

# ADVOCACY

Advocating for Wyoming Doctors and their Patients Since 1903

## Bills of the Week

### HB107 - Chiropractic Physician

A bill on the House side of the Legislature popped this week which would allow chiropractors to re-name themselves chiropractic physicians. One legislator told WMS that the effort is being undertaken in an effort to charge more primary care codes to insurance. This bill will be heard in the House Minerals Committee on Monday. WMS is actively lobbying in opposition of [House Bill 107](#).

### SF 82 - CPR Graduation Requirement

[Senate File 82](#) would require every student in Wyoming to complete instruction on emergency medical treatment and specifically CPR in order to graduate high school. This bill was brought by Senator Bill Landen (R-Casper) with help from the American Heart Association and go into effect in the 2018-19 school year. The bill has been placed on General File in the State Senate and will be heard next week.



## Bills, Bills, Everywhere...

The big question hovering in the Capitol is just how many bills will actually drop before the 2017 Legislative session comes to an end. One estimate out of the Legislative Service Office suggested somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000 bills are in the pipeline to be released or some just being drafted in case other bills being considered pass or are voted down. With so much uncertainty involved in a process where only a third of the expected laws have been drafted the coming weeks could be very exciting. Stay tuned to the WMS [Billtracker](#), which is updated daily.

With such a high volume of bills it is no surprise that healthcare saw a large increase in the number of proposed laws that were released this week. [House Bill 165](#), The Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Act will be heard before the House Corporations Committee on Tuesday due to the sheer number of bills being run through House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee. WMS staff has expended a lot of energy actively working with legislators and advocates to amend the bill.



## WMS Doc of the Day

Thank you to our volunteers who serve the Wyoming Legislature and staff during the session. WMS is proud of our physicians who care for our Senators and Representatives.

- Jolene Mitchell, DO
- Joe McGinley, MD, PhD
- JJ Chen, MD
- James Bush, MD

## Deadlines

The deadline for bills to be submitted to the Legislative Services Office. Jan. 25 is the final day for Senate Files to be submitted to LSO, while the House has until Jan. 30 to submit bills to LSO for introduction.

## WMS Bill Tracker

To keep an eye on the latest bills the WMS is following, check out: <https://www.wyomed.org/2017legislative-session>

House Bill 72 covers a physician's ability to give volunteer care, essentially acting as a contractor for the state Department of Health. The bill was debated in House Judiciary this week as the Wyoming Trial Lawyers disagreed with removing all liability. While everyone involved believes in the intent of the bill the bill has been laid back for further work.

On the House side the EMS Licensure Compact - House Bill 112 - made it out of committee and went before the Joint Appropriations Committee Friday. The run through JAC was made necessary by a \$6,000 budget request to join the program. The bill's sponsor, the Joint Labor, Health, and Human Services Committee decided to remove the fiscal note and instead institute a small licensing fee to those applying to be members of their EMS in Wyoming. The hope is that will make the bill easier to pass in a legislative environment where money (or a lack of it) consumes every conversation and decision.

On the Senate side there are a number of bills impacting physicians. Senate File 62 came out of the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Interim Committee as well. The act seeks to allow the development of tele-pharmacies which would operate in smaller communities under the supervision of a licensed pharmacy and manned by a licensed pharmacy technician. That bill passed the Senate this week and will be headed to the House.

A bill - Senate File 021 - which would allow Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants to fill out death certificates made it through its second reading in the Senate and appears well on its way to passing the Senate.

Senate File 88 would have the Legislature help to form a Palliative Care Task Force to help healthcare providers, lawmakers, patients, and the public at large come together to discuss best practices for patients with chronic diseases. It passed The Committee of the Whole today on the Senate side and moved out of committee with a 5-0 vote.

The KidCare CHIP program amendments - SF67 - were passed upon second reading in the Senate and then laid back upon the request of Senate Labor, Health, and Social Services Chair Charles Scott (R-Casper).