



INTRODUCTION

Last week was incredibly busy and stressful as Thursday marked the Senate bill filing deadline and the House bill drafting deadline (by which time House members have to have all their requests in for crafting of their legislative proposals). In the Senate 355 bills were filed this week alone, with the total now at 711 for the session. The House is expected to exceed that number by the time that chamber's bill filing deadline passes on April 8th. The topics on which legislation was filed ranged greatly, and the sponsorship lists represented some unexpected pairings --- a bill to regulate providers of digitally dispatched prearranged transportation services like Uber and Lyft, filed by two members who are normally far opposed on most issues --- and some expected themes (Republican-sponsored "Iran Divestment" and "Religious Freedom" bills, a Democrat-sponsored proposal to expand Medicaid). We will continue to dig through all the bills that were filed. This report does not include all bills filed last week, but we hope to catch up this week so we are up to date before the Easter Holiday.

A bill to allow medicinal marijuana was heard in and defeated by a House Judiciary committee, which is becoming something of a routine over the past few years. A large group of parents and children flooded the General Assembly protesting a proposed elimination of the religious exemption on childhood vaccinations, and former U.S. Senator and Presidential candidate Rick Santorum was spotted in the hallways. A bill to extend the Historic Preservation Tax Credit moved through the House and a new Regulatory Reform package was introduced in the Senate. With the House bill filing deadline days away, the Senate crossover deadline roughly a month out and a spring break scheduled for the first week in April, the hectic pace only stands to increase in the weeks to come.

Even with so much to do, the House continues to plan for their "spring break" next week and does not plan on any votes. We keep hearing that the Senate will join the House in this break, although there has been no formal announcement. We expect some legislators to still be in town as there are some bill filing deadlines next week, but overall it should be fairly quiet.



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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BILLS OF INTEREST

HOUSE BILL 327, Allow Use of Pepper Spray by EMS Workers, would provide that the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, when establishing standards for vehicles and equipment used within the emergency medical services system and adopting rules specifying equipment, sanitation, supply, and design requirements for ambulances, may not prohibit the carrying and use of pepper spray by emergency medical services personnel for self-defense purposes. **Introduced by Representative Dobson and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 328, Highway Safety/Citizens Protection Act, would enact the Highway Safety and Citizens Protection Act of 2015 to:

- reduce identity theft by increasing penalties for the manufacture, sale, and possession of counterfeit documents. A violation by a person under the age of 21 for the underage purchase of alcohol would be a Class 1 misdemeanor, and by a person under the age of 18 for the underage purchase of tobacco products or cigarette wrapping papers would be a Class 2 misdemeanor;
- prohibit the use of certain documents for identification purposes, including a matricula consular or other similar document, other than a valid passport, issued by a consulate or embassy of another country, and an identity document issued or created by any person, organization, county, city, or other local authority, except where authorized by the General Assembly;
- create a rebuttable presumption that no condition of release will reasonably assure the appearance of the person as required and the safety of the community if the person is unlawfully present in the United States and a judicial official finds that there is probable cause to believe that the person committed one or more of the following offenses: a sex offense; a violent felony; a driving offense that requires a mandatory drivers license revocation upon a first conviction; a drug offense other than a violation for possession of a controlled substance; or a gang offense;
- authorize an undocumented alien who is a resident of this State to obtain a restricted driver permit or a restricted identification card; and
- provide for permissible methods of verifying immigration status, the admissibility of immigration status records in courts of this State, and law enforcement transport of certain unlawfully present aliens.

Introduced by Representatives Warren, B. Brown, Collins, and Jordan and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee.

