

**HCANJ MEETING
LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATE
September 16, 2026**

1. Rule Adoptions

- None to report

2. Rule Proposals

- **The Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Consumer Affairs published notice of a proposed amendment at N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3, which applies to all licensees, permittees, certificate holders, and registrants of the Division of Consumer Affairs and any board, committee, or sub-unit within the Division concerning licensees' duty to cooperate in investigative inquiries and the specific conduct that is deemed a failure to cooperate. The purpose of this rulemaking is to ensure that the Division and Boards have access to testimony from complainants and witnesses of alleged misconduct by licensees in order to carry out their critical enforcement role to protect New Jersey consumers.**

Specifically, existing N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a) addresses conduct deemed a failure to cooperate that can serve as grounds for disciplinary action. The Attorney General proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a) to clarify that this subsection identifies non-exhaustive examples of conduct by a licensee that shall be deemed a failure to cooperate and grounds for disciplinary action. The Attorney General also proposes to amend N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a) to clarify that such failure to cooperate applies to a license, permit, certificate, or registration.

The Attorney General also proposes adding three paragraphs at N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a). Proposed new N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a)8 sets forth that the attempt by a professional or occupational licensee to invoke, or the failure of a professional or occupational licensee to waive, a nondisclosure agreement, non-disparagement agreement, confidentiality agreement, or any provision in a contract or agreement that has the purpose or effect of concealing the details relating to a claim of misconduct in an inquiry by and at the request of a Board or the Director of the Division is a failure to cooperate and grounds for disciplinary action.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a)9 sets forth that any of the following by a professional or occupational licensee, when directed toward a complainant or witness in an inquiry by a Board or the Director, is a failure to cooperate and grounds for disciplinary action: coercion, intimidation, threats, interference, reprisal, retaliation, or efforts to influence.

Proposed new N.J.A.C. 13:45C-1.3(a)10 states that any conduct by a professional or occupational licensee that impairs, obstructs, or impedes an inquiry, inspection, or investigation, or that is intended to do so, is a failure to cooperate and grounds for disciplinary action.

Notice of this proposal, PRN 2026-043, appears in the August 17, 2026 *New Jersey Register* at 58 N.J.R. 1877(a). Written comments responding to this proposal are due to the Division by October 16, 2026.

3. Health Care Administration Board

- None to report

4. Legislation Enacted into Law

Bill: S1493 Aca (1R)

Sponsors: Cryan (D20); Singer (R30); Stanley (D18) +2

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.
 06/04/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate.
 06/18/2026—Passed in Senate 35-5. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.
 06/28/2026—Transferred to Assembly Budget Committee. Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 06/30/2026—Substituted for A-3381 (2R). Passed in Assembly 71-5-2. Received in Senate, 2nd reading in Senate to concur with Assembly amendments. Passed in Senate and sent to Governor 33-5.
08/06/2026—Signed by the Governor P.L.2026, c.65.

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.

5. Legislative Activity

Bill: A1160
Sponsors: Danielsen (D17); Speight (D29); Peterpaul (D11)
Summary: Requires DOH to evaluate technology uses in long-term care settings, implements certain technological requirements within long-term care settings, and clarifies existing telehealth reimbursement parity includes long-term care settings.
Related: 2024:A4594
History: 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee. 09/14/2026—**Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Health Committee.**
Position: Seek Amendments
Notes: Seek to have Section 3 removed.

This bill implements a variety of provisions regarding technology in long-term care settings. As used in the bill, long-term care settings include home-based care, community-based care, and residential-based care.

Section 3. of this proposal requires that commencing six months following the effective date of the bill, the DOH is to require each long-term care facility in the State, as a condition of licensure, to provide internet, television, and telephone services within each residential room. To the extent possible, the long-term care facility will also provide residents with the necessary equipment to utilize these services. The department will distribute federal and State funds to facilities in compliance with this provision, and to determine compliance with the provision during facility inspections. In addition to any other applicable penalties provided by law, a long-term care facility that fails to comply with these provisions is liable to pay an administrative penalty and may be subject to adverse licensure action.

