

**Florida Academy of Family Physicians**

**2025 Legislative Session Update – Week 7**

April 21, 2025

Week 7 of the nine-week legislative session was filled with both political and policy activity.  As the legislature met in committees preparing bills for floor action in its final two weeks, the legislative scrutiny of executive branch actions including the related Hope Florida Foundation reports, dominated the political discourse.  Meanwhile, the budget conference process between the House and Senate on their competing spending plans has yet to commence, and both chambers last week considered vastly different tax reduction packages.

**Budget Update**

The House budget totals $112.95 billion and the Senate budgets totals $117.4 billion. While both chambers agree to reduce government spending, they have different approaches to getting there.

The Senate Finance and Tax Committee advanced a wide-ranging proposal ([**SB 7034**](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/7034/BillText/Filed/PDF)) that would reduce state and local government tax revenue by $1.83 billion in the next fiscal year. The Senate proposal calls for permanently eliminating sales taxes on clothes and shoes that cost $75 or less.

Alternatively, the full House passed a $5.43 billion package that is built on cutting the state sales-tax rate from 6 percent to 5.25 percent

**Rural Renaissance**

 Senate President Ben Albritton [announced](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fapps.lobbytools.com%2fget_doc%2f134458&c=E,1,ZYy-B2buo7rjk339RzPxQgIPr_xZmRIf06T8rzoeQB9m4ac9sKya5MoSrj1tx5C2u9D31oT8zK73MNNC3agSphZdhXx8E5Dl4BriY42W1Ig4M55npP8Mgn3K7DV4&typo=1) that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has formally endorsed Florida’s [SB 110](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/110) (which has passed the Senate and its companion, [HB 1427](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1427) which is working its way through House committees), a major legislative initiative of the Florida Senate to drive a rural renaissance across the state. The bill proposes the creation of an Office of Rural Prosperity and will include grants for primary care practices for $250k to build in rural communities.



FAFP Vice President Michael Swartzon, MD, along with resident Maria Bernal, MD (West Kendall) served as Doctor of the Day sponsored by [Senator Alexis Calatayud (R-District 38 Miami-Dade)](https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s38?pref=full) on April 16. Drs. Swartzon and Bernal spent the day seeing patients in the Capital Clinic and making connections with Senator Calatayud and other members of the Miami-Dade legislative delegation.

**FAFP #1 Legislative Priority!**

**Invalid Restrictive Covenants with Physicians -** [HB 485](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/485) by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D-Delray Beach) and [SB 942](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/942) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) provide that certain restrictive covenants which prohibit physician from practicing medicine within specified area for certain period of time are void and unenforceable.

**Regrettably, this legislation will not pass in 2025 as it only passed one committee in the Senate, but the FAFP will continue to advocate for passage in future years.**

The following is a summary of the legislation being monitored by the FAFP

**Legislation of Interest (listed alphabetically)**

**Actions for Recovery of Damages for Wrongful Death** – [HB 6017](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/6017) by Rep. Dana Trabulsy (R-Fort Peirce) and [SB 734](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/734) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) remove the prohibition on recovery of noneconomic wrongful death damages in medical negligence cases by the decedent’s children who are 25 years of age or older and parents of a deceased child who was 25 years of age or older at the time of death.

HB 6017 passed the House 104-6 on Wednesday, 3/26 was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SB 734 is ready to be heard on the Senate floor.

**~~OPPOSE - Acupuncture~~** ~~-~~ [~~HB 803~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/803) ~~by Rep. Jose Alvarez (R-Kissimmee) and~~ [~~SB 1722~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1722) ~~by Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange) revise the licensure requirements for acupuncturists and broadens the definition of the practice of acupuncture.~~

~~HB 803 will be heard in on the House floor on Thursday, 4/24 .~~

~~SB 1722 has not been heard this session.~~

**Anaphylaxis in Public Schools** - [HB 1197](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1197) by Rep. Rita Harris (D-Orlando) and [SB 1514](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1514) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) require each district school board to ensure that certain emergency action plans are effective and school personnel and employees and contracted personnel of before-school and after-school programs receive certain training relating to allergic reactions including anaphylaxis.

HB 1197 is waiting to be heard on the House floor.

SB 1514 was approved by in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K-12 Education on Tuesday, 4/15 and will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, 4/21.