HOUSE BILL 330, Expand Medicaid to All Below 133% FPL/Funds, would repeal the prohibition on Medicaid expansion, and expand eligibility for the Medicaid program by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, to provide Medicaid coverage to all people under age 65 who have incomes equal to or less than 133% of the federal poverty guidelines, effective January 1, 2016. The bill would provide funding to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance, of almost \$6.6 million this year and over \$7 million next year for administrative costs associated with the Medicaid expansion. These funds would provide a State match for an estimated \$19.8 in federal funds for this year and over \$21 million in federal funds next year. If the amount of federal funds available for this purpose exceeds these amounts, then the expenditure of State funds would be reduced by an amount equal to the amount of excess federal funds that are available. The bill also would make the following reductions due to anticipated savings generated by the Medicaid expansion to other State programs that currently serve the population to be included in the Medicaid expansion: (1) reduces funding to the Department of Health and Human Services,

Division of Mental Health, by almost \$8.2 million this year and almost \$16.4 million next year; (2) reduces funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) in the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, by \$14.3 million this year and by \$28 million next year; and (3) reduces funding for the Inmate Health Care program within the Department of Public Safety, Division of Corrections, by \$8.5 million this year and \$17 million next year. **Introduced by Representatives Insko, Earle, and Queen and referred to the House Health Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 341, Controlled Substances/NBOMe & Other Drugs, would add NBOMe compounds and other substances to the controlled substances schedules, including Acetyl Fentanyl and Methoxetamine to the list of Schedule I controlled substances and several synthetic cannabinoids to the list of Schedule VI controlled substances. **Introduced by Representatives Jackson, Faircloth, Horn, and Stevens and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 344, Gubernatorial Team Ticket, would place a ballot question on the 2018 general election ballot which, if approved by a majority of voters, would require candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor from each party to run jointly as a team beginning with the 2020 election cycle. Candidates for Lt. Governor would also be able to file concurrent notices of candidacy for either State Representative or State Senator. **Introduced by Reps. Jones, Lambeth, Malone and McGrady and referred to the House Committee on Elections.**

HOUSE BILL 348, NC Religious Freedom Restoration Act, lists as its purpose “to ensure that in all cases where State action burdens the exercise of religion, strict scrutiny is applied; and to provide a claim or defense to a person or persons whose exercise of religion is burdened by State action” and would:

- prohibit state action from burdening a person's right to exercise of religion unless applying the burden to that person's exercise of religion in this particular instance is: (1) essential to further a compelling governmental interest and (2) the least restrictive means of furthering that compelling governmental interest. The following definitions would apply:
 - Burden: “any action that constrains, inhibits, curtails, or denies the exercise of religion by any person or compels any action contrary to a person's exercise of religion, and includes withholding benefits; assessing criminal, civil, or administrative penalties; or exclusion from governmental programs or access to governmental facilities.”
 - Compelling governmental interest: “a governmental interest of the highest magnitude that cannot otherwise be achieved without burdening the exercise of religion.”
 - Exercise of religion: “the practice or observance of religion. It includes, but is not limited to, the ability to act or refuse to act in a manner substantially motivated by one's sincerely held religious beliefs, whether or not the exercise is compulsory or central to a larger system of religious belief.”
 - Person: “any individual, association, partnership, corporation, church, religious institution, estate, trust, foundation, or other legal entity.”
 - State action: “the implementation or application of any law, including, but not limited to, State and local laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and policies, whether statutory or otherwise, or other action by the State or any political subdivision thereof and any local government, municipality, instrumentality, or public official authorized by law in the State.”

- allow a person whose exercise of religion has been burdened, or is likely to be burdened, to assert such violation or impending violation as a claim or defense in a judicial proceeding, regardless of whether the State or one of its political subdivisions is a party to the proceeding. Allows the person asserting such a claim or defense to obtain appropriate relief, as specified; and
- apply to cases, actions, and causes of action for which the trial court had not entered final judgment as of the date that the legislation became law.

The legislation also includes a severability clause and limiting provisions, which clarify that:

- nothing in the legislation should be construed to (1) authorize the State to burden any religious belief or (2) affect, interpret, or in any way address those portions of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Sec. 13 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution that prohibit laws respecting the establishment of religion; and
- granting government funding, benefits or exemptions, to the extent permissible, would not constitute a violation. “Granting” as used with respect to government funding, benefits, or exemptions would not include the denial of government funding, benefits, or exemptions.

Introduced by Representatives Schaffer and Bishop and referred to the House Judiciary IV Committee.

