Week of 3/8

Filed 3/8:  [**S200**](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2021/1006/0/DRS15093-PAz-3B) ***CPS Intake Screening / PED Study***

* “. . .a county department of social services may not supplement child protective services intake screening criteria with county policy that is more stringent than, or in addition to, State policy."
* The bill would mandate revising and standardizing CPS structured intake forms.
* Beginning January 2022, the bill would require State DSS monitoring and evaluation of county intake procedures and reporting to the JLOC on HHS on the intake form revisions, monitoring findings, and continuous quality improvement.

Filed 3/8: [S191](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/Senate/PDF/S191v0.pdf) ***No Patient Left Alone Act***

* Long Title:  A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT PROVIDING PATIENT VISITATION RIGHTS THAT WILL NOT BE IMPACTED DURING DECLARED DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION, TO DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE FREE INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS EXPLAINING THESE RIGHTS TO HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, COMBINATION HOMES, HOSPICE CARE FACILITIES, ADULT CARE HOMES, SPECIAL CARE UNITS, AND CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES LICENSED UNDER CHAPTER 122C OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.
	+ Chapter 122C in the N.C.G.S. is the Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Act.  It controls relevant facility licensure, operations, treatment services, voluntary and involuntary admissions for treatment, and clients’ rights; supportive housing; the Interstate Compact on Mental Health; and the operations of the Local Management Entity Managed Care Organizations (“LME/MCOs”) and their authority in relation to the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
* The bill defines “normal visitation policies” and “immediate family members” who would be eligible for visitation during a declared disaster or emergency.
* The bill would require facilities to allow “at least one parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis. . . the opportunity to visit and to be present while [a] minor patient is receiving hospital care.”
* The bill would require facilities to allow “one immediate family member or designated health care agent. . . the opportunity to visit an adult patient admitted to a facility” and be given access to a waiting room during procedures.
* The bill would prohibit hospitals, NC DHHS, and the Governor from terminating, suspending, or waiving [or requiring patients to waive] visitation rights during a declared disaster or emergency.
* The bill would authorize facilities to require visitor screenings and the wearing of PPE or other infection control measures, and to restrict visitors who do not pass screenings or who test positive for infectious diseases.
* The bill would require the Division of Health Service Regulation, DHHS to develop and disseminate free informational materials regarding patient rights.

(filed 2/15) **PCS 3/9** [S93](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/Senate/PDF/S93v2.pdf) ***Assisting NC Families in Crisis*** was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on 3/9 and amended (Proposed Committee Substitute favorable).

* Long Title: A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO ALLOW PARENTS UNDERGOING COURT-ORDERED SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR OTHER MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER TREATMENT OR COUNSELLING TO RETAIN MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY WHILE THEIR CHILD IS TEMPORARILY SERVED BY THE FOSTER CARE PROGRAM.
* The bill would amend Section 9A of S.L. 2015-245 as amended by Section 2(e1) of S.L. 8 2016-121 and G.S. 108A-54.3A (Medicaid Program eligibility categories and income thresholds).
* The bill would require NC DHHS to seek Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services approval of a [Section 1115 of the Social Security Act] Waiver to implement the bill if it is enacted.
* The 3/9 amendment (adopted) would extend continued Medicaid eligibility to parents any time a child is temporarily served by foster care and would remove the qualifying language, “when the parent is undergoing court-ordered substance abuse or mental health treatment program or counseling.” The rationale is that the SU and MH treatment language would be too narrow for CMS approval.

3/9: [**PCS**](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2021/1056/0/H144-PCS40158-BC-3) **for** **H144/S146 – Teledentistry/RDH Admin. Local Anesthetic** (Rep. Lambeth) discussed in the House Health Committee. Now with the House Committee on Insurance.

* NCGA [Bill Summary](https://dashboard.ncleg.gov/api/Services/BillSummary/2021/H144-SMBC-3%28e1%29-v-3)
* Long title: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF TELEDENTISTRY, TO AUTHORIZE PROPERLY TRAINED DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO ADMINISTER LOCAL DENTAL ANESTHETICS UNDER DIRECT SUPERVISION OF A LICENSED DENTIST, AND TO PERMIT CERTAIN DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENE AT SCHOOLS WITHOUT A LICENSED DENTIST BEING PHYSICALLY PRESENT

**3/10:** [**PCS**](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H91v3.pdf) **(version 3) for HB91 – Reduce Reg. To Help Children with Autism.** (Bell, Lambeth, Baker, Saine) discussed in the House Finance Committee Meeting. Now with the House Committee on Rules.

* Long title: A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY REGULATORY CONSTRAINTS FOR APPLIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS.
* The bill would establish a licensure process for behavior analysts and exempt licensed psychologists and psychological associates from licensure. The North Carolina Behavior Analysis Board (Board) would be established with five members serving staggered terms. The bill would also establish the qualifications for Board members and operations of the Board.

Filed 3/9: [H249](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2021/1053/0/DRH10104-MKa-35) ***Children with Disabilities Funding Formula***

Long title: A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO STUDY AND PROPOSE CHANGES TO THE STATE FUNDING FORMULA FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TO A MODEL THAT ALLOCATES FUNDS ON SEVERITY OF DISABILITY TYPE AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO INCREASE THE CAP ON THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Filed 2/17; committee substitute 3/2; **amended 3/9**: [S113](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/Senate/PDF/S113v3.pdf) Modify Termination of Parental Rights Appeal [*repeals right to go straight to Supreme Court and gives subject matter jurisdiction to the Court of Appeals*]

Filed 3/10: [H264](https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2021/Bills/House/PDF/H264v1.pdf)  ***Emergency Powers Accountability Act***

Apparently filed to limit the Governor’s powers during future public health emergencies. Would require “concurrence” / “consensus” of the Council of State, which consists of The Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, Commissioner of Insurance, or any interim officer or acting officer appointed in accordance with Section 7 of Article III of the State Constitution.

Filed 3/10: [S226](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2021/1139/0/DRS45120-MG-102) ***Amend HIE Mandatory Particip. & Enforcement***.

Long title: A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT EXTENDING THE DEADLINES FOR MANDATORY PARTICIPATION IN THE STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORK KNOWN AS NC HEALTHCONNEX FOR CERTAIN PROVIDERS AND ENTITIES; AND ESTABLISHING A CIVIL PENALTY AS AN ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM FOR MANDATORY PARTICIPATION