

**Ohio Association of Health Underwriters
Legislative Update
January 12, 2015
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**Republicans retain strong majorities going into
131st Session of Ohio General Assembly**

Ohio Senate

Republicans maintain 23-10 majority

Senate Republicans retained their 23-10 majority with 4 new members coming to the Senate. The new members are:

Cecil Thomas, a Democrat from Cincinnati, replacing term-limited Eric Kearney in the 9th Senate District.

Sandra Williams, a current Democrat state representative from Cleveland replacing term-limited Shirley Smith in the 21st Senate District.

Kenny Yuko, a Democrat and former House member from Cleveland, winning the 25th Senate District replacing Nina Turner who ran for Secretary of State.

Jay Hottinger, a Republican and current House member from Newark, winning the 31st Senate District, replacing term-limited Tim Shaffer.

The Senate Republican majority caucus re-elected the same leadership team for next session:

- Keith Faber (Celina) President
- Chris Widener (Springfield) President Pro Tempore
- Tom Patton (Strongsville) Majority Floor Leader
- Larry Obhof (Medina) Majority Whip

Senate Democrats also retained their same leadership team:

- Joe Schiavoni (Youngstown) Minority Leader
- Charleta Tavares (Columbus) Assistant Minority Leader
- Edna Brown (Toledo) Minority Whip
- Lou Gentile (Steubenville) Assistant Minority Whip

Ohio House of Representatives

Republicans increased their majority in the Ohio House to 65-34 from 60-39. And with House Speaker Bill Batchelder retiring due to term limits, Cliff Rosenberger from Clarksville in Clinton County was elected be Speaker of the Ohio House in the 131st Session of the Ohio General Assembly. The new House Republican Majority Caucus leadership team for next session is:

- Cliff Rosenberger (Clarksville) Speaker
- Ron Amstutz (Wooster) Speaker Pro Tempore
- Barbara Sears (Maumee) Majority Floor Leader
- Jim Buchy (Greenville) Assistant Majority Floor Leader
- Mike Dovilla (Berea) Majority Whip
- Dorothy Pelanda (Marysville) Assistant Majority Whip

The House Democrat minority caucus has elected a new leadership team:

- Fred Strahorn (Dayton) Minority Leader
- Nicholas Celebrezze (Parma) Assistant Minority Leader
- Kevin Boyce (Columbus) Minority Whip
- Nickie Antonio (Lakewood) Assistant Minority Whip

House Committee Chairs Announced

Finance & Appropriations:

- Chair: Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell)
- Vice Chair: Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton)
- Ranking Member: Rep. Denise Driehaus (D-Cincinnati)

Health & Aging:

- Chair: Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville)
- Vice Chair: Rep. Steve Huffman (R-Tipp City)
- Ranking Member: Rep. Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood)

Insurance:

- Chair: Rep. Robert Hackett (R-London)
- Vice Chair: Rep. Mike Henne (R-Clayton)
- Ranking Member: Rep. Heather Bishoff (D-Blacklick)

Legislation passed by House & Senate during “Lame duck” Session signed into law by Governor Kasich

[HB 201 ENTRIES OF SATISFACTION](#) (Butler) To make changes relative to entries of satisfaction, and includes provisions included in H.B. 511 as follows:

- Clarifies the status of volunteer firefighters for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.
- Reduces the dependent age under a parent's health insurance plan from age 28 to age 26. **(Applies to plans offered on or after 1/1/2016)**
- Increases from 25-30 hours the threshold to be considered a full-time employee to be eligible for employer health insurance in Ohio's small group market. **(Applies to plans offered on or after 1/1/2016)**
- Extends the maximum length of a short-term health insurance policy from "no longer than 6 months" to "less than 12 months"
- Amends S.B. 99 (oral-chemotherapy parity law) to clarify that the deductible under a high deductible health plan and catastrophic plan must be met before the S.B. 99 oral chemo-therapy drug \$100 cost cap applies.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.

