

## **Landscape Analysis Bill Summary**

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For the landscape analysis, 31 health or social determinants of health-related bills were collected from Legiscan from 2020 and 2021 at the federal and state level. The state bill search focused on Pennsylvania and other states where the Council has chapters, which is Georgia, North Carolina, and Illinois. This analysis is not considered to be an exhaustive list of all health and social determinants of health-related bills from 2020 and 2021. The purpose of this analysis is to gain a deeper understanding of existing and pending legislation for the Council to develop a policy agenda and or Black Health Bill of Rights action plan. For that reason, only bills that relate to at least one article within the Black Health Bill of Rights were included in this analysis.

#### **Relevance to Black Health Bill of Rights articles**

- Article 1 – 16 bills (5 federal, 11 state)
- Article 2 – 5 bills (3 federal, 2 state)
- Article 3 – 18 bills (5 federal, 13 state)
- Article 4 – 0 bills
- Article 5 – 2 bills (2 state)
- Article 6 – 12 bills (3 federal, 9 state)
- Article 7 – 10 bills (2 federal, 8 state)

The values and principles outlined in articles 1 and 3 of the Black Health Bill of Rights had the highest amount of relevant bills. For article 1, relevant bills discussed improving social conditions or the built environment as they are key factors in supporting Black Health and wellbeing. For article 3, relevant bills discussed health equity, racial equity, and structural equity in general, along with barriers to accessing health care, and culturally relevant healthcare.

- Article 1 – We have the right to a culture of health that values our whole wellbeing and allows us to achieve optimal health.
  - **US Congress House Bill 4118 (Introduced 6/21/2021)** – To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to build safer, thriving communities, and save lives, by investing in effective community-based violence reduction initiatives, and for other purposes.
  - **North Carolina Senate Bill 632 (Introduced 4/6/2021)** – To make critical investments in social determinants of health that influence maternal health outcomes, like housing, transportation, and nutrition. Provide funding to community-based organizations that are working to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women.
- Article 3 – We have the right to healthcare that is culturally sensitive and that incorporates cultural humility and structural equity.
  - **Illinois House Bill 62 (Introduced 1/13/2021)** – Creates the Health Care for All Illinois Act. Provides that all individuals residing in this State are covered under the Illinois Health Services Program for health insurance. Sets forth requirements and qualifications of participating health care providers....

- o **Illinois House Bill 124 (Introduced 1/13/2021)** – Amends the Medical Patient Rights Act. Provides that each patient has the right to receive care from a medical professional who is culturally sensitive to the patient's life experience.
- o **US Congress House Bill 779 (Introduced 2/3/2021)** – Establishes various grant programs to address educational inequities in elementary and secondary schools. Specifically, the bill creates grant programs related to (1) early childhood education, (2) high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders, (3) college and career readiness pathways, and (4) additional resources for at-risk students....

### **Relevance to the Council on Black Health policy agenda**

Built environment: Nutrition and food access, affordable housing, and environmental safety.

- **Pennsylvania House Bill 713 (Introduced 3/1/2021)** – An act to establish financing for a state program designed to increase the availability of fresh and nutritious food, known as the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative, by stimulating investment of capital, job creation, economic vitality, and financing for the construction, rehabilitation, or expansion of grocery stores, farmers markets, or other healthy food retail establishments in underserved, low income, or moderate income communities in this commonwealth.
- **Pennsylvania House Bill 581 (Passed by the House, introduced to the Senate 6/25/2021)** – An Act authorizing local taxing authorities to provide for tax exemptions for improvements to deteriorated areas and dwellings to incentivize the creation and improvement of affordable housing units.
- **Georgia House Bill 432 (Introduced 2/11/2021, bill died in committee)** – A bill to provide that as a prerequisite for obtaining certain permits in neighborhoods consisting of persons of color or from low-income families applicants shall take certain actions to mitigate health hazards; to provide that governmental agencies shall consider the disproportionate effect of environmental hazards on people of color or people from low-income families in implementing certain environmental policies; to provide that no person in Georgia shall be excluded from any state funded program or activity because of race, color, or national origin; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

Implicit bias and anti-racism

- **US Congress Senate Bill 1234 (Introduced 4/20/2021)** – Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to health-professional training programs for training that addresses implicit bias (e.g., racial bias) in the practice of obstetrics and gynecology. HHS must also award grants to up to 10 states for pregnancy medical-home programs that reduce adverse maternal-health outcomes and racial disparities. Among other requirements, such programs must prioritize the care of uninsured individuals or Medicaid enrollees. The National Academy of Medicine must make recommendations for incorporating bias recognition in clinical-skills tests at medical schools.
- **US Congress House Bill 666 (Introduced 2/1/2021)** – Establishes within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) a National Center on Antiracism and Health and a law enforcement violence prevention program. Among other activities, the new center

must declare racism a public health crisis, collect and analyze data, and administer research and grant programs to address racism and its impact on health and well-being. Additionally, the bill specifically directs the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, in coordination with the Department of Justice and other relevant stakeholders, to carry out the law enforcement violence prevention program by conducting research and supporting other activities pertaining to law enforcement violence and public health.

#### Medicaid expansion and protection

- **North Carolina House Bill 809 (Introduced 5/4/2021)** – An act to expand Medicaid in North Carolina.
- **Georgia House Bill 163 (Passed, became effective 7/1/2021)** – A BILL to direct the Department of Community Health to submit a state plan amendment to implement express lane enrollment in Medicaid; to direct the Department of Human Services to automatically enroll and renew eligible children in Medicaid, based on application data received for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

#### Equity in education

- **US Congress Senate Bill 1305 (Introduced 4/20/2021)** – A bill to promote equity in advanced coursework and programs at elementary and secondary schools.
- US Congress House Bill 779 listed above.

#### Prevention and access to healthcare

- **North Carolina House Bill 882 (Introduced 5/4/2021)** – An act to permit students to receive behavioral health services in public schools.
- Illinois House Bill 62 listed above.

#### Additional key observations

- I was unable to find any bills that discuss the principles of article 4 and incorporate strengths-based approaches to improving Black Health. The language surrounding Black Health is still primarily centered around disparities and deficits instead of strengths.
- I identified only two bills that have been passed, Illinois Senate Bill 2294 and Georgia House Bill 163. Most bills have been introduced or passed by one entity (House or Senate) and are awaiting approval by the other.
  - **Illinois Senate Bill 2294 (Passed, became effective 7/6/2021)** – Creates the Illinois Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics Act. Requires the Department of Healthcare and Family Services to develop a Comprehensive Statewide Behavioral Health Strategy and to submit this Strategy to the Governor and General Assembly no later than July 1, 2022. Provides that the Strategy shall address key components of current and past legislation as well as current initiatives related to behavioral health services in order to develop a cohesive

behavioral health system. Requires the Department to establish, by January 1, 2022, a program for the implementation of certified community behavioral health clinics....

- o **Georgia House Bill 163 (Passed, became effective 7/1/2021)** – A BILL to direct the Department of Community Health to submit a state plan amendment to implement express lane enrollment in Medicaid; to direct the Department of Human Services to automatically enroll and renew eligible children in Medicaid, based on application data received for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.
- I find it interesting that there is no research evidence that accompanies each bill. It would be helpful to see what research has been conducted that supports the statements made in each bill and how it will be effective at addressing the issue at hand. I'm unsure if research evidence is presented to the House and Senate during their deliberations and simply is not available to the public. It could be advantageous for the Council to look into providing research evidence to support relevant bills.