HOUSE BILL 352, Standard of Proof/Public Safety Dispatchers, would provide that a person acting within the capacity of a 911 or public safety telecommunicator or dispatcher at a public safety answering point who is sued in a civil action arising from the performance of any lawful and prescribed actions pertaining to the person's assigned job duties is entitled to a standard of clear and convincing evidence in a court of law. **Introduced by Representative Torbett and referred to the House Judiciary II Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 362, Cities/Business Registration, would:

- allow a city, by ordinances, to require any business operating within the city's corporate limits to register with the city annually;
- require the registration information to be used by the city to create a contact database for police and fire departments, the provision of city services, and the enforcement of city ordinances; and
- allow a city to impose a fee of up to \$50 for maintaining the database.

Introduced by Rep. Faircloth and referred to the House Finance Committee.

HOUSE BILL 372, 2015 Medicaid Modernization, would state the intent of the General Assembly to transform the State's current Medicaid program to a program that provides budget predictability while ensuring quality care to those in need. The new Medicaid program would be designed to ensure the following: (1) budget predictability through shared risk and accountability; (2) balanced quality, patient satisfaction, and financial measures; (3) efficient and cost-effective administrative systems and structures; (4) a sustainable delivery system; and (5) a successful health information exchange. **Introduced by Representatives Dollar, Lambeth, B. Brown, and Jones and has not yet been assigned to a House committee.**

SENATE BILL 358, Medicaid Reimbursement for Primary Care, would declare the intent of the General Assembly to increase the Medicaid reimbursement for Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes 99213, 99391, 99392, and 99393 when the service is provided by a primary care physician, and direct the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a State Plan Amendment to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase

reimbursement as provided. **Introduced by Senator Bingham and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 361, Occupational Licensing Reform Study, would direct the Legislative Research Commission to study the structure, organization, and operation of the various independent occupational licensing boards, and make an interim report, including recommended legislation, to the 2015 General Assembly when it reconvenes in 2016 and a final report to the 2017 General Assembly. The study would examine the feasibility of:

- establishing a single State agency to oversee the administration of all or some occupational licensing boards;
- combining administrative functions of all or some occupational licensing boards, while allowing the boards to maintain performance of their respective regulatory functions;
- combining occupational licensing boards with similar regulatory functions; and
- eliminating some occupational licensing boards, and assessing the impact on the health, safety, and welfare of the public from any board eliminations.

Introduced by Senator Hartsell and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 365, Expand Medicaid to All Below 133% FPL/Funds, is identical to House Bill 330, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Van Duyn, Foushee, and Robinson and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 369, Sales Tax Fairness Act, would shift the way sales tax revenue is distributed throughout the state. Currently, the state uses a system based on where the sales take place, population distribution, and a “multiplier” that increases what some counties receive. The plan proposed in S369 would move the state over three years (2017 to 2019) to a system that bases distribution strictly on the basis of population. Once fully phased in, the plan would represent a major loss of revenue for some counties (Durham would lose 9%, Mecklenburg 7%) and a major increase for others (Johnston County would see a 43% increase, for example). The bill would allow counties to increase sales tax by .25% without voter approval, but would also eliminate the current flexibility on how to distribute county tax revenue to cities within the county, a particular concern for coastal towns with a high number of seasonal residents.

The proposal is part of a larger ongoing debate about how to best close the economic divide between urban and rural counties, and its bipartisan group of sponsors represents areas of the state they feel have been left behind as neighboring counties and cities enjoy the benefits of recovery and growth. Members from counties that would stand to lose revenue have pointed out that their counties have made investments that have attracted and supported retailers that generate sales tax revenue.