[HB 394 IMMUNIZATIONS](#) (Smith & Antonio) To modify the authority of pharmacists and pharmacy interns to administer immunizations; to require the inclusion of certain information in mammography report summaries relating to dense breast tissue; to revise the law governing the licensure of recreational vehicle parts, recreation camps, combined park-camps, and temporary park-camps; to generally require immunizations for children enrolled in child care; to create the Commission on Infant Mortality and require the establishment of infant safe sleep procedures and policies; to modify the offense of "corrupting another with drugs"; to require the State Board of Pharmacy to prepare semiannual reports on opioid prescriptions; to revise the laws governing the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System and opioid prescriptions issued for minors; to require under certain conditions the reinstatement of licenses to practice certain radiologic professions; to eliminate patient notice requirements concerning Lyme disease testing; to revise certain laws on nursing facility admission policies and exclusions from Medicaid provider agreements [See description of this provision relating to SB 276 below]; to continue the provisions of this act on and after that effective date; and to declare an emergency.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.

[SB 276 INFANT SLEEP](#) (Jones & Tavares) To create the Commission on Infant Mortality and require the establishment of infant safe sleep procedures and policies; to modify the offense of "corrupting another with drugs"; to require the State Board of Pharmacy to prepare semiannual reports on opioid prescriptions; to revise the laws governing the Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System and opioid prescriptions issued for minors; to require under certain conditions the reinstatement of inactive licenses to practice certain radiologic professions; to eliminate requirements regarding patient notice of the limits of Lyme disease testing; to retain certain laws regarding nursing facilities' admission policies and exclusions of parts of nursing facilities from Medicaid provider agreements; and to declare an emergency.

The nursing facility language places in permanent law a provision included in the current biennial budget bill (H.B. 59) that was set to expire on December 31st of this year. The language authorizes certain nursing facilities to cap their Medicaid enrollment at 25% of their total authorized beds (referred to as "distinct part) if they were initially licensed on or after January 1, 2008 and are located in a county that has been determined by the state to be over-bedded.

The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.

[HB 320](#) **HEALTH CARE SERVICES** (Young) To require the Department of Health to maintain information on its web site regarding free clinics, to designate December as "Free Clinic Appreciation Month," to modify the state's loan repayment programs for physicians and dentists who participate by providing care at free clinics, to create a volunteer's certificate for retired nurses, and to extend for a specified period qualified immunity from civil liability for certain volunteer health care services provided to individuals eligible for or receiving Medicaid. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 18, 2014.**

[HB 109](#) **HEARING AIDS** (Damschroder) To specify individuals who are permitted to recommend and fit hearing aids and to prohibit specified sales of hearing aids via mail. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.**

[HB 131](#) **TANNING REGULATIONS** (Johnson & Stinziano) Regarding the use and regulation of tanning facilities and to require a mammography facility to include certain information in the mammography report summary sent to a patient under federal law if the patient's mammogram demonstrates the presence of dense breast tissue. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.**

[HB 552](#) **DOWN SYNDROME** (Stautberg) To require the distribution of information on Down syndrome under certain conditions and to establish language standards for signs containing the international symbol of access. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.**

[SB 258](#) **PHARMACY AUDITS** (Balderson) To establish standards for the performance of pharmacy audits in Ohio and to authorize the continued use of certain analgesic controlled substances in the practice of optometry. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 18, 2014.**

[HB 326](#) **DIABETIC SHOE FITTERS** (Roegner & Reece) To add pharmacists to the professional license exception to the Orthotist, Prosthetist, and Pedorthist Licensing Law. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.**

[HB 367](#) **DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION** (Driehaus & Sprague) To require the health curriculum of each school district to include instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention, to establish requirements regarding controlled substances containing buprenorphine used for the purpose of treating drug dependence or addiction, to revise the law regarding state assessments and academic performance reporting, to make other changes regarding primary and secondary education programs, and to make an appropriation. **The bill was signed into law by Governor Kasich on December 19, 2014.**

Enacted Legislation

[SB 99](#) **CANCER MEDICATIONS** (Oelslager & Tavares) (Effective 09/17/2014) Regarding insurance coverage for orally administered cancer medications.

[SB 230](#) **CANCER DRUGS** (Manning) (Effective 09/17/2014) To establish standards for the delivery of non-self injectable cancer drugs.

