educational personnel trained in conducting the telecommunications encounter and equipped to engage in telehealth services at a school clinic.

SB1778 - R. Crowe - 01/25/18 - Referred to Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. **POSITION - Neutral**

HB1746 Hill M. -- **Abortion - information provided to woman regarding physician.** Requires specified information about the physician performing an abortion be made available to the woman prior to the procedure.

SB2365 - R. Crowe - 02/05/18 - Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee. **POSITION -Neutral**

HB2488 Holt A. -- **Informing patients before administering vaccinations.** Requires the prescribing practitioner or qualified healthcare provider to provide the patient with a list of the vaccine's ingredients, possible side effects, and information about the federal vaccine adverse event report system prior to administering the vaccination.

SB2482 - F. Niceley - 02/22/18 - Set for Senate Health & Welfare Committee 02/28/18. -- **POSITION - Neutral**

Thursday, March 1, 2018

10:00am - Senate Hearing Rm I, Senate Energy, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee -- CHAIR S. Southerland (R); VICE CHAIR F. Niceley (R); 2ND VICE CHAIR M. Pody (R); M. Bell (R); S. Dickerson (R); M. Green (R); D. Gresham (R); L. Harris (D); K. Yager (R)

SB2154 Bell M. -- **Changes in veterinary licensing classifications.** Changes veterinary licensing classification from veterinary technician to veterinary nurse. Authorizes the board of veterinary medical examiners to adapt rules in accordance with the UAPA related the practice, application process, license renewal, license fee, and penalties. Requires that licensed veterinary technicians in good standing on or before January 1, 2019 be granted a registered veterinary nurse license upon renewal.

HB2288 - B. Ramsey - 02/22/18 - Set for House Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee 02/28/18.

TNA STRONGLY OPPOSES SB2154 for the following reasons:

- ❖ **TNA believes the title registered nurse has always been linked to the provision of care of humans**
- ❖ **TNA believes the Registered Veterinary Nurse initiative would undermine the title “nurse”**
- ❖ **TNA believes in transparency of those who provide care for human beings and those who care for other forms of life and should remain distinctive.**
- ❖ **No other state has enacted such legislation**

Save the Date!!!

TNA Legislative Summit

April 4, 2018

War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville, TN.

