

## 2015 Session: Health Policy Bill Tracking List

*Status current as of June 10, 2015*

Total bills tracked by CHI during 2015 session: **66** (42 House bills and 24 Senate bills)

Pass/Fail ratio for all bills introduced during 2015 session: **367/315**

Pass/Fail ratio for health bills tracked by CHI: **34/32**

House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee bills assigned/passed by committee: **54/45**

House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee bills assigned/passed by committee: **43/36**

Senate Health and Human Services Committee bills assigned/passed by committee: **59/55**

### HOUSE BILLS

#### **House Bill 15-1015: Interstate Compact for EMS Providers**

Sponsors: Rep. Faith Winter (D), Sen. John Cooke (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Allows the governor to enter into compacts with other states to allow their emergency medical services providers to work in Colorado.

#### **House Bill 15-1023: Day Treatment Center Age of Children Served**

Sponsors: Rep. Susan Lontine (D), Sen. Irene Aguilar (D)

Status: Governor signed

- Expands age eligibility for people attending day treatment centers from 5-18 years to 3-21 years. Day treatment centers serve as alternative to out-of-home placement for young people with developmental disabilities or behavioral health issues.

#### **House Bill 15-1029: Health Care Delivery via Telemedicine Statewide**

Sponsors: Reps. Perry Buck (R) and Joann Ginal (D), Sens. John Kefalas (D) and Beth Martinez Humenik (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Changes the way that telehealth services are reimbursed by ending the county population limit (previously set at 150,000 people), making telehealth reimbursable statewide, and bars health plans from requiring in-person visits when telehealth is deemed an appropriate alternative.

#### **House Bill 15-1032: Licensed Mental Health Professionals to Treat Minors**

Sponsors: Rep. Jonathan Singer (D), Sen. Irene Aguilar (D)

Status: Governor signed

- Expands the types of professionals who may provide mental health care for minors age 15 and older.



**House Bill 15-1033: Strategic Planning Group on Aging**

Sponsors: Rep. Dianne Primavera (D), Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Establishes a strategic action planning group, appointed by the governor, to study issues related to the growing group of aging Colorado residents (50+) and issue a comprehensive action plan.

**House Bill 15-1039: Prescription Give-back for Institutions**

Sponsors: Rep. Max Tyler (D), Sen. Tim Neville (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Allows nursing homes and other institutions to donate unused, unexpired prescription medications to non-profits for use by other patients.

**House Bill 15-1041: Protect Human Life at Conception**

Sponsors: Reps. Steve Humphrey (R) and Kim Ransom (R), Sen. Kevin Lundberg (R)

Status: Failed to Pass House Judiciary Committee

- Would have made it a class 3 felony for a doctor to perform an abortion, with exceptions.

**House Bill 15-1066: Repeal the Health Benefit Exchange**

Sponsors: Rep. Janak Joshi (R), Sen. Kevin Lundberg (R)

Status: Failed to Pass House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee

- Would have ended Connect for Health Colorado, the state health insurance marketplace.

**House Bill 15-1067: Continuing Professional Development for Psychologists**

Sponsors: Reps. Tracy Kraft-Tharp (D) and Lois Landgraf (R), Sen. Linda Newell (D)

Status: Governor signed

- Requires continuing professional development for licensed psychologists.

**House Bill 15-1075: Registered Naturopathic Doctor Treating Children**

Sponsors: Rep. Joann Ginal (D), Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Allows registered naturopathic doctors to treat children under two years of age.

**House Bill 15-1079: Teen Pregnancy and Dropout Prevention Program Funding**

Sponsors: Reps. Don Coram (R) and Jessie Danielson (D), Sen. Ellen Roberts (R)

Status: Failed to Pass Senate Finance Committee

- Would have appropriated general fund money for the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing's teen pregnancy and dropout prevention program.



**House Bill 15-1083: Patient Contribution to Rehabilitation Services**

Sponsors: Rep. Dianne Primavera (D), Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Requires a study on patient cost-sharing for rehab services by the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care, with a report due by November 1, 2015. Includes an appropriation of \$25,000. The bill originally sought to make rehabilitation services more affordable by prohibiting their classification as “specialty services” and limiting copayments for PT, OT and chiropractic services to half of what carriers pay the provider for the visit. Had threat of another governor veto.

