

**HCANJ BUSINESS MEETING  
LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE  
February 18, 2026**

**1. Rule Adoptions**

- **The Department of Health, Public Health Services Branch adopted numerous repeals, new rules, and recodifications with amendments concerning reportable communicable diseases, infections, and conditions. This adoption includes repeals, new rules, and recodifications with amendments throughout N.J.A.C. 8:57, as well as amendments at 8:36-18.4 concerning infection prevention and control services in assisted living residences, comprehensive personal care homes, and assisted living programs; and at 8:39-19.4 and 27.4 regarding mandatory infection control and sanitation and mandatory quality of care in long-term care facilities.**

The amendment at 8:36-18.4 is new subsection (l) requiring facilities to maintain records documenting communicable diseases contracted by employees during employment, as specified at N.J.A.C. 8:57.

The amendment at 8:39-19.4 is new subsection (f) requiring facilities to have a system for investigating, evaluating, and reporting the occurrence of all reportable infections and diseases as specified at N.J.A.C. 8:57.

The amendment at 8:39-27.4 is new subsection (e) requiring that the body of a deceased resident who, at the time of death, had a communicable disease pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:6-8.2 and 8.3 and N.J.A.C. 8:9 and 8:57 shall be tagged accordingly before being released from the facility.

There are numerous changes throughout N.J.A.C. 8:57, some of which are applicable to licensed health care and facilities, health care professionals, administrators and facility staff. These include new definitions and reporting and compliance obligations with respect to reportable communicable diseases, infections and conditions. HCANJ encourages appropriate facility personnel to review these changes.

Notice of this adoption appears in the January 20, 2026 *New Jersey Register* at 58 N.J.R. 654(a). The changes took effect January 20, 2026.

**2. Rule Proposals**

- None to report

**3. Health Care Administration Board**

- None to report

#### 4. Executive Orders

- **Governor Mikie Sherrill issued Executive Order 5 on January 20 to establish various teams under the Office of the Chief Operating Officer focused on simplifying and modernizing the State’s regulatory process.**

This Order establishes a Cross-Agency Permitting Team to streamline the State of New Jersey’s permitting processes to “reduce project delays and costs and to improve customer service, transparency, and accountability for permit applicants.” The Order defines “**permit to mean** any permit, *license, certification, formal approval, or other authorization issued in connection with* construction; manufacturing; energy generation, transmission, or distribution; *real estate development; operation of a business; or the provision of goods or services by an Executive Branch department or agency* of the State of New Jersey.” The Order requires every executive branch department to *catalog all types of permits* that it issues.

The Cross-Agency Permitting Team will provide an analysis and recommendations regarding 1) “what constitutes a completed application,” 2) “appropriate deadlines by which a department or agency must notify applicants of incomplete applications and process completed applications,” and 3) “strategies to improve permitting review times, transparency, and communication with permit applicants.” This information will be used to “formulate presumptive permitting application process timeframes known as shot clocks.”

The Order requires the Cross-Agency Permitting Team to “develop a Permitting Dashboard, an interactive, online portal displaying the status and progress of state permit applications for projects in the State.”

The Order also establishes a Regulatory Simplification Team to “identify ways to streamline and modernize the state’s regulatory processes.”

Executive Order 5 appears in the February 17, 2026 *New Jersey Register* at 58 N.J.R. 1050(a). It can also be found on the Governor’s Office website under the “Action” tab.

