



1. Session Overview

- a. This was an extremely busy week for the Council. Many members wish to negotiate and move their bills. In addition, the long awaiting language from the Governor’s Office dropped mid-week, and we are working diligently to get prepared for the following week when the Governor will hold a subject matter hearing on the legislation. We expect a busier week next week, with the Senate Committee deadline, Industry Lobby Day, and 2 subject matter hearings (AI in Healthcare and the Governor’s Office Legislation).

2. Committees

a. House Insurance

- i. The only bill called in House Insurance that ILHIC is tracking is HB 4112 (Infertility). It passed on a roll call vote with two opposing. The amendment language took care of the Council’s Concern. No other bills were called. No bills were moved to Subcommittee.

b. Senate Judiciary

- i. SB 3331 (Junk Fee Bill) was not called this week. The Sponsor is seeking further conversation due to the high level of opposition.

c. House Healthcare Availability and Access

- i. No tracked bills were called this week.

d. House Consumer Protection

- i. No tracked bills were called this week.

e. House Human Services Committee

- i. No tracked bills were called this week.

f. House Public Health

- i. No tracked bills were called this week.

g. Senate Insurance Committee

- i. SB 56 (Medicare Affiliate Birthday Rule) passed on Leave.
- ii. SB 2573 (Cancer Wig Coverage) passed on Leave.

- iii. SB 2672 (Generic Drugs) passed on leave (there will be an additional floor amendment.)
- iv. SB 3130 (State Based Exchange Omnibus) The Department is moving the bill and filing a floor amendment (addresses ILHIC's concerns). The Department was asked to bring the amendment back to committee.
- v. SB 3203 (Inhaler Coverage) passed. Senator Syverson requested that the non-profits supporting the mandates should also include the mandate on their own insurance plans.
- vi. SB 3599 (Mobile Integrated Health) Laura testified that the bill needs more substance and clarification on definitions. There are also conversations that need to happen with the Medicaid Agency to ensure the issues are properly addressed.
- vii. No bills were moved to Sub Committee.

h. Mental Health and Addiction Committee

- i. The Mental Health Committee held a subject matter meeting on prior authorizations in mental health (in regard to Medicaid). Many physicians testified on how prior authorizations take up most of their time and are unable to treat their patients with the standard of care that is required. Prior Authorizations are also a large portion of the Governor's bill set to be heard next week in a Subject Matter Hearing.

3. Meetings

a. HB 5142 Birth Mandate

- i. The Council met with Leader Gabel to discuss which requires that insurers shall cover all services for pregnancy, postpartum, and newborn care that are rendered by perinatal doulas or licensed certified professional midwives, including home births, home visits, and support during labor, abortion, or miscarriage (at no cost share). This is also a Governor's Office initiative. I don't believe The Gov's office is discussing legislation with the Department because they are adamant about keeping the Jan 1, 2025 date. When we explained our suggestion to move the date to the following year, the Gov's Office said, "industry can make it happen."

b. HB4475 Mental Health

- i. The Council met with Representative LaPointe, Senator Villa, Thresholds, and industry members to discuss HB4475, which mandates out of network mental health providers be reimbursed as in network, in addition to credentialing and reimbursement requirements. The stakeholders narrowed down three issues they would like to work on with the legislation.
 1. Remove barriers in contracting. The Blues are going to workshop some language to us to see if it works for industry overall.
 2. Supervisory Billing- Thresholds mentioned that there is not consistency within plans on supervisory billing. They would like to see consistency across plans that require supervisory billing- allowing providers to bill for "in-training" individuals.
 3. Leasing Networks. The stakeholders are looking at providing more transparency within leased networks.