**House Bill 15-1088: Interagency Farm-to-School Grant Program**

Sponsors: Rep. Faith Winter (D), Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: Failed to Pass Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

- Would have created grants to use local produce in school lunch programs.

**House Bill 15-1097: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Commission and Screening**

Sponsors: Rep. Beth McCann (D), Sen. Linda Newell (D)

Status: Failed to Pass Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

- Would have created a fetal alcohol spectrum disorders commission.

**House Bill 15-1111: Maternal Mortality Prevention Act**

Sponsors: Rep. Beth McCann (D), Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: Failed to Pass Senate Finance Committee

- Would have created a Maternal Mortality Prevention Committee under the state’s Department of Public Health and Environment.

**House Bill 15-1128: Women's Health Protection Act**

Sponsors: Rep. Patrick Neville (R), Sen. Tim Neville (R)

Status: Failed to Pass House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee

- Would have required physicians at an abortion clinic to have admitting privileges at a hospital within 30 miles of the clinic.

**House Bill 15-1135: Terminally Ill Individuals’ End-of-life Decisions**

Sponsors: Reps. Lois Court (D) and Joann Ginal (D), Sen. Lucia Guzman (D)

Status: Failed to Pass House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee

- Would have allowed adult Colorado residents with a terminal illness (determined to have six months or less to live) to request drugs to end their lives.

**House Bill 15-1141: Hospital Provider Fee on Patient Billing Statements**

Sponsors: Rep. Janak Joshi (R), Sen. Tim Neville (R)

Status: Failed to Pass House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee

- Would have required that the hospital provider fee be listed on patient billing statements.



**House Bill 15-1143: Tax Incentive for Home Health Care**

Sponsors: Rep. Kathleen Conti (R), Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Finance Committee**

- Would have allowed seniors 75 and older to get a tax benefit for home health care equipment and services that enable them to age in their homes longer.

**House Bill 15-1147: Require License to Practice Genetic Counseling**

Sponsors: Rep. Joann Ginal (D), Sen. Nancy Todd (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee**

- Would have required people who provide genetic counseling to be licensed by the state.

**House Bill 15-1151: Floor for Medicaid Provider Rates**

Sponsors: Rep. Bob Rankin (R), Sen. Kent Lambert (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee**

- Would have set a floor for state payment to Medicaid providers by raising all Medicaid reimbursement rates to at least 60 percent of Medicare rates. If no comparable Medicare rates exist, Medicaid reimbursements would have been raised to the average fair market rate.

**House Bill 15-1163: Contingent Repeal of Health Insurance Laws Aligning With the ACA**

Sponsors: Rep. Gordon Klingenschmitt (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee**

- Would have repealed all Colorado laws related to the Affordable Care Act, but only if the federal health care law is repealed.

**House Bill 15-1164: Postponement of Jury Service for Breast-feeding**

Sponsors: Rep. Brittany Pettersen (D), Sen. Andy Kerr (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Allows a person who is breast-feeding to postpone jury duty.

**House Bill 15-1175: Prohibit Conversion Therapy**

Sponsors: Rep. Paul Rosenthal (D), Sen. Pat Steadman (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee**

- Would have banned psychiatrists and mental health professionals from engaging in conversion therapy designed to address sexual orientation or gender identity with patients under age 18.

**House Bill 15-1182: Scope of Practice of Certified Nurse Aides**

Sponsors: Reps. Susan Lontine (D) and Lois Landgraf (R), Sen. Irene Aguilar (D)

Status: **Became law without governor's signature** (A bill becomes law if the governor fails to sign or veto it within 10 days of passage during the session.)

- Expands the scope of practice for certified nurse aides.



**House Bill 15-1194: Authorize General Fund Dollars for LARC Services**

Sponsors: Reps. K.C. Becker (D) and Don Coram (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee**

- Would have allocated \$5 million in state funding to continue a family planning program that provides long-acting reversible contraceptives, including IUDs, to low-income women. The program was previously grant funded.

**House Bill 15-1226: Retail Food Establishment Fees**

Sponsors: Rep. K.C. Becker (D), Sen. Mary Hodge (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Establishes a stakeholder process in summer/fall 2015 for the retail food industry, counties and local public health agencies to develop recommendations to address the annual license fee and other issues affecting food establishments. Originally would have increased funding for food inspections to reduce the payment burden on county governments and local public health agencies, as they are not fully paid for by annual licensing fees.