**~~OPPOSE - Autonomous Practice by Certain Psychiatric Nurses~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 883~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/883) ~~by Rep. Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe) and~~ [~~SB 758~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/758) ~~by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) authorize advanced practice registered nurses who are psychiatric nurses to engage in the autonomous practice.~~

~~HB 883 passed the House 87-22 on Wednesday, 4/9, was received by the Senate and sent to the Senate Rules Committee.~~

~~SB 758 has not received a hearing this session.~~

**~~OPPOSE - Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 649~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/649) ~~by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) and~~ [~~SB 718~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/718) ~~by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) allow licensed advanced practice registered nurse anesthetists to practice autonomously.~~

~~HB 649 passed the House 77-30 on Thursday, 4/3, was received by the Senate and sent to the Senate Rules Committee.~~

~~SB 718 has not received a hearing this session.~~

**Child Abuse Investigations** – [HB 511](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/511) by Rep. Robin Bartleman (D-Weston) and [SB 304](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/304) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) require the Department of Children and Families and child abuse investigators to consider and rule out certain diseases and medical conditions which can be mistaken as evidence of child abuse or neglect before involving law enforcement agencies or filing a petition to find the child dependent under state law.

SB 304 passed the Senate 37-0 on Wednesday, 4/9 and has been sent to the House.

HB 511 has one committee reference left, the House and Human Services Committee.

**Children with Developmental Disabilities** – [HB 591](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/591) by Rep. Randy Maggard (R-Zephyrhills) and [SB 112](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/112) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) expand services and funding opportunities for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

HB 591 is waiting to be heard the House floor.

SB 112 passed the Senate 38-0 on Wednesday, 3/12 and is in House Messages.

**~~OPPOSE - Chiropractic Medicine~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 849~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/849) ~~by Rep. Chase Tramont (R-Port Orange) and~~ [~~SB 564~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/564) ~~by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota) revise the definition of the term “practice of chiropractic medicine” to include the ordering, storing, possessing, prescribing, and administering of articles of natural origin under certain circumstances by certain chiropractic physicians, authorize pharmacists to fill the orders of such chiropractic physicians, and revise limitations on medical benefits in insurance policies providing personal injury protection.~~

~~Neither bills have received a hearing this Session.~~

**Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn** **Child** – [HB 1517](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1517) by Rep. Sam Greco (R-Palm Coast) and [SB 1284](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1284) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) prohibit a right of action against a mother for the wrongful death of her unborn child and authorize the parents of an unborn child to recover certain damages.

HB 1517 passed the House 79-32 on Wednesday, 4/9, was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1284 has one remaining committee of reference, the Senate Rules Committee.

**~~Collaborative Pharmacy Practice for Chronic Health Conditions~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 689~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/689) ~~by Rep. Rachel Saunders Plakon (R-Longwood) and~~ [~~SB 294~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/294) ~~by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) revise the definition of the term “chronic health condition” to exclude specified heart conditions for purposes of collaborative pharmacy practice for chronic health conditions.~~

~~HB 689 has not received a hearing this session.~~

~~SB 294 passed the Senate 38-0 on Wednesday, 3/19 and is in House Messages.~~

**Continuous Glucose Monitors** – [HB 1465](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1465) by Rep. Gallop Franklin (D-Tallahassee) and [SB 1182](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1182) by Sen Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) require AHCA to seek federal approval through a Medicaid waiver or state plan amendment to cover continuous glucose monitors and related supplies as a durable medical equipment benefit. This coverage would be in addition to coverage currently provided under the pharmacy benefit, as directed by the Legislature in 2023.

HB 1465 was approved by the House Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Tuesday, 4/15.

SB 1182 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Tuesday, 4/15.

**Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services** – [HB 651](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/651) by Rep. Kaylee Tuck (R-Sebring) and [SB 700](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/700) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) are comprehensive agriculture bills that include a water quality provision that would prevent the use of certain additives (fluoride) in a water system which do not meet the definition of water quality additive.

HB 651 was approved by the House Commerce Committee on Tuesday, 4/15 and now goes to the House floor.

SB 700 passed the Senate 27-9 on Wednesday, 4/16 and is in House Messages.

**Department of Health** – [HB 1299](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1299) by Rep. Taylor Yarkosky (R-Clermont) and [SB 1270](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1270) by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) revise provisions related to certain mandates, the definition of “messenger ribonucleic and vaccine” from repeal, expand the Patient Bill of Rights to prohibit discrimination based on vaccination status, require additional reporting of medical marijuana treatment centers and medical marijuana testing laboratories, and define the term “party state” in the Physical Therapy Compact .