## 5. Legislation Enacted into Law (221<sup>st</sup> Legislature)

- Bill:** A2980 AcaSca w/GR (3R)  
**Sponsors:** McCoy (D14); Gopal (D11); Singleton (D7) +6  
**Summary:** Requires health care professionals to report cases of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and motor neuron disease.  
**Related:** 2024:S4030; 2022:A3269  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Monitor  
**Notes:** Amended at HCANJ request to apply only to health medical offices where a proper diagnosis of ALS can be made.
- Bill:** A5183 w/GR (1R)  
**Sponsors:** Drulis (D16); Verrelli (D15); Sampson (D31); Zwicker (D16); Cryan (D20) +5  
**Summary:** Directs DOLWD to develop and maintain industry-valued credential list.  
**Related:** 2026:S2178; 2024:S4009  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Support
- Bill:** A5211 w/GR (1R)  
**Sponsors:** Miller (D4); Freiman (D16); Peterpaul (D11); Cryan (D20); Zwicker (D16) +10  
**Summary:** Establishes New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities Initiative Act.  
**Related:** 2026:A1329; 2026:S1498; 2024:S4023  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Support
- Bill:** A5213 Aca w/GR (2R)  
**Sponsors:** Venezia (D34); Atkins (D20); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); Zwicker (D16); Singleton (D7) +8  
**Summary:** Establishes "New Economy Opportunity Skills System Pilot Program" to strengthen alignment and collaboration between local workforce development boards, community colleges, and county vocational school districts; makes appropriation.  
**Related:** 2026:A451; 2026:S2181; 2024:S4012  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Support
- Bill:** A6308 Aca (1R)  
**Sponsors:** Park (D37); Pintor Marin (D29); Danielsen (D17); Quijano (D20); Johnson (D37); Mukherji (D32); Diegnan (D18) +14  
**Summary:** "Safe Communities Act"; requires AG to develop certain model policies.  
**Related:** 2024:S5036  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Monitor  
**Notes:** Requires health care facilities to implement policies, similar to model policies established by the commissioner of health, that provide protections regarding interactions with federal civil law enforcement in certain sensitive locations, including health care facilities.

**Bill:** S1965 Sca (1R)  
**Sponsors:** Vitale (D19); Singer (R30); Stanley (D18); Atkins (D20); Sampson (D31) +6  
**Summary:** Regulates provision of pharmaceutical services in long-term care facilities.  
**Related:** 2026:A3359; 2026:S2990; 2024:A588; 2022:A5248; 2022:S3609  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Seek Amendments  
**Notes:** Following enactment HCANJ secured an analysis from the Office of Legislative Services, the nonpartisan arm of the Legislature that writes legislation, concluding that this new law applies only to nursing homes and not other, long-term care facilities.

**Bill:** S3195 ScaScaSa (3R)  
**Sponsors:** Smith (D17); Mukherji (D32); Collazos-Gill (D27); Donlon (D11); Haider (D37) +12  
**Summary:** Prohibits food service business from providing single-use utensils and condiments to customers under certain circumstances and requires DEP to establish education campaign on benefits of reducing single-use utensils and condiments.  
**Related:** 2026:A3746; 2026:S671; 2024:A5157; 2022:A5331  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Monitor  
**Notes:** Prior to final passage, this bill was amended to exclude healthcare facilities.

**Bill:** S4387 AcaAa (2R)  
**Sponsors:** Lagana (D38); Beach (D6); Stanley (D18) +1  
**Summary:** Requires establishment of tracking system in Division of Consumer Affairs to determine compliance with continuing education requirements.  
**Related:** 2026:S1408; 2024:A5715  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor  
**Position:** Monitor

## 6. Legislation NOT Enacted into Law (221<sup>st</sup> Legislature)

**Bill:** A2940  
**Sponsors:** Schaer (D36); Auth (R39); Speight (D29); Lagana (D38); McKnight (D31) +7  
**Summary:** Establishes minimum Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare reimbursement rate for pediatric special care nursing facilities.  
**Related:** 2026:A615; 2026:S1391; 2024:S2472; 2022:A5617; 2022:S4033  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Pocket vetoed by the Governor  
**Position:** Support

**Bill:** A6309 Aca w/GR (2R)  
**Sponsors:** Quijano (D20); Park (D37); Ruiz (D29); Zwicker (D16); McKeon (D27) +6  
**Summary:** Establishes "Privacy Protection Act"; concerns collection and sharing of certain personal information.  
**Related:** 2026:A4070; 2026:S3522; 2026:S3610; 2024:S5037  
**Status:** 01/20/2026 - Pocket vetoed by the Governor  
**Position:** Oppose  
**Notes:** Applies to health care facilities.

