

2022 Legislative Summary

To view a bill from this list, [click here](#).

Mental Health Related Legislation

SB2289/HB2348 Health Care - As enacted, clarifies that an ambulance service that holds a valid and unencumbered license to operate in at least one county is not required to maintain a separate license or establish a base of operations in a county for which the ambulance service is not licensed in order to provide a secondary mental health transport to, from, or through that county.

Public Chapter: 647

SB1984/HB2046 Child Abuse - As enacted, permits each child protective team to include one appropriately credentialed medical provider as a member of the team.

- Allows a mental health professional to participate as a member of a county child protective team.

Public Chapter: 649

SB2510/HB2062 Education - As enacted, enacts the "Save Tennessee Students Act," which requires LEAs that issue new student identification cards for students in grades 6-12 to include on the identification cards certain information regarding suicide prevention resources; requires an LEA to publish the telephone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the social media handle, telephone number, or text number for at least one additional crisis resource selected by the LEA in a conspicuous place in each school of the LEA that serves students in grades 6-12 or any combination thereof.

Public Chapter: 748

SB1927/HB1917 Psychologists - As enacted, authorizes a licensed assistant behavior analyst (LBA) to administer behavioral scales that are within the scope of the practice of applied behavior analysis.
Public Chapter: 758

SB2356/HB2207 Psychologists - As enacted, revises provisions governing temporary and provisional licenses for psychologists.
Public Chapter: 1035

SB2694/HB2531 Medical Occupations - As enacted, revises the provisions governing the requirements for certain professional counselors.
Public Chapter: 1040

SB2806/HB2663 Mental Illness - As enacted, enacts the "Mental Health Treatment Act of 2022."

- Establishes statewide funding for mental health courts.
- Establishes guiding principles for mental health courts in Tennessee.

Public Chapter: 1071

SB1027/HB959 Interstate Compacts - As enacted, enacts the "Interstate Compact for License Portability Act" for professional counseling services.
Public Chapter: 1088

Substance Abuse/Controlled Substances Related Legislation

SB2572/HB2465 Opioids - As enacted, authorizes a healthcare prescriber to prescribe an opioid antagonist for purposes related to the potential for drug-related overdose, not just opioid-related overdose; permits certain government and non-governmental entities to prescribe and store an opioid antagonist for the purpose of providing the antagonist to a person at-risk of overdose or likely to assist a person experiencing overdose; makes various other changes regarding prescribing and usage of opioid antagonists
Public Chapter: 749

SB2427/HB2177 Criminal Offenses - As enacted, excludes narcotic testing equipment used to determine whether a controlled substance contains a synthetic opioid from the definition of "drug paraphernalia"; exclusion does not apply if the equipment is possessed for purposes of a person's commission of a drug-related offense; exclusion will be repealed July 1, 2025.

- Administration Bill
- Legislative proposal from the Statewide Planning and Policy Council

Public Chapter: 764

SB1802/HB1763 Controlled Substances - As enacted, expands the definition of drug paraphernalia to include pill press devices and pieces of a pill press device, unless the pill press device or piece is used by a person or entity that lawfully possesses drug products in the course of legitimate business activities, including a pharmacy or pharmacist licensed by the Board of Pharmacy; a wholesale drug distributor, or its agents, licensed by the Board of Pharmacy; and a manufacturer of drug products, or its agents, licensed by the Board of Pharmacy.

Public Chapter: 804

SB2421/HB2171 Controlled Substances - As enacted, makes various changes to the Controlled Substance Monitoring Database (CSMD).

- Administration Bill
- Updates state law to reflect the changes in federal law and requires all methadone and buprenorphine to be reported to the CSMD
- Expands the commissioner of the Department of Health's ability to enter into agreements to share CSMD database information

Public Chapter: 825

SB2555/HB2376 Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Dept. of - As enacted, requires, beginning in 2024, the department to submit to the members of the General Assembly, by February 15 of each year, a report of data collected related to the use of medication-assisted treatment for opiate addiction by department-funded providers in this state for the prior fiscal year.

Public Chapter: 846

SB2240/HB2335 Controlled Substances - As enacted, prohibits a healthcare provider who is authorized to prescribe buprenorphine under federal law from prescribing via telehealth a buprenorphine product, as approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use in recovery or medication-assisted treatment, unless certain conditions are met.

Public Chapter: 881

SB1877/HB1747 Controlled Substances - As enacted, adds quadriplegia as a qualifying medical condition for the lawful possession of cannabis oil.

