2015 Legislative Session: A Nursing Perspective

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<th>What my friends think I do.</th>
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Objectives

• Discuss 2014-2015 Political Environment and Legislative Agenda.

• Discuss nursing bills of 2015 legislative session.

• Discuss 2016 political campaigns and issues, and 2017 session
Why Should Nursing Participate?

• Whether or not nursing participates, decisions affecting nurses and their patients will be made

• Nursing has benefited from participating

• Health care policy needs nursing’s perspective
#1 rule of legislative session:

The process is designed to kill bills
TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

140 DAY SESSION (1/13/15 - 6/1/15)
With start and end of session deadlines usually 100 days or less to get a bill through process.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS BEGINS

GETTING COMMITTEE HEARING IN 1ST CHAMBER

GETTING COMMITTEE HEARING IN 2ND CHAMBER

GETTING OUT OF COMMITTEE

GETTING MAJORITY VOTE IN THE 1ST CHAMBER

GETTING COMMITTEE HEARING IN 2ND CHAMBER

GETTING ON THE FLOOR OF 2ND CHAMBER FOR VOTE

GETTING ON THE FLOOR OF 1ST CHAMBER FOR VOTE

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE RESOLVES ANY DIFFERENCE IN THE BILL AS PASSED BY THE 2 CHAMBERS

GOVERNOR SIGNS, VETOES OR TAKES NO ACTION

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Strategy for Legislative Success

• Strategy Implications
  – Collaboration/Compromise encouraged
  – Long term, multi-session presence favored
  – Homework must be done before session starts
  – Opportunities must be exploited

• Understand personality of session
Some Potential Strategy Pitfalls

Letting desire for perfect prevent achieving good
Believing that “educating” legislators will be enough

Politics are local – Grassroots

Politics are personal – Grasstops
Who is the longest serving Governor in Texas History?
TRIVIA

Rick Perry (2000 to 2015)
2014 Elections

- New Governor: Greg Abbott
- New Lt. Governor: Dan Patrick
- Office of the Attorney General: Ken Paxton
- Land Commissioner: George Bush
- Agricultural Commissioner: Sid Miller
- Comptroller: Glenn Hegar
2014 Elections

❖ House: 24 new members, 3 Democrats (98R:52D)

❖ Senate: 8 new members, all Republicans (20R:11D)

84th Legislative Session

52 Democrats
98 Republicans
150 seats

19% Freshmen

11 Democrats
20 Republicans
31 seats

35% Freshmen
Components of Nursing Legislative Agenda

- Nursing initiated legislation
- Nursing supported health policy legislation
  - Work with coalitions
- Oh my gosh! Did you see that bill? Nursing can’t live with that!
  - Oppose/amend
Texas nursing organizations working together to develop and accomplish the Nursing Legislative Agenda

2015 Members

- AORN – GR. Houston
- AWHONN
- CNAP
- HCONS
- HONE
- SON Deans & Directors
- TAVNE
- LVNAT
- TxANA
- TCORN
- TxENA
- TNA
- TNP
- TNSA
- TOADN
- TOBGNE
- TONE
- TXCNS
- TSONO
Other Coalitions

- CNAP – Coalition for Nurse in Advanced Practice

- TPHC – Texas Public Health Coalition

- TWHC – Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition

- CHIP – Children’s Health Insurance Program

- Healthy Minds Coalition
84th Texas Legislative Session
Final stats from the 84th Legislature

- 6,276 filed
- 1,323 passed
- 7% passed
- 8% passed
- Passed (21%) Failed (79%)
2015 Nursing Agenda

How’d we do?
HB 2696: Workplace Advocacy

This bill provides the authority for the Center for Nursing Workforce Studies within the Dept. of State Health Services to conduct two studies, to be completed prior to the 2017 legislative session.

texasnurses.org
HB 1: Nurse Education Funding

$33.75 million for the Professional Nursing Shortage Reduction Program to increase RN graduates

$822,000 for the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies

$4.5 million for trauma fellowships for emergency physicians and nurses

The Nursing Faculty Loan Repayment Program, originally passed last session, was continued through this session as well, allowing for any excess, unspent funds to rollover to this budget.

texasnurses.org
HB 495: Nurse Education Funding

Rededicates tobacco lawsuit settlement funds to the Nursing Education Innovative Grant Program.

texasnurses.org

Photo by Daniel Mayer
2015 Nursing Agenda

- TAB initiative to seek funding to increase production of APRNs (primary care)
- School nurse notification, scoliosis screening, parental notification
- Community colleges offering BSNs
- APRN practice
  - Inclusion in provider networks
  - Expanding delegation of prescribing CS II and signing official documents
  - Full practice authority

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2015 Nursing Agenda

Texas PH Coalition

- Obesity
- Smoking cessation
- Immunizations
- Cancer prevention & research
- Accident prevention
Other Nursing Related Bills
HB 2267: Anesthesiology Assistants

This bill would have create a separate licensure for Anesthesiology Assistants with licensing fees and scope of practice.
Rep. Zedler and Sen. Kolkhorst,

HB 179/SB 1813 : Winkler County 2.0

This bill would have eliminated confidentiality for physician complaints to the Texas Medical Board.

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Photo by Daniel Mayer
HB 2020: ER Paramedics

This bill allows licensed paramedics and EMS paramedics to do certain tasks in the ER in life-threatening circumstances.

texasnurses.org
HB 3078: Pre-Nursing Curriculum Advisory Committee

Creates an advisory committee, appointed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to develop and make recommendations on a uniform pre-nursing curriculum for undergraduate professional nursing programs.
HB 1403: Medical Malpractice Claims

Fixes an unintended consequence of previous medical malpractice reforms to allow employees of certain hospitals to sue for injuries on the job.

A slip-and-fall case was classified as medical malpractice even if it had nothing to do with patient care.

texasnurses.org
Retiring Members

House
Rep. John Otto
   – Chair, Appropriations Committee
Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock
   – Chair, Public Education Committee
Rep. Jim Keffer
   – Chair, Natural Resources Committee
Rep. Sylvester Turner
   – Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
Rep. Myra Crownover
   – Chair, Public Health Committee

Rep. Scott Turner
Rep. Marisa Marquez
Rep. Joe Farias
Rep. Patricia Harless
Rep. Allen Fletcher
Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon
Rep. Susan King (nurse member)

Senate
Sen. Kevin Eltife
Sen. Troy Fraser

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Political Issues to Consider

- Continued push to the right as moderates retire
- Making nursing issues relevant to the Tea Party
- POTUS election year = ↑ turnout, ↑ spending on elections
Issues expected moving towards 2017

What are we fighting for?
WORKPLACE

- DSHS Study implementing HB 2696
- Telemedicine – Teladoc lawsuit, ongoing
APRN

Coalitions/Roundtables to continue among nursing groups

Schedule II Controlled Subs

VA APRN authority
EDUCATION

BSN in Community College

Pre-nursing Curriculum

Nursing Shortage Reduction Funds (NSRP)

2015
Board of Nursing  Sunset Review
What Can I Do?
Get involved!
You ARE the grassroots
Run for office!
Questions?

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