If enacted, this bill would have prohibit government entities and health care facilities from requesting or collecting information relating to a person’s immigration status, place of birth, social security number, and individual taxpayer identification number unless it is strictly necessary to assess eligibility for, or to administer, a requested public service, benefit, or program.

In addition, as proposed, the bill would have prohibit a health care facility from retaining this information past the amount of time necessary to assess eligibility for, or to administer, a requested benefit, or program, or as otherwise required by law. HCANJ promoted amendments that were approved to make an exception to the prohibition on the collection and retention of information for health care facilities when the information is necessary for safe and appropriate delivery of health care services, and as required by applicable law, including the “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996” or HIPAA.

## 7. Legislation on Governor’s Desk

- None to report

## 8. Legislative Activity

- Bill:** S818  
**Sponsors:** Singer (R30) +2  
**Summary:** Requires Division of Consumer Affairs to hire staff to alleviate professional license application backlog; appropriates \$10,000,000 in fiscal years 2027, 2028, and 2029.  
**Related:** 2026:A3308; 2024:A5165; 2024:S3051  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.  
**02/12/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.**  
**Position:** Support
- Bill:** S1413  
**Sponsors:** Lagana (D38); Mukherji (D32) +1  
**Summary:** Requires Division of Consumer Affairs to create open data portal and provide certain datasets online.  
**Related:** 2026:A3390; 2024:A5624; 2024:S4581  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.  
**02/12/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.**  
**Position:** Monitor  
**Notes:** Data sets include information on professional and occupational licensing, registration, and certification information and consumer complaints.
- Bill:** S1493  
**Sponsors:** Cryan (D20); Singer (R30)  
**Summary:** Updates requirements for licensure in occupational therapy.  
**Related:** 2026:A3381; 2024:A4903; 2024:S3931  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.  
**02/12/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.**  
**Position:** Monitor  
**Notes:** Establishes a requirement for the Division of Consumer Affairs, in consultation with the Occupational Therapy Advisory Council, to develop continuing competence and professional development requirements in order for licensed occupational therapists and licensed occupational therapy assistants to renew licenses. Bill also expands the types of issues in which occupational therapy may be sought.
- Bill:** S2194 Sca (1R)  
**Sponsors:** Ruiz (D29) +3  
**Summary:** Establishes pilot program providing tuition fee waiver for certain apprenticeship courses.  
**Related:** 2024:A513; 2024:S2168; 2022:A2494; 2022:S532; 2020:A2691; 2020:S1158; 2018:A4655; 2018:S3063  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Labor Committee.  
**02/05/2026—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.**  
**Position:** Support

**Bill:** S3023 Sca (1R)  
**Sponsors:** Vitale (D19) +1  
**Summary:** Provides certain protections to residents of long-term care facilities and long-term acute care hospitals.  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.  
 02/09/2026—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.  
**Position:** Oppose

## 9. Legislation Scheduled

**Bill:** A2207  
**Sponsors:** Speight (D29) +4  
**Summary:** The "Certified Medication Aide in Nursing Homes Staffing Support Act;" authorizes certified medication aides to administer medications to nursing home residents.  
**Related:** 2026:S2858; 2024:A4089; 2024:S3796  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.  
**Scheduled:** 02/19/2026—Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee, 1:00 pm.  
**Position:** Support

**Bill:** A4073  
**Sponsors:** Pintor Marin (D29)  
**Summary:** Extends transmittal date deadline for Fiscal Year 2027 gubernatorial budget message to Legislature from fourth Tuesday in February to March 10, 2026.  
**Related:** 2026:S3219  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee.  
**Scheduled:** 02/19/2026—Assembly State and Local Government Committee.  
**Position:** Monitor