The bill is already controversial and has not been through its first committee hearing, as such it is likely to be changed in a variety of ways as it moves through the process. The prospects for its advancement in the House and how it fits into larger discussions between the two chambers involving economic development, sales tax and other reforms has yet to be seen. Governor McCrory, at odds with the Senate over a number of issues, has publicly criticized the proposal, saying “it will cause great harm to the economic engines of this state.” He added, “We cannot afford to have this bill passed,” but stopped short of threatening a veto. **Introduced by Sens. Brown, B. Jackson and Clark and referred to the Senate Finance Committee.**

SENATE BILL 371, LME/MCO Claims Reporting, would provide that the encounter data submission requirements for local management entities/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) are as follows:

- requires LME/MCOs to submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) encounter data, consisting of records of claims payments made to providers, for Medicaid and State-funded mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance abuse disorder services using a single nationally recognized, standardized electronic format, which would be specified to the LME/MCOs in advance to assure compliance with the format of encounter data submitted to DHHS;
- allows DHHS to use encounter data for certain purposes including, but not limited to, setting LME/MCO capitation rates, measuring the quality of services managed by LME/MCOs, and assuring compliance with State and federal regulations, and for oversight and audit functions; and
- prohibits LME/MCOs from being required to resubmit encounter data rejected by NCTracks or other receiving system except those rejected for noncompliance with the authorized standardized electronic format.

Introduced by Senator Hartsell and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 377, Appropriate Funds for Drug Overdose Meds, would provide \$50,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, for the purchase of opioid antagonists, which would be distributed at no charge to North Carolina law enforcement agencies and to an incorporated, nonprofit organization in this State that provides services to individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid-related drug overdose or to the friends and family members of an at-risk individual.

Introduced by Senator Bingham and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.

SENATE BILL 381, Community Paramedicine Pilot Project/Funds, would provide \$210,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Secretary, to implement a community paramedicine pilot project. The project would focus on expanding the role of paramedics to allow for community-based initiatives that result in providing care that avoids nonemergency use of emergency rooms and 911 services, and avoids unnecessary admissions into health care facilities. The North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS) would set the education standards and other requirements necessary to qualify as a community paramedic eligible to participate in the pilot program, and DHHS would consult with the NCOEMS to define the objectives, set standards, and establish the required outcomes for the project. DHHS would establish up to three program sites to implement the community paramedicine pilot project, with each program site being awarded up to \$70,000, and could give preference to counties who currently have an established community paramedic program.

DHHS would report on the progress of the project, including an evaluation plan based on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration Office of Rural Health Policy's, Community Paramedicine Evaluation Tool. DHHS would submit a final report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by November 1, 2016, that includes: (1) an updated version of the evaluation plan; (2) an estimate of the cost to expand the program incrementally and statewide; (3) an estimate of any potential savings of State funds associated with expansion of the program; and (4) if expansion of the program is recommended, a time line for expanding the program. **Introduced by Senators Rabon, Lee, and Tucker and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

SENATE BILL 390, NC Cancer Treatment Fairness, is identical to House Bill 306, summarized in the March 23, 2015, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Tarte and Hise and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 393, Brian Garlock Act, would repeal the existing statutes related to the use of a mobile phone while driving and would:

- prohibit driving while using a mobile telephone or electronic communication device unless it is done using hands free equipment;
- prohibit a person under age 18 from driving while using a mobile phone or electronic communication device except when communicating an emergency;
- prohibit driving a school bus while using a mobile phone or electronic communication device except when communicating an emergency;
- prohibit operating a commercial motor vehicle while using a mobile telephone or electronic communication device; however would not: (1) prohibit the use of hands-free equipment, or (2) supersede any more restrictive provisions for operators of commercial motor vehicles prescribed by federal law or regulation.
- exempt from these prohibitions the use of a global positioning system, navigation system, or portable music player affixed, mounted, or installed in a motor vehicle, but does not authorize a person to manually type or enter text, numbers, or symbols into a global positioning system, navigation system, or portable music player while driving);
- exempt from these prohibitions the use of a mobile telephone or electronic communication device by public safety officers while in the performance of, and for a purpose related to, their official duties;
- **create a rebuttable presumption that a person holding a mobile telephone or electronic communication device in his or her hand or hands while driving is using the device;**
- prohibit an insurance premium surcharge or assessment of points for a violation of the statute;
- require that one driver's license point be assessed for subsequent offenses committed during certain timeframes; and
- prohibit local governments from passing any ordinance regulating the use of mobile telephones or electronic communication devices while operating a motor vehicle, commercial motor vehicle, or school bus.

