

I. AGENCY RELATED

[HB 1295](#)

Capriglione, Giovanni

Relating to the disclosure of interested parties by business entities contracting with governmental entities and state agencies.

[SB 813](#)

Hughes | Bettencourt | Buckingham | Hall | Huffines | et al.

Relating to recovery of damages, attorney's fees, and costs related to frivolous regulatory actions by state agencies. [Companion [HB 2516](#) - Meyer]

II. ACA or ADA

[HB 1463](#)

Smithee, John

Relating to procedures for asserting claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act. [Companion [SB 827](#) – Seliger]

[HCR 58](#)

Lozano, Jose

Urging Congress to provide Texas with Medicaid block grants.

III. TEXAS MEDICAID MANAGED CARE

[HB 1524](#)

Munoz, Sergio

Relating to transparency in the premium payment rate-setting processes for the Medicaid managed care and child health plan programs.

[HB 1649](#)

Muñoz, Jr.

Relating to the use of extrapolation by a health maintenance organization or an insurer to audit claims.

Amends current law to require that: A health maintenance organization may not use extrapolation to complete an audit of a participating physician or provider. Any additional payment due a participating physician or provider or any refund due the health maintenance organization must be based on the actual overpayment or underpayment and may not be based on an extrapolation.

[HB 1917](#)

Raymond | Price | Zerwas | Longoria | Davis, S. | Miller, Rick | Muñoz, Jr.

Relating to contract requirements for prescription drug benefits provided by Medicaid managed care organizations.

The bill amends Chapter 533, Government Code **postponing the date that an MCO** is no longer required to adhere to the state's (HHSC's) drug formulary in operating an outpatient pharmacy benefit plan for its enrollees (as specified under Section 533.005 (a) (23) (A-C) below) **from September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2030.**

Section 533.005 (a) A contract between a managed care organization and the commission for the organization to provide health care services to recipients must contain:
(23) subject to Subsection (a-1), a requirement that the managed care organization develop, implement, and maintain an outpatient pharmacy benefit plan for its enrolled recipients:

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- (A) that exclusively employs the vendor drug program formulary and preserves the state's ability to reduce waste, fraud, and abuse under Medicaid;
- (B) that adheres to the applicable preferred drug list adopted by the commission under Section 531.072;
- (C) that includes the prior authorization procedures and requirements prescribed by or implemented under Sections 531.073(b), (c), and (g) for the vendor drug program;

IV. LONG TERM CARE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS, MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY & RELATED

[HB 1408](#)

Cortez, Philip

Relating to the period of continuous eligibility for the medical assistance program. [Companion [SB 53](#) – Zaffirini]

The HHSC executive commissioner shall adopt rules in accordance with 42 U.S.C. Section 1396a(e)(12), as amended, to provide for a period of continuous eligibility for a child under 19 years of age who is determined to be eligible for medical assistance under this chapter. The rules shall provide that the child remains eligible for medical assistance, without additional review by the commission and regardless of changes in the child's resources or income, until the earlier of:

- (1) the first anniversary of ~~[end of the six-month period following]~~ the date on which the child's eligibility was determined; or
- (2) the child's 19th birthday.

[HB 1486](#)

Price, Four

Relating to peer specialists, peer services, and the provision of those services under the medical assistance program.

[HB 1542](#)

Price, Four

Relating to the definition of the least restrictive environment for the placement of children in foster care. [Companion [SB 907](#) - Birdwell]

[HB 1608](#)

Minjarez

Relating to creating a pilot program to provide summer internships for foster children.

In brief, states that DFPS shall establish a summer internship pilot program that provides foster children with the opportunity to develop marketable job skills and obtain professional work experience through a summer internship with a participating business, nonprofit organization, or governmental entity

[HB 1622](#)

Thompson, Senfronia

Relating to the personal needs allowance for certain Medicaid recipients who are residents of long-term care facilities. [Companion to [HB 118](#) by Moody]

States "The executive commissioner [HHSC] shall set a personal needs allowance of not less than \$75 [\$60] a month for a resident of a convalescent or **nursing facility** or related institution licensed under Chapter 242, Health and Safety Code, **assisted living facility, ICF-IID**, or other similar long-term care facility who receives medical assistance.

