



Issues Management • Public Relations • Coalition/Grassroots Development

## NAMI PA Bill Tracking Report

12-03-2007 - 16:41:12

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[HB 54](#)   [Frankel](#)   (PN 79) Amends the Mental Health or Mental Retardation Facility Closure Act providing for proceeds from sales of closed facilities by adding that if a closed facility is sold, the proceeds would come back to the Department and used for community-health based services.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0079](#)

**Bill History:** 01-19-07 H Filed  
01-30-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 80](#)   [Leach](#)   (PN 104) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) providing for a judicial district to apply for a grant to establish a mental health court division. The mental health court division will provide a single point of contact where a defendant with a mental illness may receive court-ordered treatment and support services in connection with a diversion from prosecution, a sentencing alternative or a term of probation or parole. The Administrative Office, consulting with the Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Corrections, and the PA Board of Probation and Parole, will establish standards, funding schedules, and procedures for awarding grants to establish the mental health court division. The bill provides guidelines for establishing these grants.

**Companions:** [HB 1233](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)  
[HB 1307](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)  
[SB 374](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)  
[SB 587](#) (Identical)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0104](#)

**Bill History:** 01-25-07 H Filed  
01-30-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[HB 83](#)   [DeLuca](#)   (PN 2265) Amends the Public Welfare Code providing for reporting requirements; further providing for assistance recipient identification program; providing for income eligibility verification system; further providing for local administration of assistance; providing for fraud detection system and for residency and county assistance offices; and requiring the Department of Public Welfare to

provide personal care home information on the department's Internet website. The secretary would be required to submit and post on its website a copy of certain documents which the department submits to the Federal Department of Health and Human Services under TANF for the federal fiscal year. A photograph of the recipient of benefits would be placed upon each electronic benefits transfer card. The legislation provides for the creation of an income eligibility verification system to eliminate duplication of assistance and deter fraud. The system would require an applicant to provide his Social Security number which would be matched with several different databases. The bill provides for resolution of a discrepancy. Each county would be required to establish procedures to identify, investigate and resolve potential cases of fraud prior to determining an applicant's eligibility for assistance. An individual applying for assistance must do so at the assistance office closest to the residence of the applicant. Lastly, the Department would be required to provide certain personal care home information on its website. The department may remove information from its website that is required to be posted under this section after it has been posted for a period of five years or longer. (Prior Printer Number: 107, 2234)

**Specific Remarks:** Contains several welfare reform initiatives

**Printer Number(s):** [P0107](#) [P2234](#) [P2265](#)

**Bill History:** 07-12-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
 07-12-07 H Laid out for discussion  
 07-12-07 H Third consideration  
 07-12-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:197/N: 1)  
 07-14-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare

[HB 92](#) [Youngblood](#) (PN 116) Amends the Public Welfare Code further defining "assistance group" by adding that if eligible for temporary assistance to needy families, at the option of the applicant or recipient, the assistance group must exclude any child who receives support payments or any Social Security benefits, including retirement, survivor or disability benefits, provided that such support or benefits are legally limited to the use of the child receiving them. The legislation also states that an applicant or recipient for temporary assistance to needy families may, at the option of that applicant or recipient, exclude from the assistance group any child who receives support payments or any Social Security benefits, including retirement, survivor or disability benefits, provided that such support or benefits are legally limited to the use of the child receiving them. Additionally, in making a determination of need the department would exclude all moneys received by any child which is excluded from the assistance group. Any moneys received under this exclusion would not be assigned under any circumstances to the department or the Commonwealth.

**Companions:** [HB 55](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0116](#)

**Bill History:** 01-25-07 H Filed  
01-30-07 H Introduced and referred to committee  
on House Health and Human Services

[HB 96](#) [Youngblood](#) (PN 120) Amends Title 20 (Decedents, Estates and Fiduciaries) providing for medical consent for a minor by an adult caregiver by adding that a parent, legal guardian or legal custodian may authorize an adult person in whose care a minor has been entrusted to consent to any medical, surgical, dental, developmental or mental health examination, diagnosis or treatment, including immunization, to be rendered to the minor under the supervision or upon the advice of a physician, nurse, dentist or mental health professional licensed to practice in PA; and to obtain any and all records with regard to such services; provided there is no prior order of any court in any jurisdiction currently in effect which would prohibit the parent, legal custodian or legal guardian from exercising the power that the parent, legal custodian or legal guardian seeks to convey to another person. The legislation provides an authorization form to be signed by the parent/legal guardian.

**Companions:** [HB 64](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0120](#)

**Bill History:** 01-25-07 H Filed  
01-30-07 H Introduced and referred to committee  
on House Children and Youth

[HB 165](#) [Boyd](#) (PN 191) The Mandated Benefit Moratorium Act would establish a moratorium during which the General Assembly would not enact any new or expanded health insurance policy mandated benefit. The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would study the issue of health insurance policy mandated benefits and the cost to employers and individuals of health insurance policy mandates. In conducting the study, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would consider cost-benefit analyses to determine the cost-effectiveness of mandated benefits. The Committee would submit a final report with recommendations to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2008.

**Companions:** [HB 738](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Specific Remarks:** Monitor with regard to mental health services and access to prescription drugs.

**General Remarks:** Prescription drugs or legislation limiting scope of PDLs can be interpreted as a mandated benefit. Need to monitor resolution.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0191](#)

**Bill History:** 01-31-07 H Filed  
02-01-07 H Introduced and referred to committee  
on House Insurance

[HB 282](#) [Petrone](#) (PN 985) The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Staff Member and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselor Loan Forgiveness Programs Act would provide loan forgiveness to PA residents who graduate from institutions of higher education and who apply their degrees to careers in mental health or alcohol and drug addiction counseling in PA. The bill states that loans may be forgiven over four years of full-time staff work. No more than \$5,000 would be forgiven in any year, and no more than \$20,000 would be forgiven for any applicant. The applicant would enter into a contract with the Commonwealth that states the recipient would agree to be employed by a county mental health or mental retardation service agency located within PA or by a private provider of mental health or mental retardation services for a period of no less than four years in the field. (Prior Printer Number: 314)

**Specific Remarks:** MH/MR Staff Worker Loan Forgiveness Program

**Printer Number(s):** [P0314](#) [P0985](#)

**Bill History:** 04-17-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
04-17-07 H Laid out for discussion  
04-17-07 H Third consideration  
04-17-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y: 191/N: 4)  
04-23-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to  
Senate Education

