

HEALTHCARE SUMMARY
34th LEGISLATURE
2025-2026



WELCOME!

The 34th Alaska Legislature conducted its two legislative sessions over 2025-2026. This report provides a breakdown of healthcare-related bills introduced and tracked by AHHA. We hope you find the takeaways and highlights in this digest valuable.

As we head into a significant election year with a new governor coming in, and potential changes across both the Alaska Legislature and Alaska’s Congressional Delegation, healthcare will continue to be front and center, regardless of election outcomes.

On behalf of our association, I want to thank you all for your engagement and effort as we celebrate our successes and navigate the coming challenges as a collaborative, united group.

Sincerely,



Jared C. Kosin, JD, MBA
President & CEO

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POLICY TAKEAWAYS & HIGHLIGHTS

AHHA Passes Prior Authorization Reform in One Year!

In 2025, AHHA introduced and passed **SB 133 - Prior Authorization Reform** into law in under fourth months. This work is a testament to the coalition of providers, insurers, and regulators who came together to draft workable solutions. The following changes will go into effect January 1, 2027:

- Speed up turnaround time for prior authorization decisions from 5 working days to 72 hours
- Provide long-term prior authorization for treatment of chronic conditions
- Prohibit restrictions on key therapies for Stage Four Advanced Metastatic Cancer
- Require exception process to step therapy requirements
- Increase transparency for policies, peer review, enforcement, and accountability
- Prioritize automation

Staffing Ratios Debate Arrives in Juneau

At the end of the 2026 legislative session, organized labor and the nurses union were able to introduce new legislation that would impose egregious staffing ratio requirements on Alaska’s hospitals and healthcare providers. AHHA **successfully stopped this issue from getting any traction**, but we expect to see it again in 2027.

Slew of Healthcare Policy Bills Pass

AHHA helped push several good healthcare policy bills across the finish line. Alaska now has new laws for respiratory therapist licensure, prescriptive authority for pharmacists, independent practice for physician assistants, and a host of licensure compacts that should benefit rural health transformation funding and hopefully pave the way for nurse licensure compact to pass in the future.

Medicaid Budget Left Intact

AHHA helped secure positive Medicaid budgets in 2025 and 2026, including a key line item to continue the virtual eligibility call center in the Division of Public Assistance, which may be very important when the H.R. 1 Medicaid changes hit in 2027. The final Medicaid budget signed into law by the outgoing Dunleavy Administration included \$11.6 million in line-item veto reductions, leaving a final Medicaid budget of \$711 million in General Funds (\$3.4 billion Total Funds), which makes the FY 2027 Medicaid General Fund budget up 5.4% over the prior year.

HEALTHCARE LEGISLATION
34th Alaska Legislature by the Numbers

681 Total Bills Introduced

- 391 House Bills
- 290 Senate Bills

115 Total Bills Passed (17%)

- 33 bills passed in 2025
- 82 bills passed in 2026

Healthcare:

- 118 bills and 6 resolutions related to healthcare
- 19 healthcare bills passed (16%) - *excluding budget and nonbinding resolutions*
4 passed in 2025 | 15 passed in 2026

Healthcare Bills 2025-26			
Policy Category	# of Bills	Percentage	Passed
Workforce	21	17%	1
Public Health / Health Education	21	17%	5
Insurance	16	13%	2
Behavioral Health	11	9%	2
Medicaid / Coverage	9	7%	2
Healthcare Providers	8	6%	3
Government Oversight & Boards	7	6%	1
Hospital	6	5%	2
Pharmacy	5	4%	1
Budget	16	13%	7
Federal Policy	4	3%	3
Total	124	100%	29

2025 Legislative Priorities

Advancing Healthcare for Alaska



Our top priority is **ensuring access** to quality, sustainable healthcare for all Alaskans

ADDRESS DELAYS IN CARE

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Patients across Alaska experience delays for care as a result of prior authorization. Originally intended to confirm the appropriateness of care, this practice has led to denials and delays to healthcare, administrative burdens for healthcare professionals, and, most critically, interruptions in the care that patients urgently need.

NURSE LICENSURE COMPACT (NLC)

Alaska needs to update its professional licensing process to incorporate modern best practices. Currently, 43 states and jurisdictions have license reciprocity through the NLC so that qualified nurses can practice across state lines with a single license. It is widely supported by Alaska nurses—a 2023 survey shows 92% of respondents support Alaska joining the NLC.

HEALTHCARE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Alaska's healthcare system is stuck. We lack infrastructure and services, with one in seven hospital beds occupied by patients who are medically ready to leave but cannot be discharged because there is no place to go for continued care. In 2023, Alaskans spent 67% longer in the hospital than the national average.

