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## UPDATES FOR THE WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 21, 2020

We have hit the 45<sup>th</sup> day mark (halfway through). The pace has picked up dramatically with a dozen plus bills being heard each day in each committee. The downside is that often those who testify are only allowed 1-2 minutes to speak, making it sometimes difficult to make your points.

The House Health and Government Operations Committee reported **House Bill 631/Senate Bill 444: State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators – Board Membership and Provisional Licensing Requirements** favorable with amendments. LifeSpan testified at both the hearing and subcommittee meeting and the Committee accepted the LifeSpan amendment to maintain the full 90 day provisional license time period rather than allow the Board the flexibility to reduce the timeframe. The Senate will hear this bill on February 28<sup>th</sup>.

The Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs voted **Senate Bill 22: Election Law - Polling Places at Continuing Care Retirement Communities** unfavorable. This bill would have required, at the request of a CCRC, to establish the CCRC as a polling place.

On the budget, the Medicaid budget was heard on February 20<sup>th</sup> and will be heard on February 24<sup>th</sup> with the Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act scheduled for February 26<sup>th</sup> in the Senate and the 27<sup>th</sup> in the House. During the Medicaid budget hearing on the 20<sup>th</sup>, the analyst for Medicaid recommended deferring the 4% until January 1, 2021 rather than beginning it July 1, 2020. LifeSpan is opposing that modification and advocating again for the full increase.

Attached is the bill chart and below are corresponding summaries that still need to be discussed for Tuesday's call.

### **BILLS FOR DISCUSSION:**

\*\*\*\* House leadership has introduced **House Bill 1628: Sales and Use Tax Rate Reduction and Services**. This bill is currently in Rules but is expected to be sent to a standing committee and scheduled for a hearing. This bill is the "answer" to the question "How will the State fund Kirwan (education bill)?"?. This bill will impose the sales tax (at 5%) on almost all services. As you will see, certain services are exempted, such as a health care or social assistance service or a service provided by a business, professional, labor, or political association. The classifications are tied to the "NAICS" - North American Industrial Classification System, United States Manual, 2017 Edition, Published by The United States Office of Management and Budget. Please make sure that your accounting department reviews this bill to determine: 1) whether you are exempted under

the classification; and 2) given that you contract for services that would not be exempted, what would be the overall cost to your organization.

**House Bill 1282: Criminal Procedure – Vulnerable Adult Abuse Registry.** This bill the MDH shall establish and maintain a registry containing the names of individuals who have been found by a state agency to have abused, neglected, or misappropriated or exploited the property of a vulnerable adult or who have been convicted of a vulnerable adult abuse crime. The names and information contained in the registry shall be available for public inspection as provided in this subtitle. The MDH may discharge its responsibilities under this subtitle directly, or through interagency agreement, if authorized access to the records by means of a single centralized agency is assured.

**House Bill 1527/Senate Bill 833: Adult Protective Services – Vulnerable Adults Registry – Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study.** This bill also provides the requirements on State agencies for investigations and records of abuse and neglect. It also establishes a workgroup to further study the issue.