[HB 1642](#)

Bell

Relating to reporting requirements for investigations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation against residents of certain health facilities. [‘Facilities’ defined as: an institution as that term is defined by Section 242.002 (**nursing home**); an **assisted living facility** as that term is defined by Section 247.002; and a **prescribed pediatric extended care center**.]

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[HB 1726](#)

Cortez

Relating to the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of recipients of home health services; providing penalties; creating an offense. [**At this time ONLY applies to programs/agencies licensed under Chapter 142. High Monitoring Required.**]

[SB 791](#)

Miles

Relating to the financial abuse of elderly persons, including requiring financial institutions to report suspected financial abuse of elderly persons; providing a civil penalty; creating criminal offenses. [Companion [HB 959](#) – Thierry; Referred to Investments and Financial Services]

[SB 792](#)

Miles

Relating to requiring financial institutions to report the suspected financial abuse of elderly persons; providing a civil and criminal penalty. [Companion [HB 916](#) – Thierry – Referred to Investments and Financial Services]

Applies to a public or private agency, corporation, board, or organization that provides protective services to **elderly persons (65 or older) or persons with disabilities** in the state of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

V. MEDICAL SERVICES AND PRACTICES (Physicians, Nurses, Pharmacy/Drugs, Etc.)

[HB 1407](#)

Sheffield, J.D.

Relating to the establishment of the emergency medical services assistance program (DSHS).

[HB 1415](#)

Klick, Stephanie

Relating to the licensing and authority of advanced practice registered nurses. [Referred to Public Health Companion, identical: [SB 681](#) Hancock; Referred to Senate Health and Human Services]

VI. EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION

[HB 1645](#)

Lozano

Relating to requiring certain school districts to adopt a policy allowing students who participate in Special Olympics to earn a letter on that basis.

Amends Education Code to state: If a school district allows high school students to earn a letter for academic, athletic, or extracurricular achievements, the district shall adopt a policy that allows high school students in the district to earn a letter on basis of a student's participation in a Special Olympics event.

[SB 719](#)

Zaffirini, Judith

Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to collect and study data on the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities in workforce education.

Background: In 2015, S.B. 37 required the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to collect and study data regarding the participation of persons with in IDD in undergraduate and graduate level course work at public institutions of higher education, including data regarding applications, recruitment, admissions, retention, graduation, and professional licensing at both the undergraduate and

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graduate levels. S.B. 37, however, did not explicitly require THECB to track or collect data related to persons with IDD participating in workforce continuing education programs at institutions of higher education, which technically would not be considered part of undergraduate or graduate programs. S.B. 719 would include in THECB's requirement to collect and maintain data relating to the participation of persons with IDD workforce continuing education programs that are eligible for funding through the state [Set for hearing in Higher Education at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, March 08, 2017 in E1.012.](#)

VII. BUDGET RELATED

[SCR 18](#)

Nelson

Relating to approval of a sufficient balance of the constitutional economic stabilization fund by 85th Legislature. [Companion: [HCR 67](#) - Krause – Motion to suspend House rules to vote on HCR 67 failed]

Resolves that the 85th Legislature of the State of Texas approves a sufficient balance of the constitutional economic stabilization fund for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2017, of \$7.5 billion; and, be it further resolved, that the secretary of state forward an official copy of this resolution to the comptroller of public accounts.

[HB 2](#)

Zerwas

Relating to Supplemental Appropriations [**\$1.4 billion**]; calls for tapping the Economic Stabilization Fund (ESF) [aka, Rainy Day Funds] to cover among other items: the Medicaid shortfall across a host of services at health and human services agencies, DFPS/CPS, LSC Repairs at SSLCS & State Hospitals, and partial Restoration of Acute Therapy Services.