4. The Stakeholders are still adamant on establishing a “floor” on rate reimbursement. Industry did express concerns that any rate in statute could actually establish a ceiling rather than a floor. DOI didn’t seem to push back on this language as well.

c. SB 371 Postcard Update

- i. The Coalition leaders, IRMA, CBAI, and AARP met with Ventura to discuss the coalition’s language that was approved by the OAG. She believes that OAG has the authority to enforce the current language to address the issues presented in our alternative language without making any further changes in an amendment. She also made it very clear that she is hesitant to make any changes because she does not want to deal with previous stakeholders that have soured the well. It was a theme that she wanted to be an OAG issue. Even so, she did not want the coalition to shop the language to a different sponsor. As members know, the OAG can’t enforce properly because they face jurisdictional issues and have no idea the identity of these fraudulent companies. THE OAG has stated this as an enforcement issue.

d. Fertility Language Update

- i. Senate Staff is working on combining the Senate’s fertility language. There are some concerns around covering elective fertility preservation services if an individual is within a specific age limit. We have seen a couple legislators add no cost sharing to their legislation after the bill had been negotiated. (pregnancy tests) ILHIC is seeking any feedback on a positional stance if the elective preservation language stays in the language.

e. Dental Bills

- i. Senator Fine has confirmed with the Council that the DLR bill will not move this session. The House DLR bill is currently posted to House Insurance. However, the Council reminded Jones that there was a Subject Matter on the issue last year and the bill is not moving in the Senate. We believe the House version will be sent to Subcommittee.

4. House Healthcare Consumer Access and Protection Act Language

- a. The long-awaited language for the Governor’s Health Care proposal dropped on Wednesday of this week. Much of what we are seeing was highlighted in their factsheet, with some additional considerations.
- b. We have an upcoming health call going over these points in detail, including what we have already negotiated in previous statute and regulation.
- c. The Council has emailed members with a policy breakdown. Please reach out to the office if you did not receive it.
- d. There will be a subject matter hearing for next Wednesday at 8:30am in Human Services. The Director is said to be there to testify.

5. Paid Leave Legislation

- a. HB 3908, which established a 6-week paid leave program for firefighters passed out of Labor and Commerce on February 21st. This is not a bill that ILHIC was initially tracking. However, the language currently presented in the bill does not establish a funding source or any structure or

fiscal consideration to the program. The Council has reached out to the Sponsor for more information and is waiting to hear back. The Council does not believe this will roll into a larger paid leave bill at this time.

6. Next Week

- a. **Human Services Subject Matter on the Governor's Language** (Likely March 13th at 8:30am)
- b. **Subject Matter on AI in Healthcare** (March 13th at 4pm)
- c. **House Insurance Committee** (March 12th at 2pm)
- d. **House Consumer Protection Committee** (March 12th at 4pm)
- e. **House Health Care Availability and Accessibility Committee** (March 12th at 4pm)
- f. **Senate Insurance Committee** (March 12th at 5:30pm)
- g. **Executive Appointments** (March 13, 2024 at 10:00am)

7. Other Items of Note:

- a. The Department is issuing edited bulletin for the Provider Directory Alternative. That should be expected today or early next week.

8. Important Dates

- a. 2024 Insurance Industry Legislative Day- March 13th
- b. Senate Committee Deadline- March 15th
- c. House Committee Deadline- April 5th
- d. Senate 3rd Reading Deadline- April 12th
- e. House Bills 3rd Reading- April 19th
- f. House and Senate Committee Deadline- May 3rd
- g. House 3rd Reading Senate Bills- May 17th
- h. Adjournment- May 24th
- i. Possible contingent session (May 25th- May 31st)

2. Regulatory Matters

a. SBE Comment Letter

- i. The Department published their First Notice today for the State Based Exchange Regulation. **Please have any feedback to Kate by March 20th, COB.**

3. 2024 Insurance Industry Legislative Day

- b. The 2024 Industry Lobby Day will be held on March 13th, 2024, from 1:30-7:30. Registration opens at 1:30pm, there is an educational seminar from 2:00-5:00pm, followed by a legislative reception from 5:30-7:30.