

Public Policy Update

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Legislation:

H.R.188 S2001

Staff has been following H.R.188 and S.2001. This legislation would eliminate the use and issuance of 14(c) waivers. H.R.188 introduced in January of 2015 currently has 82 cosponsors and is in the Sub-committee on Workforce Protections. Michigan congressional sponsors for H.R.188 are Representative Fred Upton, Representative David Trott, Representative Candice Miller, and Representative John Conyers, and Representative Brenda Lawrence.

S2001 introduced in August of 2015 and is referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Both bills would accomplish similar outcomes but take a slightly different path to achieve them. Currently, S2001 only has one co-sponsor; none of which are from Michigan.

These bills are expected to die in committee and be reintroduced in the 115th legislative session

Keeping All Students Safe Act

H.R.927 would establish federal guidelines for restraint and seclusion in public schools. The PPC has been following this

legislation since the introduction in February of 2015. Currently there are 42 co-sponsors to this legislation. This bill is expected to die in committee and be reintroduced in the 115th legislative session

ABLE Improvement Act

The Federal house and senate introduced three pieces of legislation that are designed to “fix” a couple of issues of the first ABLE act. The bills (S2702, S2703, S2704 and HR4794, HR4795, and HR4813) will accomplish three important things; raise the age for qualifying from 26 to 46, a person with and able account will be able to deposit up to the federal poverty limit of their income into their ABLE account on top of outside contributions, and will allow a 529 college savings account to be rolled into a 529(a) account. As of 7/17/2016, there are no Michigan co-sponsors to this legislation.

Two of the Senate bills did make it out of committee, S2702 ABLE to Work Act and S2703 ABLE Financial Planning Act, however, they are not expected to be signed into law due to time restraints this session.

Universal Reduced Fare Card

Great progress has been made in the design of the Universal Reduced Fare Card and corresponding application. The work group has completed the design and it has been finalized.

Staff met with the office of the Secretary of State to discuss the implementation and production of the card. The office of the SOS is very interested.

A second meeting was held with representatives from the SOS, MDOT, DD Council Staff, and Transportation Providers to discuss

further. At the conclusion of this meeting, it was agreed to by the workgroup to explore other options and approaches to implement the card.

Health Issues

Medicaid spenddown continues to be worked on at several levels. The Council staff along with the Olmstead Coalition has met with the department to discuss income disregard with the department in order to try to reduce much of the spend-down requirements. Medicaid spend-down also is one of the key items on the Public Policy Platform.

HB5002 Council Staff has been following HB5002 Vulnerable Roadway User legislation introduced on October 20, 2015. The bill is in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and as of December 6, 2016 it has had no action. This bill is expected to die in committee.

Advocacy efforts included letters drafted to the chair of the committee that addresses the importance of this legislation as well as a discussion with committee members, phone calls to committee members as well as the committee chair.

SB1029 Senate Bill 1029 (SB1029) is replicative of HB5002. This bill was introduced by Senator O'Brien and co-sponsored by Senator Knezek on June 9, 2016. This bill passed out of the Committee on Judiciary. Staff held a conference call with the chairs and co-chairs of the PPC, HIWG and TWG to discuss advocacy efforts. Letter of support for this legislation was delivered to the committee from advocates. DD Council Staff, and Public Policy Co-Chair Paul Palmer met with the staff of Senator O'Brien and the Chair of Judiciary Senator Jones to discuss the importance of this bill. A hearing took place on October 20th where

it was voted out of committee with unanimous support. However, once again, it is not expected to move this session.

SB1013 SB1013, introduced by Senator Shirkey, would provide for a Dental Therapist to practice in Michigan. Under this legislation, a Dental Therapist (DT) would be able to practice under the supervision of a dentist and must comport with specific rules and regulations established by the state as well as the supervising dentist. One additional component is that 50% of the DT's patients must be Medicaid beneficiaries.

SB1017 Introduced by Senator Jones, this bill would add additional penalties to people who assault or assault and batters an individual with a developmental disability. Under this legislation, the actor must know that the individual has a developmental disability and would be guilty of a misdemeanor. If the assailant has a previous conviction for this offence, then that person will be charged with a felony. Currently, this bill is in the full senate.

House Bills (HB5409 – HB5418) (SB 835-838)

House Bills HB5409-5418 are Michigan Restraint and Seclusion legislation. This package of bills establishes definitions, prohibitions, and limitations on the use of restraint and seclusion as well as establishes positive behavior supports. The staff of the council helped develop portions of the language incorporated within this legislation. The Senate bills (SB835-838) are duplicative of bills introduced in the house. As of 12/6/2016, HB5409-HB5418 are still in the house chamber and may not make it out this session.

HB6066

HB6066 Was introduced on November 29th and voted out of committee on December 1. This bill would require votes to show

pictured identification at the polls in order to have a non-contested ballot. If a person did not have a pictured identification, they could cast a provisional ballot but would need to return within 10 days to their clerk's office, produce a specific pictured identification, and then their ballot would be counted.

DD Council submitted recommendations that would amend this legislation to allow people with disabilities to sign an affidavit swearing to their identity.

This amendment was introduced but was not adopted by a vote of 3 yeas, 2 nays, and 3 passes.