

**Dozens of new laws, adopted during the 2009 legislative session, are scheduled to go into effect January 1, 2010. Those new laws include the following:**

Source: <http://www.senategop.state.il.us/>

**Bioterrorism Preparation** (HB 805/PA 96-0377): Allows the Departments of Public Health and Financial and Professional Regulation to have access to the health care professionals list to assist them in planning for bioterrorism and public health emergencies.

**Brain Aneurysm Awareness** (HB 2506/PA 96-0463): Designates September as Brain Aneurysm Awareness Month.

**Cancer Screening** (SB 270/PA 96-0325): Authorizes the Department of Public Health to implement a Colorectal Cancer Screening and Treatment Pilot Program.

**Cell Phones** (HB 72/PA 96-0131): Prohibits drivers from using cell phones in school or construction zones unless using a hands-free device.

**Circuit Breaker** (HB 366/PA 96-0804): Rewrites eligibility for the Circuit Breaker Property Tax Grant and Illinois Cares RX drug coverage to increase eligibility for the 2009 claim year and provide for future annual increases based on annual Social Security increases, simplify the application process, and seek to align the programs.

**Consent** (HB 4081/PA 96-0318): States that a disabled adult who survives a sexual assault does not need the consent of their parent, guardian or custodian to receive emergency health care services or release hospital forensic evidence to law enforcement.

**Controlled Substances** (HB 445/PA 96-0347): Adds N-Benzylpiperazine (BZP) to the Schedule I list of part (d) hallucinogenic controlled substances.

**Dentists AEDs** (HB 921/PA 96-0748): Requires every dental office to have an emergency medical plan, and requires all dental offices that administer anesthesia or sedation to have an AED on the premises.

**Disability Data** (HB 47/PA 96-0558): Exempts certain law enforcement information concerning residents with mental and physical disabilities from being released under FOIA to encourage individuals with people living in their homes who have mental or physical disabilities to tell police they are there so law enforcement is aware when they respond to a call at the home.

**Do Not Resuscitate** (SB 2256/PA 96-0765): Requires a "Do Not Resuscitate" advance directive order to be witnessed by 1 person instead of 2.

**Elder Self-Neglect** (HB 3967/PA 96-0526): Requires the Department on Aging to implement a program for assessing elder abuse and neglect, based on the

recommendations of the Elder Self-Neglect Steering Committee.

**Fetal Cremation** (SB 1703/PA 96-0338): Allows hospitals to offer the option of common or simultaneous cremation to parents who do not wish or cannot afford to provide an individual burial or cremation.

**Free Tobacco** (HB 604/PA 96-0446): Restricts establishments from giving out free samples of tobacco products, except in “adult-only” facilities.

**Health Education** (HB 973/PA 96-0383): Recommends that the subject of teen dating violence be included in the Comprehensive Health Education Program curriculum in grades 8-12.

**Health Education** (SB 1665/PA 96-0128): Includes cancer as an informational topic in health education classes and allows athletic organizations to require a testicular examination as part of a physical required for a male student’s participation in interscholastic athletics.

**Injury Policies** (HB 2285/PA 96-0389): Requires hospitals and nursing homes to adopt policies to identify strategies for controlling risk of injuries when lifting or transferring patients.

**Insurance Benefit Exclusions** (HB 812/PA 96-0180): Clarifies that certain insurance mandates pertaining to individual and group health insurance coverage are not intended to apply to specialty or limited insurance policies, like short-term travel, disability income, long-term care, etc.

**Insurance Coverage** (HB 4241/PA 96-0756): Changes the age of dependent coverage for an unmarried child from 23 to 24 years old, and adds an unmarried child age 19 to 24 on a medical leave of absence from a college or university to the definition of dependent for purposes of continuing life insurance coverage.

**Medicaid Coverage** (SB 1497/PA 96-0156): Authorizes Medicaid to cover dental procedures that include diagnostic, preventative or corrective procedures, aligning Illinois with federal guidelines.

**Medicaid Payment Penalty** (HB 237/PA 96-0802): Establishes that Medicaid bills must be paid within 60 days of receiving the bill and increases late-payment penalties to two percent (now one percent) per month to help providers offset the costs accrued while waiting for the payment, and encourage more prompt payment of bills by the state.

**Medicated Lenses** (HB 2396/PA 96-0461): Allows doctors of optometry to sell, dispense, and prescribe lenses that release eye related medications.

