

# STATE-MENT

## MONTHLY STATE TRACKER UPDATE

March 27, 2017

### Thank You for Your Leadership!

Thank you to our State Trackers who have contacted Academy staff this month regarding “suspect” bills in your tracking reports. Since this is a high activity period for most legislatures, we urge State Trackers to review their reports on a daily basis!

An additional thank you to those State Trackers who were able to attend the AAO-HNS/F 2017 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting. Many productive conversations occurred, and we look forward to State Tracker participation in future BOG events.

### New State Trackers:

Seven new State Trackers were recruited at the AAO-HNS/F 2017 Leadership Forum & BOG Spring Meeting. Please welcome: Nikhila Raol, MD (GA), Lamont Jones, MD (MI), Robert Stachler, MD (MI), David Chang, MD (MO), Andrew Coughlin, MD (NE), Brad Holland, MD (TX), and John Wyllie, MD (WV).

### State Advocacy Update:

- With the support of the Kentucky Society of Otolaryngology, an action alert developed by the Kentucky Medical Association on SB 18, a peer review protection bill, was sent to the state's ENT Advocacy Network members.
- New York members were alerted to pain management training opportunities to aid in compliance with a new state law.
- A joint letter with the Georgia Society of Otolaryngology opposing GA SB 153 (state regulation of OTC hearing aids) was submitted to the bill sponsor.
- State Trackers identified the following bills for review: Alabama (Patient Compensation Systems); Florida (nurse practitioners' advanced training); New Jersey (Hearing Impairment Task Force); New Mexico (physician assistants' scope); Ohio, Rhode Island, Vermont (hearing aid coverage); and Oregon (proposed cap on non-economic damages).

### Important Vocabulary:

Germaneness means “sameness,” and in a state legislative context, refers to the admissibility of amendments to bills. “Germane rules” govern what type of amendments are allowed. If there are no germaneness rules in a state, then a bill regarding health may be amended by non-health provisions (e.g. infrastructure, banking, etc.). In a state with germaneness rules, such non-health provisions would not be allowed, but a scope of practice amendment may be added as it directly relates to the subject matter of the underlying bill. Watch for these amendments, especially near the end of session, as some lawmakers hope they are overlooked!

### Next Conference Call:

- Thank you to those who joined our conference call on March 22. Our next call will be held **Wednesday, April 26, 8:00 pm ET.**

### Upcoming Dates:

- April 8- West Virginia adjourns
- April 10- Maryland Adjourns
- April 22- Arizona Adjourns
- April 23- Washington Adjourns
- April 25- Montana Adjourns
- April 28- Iowa Adjourns
- April 29- Indiana Adjourns

### \*\*GoToMeeting Reminder\*\*

- Please email [legstate@entnet.org](mailto:legstate@entnet.org) if you are interested in booking the Academy's GoToMeeting account to host a virtual State Society meeting!