

LEGISLATION OF INTEREST TO NAMI PA

**2006-2007 Legislative Session**

Legislation marked in bold indicates bills that are under active consideration either by a committee or the full House or Senate. These bills should receive your immediate attention. If you have concerns or views on the bills, please communicate them to NAMI PA. Legislation marked in red reflects new bills and activity since the last report.

Bill Information: To access a copy of any of the bills mentioned below, go to: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us> Then, click on "Session" and then click "Electronic Bill Room." Follow the prompts for accessing the actual bill. At this site, you can obtain the complete text of the bill, view the cosponsors, and review the latest legislative activity.

NAMI Position: If NAMI PA has formed an opinion on a particular bill, that information will be provided in the description of the bill in the chart below. If you would like additional legislative information or information on the bills mentioned below, please contact James W. Jordan, Jr., Executive Director of NAMI PA.

February 13, 2006

Bill No.	Sponsor	Description	Date	Action
<b>HB 15 PN3448</b>	<b>DiGirolamo (R-Bucks)</b>	<b>Substance Abuse Education and Demand Reduction Fund</b>	<b>08/25/05 11/22/05 01/30/06</b>	<b>House Judiciary Reported Passed by House (194-0)</b>
<b>HB 49 PN2108</b>	<b>Petrone</b>	<b>MH/MR Staff Member Loan Forgiveness</b>	<b>01/25/05 05/03/05 05/11/05 06/06/05 06/06/05 06/07/05 06/13/05</b>	<b>Health&amp;HumanServices Reported Referred to Appropriations Reported Passed by House (197-0) Senate Education</b>
<b>HB 201 PN1120</b>	<b>Nailor (R-</b>	<b>Moratorium on the closure of state mental health or mental retardation facilities until a study can be performed</b>	<b>02/08/05 03/15/05 03/29/05 05/02/05</b>	<b>Health&amp;HumanServices Reported H.Appropriations Reported w/request to recommit to Health &amp; Human Services</b>
<b>HB 433 PN 472</b>	<b>Maitland (R-Adams)</b>	<b>Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act further refining and defining conditions for involuntary treatment</b>	<b>02/14/05 03/15/05 03/15/05 06/21/05</b>	<b>H.Health&amp;Human Services Reported w/request to be referred to Judiciary House Judiciary Scheduled/Not considered</b>

HB 499 PN 538	Gannon (R- Delaware)	Mental health insurance parity.	02/14/05	H. Insurance
HB 591 PN 664	Barrar (R- Chester)	Prohibits school officials or employees from recommending that a child use psychotropic or sympathomimetic drugs.	02/16/05	H. Education
HB 815 PN2568	Feese (R- Lycoming)	State Budget FY 05-06	03/14/05 07/06/05 07/07/05 07/07/05	H. Appropriations Passed Senate Passed House <b>Signed by Governor Line Item Veto</b>
<b>HB1052 PN1872</b>	<b>Smith (R- Armstrong)</b>	<b>Prevents DPW from implementing additional access restrictions to pharmaceuticals; NAMI lobbied successful to amend the bill with an exemption for mental health drugs</b>	<b>03/21/05 04/03/05 05/11/05</b>	<b>H.Health&amp;Human Services Amended &amp; Reported H. Appropriations</b>