**Medical Practice** (SB 318/PA 96-0618): Provides that a physician may delegate tasks and duties to appropriately licensed or unlicensed individuals, and identifies what those

tasks may be.

**Mental Health Court Case** (HB 2280/PA 96-0570): Provides that in cases of voluntary admission to a mental health facility when there is a commitment petition before the court, the petitioner is entitled to notification of the voluntary admission and has a right to object to the dismissal of the case.

**Mental Facility Admissions** (SB 209/PA 96-0612): Authorizes a disabled person to voluntarily admit to a mental health facility, if they have the capacity to consent.

**Multiple Sclerosis** (HB 244/PA 96-0139): Requires public employers to provide insurance coverage for medically necessary preventative physical therapy for patients diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

**Nursing Homes** (HB 748/PA 96-0448): Requires nursing homes to inform new residents within 30 days that they can name a health care surrogate and be given a chance to execute a living will/power of attorney. (SB 316/PA 96-0206): Requires DHFS to let the nursing home where a patient resides know if an individual application for medical assistance was accepted.

**Opioid Antidotes** (HB 497/PA 96-0361): Authorizes medical providers to prescribe opioid antidotes to patients who will administer these drugs to someone other than themselves.

**Organ Transplant Medication** (HB 152/PA 96-0766): Provides that if a prescribing physician has indicated “may not substitute” on a prescription, a health insurance policy or health care plan that covers immunosuppressant drugs may not require a pharmacist to interchange another drug, among other things.

**Ovarian/Prostate Cancer Awareness** (HB 2505/PA 96-0396): Creates Ovarian and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in September.

**Parkinson’s Awareness** (HB 760/PA 96-0375): Designates each April as Parkinson’s Awareness Month.

**Pharmaceutical Disposal** (SB 1919/PA 96-0221): Prohibits health care facilities from flushing unused medications.

**Prescriptions** (HB 488/PA 96-0166): Allows Schedule II controlled substance prescriptions to be filled up to 90 days after issuance, instead of up to seven days after issuance.

**Prostate Cancer** (HB 1033/PA 96-0567): Expands Medicaid eligibility to include coverage to uninsured persons who have been screened and found in need of treatment for prostate or testicular cancer.

**Rehab Centers** (HB 2279/PA 96-0812): Provides that there must be two, instead of one, authorized community-based residential rehabilitation center alternative health care models.

**RSDS Education** (HB 9/PA 96-0605): Requires DPH to establish a Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome (RSDS) Education Program to promote public awareness of the syndrome and the importance of early detection, diagnosis, and treatment.

**Sex Abuse** (HB 3918/PA 96-0311): Expands the protections and options available under the Domestic Violence Act to victims of sexual abuse who must seek recourse through the civil no contact order statute.

**Sex Offenders** (HB 224/PA 96-0233): Lengthens the statute of limitations for prosecuting sexual relations between family members and broadens the definition of “family members”. (HB 550/PA 96-0362): Prohibits a convicted sex offender from using computer software to delete information on any computer used by the offender, while on parole, supervised release, probation, conditional discharge or supervision.

**Sexually Transmitted Diseases** (SB 212/PA 96-0613): Allows health care professionals to prescribe antibiotics to the partner of a patient with a sexually transmitted disease, without requiring an office visit by that partner.

**Stroke Victims** (HB 2244/PA 96-0514): Provides for the establishment of an EMS regional plan concerning the triage, treatment, and transport of possible acute stroke patients.

**Student Pharmacists** (HB 1293/PA 96-0673): States that student pharmacists have to be actively enrolled in an accredited college of pharmacy and registered, and under the supervision of a pharmacist, before the student may assist in the practice of pharmacy.

**Telemedicine** (HB 1112/PA 96-0384): Requires IDPH to develop, publish and disseminate an educational brochure to educate the public on telemedicine to help people in rural areas who are forced to travel for medical treatment.

**Texting** (HB 71/PA 96-0130): Prohibits people operating a motor vehicle from using an electronic communication device, like a phone or computer, to compose, send or read an electronic message, but does not include a global positioning system, navigation system, or a device that is physically or electronically integrated into the motor vehicle.

**Veterans Mental Illness** (HB 2281/PA 96-0086): Allows the court prior to a sentencing hearing to order pre-sentence consultation with state or federal veterans’ affairs regarding treatment of servicemen or veterans who have been deemed mentally ill.

**Wellness** (SB 1877/PA 96-0639): Provides that a policy that provides coverage for treatment on an expense incurred basis, may offer a program for wellness coverage.