[HB 300](#) [Mundy](#) (PN 374) Amends the Insurance Company Law defining "medical necessity" as clinical determinations made by qualified trained health care providers, and set forth in writing to establish a service or benefit which will or is reasonably expected to (1) prevent the onset of an illness, condition or disability; (2) reduce or ameliorate the physical, mental, behavioral or developmental effects of an illness, condition, injury or disability; or (3) assist the individual to achieve or maintain maximum functional capacity in performing daily activities. The bill states that determinations that do not establish medical necessity for covered care and services must be documented in writing.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0374](#)

**Bill History:** 02-06-07 H Filed  
02-09-07 H Introduced and referred to committee  
on House Insurance

[HB 326](#) [Sturla](#) (PN 377) Amends Titles 18 (Crimes and Offenses) and 42 (Judiciary) providing for the offenses of criminal gang activity and criminal gang solicitation and recruitment; establishing the Criminal Gang Deterrence Fund; providing for disposition for criminal gang activity offenders; further providing for disposition of delinquent child and for controlled substance forfeiture; providing for alcohol and drug

treatment; imposing penalties; and making an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to the Criminal Gang Deterrence Fund for the fiscal year 2007-2008.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0377](#)

**Bill History:** 02-07-07 H Filed  
02-09-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary  
04-26-07 H Discussed in Public Hearing - 4/26/07, House Judiciary  
09-11-07 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 418, Main Capitol, House Judiciary  
09-11-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Judiciary

[HB 430](#) [Cappelli](#) (PN 498) Amends the Public Welfare Code by stating that adult family members would be required to participate at least twenty hours per week in employment or work-related or educational activities or training to be eligible for assistance for subsidized child day care.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0498](#)

**Bill History:** 02-13-07 H Filed  
02-26-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services  
06-21-07 H Meeting set for 9:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Bldg., House Health and Human Services  
06-21-07 H Passed over in committee House Health and Human Services

[HB 614](#) [DiGirolamo](#) (PN 680) Amends The Administrative Code establishing the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, which would include a Bureau of Prevention and Intervention, Bureau of Treatment and Bureau of Administration. The Department would develop and adopt a State plan for the control, prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, research, education, and training aspects of drug and alcohol abuse and dependence problems. The Pennsylvania Advisory Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse would be the advisory council to the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. The Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act would be repealed.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0680](#)

**Bill History:** 06-26-07 H Laid out for discussion  
06-26-07 H Third consideration  
06-26-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:197/N: 4)  
07-03-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Public Health and Welfare  
12-05-07 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 461 Main Capitol, Senate Public Health and Welfare

[HB 695](#) [Walko](#) (PN 781) The Private Care Residence Registration Act states that the owner or legal entity responsible for the operation of a private care residence would register annually with the department. At the initial registration with the department, the owner or legal

entity responsible for the operation of a private care residence would submit with the registration a report of criminal history record information from the Pennsylvania State Police. The bill states that the department may inspect a private care residence to determine if the facility has complied with the registration requirements of this act. The bill also states that the owner or legal entity responsible for the operation of a private care residence that fails to register with the department would be subject to a civil penalty of \$500.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0781](#)

**Bill History:** 03-07-07 H Filed  
03-09-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Aging and Older Adult Services

[HB 700](#) [Eachus](#)

(PN 1011) Amends Title 40 (Insurance) reforming the healthcare system by providing for access to affordable health insurance coverage for previously uninsured individuals. The Cover All Pennsylvanians health insurance program (CAP) would be established to assist certain small business employers to cover their uninsured employees and to provide access to affordable health insurance coverage for uninsured adults. The CAP Fund would be established as a restricted account in the General Fund that would get money from various sources including money appropriated for adultBasic or any alternative program to benefit persons of low-income under the Community Health Reinvestment Agreement of the Tobacco Settlement Act. Rates and premiums for CAP would be annually determined by the Insurance Department and could vary by region and contractor. Premiums of small low-wage employer participants and enrollees could not be increased higher than the average of the change in the medical care component of the Consumer Price Index and the change in the average wage for PA as determined by the Department of Labor and Industry. Premium discounts are further provided for. Each professional health service plan corporation and hospital plan corporation and their subsidiaries and affiliates doing business in PA would have to submit a bid or proposal to the department to carry out the purposes of this bill in the geographic area they cover. Other insurers could also submit a bid or proposal to carry out the purposes of this bill. The basic CAP benefit package would include preliminary and annual health assessments, emergency care, inpatient and outpatient care, prescription drugs, medical supplies and equipment, emergency dental care, maternity care, skilled nursing, home health and hospice care, chronic disease management, preventive and wellness care, and inpatient and outpatient behavioral health services. Pre-existing conditions would not exclude someone from enrollment. Each employer would be subject to a fair share tax as follows: (1) for fiscal years 2007-08 through 2009-10, 3% of the wages paid by the employer; (2) for fiscal years commencing after June

30, 2010, 3.5% of the wages paid by the employer. Tax credits are provided for beginning in FY 2007-08 at \$15,000 and reducing every year to \$0 in FY 2012-13 and every year thereafter. An employer that offers qualifying health care coverage to each of its employees who works 30 hours per week or more following no more than 90 days of continued employment could get a credit against the fair share tax in an amount equal to 3% of the employer's wages for fiscal years 2007-08 through 2009-10 and 3.5% of the employer's wages for fiscal years commencing after June 30, 2010. The Department of Labor and Industry, in consultation with the department, would have to determine whether the employer's offer is qualifying health care coverage. Penalties and enforcement for non-compliant employers are further provided for. Community rates and plans are also provided for as is mandatory coverage for students and certain children. By January 1, 2008, each hospital operating as a charitable institution would complete a community needs assessment and the terms uniform admission and fair billing and collection practices of hospitals are specifically provided for. A Pennsylvania Drug Retail Price Registry would be created for the purpose of making retail price information for the 150-most-frequently prescribed prescription drugs, together with their generic equivalents where applicable, readily available to consumers. A registry to be known as the Pennsylvania Hospital Payment Registry for the purpose of making readily available to consumers information regarding the payments received by hospitals for the 150-most-frequent admission diagnoses and the 150-most-frequently dispensed drugs would likewise be created as would the Pennsylvania Outpatient Procedure Payment Registry for the purpose of making readily available to consumers information regarding the payments received by ambulatory surgical facilities and imaging centers for the 50-most-frequent outpatient procedures. The Pennsylvania Center for Health Careers would be created within the department. The center would be charged with providing a focused direction and purpose for the development of strategies to address the state's short-term and long-term health care work force. Certifications for medical professionals are further provided for in the bill. Hospice licensure would be required. By September 1, 2008, all hospitals would have to use a uniform electronic surveillance system to report healthcare acquired infections. Nursing homes would report to the council the same infections and in the same manner that hospitals are required to report to the council under the Health Care Cost Containment Act. Standards to reduce healthcare acquired infections and medical errors would be established and a smoking plan in numerous public places is provided for with exceptions being provided for private homes, private residences and private automobiles, a hotel or motel room rented to one or more guests, retail tobacco businesses and cigar

bars.