<p>HB1168 PN2560</p>	<p>Habay (R-Pitts.)</p>	<p>Ultimately amended to include the Governor's proposed benefit changes to the Medical Assistance Program NAMI PA worked to have the bill amended to eliminate cuts to behavioral health services; ultimately, the Governor's proposed caps on hospitals and monthly script limits were eliminated, but limits to certain behavioral health services remain. While NAMI also worked in support of a mental health exemption to the preferred drug list (PDL), a broad exemption was not included, but language was included to require DPW to consider destabilizing effects of changing the medication for a person with mental illness. Of most concern is language the allows DPW to modify benefits until 12/05, without going through the standard regulatory review process.</p>	<p>07/06/05 07/06/05 07/07/05</p>	<p>Passed by House (197-1) Passed by Senate (43-7) <b>Signed by Gov. as Act 42 of 2005</b></p>
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HB1233 PN1446	Leach (D-Montco)	Mental Health Courts	03/30/05	H. Judiciary
HB1307 PN1555	Washington (D-Phila.)	Mental Health Courts	04/11/05	H. Judiciary
HB1370 PN2106	Wpjnaroski (D-Cambria)	Provides for a certification program in certain facilities that offer cognitive support services.	04/14/05 06/07/05 06/07/05 09/26/05 11/20/05	Aging & Older Adult Services Reported as amended Rules Reported & Tabled Off and On Table
HB1372 PN1660	Fairchild (R-Snyder)	Regulating the closure of state operated mental health facilities.	04/14/05	H. Health & Human Services
HB1422 PN1717	Washington (D-Phila.)	Requiring school boards to adopt policies concerning the use of psychotropic drugs.	04/26/05	H. Education
HB1488 PN1831	Kenney (R-Phila.)	Requires health care providers to provide information relating to pre- and post-natal depression to pregnant women.	05/03/05 05/03/05 05/10/05 05/24/05	H. Health & Human Services Reported Passed by House (197-0) Sen. Public Health & Welfare
HB1497 PN1988	Kenney (R-Phila.)	Health Care Provider Retention Program	05/02/05	Health & Human Services

<b>HB1500 PN1813</b>	<b>Veon (D- Beaver)</b>	<b>DPW's proposed changes to Medical Assistance that limit access to provider, inpatient and outpatient services and prescription drugs through a PDL and script limits.</b>  <b>NAMI OPPOSES CAPS ON SERVICES AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO MEDICATIONS</b>  <b>Some of these changes were amended into HB 1168 and signed into law.</b>	<b>05/03/05</b>	<b>H.Health&amp; Human Services</b>
HB1593 PN1999	J.Taylor (R-Phila.)	Prohibits insurers from denying coverage for a drug solely because it is being used off-label.	05/27/05	Health & Human Services
HB1683 PN2128	Bishop (D-Phila.)	Provides for involuntary commitment of drug-dependent persons.	06/08/05	Health & Human Services
<b>HB1773 PN2268</b>	<b>DiGirolamo (R-Bucks)</b>	<b>Creates the Dept. of Drug and Alcohol Programs</b>	<b>06/21/05</b>	<b>Health &amp; Human Services</b>
<b>HB1813 PN3214</b>	<b>Kenney (R-Phila.)</b>	<b>Provides for COLAs for county MH/MR workers</b>	<b>06/29/05 10/26/05 12/05/05 01/24/06</b>	<b>Health &amp; Human Services Public Hearing Reported w/amendment &amp; Tabled Passed (194-0)</b>

<b>HB2082 PN3152</b>	<b>Allen (R-Pottsville)</b>	<b>Spending Cap legislation; Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR)</b>  *efforts to provides some exemptions; but reluctance on part of legislators to open bill to amendments because all interest groups will want exemptions	<b>10/19/05 10/19/05 11/1/05 11/14/05 10/15/05 11/21/05 11/22/05</b>	<b>House Appropriations Reported as amended Passed (110-87) Senate Finance Reported as amended Passed (31-18) House Rules</b>
<b>HR 119 PN 724</b>	<b>Bebko-Jones (D-Erie)</b>	A resolution recognizing youth mental illness and suicide as a state public health crisis and encouraging evidence-based initiatives to screen children and youth for mental disorders to identify illness and prevent suicide.	03/01/05	H. Health & Human Services
<b>HR398 PN2468</b>	<b>Walko (D-Allegheny)</b>	A resolution calling upon the President and US Congress to reconsider cuts to the Medicaid program	07/02/05	Health & Human Services
<b>HR 490 PN2958</b>	<b>Kenney (R-Phila.)</b>	<b>Resolution urging the Administration to rescind cost-sharing requirements for Medical Assistance recipients</b>	<b>11/14/05</b>	<b>Adopted by House (195-0)</b>

