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**THE LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT**

- 60-Day Session with declining oil & gas revenue impacting budget
- Divided Chambers – House Republican controlled & Senate Democratic controlled
- 17 brand new House members out of 70
- New Speaker of the House and all new House committees and chairs
- Changes in when & how the House committees meet and how the whole House functions
- New House Chief Clerk and other new staff
- Political agendas by both Chambers

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**BILLS - LEGISLATION**

- House introduces 626 bills by the 30<sup>th</sup> day
- Senate introduces 691 bills by the 30<sup>th</sup> day
- By the 56<sup>th</sup> day of the 60 day session 8 bills had passed both chambers
- By the 58<sup>th</sup> day of the 60 day session 71 bills had passed both chambers
- By the 60<sup>th</sup> day 192 bills had passed both chambers.
- By April 10<sup>th</sup> the last day for the Governor to sign bills 158 were signed and 34 bills were vetoed (17 pocket vetoed)
- In 2013, 514 pieces of legislation had passed both chambers
- In 2011, 460 pieces of legislation had passed both chambers

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### WHY DID IT HAPPEN THIS WAY?

- ❖ Political agendas
- ❖ Intentional stalling
- ❖ Procedural changes
- ❖ Us – only 40% of registered voters turned out for the 2014 Election – the lowest turnout in decades! (average around 53%)

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### GOOD NURSING & RELATED LEGISLATION

- SB299 – NP/ CNM Removal of Administrative Barriers – Sen. Morales PASSED & SIGNED
- HB121/ SB341 – Use of Nurse Educator Fund – Sen. Campos & Rep. McMillan PASSED & SIGNED
- SB121 – Vaccine Purchasing Act – Sen. O’Neil PASSED & SIGNED
- SB220 – HMO Credentialing Requirements – Sen. Pirtle PASSED & SIGNED
- SB190 – End Discrimination Against Health Providers – Sen. Papan DIED In Committee

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### NOT SO GOOD LEGISLATION ??

- ✓ HB54 – Anesthesiology Assistant Expansion – PASSED & SIGNED
- ✓ HB122 – Scope of Practice Review – PASSED & VETOED
- ✓ SB422 – Pain Relief Act Changes – Died In Committee
- ✓ SB615 – Physician Assistant Collaboration Instead of Supervision – Died In Committee

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**GOOD NEWS ON THE FEDERAL FRONT!**

- Senate passes HR2, the Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act
- What does it do? REPEALS the sustainable growth rate formula used to calculate Medicare payments to health providers. Replaces it with the New Merit-Based Incentive Payment System which is based on quality, value and accountability standards.
- AND NPs may now write prescriptions for durable medical equipment.
- NOW waiting for the President to sign.

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**WHAT IS NEXT?**

- Keep educating legislators about nurse practitioners
- Work with insurance companies to assure adequate NP participation on panels
- Work to assure appropriate reimbursement rates
- Run for political office!
- What do you need?

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**KEEP YOUR LOBBYIST BUSY!**  
Remember who is the person you are to protect you from the people you elect  
Prepared by Linda Stange for the NIAAFC 4.16.15



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