**Bill:** S2881  
**Sponsors:** Mukherji (D32); Gopal (D11) +2  
**Summary:** Requires professional boards to issue licenses for veterans with good standing license or certification in another jurisdiction under certain circumstances.  
**Related:** 2026:A1879; 2024:A3132; 2024:S1148; 2022:A315; 2020:A4074; 2018:A4720  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.  
**Scheduled:** 02/19/2026—Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee, 10:00am.  
**Position:** Monitor  
**Note:** Applies to military applicants who received a license and equivalent training, education, or experience while serving or after serving as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States or a Reserve component thereof, including the New Jersey National Guard.

## 10. Legislation NEW Introduced

**Bill:** A3993  
**Sponsors:** Bhalla (D32); Brennan (D32)  
**Summary:** Establishes requirements for preparation and final passage of annual appropriations act; incorporates multi-year revenue and expenditure projections for informational purposes.  
**Related:** 2026:S3457  
**History:** 01/13/2026—Introduced: referred to Assembly State & Local Government Comm.  
**Position:** Monitor

**Bill:** A4143  
**Sponsors:** Macurdy (D21)  
**Summary:** "Long-Term Budget Outlook Act"; requires State Treasurer to prepare and submit annual multi-year fiscal outlook analysis report.  
**Related:** 2026:S3618  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Proposed for introduction.  
**Position:** Monitor

**Bill:** A4275  
**Sponsors:** Hutchison (D4); Miller (D4)  
**Summary:** Establishes online Statewide tracking system for certain permits, licenses, certifications, and form applications.  
**Related:** 2026:S3613  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Proposed for introduction.  
**Position:** Review

**Bill:** A4355  
**Sponsors:** Peterpaul (D11)  
**Summary:** Requires Division of Aging Services to establish one application form for programs providing services to certain adults.  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Proposed for introduction.  
**Position:** Review

- Bill:** A4436  
**Sponsors:** Greenwald (D6)  
**Summary:** Expands "Daniel's Law" protections; requires Office of Information Privacy to establish portal for prohibiting disclosure of personal information by private entities and establishes penalties for failure to comply.  
**Related:** 2026:S3605  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Proposed for introduction.  
**Position:** Review
- Bill:** S3219  
**Sponsors:** Sarlo (D36); O'Scanlon (R13)  
**Summary:** Extends transmittal date deadline for Fiscal Year 2027 gubernatorial budget message to Legislature from fourth Tuesday in February to March 10, 2026.  
**Related:** 2026:A4073  
**History:** 01/28/2026—Introduced, 2nd reading in Senate.  
**Position:** Monitor
- Bill:** S3457  
**Sponsors:** Beach (D6); Testa (R1) +1  
**Summary:** Establishes requirements for preparation and final passage of annual appropriations act; incorporates multi-year revenue and expenditure projections for informational purposes.  
**Related:** 2026:A3993  
**History:** 02/09/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee.  
**Position:** Monitor
- Bill:** S3463  
**Sponsors:** Johnson (D37); Bucco (R25)  
**Summary:** Makes certain changes to regulation of health care service firms.  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.  
**Position:** Review
- Bill:** S3605  
**Sponsors:** Johnson (D37)  
**Summary:** Expands "Daniel's Law" protections; requires Office of Information Privacy to establish portal for prohibiting disclosure of personal information by private entities and establishes penalties for failure to comply.  
**Related:** 2026:A4436  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Proposed for introduction.  
**Position:** Review
- Bill:** S3618  
**Sponsors:** Sarlo (D36)  
**Summary:** "Long-Term Budget Outlook Act"; requires State Treasurer to prepare and submit annual multi-year fiscal outlook analysis report.  
**Related:** 2026:A4143  
**History:** 02/12/2026—Proposed for introduction.  
**Position:** Monitor