

2024 End of Legislative Session Report: TLPCA

The second legislative session of the 112th General Assembly gavelled in on January 2nd, 2024 and declared Sine Die on April 25th, 2024. Including resolutions, the Tennessee General Assembly introduced over 1,600 bills to be considered.

A comprehensive breakdown of all of your bills that were tracked can be found in your final bill track report.

Below is a breakdown of your organization's priority bills, marked green if they were signed or are awaiting signature by the Governor. If the bill stayed in committee or had other engagement by the client, it is marked yellow. If voted down in committee or in one of the chambers, it is marked red.

Top Priority Bills

SB 2004 / HB 2328 by Sen. Rose and Rep. Freeman

This bill brought by the TN Licensed Professional Counselors Association is a clean up bill under title 63. It adds licensed professional counselors, marriage and family therapists and pastoral therapists to the definition of "medical practitioner" under T.C.A 63-1-201(2) and makes several other technical corrections throughout title 63.

SB 2239 / HB2296 by Sen. Briggs and Rep. Whitson

The Licensure by Endorsement bill brought by TNAMFT allows the board for professional counselors, marital and family therapists, and clinical pastoral therapists to license an applicant if they are licensed by another state that meets the same licensure requirements as the state of Tennessee.



Changes to industry

SB29/HB195 Sunset Board of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family and Pastoral Therapists

This is the sunset bill which extends the board for professional counselors, marital and family therapists, and clinical pastoral therapists to June 30, 2027.

SB721 / HB498 by Telemedicine

This bill exempts a patient receiving an initial behavioral health evaluation via telehealth from the requirement that a patient have an in-person encounter with a healthcare services provider, the healthcare services provider's practice group, or the healthcare system within 16 months prior to an interactive visit in order to establish a provider-patient relationship for purposes of telehealth; allows a physician assistant who is authorized to prescribe drugs and who provides services solely via telehealth to arrange for chart review by a collaborating physician via HIPAA-compliant electronic means.

2024 End of Legislative Session Report: TLPCA

Top Priority Bills

SSB 1673/ HB 1625 by Sen. Massey and Rep. Zachary

This bill is known as the Duty to Warn bill. It requires a qualified mental health professional or behavior analyst to warn or protect an identified victim or group of people, including students at a day care or school, when the professional or analyst determines that a service recipient has communicated an intent for actual threat of bodily harm. Requires the professional or behavior analyst to take reasonable care to warn of or take precautions to protect the identified victim or group of people from the service recipient's violent behavior and to report the threat to a local law enforcement agency. Provides immunity from civil, criminal, and regulatory liability for a professional or analyst who takes reasonable action to warn or protect identified victims or groups and to report such threats. TLPCA in collaboration with other mental health provider groups worked with the bill sponsors to add back in language and restore the standard of the current statute that was removed in the original bill.

SB 2482/ HB 2773 by Sen. Rose and Rep. Cochran

This bill requires that a minor's parent or legal guardian have access to the minor's prescription records even when the minor is able to obtain treatment without parental consent. It also adds to the duty to warn standard and a requirement to disclose to the parents an unemancipated minor's communicated homicidal and/or suicidal ideation. TLPCA also worked alongside other mental health provider groups to present an amendment restoring discretion to providers in the standard for disclosure.



Changes to industry

SB2134/HB2405 Social Worker Licensure Compact

The Social Work Licensure Compact aims to facilitate interstate practice of regulated social workers by improving public access to competent social work services.

SB1969/HB2693 Intellectual Disability and competency to stand trial

As introduced, requires the court that finds a person incompetent to stand trial for a criminal offense due to intellectual disability to also determine whether the person is subject to involuntary care and treatment at the hearing in which the person is declared incompetent; states that the district attorney general is not required to file a complaint to require involuntary care and treatment.

SB1681/HB2061 Mental illness and involuntary commitment

Requires, in cases where a person is ordered into emergency or nonemergency admission to involuntary commitment and is to be released, the chief officer of the releasing facility to notify, by electronic means, local law enforcement prior to such release.