PROMOTE FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

CERTIFICATE OF NEED (CON)

CON laws are a healthcare planning and regulatory mechanism used to balance healthcare access and cost. It is a public, transparent process for vetting projects that could add significantly to a state's Medicaid budget. In states that have repealed CON - such as Georgia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Indiana - per capita health expenditures for hospital and physician services grew at a higher rate in the years following repeal.

MEDICAID SERVICES

Medicaid is a federal-state partnership that provides health coverage and long-term care services for Alaska's most vulnerable: children, seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and very low income or working poor. The program is vital to Alaska's healthcare infrastructure. Medicaid and Medicare often underpay for healthcare services, which creates a significant cost shift to private insurance and drives up healthcare costs to Alaskans.



- **Reform the prior authorization process** by broadening exemptions, imposing strict time limits on reviews, requiring disclosures by insurers, and integrating technology.
- **Enact the NLC** to get nurses to work faster, aid recruitment and retention, and support military families relocating to Alaska.
- **Invest in healthcare capital projects and services**, and realign reimbursement streams to increase throughput in our healthcare system.
- **Don't repeal CON - make refinements to the administrative code.** AHHA is committed to working with the Legislature and the Department of Health on such an approach.
- **Fully-fund the Medicaid program** to mitigate cost shifts and incentivize service delivery for our vulnerable populations.



Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association

For over 70 years, the Alaska Hospital & Healthcare Association (AHHA) has served as a non-profit trade association representing Alaska's hospitals, nursing homes, and a growing number of healthcare partners across the continuum of care. AHHA supports members in their roles as community providers and essential employers in cities, towns, and villages across Alaska.

Our mission is to advance the shared interests of Alaska healthcare to build an innovative, sustainable system of care for all Alaskans.



COVERAGE & SERVICES

A fully funded Medicaid program is crucial for Alaska's healthcare infrastructure and financial stability, providing essential coverage to the most vulnerable Alaskans. Cuts cause underpayments to providers, creating instability and a significant cost shift to private insurers, driving up healthcare costs for all Alaskans.

AHHA supports critical steps for health coverage and services:

- **Fully Funded** Medicaid Budget
- **Efficient and effective distribution** of Rural Health Transformation Funds
- **Systems planning** for OBBBA requirements starting Jan. 1, 2027



MODERNIZING HEALTHCARE LICENSING

Modernizing and streamlining healthcare licensing in Alaska is key to reducing the administrative friction on our healthcare workers. Implementing systems like interstate licensure compacts allows qualified providers to practice across state lines more efficiently, which is essential to recruitment, retention, and improved outcomes for our patients.

AHHA supports legislation for modernizing healthcare licensing:

- **HB 131 / SB 124** Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact
- **SB 172** Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact
- **HB 110** Social Work Licensure Compact
- **HB 241** Psychology Interstate Compact



COORDINATION & ACCESS

Effective coordination and access are foundational to a functional healthcare system. Streamlining complex systems to ensure Alaskans receive timely and appropriate services is essential to enhancing quality of care, reducing costs, and empowering Alaskans to live healthier, more complete lives.

AHHA supports legislation for healthcare coordination and access:

- **HB 27** Medical Care for Major Emergencies
- **HB 73 / SB 76** Complex Care Residential Homes
- **HB 195 / SB 147** Pharmacist Prescription Authority

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Workforce

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 61	EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS	GOVERNOR	Allows a flexible hourly work plan, raising the daily hour limit to 12 hours/day, instead of the standard eight-hour shift. The bill also lowers “youth employment” from under 17 years of age to under 16 years of age.	Monitor
Passed	HB 110	SOCIAL WORK LICENSURE COMPACT	GRAY	An omnibus healthcare bill that authorizes Alaska to join five major interstate professional licensure compacts to expand workforce mobility and rural health access.	Support
	HB 131	NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT	GOVERNOR	Implement the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact in Alaska to allow nurses to practice across state lines without having to obtain multiple licenses.	Support
	HB 158	PROFESSIONAL LICENSING; TEMP PERMITS	GOVERNOR	Creates a universal temporary license that grants a qualified applicant who holds a valid out-of-state license the ability to practice in Alaska for up to 180 days.	Monitor
	HB 222	WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS	HALL	Creates a process for workplaces to establish protective orders; follows the domestic violence protective order process.	Monitor
	HB 241	PSYCHOLOGY INTERSTATE COMPACT	D. NELSON	Requires Alaska to implement the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.	Monitor
	HB 287	COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION	MINA	Creates certification of community health workers to provide nonmedical services as a liaison between health and community service providers and the users of those services as an optional Medicaid service that is eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.	Monitor
	HB 340	DIETITIAN LICENSURE COMPACT	UNDERWOOD	Enacts the Dietician Licensure Compact in Alaska.	Monitor

AHHA Position Key:

Support - AHHA formally backs the legislation.