Introduced by Senators Tarte and Bingham and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 395, Reform Medical Examiner System, would reform the North Carolina Medical Examiner System by: (1) establishing a regional office structure; (2) requiring the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) to obtain and maintain national accreditation; (3) establishing minimum qualifications, continuing education requirements, and training requirements for personnel conducting death investigations and autopsies; (4) increasing the number of full-time equivalent positions within OCME dedicated to performing and assisting with death investigations and autopsies; (5) appropriating funds to implement these reforms; and (6) establishing reporting requirements to monitor the status of reform implementation.

Introduced by Senator Tarte and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.

SENATE BILL 398, Convention of States, is identical to House Bill 321, summarized in the March 23, 2015, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Sanderson, Krawiec, and Hise and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 405, Track Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy, would require the Chief Medical Examiner to establish a sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP) awareness training program to educate all medical examiners in this State about SUDEP and how to investigate whether SUDEP is a known or suspected cause of death. The bill also would require the Chief Medical Examiner's inquiries regarding the cause and manner of death for each death under investigation to include an inquiry to determine whether the death was a direct result of a seizure or epilepsy, and if so, to take specified actions. **Introduced by Senator Gunn and referred to the Senate Health Care Committee.**

SENATE BILL 410, Funds for ECU School of Medicine, would provide \$8 million in each of the next two years to the UNC Board of Governors for the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. **Introduced by Senators D. Davis and Pate and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 412, Limit Confidentiality Agreements, would:

- provide that in actions alleging personal injury, wrongful death, or monetary or property damages caused by a public hazard, no confidentiality agreement may be entered into or enforced unless a final protective order regarding that information is entered;
- define public hazard as “a release or threatened release of any substance that poses a threat to public health or safety by presenting a present or future danger of death, bodily injury, or physical or emotional disability to persons other than parties to the confidentiality agreement exposed to such substance”;
- require the court to find that a confidentiality agreement is in the public interest before entering into a final protective order;
- allow an interested party to appeal the grant or denial of a final protective order to the court of appeals;
- specify that nothing in the legislation would be deemed to limit a court's authority or discretion to prohibit the enforcement of a part or all of any confidentiality agreement, settlement agreement, stipulated agreement, or protective order in other cases; and
- clarify that the statute does not prohibit or compel the disclosure of the monetary amount of the settlement agreement or the entry of an enforcement order of that part of a confidentiality agreement, settlement agreement, or stipulated agreement between the parties which requires the nondisclosure of the amount of money paid in settling of a claim.

Introduced by Senators McKissick, Bingham, and Daniel and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 418, Amend Statutory Rape/15 Yrs. Old or Younger, would amend the existing statute regarding the criminal offense of statutory rape or sexual offense to apply to victims who are 15 years old or younger (currently, the statute only applies to victims who are 13, 14 or 15 years old). Note: Existing statute provides that such offenses, when committed against a victim who is 6 years younger than the defendant are punishable by a Class B1 felony, and such offenses committed against a victim who is more than four but less than six years younger than the defendant are punishable by a Class C felony. **Introduced by Senators J. Jackson, Daniel and Bingham and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 419, Limit Revolving Door Employment, would:

- require each vendor submitting a bid or contract to the state to certify that the vendor will not use a former State employee in the administration of a contract with the state;

- define former State employee as “a person who, for any period within the preceding six months, was employed as an employee or contract employee of the State by the State agency for which the contract applies, who in the six months immediately preceding termination of State employment, participated personally in either the award or management of a State contract with the vendor, or made regulatory or licensing decisions that directly applied to the vendor”; and
- make it a Class I felony to knowingly submit a false certification, and provide that a violation of the new prohibition would void the contract.

