

Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2026 Legislative Session Capital Update – Week 6
February 22, 2026

The legislature completed a pivotal week six of the nine-week 2026 legislative session with many substantive committees wrapped up their work as the funnel that is the legislative process continues to narrow, and budget discussions move into the forefront. The House advanced off the floor its \$113.6 billion budget proposal, and the Senate followed suit with its own \$115 billion proposal, setting the stage for negotiations between the chambers. In his opening floor remarks on Thursday, Speaker Danny Perez emphasized that the Legislature had reached “the turning point of our Session,” cautioning members that disagreements over spending priorities could prolong the session beyond its scheduled end. He warned against adhering to an “artificial deadline,” signaling that the House would not rush negotiations simply to adjourn on time. Meanwhile, Senate President Ben Albritton avoided specific discussions of an extended or special session and continued to posture the Senate as a chamber of consensus, albeit with its own priorities. Around Tallahassee, legislative veterans are quietly double-checking their Spring Break trip cancellation insurance policies.

Property Taxes

On Thursday, the Florida House passed [HJR 203 - Elimination of Non-school Property for Homesteads](#), sponsored by Representative Monique Miller (R-Palm Bay), by an 80-30 vote. The proposed constitutional amendment would exempt homestead property from all ad valorem taxes other than school district levies beginning January 2027 and would prohibit local governments from reducing total funding for law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders below their 2025-26 or 2026-27 funding level, whichever is higher. Speaker Perez described the measure as “the most aggressive legislation ever passed by a legislative chamber on property taxes in the history of the United States.”

The Senate has not yet released its own property tax proposal, nor has the Governor who noted this week that his office is working with the Senate on a proposal. Senate President Albritton stated during his Thursday press availability that the Senate is focused on developing a proposal capable of building consensus, emphasizing that it is more important to get the policy right than to do it quickly. For the proposed constitutional amendment to appear on the 2026 ballot, the House and Senate must pass the same joint resolution. If placed on the ballot, the amendment requires at least 60 percent voter approval to take effect.

Legislation of Interest to Family Medicine (listed alphabetically)

FAFP Position: **Support** **Oppose** **Monitor**

Acupuncture – [SB 672](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and [HB 169](#) by Rep. Jose Alvarez (D-Kissimmee) revise licensure requirements for acupuncturists including allowing for the order and administration of herbs, homeopathic and other nutritional supplements.

[HB 169](#) was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday, 2/18 and now goes to the House floor.

[SB 672](#) did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.

☒ Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice – [SB 138](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) and [HB 301](#) by Rep. Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe) authorize certain advanced practice registered nurses to engage in autonomous practice to provide mental health services as defined by the Board of Nursing.

SB 138 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.

☑ Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Initiative – [SB 578](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) and [HB 513](#) by Rep. Dean Black (R-Jacksonville) require the Department of Elderly Affairs to contract for the development and implementation of the Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Initiative.

HB 513 was approved by House Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Monday, 2/16 and will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

☒ Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – [SB 462](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 375](#) by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) authorize autonomous certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) to perform CRNA-specific acts without an established supervisory physician protocol.

SB 462 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.

△ Child Welfare – [SB 560](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 763](#) by Rep. Dana Trubulsky (R-Fort Pierce) streamline the procedures to provide or continue a psychotropic medication prescription for a child in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Families.

HB 763 will be heard in the House Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Monday, 2/23.

SB 560 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

☒ Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child – [SB 164](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 289](#) by Rep. Sam Greco (R-Palm Coast) expand Florida’s Wrongful Death Act to allow the parents of an unborn child to recover damages pursuant to the Act from a person who committed a negligent act that caused the death of the unborn child.

This legislation continues to move through the committee process, but organized medicine is doing everything possible to defeat these bills.

△ Department of Health – [SB 902](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 733](#) by Rep. Ann Gerwig (R-Wellington) prohibit new medical marijuana treatment centers facilities from being located within 500 feet of a park, daycare or early learning facility, clarifies that physicians and medical directors must renew medical marijuana certifications biennially, revise the definition of low-THC cannabis, require DOH to develop procedures and protocols for various Early Steps functions, require the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to make the autism micro-credential available to early intervention service providers who have been credentialed through the Early Steps program and allow DOH to immediately suspend a license of a practitioner who has been arrested for murder.

