

[\*\*HB 2300 - Regulating Step Therapy Protocols - passed Health committee\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is to regulate the use of step therapy protocols by providing a simple and expeditious process for exceptions to the protocols that the health care provider deems not in the best interests of the patient.

[\*\*HB 2301 - Relating to Direct Primary Care - passed House; in Senate\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is to permit individuals to enter into agreements, for direct primary care with an individual or other legal entity authorized to provide primary care services, outside of an insurance plan or outside of the Medicaid or Medicare program and pay for the care.

[\*\*HB 2331 - Raising the legal age for purchase of tobacco and tobacco products - failed House Health\*\*](#)

Raising the legal age for purchase of tobacco and tobacco products - failed House Health

The purpose of this bill is to raise the legal age for the purchase of tobacco from 18 to 21 years old. Despite the public health evidence presented during committee, the conservative philosophy of being against an overly regulatory government caused the bill to fail. NOTE: The Senate version of this bill has passed Senate Health.

[\*\*HB 2471 - Relating to insurance coverage for breast cancer screening - passed House Banking & Insurance\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is to require that on and after January 1, 2018, insurance coverage for breast cancer screening be provided by the Public Employees Insurance Agency, accident and sickness insurance providers, group accident and sickness insurance providers; health care corporations and health maintenance organizations. The bill was amended in House B&I to expand the definition of radiology and mammography to include ALL groups rather than just certified radiology and mammography. The intent is to make sure the bill applies to a broader category of provider and to eliminate any loophole in coverage.

[\*\*HB 2520 - Prohibiting use of tanning devices by persons under the age of 18 - in House Health\*\*](#)

Prohibiting use of tanning devices by persons under the age of 18 - in House Health

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit persons under 18 from laying in tanning beds. This bill was on the House Health agenda but was not taken up before the committee adjourned due to time and committee room schedule. There is no reason to believe the bill won't be placed on the agenda again.

[\*\*HB 2526 - Classifying additional drugs to schedules I, II, IV and V of controlled substances - Passed House Health\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is to add additional drugs to schedules I, II, IV and V of controlled substances. Based on the names that are outlined, it appears there is the attempt to regulate synthetics, such as bath salts and synthetic marijuana.

[\*\*SB 121- DHHR rule relating to medication assisted opioid treatment programs - passed Senate Health, to Senate Judiciary\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is to authorize DHHR to issue of rule on medication assisted opioid treatment programs. There was an amendment made in Senate Health addressing methadone and the fact is it a schedule II drug and not reportable based on federal law.

[\*\*SB 122 - DHHR rule relating to medication assisted treatment; office based medication assisted treatment - passed Senate Health, to Senate Judiciary\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is very similar to that of SB 121. It authorizes DHHR to issue a rule on office based medication assisted treatment. This would be a new rule and there are over 500 pages of public comments on the topic.

[\*\*SB 385 - Relating to a tax on soft drinks - in Senate Health; NOTE: there is talk there will also be a House version of this bill that would tax all sugary beverages but not diet drinks. There is still strong thought that either version of this bill will struggle to make an agenda.\*\*](#)

The purpose of this bill is to change the structure of the tax on bottled soft drinks to 1¢ per ounce and to rededicate the proceeds to all three medical schools in the state.