**House Bill 15-1232: Emergency Use of Epinephrine Auto-injectors**

Sponsors: Reps. Joann Ginal (D) and Lois Landgraf (R), Sens. Nancy Todd (D) and Beth Martinez Humenik (R)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Grants permission for a broader set of organizations – currently limited to schools – to stock epinephrine auto-injectors, which counter the effects of severe allergic reactions.

**House Bill 15-1233: Respite Care Study Task Force**

Sponsors: Rep. Lois Landgraf (R), Sen. Irene Aguilar (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Creates a nine-member task force to study respite care services in the state.

**House Bill 15-1238: Tax Credit for Preceptors in Health Professional Shortage Areas**

Sponsors: Rep. Perry Buck (R), Sen. John Cooke (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Appropriations Committee**

- Would have granted tax credits to health care professionals training others to practice in underserved areas.

**House Bill 15-1242: Patient Caregiver Designation Hospital Requirement**

Sponsors: Rep. Jessie Danielson (D), Sen. Irene Aguilar (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Requires that hospitals ask patients or their guardians to designate a caregiver within 24 hours of arriving at the hospital.



**House Bill 15-1258: FAMILI Insurance Program Wage Replacement**

Sponsors: Reps. Faith Winter (D) and John Salazar (D), Sen. Jessie Ulibarri (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass Third Reading on House Floor**

- Proposed the creation of the family and medical leave insurance (FAMILI) program. The bill would have provided partial wages to workers who take time off for serious health conditions or to care for babies or sick family members.

**House Bill 15-1281: Newborn Heart Defect Screening Pulse Oximetry**

Sponsors: Rep. Dianne Primavera (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Requires that all newborns born below an elevation of 7,000 feet be screened for congenital health defects using a pulse oximeter.

**House Bill 15-1283: Marijuana Reference Library and Lab Testing Access**

Sponsors: Rep. Steve Lebsack (R), Sen. Chris Holbert (R)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Creates a reference library for marijuana testing under the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

**House Bill 15-1297: Optometrist Health Insurance Contracts**

Sponsors: Reps. Joann Ginal (D) and Janak Joshi (R), Sens. Irene Aguilar (D) and Kevin Lundberg (R)

Status: **Failed to Obtain Second Reading on House Floor**

- Would have prohibited insurance carriers who offer plans for optometric services from doing several things, including limiting the fees that optometrists may charge for services and requiring optometrists to participate in the carriers' other plans or networks.

**House Bill 15-1298: Warn Pregnant Women of Marijuana Risks**

Sponsors: Reps. Jack Tate (R) and Jonathan Singer (D), Sens. Linda Newell (D) and Beth Martinez Humenik (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee**

- A re-worked version of House Bill 1036, which failed; would have required warnings for pregnant women about the dangers of marijuana use by posting information at retail and medical marijuana centers.

**House Bill 15-1309: Protective Restorations by Dental Hygienists**

Sponsors: Rep. Joann Ginal (D), Sen. Larry Crowder

Status: **Governor signed**

- Allows qualified dental hygienists to perform certain procedures under remote supervision ("teledentistry") and requires Medicaid and the Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) public insurance programs to reimburse providers for those services.



**House Bill 15-1318: Consolidate Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waivers**

Sponsors: Rep. Dave Young (D), Sen. Kevin Grantham (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Creates a single Medicaid waiver for home- and community-based services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**House Bill 15-1367: Retail Marijuana Taxes**

Sponsors: Rep. Millie Hamner (D), Sen. Pat Steadman (D) (*plus additional JBC members, House Speaker and Senate President*)

Status: Governor signed

- Refers a ballot issue to voters in November 2015 asking their permission (again) for the state to keep retail marijuana tax revenue. If the ballot measure is defeated, the bill lays out how the money will be spent.

**House Bill 15-1379: Marijuana Permitted Economic Interest Registration**

Sponsors: Rep. Dan Pabon (D), Sen. Owen Hill (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Creates a registration for both medical and retail marijuana systems for individuals or companies who enter into financial arrangements with unaffiliated licensees.

**House Bill 15-1387: End Transfer of Medical Marijuana to Retail Marijuana**

Sponsors: Reps. Dan Pabon (D) and Bob Rankin (R), Sens. Pat Steadman (D) and Kent Lambert (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Prevents licensed medical marijuana dispensaries from transferring their medical marijuana inventory to retail inventory if/when their application for a retail marijuana license is approved. Takes effect for FY 2016-17.