Oppose - AHHA formally opposes the legislation.

Monitor - AHHA is tracking the legislation but has not taken a formal position.

Neutral - AHHA has formally weighed in on the legislation without opposing or supporting it.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Workforce

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 347	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS & ASSISTANTS	LABOR & COMMERCE	Modernizes Alaska's occupational therapy statute to expand therapists' role to restore, rehabilitate, and enhance function after injury, illness, disability, or decline.	Monitor
	HB 351	NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT	FIELDS	Enacts the nurse licensure compact in Alaska, including several other requirements such as staffing committees, staffing plans, frequent reporting, and fees.	Oppose
	HB 352	HEALTHCARE LICENSING COMPACTS	FIELDS	Enacts four licensure compacts in Alaska: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; PA Licensure Compact; Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact; EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact.	Support
	SB 49	WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDERS	CLAMAN	Creates a process for workplaces to establish protective orders; follows the domestic violence protective order process.	Monitor
	SB 68	EMPLOYMENT OF MINORS	GOVERNOR	Allows a flexible hourly work plan, raising the daily hour limit to 12 hours/day, instead of the standard eight-hour shift. The bill also lowers "youth employment" from under 17 years of age to under 16 years of age.	Monitor
	SB 124	NURSING: LICENSURE; MULTISTATE COMPACT	GOVERNOR	Implement the Multistate Nurse Licensure Compact in Alaska to allow nurses to practice across state lines without having to obtain multiple licenses.	Support
	SB 145	PROFESSIONAL LICENSING; TEMP PERMITS	GOVERNOR	Creates a universal temporary license that grants a qualified applicant who holds a valid out-of-state license the ability to practice in Alaska for up to 180 days.	Monitor
	SB 159	TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT PROG; CONTRIBUTIONS	LABOR & COMMERCE	Increases the amount from employee unemployment insurance contributions that is diverted to the Department of Labor & Workforce Development for the State Training and Employment Program; the share diverted to the STEP Program will increase from .10% to .20% of wages.	Support

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Workforce

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	SB 172	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY LICENSURE COMPACT	LABOR & COMMERCE	Enacts the Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact in Alaska.	Monitor
	SB 220	COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION	GIESSEL	Creates certification of community health workers to provide nonmedical services as a liaison between health and community service providers and the users of those services as an optional Medicaid service that is eligible for Medicaid reimbursement.	Monitor
	SB 256	EMS LICENSURE COMPACT	MYERS	Enacts the EMS Licensure Compact in Alaska.	Monitor
	SB 281	HEALTHCARE COMPACTS; RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Enacts four licensure compacts in Alaska: Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; PA Licensure Compact; Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact; EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact. Also creates a seven-member Rural Health Transformation Program Advisory Council to be appointed by the Governor.	Support
	SB 283	MINIMUM NURSING STAFF LEVELS IN HOSPITALS	LABOR & COMMERCE	Requires strict staffing ratios in Alaska healthcare facilities.	Oppose

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Public Health / Health Education

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 62	SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS/TRACKING	GOVERNOR	Establishes a sexual assault examination kit tracking system and updates timelines for processing examination kits.	Monitor
	HB 92	CPR CURRICULUM	EISCHEID	Encourages school districts to include CPR training in the K-12 health education curriculum.	Monitor
	HB 105	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	GALVIN	Requires mental health education receive the same priority as physical education in the K-12 curriculum.	Monitor
	HB 166	PUBLIC SCHOOLS; OPIOID AWARENESS PROGRAM	RAUSCHER	Requires the Department of Education & Early Development to develop an opioid abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for students in grades 6-12.	Monitor
	HB 225	FLUORIDE SUPPLEMENTS, PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM	ALLARD	Prohibits adding fluoride to a public water system; authorizes the Chief Medical Officer to issue a standing order permitting designated pharmacists to dispense fluoride supplements without a prescription to specified patients.	Monitor
	HB 238	CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS	GRAY	Requires vaccines recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics for children and adolescents 18 years or younger must be included in the State's immunization program.	Monitor
	HB 279	VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS; INFORMATION	SCHWANKE	Specifies that school districts, sports, and other public services may only require participants to be vaccinated with a vaccine that has received the full approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration.	Monitor
	HB 285	HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Updates and modernizes the Health Information Exchange.	Monitor
	HB 326	PRESCRIPTION OF ABORTION DRUGS	MCCABE	Requires a healthcare provider perform an in-person physical exam before prescribing an abortion-inducing drug and a follow up appointment to confirm the pregnancy was terminated.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Public Health / Health Education

