

ANAMASS Proposed Legislative Agenda
2019-2021

- 1. HB2664/SB701-** An Act relative to the governance of the Health Policy Commission
Sponsors: Rep. Kay Kahn (D) & Sen. Jason Lewis (D)
Summary
Amends GL 6D:2, the statute governing the makeup of the health policy commission, to add a new twelfth member, the fourth to be appointed by the governor, who is to be a registered nurse licensed to practice in Massachusetts in a patient care setting, appointed for a term of 5 years. Also adds a new thirteenth member to be appointed by the attorney general, who is to be an individual having an advanced degree in public health who has expertise in implementing strategies to eliminate health care disparities, appointed for a one year term.
Original Statute: [CLICK HERE](#)
Bill Text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)
Status: Referred to the committee on [Health Care Financing](#); hearing held on 05/28/2019.
- 2. HB1941/SB1345-** An Act establishing a commission on quality patient outcomes and professional nursing practice
Sponsors: Rep. Kay Khan(D) & Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)
Summary
Adds new Section 219 to GL 6 establishing ; 17 member Commission on nurse staffing in hospitals to review and make recommendations regarding best nurse staffing practices designed to improve the patient care environment, quality outcomes, and nurse satisfaction; locates the Commission within, but not subject to the control of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services; articulates the qualifications and terms of Commission members; identifies several areas of examination for the Commission relative to nurse staffing levels; requires the Commission to file an annual report with the Legislature by March 1.
Bill Text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [01/18/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)
Status: Referred to [Joint Committee on Public Health](#)
- 3. HB1976/SB1093:** An Act requiring health care facilities to develop and implement programs to prevent workplace violence
Sponsors: Rep. Michael Moran (D) & Sen. Jason Lewis (D)
Summary: Establishes a new GL 111:237 related to the safety of healthcare employees; directs the department of public health to develop statewide standards for evaluating and addressing known security risks in different healthcare settings; requires health care employers to develop and implement programs to minimize the danger of workplace violence in accordance with the DPH standards; requires health care employers to designate a senior manager to oversee the development of such programs and an in-house crisis response team for employee victims; establishes criminal penalties for committing assault or assault and battery on emergency medical technician, ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or a health care provider; requires health care facilities to allow employees who were victims of violence to take unpaid time off to seek or obtain victim services, legal services, obtain a protective order or participate in legal proceedings; directs EOHHS to coordinate with EOPSS to develop a system allowing the sharing of records to facilitate patient care, security risk assessments and planning and healthcare operations.

Bill Text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [01/17/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Public Health](#);

4. HB1578/SB838: An Act strengthening the penalty for assault or assault and battery on an emergency medical technician ambulance operator, ambulance attendant or health care provider

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Tucker & Sen. Michael Brady

Summary: Bill increases penalty to include imprisonment in a state prison up to five years and strikes out "treating or transporting" to make more universal i.e. not just during those times

Bill text: [1/22/19](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [The Judiciary](#); hearing held on 4/30/19.

5. HB1944/SB103: An Act relative to nurse licensure compact in Massachusetts

Sponsors: Rep. Kay Kahn (D) & Sen. Joseph Boncore (D)

Summary: Increase public access to safe nursing care, provide for the rapid deployment of qualified nurses in response to a state of emergency, address the emerging practice of nursing through telecommunications technology, support spouses of relocating military members, and build effective interstate communication on licensure and enforcement issues

Bill text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status : Referred to the committee on [Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure](#); hearing held 5/13/19.

6. HB1867: An Act to support access, value and equity in health care (SAVE Act)

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Donato (D) **Co-sponsor** Kay Khan (D)

Summary: Amends sections of GL c.94c (Controlled Substances) and GL c.112 (Registration of Certain Professions and Occupations) to expand the authority of nurse practitioners to dispense, administer or conduct research on controlled substances by removing the requirement that they do so under the supervision of a physician; gives the Board of Registration in Nursing the sole authority for regulating the practice of nurse practitioners by removing the requirement that the board of registration in medicine concur; removes certain restrictive time limitations on writing prescriptions by nurse practitioners; updates the Nurse Practice Act to reflect that nurse practitioners are authorized not only to order tests and therapeutics, but also to interpret them.

Bill text: [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Public Health](#)

7. HB3487/SB1213: An Act relative to safe patient handling in certain health facilities

Sponsors: Rep. Claire Cronin & Sen. Harriet Chandler

Summary: Amends GL c.111 (Public Health) by adding new provisions that regulate the lifting of patients in both acute care and long-term care facilities. In particular, the bill defines a lift team as health care facility employees specially trained to handle patient lifts, transfers and repositioning using lifting equipment when appropriate and precluded from performing other duties, and establishes 35 pounds as the maximum recommended weight lift limit established

by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The bill further requires each health care facility to establish a safe patient handling committee to design and recommend the process for implementing a safe patient handling program. By December 30, 2020, health care facilities must complete the acquisition of safe patient handling equipment. In addition, the development of architectural plans for constructing or remodeling a health care facility or a unit of a health care facility must incorporate patient handling equipment and the construction design needed to accommodate such equipment.

