Nurse Practitioner
Advocacy & Leadership

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Objectives

1. Describe the Texas Legislature structure and upcoming changes with the 86th legislative session.
2. Understand the bills from the past 85th legislative session and how this impacts advanced practice nursing.
3. Identify key issues and legislative agenda items as we prepare for the 86th legislative session.
4. Recognize advocacy grassroots efforts at the local and state level and leadership opportunities within Houston Area Nurse Practitioners and Texas Nurse Practitioners.
Texas Legislature

- Bicameral – meets odd years
- Senate - 31 members
- House of Representatives - 150 members.
- 2019 Speaker of the House Race
Report on the 85th Texas Legislative Session
TNP’s Agenda, Post-session report

- Full Practice Authority (HB 1415/ SB 681)
- Insurance Recognition (HB 1225/SB 654) ✔
- Discharge Prescriptive Authority (HB 1846/SB 433)
- Signature Authority (SB 431, HB 3857/SB 919) ✔
- Full Practice for Veterans (HB 1804/SB 831)
Klick/Hancock (HB 1415/SB 681)

- **Status**: Left Pending in Committee
- Would have removed the requirement for an APRN delegation agreement, placed APRNs exclusively under BON, but no other changes to practice (e.g. Schedule IIIs).
Full Practice Campaign

Put Patients First Texas

PUT PATIENTS FIRST TEXAS
Allow Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to practice freely in Texas.

The Issue
Texas has a critical shortage of primary care providers, with 432 Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas (PHASAs) in urban, suburban, and rural areas across the state. Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are quality, cost-effective providers who can help address this shortage if Texas passes HB 1455/HB 988 (Rep. Kizz, and Sen. Hancock) to remove barriers standing in the way of APRNs and their patients.
APRN Insurance

**Smithee/Seliger (HB 1225/SB 654)**

- **Status:** Passed and Signed by Governor, Effective 9/1
- Removes the requirement that an APRN be in the same insurance network as his/her delegating physician for Medicaid/CHIP.
Supported by:
Texas Association of Health Plans
Texas Medical Association
Texas Association of Community Health Centers
AARP
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
National Alliance on Mental Illness
Texas Impact
Texas Association of Business
Discharge Prescriptions

Coleman/Rodriguez (HB 1846/SB 433)

- **Status**: Voted out of Committee, Sent to Calendars
- Would have clarified statute so that facility-based/ER/hospice APRNs could write Schedule II RX to be filled in community pharmacies and not just in the hospital.
Coleman/Rodriguez (SB 431, SB 919)

- **Status:** SB 919 Passed, Effective Immediately; SB 431, No Hearing
- SB 919 gives APRNs/PAs signature authority for death certificates for patients receiving hospice/palliative care.
- SB 433 would have given signature authority for multiple forms.
Veteran Provider Parity

Blanco/Rodriguez (HB 1804/SB 831)

- **Status**: Referred to Committee, No Hearing
- Would have given full practice to APRNs who are military Veterans and served in the military in an APRN role.
Physician Assistant & Other APRN Bills
Zerwas (HB 2548)

- **Status:** Voted out of Committee and Sent to Calendars
- Would have expanded delegated Schedule II prescriptive authority at the practice site for PAs only.
Zerwas (HB 2546)

- **Status:** Passed, Effective immediately
- Gives delegated signature authority to PAs to complete the work status report for workers’ compensation forms. Applies to PAs only.
PAA Meetings

Cortez/Uresti (SB 1625)

- **Status:** Passed, Effective 9/1
- Makes changes to disciplinary proceedings for PAs. Some amendments were tacked on in final hours of session that change PAA meeting requirements.
Other Bills

All of these Bills Died in Committee

1. **HB 3406**: would have prohibited charging for PAAs.
2. **HB 3395**: would have granted APRNs full practice in counties that were medically underserved AND had zero physicians.
3. **HB 2807**: would have eliminated in-network insurance requirement for APRNs/Delegating MDs in counties that meet criteria above.
Special Session
Special Session Agenda

Sunset, Plus 20 Other Agenda Items

Sunset Bills, including TMB
Bathroom Bill
Property Tax Relief
Abortion
End-of-life Care (DNRs)
Maternal mortality
School Vouchers
Voter Fraud
Local Government Limits (annexation, etc.)
**DNRs**

Sen. Perry (SB 11)

- **Status:** Passed, Effective April 2018
- Creates new requirements for DNR orders in a hospital setting (prior to this, there were only out-of-hospital procedures in law).
- Creates a criminal penalty (Class A misdemeanor), which is $4,000 fine & up to a year in jail
- Only allows MDs to sign in-hospital DNRs
Problems APRNs Volunteers Encountered

1. No recognition of out-of-state APRN licenses
2. Difficulty complying with delegation requirements

*TMB and Governor waived some of these requirements temporarily, but barriers still existed for APRN volunteers
Interim Charges: Harvey

Senate HHS Harvey Charges

Senate HHS Charge: to “review the state's response to Hurricane Harvey with a focus on public health efforts at the local and state level” including “utilization of health-related volunteers.”
“Review opportunities to improve population health and health care delivery in rural and urban medically underserved areas. Identify potential opportunities to improve access to care, including the role of telemedicine. In the review, identify the challenges facing rural hospitals and the impact of rural hospital closures.”
What's Happening?
Lack of Reciprocity in States
1 in 7 advanced nursing grads may leave Texas for states with better practice environments
Proposed Bills

• Full Practice Authority
• Schedule II Prescriptive Authority
• Virtual Prescriptive Authority Agreement Meetings
• Signature Authority for Workers’ Compensation
• Signature Authority for Post-Concussion Clearances

86th Legislative Session
What can YOU do?
➢ Join Your Professional Organization
➢ Contact your Organization’s Legislative Coordinator
➢ Listen to Policy & Practice Webinars
➢ Donate to Political Action Committees
➢ Follow Issues in Papers and Journals
➢ Attend Health Policy Conferences
➢ Visit your Legislators
Questions?