Public Chapter: 1054

SB2465/HB2228 Drugs, Prescription - As enacted, requires a healthcare prescriber to offer a prescription for an opioid antagonist, or another drug approved for complete or partial reversal of an opioid overdose event, to each patient prescribed an opioid, if certain conditions are present; authorizes imposition of civil penalty against a person who violates the requirement to offer such a drug; provides exception for opioid prescriptions to palliative care patients.

Public Chapter: 1061

SB1891/HB1905 Criminal Offenses - As enacted, requires hospitals, clinics, and persons, including doctors and nurses, who are called upon to render aid to a person suffering from the effects of a fatal drug overdose to report the drug overdose to the appropriate chief of police or sheriff and district attorney general, to the extent allowed by state and federal law.

Public Chapter: 1094

SB1997/HB2043 Controlled Substances - As enacted, adds tianeptine and any salt, sulfate, free acid, or other preparation of tianeptine, and any salt, sulfate, free acid, compound, derivative, precursor, or preparation thereof that is substantially chemically equivalent or identical with tianeptine, as a schedule II controlled substance; specifies that a violation of the offense of knowingly possessing or casually exchanging a controlled substance (unless the substance was obtained directly from, or pursuant to, a valid prescription or order of a practitioner while acting in the course of professional practice), will be a Class A misdemeanor with respect to a person knowingly possessing or casually exchanging, tianeptine and any salt, sulfate, free acid, or other preparation of tianeptine and any salt, sulfate, free acid, compound, derivative, precursor, or other preparation thereof that is substantially chemically equivalent or identical with tianeptine.

Public Chapter: 1135

General Health/Health Insurance/Health Administration Related Legislation

SB1248/HB1195 Insurance, Health, Accident - As enacted, requires a health insurance entity, a health services provider, or a healthcare facility to notify a patient of communication among the entity, a health services provider, and a healthcare facility concerning the patient's medical claim; requires a utilization review agent to notify the provider or healthcare facility, as well as the enrollee, when additional information is needed for a prior authorization request.

Public Chapter: 664

SB1789/HB2858 Public Health - As enacted, removes references to conditions of participation from Medicare and Medicaid in the title definitions of "governmental entity" and "private business" that apply to certain statutes related to addressing COVID-19.

Public Chapter: 756

SB2453/HB2655 Insurance, Health, Accident - As enacted, extends the statutory provision regulating reimbursements for healthcare services provided during a telehealth encounter beyond April 1, 2022; tolls, for the duration of any state of emergency, the 16-month period that a provider can offer telemedicine services to the patient without having an in-person encounter, if the healthcare services provider or the patient, or both, are located in the geographical area covered by the applicable state of emergency; permits a healthcare provider to provide medical services through telehealth if the service is not otherwise outside the provider's license.

Public Chapter: 766

SB2386/HB2855 Insurance, Health, Accident - As enacted, prohibits a health benefit plan from denying payment or coverage for emergency services if the symptoms presented by an enrollee of a health benefit plan and recorded by the attending provider indicate that an emergency medical condition could exist, regardless of the final diagnosis of the symptoms.

Public Chapter: 784

SB1846/HB1843 Health Care - As enacted, includes as provider-based telemedicine, which health insurance entities must cover, HIPAA-compliant audio-only conversation for the provision of healthcare services (in addition to behavioral health services as covered under existing law) when the use of HIPAA-compliant real-time, interactive video, video telecommunications, or electronic technology, or store-and-forward telemedicine services are unavailable.

Public Chapter: 807

SB2401/HB2148 State Universities - As enacted, creates the Tennessee Center for Nursing Advancement within East Tennessee State University to address issues of nursing workforce needs and makes other related changes.

- Administration Bill

Public Chapter: 885

SB1884/HB1960 Public Health - As enacted, removes TCA § 14-2-101, which prohibits COVID-19 vaccine mandates by governmental entities, schools, and local education agencies, and removes TCA § 14-1-101, which is the definitions to the Title 14 COVID-19 laws, from the application of the Title 14 termination date of July 1, 2023; effective July 1, 2023, deletes the 14-1-101 definitions except for those that relate to the prohibition on COVID-19 vaccine mandates for governmental entities.

Public Chapter: 896

SB1956/HB1985 TennCare - As enacted, enacts the "Annual Coverage Assessment Act of 2022."