[HB 314](#) **MINOR PRESCRIPTIONS** (Baker & Kunze) (Effective 09/17/2014) Regarding informed consent requirements for opioid prescriptions issued to minors, disclosure of medical and other information to child fatality review boards and fetal and infant mortality review teams, and the location of methadone treatment facilities.

[HB 341](#) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** (Smith) (Effective (Effective 09/16/2014) To establish requirements to be followed by prescribers in reviewing patient information in the State Board of Pharmacy's Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS).

[HB 366](#) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** (Sprague) (Effective 09/17/2014) To require hospice care programs to establish procedures to prevent diversion of controlled substances that contain opioids.

[HB 487](#) **MBR EDUCATION** (Brenner) (Effective 09/17/2014) The bill includes a provision that creates the School Based Health Care Advisory Workgroup which is comprised of state government officials, including administration department heads and legislators. In addition, there are 22 organizations that are on the Advisory Committee Workgroup. The Workgroup is scheduled to have its first meeting this month.

The Workgroup is charged with the following duties:

- Reviewing evidence of the correlation between student health and academic achievement;
- Identifying existing best practices to improve academic achievement through better student health;
- Based on existing best practices, recommending one or more models for communities that want to improve academic achievement through better student health;
- Recommending financial strategies to sustain the models over time, with an emphasis on health coverage through commercial insurance and Medicaid, not other governmental subsidies;
- Recommending health care service delivery strategies that are known to improve health outcomes, such as patient-centered medical homes;
- Exploring the community learning center model delivery of student health care services;
- Ensuring that all recommendations adhere to state and federal law.

[HB 264](#) **DIABETES** (Wachtmann & Barnes) (Effective 09/11/2014) Regarding care for students with diabetes in schools.

[HB 483](#) **MBR APPROPRIATIONS** (Amstutz) (Effective 09/15/2014) To make operating and other appropriations and to provide authorization and conditions for the operation of state programs. The bill includes several provisions relating to mental health and addiction services. It

appropriates \$47.5 million in SFY 2015 to support the following:

- \$6.5 million to help prevent substance abuse statewide, including the Start Talking! program.
- Doubles the state's budget for licensed community-based housing through the Residential State Supplement program to create more safe places where people in crisis can achieve housing stability in a community setting (\$7.5 million).
- Expands access to recovery housing, which is a necessary support for many people who are early in their sobriety and need to be in an environment that supports healing (\$5 million).
- Defrays payroll costs so local courts can hire additional staff to support a specialty docket to ensure offenders comply with treatment (\$4.4 million).
- Address gaps in care identified in consultation with boards of mental health and addiction services, with an emphasis on crisis services and housing-related challenges (\$24.1 million).

H.B. 483 also includes provisions from H.B. 369 that establish a full array of services for opioid and co-occurring drug addiction, requires local boards to support a full continuum of care across mental health and addiction services, and defines recovery housing as a service and earmarks \$5 million in Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services community capital funds to develop greater access.

The bill also creates the Ohio Healthier Buckeye Grant Program to be administered by ODJFS. The grants are to be provided to county Healthier Buckeye Councils. Priority is to be given to county councils or county departments of Job and Family Services with existing projects or initiatives that meet certain criteria.

[SB 140 INSURANCE HOLDING COMPANIES](#) (Bacon) (Effective 09/4/2014) To enact the Insurance Regulatory Modernization Act to revise the insurance laws regarding alternative investments, holding company systems, risk management, reserves kept for life insurance policies, automated transactions, reinsurance, and mergers and consolidations.

[HB 315 HOSPITAL REPORTING](#) (Wachtmann) (Effective 07/10/2014) To require reports to the Department of Health regarding newborns diagnosed as opioid dependent, to update the chemical name for a type of controlled substance, and to specify procedures for granting variances or waivers of any requirement in the rules governing operation of maternity homes.

[HB 232 PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS](#) (Sears & Milkovich) (Effective 07/10/2014) To modify the laws governing professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.

[HB 83 PSYCHOLOGY LAWS](#) (Hackett) (Effective 3/20/2014) To revise laws governing the practice of psychology.

