

# STATE-MENT

## MONTHLY STATE TRACKER UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2018

### Start Anew with GovHawk

- The AAO-HNS State Trackers and the Academy have started 2018 with a new legislative tracking system called GovHawk. With a modern, mobile-friendly design, improved legislative accuracy and speed, Trackers can spend less time screening for issues and more time resolving them. Soon, improvements will be evident on the [State Advocacy website](#) where links will enable our members to view legislation by state or topic. All monitored bills are updated continuously and within 15 minutes of posting by a state legislature. We welcome your feedback on this new tracking system!

### Issues of Interest

- **Florida:** State Trackers reviewed [SB 890](#) regarding insurance coverage for hearing aids for children. Per the Trackers' support, the Academy wrote a letter to the sponsor requesting that otolaryngologists be added to the bill as prescribers, fitters, and dispensers of hearing aids.
- **Washington:** State Trackers and the Northwest Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS actively pursued an amendment to [SB 5179](#) to include otolaryngologists in the listing of professionals providing hearing aid coverage under public employee and Medicaid programs. Presently, only audiologists and hearing aid specialists are named in the bill. The WSMA has been a strong partner in this successful effort.
- **Indiana:** State Trackers and the Indiana Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS are currently reviewing [HB 1130](#) an omnibus licensing bill that fails to exempt otolaryngologists from being required to obtain a certificate of registration to fit or dispense hearing aids. This bill is moving quickly and has passed the House.
- **Pennsylvania:** [SB 895](#) was brought to the Academy's attention by the Pennsylvania Academy of Otolaryngology-HNS. This bill pertains to physician assistants and changes to the current supervisory agreement process.
- **Virginia:** [HB 1172](#) was tagged by the Virginia Society of Otolaryngology-HNS. This bill requires PDMP checks seven days after surgery. While the Academy currently does not have an official position on opioids and PDMPs, this inquiry has prompted a review by the AAO-HNS Medical Devices and Drugs Committee.
- **Tagged bills being monitored:** [FL HB 689/SB 914](#), [FL HB 1385](#); [MA H 195/S 144](#); [NY AB 195/S 2583](#); [RI SB 2248](#), [RI SB 2237](#); [UT HB 39](#), [UT HB 123](#).

### Help Wanted—Keep the Balance

- Spread the word! Volunteer Trackers are needed for the following states: Alaska, Idaho, Mississippi, South Dakota, and Tennessee. The commitment is minimal and could protect patients and the profession from harmful new policies due to a lack of balanced information. Encourage your colleagues in the above-named states to email [jbrannon@entnet.org](mailto:jbrannon@entnet.org) to sign-up!

### Doodle Poll Results:

Thank you to the AAO-HNS State Trackers who participated in our poll to choose the day of our monthly conference calls for the 2018 legislative session. The vote is to maintain our fourth Wednesday of the month (December-June). The dates for the remainder of the session are as follows:

- February 28
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23
- June 27

The calls begin at 8 pm ET and all Trackers will be sent a reminder prior to each call.

### 2018 State Legislative Sessions

- Four states do not meet this year: Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas
- Six states opened in February: Arkansas, Connecticut, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Wyoming
- Louisiana begins March 12 and North Carolina begins April 23.
- The remaining 38 states began deliberations in January.