**General Remarks:** Governor's Prescription for PA

**Printer Number(s):** [P1011](#)

**Bill History:** 05-17-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Insurance  
05-23-07 H Press conference held  
05-30-07 H Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Bucks Co. Bar Assn, 135 E. State, House Insurance  
05-30-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Insurance  
06-12-07 H Discussed in House Democrats press conference

[HB 802](#) [Phillips](#) (PN 921) The Residential Addiction Treatment Wait List Reduction Act establishes the Emergency Demand Reduction Program to reduce waiting lists for residential addiction treatment and to provide moneys to single county authorities to address the emergency waiting list for residential addiction treatment.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0921](#)

**Bill History:** 03-13-07 H Filed  
03-19-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 810](#) [Bishop](#) (PN 1883) The Residential Lease Protection for Illness Act states that, regarding residential leases, a landlord must provide access to the tenant's dwelling by a person designated under a durable power of attorney, by an attorney-in-fact, or by the tenant or appointed guardian of the tenant. The designation or appointment would be accompanied by a certification of the tenant's illness signed by a licensed physician. A tenant with a certified illness may terminate a residential lease upon 30 days' written notice, provided that the tenant did not know or have reason to know about the illness at the time the tenant entered into the lease. (Prior Printer Number: 928)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0928](#) [P1883](#)

**Bill History:** 06-20-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-20-07 H Laid out for discussion  
06-20-07 H Third consideration  
06-20-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y: 198/N: 0)  
06-21-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Urban Affairs and Housing

[HB 1000](#) [Manderino](#) (PN 1996) Amends the Insurance Company Law providing for mental health services by stating that if an enrollee has obtained a referral to receive outpatient mental health care services from a health care provider or specialist, the referral would constitute a standing referral for any subsequent outpatient mental health care services provided by any health care provider until the mental health care service for which the referral was approved has

reached its conclusion. Also adds an article providing for retroactive denial of reimbursement of payments to health care providers by insurers. If an insurer retroactively denies reimbursement to a health care provider, the insurer may only: (1) retroactively deny reimbursement for services subject to coordination of benefits with another insurer, the medical assistance program or the Medicare program during the 12-month period after the date that the insurer paid the health care provider; and (2) retroactively deny reimbursement during a 12-month period after the date that the insurer paid the health care provider. (Prior Printer Number: 1171, 1756)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1171](#) [P1756](#) [P1996](#)

**Bill History:** 06-21-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-21-07 H Laid out for discussion  
06-21-07 H Third consideration  
06-21-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y: 203/N: 0)  
06-21-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Banking and Insurance

[HB 1160](#) [Metcalf](#) (PN 1475) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) providing for temporary emergency licenses for carrying a firearm by requiring a person seeking a temporary emergency license to carry a concealed firearm to submit to the sheriff of the county in which the person resides all of the following: evidence of imminent danger to the person or member of the person's family; a sworn affidavit containing information required on an application for a license to carry a firearm and attesting that the person is 21 years of age or older; and a temporary emergency license fee established by the Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police for an amount that does not exceed the actual cost of conducting the criminal background check or \$10, whichever is less. The amendment also provides that a temporary emergency license issued would be valid for 90 days and may not be renewed and another would not be issued for at least four years after the expiration of the prior temporary emergency license. (Prior Printer Number: 1424)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1424](#) [P1475](#)

**Bill History:** 04-23-07 H Filed  
04-24-07 H Discussed in Press Conference - 4/24/07  
04-25-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[HB 1177](#) [Fabrizio](#) (PN 2804) Amends Title 40 (Insurance) by defining "clinical social work services" and including clinical social work under the scope of service. (Prior Printer Number: 1457)

**Companions:** [SB 998](#) (Identical)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1457](#) [P2804](#)

**Bill History:** 11-01-07 H Removed from the table

11-01-07 H Rereferred to House Appropriations  
11-13-07 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations  
11-13-07 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  
12-03-07 H Set on the House Calendar

[HB 1220](#) [Reichley](#)

(PN 1506) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) providing for interagency information sharing by stating that the contents of county agency, drug and alcohol, mental health and education records regarding a child who has been accepted for service by a county agency, who has been placed under supervision pursuant to an informal adjustment or consent decree, who has been found to have committed a delinquent act or who has been found to be dependent or delinquent would be provided upon request to the county agency, court or juvenile probation department. The county agency, court or juvenile probation department would use the information contained in the records in furtherance of the disposition under this chapter of the child who is the subject of the records.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1506](#)

**Bill History:** 05-01-07 H Filed  
05-04-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[HB 1235](#) [White, J](#)

(PN 2235) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) further providing for grading the offense of impersonating a public servant by adding that the offense would be felony of the third degree if the impersonator intends to induce another to submit to such pretended official authority; for exceptions to the prohibition of interception and disclosure of certain communications by permitting a consumer to electronically record a telephone call from a debt collector without the consent or knowledge of the debt collector; and for challenge to criminal history records, for review of challenge and for appeals. The bill adds that a person denied the right of access to a firearm may challenge the decision by submitting a challenge to the Pennsylvania State Police within 30 days from the date of the denial. The State Police would conduct a review of the accuracy of the denial, collect information from the challenger, and issue a decision. The challenger may appeal the decision to the Attorney General, whose decision may then be appealed to the Commonwealth Court. (Prior Printer Number: 1519, 2099)

**Companions:** [HB 648](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1519](#) [P2099](#) [P2235](#)

**Bill History:** 11-20-07 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8E-B East Wing, Senate Judiciary  
11-20-07 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Judiciary  
11-20-07 S Reported as committed from Senate

Judiciary  
 11-20-07 S First consideration  
 12-04-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[HB 1253](#) [Solobay](#)

(PN 2296) Amends Professional Nursing Law further providing for scope of practice for certified registered nurse practitioners by adding that they would have authority to do all of the following: (1) Order home health and hospice care; (2) Order durable medical equipment; (3) Issue oral orders under the same conditions and in the same facilities as physicians are permitted to do; (4) Perform physical therapy and dietitian referrals; (5) make respiratory or occupational therapy referrals; (6) Perform disability assessments for the program providing TANF; (7) Issue home schooling certifications; and (8) Perform and sign the initial assessment of methadone treatment evaluations, provided that any order for methadone treatment would be made only by a physician. A certified registered nurse practitioner would be required to maintain a level of professional liability coverage as required for a nonparticipating health care provider under the Mcare Act, but would not be eligible to participate in the Mcare Fund. (Prior Printer Number: 1548, 1986, 2019, 2176)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1548](#) [P1986](#) [P2019](#) [P2176](#) [P2296](#)

