

2024 General Assembly Legislative Session

Advisory Council on Health Disparities and Health Equity

January 9, 2024

Richmond, Virginia

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Outline

- 2024 Session Highlights
- Anticipated topics
- Staying Informed
- Questions

2024 Legislature

- All 140 seats were elected in November 2023
 - Democrats took House and maintained Senate majorities
 - Special elections – 1 house, 1 senate
- It has been a bit slower so far than we usually see by this time in the year

Anticipated Topics – Behavioral Health

- HB0037 – Mental Health Loan Repayment Program (Clark)
- SB30 – Budget Support for Behavioral Health Loan Repayment
 - \$1.5 Million proposed for continuation of the behavioral health loan repayment program; \$5 Million to enhance program for specific professions; two positions to help administer loan repayment programs (VDH)
- [Right Help, Right Now Year 2 Legislative Priorities](#)

Anticipated Topics - Healthcare Providers/Hospitals

HB8 – Medical Ethics Act (Ware)

- Provides protections for healthcare providers, institutions, and payers to not participate in or pay for treatment that violates their conscience

HB32/SB35 – Implicit Bias Training for Providers (Clark/Locke)

- Requires implicit bias and cultural competency training for nurse and physicians to be added as continuing education in the regulations

HB87 – Drug Screenings for hospital patients with overdose symptoms (Green)

- When patients present with overdose symptoms, screen for marijuana, fentanyl, amphetamines, opioids, and phencyclidine as a part of any routine drug screening administered to a patient

Anticipated Topics - Maternal Health

HB169/HB286 – Maternal Health Data and Quality Metrics Task Force (Keys-Gamarra/McQuinn)

- Re-establishes the Task Force which sunset in 2023, annual report

HB204 – Maternal Mortality Review Team (Simonds)

- access to DOC records for case review

SB140 – Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Team (Foy)

- Establishes the FIMRT, triennial report

Anticipated Topics - Sickle Cell Disease in Adults

HB239 – Advisory Council on Sickle Cell Disease (McQuinn)

- Establishes a new council to advise the Commissioner on the efforts to improve awareness of sickle cell disease and sickle cell trait and the needs of individuals with sickle cell disease; annual report

HB252 – Sickle Cell Registry (Mundon King)

- Determining means of improving the diagnosis, need for/means long term follow up; epidemiological analyses; rehabilitative programs; and assisting in the training of hospital personnel; other needs

HB255 – Adult Sickle Cell Screening (Mundon King)

- All adults will be screened at their annual wellness exam for sickle cell unless objecting on religious basis

Anticipated Topics - Miscellaneous

HB33 - Microplastics in water workgroup (Clark)

- Requires a workgroup to develop recommendations on the reduction of microplastics in public drinking water

HB241 - Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers (McQuinn)

- Requires creates and promulgation of regulations for a new licensure type for care centers

HB354 - Public Pools Regulations (Hope)

- Requires promulgation of new regulations for public pools

Staying Informed

Legislative Information System

- Lobbyist in a Box (up to 5 bills for free)
- Legislative Process

New General Assembly Building

Health Equity staff

Questions?