HR 585 PN3537	Marsico (R-Dauphin)	Resolution directing the Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Programs of the Department of Health to establish a parent panel to study & address family & community access to alcohol & drug abuse & addiction treatment services.	02/10/06	Health & Human Services
SB 107 PN 97	Mellow (D-Lackawanna	The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Facility Security Act, requires facilities to keep record of reported crimes.	03/31/05	S. Public Health & Welfare
SB 213 PN 205	Greenleaf (R-Montco)	Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act to add a section to include assisted outpatient treatment.	02/08/05	S. Public Health & Welfare
<b>SB 229 PN 980</b>	<b>Piccola (R-Dauphin)</b>	<b>Imposes a moratorium on the closure of MH and MR facilities until the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee can study the availability of services.</b>	<b>02/10/05 03/15/05 04/06/05 04/11/05 06/21/05 07/01/05 07/02/05 10/19/05</b>	<b>S. Public Health &amp; Welfare Reported Passed by Senate (26-19) H. Health &amp; Human Serv. Reported Appropriations Reported Referred to Rules</b>
SB 315 PN 327	Stack (D-Phila.)	Creates the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness Program	02/16/05	S. Education

SB 371 PN 372	Orie (R- Pitts.)	Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act to provide for aftercare plans for persons under treatment prior to discharge from treatment.	03/10/05	S.PublicHealth&Welfare
SB 372 PN 373	Orie (R- Pitts.)	Amends the Public Welfare Code to provide for a grant program for the empowerment of mental health clients and family members.	03/10/05	S.PublicHealth&Welfare
SB 373 PN 374	Orie (R- Pitts.)	Provides for a minimum wage for full-time MH/MR direct care workers employed in publicly funded programs.	03/10/05	S. PublicHealth&Welfare
SB 374 PN375	Orie (R- Pitts.)	Provides for Mental Health Courts	03/10/05	S. Judiciary
<b>SB 413 PN 438</b>	<b>Rhoades (R-Berks)</b>	<b>Creates the MH/MR Staff Member Loan Forgiveness Program</b>	<b>03/21/05 05/11/05 06/06/05</b>	<b>S. Education Reported S. Appropriations</b>
SB 415 PN 417	Orie (R- Pitts.)	Provides for a Drug Court division	03/16/05	S. Judiciary
SB657 PN751	Orie (R- Pitts.)	Provides for involuntary out-patient commitment of sexually violent predators and a permanent tracking device attached to body.	04/28/05	S. Judiciary

<b>SB 699 PN836</b>	<b>Conti (R- Bucks)</b>	<b>Implements patient protection measures should DPW implement a PDL</b>	<b>05/23/05</b>	<b>Public Health &amp; Welfare</b>
<b>SB 850 PN1096</b>	<b>Orie (R- Pitts.)</b>	<b>Amends Vehicle Code dealing with competency to drive and medications</b>	<b>09/08/05</b>	<b>Senate Transportation</b>
<b>SB1006 PN1344</b>	<b>Erickson (R-Delco)</b>	<b>COLA for MH/MR workers</b>	<b>11/14/05</b>	<b>Public Health &amp; Welfare</b>
SB1061PN1463	Regola (R- Westmore- land)	Provides for the chemical treatment  (medroxyprogesterone acetate) of certain sex offenders.	01/24/06	Judiciary
SB1070 PN1469	Greenleaf (R-Montco)	Act establishing a civil procedure for the involuntary commitment of sexually dangerous persons	01/24/06	Judiciary
SB1085 PN1504	Ferlo (D- Allegheny)	Providing for a statewide comprehensive health care system; establishing the PA Health Care plan & establishing the PA Health Care Agency, the Employer Health Svcs Levy, the Individual Wellness Tax & the PA Health Care Board.	02/06/06	Health & Human Services

SR 36 PN 474	Orie (R- Pitts.)	<b>A Concurrent Resolution creating a task force to study the availability and accessibility of services for persons with mental illness.</b>	03/23/04	<b>S.PublicHealth&amp;Welfare</b>
SR 154 PN1063	Orie (R- Pitts.)	<b>A resolution memorializing the US Congress to review and consider the Nat'l Governors Assn. recommendations which would allow states to utilize greater flexibility in their provision of Medicaid services</b>	07/03/05	<b>Introduced &amp; Adopted</b>
SR 166 PN1139	Orie (R- Pitts.)	A resolution recognizing youth mental illness and suicide as a public health crisis and encouraging evidence-based initiatives to screen children and adolescents for mental disorders in order to identify illness and prevent suicide among youths.	09/26/05	Senate Aging & Youth
SR 186 PN1163	Washington (D-	A resolution proclaiming Oct. 6 as National Depression Screening Day	09/28/05	Adopted