**Bill History:** 07-14-07 H Signed in the House  
 07-14-07 S Signed in the Senate  
 07-15-07 G In the hands of the Governor  
 07-25-07 G Last day for Governor's action  
 07-20-07 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 48)

[HB 1286](#) [Evans, D](#)

(PN 2346) The General Appropriation Act of 2007 for fiscal year 2007-08. (Prior Printer Number: 1543, 1907, 1983)

**General Remarks:** The State Budget FY 2007-08

**Printer Number(s):** [P1543](#) [P1907](#) [P1983](#) [P2346](#)

**Bill History:** 07-16-07 H Signed in the House  
 07-16-07 S Signed in the Senate  
 07-16-07 G In the hands of the Governor  
 07-26-07 G Last day for Governor's action  
 07-17-07 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 9008)

[HB 1448](#) [Frankel](#)

(PN 2492) Amends the Mental Health or Mental Retardation Facility Closure Act by establishing the Mental Health Community Services and Mental Retardation Community Services Trust Funds, and provides that if a state facility is shut down, all state-owned land not transferred for other use must be sold or leased at fair market value. Proceeds from mental health facilities shut down in this manner are to be deposited in the Mental Health Community Services Trust Fund.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2492](#)

**Bill History:** 09-24-07 H Filed  
 09-25-07 H Introduced and referred to committee

on House Health and Human Services  
11-09-07 H Hearing set for 10:00 a.m., Carnegie Mellon University, Coll, House Health and Human Services  
11-07-07 H Hearing cancelled for 11/9/07, House Health and Human Services

[HB 1455](#) [Rapp](#)

(PN 2508) The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Facilities Closure and Reduction Moratorium Act imposes a moratorium on the closure of State mental health and mental retardation facilities, and requires the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study to determine the prevalence of serious mental illness and substance abuse in the inmate population of State correctional institutions and county prisons, with the full cooperation of the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Welfare and the governing body of each county.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2508](#)

**Bill History:** 09-25-07 H Filed  
09-26-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services  
10-23-07 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Rm 205 Ryan, House Health and Human Services  
10-19-07 H Removed from hearing for 10/23/07, House Health and Human Services

[HB 1498](#) [DeLuca](#)

(PN 1875) The One Pennsylvania Act establishes One Pennsylvania, a pharmacy benefits consolidation program to consolidate and unify procedures and requirements for the administration of all Commonwealth-funded, Commonwealth-administered and Commonwealth-supported drug programs and for reimbursement for pharmacy services. The program would administer all Commonwealth prescription drug plans through an integrated system of plan administration using uniform standards and requirements for the reimbursement of pharmacies as provided by the legislation. The bill provides for duties of the Department of Aging, for reimbursement to pharmacies and for rebate agreements.

**Companions:** [SB 848](#) (Identical)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1875](#)

**Bill History:** 06-06-07 H Filed  
06-08-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Aging and Older Adult Services  
09-19-07 H Discussed in House Health Committee, House Health and Human Services

[HB 1499](#) [Reed](#)

(PN 2140) Amends the Public Welfare Code repealing Assistance Recipient Identification Program provisions and requiring the department to create and utilize a finger imaging system to identify applicants for and recipients of assistance. The bill also requires county boards to establish procedures to identify, investigate and resolve potential cases of

fraud, misrepresentation or inadequate documentation prior to determining an applicant's eligibility.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2140](#)

**Bill History:** 06-28-07 H Filed  
06-28-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1594](#) [Bishop](#)

(PN 2035) Amends the PA Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act by allowing the family member of a drug dependent person to petition the court of common pleas for the commitment of that person to involuntary drug and alcohol treatment services, including inpatient services, if the person is incapable of accepting or unwilling to accept voluntary treatment. The bill requires the petition to set forth sufficient facts and good reasons for the commitment and provides for assessments and for criteria to be met before the judge can order treatment for up to 90 days at a time. It also sets forth criteria to be followed for hearings on petitions for court-ordered involuntary services. The bill also states that a decision must be made within 48 hours of the close of evidence or the petition must be denied.

**Companions:** [HB 1683](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P2035](#)

**Bill History:** 06-18-07 H Filed  
06-21-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1597](#) [Cappelli](#)

(PN 2038) Amends the Public Welfare Code requiring screening for illegal drug use by certain applicants for assistance.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2038](#)

**Bill History:** 06-19-07 H Filed  
06-21-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1601](#) [Eachus](#)

(PN 2040) Amends The Insurance Company Law adding an article providing for small group health benefits, which relates to health benefit plans offered by an insurer to employees of a small employer. The legislation requires all insurers to establish community rates for plans subject to the legislation and to file the rates with the department. An insurer may not charge a rate that is more than 33% above or below the community rate, as adjusted as permitted in the bill. Rating methods and practices would be based on commonly accepted actuarial assumptions and sound actuarial principles. In the event a small group health benefit plan has a medical loss ratio of less than 85%, the department may require the insurer to refund the difference to policyholders on a pro rata basis as soon as practicable. The legislation requires an insurer to

offer a standard plan and outlines criteria for that plan and states that each individual in PA who applies to an insurer for enrollment in a plan offered by the insurer shall be accepted as an enrollee. Lastly, the bill provides for optional additional coverage.

**Specific Remarks:** Creates a standard health policy for small employers that does not include MH or D&A services.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2040](#)

**Bill History:** 06-21-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance  
11-15-07 H Hearing set for 12:30 p.m., Room 418 Main Capitol, House Insurance  
11-20-07 H Meeting set for Off the Floor, Room 39, East Wing, House Insurance  
11-15-07 H Public hearing held in committee House Insurance  
11-20-07 H Passed over in committee House Insurance

[HB 1658](#) [Pickett](#) (PN 2160) Amends the Public Welfare Code further providing for eligibility for public assistance by adding that for the purposes of determining eligibility, residency is established when the person lives in PA for at least 180 days.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2160](#)

**Bill History:** 06-28-07 H Filed  
06-29-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1660](#) [Manderino](#) (PN 2195) The Family and Business Healthcare Security Act provides for a Statewide comprehensive health care system; establishes the Pennsylvania Health Care Plan and providing for eligibility, services, coverages, subrogation, participating providers, cost containment, reduction of errors, tort remedies, administrative remedies and procedures, attorney fees, quality assurance, nonparticipating providers, transitional support and training; and establishes the Pennsylvania Health Care Agency, the Employer Health Services Levy, the Individual Wellness Tax and the Pennsylvania Health Care Board and providing for their powers and duties.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2195](#)

