



Legislative Update

The House and Senate are in the midst of working on several important issues as they take a break for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Legislative committees have been holding weekly hearings since the spring, getting through the thousands of bills for the session, which will continue through the new year.

On November 17th the Joint Committee on Public Health heard H.2061, An act relative to expanding veterinary practices. Dr. Laurie Klein, Dr. Adam Arzt, Sue Curtis, and Helen Martinelli from RoadRunner Pharmacy testified in favor of the bill, requesting a modification that would narrow the bill to singularly focus on allowing veterinarians to obtain, stock, and dispense compounded medications for emergency or urgent situations. MVMA has provided legislators with 277 petitions in favor of the bill from veterinarians across the state. Additional supporters include the MA Pharmacists Association, Tufts, the MSPCA, and Animal Rescue League. The Committee is now reviewing the legislation and the MVMA will be working hard to move the legislation favorably out of the Committee. The bill will then need to go to the Joint Committee on Health Care financing, but there will be no public hearing. The MVMA has met with legislators, regulators, and third party stakeholders to provide information and garner support for this important legislation.

The MVMA is also tracking so-called "Opioid" legislation to ensure that existing pharmacy statutes governing veterinarians is not inadvertently altered. To date, the Senate has passed a version of a bill, and the Governor recently introduced a separate bill. The Joint Committee on Mental Health will be reviewing the Governor's legislation in the next month and the MVMA will be requesting language corrections to clarify language that affects veterinarians.

Finally, several bills relative to animals (most re-filed from previous years) are being reviewed by various committees over the next few months.