

Legislative Newsletter



“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.” --Thomas Jefferson

March 20, 2019

Legislative Update

Hello again, everyone. We are closing in on April 8, the final day of the 2019 General Assembly, and this was a pretty hectic as Crossover Day approached. For those who do not know, Crossover Day is the date by which a piece of legislation needs to be moved out of the House or the Senate and into the other chamber in order to have a shot at passing.



First and foremost, I am excited about one of my first pieces of legislation, [HB1137](#) unanimously making it out of the House. The bill originally called for a task force to study the Home and Hospital Teaching Program, but in committee was amended to ultimately require the State Department of Education to study and make recommendations relating to the program. The Department will then need to report its findings to the Governor, the State Board of Education, and the General Assembly. This bipartisan piece of legislation is a step in the right direction, and I look forward to it making it through the Senate.



Next, I would like to speak about my legislation to make the college admissions process more transparent. The Appropriations Committee has drafted a letter to the Universities asking for findings and recommendations to ensure that State University Systems admission offices are using best practices in the interest of the State and are promoting transparency in the process. This is a direct result of the submission of my bill [HB1047](#), a piece of legislation that would examine admission practices at public senior higher education institutions. This is an issue I feel passionately about and even though my bill will not become a law this year, I have been in discussion with the National Association of College Admissions Counseling (NACAC) and the Potomac and Chesapeake Association of College Admissions Counseling (PCACAC) about creating legislation to foster a more open and honest admissions process.

In the Health and Government Operations Committee, we voted on HB589. Currently, Medicaid must establish maximum reimbursement levels for the drug products for which there is a generic equivalent based on the cost of the generic product. If the prescriber directs a brand name drug, the reimbursement level must be based on the cost of the brand name product. Basically, places that are supplying certain medications sometimes do so at a loss, which can sometimes result in certain medications not being carried by a supplier, which can be awful if you need said medication. This bill will put an independent auditor on the case to find out what exactly is going on. Pharmacy benefits managers should not be gouging pharmacists, especially when the results of not carrying a drug can be disastrous. This bill, coupled with HB754, will help provide necessary oversight.

Scholarship

Finally, District 8 Scholarship applications are still being accepted. This year, I together with district 8 team will be awarding our scholarships. Applications are due by April 8, and you must apply for FAFSA first.

The application for the scholarship can be found [here](#).

Best,

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