**Bill History:** 06-28-07 H Filed  
07-03-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1687](#) [Gingrich](#) (PN 2221) Amends the Public Welfare Code requiring the Department of Public Welfare to establish a computerized income eligibility verification system in order to eliminate duplication of assistance and to deter fraud. Also requires a county board of assistance to establish procedures to identify, investigate and resolve potential cases of fraud, misrepresentation or inadequate documentation

prior to determining an applicant's eligibility for assistance.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2221](#)

**Bill History:** 07-02-07 H Filed  
07-03-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1693](#) [Gergely](#) (PN 2665) Amends the Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors Act providing for endorsement of out-of-State licenses by adding that the board may issue a clinical social worker license, marriage and family therapist license, or professional counselor license without examination to an applicant holding such a license in another state who submits proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant has meet certain enumerated standards. Also provides title protection for the title "social worker". (Prior Printer Number: 2320)

**Printer Number(s):** [P2320](#) [P2665](#)

**Bill History:** 11-14-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
11-14-07 H Laid out for discussion  
11-14-07 H Third consideration  
11-14-07 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:195/N: 0)  
11-19-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

[HB 1702](#) [Fairchild](#) (PN 2252) The Mental Health Facility Closure Act states the department may not close a facility unless enabling legislation is enacted or a court order is obtained. The legislation provides for the procedure to enact such legislation or obtain a court order.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2252](#)

**Bill History:** 07-05-07 H Filed  
07-06-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1703](#) [Fairchild](#) (PN 2253) The Mental Retardation Bill of Rights Act would require PA to provide community-based treatment for individuals with mental retardation if PA's treatment professionals determine that such placement is appropriate, the individual does not oppose such treatment and the placement can be reasonably accommodated. The bill states that the Department of Public Welfare cannot offer an individual admittance to an intermediate care facility without also offering community living arrangements and support services. It provides for family members to be involved in all placement meetings. The legislation also requires the Department to develop and submit a plan to the Governor, the General Assembly and the county mental retardation program administrators, to eliminate, by 2009, the waiting list for individuals with mental retardation, who are in need of existing residential programs.

**Companions:** [HB 1371](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P2253](#)

**Bill History:** 07-05-07 H Filed  
07-06-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1746](#) [Thomas](#) (PN 2325) The First Class City Firearms Restriction Act states that notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, Philadelphia may enact an ordinance providing for the imposition of restrictions of the sale, purchase and possession of firearms, rifles and shotguns in the city. Prior to enacting an ordinance the city council would solicit the assistance of the U.S. Attorney General and the PA Attorney General in the development of the provisions of the ordinance.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2325](#)

**Bill History:** 07-13-07 H Filed  
07-13-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

[HB 1764](#) [Harper](#) (PN 2360) The Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Bill of Rights Act establishes a bill of rights for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2360](#)

**Bill History:** 07-17-07 H Filed  
07-17-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1791](#) [Smith, K](#) (PN 2387) The Emergency Health Powers Act would provide for measures to detect and track potential and existing public health emergencies, for public information regarding and planning for such emergencies. The bill also establishes the Public Health Emergency Planning Commission.

**Companions:** [HB 1369](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P2387](#)

**Bill History:** 08-03-07 H Filed  
08-01-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Prepared.

[HB 1820](#) [Turzai](#) (PN 2388) Amends the Public Welfare Code providing for budget implementation and for work requirements for general assistance. The bill creates the Working Family Independence Act, which states that State appropriations for the department may only be increased at maximum by the rate of inflation. State appropriations for the department from the General Fund, with the exception of line items which support income assistance, the State Lottery Fund and the Tobacco Settlement Fund would be added together to form an aggregate State appropriation for the department which would be disbursed by the State Treasurer on a quarterly basis during the fiscal year. The bill also creates the

Working Families and Individuals Independence Act, which includes mandatory work requirements for a work-eligible individual receiving assistance. The bill also states that if a work-eligible individual has received assistance for two months, the individual must participate in a community service program. The bill includes information with regard to an initial assessment of someone seeking assistance, work participation rates, hours for work-eligible individuals, hours for two-parent families and safeguards for displaced workers.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2388](#)

**Bill History:** 07-27-07 H Filed  
08-01-07 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health and Human Services

[HB 1962](#) [Taylor, R](#) (PN 2734) Amends Title 40 (Insurance) by adding that the stated purposes of all existing general medical service corporations also includes marriage and family therapy and professional counseling. The bill defines "marriage and family therapy services" and "professional counseling services".

**Printer Number(s):** [P2734](#)

**Bill History:** 11-01-07 H Removed from the table  
11-01-07 H Rereferred to House Appropriations  
11-13-07 H Voted favorably from committee on House Appropriations  
11-13-07 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  
12-03-07 H Set on the House Calendar

[HR 104](#) [Sturla](#) (PN 727) Resolution urging the Congress of the United States to provide timely and meaningful reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program in 2007.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0727](#)

**Bill History:** 03-14-07 H Meeting set for 3:00 p.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building, House Health and Human Services  
03-14-07 H Voted favorably from committee on House Health and Human Services  
03-19-07 H Reported as committed from House Health and Human Services  
03-21-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
03-21-07 H Adopted (Vote: Y:198/N: 0)

[HR 334](#) [Biancucci](#) (PN 2058) Concurrent Resolution directing the appointment of a task force to study affordable health care insurance, health care access and quality health care services for the citizens of this Commonwealth. (Prior Printer Number: 1923, 1973)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1923](#) [P1973](#) [P2058](#)

**Bill History:** 06-25-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
06-25-07 H Laid out for discussion  
06-25-07 H 2 Floor amendment(s) adopted

06-25-07 H Adopted (Vote: Y:162/N: 39)  
 07-03-07 S Received in the Senate and referred to  
 Senate Banking and Insurance

[HR 361](#) [Kirkland](#) (PN 2191) Resolution recognizing the need to educate Pennsylvanians about mental illness; promoting early detection and proper treatment of psychiatric syndromes among incarcerated individuals; and acknowledging the vulnerabilities of persons with mental illness in this Commonwealth.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2191](#)

**Bill History:** 06-29-07 H Filed  
 07-03-07 H Introduced as noncontroversial resolution  
 07-05-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
 07-05-07 H Adopted (Vote: Y:196/N: 0)

[HR 461](#) [DeLuca](#) (PN 2674) Resolution recognizing October 11, 2007, as "National Depression Screening Day" in Pennsylvania.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2674](#)