[HB 170](#) **DRUG OVERDOSES** (Johnson & Stinziano) (Effective 03/11/14) To provide for increased access to naloxone, ensures English proficiency in licensed practitioners of Oriental medicine and acupuncture, permits certain nurses seeking prescriptive authority to complete portion of their study through Internet-based study, and declares an emergency.

[HB 123](#) **TELEHEALTH SERVICES** (Gonzales & Wachtmann) (Effective 05/20/2014) Regarding health care peer review committee proceedings and Medicaid coverage of telehealth services.

[SB 206](#) **MEDICAID REVISIONS** (Burke) (Effective 03/20/2014) To require implementation of certain Medicaid revisions, reform systems, and program oversight, and to make an appropriation. The bill establishes the Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee comprised of five House and five Senate members to oversee the Department of Medicaid's implementation of reforms in the Medicaid program. Policies and strategies are to encourage Medicaid recipients to become self-sufficient and to reduce the use of the Medicaid program.

[HB 126](#) **POWER OF ATTORNEY** (Kunze & Stinziano) (Effective 03/20/2014) To allow a person who creates a durable power of attorney for health care to authorize the attorney in fact to obtain health information about the person, to make an individual who is designated as an alternate attorney in fact ineligible to witness the instrument that creates a durable power of attorney for health care, to permit the principal to nominate a guardian in a durable power of attorney for health care, and to establish a presumption that a valid living will declaration revokes all prior declarations.

[SB 4](#) **NEWBORN SCREENING** (Manning & Oelslager) (Effective 09/27/2013) To require a pulse oximetry screening for each newborn born in a hospital or freestanding birthing center.

[SB 9](#) **(OPEN ENROLLMENT CHANGES)** (Bacon) (Effective 09/4/2013)

S.B. 9 does the following:

- (1) Requires health insuring corporations to file any changes in a solicitation document with the Superintendent of Insurance 30 days prior to use for informational purposes. The Superintendent may disapprove any solicitation document or require that the document be amended if the Superintendent finds that the document fails to comply with the necessary requirements.
- (2) Suspends the operation of the following programs during the period beginning January 1, 2014, and expiring January 1, 2018: Ohio's Open Enrollment Program, Ohio's Health Reinsurance Program, and the option to convert certain health insurance contracts and policies.
- (3) Requires that if the applicable sections of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, related to health insurance coverage, do not take effect January 1, 2014, or become ineffective prior to the expiration of the suspension on January 1, 2018, then the suspended sections in either their present form or as they are later amended, again become operational.

[HB 3](#) **INSURANCE AGENTS & NAVIGATORS** (Sears) (Effective 07/30/2013)

To specify licensing and continuing education requirements for insurance agents involved in selling, soliciting, or negotiating sickness and accident insurance through a health benefit exchange; to specify training and certification requirements for navigators providing services in a health benefit exchange; and to make changes to copayments, cost sharing, and deductibles for health insuring corporations.

Pending Legislation when Session Ended

Coverage Mandates/Health Insurance Contract Mandates

[HB 361](#) **BRAIN INJURY COVERAGE** (Gonzales & Smith) (Introduced 11/26/2013) To prohibit health insurers from excluding coverage related to acquired brain injuries. The bill received is pending in the House Health & Aging Committee on February 19, 2014.

[HB 159](#) **DENTAL SERVICES** (Hackett & Schuring) (Introduced 05/07/2013) To prohibit a health insurer from establishing a fee schedule for dental providers for services that are not covered by any contract or participating provider agreement between the health insurer and the dental provider. The bill has received eight hearings in the House Insurance Committee.

[SB 364](#) **HEALTH INSURANCE** (Cafaro) (Introduced 09/22/2014) Mandates a \$150 out-of-pocket cap per monthly supply for specialty drugs to treat rare diseases. The bill has been referred to the Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee.

