End of Life

July 11, 2024 (8 total bills)

Bill:	LA HB306 - Provides for visitation policies at certain healthcare facilities and requires that such policies allow for in-person visitation
Sponsor List:	Chuck Owen (R)*
Last Action:	Becomes HB 976.
Action Date:	04/25/2024
AI Summary:	This bill creates a law requiring healthcare facilities like hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, etc., to permit in-person visitation by clergy members or persons designated by adult patients or residents under their care. Exceptions are made for special clinical considerations related to a patient's treatment, although these considerations cannot prevent in-person visits in end-of-life situations. In-person visitation by parents or legal guardians should be allowed at all times for minors. This law applies at all times, including during declared public health emergencies. The legislation also states that all visitation protocols should be established following the law and defined rules under the Administrative Procedure Act.

Bill:	LA HB592 - Provides relative to workplace violence in healthcare settings
Sponsor List:	Dustin Miller (D)*
Last Action:	Effective date: 08/01/2024.
Action Date:	06/11/2024
AI Summary:	This bill amends existing Louisiana law to require certain healthcare providers, defined as "regulated entities," to implement workplace violence mitigation initiatives. The bill clarifies that "regulated entities" include licensed healthcare facilities, federally qualified health centers, pharmacies, and offices of healthcare providers that treat patients, but excludes healthcare entities that employ five or fewer licensed medical providers. The bill aims to address workplace violence in healthcare settings by mandating these providers to take steps to prevent and mitigate such incidents.

Bill:	LA HB632 - Provides relative to the moratorium on new or additional nursing facilities
Sponsor List:	Joe Orgeron (R)*
Last Action:	Involuntarily deferred in committee.
Action Date:	05/07/2024
AI Summary:	This bill proposes the amendment and reenactment of the Louisiana Revised Statute 40:2116.1(A)(3) and the introduction of R.S. 40:2116.1(A)(4) and (B)(2)(e). Its purpose is to create an exception to the current moratorium on new or additional nursing facilities within the region of the South Lafourche Levee District in Louisiana. This exception will allow for the licensing and certification of an additional nursing facility in the area, despite the current moratorium policy that requires the department's approval based on the demonstrated need. The new facility wouldn't participate in the Title XIX program without such approval. The Title XIX program refers to the federally funded Medicaid program that provides healthcare services for individuals with low income, including and some low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults, and people with disabilities.

Bill:	LA HB687 - Provides relative to the licensing of "PACE" program providers (EN SEE FISC NOTE SG RV)
Sponsor List:	Rhonda Butler (R)*
Last Action:	Effective date: 06/03/2024.
Action Date:	06/03/2024
AI Summary:	This bill enacts new laws to provide for the licensing of Program for All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) providers in Louisiana. Key provisions include: - Requiring all PACE providers to be licensed by the Louisiana Department of Health, with requirements for the license application, fees, and renewal process. - Authorizing the Department to promulgate rules and regulations for PACE provider licensing, including standards for operations, services, quality of care, and health and safety. - Prohibiting PACE providers from operating without a license and establishing penalties for non-compliance, including fines and the ability for the Department to issue cease and desist orders. - Allowing PACE providers to offer certain services like home- and community-based services, adult day healthcare, and home health agency services without needing separate licenses for those services. The bill aims to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of individuals receiving PACE services in Louisiana.

Bill:	LA HB916 - Establishes procedures for the use of artificial intelligence by healthcare entities
Sponsor List:	Kellee Hennessy Dickerson (R)*
Last Action:	House Committee on Health & Welfare (09:00:00 4/17/2024 Room 5)
Action Date:	04/17/2024
AI Summary:	This bill sets guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. It states that any decisions regarding patient care should not solely be based on results derived from AI. AI, as defined in this context, is an artificial system developed in hardware or software that executes tasks involving human-like perception, cognition, planning, learning, communication, or physical action. A healthcare professional must review any decision made using AI and has the right to override it based on specific procedures established by their governing board. The bill also mandates any board responsible for licensing a healthcare professional to establish standards to implement these provisions. A healthcare entity, as defined by the bill, includes hospitals, health maintenance organizations, health insurance plans, and other types of healthcare facilities, organizations, or plans.

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Bill:	LASB125 - Provides relative to nurses.(8/1/24)
Sponsor List:	Gerald Boudreaux (D)*
Last Action:	Introduced in the Senate; read by title. Rules suspended. Read second time and referred to the Committee on Health and Welfare.
Action Date:	03/11/2024
AI Summary:	This bill enacts section R.S. 40:2114.1 to require hospitals to create nurse staffing committees responsible for developing nurse staffing plans. It requires a majority of the committee members to be registered nurses who also provide reasonable amount of direct patient care. The committee's duties include not only creating staffing plans, but also evaluating the effectiveness of these plans, resolving staffing concerns, and reporting their assessments and patient care outcomes to the hospital's governing body. The bill also mandates hospitals to adopt and enforce a written nurse staffing policy, make allowances for staffing flexibility, and protect nurses from retaliation. They are also required to submit annual reports to the Louisiana Department of Health detailing their adherence to these policies and their impact on hospital operations. The details outlined in these reports will be public information.

Bill:	LASB160 - Provides relative to physician assistants. (8/1/24)
Sponsor List:	Bob Owen (R)*
Last Action:	Effective date 8/1/2024.
Action Date:	05/28/2024
AI Summary:	This bill amends Louisiana law to change the notification period for physician assistants to notify the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners of any changes or additions to their supervising physicians from 15 days to 30 days. The bill aims to provide the Board with more timely information about physician assistant supervision arrangements.

Bill:	LASB325 - Provides for an informational document to be made available to pregnant mothers following the diagnosis of a fetal abnormality with respect to their unborn child. (8/1/24) (EN NO IMPACT See Note)
Sponsor List:	Rick Edmonds (R)*
Last Action:	Effective date 8/1/2024.
Action Date:	05/28/2024
AI Summary:	This bill, titled "The Compatible with Love Empowerment Act," requires healthcare providers to provide pregnant women with an informational document within 72 hours of informing them that their unborn child has a fetal abnormality. The document must include resources, programs, and services for the pregnant woman, as well as for infants and children born with disabilities. The Louisiana Department of Health is responsible for developing this informational document and making it available to healthcare providers. The bill also specifies that the document should include information on the availability of perinatal and pediatric hospice and palliative care services, non-profit organizations that provide support, and mental health services in Louisiana. Additionally, the document must provide instructions on how families of children with disabilities can apply for financial assistance and benefits through the Medicaid program and similar programs.

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