



HCAOA New Jersey Chapter Legislative Update

On March 25, 2021 the Senate & Assembly held voting sessions and took actions on the following bills:

Assembly:

A5353 Provides for certification of temporary nurse aides. Bill added to today's Assembly Voting Sessions Board List.

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/A9999/5353_R1.PDF

Under the bill the Department of Health would deem CNA requirements satisfied by any temporary nurse aide hired during the emergency who completed a training program during the pandemic – authorized under the COVID-19 waiver – and who worked a minimum of 80 hours under the supervision of a licensed professional nurse.

A certification or letter from the director of nursing attesting to the temporary nurse aide's competency during that time period would be required. The aide would also have to comply with existing background check requirements and successfully complete the nurse aide written examination.

A5353 Passed in Assembly 72-0-0

At this time **S3421** the related Senate bill was introduced last month and was referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Senate:

S1958 The "New Jobs for New Jersey Act."

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S2000/1958_S2.PDF

Under the bill creating the New Jobs for New Jersey Act, businesses with 100 or fewer full-time employees would be eligible for a refundable tax credit against the corporation business tax or the gross income tax for each new worker hired above the number of workers employed in the previous year. The credits can be applied for up to four tax years, and employers would be able to sign up for incentives for new hires through December 2023.

S1958 Passed in Senate 34-0

A1679 is the Assembly related bill and is in the Assembly Commerce and Economic Development waiting to be heard.

S2559 Revises requirements for health insurance providers and Medicaid to cover services provided using telemedicine and telehealth; appropriates \$5 million.

Under the bill sponsored by Senators Vin Gopal and Nia Gill, it would specifically require that reimbursement for telemedicine and telehealth services be equal to the reimbursement rate for the same services when they are provided in person. Under current law, telemedicine and telehealth services may be reimbursed up to the amount at which that service would be reimbursed if provided in person. In effect, this means carriers can negotiate reimbursement rates that are sometimes less than

the in-person rate for services performed via telemedicine and telehealth. This legislation would prohibit that from happening and codify so-called "pay parity" in such instances.

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S3000/2559_S2.PDF

S2559 Passed in Senate 37-0

A4179 is the Assembly related bill and is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

S3032 Requires DOH to develop Statewide plan for infection control and prevention infrastructure improvements in nursing homes.

Senator Vitale, the chairman of the Health Committee, said "A statewide assessment will help provide the information we need to put in place infection control and prevention practices to better protect the health and safety of the residents and workers in New Jersey's long-term care facilities."

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S3500/3032_S2.PDF

S3032 Passed in Senate 37-0

A4855 is the Assembly related bill and was reported out of the Assembly Senior Services Committee and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

S3234 Allows deduction from tax of certain expenses when taxpayer's federal paycheck protection program loan is forgiven and excludes those forgiven loans from gross income tax.

A5149 was the Assembly bill that was substituted by S3234.

https://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2020/Bills/S3500/3234_S2.PDF

S3234 Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 37-0

For questions about this information, contact Dennis Marco, HCAOA New Jersey Lobbyist.