[SB 355](#) (Tavares & Turner) (Introduced 07/31/2014) and [HB 604](#) (Clyde) (Introduced 08/05/2014) **CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE** To require health insurers to provide coverage for contraceptive drugs and devices approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration and to prohibit employment discrimination under the Ohio Civil Rights Law on the basis of reproductive health decisions made by a person or a person's dependent or on the basis of the employer's personal beliefs about drugs, devices, and services related to reproductive health. S.B. 355 has been referred to the Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee. H.B. 604 has been referred to the House Health & Aging Committee.

[SB 330](#) **INSURER AUTHORIZATION** (Cafaro) (Introduced 4/15/2014) To amend the law related to the prior Authorization requirements of insurers and of the medical assistance programs administered by the Department of Medicaid. The bill has been referred to the Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee.

[HB 94](#) **HEALTH PLANS** (Gonzales) (Introduced 3/6/2013) To require a health insuring corporation, public employee benefit plan, or sickness and accident insurer to reimburse a board of health for any services provided to an individual by the board that is covered by a plan issued to the individual by the health insuring corporation, public employee benefit plan, or sickness and accident insurer upon request submitted by the board of health. The bill has received two hearings in the House Insurance Committee.

[SB 118](#) **TELEMEDICINE** (Tavares) (Introduced 04/30/2013) Regarding insurance and Medicaid coverage of telemedicine services. The bill has received sponsor testimony in the Senate Insurance Committee.

[SB 39](#) **HPV VACCINE** (Brown & Schiavoni) (Introduced 2/12/2013) To require insurance providers to cover human papillomavirus screenings and vaccines. The bill has received one hearing Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee.

[SB 49](#) **PHYSICIAN DESIGNATIONS** (Patton) (Introduced 2/25/2013) To establish standards for physician designations by health care insurers. The bill has received two hearings in the Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee.

[HB 351](#) **ABORTION** (Becker) (Introduced 11/13/2013) To prohibit insurers from offering coverage for abortion services. The bill has been referred to the House Insurance Committee.

Opiate/Drug Abuse

[HB 92](#) **SYRINGE EXCHANGE** (Antonio & Sears) (Introduced 3/5/2013) To authorize the establishment of syringe exchange programs. The bill passed the House on October 2, 2013 and is pending in the Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee.

[HB 332](#) **PAIN MEDICATION** (Wachtmann & Antonio) (Introduced 11/05/2013) To establish standards and procedures for opioid treatment of chronic, intractable pain resulting from non cancer conditions and to require that professional disciplinary action be taken for failing to comply with those standards and procedures. The bill received has received nine hearings in the House Health & Aging Committee's Opiate Addiction Treatment & Reform Subcommittee.

[HB 359](#) **PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** (Sprague) (Introduced 11/21/2013) To require disclosure of the addictive nature of certain prescription drugs. The bill has received seven hearings in the House Health & Aging Committee's Opiate Addiction Treatment & Reform Subcommittee.

[HB 378](#) **OPIOID ADDICTION TREATMENTS** (Smith & Sprague) (Introduced 12/5/2013) To prohibit a physician from prescribing or personally furnishing certain drugs to treat opioid dependence or addiction unless the patient is receiving appropriate behavioral counseling or treatment. The bill passed the House on December 2, 2014.

[HB 381](#) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** (Sears) (Introduced 12/11/2013) To require a retail terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to verify identification when dispensing a controlled substance or tramadol. The bill is pending in the House Health & Aging Committee.

[HB 653](#) **CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELING** (Sprague & Antonio) (Introduced 11/6/2014) To update Ohio law relating to chemical dependency counseling and prevention services. Prevention services are newly defined as "a comprehensive, multi-system set of individual and environmental approaches that maximizes physical health, promotes safety, and precludes the onset of behavioral health disorders."

The bill gives the Chemical Dependency Professionals Board rulemaking authority to establish the number of hours of training (including the number of hours of compensated work or supervised internship experience) that licensees under the Board's jurisdiction must complete. The bill authorizes the Board to oversee the certification/licensing of the following:

- Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant
- Prevention Consultant
- Prevention Specialist
- Prevention Specialist Assistant
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor – II
- Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor – III
- Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor
- Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor – Clinical Supervisor

[HB 640](#) **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES** (Sprague & Smith) (Introduced 10/20/2014) To authorize the Ohio Attorney General to compile and periodically update a list of compounds, mixtures, preparations, and substances that are added to or removed from controlled substance schedule I and to maintain a copy of the list on the internet web site maintained by the Attorney General. The Attorney General shall also include on the web site a notation that the Revised Code's list of schedule I controlled substances is contained in section 3719.41 of the Revised Code. The bill received sponsor testimony in the House Health & Aging Committee on November 13, 2014.