**House Bill 15-1389: Create New Hospital Provider Fee Enterprise**

Sponsors: Reps. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D) and Lois Court (D), Sen. Pat Steadman (D)

Status: Failed to Pass Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee

- Would have reclassified the Hospital Provider Fee as an enterprise fund, which would mean that the more than \$600 million collected annually through the fee would no longer count toward the TABOR limit, for FY 2016-17. Projections show that TABOR refunds would be avoided for years if Provider Fee revenue no longer counted toward the cap.





## SENATE BILLS

### **Senate Bill 15-014: Medical Marijuana Regulation**

Sponsors: Sen. Irene Aguilar (D), Rep. Jonathan Singer (D)

Status: [Governor signed](#)

- Tightens regulation over caregivers, or people who provide medical marijuana to patients outside of the retail setting.

### **Senate Bill 15-015: Mental Health Parity for Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Sponsors: Sen. John Kefalas (D), Rep. Dianne Primavera (D)

Status: [Governor signed](#)

- Requires insurance coverage parity for autism spectrum disorders.

### **Senate Bill 15-019: Health Exchange Audit**

Sponsors: Sens. Jerry Sonnenberg (R) and Cheri Jahn (D), Rep. Dan Nordberg (R)

Status: [Governor signed](#)

- Requires a detailed audit of the state health insurance marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado.

### **Senate Bill 15-052: Health Benefit Exchange Review Committee Approval**

Sponsors: Sen. Larry Crowder (R), Rep. Jon Keyser (R)

Status: [Failed to Pass House Health, Insurance and Environment Committee](#)

- Would have required legislative permission to grant bonuses to Connect for Health Colorado staff.

### **Senate Bill 15-053: Dispense Supply of Emergency Drugs for Overdose Victims**

Sponsors: Sen. Irene Aguilar (D), Reps. Beth McCann (D) and Susan Lontine (D)

Status: [Governor signed](#)

- Provides emergency supplies of naloxone (a proven anti-overdose drug) to first responders, treatment center staff, people at risk of overdose, and their family and friends.

### **Senate Bill 15-071: Pharmacists Substituting Interchangeable Biological Drugs**

Sponsors: Sens. Cheri Jahn (D) and Owen Hill (R), Reps. Beth McCann (D) and Lois Landgraf (R)

Status: [Governor signed](#)

- Allows a pharmacist to substitute drugs equivalent to medication prescribed by a doctor, also known as "biosimilars."

### **Senate Bill 15-074: Transparency in Direct Pay Health Care Prices**

Sponsors: Sen. Tim Neville (R), Rep. Janak Joshi (R)

Status: [Failed to Pass House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee](#)

- Would have required health care facilities to disclose direct pay prices for health services.





**Senate Bill 15-077: Parent’s Bill of Rights**

Sponsors: Sen. Tim Neville (R), Rep. Patrick Neville (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee**

- Would have broadened parental control (and limited state regulation) related to the education and physical and mental health care of minors.

**Senate Bill 15-081: Use Lottery Money for Recreational Bicycle Trails**

Sponsors: Sen. Larry Crowder (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate Finance Committee**

- Would have devoted lottery money to building more bicycle trails.

**Senate Bill 15-116: Needle-stick Prevention**

Sponsors: Sen. Pat Steadman (D), Rep. Alec Garnett (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Helps prevent police officers from getting stuck by drug needles during searches by allowing drug users to avoid a charge of possessing drug paraphernalia if they warn an officer they are carrying a needle or other sharp object prior to being searched.

**Senate Bill 15-123: Patient Choosing a Pharmacy to Fill Prescriptions**

Sponsors: Sen. Larry Crowder (R), Rep. Dianne Primavera (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass Second Reading in the Senate**

- Would have allowed customers to choose any pharmacy in their health insurance network to fill their prescriptions.

**Senate Bill 15-125: Statewide Registry for Advance Directives**

Sponsors: Sen. Pat Steadman (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee**

- Would have established a statewide registry of advance directives, which include information such as a declaration of desired medical treatment and medical power of attorney.

**Senate Bill 15-136: Labeling Of Retail Marijuana Packaging**

Sponsors: Sen. Owen Hill (R), Rep. Dan Pabon (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate Health and Human Services Committee**

- Would have repealed the Department of Revenue’s authority to regulate labeling of retail marijuana and instituted new requirements for retail marijuana labels.