HB 1299 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 4/15.

SB 1270 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, 4/21.

**Diabetes Early Detection Program** – [HB 723](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/723) by Rep. Allison Tant (D-Tallahassee) and [SB 958](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/958) by Sen. Mack Bernard (D-West Palm Beach) require the Department of Health (DOH) in collaboration with school districts throughout state to develop informational materials for early detection of Type 1 diabetes for parents and guardians of students.

HB 723 is waiting to be heard on the House floor.

SB 958 passed the Senate 37-0 on Wednesday, 4/9 and is in House Messages..

**Diabetes Management In Schools** – [HB 597](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/597) by Rep. Toby Overdorf (R-Stuart) and [SB 772](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/772) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) authorize school districts or charter schools to annually request and acquire a supply of undesignated glucagon to treat students with diabetes who experience a hypoglycemic emergency or whose prescribed glucagon is not available on site or has expired.

HB 597 passed the House 110-0 on Wednesday, 4/9, passed the Senate 36-0 on Wednesday, 4/16, and will next go to the Governor.

**Electronic Prescribing** – [HB 1297](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1297) by Rep. Bil Partington (R-Daytona Beach) and [SB 1568](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1568) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) require health care practitioners to electronically transmit prescriptions. SB 1568 was amended to allow certain exemptions.

HB 1297 passed the House 69-37 on Wednesday, 4/9, was received by the Senate and sent to the Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1568 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, 4/21.

**Employment Agreements** – [HB 1219](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1219) by Rep. Traci Koster (R-Safety Harbor) and [SB 922](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/922) by Sen. Tom Leek (R-St. Augustine) create “The Florida Trade Secret Protection Act.” The bills provide that certain covered garden leave agreements are not a restraint of trade or an attempt to monopolize trade or commerce. The bill does not apply to health care providers including physicians.

HB 1219 was approved by the House Commerce Committee on Tuesday, 4/15 and will be heard on the House floor on Wednesday, 4/23.

SB 922 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, 4/16 and now goes to the Senate floor.

**Evidence of Damages to Prove Medical Expenses in Personal Injury or Wrongful Death** **Actions** – [HB 947](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/947) by Rep. Omar Blanco (R-Miami) and [SB 1520](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1520) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) provide for evidence that is admissible to demonstrate past and future medical expenses in personal injury and wrongful death actions.

HB 947 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday, 4/17 and will be heard on the House floor on Wednesday, 4/23.

SB 1520 has not received a hearing this session.

**Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases** – [HB 907](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/907) by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs) and [SB 1356](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1356) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) establish the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases within FSU College of Medicine, provide goals of institute, and establish the Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program and Sunshine Genetics Consortium.

HB 907 passed the House 116-0 on Wednesday, 4/16 was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 1356 is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

**Health Care Practitioner Identification** – [HB 1341](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1341) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 172](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/172) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) prohibit the use of specified titles and designations by health care practitioners not licensed as physicians.

HB 1341 has one remaining committee of reference, the House Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 172 passed the Senate 37-0 on Wednesday, 4/9 and is in House Messages.

**Health Coverage by Nonprofit Agricultural Organizations** – [HB 497](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/497) by Rep. J.J. Grow (R-Inverness) and [SB 480](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/480) by Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) authorize nonprofit agricultural organizations to offer health coverage to their members and provides that such health coverage is not insurance for purposes of Florida Insurance Code.

HB 497 is waiting to be heard on the House floor.

SB 480 passed the Senate 32-4 on Thursday, 4/3 and is in House Messages.

**Health Facilities Authorities** – [HB 229](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/229) by Rep. Vanessa Oliver (R-Punta Gorda) and [SB 68](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/68) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) expand the types of health facility corporate structures authorized to pursue financing from a Health Facilities Authority (HFA), and expands the types of financial activities HFAs may engage in for the benefit of health care facilities and providers.  The bills also require a nonprofit hospital to provide 120 days notice prior to hospital closure and prohibit a corporation from receiving a charitable property tax exemption, for all licensed hospitals under such corporate ownership, if the corporation closes one of its hospitals with an emergency department and does not open a new emergency department within 120 days and within a 10-mile radius.

HB 229 is waiting to be heard on the House floor.

