

August 2024 Newsletter

LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



This newsletter comes during the dog days of summer, which typically is a slow time on Beacon Hill. The legislature usually ends formal sessions on July 31st, with the legislature wrapping up action all significant bills by that date. While the legislature continues to meet in informal sessions after July 31st for the remainder of the calendar year, it typically dispenses with only non-controversial matters.

This legislative session has been anything but typical. Many noteworthy legislative proposals are still pending, including several health care bills, and their fate is uncertain. Governor Healey has urged the legislature to come back into a special session to enact her economic development plan. Both Speaker Mariano and Senate President Karen Spilka have indicated a willingness to do so. Thus, there is a real possibility that the legislature will suspend its rules, enabling them to advance the economic development plan and other legislation if both branches can agree on language. Action on several healthcare related bills could occur any time between now and December 31st. ECOH will update you on these matters and seek your input.

To recap, The Joint Committee on Healthcare Financing reported out favorably a bill entitled, [*"An Act Enhancing the Market Review Process"*](#). The House and Senate then each passed very different versions of the bill, though both versions made several significant changes to the way health care is regulated in Massachusetts. A conference committee was formed to resolve the differences, and a compromise has yet to be reached.

Resources:

[Bill](#) reported from the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing
House Ways and Means version of the [bill](#)
Link to the [legislation](#) that passed the House.
ECOH's [letter](#) to the House
Senate Ways and Means version of the [bill](#)
Link to the [legislation](#) that passed the Senate
ECOH's [letter](#) to the Senate.
ECOH [Letter](#) to Conference Committee members
ECOH [joint letter](#) with other organizations

ECOH BRAINSTORMING SESSION

To prepare for the next legislative session, ECOH will be hosting a forum for supporters to discuss ideas for how to improve health care affordability and increase value for health insurance spending. Ideas will be synthesized and turned into a bill that ECOH proactively support. Come join us for this important brainstorming session. All are welcome to attend but you must register in advance.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 18, 2024

WHERE: In-person – Retailers of Massachusetts's offices, 18 Tremont Street, Ste. 810, Boston, MA

Or by [Zoom](#)

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

WHY: ECOH needs your ideas in the fight for healthcare affordability

REGISTER [Here](#)

ECOH In the News



ECOH's President Eileen McAnneny was a guest on "At Issue" on August 4th to discuss health care affordability. Watch the segment [here](#).

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