**Bill History:** 10-17-07 H Filed  
 10-18-07 H Introduced as noncontroversial resolution  
 10-22-07 H Set on the House Calendar  
 10-22-07 H Adopted (Vote: Y:195/N: 0)

[SB 1](#) [Pileggi](#) (PN 1583) The Right-To-Know Law provides for access to public information, for a designated open-records officer in each Commonwealth agency, local agency, judicial agency and legislative agency, for procedure, for appeal of agency determination, for judicial review and for an open records clearinghouse; imposing penalties; providing for reporting by state-related institutions; requiring the posting of certain state contract information on the Internet; and making related repeals. The bill states a Commonwealth agency, local agency, legislative agency or judicial agency would provide public records in accordance with this act. Agencies may not deny a requester access to a public record due to the intended use of the public record by the requester. The bill states that a record in the possession of a Commonwealth agency or local agency would be presumed to be a public record unless: (1) the record is exempt under section 708 (which lists 28 exceptions); (2) the record is protected by a privilege; or (3) the record is exempt from disclosure under any other federal or state law or regulation or judicial order or decree. Nothing in this act would supersede or modify the public or confidential nature of a record or document established in Federal or State law, regulation or judicial order or decree. The bill provides for access to autopsy records and law enforcement records. A court may impose a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 if an agency denied access to a public record in bad faith. The bill creates an Open Records Clearinghouse within DCED and outlines its duties.

The governor would appoint an executive director of the clearinghouse. (Prior Printer Number: 772, 1509, 1553, 1562)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0772](#) [P1509](#) [P1553](#) [P1562](#) [P1583](#)

**Bill History:** 11-28-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
11-28-07 S Laid out for discussion  
11-28-07 S Third consideration  
11-28-07 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 48/N: 1)  
12-03-07 H Received in the House and referred to House Appropriations

[SB 7](#) [Regola](#)

(PN 1099) A Joint Resolution amending the PA Constitution by stating that total spending by the Commonwealth in any fiscal year would not exceed the spending appropriation limit in any fiscal year. The appropriation limit would be the average percentage change in personal income in PA for the three preceding calendar years or the average percentage change in inflation for the three preceding calendar years plus the average percentage change in the State population for the three preceding years. Additionally, the state's spending limit would be reduced by the amount of any reduction in state appropriations to a political subdivision for administration of a mandated service, without an equal or greater reduction in state-mandated expenses for the local government or a repeal of the mandate to provide program or service. The bill states that the limit may be exceeded for the following: in response to a gubernatorial or presidential declaration of emergency, other situations in which the Governor requests, if the General Assembly approves by two-thirds affirmative vote of the members elected to each house. (Prior Printer Number: 782)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0782](#) [P1099](#)

**Bill History:** 06-06-07 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Finance  
06-06-07 S Reported as amended Senate Finance  
06-06-07 S First consideration  
06-28-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
06-28-07 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 9](#) [Scarnati](#)

(PN 763) The Proof of Citizenship for Receipt of Public Benefits Act would require anybody who is at least 18 years of age and applies for public benefits to provide one of a specified list of identifications and execute an affidavit stating that the person is a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident or is otherwise lawfully present in the U.S. pursuant to Federal law. The agency receiving this affidavit would have to keep it on file. Agencies that administer public benefits have to verify, through the SAVE program that each applicant who has executed an affidavit is an alien legally present in the U.S. Penalties are further provided for in the bill.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0763](#)

**Bill History:** 03-29-07 S Filed  
03-29-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government  
10-17-07 S Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Buil, Senate State Government  
10-17-07 S Public hearing held in committee Senate State Government

[SB 91](#) [Tomlinson](#) (PN 127) Amends the Tax Reform Code further providing, notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any tax rate for the manufacture and sale of malt or brewed beverages is increased to a level higher than the rate in existence on December 31, 2002, the amount of the difference between the tax collected at the higher rate and the tax that would have been collected at the rate in existence on December 31, 2002, is appropriated on a continuing basis to the Department of Public Welfare for use in behavioral health care programs including, but not limited to, programs which provide drug and alcohol rehabilitation services.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0127](#)

**Bill History:** 02-15-07 S Filed  
02-15-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

[SB 115](#) [Piccola](#) (PN 155) Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act by stating that when an incompetency examination is ordered by the court the person would be entitled to have counsel present with him and would not be required to answer any questions that may tend to incriminate the person.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0155](#)

**Bill History:** 03-05-07 S Filed  
03-05-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 127](#) [Greenleaf](#) (PN 172) Amends the Tobacco Settlement Act by adding that a qualified adult would be eligible to purchase adult basic coverage insurance if the qualified adult has not been covered by a health insurance plan, a self- insurance plan or a self-funded plan during the three months immediately preceding the determination of eligibility. In addition, a small employer would be eligible to purchase adult basic coverage insurance if it has not provided health insurance coverage, directly or indirectly, to qualified adults anytime during the 12 months immediately preceding the determination of eligibility. The legislation also provides for a small employer health insurance tax credit, which allows a taxpayer who incurs a qualified health insurance expense in a taxable year to apply for a health insurance premium tax credit in an amount up to \$30,000 per small employer.

**Companions:** [SB 83](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0172](#)

**Bill History:** 03-05-07 S Filed  
03-05-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

[SB 128](#) [Greenleaf](#) (PN 173) The Basic Health Insurance Plans for Pennsylvanians Act seeks to increase the availability of health insurance coverage by having the Insurance Department develop several basic health insurance plans which insurers may offer that, in whole or in part, do not offer or provide State-mandated health benefits. The legislation would require the department to develop ten standard basic health insurance plans that insurers may offer to a qualified individual and small employer; the plans would not be required to meet state mandates. Insurers would offer one or more of those ten plans as an option to a qualified individual and small employer. When an insurer issues a basic health insurance plan policy, the insurer would be required provide the applicant with a written disclosure statement that acknowledges that the plan being purchased does not provide some or all State-mandated health benefits, and lists those mandated benefits not included.

**Companions:** [SB 84](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0173](#)

**Bill History:** 03-05-07 S Filed  
03-05-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

[SB 204](#) [Mellow](#) (PN 246) The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Facility Security Act would require a facility to prepare, publish and distribute a security report every year. The security report would contain required information. A facility would report any crime within 48 hours of its occurrence to the victim's guardian or the parent or guardian of a minor patient victim if the crime is considered to be a threat to any patient or employee and is reported to a police agency. Any facility that maintains a police or security department would make, keep and maintain a daily log, written in a form that can be easily understood, recording all crimes reported to that police or security department which would be available for the public to view. The Department of Public Welfare may assess a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 upon a person for each violation of the act.