SB 68 is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

**Middle School and High School Start Times** – [HB 261](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/261) by Rep. Anne Gerwig (R-Wellington) and [SB 296](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/296) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) and Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) delete the duty of district school boards to adopt policies for middle school and high school start times, and delete a requirement that instructional days for middle schools may not begin before 8:00am and high schools may not begin earlier than 8:30am.

HB 261 is waiting to be heard on the House floor.

SB 296 passed the Senate 38-0 on Thursday, 3/27 and is in House Messages.

**~~Motor Vehicle Insurance~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 1181~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1181) ~~by Rep. Alvarez and~~ [~~SB 1256~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1256) ~~by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) repeal provisions relating to the application of the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law.~~

~~SB 1256 has not been heard this session.~~

**~~OPPOSE - Naturopathic Medicine~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 533~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/533) ~~by Rep. David Smith (R-Winter Springs) and~~ [~~SB 470~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/470) ~~by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) redesignate the title of ch. 462, F.S., from “Naturopathy” to “Naturopathic Medicine,” create the Board of Naturopathic Medicine within DOH, and provide for the licensure of naturopathic physicians.~~

**Newborn Screenings** – [HB 1089](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1089) by Rep. Erika Booth (R-Orlando) and [SB 524](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/524) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) require the DOH rules on newborn screening to include screening for Duchenne muscular dystrophy beginning January 1, 2027.

HB 1089 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 4/15 and now goes to the House floor.

SB 524 has one remaining committee of reference, the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

**OPPOSE - Optometry** - [HB 449](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/449) by Rep. Alex Rizo (R-Hialeah) allows the board to establish a negative drug formulary of ocular agents that may not be prescribed or administered by an optometrist, authorizes an optometrist certified in ophthalmic procedures to perform certain procedures, prohibits a commercial or mercantile establishment from having any control over the manner in which a licensee practices optometry, removes a provision prohibiting surgery of any kind, authorizes specified titles and abbreviations for certified optometrists, and provides requirements for demonstration of financial responsibility as term of licensure.

HB 449 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 4/15 and will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Thursday, 4/24.

**Out-of-network Providers** – [HB 1101](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1101) by Rep. Jon Albert (R-Winter Haven) and [SB 1842](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1842) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) require a health care practitioner to notify a patient in writing upon referring the patient to out of network providers, and require certain health insurers to apply payments for services provided by out of network providers toward insureds’ deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums if specified conditions are met.

HB 1101 passed the House 79-29 on Wednesday, 4/9, was received by the Senate and sent to the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

SB 1842 will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 4/22.

**Parental Rights** - [HB 1505](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1505) by Rep. Rachel Saunders Plakon (R-Longwood) and [SB 1288](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1288) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) grant additional rights to parents relating to surveys and questionnaires intended for their children and eliminate certain exceptions to a parent’s rights relating to health care decisions, medical record access, and certain DNA collection for a minor child.

HB 1505 has one remaining committee reference, the House Education and Employment Committee.

SB 1288 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, 4/21.

**Parkinson's Disease Research Funding** – [HB 1545](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1545) by Rep. Demi Busatta (R-Coral Gables) and [SB 1800](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1800) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) establish the Parkinson's Disease Research Program and require the Department of Health to establish the Parkinson's Disease Research Advisory Board. [HB 1547](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1547) by Rep. Busatta and [SB 1802](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1802) by Sen. Calatayud provide public records exemptions for the information held in the Parkinson’s Disease Research Program Registry.

HB 1545 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 4/15 and now goes to the House floor.

SB 1800 was approved by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Thursday, 4/17 and now goes to the Senate floor.

**Patient Access to Records** – [HB 1083](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1083) by Rep. Erika Booth (R-Orlando) and [SB 1606](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1606) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) require certain licensed facilities and health care practitioners to furnish and provide access to records and reports within specified timeframes after receiving request for such records.

HB 1083 passed the House 86-20 on Wednesday, 4/9, was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SB 1606 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, 4/21.

**Physician Assistant and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Services** – [HB 647](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/647) by Rep. Dana Trabulsy (R-Fort Pierce) and [SB 998](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/998) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) authorize physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses **under a physician protocol** to provide specified care to hospice patients.

HB 647 passed the House 111-0 on Wednesday, 4/16 was received by the Senate and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

SB 998 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, 4/16 and now goes to the Senate floor.