SB 902 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18 and will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

HB 733 will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

☑ Diabetes Research – [SB 816](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) and [HB 901](#) by Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R-Bartow) establish the University of Florida Diabetes Institute within the University of Florida College of Medicine.

SB 816 has passed the Senate and HB 901 is on the House floor for consideration.

☑ **Doula Support for Healthy Births Pilot Program** – [SB 514](#) by Sen. Rosalind Osgood (D-Tamarac) and [HB 515](#) by Rep. Daryl Campbell (D-Fort Lauderdale) establish The Doula Support for Healthy Births pilot program in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties and require DOH, in collaboration with its maternal and child health section, to implement and oversee the pilot program.

The Senate Appropriations Act provides \$704,000 for this program.

☑ **Drowning Prevention Education** – [SB 606](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) and [HB 503](#) by Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) require DOH to develop educational materials on drowning prevention safety measures and safe bathing practices and require hospitals, birth centers, and home birth providers to provide the educational materials to new parents and caregivers as part of their postpartum education and care.

HB 503 will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

△ **Dry Needling** – [SB 914](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and [HB 867](#) by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs) define the terms “dry needling” and “myofascial trigger point,” requiring the Board of Occupational Therapy to establish minimum standards and require the board, if it deems it necessary for patient safety, to adopt additional supervision and training requirements for occupational therapists to perform dry needling on specified areas.

SB 914 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18 and will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

HB 867 will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 2/25.

△ **Education on Congenital Cytomegalovirus** – [SB 1414](#) by Sen. Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) and [HB 1203](#) by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D-Delray Beach) require DOH, in consultation with medical experts identified by the department, to develop educational materials on congenital cytomegalovirus for distribution to expectant and new parents or caregivers, require certain hospitals, birth centers, and obstetrics and gynecology physician practices to provide the educational materials to such parents and caregivers and require the licensing boards of certain health care practitioners to require such practitioners complete a one-hour board-approved course on congenital cytomegalovirus as a part of initial licensure and every other licensure renewal.

SB 1414 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18.

△ **Enforcement of Protections for Minors** – [SB 1010](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 743](#) by Rep. Melo (R-Naples) provide criminal penalties for health care practitioners who willfully or actively aid or abet a minor in obtaining sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures. HB 743 has passed all committees and is on the House floor, but the FAFP continues to monitor the Senate as SB 101 has only passed one of three required committees.

△ **Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association** – [SB 1668](#) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) and [HB 1291](#) by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs) require the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association to reimburse the state Medicaid program for plan participants’ medical expenses, expand compensation items to include additional medical, dental, habilitative, and guardianship expenses, revise the exclusiveness of remedy under the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Plan, mandate continuous major medical health coverage for participants, require the association to maintain a plan of operation with provisions for fraud detection and to perform regular actuarial evaluations of the plan’s fiscal soundness, and require the association to submit quarterly estimates.

SB 1668 was approved by the Senate Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, 1/28. Any implications are additional assessments on physicians if the bill passes it is still to be determined.

☒ Health and Human Services - [HB 693](#) by Rep. Mike Redondo (R-Miami) known as the “Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act” and part of the Florida House’s “Florida’s New Frontier in Healthcare” proposal, aligns state rules with new federal requirements for Medicaid, CHIP and SNAP, tightens eligibility and verification standards, and deregulates certain aspects of healthcare delivery — including removing certificate-of-need requirements for long-term care providers, extending independent practice rights for advanced-practice nurses, creating interstate licensure compacts for physician assistants and EMS professionals, and broadening the scope of dental hygienists. [HB 695](#), also by Rep. Redondo, provides exemptions from public meetings requirements for the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission.

HB 693 and HB 695 will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24. There remains to Senate companion bills.

