

MAG 2010 Legislative Session Summary

Medicaid/Budget

H.B. 1055/H.B. 307, Passed, MAG Opposed. 1.45 percent fee on hospital revenues and 11 percent increase in Medicaid pay for hospitals for three-year period. ASCs – originally subject to the tax but not Medicaid increase – were exempted from the tax following strong grassroots response from physicians. Fee to fill state Medicaid budget hole. Governor expected to sign legislation.

H.B. 1170, Passed, MAG Supported. Repeals tax exemption for Medicaid CMO's in state. Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 443, Failed, MAG Supported. Legislative oversight committee for Medicaid CMO compliance with state contracts and review provider/patient/consumer complaints related to eligibility determinations.

H.B. 39, Failed, MAG Supported. \$1 tax on tobacco products to address Medicaid budget shortfall.

Health Insurance Reform

S.B. 62/H.B. 321, Passed, MAG Priority & MAG Supported. MAG's prompt pay bill requiring third party administrators of self-funded plans to comply with Georgia's prompt pay statute. Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 50, Failed, MAG Priority & MAG Supported. Requires full disclosure and transparency in secondary payer market.

S.B. 310, Passed, MAG Supported. Requires PBM's to be regulated/licensed by state insurance commissioner. Amended to change requirements for multi-employer, self-insured health plans. Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 317/H.R. 1086, Passed, MAG Supported. "Freedom in Health Care Choice Act" to stop government from forcing individuals to participate in private or government health plans and ensure all Georgians have right to purchase private health insurance or join government plan and give individuals freedom to opt out of health care programs without being fined.

S.B. 411, Passed, MAG Supported. "Healthy Georgians Act" would allow health plans to offer incentives to policy holders who practice good health habits without violating unfair trade practice laws. Awaits Governor's signature.

H.B. 1184/S.B. 407, Failed, MAG Neutral. Allows insurance sales across state lines.

Trauma Funding

S.R. 277, Passed, MAG Priority & MAG Supported. Applies proceeds from \$10 "charge" on certain passenger motor vehicle registrations to trauma care funding. Ballot initiative in November.

H.B. 23/S.B. 360, Passed, MAG Supported. Bans texting while driving for minors and prohibits use of wireless communications for adults. Awaits Governor's signature.

Tort Reform

H.B. 24, Failed, MAG Supported. Updates evidence code to include apology/expert witness provisions.

Scope of Practice

H.B. 1250, Failed, MAG Opposed. Gives APRNs and PAs authority to prescribe Schedule II Controlled Substances and unlimited authority to order radiographic imaging tests. Also mandates that health insurance carriers record name of PA or APRN in same manner they do attending physician.

H.B. 1154, Passed, MAG Opposed. Allows pharmacists to administer the "flu mist" nasal vaccine pursuant to a protocol with a physician. Awaits Governor's signature.

H.B. 1040, Passed, MAG Neutral with Amendments. Allows RNs to train designated caregivers to perform health maintenance activities for the disabled pursuant to the written orders of an attending physician or nurse practitioner or physician assistant pursuant to a protocol.

H.B. 361, Passed, MAG Neutral with Amendments. Allows institutional pharmacists to participate in drug therapy management by protocol or other legal authority established or approved by member of institution medical staff for care and treatment of patients.

H.B. 194, Passed, MAG Supported. Requires pharmacists to address drug substitutes on drug container labels. Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 195, Passed, MAG Supported. Simplifies procedures for e-prescriptions when "brand necessary" is warranted. Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 425, Failed, MAG Opposed. Authorizes community service boards to expand the types of services they provide to include primary care.

Other Bills of Interest

S.B. 252, Passed, MAG Supported. Authorizes Georgia Composite Medical Board to contract for services for impaired physicians. All information will be kept confidential and privileged.

S.B. 315, Failed, MAG Supported. "Uniform Emergency Volunteers Health Practitioner Act" to allow out-of-state physicians to be licensed during emergencies.

S.B. 367, Passed, MAG Priority & MAG Supported. Authorizes those with consent to use physician's order for life sustaining treatment (POLST). Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 458, Passed, MAG Supported. Requires seat belts be worn in trucks and SUVs.

S.B. 418, Passed, MAG Neutral. "Prescription Monitoring Act" for Schedule II and Schedule III drugs. Awaits Governor's signature.

S.B. 435, Passed, MAG Supported. "Diabetes and Health Improvement Act of 2010" to establish office in the Department of Community Health to develop, implement, and promote a statewide effort to combat the proliferation of Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, and pre-diabetes. Awaits the Governor's signature.

S.B. 529, Failed, MAG Opposed. Provided criminal penalties for physicians performing abortions using a broad definition of "coercion."

H.B. 853, Passed (S.B. 435), MAG Supported. Licensure and inspection and operational rules for tanning facilities.

H.B. 866, Passed, MAG Neutral. "Physicians for Rural Assistance Act" to allow hospitals to apply for grants from the State Medical Education Board to bring physicians to underserved rural areas. Awaits Governor's signature.