**Companions:** [SB 107](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0246](#)

**Bill History:** 03-07-07 S Filed  
03-07-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare

[SB 226](#) [Greenleaf](#) (PN 263) Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act adding an article providing for assisted outpatient treatment programs.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0263](#)

**Bill History:** 03-07-07 S Filed  
03-07-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare  
10-02-07 S Meeting set for 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Buil, Senate Public Health and Welfare  
10-02-07 S Public hearing held in committee Senate Public Health and Welfare

[SB 338](#) [Browne](#) (PN 373) Amends the Administrative Code by establishing the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs. Under the new Executive Department, the Bureaus of Prevention and Intervention, Treatment, and Administration would be formed. The Department would be responsible for developing and adopting a State plan for the control, prevention, intervention, treatment, rehabilitation, research, education, and training aspects of drug and alcohol abuse and dependence problems. The bill further provides for the Department's authority to implement the State plan and for the submission of an annual report to the General Assembly detailing the progress of the plan.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0373](#)

**Bill History:** 03-12-07 S Filed  
03-12-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Government

[SB 357](#) [Greenleaf](#) (PN 393) Amends the Public School Code further providing for defacing, injuring or destroying property used for school purposes and for authority of teachers, vice principals and principals over pupils; providing for school policies for drug or alcohol violations, for conflict resolution training and for the requirements for governing adjudicated delinquents; further providing for the suspension and expulsion of pupils, for exceptional children, their education and training, for reporting of incidents of school violence and for transfer of records; providing for school violence reporting requirements for school employees, for school safety committees and for notification to parents and guardians of victims of school violence; and further defining "school."

**Printer Number(s):** [P0393](#)

**Bill History:** 03-12-07 S Filed  
03-12-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

[SB 364](#) [Greenleaf](#) (PN 402) The Prenatal and Postpartum Counseling and Screening Act states that a hospital, birthing center, physician, nurse-midwife or midwife who provides prenatal care to a pregnant woman during gestation or at delivery of an infant would: (1) provide the woman with a fact sheet that includes common symptoms of the medical conditions of prenatal depression, postpartum depression,

postpartum psychosis and for emotional traumas associated with pregnancy and parenting, (2) provide the woman with a resource list, (3) screen the woman for postpartum depression symptoms, (4) document in the patient's record that the patient received the information, and (5) retain the documentation for at least three years.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0402](#)

**Bill History:** 03-12-07 S Filed  
03-12-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare

[SB 551](#) [Boscola](#) (PN 592) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) further providing for the defense of insanity by redefining "legal insanity" as if at the commission of the offense, the actor was laboring under such a defect of reason from disease of the mind as not to know the nature and quality of the act he was doing. The mental soundness of an actor would not be a defense to any charged offense and there would be no verdict of not guilty by reason of insanity. Evidence of legal insanity of the actor would be admissible only for the purpose of proving that such insanity rendered the actor incapable of forming the requisite intent or state of mind which is an element of the offense.

**Companions:** [SB 1020](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0592](#)

**Bill History:** 03-19-07 S Filed  
03-19-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 583](#) [Orie](#) (PN 628) The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Direct Care Workers' Minimum Salary Act states that as a condition for receipt of public funds, publicly funded programs or agencies must certify that all direct care workers are paid based on a minimum entry-level annual wage of \$18,000 or \$8.65 per hour. A percentage increase for the wages of direct care workers to raise the annual wage based on an entry-level wage of \$18,000 per year or \$8.65 per hour would be funded from the annual appropriation to the Department of Public Welfare to fund community services for persons diagnosed as having mental illness and mental retardation. The increases for direct care workers would be in addition to any increases that are attributable to other factors, including general cost-of-living increases for community services.

**Companions:** [SB 373](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0628](#)

**Bill History:** 03-20-07 S Filed  
03-20-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry

[SB 587](#) [Orie](#)

(PN 631) Amends Title 42 (Judiciary) providing for a judicial district to apply for a grant to establish a mental health court division. The mental health court division will provide a single point of contact where a defendant with a mental illness may receive court-ordered treatment and support services in connection with a diversion from prosecution, a sentencing alternative or a term of probation or parole. The Administrative Office, consulting with the Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Department of Corrections, and the PA Board of Probation and Parole, will establish standards, funding schedules, and procedures for awarding grants to establish the mental health court division. The bill provides guidelines for establishing these grants.

**Companions:** [HB 1233](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)  
[HB 1307](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)  
[SB 374](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)  
[HB 80](#) (Identical)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0631](#)

**Bill History:** 03-20-07 S Filed  
03-20-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 604](#) [Orie](#)

(PN 655) Amends the Public Welfare Code establishing the Grant Program for Empowerment of Mental Health Clients and Family Members. The legislation requires the Department to issue a request for proposals in order to establish and expand empowerment programs for mental health clients and their family members and would make grants to counties on the basis of proposals set forth. The legislation outlines the expected results of the proposals.

**Companions:** [SB 372](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0655](#)

**Bill History:** 03-20-07 S Filed  
03-20-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare

[SB 605](#) [Orie](#)

(PN 656) Amends the Insurance Company Law by stating that health insurance policies delivered, issued, executed or renewed by an insurer in PA would provide coverage for autism spectrum disorders for an individual less than 24 years of age and include coverage for the following care and services: (1) habilitation care, (2) psychiatric care, (3) psychological care, (4) rehabilitation care, (5) respite care, and (6) therapeutic care. The bill states that coverage provided under this section would be subject to a maximum of \$2,000 benefit per month for the covered individual, adjusted annually by the average percentage increase or decrease of private medical insurance premiums each year.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0656](#)

**Bill History:** 03-20-07 S Filed  
 03-20-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance  
 04-18-07 S Press conference held

[SB 704](#) [Vance](#)

(PN 1272) Amends the Public Welfare Code further providing for state plan for regulating and licensing personal care homes, for Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care, for rules and regulations for personal care homes and assisted living residences, and for definitions. The department would be required to annually conduct at least one onsite unannounced inspection of each personal care home and each assisted living residence. Two representatives of the assisted living resident community are added to the composition of the Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care. All assisted living residences would be required to identify and appoint an administrator who meets certain qualifications. The department would be required to adopt regulations establishing minimum standards for building, equipment, operation, care, program and services, training, staffing, and fees for application for licensure. The legislation provides for the content of the regulations. The legislation outlines screening requirements. Residents for whom placement in a skilled nursing facility is imminent would be given priority for assisted living residence services funded through a home-and community-based waiver. All individuals receiving services under the home- and community-based waivers would have a comprehensive assessment of their needs using an instrument that provides comparable data elements and at comparable time intervals as specified by the state for Medicaid for nursing facilities. Each facility would be required to demonstrate its ability to provide health care services and must meet certain enumerated standards. The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee would be required to report to the General Assembly on existing federal and other states' initiatives and programs that provide financial assistance for assisted living. (Prior Printer Number: 776, 802, 1189, 1256)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0776](#) [P0802](#) [P1189](#) [P1256](#) [P1272](#)