Public Chapter 898

SB1982/HB1871 Public Health - As enacted, prohibits governmental entities, local education agencies, schools, and private businesses from adopting or enforcing laws, rules, or practices that fail to recognize acquired immunity as providing a level of immune protection that is at least as protective as a COVID-19 vaccine or treat individuals with acquired immunity differently than individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine.

Public Chapter 930

SB2511/HB2537 Medical Occupations - As enacted, revises provisions governing collaborating physician review for certain health care professions.

Public Chapter 949

SB2550/HB2667 Medical Occupations - As enacted, authorizes the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to allow certain rules to not be applied to certain healthcare professionals and students in order for those persons to operate outside of normal licensure requirements during a healthcare staffing crisis; requires certain notice to the governor and speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Public Chapter: 954

SB2449/HB2665 Public Health - As enacted, prohibits a hospital from restricting a patient from having at least one patient representative as a visitor during a period when COVID-19 is a healthcare concern, if certain requirements are met; specifies that the requirement that any disciplinary process, or action taken pursuant to such process, that is implemented by a health-related board regarding the dispensing or prescribing of medication for COVID-19 must be promulgated as an administrative rule does not apply to the dispensing or prescribing of controlled substances; revises other related provisions.

Public Chapter: 1073

SB2466/HB2500 Hospitals and Health Care Facilities - As enacted, renames the Health Services and Development Agency as the Health Facilities Commission; designates references to the Health Services and Development Agency in state law as references to the Health Facilities Commission; requests the Tennessee Code Commission to amend references to the Health Services and Development Agency to the Health Facilities Commission; requires the Board of Licensing Health Facilities to report to the Health Facilities Commission instead of the Department of Health in the matter of licensing healthcare facilities; revises certain certificate of need provisions; revises other related provisions.

Public Chapter: 1119

SB2304/HB2213 Health Care - As enacted, creates a healthcare task force to review the reimbursement of health professionals employed by agencies performing health care services in this state.

Public Chapter: 1138

State Government Related Legislation

SB1704/HB1785 Sunset Laws - As enacted, extends the Council on Children's Mental Health Care to June 30, 2028.

Public Chapter: 606

SB1714/HB1795 Sunset Laws - As enacted, extends the Interstate Compact on Mental Health to June 30, 2030.

Public Chapter: 629

SB2889/HB2864 Open Meetings - As enacted, revises provisions governing participation in meetings by electronic means of communication.

Public Chapter: 856

SB2464/HB2309 State Government - As enacted, adds to the Eligibility Verification for Entitlements Act that a public benefit does not include a professional or commercial license for purposes of the citizenship verification requirement; specifies that to be eligible for a professional or commercial license, an applicant must show that the applicant is either a United States citizen or authorized under federal law to work in the United States as verified by the SAVE program.

Public Chapter: 911

SB1700/HB1781 Sunset Laws - As enacted, extends the Bureau of TennCare within the Department of Finance and Administration to June 30, 2025.

Public Chapter: 1023

Miscellaneous Legislation

SB1823/HB1867 Employees, Employers - As enacted, requires certain employers with a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy to grant exemptions based on medical reason or religious reason; makes other related changes.

Public Chapter: 644

SB1780/HB1853 Employees, Employers - As enacted, lowers the threshold for private employers having to verify work authorization status of new hires through E-Verify from those with 50 or more employees to those with 35 or more employees; requires the office of employment verification assistance to offer, at no charge, E-Verify sign ups and work authorization status checks for employers with less than 35 employees; protects employers acting upon false results generated by E-Verify; prohibits certain wrongful or retaliatory discharge or discrimination actions; prohibits certain rehires.

Public Chapter: 832

SB2793/HB2113 Human Rights - As enacted, requires the Department of Correction, the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and the Department of Human Services to work with a nonprofit charitable organization to provide

mandatory annual training to appropriate personnel in the identification, intervention, prevention, and treatment of human trafficking victims, and in the proper action that should be taken when dealing with a known or suspected victim of human trafficking; requires that the training be submitted to, and approved by, the TBI's Human Trafficking Advisory Council.

Public Chapter: 842

SB2042/HB2078 **Salaries and Benefits** - As enacted, requires employers to pay employees no less than the minimum wage, regardless of the subminimum wage for an employee whose earning or productive capacity is impaired by age, physical, or mental deficiency or injury.

Public Chapter: 870

SB2448/HB2671 **Tort Liability and Reform** - As enacted, extends termination date from July 1, 2022, to July 1, 2023, for limitations on claims against a person for loss, damage, injury, or death arising from COVID-19.

Public Chapter: 1117