**~~OPPOSE - Physician Assistants~~** ~~–~~ [~~SB 1540~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1540) ~~by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) allows a physician assistant to practice without physician supervision.~~

~~SB 1540 has not had a hearing this session.~~

**~~OPPOSE - Prescriptive Authority Certification for Psychologists~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 23~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/23) ~~by Rep. Gallop Franklin (D-Tallahassee) and~~ [~~SB 250~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/250) ~~by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) allow psychologists to prescribe medicine if they meet specified criteria.~~

**~~Prohibitions and Limitations on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Requirements for Medical Institutions of Higher Education~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 731~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/731) ~~by Rep. Lauren Melo (R-Naples) and~~ [~~SB 1710~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1710) ~~by Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) prohibit state agencies from expending certain funds for diversity, equity, and inclusion offices or officers, authorize the Attorney General to file suit, prohibit examining or licensing board from establishing or effectuating race-based policies, including affirmative action, requires health care providers and medical institutions of higher education to provide specified certification to their governing boards, require the Florida Board of Medical Examiners to publish on its website list of providers and institutions that provide such certification, prohibits health care-related professional licensing boards from certain actions relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion, requires medical institutions of higher education to provide letter grade-based assessments for required courses, and require specified standardized test for admission to medical institutions of higher education.~~

~~Update: HB 731 was amended to require medical institutions of higher education within the State University System to implement a standardized admissions test as a condition for entry into a health care-related degree program, certification program, or training. The test must evaluate applicants’ knowledge of, and critical thinking skills for, science and medical training.~~

~~SB 1710 has two more committee references left.~~

**Public Education and Background Screening Requirements** – [HB 531](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/531) by Rep. Christine Hunschofsky (D-Coconut Creek) and [SB  614](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/614) by Sen. Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) create background screening requirements for recreational enrichment programs and require the DOH, ACHA and the Department of Law Enforcement to develop and maintain a statewide background screening public awareness campaign.

HB 531 has one remaining committee of reference, the House Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 614 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Tuesday, 4/15.

**~~OPPOSE - Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education~~** ~~–~~ [~~HB 333~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/333) ~~by Rep. Felicia Simone Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) and~~ [~~SB 522~~](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/522) ~~by Sen. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) require physicians and nurses to complete a 2 hour continuing education course on sickle cell disease care management as part of the initial licensure or certification renewal.~~

**Spectrum Alert** – [HB 711](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/711) by Rep. David Borrero (R-Doral) and [SB 500](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/500) by Sen. Bryan Avila (R-Hialeah Gardens) require the Department of Law Enforcement, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of the Lottery, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish and implement the Spectrum Alert for missing children with autism spectrum disorder which is compatible with existing alert systems.

HB 711 was approved by the House State Affairs Committee on Thursday, 4/17 and will be heard on the House floor on Wednesday, 4/23.

SB 500 has one committee of reference remaining, the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

**Stem Cell Therapy** – [HB 1617](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1617) by Rep. James Buchanan (R- North Port) and [SB 1768](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1768) by Sen Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) authorize physicians to perform stem cell therapies that have not been approved by the FDA relating to orthopedics, wound care, and pain management. The bills establish the type of stem cells that may be used, the type of facilities from which a physician may obtain stem cells as well as notice and informed consent requirements.

HB 1617 has one remaining committee reference, the House Health and Human Services Committee.

SB 1768 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, 4/16 and now goes to the Senate floor.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Care** – [HB 1091](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1091) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 1240](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1240) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) expand mental health crisis services to include a 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call center, define term "988 suicide & crisis lifeline call center," require DCF to authorize and provide oversight of 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call centers and adopt specified rules, remove requirements relating to providers of medication-assisted treatment services for opiate addiction, revise training requirements for mental health professionals, require court appointed experts to have completed specified training and continued education, and provide requirements for expert to determine acceptable treatments available in the community.

HB 1091 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 4/15 and now goes to the House floor.

SB 1240 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Tuesday, 4/15 and will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday, 4/21.

**Veterans** – [HB 1043](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1043) by Rep. Rachel Saunders Plakon (R-Longwood) and [SB 116](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/116) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) require the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to conduct a study that includes a survey evaluating awareness of certain existing programs or services, require the department to ensure coordination to the greatest extent possible with the United States Department of Defense, revise the purpose of the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program to include specialized mental health training, and require the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to develop a plan to establish adult day health care facilities across this state to serve veterans and their families.

SB 116 passed the Senate 39-0 on Wednesday, 3/19 and is in House Messages.