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 342	PHYS LBLTY: SEX REASSIGN PROCEDURE; MINORS	ALLARD	Dictates the form that must be used in "sex-reassignment treatments", and allows a person who receives treatment to pursue civil damages against the performing physician 20 years into the future for any injuries or conditions suffered as a result of the treatment.	Monitor
	HB 357	ABORTION	VANCE	Enacts the Alaska Heartbeat Act, which prohibits abortion of any fetus with a detectable heartbeat, withstanding certain exceptions.	Monitor
	SB 20	CPR CURRICULUM	GRAY-JACKSON	Encourages school districts to include CPR training in the K-12 health education curriculum.	Monitor
Passed, then Vetoed	SB 24	TOBACCO/NICOTINE /E-CIG AGE; E-CIG TAX	STEVENS	Proposes to align state law with federal law in raising the minimum age to buy, sell or possess tobacco and electronic smoking products (ESPs) from age 19 to 21; and establishes a sales tax for ESPs.	Monitor
Passed, then Vetoed	SB 41	PUBLIC SCHOOLS: MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION	GRAY-JACKSON	Seeks to include "mental health" within the health program that school districts are "encouraged" to initiate and conduct in kindergarten throughout grade 12.	Support
Passed	SB 60	ESTABLISH ME/CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME DAY	TOBIN	An Act establishing May 12 as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Day of Recognition.	Monitor
	SB 168	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; FAMILY PLANNING	GRAY-JACKSON	Allows the DOH to offer family planning supplies and services to individuals of child-bearing age who are not pregnant and whose household income does not exceed 225% of the federal poverty limit.	Monitor
Passed	SB 187	SCHOOL NUTRITION/MEAL: PROHIBIT FOOD DYES	WIELECHOWSKI	Prohibits certain food additives and dyes in public school meals.	Monitor
	SB 228	PUBLIC SCHOOLS; OPIOID AWARENESS PROGRAM	RAUSCHER	Requires the Department of Education & Early Development to develop an opioid abuse awareness and prevention curriculum for students in grades 6-12.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Public Health / Health Education

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	SB 271	ABORTION	RAUSCHER	Enacts the Alaska Heartbeat Act, which prohibits abortion of any fetus with a detectable heartbeat withstanding certain exceptions.	Monitor
Passed	SB 272	HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Updates and modernizes the Health Information Exchange.	Neutral
	SJR 1	CONST. AM: ABORTION/FUNDING	HUGHES	Proposes a constitutional amendment expressing that the Alaska constitution may not be construed to secure or protect a right to an abortion or require the State to fund an abortion.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Insurance

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 5	INSURANCE DISCRIMINATION ELECTED OFFICIAL	MCCABE	Prohibits insurers from discriminating against individuals solely based on their status as an elected official.	Monitor
	HB 29	SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSUR	VANCE	Permits school districts and other governmental units to establish group insurance coverage and/or self-insurance coverage for employees.	Monitor
	HB 144	INSURANCE; PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS	RUFFRIDGE	Reforms several components of the prior authorization process used by a health care insurer offering a health plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027; includes clear enforcement and accountability standards. This bill was developed by AHHA with full consensus from the Division of Insurance, the Alaska State Medical Association, Premera Blue Cross, and Moda Health.	Support
	HB 148	OMNIBUS INSURANCE BILL	LABOR & COMMERCE	Enacts technical updates to Title 21—Alaska’s Insurance Code.	Neutral
	HB 272	INSURANCE FOR PROSTHETICS & ORTHOTICS	JOSEPHSON	Requires insurance plans in Alaska to offer prosthetic and orthotic devices or replacements as a covered service. Also permits Alaska Medicaid to offer this as an optional service in the Medicaid program.	Monitor
	HB 273	DENTAL INSURANCE & DIRECT CARE AGREEMENTS	RUFFRIDGE	Opens direct care agreements, currently limited to primary care services, to include dental care services.	Monitor
	HB 292	INSURANCE: PEDIATRIC NEUROPSYCH DISORDERS	COULOMBE	Requires health care insurers that offer health care insurance plans in state to cover the prophylaxis, diagnosis, and treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections and pediatric acute-onset neuropsychiatric syndrome.	Monitor
	HB 294	INSURANCE DEDUCTIBLE LIMITS	GRAY	Specifies a healthcare insurance policy may not require an annual deductible that exceeds \$1,700 for an individual plan or \$3,400 for a family plan.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Insurance