Introduced by Senator Hise and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 422, County Omnibus Legislation, would direct the Revenue Laws Study Committee to study issues relating to the financial impacts on local governments of exempting previously taxable properties from the property tax base when acquired by nonprofits. The Committee would report its findings and recommendation to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly. **Introduced by Senators J. Davis and Foushee and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 430, LRC Study/Campaign Advertising, would allow the Legislative Research Commission to study the regulation of campaign advertising and efficient enforcement of compliance obligations, and to report its findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Elections Oversight Committee by April 1, 2016. **Introduced by Senator Rabin and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 437, Appropriate Funds for Poison Control, would appropriate \$1.5 million for 2015-16 and \$1.5 million for 2016-17 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, to increase the state contract with the Carolinas Poison Center. **Introduced by Senator Tucker and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 440, Let Dental Hygienists Administer Anesthetics, is substantially similar to House Bill 286, summarized above in this Legislative Report, but does not include the provision that would exclude a lawfully certified dental hygienist who administers intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in this State from the statutes that regulate the practice of dentistry. **Introduced by Senator J. Davis and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 441, Public Records – E-mail Disclosure, would encourage all state agencies to include a statement on outgoing email that discloses that the email may be a public record and may be subject to inspection and copying, and, that if it is appropriate, emails sent by or on behalf of a legislator should include a disclosure that the document is confidential and not a public record. **Introduced by Senator Clark and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 443, Drivers License Fee/Donate Life NC, would increase the amount distributed to the License to Give Trust Fund from fees collected for the issuance and renewal of a drivers license, and direct that 50% of all funds credited to the Fund be transferred on a quarterly basis to Donate Life North Carolina to be used for costs associated with managing the online organ donation registry and promoting organ donation throughout the State. **Introduced by Senators Gunn and Brock and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 459, *Modify Letters of Objection Requirements*, would modify the objection process for adopted rules by:

- requiring a person who objects to the adoption of a permanent rule to submit written objections to the Rules Review Commission on a form created and made available by the Commission;
- increasing the number of written objections needed to delay the implementation of a rule from 10 to 50 persons who are qualified to object; and
- providing that a person is qualified to object if the person is a resident of the State, not including a lobbyist acting on behalf of the lobbyist's principal, has a legal interest in property in the State, or is incorporated or doing business in the State.

Introduced by Senator Daniel and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SENATE BILL 490, *Increase Access to MH Services*, would direct the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study the feasibility and effectiveness of establishing a partnership between State-operated hospitals and private, underutilized rural hospitals for the purpose of increasing access to services for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with mental illness, and report its findings, together with any recommended legislation, to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly when it convenes. The bill also would allow State-operated hospitals to transfer beds to private, rural hospitals without certificate of need review in order to increase access to mental health services by providing that the term "new institutional health services" does not include a change in bed capacity that results from the transfer of beds from a State-operated hospital to a private, rural hospital for the purpose of providing services for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals with mental illness. **Introduced by Senator Barefoot and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

SENATE BILL 542, *Decriminalize Direct Entry Midwifery*, would allow a Certified Professional Midwife, certified by the North American Registry of Midwives, to provide prenatal, intrapartum, postpartum, and newborn care in accordance with the Standards for Practice of the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives. **Introduced by Senators Rabin and Sanderson and has not yet been assigned to a Senate committee.**

SENATE BILL 574, *2015 Medicaid Modernization*, is identical to House Bill 372, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators B. Jackson, Pate, and Tucker and has not yet been assigned to a Senate committee.**

BILL UPDATES

HOUSE BILL 148, *Insurance and Safety Inspection/Mopeds*, was amended in the House Transportation Committee to remove the provision that would have required mopeds to be subject to safety inspections. **The bill as amended was approved by the House Transportation Committee and will next be considered by the House Insurance Committee.**

HOUSE BILL 286, *Dental Hygienists/Intraoral Local Anesthetics*, was amended in the House Health Committee to exclude a lawfully certified dental hygienist who administers intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed in this State from the statutes that regulate the practice of dentistry. The bill would allow a dental hygienist who has completed an approved program and who has been properly certified by the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners to administer intraoral local dental anesthetics by infiltration and block techniques under the direct supervision of a dentist licensed

in this State. The dental hygienist would be required to complete an annual CPR certification and at least two hours each year of Board-approved continuing education related to the administration of intraoral local dental anesthetics. **The bill as amended was approved by the House Health Committee and the full House and will next be sent to the Senate for consideration.**

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