

Senate Committee Action April 4, 2017

Education

Accelerated Placement Act (SB 1223): Creates a new program known as the Accelerated Placement Act within the School Code which would require school districts to adopt a policy that allows for accelerated placement.

High School Dropout Incentive (SB 446): Provides additional funding via general State aid appropriations for school districts with a high school dropout out rate that is twice the State high school dropout rate. The dropout incentive is equal to 2 time the Foundation Level for every high school dropout who has been dropped from the enrollment rolls for at least one month and has been re-enrolled into an evidence-based and best practices program for high school dropouts. Requires the school district to provide the same level of local funds as well.

Public Health

Nurse Staffing Requirements (SB 626): Allows the Director of Public Health to grant or renew a waiver of certain staffing requirements for registered nurses under certain circumstances connected to difficulties in hiring. The waivers require a quarterly review by the Dept. of Public Health. The Director would not have such authority if the facility is federally certified. Clarifies that the waiver may be granted in whole or in parts. Provides that a facility will be subject to fines or penalties for violating the nurse staffing requirements set forth in this act.

Medicaid Hardship Payments (SB 1522): Provides that the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and providers shall determine what changes, if any, shall be made to the Medicaid Long-Term Services and Support Program as a result of federal managed care regulations finalized in 2016.

Long Term Care Claims (SB 1544): Requires long term care facilities to submit admission documents through the Medical Electronic Data Interchange (MEDI) or the Recipient Eligibility Verification (REV) System or a successor system within 15 days of the

facility receiving required prescreening information.

Exemptions for Local Health Departments (SB 1655): Exempts local health departments that receive less than \$750,000 in State grants annually from the Grants Accessibility and Transparency Act.

Nursing Facility Rate Appeal (SB 1773): Gives nursing facilities a greater voice in rate appeal hearings with the Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services.

Nursing Home Residents Medicaid Long Term Benefits (SB 2031): Expands legal authority for resident representatives. Authorizes a resident's representative to maintain the resident's Medicaid long-term care benefits, including banking records, appeal proceedings and legal challenges.