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	SB 4	HEALTH CARE PRICES AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS	HUGHES	Creates the “Alaska Health Care Consumer’s Right to Shop Act.” Requires insurers to develop and implement a program that provides a monetary incentive for a covered person to elect service from a health care provider who charges less than the median contracted rate recognized by the health care insurer. For employer plans, the consumer and employer shall each receive at least 33% of the costs saved by the insurer. For individual plans, the consumer shall receive at least 50% of the costs saved.	Oppose
	SB 5	SCHOOL/UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSUR	MYERS	Permits school districts and other governmental units to establish group insurance coverage and/or self-insurance coverage for employees.	Monitor
	SB 121	HEALTH INSURANCE ALLOWABLE CHARGES	GIESSEL	Replaces the 80th percentile rule with a 75th percentile rule, requiring the Director of Insurance to set minimum out-of-network reimbursement rates at no less than the 75th percentile of state charges (or higher). For primary care, allowable charges must exceed 450% of Medicare and Medicaid. Insurers must apply reimbursement rates uniformly and equally for identical services and providers practicing within their license scope.	Monitor
	SB 122	HEALTH INSURANCE NETWORK STANDARDS	GIESSEL	Requires health care insurers to meet minimum provider network standards or submit a plan for corrective action for consideration by the Director of Insurance. The bill also specifies that a healthcare insurer’s provider network must include each hospital, SNF, and mental health / substance abuse facility, as well as their employed or contracted providers.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Insurance

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed	SB 132	OMNIBUS INSURANCE BILL	LABOR & COMMERCE	Enacts technical updates to Title 21—Alaska’s Insurance Code.	Neutral
Passed	SB 133	INSURANCE; PRIOR AUTHORIZATIONS	BJORKMAN	Reforms several components of the prior authorization process used by a health care insurer offering a health plan issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2027; includes clear enforcement and accountability standards. This bill was developed by AHHA with full consensus from the Division of Insurance, the Alaska State Medical Association, Premera Blue Cross, and Moda Health.	Support
	SB 266	INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT RATES	CLAMAN	Requires a health care insurer to reimburse a non-network health care provider for a health care service or supply in an amount that is at least 75 percent of the median reimbursement rate paid to an in network health care provider for the same health care service or supply.	Monitor
	SB 276	CONTRACEPTIVES: INSURANCE COVERAGE	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Requires healthcare insurers to provide coverage for prescription contraceptives and services that are necessary to prescribe and dispense contraceptives.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Behavioral Health

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed	HB 36	FOSTER CHILDREN PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT	GRAY	Clarifies the legal protections for children in state custody who require psychiatric hospitalization. The bill is in response to a court case that found a child's 46-day wait between first admission to the hospital and the hearing violated fundamental due process rights. The bill specifies due process and notice requirements.	Neutral
Passed, then Vetoed	HB 52	MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS	DIBERT	Mandates that a minor undergoing evaluation or inpatient treatment at a psychiatric hospital has the right, unless otherwise prohibited by law or court order, to have confidential video communication at least 1x/week for at least one hour with their parent or legal guardian. Requires the DOH to perform unannounced inspections at least 2x/year at each facility, and interview at least 50% of patients. Requires psychiatric hospitals to notify the Department of Health in writing within one business day of using seclusion or restraint.	Neutral
	HB138	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS SURCHARGE & FUND	MINA	Imposes a behavioral health crisis services surcharge (\$.98 per month for each wireless telephone number and for each local exchange access line for wireline telephones) to fund 988 crisis line and behavior health services.	Monitor
	HB 232	MINOR MENTAL HEALTH: AGE OF CONSENT	GRAY	Allows a minor who is 16 years of age or older to give consent to receive outpatient behavioral or mental health services.	Monitor
	HB 270	OPIOID OVERDOSE DRUG PRESCRIPTION	TOMASZEWSKI	Requires licensed healthcare providers to offer a prescription for an opioid overdose drug when prescribing opioids under specific, higher-risk circumstances.	Monitor
	HB 344	OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND	COULOMBE	Creates an opioid litigation settlement fund to receive settlement proceeds and allows the Department of Revenue to spend funds for opioid remediation in compliance with settlement agreements.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Behavioral Health