The bill also expands an existing law requiring long-term care facilities to implement an electronic medical records requirement, to also include home and community-based service providers. The bill provides need-based grants via the DOH to implement this requirement. The bill also requires the DOH to provide grants to long-term care providers to support the exchange of user-friendly clinical information via an electronic health record system with State hospitals.

Under this proposal, the Department of Health, in collaboration with the applicable State entities and provider stakeholders, is required to evaluate, review, and provide recommendations for the use of technology in long-term care settings within the State, and to report the findings of the review, and subsequent department actions, to the Legislature within 18 months after the effective date of the bill. The goal of this review is to identify existing uses, and potential new and expanded uses, of technology within long-term care settings.

Following the review, the department must encourage and support providers in implementing the department's recommendations regarding the uses of technology via the distribution of available federal and State funds, the establishment of grant or low interest loan programs, the implementation of performance incentives, or the provision of other aid deemed appropriate and necessary by the DOH.

Bill: A1879
Sponsors: Tucker (D28) +4
Summary: **Requires professional boards to issue licenses for veterans with good standing license or certification in another jurisdiction under certain circumstances.**
Related: 2026:S2881; 2024:A3132; 2024:S1148; 2022:A315; 2020:A4074; 2018:A4720
History: 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.
09/14/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Monitor

Bill: A2210 Aca (1R)
Sponsors: Speight (D29) +10
Summary: **Requires homemaker-home health aide and nursing assistant certification examinations to be translated into multiple languages.**
Related: 2026:S2253; 2024:A4134; 2024:S3133
History: 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Regulated Professions Committee.
09/14/2026—Transferred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.
Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Support

Bill: A2457
Sponsors: McCoy (D14)
Summary: **Requires State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to include memory care training in annual long-term care training program.**
Related: 2026:S2850; 2024:A3547; 2024:S3603; 2022:A4855; 2022:S3357
History: 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee.
09/14/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
Position: Monitor

Bill: A5440
Sponsors: Stanley (D18); Murphy (D7); Speight (D29)
Summary: **Increases personal needs allowance for certain individuals by annual rate of inflation.**
History: 09/10/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee.
09/14/2026—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.
Position: Support

6. Legislation Introduced

- Bill:** A5358
Sponsors: Macurdy (D21); Onyema (D28)
Summary: Establishes "Stop Corporate Money in Politics Act"; restricts right of certain business entities to make contributions and expenditures for certain political purposes.
History: 09/10/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee.
Position: Oppose
Notes: Under the bill, any business entity would be unable to make contributions or expenditures for or to any candidate or committee in this or to provide political information on any candidate or public question to be voted on at an election in this State.
- Bill:** A5505
Sponsors: Angelozzi (D8); Murphy (D7)
Summary: Prohibits DOH from conducting unscheduled inspections of emergency medical service transport vehicles under certain circumstances.
History: 09/14/2026—Proposed for introduction.
Position: Review
- Bill:** A5514
Sponsors: Fantasia (R24)
Summary: Allows gross income tax deduction for employment-related childcare expenses.
History: 09/14/2026—Proposed for introduction.
Position: Review

7. Legislative Priorities

Bill: S3023 Sca (1R)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19) +2
Summary: Provides certain protections to residents of long-term care facilities and long-term acute care hospitals.
Related: 2026:A5112
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.
 03/23/2026—Passed in Senate 28-9. Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee.
Position: Oppose

Bill: A5112
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15); Peterpaul (D11)
Summary: Provides certain protections to residents of long-term care facilities and long-term acute care hospitals.
Related: 2026:S3023
History: 05/18/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Infrastructure Committee.
Position: Oppose

Bill: A1752
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15) +4
Summary: Provides certain protections to residents of long-term care facilities.
Related: 2024:A1888; 2024:S1962; 2022:A5194; 2022:S3606
History: 01/13/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee.
Position: Oppose

Bill: A4762
Sponsors: Schnall (D30)
Summary: Revises law related to licensure of nursing home administrators.
History: 03/19/2026—Introduced and referred to Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee.
 05/14/2026—Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
 06/30/2026—Passed in Assembly 79-0-0.
Position: Support
Notes: HCANJ requested legislation.