

**HCANJ BUSINESS MEETING
LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE
January 14, 2026**

1. Rule Adoptions

- **The Department of Health, Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing, adopted amendments at N.J.A.C. 8:39-43.10 (n) to mirror the nurse aide program evaluator requirements that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have established. This action was taken in response to a petition for rulemaking supported by HCANJ.**

The Federal regulation requires a nurse aide training program evaluator to be currently licensed as a registered professional nurse and have at least one year of experience in providing care for the elderly or the chronically ill of any age. This is less stringent than what state regulations had previously required.

Notice of this adoption appears in the January 5, 2026 New Jersey Registry at 58 N.J.R. 39 (a) and took effect on the date of publication.

2. Rule Proposals

- **The Department of Health, Division of Certificate of Need and Licensing proposed to amend existing N.J.A.C. 8:36-1.3 of the standards for licensure of Assisted Living Residences, Comprehensive Personal Care Homes, and Assisted Living Programs to extend eligibility to participate in the deemed status program to CPCHs.** The current rule allows deemed status designation to only assisted living residences.

Notice of this proposal, PRN 2026-003, was published in the January 5, 2026 New Jersey Register at 58 N.J.R. 11. The due date for submitting written comments to the department is March 6, 2016.

3. Health Care Administration Board

- None to report

4. Public Notices

- **The Commissioner of Health published notice of the anticipated schedule for receipt of certificate of need applications subject to full review procedures for the period beginning January 1, 2026.**

This notice was published in the December 15, 2025 *New Jersey Register* at 57 N.J.R. 2888 (b). The schedule of deadlines for submission of CN applications can be found at: <https://www.nj.gov/health/legal/documents/public-notices/PN%20CN%20Cycles%20Dates.pdf>.

5. Legislation Enacted into Law

- Bill:** A5130 w/GR (1R)
- Sponsors:** Schnall (D30); Karabinchak (D18); Calabrese (D36); Moriarty (D4); Wimberly (D35) +5
- Summary:** Requires enforcing agency to conduct inspection of construction in specified time window.
- Related:** 2024:S4128
- History:** 12/16/2024—Introduced and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee.
 01/23/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 01/30/2025—Passed in Assembly 71-4-0.
 02/03/2025—Received in Senate and referred to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.
 03/17/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 06/26/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 06/30/2025—Substituted for S-4128. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 37-2.
 11/13/2025—Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Assembly.
 11/24/2025—1st reading in Assembly to concur with Governor's recommendations.
 2nd reading in Assembly to concur with Governor's recommendations.
 12/08/2025—Passed in Assembly 75-0-0.
 12/11/2025—Received in Senate, 2nd reading in Senate to concur with Governor's recommendations.
 12/18/2025—Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 36-2.
12/19/2025—Signed by the Governor P.L.2025, c.173.
- Position:** Support
- Bill:** S2493
- Sponsors:** Sarlo (D36); O'Scanlon (R13); Pintor Marin (D29); Speight (D29) +4
- Summary:** Establishes minimum base NJ FamilyCare per diem reimbursement rate of \$1,100 for special care nursing facility with neurologically impaired young adult unit.
- Related:** 2024:A2075; 2022:A5832; 2022:S4193
- History:** 02/05/2024—Introduced and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 06/26/2024—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 06/28/2024—Passed in Senate 40-0. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
 12/18/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
12/22/2025—Substituted for A-2075. Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 74-0-0.
01/12/2026—Signed by the Governor P.L.2025, c.206.
- Position:** Support

6. Legislation on Governor's Desk

- 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:** 2024:S2472; 2022:A5617; 2022:S4033
- History:** 01/09/2024—Introduced and referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.
 05/06/2024—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Health Committee.
 10/17/2024—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations.
 12/18/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 12/22/2025—Passed in Assembly 73-0-0.
 01/06/2026—Received in Senate and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee. Transferred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 01/08/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
01/12/2026—Substituted for S-2472. Passed Senate 39-0; sent to Governor.
- Position:** Support
- 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
- History:** 01/09/2024—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.
 12/16/2024—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 01/30/2025—Passed in Assembly 72-1-1.
 02/03/2025—Received in Senate and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
 06/09/2025—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
 11/10/2025—Recommitted to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 11/13/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 12/18/2025—Substituted for S-4030 (1R). Passed in Senate 38-0. Received in Assembly, 2nd reading in Assembly to concur with Senate amendments.
 12/22/2025—Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 73-0-1.
01/12/2026—Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Assembly to concur w/Governor's recommendations. Passed Assembly 70-0-0. Received in Senate to concur with Governor's recommendations. Passed Senate 39-0; sent to 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: 2024:S4009
History: 01/14/2025—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.
 02/10/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 02/27/2025—Passed in Assembly 71-4-0.
 03/03/2025—Received in Senate and referred to Senate Labor Committee.
 05/12/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 12/18/2025—Substituted for S-4009. Passed in Senate 38-0; sent to Governor.
01/12/2026—Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Assembly to concur w/Governor's recommendations. Passed Assembly 65-6-0. Received in Senate to concur with Governor's recommendations. **Passed Senate 39-0; sent to 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: 2024:S4023
History: 01/16/2025—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.
 02/10/2025—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly.
 02/20/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 05/22/2025—Passed in Assembly 76-0-2.
 05/29/2025—Received in Senate w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Senate.
 12/18/2025—Substituted for S-4023. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 38-0.
01/12/2026—Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Assembly to concur w/Governor's recommendations. Passed Assembly 71-0-0. Received in Senate to concur with Governor's recommendations. **Passed Senate 39-0; sent to 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: 2024:S4012
History: 01/16/2025—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.
 02/10/2025—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations.
 02/20/2025—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading.
 06/30/2025—Passed in Assembly 79-0-0.
 10/20/2025—Received in Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 12/08/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 12/18/2025—Substituted for S-4012 (1R). Passed Senate and sent to Governor 38-0.
01/12/2026—Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Assembly to concur w/Governor's recommendations. Passed Assembly 70-0-0. Received in Senate to concur with Governor's recommendations. **Passed Senate 39-0; sent to 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
- History:** 01/02/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.
01/05/2026—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations.
01/08/2026—Reported with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
01/12/2026—Passed Assembly 48-23-0. Received in Senate w/o committee reference. Substituted for S-5036. **Passed Senate 24-13; sent to 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:** 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:** 2024:S5037
- History:** 01/02/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.
01/05/2026—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations.
01/08/2026—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
01/12/2026—Passed in Assembly 47-26-0. Received in Senate w/o committee reference. Substituted for S-5037 (1R). **Passed Senate 23-14; sent to Governor. Governor's conditional veto rcvd in Assembly** to concur w/Governor's recommendations. **Passed Assembly 45-21-0.** Received in Senate to concur with Governor's recommendations. **Passed Senate 24-12; sent to Governor 24-12.**
- Position:** Oppose
- Notes:** Applies to health care facilities.