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	SB 44	MINORS & PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS	CLAMAN	Mandates that a minor undergoing evaluation or inpatient treatment at a psychiatric hospital has the right, unless otherwise prohibited by law or court order or considered therapeutically unadvisable, to have confidential video communication at least once 1x/week with their parent or legal guardian. Requires the DOH to prepare an annual report documenting the uses of seclusion and restraint, findings from inspections, and data about minors receiving care. Requires the DOH to perform unannounced inspections at least 2x/year and interview at least 50% of patients. Psychiatric hospitals must notify the Dept and parent / legal guardian of each use of seclusion within one business day.	Neutral
	SB 45	MEDICAID MENTAL HEALTH PARITY	DUNBAR	Requires Alaska Medicaid to ensure compliance with federal parity measures for mental health and substance use disorder coverage for Medicaid beneficiaries. Requires the DOH to submit an extensive annual report on coverage parity in Alaska Medicaid.	Monitor
	SB 90	MINOR MENTAL HEALTH: AGE OF CONSENT	GIESSEL	Allows a minor who is 16 years of age or older to give consent to receive outpatient behavioral or mental health services.	Monitor
	SB 196	BEH. HEALTH CRISIS SURCHARGE & FUND	KAWASAKI	Imposes a behavioral health crisis services surcharge (\$ <i>.98 per month for each wireless telephone number and for each local exchange access line for wireline telephones</i>) to fund 988 crisis line and behavior health services.	Monitor
	SB 201	COURT REPORTS: INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS	GIESSEL	Requires the superior court to transmit the information required under AS 47.30.907(a) by December 31, 2026 that has not been previously reported to the Department of Public Safety for all orders of the superior court issued for the involuntary commitment of a person.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Medicaid / Coverage

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed	HB 14	REPEAL CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS/MED ASSIST	STAPP	Repeals program for catastrophic illness/ medical assistance for chronic and acute medical conditions due to low participation.	Monitor
	HB 22	GENERAL RELIEF & BURIAL ASSISTANCE	STAPP	Adds burial assistance for those entitled to receive General Relief funds.	Monitor
Passed	HB 73	COMPLEX CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES	GOVERNOR	Creates new facility license type for "complex care residential homes" that provide 24-hour multi-disciplinary care to up to 15 individuals with mental, behavioral, medical, or disability-related needs.	Support
	HB 151	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE: CHILDREN UNDER 6	GALVIN	Allows a child under age 6 who is determined to be eligible for Medicaid to remain eligible for Medicaid until age 6.	Monitor
	HB 185	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE; FAMILY PLANNING	HALL	Allows the DOH to offer family planning supplies and services to individuals of child-bearing age whose household income does not exceed 225% of the federal poverty limit.	Monitor
	SB 76	COMPLEX CARE RESIDENTIAL HOMES	GOVERNOR	Creates new facility license type for "complex care residential homes" that provide 24-hour multi-disciplinary care to up to 15 individuals with mental, behavioral, medical, or disability-related needs.	Support
	SB 83	TELEHEALTH REIMBURSEMENT RATES	CLAMAN	Requires health insurers to reimburse providers for telehealth services on the same basis and rate as in-person.	Neutral
	SB 186	SNAP: PROHIBIT SOFT DRINKS	WIELECHOWSKI	Removes soft drinks as an allowable food in the SNAP benefits program.	Monitor
	SCR 2	SUPPORT CRISIS CARE & MEDICAID REFORM	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Calls for Medicaid reform and other potential solutions like assessing commercial health insurers and telecom surcharges to fund crisis care.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Healthcare Providers

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed, then Vetoed	HB 70	EMERGENCY MED SVCS; OPERATIONAL CANINES	SCHRAGE	Empowers EMS personnel to deliver on-scene point-of-injury (POI) emergency care and transport for operational canines (OpK9s). Under current law, providing such care could be deemed “practicing veterinary medicine without a license,” carrying severe penalties.	Monitor
	HB 147	PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY	PRAX	Allows a naturopath who holds a temporary endorsement and is supervised by a physician to prescribe and administer prescription drugs. After successful supervision for one year, the naturopath may receive a permanent endorsement to independently administer drugs.	Monitor
Passed	HB 244	CNA TRAINING	UNDERWOOD	Specifies the standards that are required for certified nurse-aide training, including a basic understanding of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia-related behaviors.	Neutral
	HB 293	GENETIC COUNSELORS	FIELDS	Creates licensure for “genetic counselors” - individuals trained to obtain and evaluate medical histories to determine genetic risk for medical conditions and diseases in a patient or client and their future potential children.	Monitor
Passed	SB 89	PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SCOPE OF PRACTICE	TOBIN	Seeks to establish a scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs) and allow for independent practice without a collaborative agreement after obtaining 4,000 hours of postgraduate clinical experience.	Neutral
	SB 103	CNA TRAINING	GRAY-JACKSON	Specifies the standards that are required for certified nurse-aide training, including a basic understanding of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia-related behaviors.	Neutral
	SB 193	PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHY	SENATE STATE AFFAIRS	Allows a naturopath who holds a temporary endorsement and is supervised by a physician to prescribe and administer prescription drugs. After successful supervision for one year, the naturopath may receive a permanent endorsement to independently administer drugs.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Healthcare Providers