[SB 271](#) **DANGEROUS DRUGS** (Jones) (Introduced 02/04/2014) To require a retail terminal distributor of dangerous drugs to verify the prospective purchaser's identity when dispensing a controlled substance or tramadol. The bill is pending in the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee.

[HB 363](#) **GOOD SAMARITAN** (Sprague, Driehaus) (Introduced 11/26/2013) To provide an immunity from arrest, prosecution, conviction, or supervised release sanctioning for a minor drug possession offense for a person who seeks or obtains medical assistance for self or another person who is experiencing a medical emergency as a result of ingesting drugs or alcohol or for a person who is experiencing such a medical emergency and for whom medical assistance is sought. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

[HCR 57](#) **PAIN MANAGEMENT** (Sears & Antonio) (Introduced 5/27/2014) To encourage the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to revise survey measures included in the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems that relate to patient pain management. The bill passed the House on December 2, 2014.

Infant Mortality

[SB 277](#) **INFANT MORTALITY** (Jones & Tavares) (Introduced 02/12/2014) To create the Commission on Infant Mortality. The bill is pending in the Senate State Government & Oversight Reform Committee.

[SB 279](#) **PRENATAL CARE** (Jones & Tavares) (Introduced 02/12/2014) To require the Director of Health to establish and operate a prenatal group health care pilot program that is based on the centering pregnancy model of care and to make an appropriation. The bill is pending in the Senate Finance Committee.

[SB 280](#) **INFANT MORTALITY** (Jones & Tavares) (Introduced 02/12/2014) To require that case management services for postpartum care be included in the Medicaid managed care system, to require the Director of Health to award grants for community-based services that are not covered by Medicaid and are intended to reduce infant mortality rates among at-risk populations, and to make an appropriation. The bill is pending in the Senate Finance Committee.

Medicaid related issues

[HB 369](#) **MEDICAID COVERAGE** (Sprague) (Introduced 12/3/2013) Relating to the administration, funding, and provision of mental health and addiction services The bill passed the House on April 9, 2014 and is pending in the Senate Finance Committee.

[HB 433](#) **MEDICAID DENTAL SERVICES** (Barnes) (Introduced 02/12/2014) Regarding Medicaid coverage of dental services for the eligibility expansion group authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The bill has received sponsor testimony in the House Insurance Committee.

[HB 398](#) **HEALTH CARE** (Sears) (Introduced 12/23/2013) To create the Veterans and Medicaid Eligibility Study Committee and the Health Care Access and Innovation Study Committee. The bill has been referred to the House Health & Aging Committee.

[HB 317](#) **MEDICAID** (Sears) (10/24/2013) Regarding reforms relating to Medicaid, fraud committed against the state, penalties for certain drug offenses committed against pregnant women, non-opiate medication for released inmates, prescription-related identification requirements, and education for individuals without a high school diploma. The bill is pending in the House Health & Aging Committee.

[HB 316](#) **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH** (Wachtmann) (Introduced 10/24/2013) Regarding Medicaid-covered community behavioral health services. The bill has been referred to the House Health & Aging Committee and received sponsor testimony on November 6, 2013.

[SB 117](#) **MEDICAID** (Smith) (Introduced 04/30/2013) To permit the Medicaid program to cover the eligibility expansion group authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and to make an appropriation. The bill has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

[HB 125](#) **MEDICAID EXPANSION** (Carney & Antonio) (Introduced 4/16/2013) To permit the Medicaid program to cover the eligibility expansion group authorized by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and to make an appropriation. The bill has been referred to the House Finance & Appropriations Committee.

