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UPDATES FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 24, 2020

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Legislative Day – February 4, 2020; 3:30 PM – 8:00 PM.

Attached is the bill chart. The next two dates to keep in mind are February 3rd (Senate introduction date) and February 7th (House introduction date). After February 7th, we will have a completed bill chart and a better understanding of the issues moving forward. This week, there was a meeting of other provider representatives affected by the rate decrease (4% to 2%) - **House Bill 152/Senate Bill 192: Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act**. There was consensus to have a concise and targeted measure from the health provider community for the legislature to reject the cut and the need to appropriately fund health care services. This will not distract from each industry's measured response to the cut but a tool to elevate health care in the State's budget priorities.

Issues related to bills on the bill chart –

House Bill 255 affects nursing facilities (related institutions) but technically could extend to assisted living communities. It builds on the classifications prohibiting discrimination but also specifies that a hospital or related institution may not discriminate in admitting or providing care for an individual because of the treatment or procedure sought by the individual, if the treatment or procedure is (1) capable of being executed by the hospital or related institution, and accompanied by a referral subject to specified limitations contained in the Health Occupations Article or (2) otherwise determined to be medically necessary.

House Bill 304 and House Bill 322 are on the list due to issues raised in nursing facilities and with other providers when family members do not assist in applying for Medicaid and/or use family funds for their own purpose.

House Bill 364 changes how a name can be shown on an ID badge. The change is to address workplace violence and to allow that the individual employee's last name is not required. This is to prevent someone from being able to look up where the person lives, etc.

On other matters, last Friday, the Maryland Department of Health did propose regulations affecting medical adult day care providers. The regulations are attached to the email. The propose updates the rate to reflect the 3% given in the FY2020 budget; changes the term "physician" to primary care provider"; and 3) requires the signature of the participant or the participant's representative to document their approval of the individual plan of care semi-annually, or more frequently when a significant change in condition is identified or reported. Comments are due by February 18, 2020.

If you have not registered for Legislative Day, please do so. With the reduction in the BRFA bill, we will need a strong showing at this event to kick off our advocacy events. Register at the link below.

<http://www.cvent.com/events/legislative-day-2020/event-summary-2acc5ad882d41b39c8e9b2cbfee35c1.aspx>