



SC Legislative News

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This update is prepared and distributed by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (SCDMH) to keep you informed of state legislative updates that may affect the Agency, mental health, healthcare, budget information, and other issues of interest. This publication is also available to employees on the SCDMH intranet site. Contact Robin Crawford, SCDMH Director of Governmental Affairs, for more information at robin.crawford@scdmh.org.

[S.266](#), a bill to reduce the detention of nonviolent youth, or status offenders, was given a favorable report by a Senate Judiciary subcommittee on Wednesday. The bill mandates exploring counseling and other options before the SC Department of Juvenile Justice can accept referrals for children whose offenses, like truancy, would not be criminal if committed by an adult.

A bill that would prohibit employers from mandating vaccines, [S.975](#), was given a favorable report by the Senate Medical Affairs Committee on Thursday, despite concerns from the Department of Public Health and the Governor regarding putting limitations on the state's ability to respond to future public health emergencies. The bill will advance to the full Senate for consideration and will join [S.965](#), another bill that prohibits employers from mandating vaccines, on the Senate calendar. S.965 remains contested.

[S.1074](#), a bill that amends the definition of a certified medical assistant (CMA) and changes the requirements for a qualified CMA, among other changes, was given second reading in the Senate on Thursday. After a third reading in the Senate, it will head to the House for consideration.

[H.3988](#), the Pharmacy Practice Act, was given third reading in the House and sent to the Senate for consideration on Thursday. The bill permits the delegation of certain acts to trained pharmacy technicians, removes certain direct supervision requirements, lowers the vaccination recipient age to 12, and allows directly supervised pharmacy interns to administer certain vaccines, among other changes.

Visit the SC State House [website](#) to read any legislation of interest, [find out who represents you in the SC House and SC Senate](#), or to contact your legislators.