[SB 100](#) **PROMPT PAYMENT** (Tavares) (Introduced 04/09/2013) To specify that the Ohio prompt payment law applies to payment of claims by Medicaid managed care organizations. The bill has been referred to the Senate Insurance & Financial Institutions Committee.

Miscellaneous Legislation

[SB 288](#) **VOLUNTEER OFFICERS** (Eklund) (Introduced 02/25/2014) To create the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependents Fund to provide death benefits to survivors of volunteer peace officers killed in the line of duty and disability benefits to disabled volunteer peace officers, to clarify the status of volunteer firefighters for purposes of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to make changes regarding coverage for a dependent child under a parent's health insurance plan and the hours of work needed to qualify for coverage under a small employer health benefit plan, to increase the duration of the health insurance considered to be short-term under certain insurance laws, and to make changes to the chemotherapy parity law, to establish requirements regarding controlled substances containing buprenorphine used for the purpose of treating drug dependence or addiction, and to specify the use of video lottery terminal revenue.

The bill passed the Senate on May 28, 2014 and passed the House on December 10, 2014.

[HB 412](#) **PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS** (Gonzales) (Introduced 5/14/ 2014) To revise the law governing the practice of physician assistants, the practice of advanced practice registered nurses, eligibility for compensation and benefits under Ohio's Workers' Compensation Law, the proceedings for court-ordered treatment of a mentally ill person, and the licensure of recreational vehicle parks and recreation camps. The bill passed the House on May 14, 2014 and passed the Senate on December 11, 2014.

[HB 667](#) **RESPIRATORY CARE** (Schuring) (Introduced 11/19/2014) To make changes to the law governing respiratory care professionals.

[SB 228](#) **CONTROLLING BOARD** (Widener) (Introduced 11/05/2013) To limit the Controlling Board's authority to approve the expenditure of certain funds and to require state agencies to provide certain information to the Controlling Board regarding requested purchases from out-of-state suppliers. The bill passed out of the Senate on November 20, 2013 and is pending in the House State & Local Government Committee.

[HB 227](#) **HEALTH CARE COMPACT** (Retherford & Boose) (Introduced 6/27/2013) To enter into the Health Care Compact. The bill passed out of the House State & Local Government Committee on April 1, 2014.

[HB 384](#) **PHARMACIST IMMUNIZATIONS** (Antonio & Smith) (Introduced 12/10/2013) To decrease the minimum age of the patients for whom a pharmacist may administer certain immunizations. The bill is pending in the House Health & Aging Committee.

[SB 240](#) **PHARMACIST CONSULT PACTS** (Burke) (Introduced 11/18/13) To revise the laws governing pharmacist consult agreements and to authorize a pharmacist to prescribe and administer drugs under a consult agreement. The bill is pending in the Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee.

[HB 348](#) **COLLEGE HEALTH PLANS** (Henne & C. Hagan) (Introduced 11/14/2013) To prohibit state institutions of higher education from requiring students to be covered by a health insurance policy as a condition of enrollment or from automatically enrolling students in such policies or plans. The bill has received two hearings in the House Education Committee.

[HB 353](#) **VETERANS HEALTH CARE** (Wachtmann) (Introduced 11/19/2013) To create the Ohio Veterans Health Care System. The bill received sponsor testimony in the House Health & Aging Committee on December 3, 2013.

[SB 79](#) **VACCINATIONS** (Kearney) (Introduced 03/13/2013) To decrease the minimum age for which a pharmacist may administer certain vaccinations. The bill received its fourth hearing in the Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee on November 20, 2013.

[SB 104](#) **HEALTH CARE** (Skindell) (Introduced 04/16/2013) To establish and operate the Ohio Health Care Plan to provide universal health care coverage to all Ohio residents. The bill has been referred to the Senate Medicaid, Health & Human Services Committee.

[HB 60](#) **MATERNITY UNITS** (Huffman) (Introduced 2/12/2013) To require that rules governing maternity units, newborn care nurseries, and maternity homes include certain provisions pertaining to the authority to make decisions regarding the transfer of patients to other facilities and to specify procedures for granting variances or waivers of any requirement in the rules governing operation of such facilities. The bill has received three hearings in the House Health & Aging Committee.