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	SB 248	GENETIC COUNSELORS	DUNBAR	Creates licensure for "genetic counselors" - individuals trained to obtain and evaluate medical histories to determine genetic risk for medical conditions and diseases in a patient or client and their future potential children.	Monitor
Passed	HB 27	MEDICAL MAJOR EMERGENCIES	MINA	HB 21 expands the current statewide comprehensive emergency medicals services system to include "care for major emergencies" to target strokes and heart attacks for statewide training and protocols from the Office of Emergency Medical Services.	Support
	HB 64	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INFANT SAFETY DEVICE	TOMASZEWSKI	Amends Alaska's safe surrender law to allow for surrender an infant in an "infant safety device". This legislation authorizes (does not require) use of these devices in facilities that are already designated for safe surrender.	Support
	HB 178	MEDICAL DEBT INFORMATION	MINA	Maintains that medical debt cannot be considered for employment, membership in a labor organization, or renting property. The bill also prohibits a medical creditor or debt collector from reporting information to a consumer credit reporting agency.	Neutral
	HB 330	ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS	RUFFRIDGE	Requires that parents' access to their child's EHR be the same as access to paper health records; ensures parental access to my-chart and other EHR platforms.	Monitor
	HB 362	RESPIRATORY CARE LICENSE	LABOR & COMMERCE	Creates a license type for respiratory therapists in Alaska - currently the only state that does not professionally license Respiratory Care Practitioners.	Support
Passed	SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INFANT SAFETY DEVICE	MYERS	Amends Alaska's safe surrender law to allow for surrender an infant in an "infant safety device". This legislation authorizes (does not require) use of these devices in facilities that are already designated for safe surrender.	Support

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Government Oversight & Boards

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 95	BOARD OF LICENSED MIDWIVES	ALLARD	Changes the composition of the Board of Direct Entry Midwives by removing the requirement for one board member to be an OBGYN or certified nurse midwife, and reduces scope of practice requirements.	Oppose
Passed, then Vetoed	HB 96	HOME CARE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADV BOARD	PRAX	Establishes the Home Care Employment Standards Advisory Board to advise the DOH on Medicaid payment rates and rate adequacy, and investigate matters related to wages, working conditions, and workforce adequacy. The Board shall submit a biennial report to the legislature.	Monitor
	HB 106	THEFT: ORGANIZED; MED. RECORDS; MAIL	GOVERNOR	Creates a new class A felony for "organized theft" and amends theft in the 2nd Degree to include instances where the property is medical records or other medical information.	Monitor
	HB 242	SEXUAL ASSAULT BY HEALTH CARE WORKER	HANNAN	Clarifies crime of sexual assault to include instances where the offender is a health care worker and the assault occurs during the course of professional treatment.	Monitor
	HB 372	HEALTH CARE PROVIDER REFERRALS	GRAY	Requires providers to report in detail patient referrals to providers or entities with whom the referring physician has a financial or familial relationship.	Monitor
	SB 100	THEFT: ORGANIZED; MED. RECORDS; MAIL	GOVERNOR	Creates a new class A felony for "organized theft" and amends theft in the 2nd Degree to include instances where the property is medical records or other medical information.	Monitor
	SB 154	HOME CARE EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ADV BOARD	YUNDT	Establishes the Home Care Employment Standards Advisory Board to advise the DOH on Medicaid payment rates and rate adequacy, and investigate matters related	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Hospital

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed	HB 27	MEDICAL MAJOR EMERGENCIES	MINA	HB 21 expands the statewide comprehensive emergency medicals services system to include “care for major emergencies” to target strokes and heart attacks for statewide training and protocols from the Office of Emergency Medical Services.	Support (letter sent)
	HB 64	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INFANT SAFETY DEVICE	TOMASZEWSKI	Amends Alaska's safe surrender law to allow for surrender an infant in an "infant safety device". This legislation authorizes (does not require) use of these devices in facilities that are already designated for safe surrender.	Support (letter sent)
	HB 178	MEDICAL DEBT INFORMATION	MINA	Prohibits using medical debt in employment, housing, labor membership decisions, and credit scoring, while barring creditors from reporting medical debt to credit agencies.	Neutral
	HB 330	ACCESS TO ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS	RUFFRIDGE	Requires that parents' access to their child's electronic health records be the same as to paper health records; ensures parental access to my-chart and other EHR platforms.	Monitor
	HB 362	RESPIRATORY CARE LICENSE	LABOR & COMMERCE	Creates a license type for respiratory therapists in Alaska to increase patient safety and bring Alaska up to national standards. Alaska is the only state that does not professionally license Respiratory Care Practitioners.	Support (letter sent)
	SB 9	SURRENDER OF INFANTS; INFANT SAFETY DEVICE	SENATOR MYERS	Amends Alaska's safe surrender law to allow for surrender an infant in an "infant safety device". This legislation authorizes (does not require) use of these devices in facilities that are already designated for safe surrender.	Support (letter sent)

