

2019 CO Legislative review

HB 1004: Public Insurance Option

- Directs the Colorado Department of Insurance (DOI) and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to explore costs, benefits, implementation and design options of a possible state-run public option insurance plan. The plan will then be sent to the federal government for approval.

SB5: Importing Drugs from Canada

- Directs HCPF to seek federal approval to contract with a Canadian vendor. The vendor would then be able to import wholesale drugs to distribute to Colorado pharmacies.

HB1168: Reinsurance

- Establishes a two-year reinsurance program through DOI. The program will need federal approval, but if approved will help cover high cost claims through a combination of funding through a hospital fee, existing taxes and dollars from the general fund.

HB1216: Limiting Insulin Prices

- Prohibits insurance companies from charging the consumer any dollar amount over \$100 (copay or coinsurance) for a 30-day supply of insulin.

SB4: Health Care Cooperatives

- Permits Coloradans in a region to negotiate rates with providers and set certain plan coverage minimums through the creation of cooperatives. Summit County will set up the first co-op in 2020 as a pilot.

HB1010: New Licenses Requirements for Freestanding Emergency Departments

- Charges the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to create a license that all freestanding emergency departments will be required to have beginning in 2022. Rural and report communities are exempt. The license will prohibit the asking about insurance or payment options before treatment.

HB1001: Hospital Transparency

- Requires HCPF to gather financial data from hospitals and provide an annual report on hospital spending, operating expenses, staffing and uncompensated costs.

HB1174: Out of Network Disclosure Requirements

- Requires payers and health care facilities to provide disclosures about possible out of network billing situations. The bill also caps out of network costs for providers who are working at in network facilities and emergency departments.

HB1320: Nonprofit Hospital Community Benefit

- Requires nonprofit hospitals to engage with local community representatives on implementation plans regarding their community needs assessment. The bill also requires the hospitals to report data on their community benefit activities to the state, as well as the Internal Revenue Service.

HB1269: Mental Health Parity

- Requires Colorado Medicaid and private payers to provide coverage for mental health and substance use disorder at the same level for physical care. Payers will file annual reports to demonstrate they are complying with this bill.

SB1: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- Extends a pilot that was created in 2017 to expands access to MAT from two counties to up to a total of five, including Pueblo, Routt and the San Luis Valley.

HB1120: Youth Mental Health Education

- Lowers the age of the parental notification requirement from 15 to 12 years for children speaking with mental health professionals, as well as directs the Department of Education (DOE) to create and maintain a public mental health resource bank.

SB227: Reducing Hard from SUD

- Allows Colorado Hospitals to serve as needle exchange sites, expands the states prescription drug takeback program, and equips some public buildings with overdose reversal medication.

HB1287: Opioid and SUD Treatment

- Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to expand access to behavioral health facilities and medication assisted treatment through grants, care navigation and an online treatment tracker.

SB228: SUD Prevention

- Requires providers to undergo SUD training before they can renew their licenses, funds four million dollars' worth of SUB prevention and treatment programs, requires warning labels on all opioid prescriptions and prevents providers from accepting benefits from prescribing specific medications.

SB211: Criminal Diversion Program

- Expands on an existing pilot, created in 2018, which takes low level criminal offenders with mental health needs out of the justice system and places them in community mental health treatment.

HB1177: Red Flag Law

- Allows law enforcement to confiscate an individual's firearms if it is believed that the individual poses a threat to themselves or others.

HB1176: Health Care Cost Savings

- Creates a task force of legislators, appointees, and department heads to create a report examining the financial viability of single payer and multi payer universal health care systems. The report will be published not later than September 2021

SB79: Electronic Prescribing

- Makes electronic prescribing of most controlled substances mandatory, instead of optional.

HB1233: Investments in Primary Care

- Requires DOI to set affordability targets and standards for premiums, including adding targets for payer investment in primary care. The Bill also establishes a payment reform collaborative within DOI.

SB73: Advance Medical Directives

- Requires CDPHE to create and maintain a statewide advance medical directives (AMDs) database, where patients can upload, access, and edit their AMDs if they wish. The bill also creates legal protections for providers who follow the patients instructions via the new database.

HB1077: Emergency Prescriptions

- Allows patients with chronic conditions to obtain emergency medications from pharmacies without a prescription.

HB1211: Prior Authorization

- Requires payers to approve or deny prior authorizations within five days of the request, as well as post publicly a list of previous approvals and denial along with the rationale for each decision.

HB1009: SUD Recovery

- HB1009 expands housing voucher program to cover individuals with SUD issues, creates new standards for recovery facilities receiving referrals, and creates both the opioid crisis recovery funds advisory committee and the recovery residence grant program

HB1160: Mental Health Facility Pilot

- Creates a three-year mental health facility pilot program to provide residential care, treatment and services to people with either a mental or physical health diagnosis. One or two applicants will be selected for the pilot by CDPHE

HB1193: Behavior Health Support for High Risk Families

- Creates or amends a number of programs pertaining to behavioral health support for mothers and children. \$500,000 will be appropriated annually for these measures for the three years of the pilot programs.

HB1237: Behavioral Health Licensure

- This bill combines the various licenses that behavioral health organizations must obtain through CDPHE and DHS into a single behavioral health entity (BHE) license.

SB195: Youth Behavioral Health Enhancements

- Creates the Office of Children and Youth Behavioral Health Policy Coordination within the Office of the Governor. The office will help coordinate and streamline statewide efforts around youth behavioral health programs.

SB222: Medicaid expansion for those at risk for institutionalization

- Requires HCPF to develop incentives for managed care entities to accept Medicaid recipients with severe behavioral health disorders. The bill also requires DHS along with HCPF to create a behavioral health safety net system that increases treatment programs, develop funding models and define high intensity behavioral health treatment programs.

HB1131: Prescription Education

- Requires drug manufacturers to provide, in writing, whole sale acquisition cost to the prescriber.