**Bill History:** 07-14-07 H Signed in the House  
 07-15-07 G In the hands of the Governor  
 07-25-07 G Last day for Governor's action  
 07-25-07 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 56)  
 09-25-07 G Discussed in LBFC meeting, Joint Legislative Budget & Finance Committee

[SB 707](#) [Folmer](#)

(PN 1101) The Taxpayer Protection Act states that total spending by the Commonwealth in any fiscal year would not exceed the spending appropriation limit, which is the average percentage change in personal income in PA for the three preceding calendar years or the average percentage change in inflation for the three preceding calendar years plus the average percentage change in the State

population for the three preceding years. Additionally, the state's spending limit would be reduced by the amount of any reduction in state appropriations to a political subdivision for administration of a mandated service, without an equal or greater reduction in state-mandated expenses for the local government or a repeal of the mandate to provide program or service. The bill also provides for the distribution of surplus funds, establishing the Taxpayer Protection Fund, and repealing provisions of the Fiscal Code relating to the funding of a stabilization reserve. (Prior Printer Number: 783)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0783](#) [P1101](#)

**Bill History:** 06-06-07 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Finance  
06-06-07 S Reported as amended Senate Finance  
06-06-07 S First consideration  
06-28-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
06-28-07 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 998](#) [McIlhinney](#) (PN 1215) The Mental Health Services Reimbursement Act requires health insurance policies issued by insurance companies to reimburse for mental health services provided by licensed clinical social workers.

**Companions:** [HB 1177](#) (Identical)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1215](#)

**Bill History:** 06-25-07 S Filed  
06-25-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Banking and Insurance

[SB 1037](#) [Washington](#) (PN 1334) Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act further by adding exceptions to confidentiality of records for judges, the PA State Police from disclosing information to any of the following about a person, in accordance with the provisions relating to persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell or transfer firearms, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation for use in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System Index established under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1334](#)

**Bill History:** 07-24-07 S Filed  
07-24-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 1038](#) [Washington](#) (PN 1335) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) prohibiting persons ordered to undergo involuntary mental health treatment on an outpatient basis under the Mental Health Procedures Act from owning firearms. Under the bill, a person who is ordered to undergo involuntary mental health treatment on an outpatient basis may petition the court to review the sufficiency of the evidence on which the order was

based, and if the court determines that the evidence on which the order was based was insufficient, the court would order that the record of the involuntary treatment submitted to the PA State Police be expunged.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1335](#)

**Bill History:** 07-24-07 S Filed  
07-24-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

[SB 1128](#) [Greenleaf](#)

(PN 1506) The Criminal Justice and Mental Health Reinvestment Act establishes the Criminal Justice and Mental Health Reinvestment Program, to be administered by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency, with oversight by the Advisory Committee for Criminal Justice and Mental Health Reinvestment. Counties may apply for a one-year planning grant, a two-year implementation grant or a two-year expansion grant from the program to demonstrate that investment in treatment efforts related to mental illness, substance abuse disorders or co-occurring disorders results in reduced demand on the resources of the judicial, corrections or health and social services systems.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1506](#)

**Bill History:** 10-25-07 S Filed  
10-25-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary  
11-19-07 S Discussed in public hearing on 11/19/07, Senate Judiciary

[SB 1129](#) [Greenleaf](#)

(PN 1574) Amends the PA Drug and Alcohol Abuse Control Act further providing that an employee or agent of a single county authority or an employee or agent of a licensed drug and alcohol treatment entity who has successfully met all training requirements of the Department of Health relating to the most recent edition of the adolescent American Society of Addiction Medicine Patient Placement Criteria or any instrument that is subsequently approved as adolescent placement criteria by the Department of Health, and who has at least one year experience working with adolescents diagnosed with drug and alcohol abuse or addiction or co-occurring substance use and emotional disorders may conduct a drug and alcohol assessment on a minor alleged to have such a dependency. (Prior Printer Number: 1507)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1507](#) [P1574](#)

**Bill History:** 11-20-07 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Judiciary  
11-20-07 S Reported as amended Senate Judiciary  
11-20-07 S First consideration  
12-03-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
12-03-07 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SR 40](#) [Erickson](#)

(PN 148) Concurrent Resolution urging the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation to ensure

that the Congress of the United States reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) as soon as practicable to secure Federal funding for Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and urging the Governor to pursue CHIP expansion.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0148](#)

**Bill History:** 03-14-07 S Reported as committed from Senate Public Health and Welfare  
03-19-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
03-19-07 S Laid out for discussion  
03-19-07 S Adopted (Vote: Y: 50/N: 0)  
03-22-07 H Received in the House and referred to House Health and Human Services

[SR 48](#) [Orie](#) (PN 398) 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.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0398](#)

**Bill History:** 03-12-07 S Filed  
03-12-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Aging and Youth

[SR 49](#) [Orie](#) (PN 424) Resolution memorializing the Congress of the United States to review and consider the National Governors Association recommendations which would allow states to utilize greater flexibility in their provision of Medicaid services.

**Companions:** [SR 154](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P0424](#)

**Bill History:** 03-13-07 S Filed  
03-13-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare

[SR 60](#) [Earll](#) (PN 648) Resolution urging the Rendell Administration and the Secretary of Public Welfare to desist in any action that furthers the planned move from a voluntary managed care choice to a mandated fee-for-service system for medical assistance recipients.

**Printer Number(s):** [P0648](#)

**Bill History:** 03-21-07 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Public Health and Welfare  
03-21-07 S Reported as committed from Senate Public Health and Welfare  
03-26-07 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
03-26-07 S Laid out for discussion  
03-26-07 S Adopted (Vote: Y: 47/N: 1)

[SR 167](#) [Dinniman](#) (PN 1386) Resolution designating the week of September 9 through 15, 2007, as "Suicide Prevention Week" in Pennsylvania.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1386](#)

**Bill History:** 09-17-07 S Filed  
09-17-07 S Introduced and adopted

[SR 205](#) [Orie](#) (PN 1519) Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to prepare a report on the mental health system for older adults in Pennsylvania.

**Companions:** [SR 364](#) (Refiled from 05R Session)

**Printer Number(s):** [P1519](#)

**Bill History:** 11-02-07 S Filed  
11-02-07 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Aging and Youth

	All	Track
<b>Total Bills:</b>	74	0

- End of Report -