



SC Legislative News

February 26 – March 1, 2024

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.

On Tuesday, the House version of the Social Work Interstate Compact Act was considered by the House Medical, Military, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee and given a favorable report. It will be placed on the House calendar for debate on the floor. Also on Tuesday, the Senate Finance Committee passed a continuing resolution to pay the expenses of state government if the 24-25 fiscal year begins without a general appropriations act.

On Wednesday, the House debated [H.4927](#), its version of the legislation creating the Executive Office of Health and Policy and a new Secretary position to lead that office. The Bill, in its current form, combines SCDMH and the SC Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) into a new department, named the “Department of Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Services”. The House approved multiple amendments to the Bill, including one that addresses which employees have grievance rights. After a long debate on the House floor, the Bill was passed and will be sent to the Senate for consideration.

On Thursday, the Senate Medical Affairs Committee met to consider [H.4624](#), a ban on gender-affirming care. After some discussion, the Committee gave it a favorable report. It will be sent to the Senate floor for consideration.

SCDMH’s Senate Finance Healthcare Subcommittee budget presentation scheduled for next week has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in the coming days.

Wednesday, March 6th, is Mental Health Advocacy Day at the SC State House from 9am to 12pm. Remarks will begin at 10am on the south side State House steps. In the event of bad weather, remarks will be held inside the State House in the 1st floor lobby. Join us as we connect with legislators and community champions to advocate for mental health and suicide prevention!

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.