

STATE-MENT

MONTHLY STATE TRACKER UPDATE

February 28, 2017

This Month's Highlights

Thank you to the AAO-HNS State Trackers who joined our monthly conference call on February 22. Your engagement and active discussion is always appreciated and helps identify state legislative trends.

- What happens to bills identified by State Trackers and shared with AAO-HNS staff? In consultation with leadership, many bills are determined to be “larger medicine” issues, so the AAO-HNS will often work with the AMA, ACS, or established coalitions as deemed appropriate. If action is warranted on an otolaryngology-specific bill, before acting, we contact the local/state ENT society and state medical society to coordinate our efforts. State Trackers are provided status reports and/or included in this outreach.
- While most activity on OTC access to hearing aids has occurred at the federal level, states may be preparing for changes in 2017. To view the recent AAO-HNS comment letter to the FDA on OTC access, click [HERE](#).

Other Key Trends:

- The Academy is working on a draft letter opposing [Texas SB 354](#), which would require, among other things, children identified as deaf or hard of hearing to be tested in both English and ASL. Be alert in your state for similar LEAD-K initiatives!
- As states try to balance their budgets, we may see a renewed effort to tax elective cosmetic procedures. While this was a failed experiment in New Jersey, some states still consider such a tax an attractive revenue source. Via a coalition established a few years ago, the AAO-HNS has opposed this ill-advised policy in California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Washington. Please advise AAO-HNS staff if you see a proposed cosmetic surgery tax in your state!
- Recently tagged bills being monitored:
 - Alabama (Patient Compensation Systems)
 - Florida (Managed Care, Nurse Practitioners Advanced Training)
 - Georgia (Contracting Limitations, OTC Hearing Aids, Opioids)
 - Iowa (Physician/Patient Discussions re: guns).
 - Mississippi (Oversight Authority of Healthcare Regulations)
 - New Mexico (Physician Assistant “Collaboration”)
 - Ohio (In-Office Physician Compounding, Cosmetic Surgery Taxes)
 - Oregon (Caps on Non-Economic Damages)
 - Vermont (Mandated Benefits, Hearing Aid Coverage)

Definition of the Month:

- COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE: A bill offered by a committee instead of another bill that was originally referred to that Committee. Committee Substitutes are indicative of behind-the-scenes negotiations over bill language. A Committee Chair will sometimes agree to move a bill in return for language changes.

Next Conference Call:

Our next conference call will be held Wednesday, March 22, 8:00 pm EDT.

Upcoming Dates:

- 03/03/2017- Wyoming Adjourns (March 6/7/8 available, if necessary)
- 3/09/2017- Arkansas Adjourns
- 03/09/2017- Utah Adjourns
- 03/18/2017- New Mexico Adjourns
- 03/27/2017- South Dakota Adjourns
- 3/30/2017- Kentucky Adjourns