☒ Health Care “Medical Freedom” – [SB 1756](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 917](#) by Rep. Jeff Holcomb (R-Springhill) create a statutory nonmedical exemption from immunization requirements for a child attending a K-12 school if the administration of a vaccine conflicts with the parent’s conscience. The bills require DOH to make the nonmedical exemption form available on its website and require health care practitioners and paramedics who administer vaccines to a minor child to provide informational materials approved and adopted by joint rule of the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine before a vaccine may be administered. The bills also require that when more than one vaccine is to be administered to a child, the practitioner must discuss the parent’s or guardian’s options for the timing of the vaccinations. The bills authorize pharmacists to provide ivermectin as a behind-the-counter medication without a prescription to a person 18 years of age or older and grant immunity from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action under Florida law for pharmacists acting in accordance with these provisions. HB 917 has additional provisions that prohibit discrimination against a patient based on the patient’s vaccination status.

FAFP President Dr. Danielle Carter testified against this legislation and the FAFP will continue to fight to defeat the bill along every step of the way through the Senate and House chambers.

SB 1756 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and the FAFP will speak to oppose this legislation. HB 917 has not been heard by any committee of reference (3).

Health Care – [SB 2538](#) by the Senate Appropriations Committee and [HB 5301](#) by Rep. Alex Andrade (R-Pensacola) are the health care budget bills that make statutory changes as a result of health care policy in the state proposed budgets.

The House and Senate have agreed to work out the differences in HB 5301 and SB 2538 in the Budget Conference process.

Health Care Coverage - [SB 1760](#) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) establishes the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Oversight, bill establishes the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Oversight, creates additional Medicaid managed care plan reporting requirements for purposes of capitation rate setting and disclosure of financial relationships with affiliated entities, requires that a contract between AHCA and a Medicaid managed care plan must require that any third party administrative entity contracted by the plan must adhere to all pertinent requirements of the Medicaid program placed on the plan under the plan’s contract with the AHCA, provides that payments made by a Medicaid managed care plan to affiliated entities in excess of market rates are

excluded as an allowable expense when the AHCA calculates such plan's achieved savings rebate (ASR), revises ASR statutes to alter the amount of profit that a managed care plan may retain versus how much of such profit must be shared with the state, amends statutes relating to Medicaid managed care plan medical loss ratios (MLR) to correct a reference to federal regulations and to specify that MLRs must be calculated for each plan separately for each component of Statewide Medicaid Managed Care and for each plan in the aggregate, amends the Insurance Code relating to the oversight of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), creates prohibitions against PBM behavior relating to contracting with and reimbursing Pharmacies, prohibits a PBM from maintaining any ownership or investment interest in an affiliated manufacturer. **SB 1760 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11, but no further movement since.**

△ Health Care Patient Protection – [SB 68](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 355](#) by Rep. Vanessa Oliver (R-Punta Gorda) require AHCA, in consultation with the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, to adopt rules that establish minimum standards for pediatric patient care in hospital emergency departments (ED). The bills require all hospitals with EDs to develop and implement policies and procedures for pediatric patient care in the ED, and to designate a physician, physician assistant, nurse, or paramedic to serve as the pediatric emergency care coordinator in the ED. Finally, the bills require all hospital EDs to conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment in accordance with timelines established by the National Pediatric Readiness Project.

HB 355 passed the House 109-0 on 1/15 and SB 68 is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

☒ Naturopathic Medicine – [SB 542](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami), [SB 688](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 223](#) by Rep. David Smith (R-Winter Springs) reestablish licensure and regulation of naturopathic physicians, and establish new standards for the practice. The bills provide licensure authority over naturopathic physicians to DOH and create the Board of Naturopathic Medicine to assist DOH in the regulation of naturopathic physicians.

HB 223 was approved by House Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Monday, 2/16 and will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

△ Newborn Screening – [SB 1574](#) by Sen. Bracy Davis (D-Orlando) and [HB 1335](#) by Rep. Plakon (R-Longwood) require newborns to be screened for biliary atresia and DOH to implement a statewide public health education campaign including providing guidance to physicians and nurses on strategies for identifying biliary atresia in infants and the risks of delayed treatment. In addition, the bills require DOH to consult with the Genetics and Newborn Screening Advisory Council before adopting rules regarding screening methods, follow-up procedures, and the inclusion of additional conditions in the screening program. **Passed Senate Health Policy but no movement in the House.**

☒ Parental Rights – [SB 166](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 173](#) by Rep. Kim Kendall (R-St. Johns) revise requirements for the provision of maternal health and contraceptive information and services to minors. The bills require consent from a parent or guardian for a minor's treatment for certain diseases, repeal a provision relating to minors' access to outpatient crisis intervention services and treatment, and require school districts to provide parents with specified information before the district administers certain questionnaires or forms to students.

