

Association of Immunization Managers

AIM Legislative Round-up: February 21, 2025

The number of vaccine-related bills in state legislatures across the country has already surpassed the total number encountered during all last year (**406** effective bills). A summary of new state legislative movement over the last two weeks is provided below.

Are you being asked to develop talking points or provide testimony for a Committee Hearing? Visit our <u>Policy Toolkit</u> or reach out to Chief Policy and Government Relations Officer <u>Brent Ewig</u> for individualized support.

Enacted (1 new bill):

• <u>ID SCR 102</u> – Establishes a legislative committee to study the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, noting as justification for the study that "there is a rapidly growing increase in credible clinical and medical research data indicating the COVID-19 vaccines are not efficacious and are potentially dangerous."

Requirements/Exemptions (23 new bills):

- 11 of these bills are in West Virginia and involve adding religious/philosophical exemptions for school vaccine requirements (WV SB 289, WV SB 250, WV SB 460, & WV HB 2004), removing vaccine requirements for certain school-types (WV SB 108 & WV HB 2203), foster care exemptions (WV HB 2376 & WV SB 556), prohibiting COVID-19 vaccine requirements (WV HB 2529), and outlawing requirements more broadly (WV Sb 49, WV HB 2517 & WV SB 466)
- Additional bills seek to remove/alter vaccine requirements for: daycares and private schools (MT SB 285 & NY A 4996), colleges and universities (NC HB 89), healthcare facilities (MN HF 345) and employers (KY HB 647 & KY SB 246)

Anti-Discrimination (12 new bills):

- 5 new bills would prohibit refusing healthcare services to someone due to their vaccine status (KY HB 629, VT H 274, MN HF 481, PA HB 695, & MN SF 1529)
- 4 new bills would emphasize the rights of individuals to refuse medical treatments, including vaccines (PA HB 617, WV HJR 9, SC H 4009, & OH HB 112)
- 3 new bills would establish a parental bill of rights, emphasizing parents' ability to make vaccine decision for their children (MN HF 22, WV HB 2372, & RI SB 284)

Ability to Vaccinate (11 new bills):

- Additional bills continue to seek to expand various profession's ability to administer vaccines, including the types of vaccines they can administer, the ages they can administer vaccines to, ordering abilities and supervision requirements
- New bills would impact medical assistants (NY A 5460, NY S 5340, & NY A 5541), pharmacists (KS HB 1039 & RI HB 5427), respiratory care practitioners (IL SB

2494 & IL HB 3681), EMTs (MN HF 86), pharmacy technicians (NY A 5152), physician assistants (WI SB 31), and optometrists (VT H 241)

Vaccine Cost (9 new bills):

- 4 new bills would codify that insurers must fully cover all ACIP-recommended vaccines (MD HB 1315, IL SB 2286, NM SB 508, & AZ SB 1668)
- 1 bill would establish a childhood universal vaccine purchase program (IL HB 4745), and 1 bill would expand an existing childhood universal vaccine purchase program to include coverage for all primary care services (VT H 185)
- Additional bills would prohibit facility fees for vaccination visits (II SB 2182), study pharmacist compensation for vaccine administration (CT HB 703), and provide grants to rural providers that could be used to purchase vaccines (FL SB 110)

Communications (6 new bills):

- 3 new bills would restrict how providers can communicate about vaccines (MN HF 292, NC HB 75, & SC S 343)
- 2 bills would require exemption information be included in all vaccine requirement communications (PA HB 447 & IA HF 299)
- 1 bill would remove the requirement that childcare facilities provide parents with influenza immunization information each flu season (FL SB 738)

Additional Trends:

- 4 new bills involve mRNA vaccines, including outlawing their use entirely (KY HB 469, IA HF 360, & KY SB 177) and requiring food be labeled if it contains mRNA (AR SB 255)
 - 2 additional bills would require food be labeled if it contained any vaccine or vaccine material (FL HB 525 & AL HB 316)
- 4 new bills involve shifting vaccine-related public health authority to the legislature (MN HF 26 & ID H 290) and removing such authority during outbreaks/emergency (IA HF 279 & IA SF 246)
- 2 more bills involve the testing/labeling of blood for COVID-19 vaccine components (KY HB 601 & KY HB 745)
- 2 more bills involve liability for vaccine injuries, seeking to put responsibility on the state (NY A 4993) or the vaccine manufacturer (WV HB 2430)

Please note: AIM is striving to monitor fast-moving state legislative developments. The information included in this summary may not be comprehensive and is subject to change. If you are aware of missing information, **please contact AIM Chief Policy and Government Relations Officer Brent Ewig (bewig@immunizationmanagers.org).**