Bill Text: [01/18/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#); [02/05/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Public Health](#)

8. SB683 - An Act establishing Medicare for all in Massachusetts

Sponsor: Sen. James Eldridge(D)

Summary: This substantial bill establishes a new chapter 175L, the Massachusetts Health Care Trust, in the General Laws, which would create a single-payer system for health care in Massachusetts. The bill establishes a Massachusetts Health Care Trust, which will be the single-payer body responsible for the collection and disbursement of funds required to provide health care services for every resident of the Commonwealth.

Bill text: [01/19/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Health Care Financing](#); Hearing held on 6/11/2019.

9. SB589 - An Act relative to limits on insurers' retroactive clawbacks for mental health and substance use disorder services

Sponsor: Sen. Cindy Friedman (D)

Summary: Establishes a new GL 111:237 - 237C, regulating the use and coverage of step therapy protocols in medical treatment; defines step therapy protocols as a specific sequence in which prescription drugs for a specified medical condition and which are medically appropriate for a particular patient are provided; establishes and regulates the membership of a special commission to study and assess the implementation of step therapy process reforms; requires submission of findings and recommendations within 9 months; regulates the evaluation of step therapy protocols, and requires use clinical data to determine their effectiveness; requires insurance companies which restrict the use of a particular drug included in step therapy to establish a clear readily accessible and convenient process to request a step therapy exception; requires insurance companies and MassHealth to grant the exception in the listed circumstances, including when the required drug is known to be contraindicated with other drugs in the protocol or when the patient has tried and failed on the required drug.

Bill text: [01/21/2019 - As Filed \(PDF\)](#)

Status: Referred to committee on [Financial Services](#) hearing held on 5/7/2019; reported favorably by committee and referred to the committee on Health care financing committee recommended ought to pass and was referred to the committee on [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#); ANAMASS provided [written testimony](#) as part of the Mental health coalition

10. HB1902/SB1279: An Act regulating flavored tobacco products

Sponsor: Sen. John F. Keenan (D) and Representative Danielle W. Gregoire (D)

Summary:

Amends Chapter 70 and prohibits the sale and distribution of flavored cigarettes to any consumer or any flavored tobacco products to any consumer, except in a smoking bar.

“Flavored cigarette”, any cigarette, or any component part thereof, that contains or imparts a characterizing flavor. “Characterizing Flavor” means a distinguishable taste or aroma, other than the taste or aroma of tobacco, imparted or detectable either prior to or during consumption of a tobacco product or component part thereof, including but not limited to, a taste or aroma relating to any fruit, chocolate, vanilla, honey, candy, cocoa, dessert, alcoholic beverage, menthol, mint, wintergreen, herb or spice; provided, however, that no tobacco product shall be determined to have a characterizing flavor solely because of the provision of ingredient information or the use of additives or flavorings that do not contribute to the distinguishable taste or aroma of the product.

“Tobacco product”, any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption, whether smoked, chewed, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to: cigarettes, cigars, little cigars, chewing tobacco, pipe tobacco, snuff, or electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipes, electronic hookah, or other similar products, regardless of nicotine content, that rely on vaporization or aerosolization. “Tobacco product” includes any component or part of a tobacco product. “Tobacco product” does not include any product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration either as a tobacco use cessation product or for other medical purposes and which is being marketed and sold or prescribed solely for the approved purpose.

Bill Text: As filed

Status: Referred to the Committee on Public Health

11. Cadet Nurses –Massachusetts Bills

S.2178 An Act relative to the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day

Sponsor: Sen. Bruce Tarr (R)

Summary:

Amends Chapter 6 of the general laws to add a new section “The governor shall annually issue a proclamation setting the apart the fifteenth day of June as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps Day”

Bill Text: [As Filed](#)

Status: Referred to the committee on [Veterans and Federal Affairs](#); Hearing held on 05/16/2019; reported favorably and referred to [Senate Rules](#).

12. S.997/HR 2056 - United States Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act of 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D) Rep. Cheri Bustos (D)

Summary:

Amends GI Bill to recognize that service in the US Cadet Nurse Service Corps between 7/1/1943 and 12/31/1948 constituted active military service and those who served receive honorary veteran status including only burial benefits (headstone) and medals or other commendations.

Status: Referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, but has now moved on as Amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act in Congress. It is a bit confusing but is very good. The Amendments clarify that the Cadet Nurses are excluded from burial at Arlington Cemetery. ANAMASS delegates and representatives lobbied on behalf of this act on Hill Day at Membership Assembly.

Action needed: If your Senator or Representative is not included on the new Amendments, please CALL 1-202-224-3121 ASAP and ask them to cosponsor the amendment. This may be our last best chance of getting Honorary Veteran Status for our WWII Nurses who served in the USCNC before they are all gone so please do whatever you can to get more COSPONSORS.

[Senate Amendment #386 of S.1790 https://www.congress.gov/.../.../senate-amendment/386/cosponsors](https://www.congress.gov/.../.../senate-amendment/386/cosponsors)

[House Amendment #257 to HR2500 https://rules.house.gov/bill/116/hr-2500](https://rules.house.gov/bill/116/hr-2500)