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Pharmacy

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
	HB 149	PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER; 3RD PARTY ADMIN	LABOR & COMMERCE	Requires pharmacy benefit managers and third-party administrators to be licensed, rather than registered, to conduct business in Alaska.	Monitor
Passed, then Vetoed; Veto Overridden	HB 195	PHARMACIST PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY	MINA	Authorizes pharmacists to provide patient care services—including prescribing and administration of medications—within the scope of their education, training, and experience. This includes chronic disease management and minor ailments.	Support
	SB 134	PHARMACY BENEFITS MANAGER; 3RD PARTY ADMIN	GIESSEL	Requires pharmacy benefit managers and third-party administrators to be licensed, rather than registered, to conduct business in Alaska.	Monitor
	SB 142	HEALTH INSURANCE & PHARMACY BENEFITS MGRS	GIESSEL (BY REQUEST)	Requires any municipal and state group health insurance plans and policies, including self-insured plans and policies, that use pharmacy benefit managers to follow the recently enacted PBM requirements in Alaska.	Monitor
	SB 147	PHARMACIST PRESCRIPTION AUTHORITY	GIESSEL	Authorizes pharmacists to provide patient care services—including prescribing and administration of medications—within the scope of their education, training, and experience. This includes chronic disease management and minor ailments.	Support

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Budget

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed	HB 53	OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP	GOVERNOR	SFY 2026 Operating Budget Bill	Monitor
	HB 54	CAPITAL/SUPPLEME NTAL/FUNDS	GOVERNOR	SFY 2026 Capital Budget Bill	Monitor
Passed	HB 55	MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	GOVERNOR	SFY 2026 Mental Health Budget Bill	Monitor
	HB 56	SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP	GOVERNOR	SFY 2025 Supplemental Budget Bill	Monitor
Passed	HB 263	OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP	GOVERNOR	SFY 2027 Operating Budget Bill	Monitor
	HB 264	CAPITAL/SUPPLEME NTAL/FUNDS	GOVERNOR	SFY 2027 Capital Budget Bill	Monitor
Passed	HB 265	MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	GOVERNOR	SFY 2027 Mental Health Budget Bill	Monitor
Passed	HB 289	SUPPLEMENTAL	GOVERNOR	Supplemental for SFY 2026. Adds \$36.4 million in UGF for Medicaid. Updated utilization projections are coming and could increase the supplemental request.	Monitor
	SB 56	OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP	GOVERNOR	SFY 2026 Operating Budget Bill	Monitor
Passed	SB 57	CAPITAL/SUPPLEME NTAL/FUNDS	GOVERNOR	SFY 2026 Capital Budget Bill	Monitor
	SB 58	MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	GOVERNOR	SFY 2026 Mental Health Budget Bill	Monitor
	SB 59	SUPPLEMENTAL; FUND CAP	GOVERNOR	SFY 2025 Supplemental Budget Bill	Monitor
	SB 213	OPERATING BUDGET; CAP; SUPP	GOVERNOR	SFY 2027 Operating Budget Bill	Monitor
Passed	SB 214	CAPITAL/SUPPLEME NTAL/FUNDS	GOVERNOR	SFY 2027 Capital Budget Bill	Monitor
	SB 215	MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET	GOVERNOR	SFY 2027 Mental Health Budget Bill	Monitor
	SB 231	APPROP: SUPPLEMENTAL	GOVERNOR	Supplemental for SFY 2026. Adds \$36.4 million in UGF for Medicaid. Updated utilization projections are coming and could increase the supplemental request.	Monitor

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY AT-A-GLANCE

Federal Policy

Status	Bill	Title	Sponsor	Description	AHHA Position
Passed	HJR 9	EXTEND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TAX CREDITS	MINA	Urges the United States Congress to extend enhanced premium tax credits for health insurance premiums under the Affordable Care Act. Calls on Alaska congressional delegation to champion the extension.	Support
Passed	HJR 32	RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Expresses commitment to the rural health transformation program and acknowledges the critical health care challenges facing rural areas of the state.	Neutral
Passed	SJR 15	OPPOSE MEDICAID CUTS	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Calls on the state's congressional delegation to oppose cuts to federal spending on Medicaid to protect the state's health care system, communities, citizens, and economy.	Support
	SJR27	RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM	HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	Expresses commitment to the rural health transformation program and articulating priorities for the program.	