**Senate Bill 15-137: PACE Program Flexibility for Business Entity**

Sponsors: Sen. David Balmer (R), Reps. Brian DelGrosso (R) and Joann Ginal (D)

Status: **Governor signed**

- Allows for-profit companies offer the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE).



**Senate Bill 15-192: Therapeutic Drug Selections for Long-term Care**

Sponsors: Sen. Irene Aguilar (D), Rep. Janak Joshi (R)

Status: Governor signed

- Allows pharmacists to provide therapeutic alternative drugs to patients in nursing care facilities or long-term-care hospitals.

**Senate Bill 15-197: Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriptive Authority**

Sponsors: Sens. Larry Crowder (R) and Cheri Jahn (D), Reps. Yeulin Willett (R) and Rhonda Fields (D)

Status: Governor signed

- Lowers the time requirement for APNs to qualify as medication prescribers from 3,600 hours to 1,000 hours, as long as they have at least three years of experience. It also allows APNs with prescriptive authority to serve as mentors for APNs in training.

**Senate Bill 15-214: Interim Committee on Safe Schools and Youth Mental Health**

Sponsors: Sens. Mark Scheffel (R) and Bill Cadman (R), Reps. Crisanta Duran (D) and Dickey Lee Hulinghorst (D)

Status: Governor signed

- Creates a school safety and youth mental health committee to evaluate student support programs and threat prevention.

**Senate Bill 15-228: Medicaid Provider Rate Review**

Sponsors: Sen. Pat Steadman (D), Rep. Bob Rankin (R)

Status: Governor signed

- A response to the failed House Bill 1151; establishes a periodic review of Medicaid provider rates so that every rate is reviewed once every five years, and creates a review advisory committee whose members are appointed by the leadership in both chambers.

**Senate Bill 15-256: Colorado Health Insurance Exchange Oversight Committee**

Sponsors: Sen. Ellen Roberts (R), Rep. Beth McCann (D)

Status: Governor signed

- Increases both the number of meetings of the legislature's health insurance exchange review committee and the number of bills the committee can introduce, and changes the committee's name.

**Senate Bill 15-259: Out-of-Network Health Care Provider Charges**

Sponsors: Sen. Irene Aguilar (D), Rep. Susan Lontine (D)

Status: Failed to Pass Senate Business, Labor and Technology Committee

- Would have limited out-of-network charges to consumers. The final version of the bill would have banned out-of-network physicians from charging patients more than their maximum deductible and co-payment amounts, though amendments were proposed to focus primarily on increasing transparency through information disclosure ("know before you owe").



**Senate Bill 15-274: Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Soft Drinks**

Sponsors: Sen. David Balmer (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Local Government Committee**

- Would have reinstated a sales tax exemption for soft drinks sold in Colorado that was removed in 2010. Estimated fiscal impact of \$15 million in lost tax revenue.

**Senate Bill 15-275: Protections for Information Provided to the General Assembly**

Sponsors: Sens. Kent Lambert (R) and Morgan Carroll (D), Reps. Dickey Lee Hullinghorst (D) and Dave Young (D) *(plus additional leadership in both chambers)*

Status: **Failed to Pass Second Reading in the Senate**

- Would have required that the general assembly and its members be considered a “health oversight agency” under federal law when any legislator receives confidential (i.e., individually identifiable) health information during the session. The bill would also have changed the state whistleblower protection law to protect state employees who provide information to legislators.

**Senate Bill 15-285: A Woman's Right to Accurate Healthcare Information**

Sponsors: Sen. Tim Neville (R), Reps. Patrick Neville (R) and Lori Saine (R)

Status: **Failed to Pass Senate Health and Human Services Committee**

- Would have required abortion providers to offer women seeking an abortion an ultrasound photo of the fetus, a description of the fetus’s development and ability to feel pain, and other information at least 24 hours prior to performing an abortion.

**Senate Bill 15-289: Cap Fee Increases for Assisted Living Residences**

Sponsors: Sen. Larry Crowder (R), Rep. Dianne Primavera (D)

Status: **Failed to Pass House Finance Committee**

- Would have applied an “inflation rate limitation” on fee increases assessed against assisted living residences, which are not included in the group of health facilities subject to the limitation.