HB 173 was approved by the House Education and Employment Committee on Tuesday, 2/17 and now goes to the House floor.

△ Parkinson's Disease Registry – [SB 1684](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and [HB 1443](#) by Rep. Demi Busatta (R-Coral Gables) require the Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease within the University of South Florida to establish a statewide Parkinson's disease registry. The bills require

physicians and advanced practice registered nurses who diagnose or treat a patient with Parkinson's disease or atypical parkinsonism to report nationally recognized performance measures to the registry beginning January 1, 2027, and grant them liability protection for doing so. The Parkinson's Disease Research Board (Board) must submit annual reports on the registry data to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives beginning October 15, 2028. [SB 1686](#) and [HB 1445](#) by provide public records exemptions for specified patient information for Parkinson's disease registry.

[SB 1684](#) and [1686](#) were approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18 and both bills will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

[HB 1443](#) and [HB 1445](#) were approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday, 2/18 and both bills will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 2/25.

Podiatric Medicine – [SB 1092](#) by Sen. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) and [HB 567](#) by Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) narrow the controlled substance continuing education requirements for podiatrists to only podiatrists registered and authorized to prescribe controlled substances by the DEA. The Senate bill also authorizes podiatrists to perform stem cell therapy under certain circumstances. [SB 1092](#) was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18 and will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24. [HB 567](#) is on the House floor for consideration.

Practice of Chiropractic Medicine – [SB 1524](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) and [HB 439](#) by Rep. Nan Cobb (R-Eustis) authorize board certified chiropractic physicians to possess, prescribe, and administer vitamins, nutrient preparations, homeopathic remedies, dietary supplements, and epinephrine and authorize licensed pharmacists to fill, compound, or dispense certain nutritional prescriptions prescribed by certified licensed chiropractic physicians. [HB 439](#) will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 2/25. [SB 1524](#) did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.

Practice of the Profession of Pharmacy – [SB 868](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 1021](#) by Rep. RaShon Young (D-Orlando) authorize pharmacists who meet specified criteria to, at the direction of a licensed physician, administer medications at a Level I or Level II trauma center under certain circumstances and require trauma centers to retain certain documentation to employ pharmacists to perform such tasks. [HB 1021](#) is on the House floor for consideration, but [SB 868](#) did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.

Public Records/Emergency Physicians - [SB 268](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 251](#) by Rep. Tiffany Esposito (R-Fort Myers) define the term “emergency physician” and provide for exemptions from public records requirements for the personal identifying and location information of current or former emergency physicians and their spouses and children. [HB 251](#) was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11. [SB 268](#) has only passed one of three committees.

Public Records/Uterine Fibroid Research Database – [SB 864](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 1515](#) by Rep. Lisa Dunkley (D-Lauderhill) provide an exemption from public records requirements for certain records and personal identifying information submitted to the Department of Health for inclusion in the uterine fibroid research database. [SB 864](#) will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 2/24. [HB 1515](#) will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

☑ **Rural Communities** – [SB 250](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) [HB 723](#) by Rep. Abbott is a comprehensive package of legislative proposals to create opportunities for rural communities to expand education offerings, increase health care services, and modernize commerce. More information [here](#).

SB 250 has been approved by the Senate but HB 723 has not been heard by any House committee.

☒ **Sickle Cell Disease Care Management and Treatment Continuing Education** – [SB 844](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) and [HB 353](#) by Rep. Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) require information related to the treatment of pain for patients with sickle cell disease to be included in the continuing education course on controlled substance prescribing required for licensure renewal of certain health care practitioners registered to prescribe controlled substances. The FAFP assisted in amending this language to prevent additional mandatory CME requirements. **SB 844 was approved by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/18 and now goes to the Senate floor. HB 353 will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.**

△ **Temporary Certificates for Practice in Areas of Critical Need** – [SB 1480](#) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) and [HB 809](#) by Rep. Benarroch (R-Naples) authorize a certificate holder to continue providing primary care services to patients in an area of critical need after the area has lost its designation if the practitioner maintains an active primary care treatment relationship in the area with at least one patient and satisfies all other applicable requirements.

