



2022 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

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A LOOK AHEAD

- 2022 legislative session begins on January 5 and ends on May 13
- Around 1,000 bills have already been pre-filed
- First month of session will be dominated by the legislative redistricting process

COVID

- After local public health agency restrictions passed in 2021, some legislators still aren't satisfied
- At least a dozen bills address mandates related to public health emergencies
 - Some address public health mandates broadly
 - Others address specific mandates related to COVID, such as masking

COVID VACCINE

- Dozens of bills related to COVID vaccine mandates
- Several bills prohibit employers from requiring their employees to receive a number of vaccines, including COVID and influenza
- Other bills prohibit business owners from requiring patrons to be vaccinated
- Additional bills prohibit schools from requiring students and staff to be vaccinated against COVID

CHILDHOOD VACCINES

- A bill has been proposed that would greatly broaden our current childhood immunization requirement exemptions
- Adds “conscientious belief” to our current medical and religious exemptions
- Requires schools to accept statement of religious or conscientious belief

ABORTION

- Similar to the Texas law passed earlier this year, we have a Missouri version
- MSMA generally does not engage in discussions related to abortion, but may offer testimony on a provision that allows any citizen to bring a suit against a physician or non-physician health care practitioner for providing abortion-related medical services

SCOPE

- Nurses
- Pharmacists
- Physical Therapists
- Dentists
- Assistant Physicians

PUBLIC HEALTH

- AEDs
- Bleeding Control Kits
- Needle Exchange Program
- Floaties for Kids
- Texting While Driving Ban

MEDICAID

- Expansion funding will hopefully be included in supplemental budget
- MSMA supports extension of postpartum benefits to MO HealthNet mothers through ARPA

INSURANCE

- Prior authorization is back on the legislative agenda
- Based on a Texas law passed in early 2021 to relieve administrative burden on physicians and their office staff
- Proposed legislation would allow physicians who have proven track records on certain prior authorization requests to essentially be fast-tracked through the process

GRAB BAG

- Maintenance of Certification
- Interstate Medical Licensure Act
- Daylight Savings Time
- Marijuana
- “Telehealth”

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

- White Coat Day – Tuesday, March 1, 2022
- Physician of the Day
- Lunch with Legislators – almost every Friday during session

PHONE2ACTION

- Text program the MSMA advocacy team uses to send urgent text alerts to physicians
- Text “MOMEDICAL” to 52886 to opt in
- All physicians are welcome to sign up! No need to be an MSMA member.

CONTACT

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