

Prescription for Pennsylvania Related Legislation: 2006-2008 Session

Bill Number	Brief Description	Sponsor	Status
SB 246	Comprehensive Indoor Smoking Ban – bans smoking in most public indoor spaces	Greenleaf	Signed by the Governor on June 13, 2008- now Act 27 – effective as of September 11, 2008.
HB 1150	Requires private insurers to cover autism related care up to age 21; DPW will also expand needs based coverage. The Dept. of State will establish standards and licensing for professional behavioral specialists.	O'Brien	Signed by the Governor on July 09, 2008 – now Act 62.
HB 2088	Expands the scope of practice for physician assistants	Adolph	Signed by the Governor on July 04, 2008 – now Act 46.
HB 1199	Expands the scope of practice for physical therapy assistants	Thomas	Signed by the Governor on July 04, 2008 – now Act 38.
HB 1804	Expands the scope of practice for respiratory care therapists	Yudichak	Signed by the Governor on July 04, 2008 –now Act 45.
HB 1250	Expands scope of practice for pharmacists, and provides for licensing of pharmacy technicians.	Kula	Passed the House with vote of 201-0 on 12/03/2007. Senate took no action.
HB 1256	Expands scope of practice for certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs).	Gergely	Not considered by full chamber.
HB 1556	Allows children to remain under their parents' health insurance plan until age 30.	Longietti	Passed unanimously in the House on June 27, 2007. Senate took no action.
HB 1573	Creates the PA Center for Health Careers to address healthcare workforce issues, including shortages and lack of diversity.	Seip	Passed in the House, 192-8 on June 30, 2007. Senate took no action.
HB 2005	Has been amended to include community ratings, provisions for consistent rating factors for all products, rate bands standard basic insurance plans and requiring insurance companies have an 85% medical loss ratio for small groups. It would also grant the Insurance Commissioner the power to review rates.	DeLuca	Introduced November 14, 2007. Passed, as amended, by the House by a vote of 131-72, on April 01, 2008. Senate took no action.
HB 2625	Creates the County Access Program to help counties coordinate, facilitate, and expand access to quality affordable health care for uninsured and underinsured residents.	Pallone	Introduced in the House on June 13, 2008 and passed, as amended, by a vote of 199-0 on June 30, 2008. Senate took no action.
HB 2098	Would allow private insurance companies to refuse to pay for serious preventable adverse events.	DeLuca	Introduced on December 6, 2007. Passed by the House by a vote of 201-2 on April 01, 2008. Senate took no action.

SB 1137	Originally proposed one year extension to the Mcare abatement program, and has now been amended to include a new proposal PA ABC, a CAP like proposal providing access to care for the uninsured, continuing the physician Mcare abatement for 10 years and helping small businesses provide health care for their employees	D. White	Passed in the Senate 44-2, on October 30, 2007. Was passed, as amended, by the House by a vote of 118-81 on March 17, 2008 Senate took no action.
SB 1355	Amends the Mcare act to include Pennsylvania Access to Basic Care, or PA ABC. PA ABC would offer affordable health care coverage to eligible adults, individuals, employees and employers.	Hughes	Not considered by full chamber.
SB 1356	Continues the Mcare program for the next 10 years and provides relief for eligible small employers offering health care coverage to their employees through CARE grants.	Costa	Not considered by full chamber.