

Legislative Newsletter

March 2, 2018

Mental Health Bill Clears House Unanimously

This week in the General Assembly, mental health services, the tax bill, and traffic cameras dominated the debate landscape.

The House version for mental health/complex needs services (House File 2456) passed the House chamber unanimously, 98-0. This bill: adds services to the core services list; defines access centers and ACT teams, and; makes ACT teams into a 24/7 service, and directs the Department of Human Services to review the ACT team rates. Several amendments were offered:

- H8117: This would have established extreme risk protective orders to protect against people who pose a significant risk by having access to a firearm – Withdrawn
- H8102: This amendment makes changes on requiring certain disclosures about a person's mental health to law enforcement, among other provisions – Adopted
- H1821: This allows a court to hold a commitment hearing by video conference, at the court's discretion – Adopted
- H8118 – This amendment would have added substance abuse treatment provisions – Withdrawn

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Wednesday was particularly contentious in the Senate as the chamber took up the fetal heartbeat bill as well as the tax bill. The tax bill (Senate File 2383) makes changes to correspond with federal taxes; increases pension deductions to \$12,000 and \$20,000; maintains deductions for 529/ABLE contributions and allows deductions for student loans principal and interest and applies to K-12 education expenses; increases the Workforce Housing Credit to \$22 million and reduces the High-Quality Jobs allocation to \$80 million and prohibits data centers from participating; and finally, requires the Legislative Tax Expenditure Committee to study credits during the interim. A few amendments were offered during debate:

- S5074: This amendment: Increases the pension deduction. Exempts income from burial trusts. Deems that the end of various credits will not be grounds for the rescission of agreements regarding such credits. Strikes the inclusion of digital properties under the sales tax. Makes changes to sales tax nexus. Exempts certain agricultural credit associations from the franchise tax. Makes corrections related to SF 512. Prohibits class action lawsuits against the DOR and declares that nothing in the bill should be construed as creating a private right of action. – Adopted

- a motion to refer the bill to the appropriations committee failed, 21-29

The tax bill passed the Senate chamber along party lines, with Sen. D. Johnson joining the Democrats, 29-21.

On the less contentious side, the House passed:

- House File 2254: This is the E-911 bill. It defines 911 call processing equipment, equipment providers, and other related terms. It also makes changes to the

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911 service plans and surcharges. Finally, it contains provisions on consolidating various 911 networks. Passed 98-0.

- House File 2377: This is one of the opioid bills, specifically it concerns the prescription monitoring program (PMP). The bill requires pharmacists and other dispensers to report dispensing a controlled substance within 24 hours. It authorizes the Board of Pharmacy to impose a surcharge on controlled substance prescriptions for use in maintaining the PMP. Electronic prescriptions from the prescriber to the dispenser needs to be in use by July 2020. The bill also directs the Board of Pharmacy and the PMP advisory council to develop criteria to identify persons at risk of abuse of prescription drugs. Finally, the bill requires persons who manufacture, distribute or dispense controlled substances to register with the Board of Pharmacy, and it establishes protections for people who seek assistance for someone who is suffering a drug-related overdose. Passed 98-0.

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