

STATE-MENT

MONTHLY STATE TRACKER UPDATE

MARCH 2018

GovHawk Tips and Tricks

With a new alert system via our vendor, GovHawk, and many new State Trackers, this is an opportune time to provide “tips and tricks” to aid in your review of legislative alerts. First, be aware the system is based on 12 broad issue categories, with numerous key words within those categories. While we have narrowed our search terms to eliminate most irrelevant bills, some terms must remain broad to ensure nothing critical is missed. The following guidance may help reduce your review time:

- When you receive an alert, scroll to the bottom of the bill’s parameters to “View.” Click on “Public Page” to be taken directly to the bill.
- If you have a lengthy bill, go to “Excerpt” to see the first key word in the document, as well as how many other words in the document match our search terms.
- If the Excerpt does not provide enough information, another way to search the bill is to hold down “Control” on your keyboard and type “F.” This “Control/F” function will bring up a box that allows you to search a term and quickly advance to the section of a bill that may have relevant content.

If you determine a bill is not relevant, please email AAO-HNS staff at legstate@entnet.org so the bill can be “hidden” from future alerts. If you identify a bill that may be of concern to the specialty, simply forward your alert to staff highlighting the bill in question so it can be analyzed. If action is warranted, you will be notified, along with your state otolaryngology leadership, and a plan of action determined.

Issues of Interest

- **California:** AB 1801, tagged by a State Tracker, would establish a statewide public education program regarding cytomegalovirus (CMV) and require acute care hospitals to test newborns for CMV before 21 days of age.
- **Connecticut:** Initiated by the state’s ophthalmology, urology, and ENT societies, SB 402 is a Truth in Advertising (TIA) bill. A hearing was held in the Public Health Committee on March 20 and the [coalition letter](#) signed by the AAO-HNS was submitted for the committee record. The Committee reported the bill favorably on March 23.
- **New York:** The Governor’s budget proposal contained language which would permit CRNAs to administer anesthesia without a physician present. Advocacy by physicians, including NYSSA and NYSSO-HNS, resulted in removal of the language by the legislature.
- **Tennessee:** Concerns were raised regarding SB 1926 and HB 2122 which would establish a new license for a “Doctor of Medical Science.” Both bills have been remanded back to Calendar Committees, thereby reducing the likelihood of further advancement. Tennessee adjourns on April 16.
- **Washington:** The successful advocacy efforts of State Trackers and the Northwest Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS resulted in Governor Jay Inslee’s signature on SB 5179. This bill requires coverage for hearing instruments under the public employee and Medicaid programs and was amended to include otolaryngologists in the list of providers. Funding for the bill also was approved, resulting in \$358,000 in state appropriations and help in leveraging \$1,123,000 in federal appropriations.

Tracker Monthly Calls:

Welcome to all of our new State Trackers who volunteered during the AAO-HNS/F 2018 Leadership Forum and BOG Spring Meeting! We invite you to participate in our remaining conference calls for 2018. The calls begin at 8 pm ET and all Trackers are sent a reminder prior to the call.

- April 25
- May 23
- June 27

Visit the [updated State Tracker list](#) to view the new State Trackers.

2018 State Legislative Sessions

- **12 states adjourned in March: Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.**
- **Louisiana’s session began March 12 and North Carolina opens on April 23.**