As proposed, this bill would 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, it would 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.

The governor's CV added language to ensure that licensing boards still have access to information and to hold facilities rather than individuals accountable for violation.

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: 2024:A588; 2022:A5248; 2022:S3609
History: 01/09/2024—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
 03/14/2024—Reported with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
 05/20/2024—Passed Senate 37-0. Received in Assembly Health Committee.
 11/24/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
01/12/2026—Substituted for A-588. Passed Assembly 73-0; sent to Governor.
Position: Seek Amendments

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: 2024:A5157; 2022:A5331
History: 05/06/2024—Introduced and referred to Senate Environment and Energy Committee.
 10/10/2024—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 12/08/2025—Reported with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
 12/18/2025—Amended on Senate floor, 2nd reading in Senate by voice vote (Ruiz).
01/12/2026—Passed Senate 21-15. Received in Assembly w/o committee reference.
 Substituted for A-5157. **Passed Assembly 43-24; sent to Governor.**
Position: Monitor
Notes: Amended at HCANJ request to permit use of plastic utensils during time of infectious outbreaks or outdoor recreational activities and family picnics. Bill was later further amended to exempt all licensed health care 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: 2024:A5715
History: 05/19/2025—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
 05/22/2025—Reported out of committee. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
 06/26/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 06/30/2025—Passed in Senate 39-0.
 07/24/2025—Received in Assembly Regulated Professions Committee.
 11/24/2025—Reported with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 12/08/2025—Amended on Assembly floor, 2nd reading in Assembly (Quijano).
 12/22/2025—Substituted for A-5715 (2R). Passed in Assembly 72-2-0.
 01/06/2026—Received in Senate to concur with Assembly amendments.
01/12/2026—Passed Senate 39-0; sent to Governor.
Position: Monitor

7. Legislative Activity

- Bill:** A1888 AcaAcaAca (3R)
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15); Atkins (D20) +4
Summary: Provides certain protections to residents of long-term care facilities and long-term acute care hospitals.
Related: 2024:S1962; 2022:A5194; 2022:S3606
History: 01/09/2024—Introduced and referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.
 05/08/2025—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 05/15/2025—Recommitted to Assembly Health Committee.
 06/12/2025—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
01/08/2026—Recommitted to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Oppose
- Bill:** S1962 ScaAcaAca (3R)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Singer (R30) +1
Summary: Provides certain protections to residents of long-term care facilities and long-term acute care hospitals.
Related: 2024:A1888; 2022:A5194; 2022:S3606
History: 01/09/2024—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
 03/14/2024—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
 03/18/2024—Passed in Senate 36-0. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.
 05/08/2025—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 06/12/2025—Recommitted to Assembly Health Committee. Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
01/08/2026—Recommitted to Assembly Appropriations Committee. Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Oppose
- Bill:** S4501 Sca (1R)
Sponsors: Scutari (D22)
Summary: Concerns authority of owners, agents, or other persons to elect to contract with private on-site inspection agencies to complete inspections under the construction code; provides for charging of inspection fees.
Related: 2024:A5927
History: 05/22/2025—Introduced to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.
 06/19/2025—Transferred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee. Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
12/18/2025—Passed Senate 37-0. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Housing Committee.
Position: Monitor

Bill: SCR140 Sca (1R)
Sponsors: Cryan (D20); Vitale (D19) +2
Summary: Urges U.S. Department of Education to include certain degree programs within list of professional degree programs used by federal student loan system.
History: 12/08/2025—Introduced and referred to Senate Higher Education Committee.
12/15/2025—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
Position: Support

8. Legislation Introduced

Bill: S5017
Sponsors: Zwicker (D16)
Summary: Establishes Allied Health Care Professional Loan Redemption Program.
History: 12/18/2025—Introduced and referred to Senate Higher Education Committee.
Position: Support