

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

The 2018 General Assembly Session comes to a close

The 60-day General Assembly session came to a close Saturday, March 10, adjourning without a two-year budget.

Budget conferees continue to negotiate the \$600 million difference between the Senate and House budget proposals. The legislature must pass a spending bill by July 1 to avoid a government shutdown. The component holding up a decision among lawmakers is the expansion of Medicaid to approximately 300,000 low-income adults.

Advocacy requires year-around action for success.

Donate to the PAC today at www.msv.org/get-involved/donate/give-msvpac.

At a glance

MSV tracked over **350 bills** during the 2018 GA session.

MSV actively worked to **amend nearly 100 bills**, making them more amenable to the physician community.

Financial Wins

MSV was able to advance legislation which positively impacts your wallet and increases access to care:

HB 139 will allow physicians who are under review to be credentialed by a health plan to see patients and retroactively receive payments if they are ultimately credentialed.

Practice managers estimate this policy change could result in increased revenue from \$100,000 to \$200,000 for a fiscal year. Based on conservative analysis, a physician awaiting credentialing who is now able to treat and properly get reimbursed could result in **\$1,000 revenue per day** during the credentialing period.

MSV was able to defeat legislation that would have negatively impacted your wallet:

- ▶ HB 323/SB 380 would have created unlimited liability for damages to families of individuals who have been victims of personal injury.
- ▶ SB 895 would have raised the punitive damages cap from \$350,000 to \$500,000....this includes the medical malpractice cap!

Practice of Medicine Wins

MSV successfully defeated other threats.

Legislating the Practice of Medicine

- ▶ Opposed and averted bills on opioid limitations in the statute and PMP checks prior to every issuance of an opioid
- ▶ Opposed and averted a bill on mandatory patient notification by a physician to the risk of cobalt poisoning associated with joint replacements
- ▶ Opposed and averted the extension of the lyme disease test notification
- ▶ Opposed and averted mandatory physician usage of the Electronic Death Registry System (EDRS)

Scope of Practice

- ▶ Opposed and averted legislation that would have created a new Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) license which would establish an advanced level of physician assistants
- ▶ Opposed and averted optometry scope bill that would have allowed optometrists to perform surgical procedures
- ▶ Opposed a bill that would have allowed nurse practitioners to practice independently after 6 months of practice with a physician. Worked to amend the bill to ensure nurse practitioners gain appropriate clinical training and standards to maintain patient safety and quality - five full-time clinical years of experience attested only by a physician.