SB 1480 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/17 and was temporarily postponed on the Senate floor on Thursday 2/19.

HB 809 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday, 2/18 and now goes to the House floor.

△ **Use of Professional Nursing Titles** - [SB 36](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 237](#) by Rep. Michelle Salzman (R-Cantonment) authorize certain nurses the title Doctor of Nursing Practice and the abbreviation D.N.P., and the title of Doctor of Philosophy and the abbreviation PhD. The bills also require doctoral degree holders to specify their profession when using the term “doctor.”

HB 237 has been received by the Senate.

SB 36 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Thursday, 2/12 but still has two additional committee stops making it unlikely to pass.

△ **Uterine Fibroid Research Database** – [SB 196](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 327](#) by Rep. Lisa Dunkley (D-Lauderhill) requires health care providers to submit identified information to the DOH for inclusion in the Uterine Fibroid Research Database. The bill also adds uterine fibroids to the list of infectious or noninfectious diseases of public health significance, which requires health care providers to submit identified uterine fibroid data to DOH for epidemiological research purposes.

SB 196 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18 and will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.

Moving into week seven of the Legislative Session, the following bills are unlikely to pass due to lack of significant movement through referenced committees:

☒ **Advertisement of a Harmful Vaccine** – [SB 408](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 339](#) by Rep. Monique Miller (R-Palm Bay) authorize an individual to file a cause of action against a vaccine manufacturer for harm or injury to an individual. The bills provide that the prevailing party is entitled to actual damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees.

△ **Connecting to Care Act** – [SB 294](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 407](#) by Rep. Jose Alvarez (D-Kissimmee) create the "Connecting to Care Act" and authorize a pharmacist to administer medication for the treatment of opiate addiction under the protocol of a physician.

✔ **Continuity of Care in Health Insurance Contracts** – [SB 114](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) and [HB 577](#) by Rep. Marie Woodson (D-Pembroke Pines) require health insurers and contracted health care practitioners to provide 60 days' notice to policyholders before contract termination and allows certain policyholders to continue coverage and care for a specified timeframe.

✔ **Cost-sharing Requirements for Diabetes Management** – [SB 222](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) and [HB 367](#) by Rep. Rita Harris (D-Orlando) prohibit health insurance policies from imposing a cost-sharing requirement exceeding a certain amount for a 30-day supply of insulin or any diabetes device or diabetic ketoacidosis device.

✔ **Coverage for Mammograms and Supplemental Breast Cancer Screenings** – [HB 137](#) by Rep. Dianne Hart (D-Tampa) and [SB 1494](#) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) provide coverage for certain breast cancer screenings.

△ **Discounted Drug Pricing Study** – [SB 886](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 573](#) by Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) require AHCA to conduct or contract for a specified drug pricing study and require the agency to provide the results to the Governor and the Legislature.

△ **Drug Prices and Coverage** – [HB 697](#) by Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R-Bartow) and [SB 1158](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) known as the "Prescription Reduction Incentives and Competition Enhancement Act" (PRICE Act) introduce a "most-favored nations" prescription drug pricing model, require manufacturers to report international drug prices, caps what insurers and pharmacies pay, regulate Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) practices, and mandate drug formularies during the plan year. Specifically the bills requires prescription drug manufacturer permitholders to annually report to AHCA international drug price data, require AHCA to publish annually prescription drug and product reference prices, require pharmacies to charge cash-paying customers up to reference prices, prohibit PBMs from forcing pharmacies to dispense drugs at a loss, require PBMs to reimburse out of network pharmacies at the same rate as in network pharmacies, require insurers and PBMs to maintain frozen formularies and provide that savings must be used to reduce premiums and patient costs sharing obligations.

△ **Employment Eligibility** – [SB 1278](#) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) and [HB 197](#) by Rep. Berny Jacques (R-Clearwater) require all private employers, rather than only those employing more than specified number of employees, to use E-Verify system to verify new employee's employment.

△ **Florida Health Choices Program** – [SB 440](#) by Sen Tom Leek (R-St. Augustine), [SB 1460](#) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) and [HB 141](#) by Rep. Taylor Yarkosky (R-Clermont) rename the "Florida Health Choices Program" as "Florida Employee Health Choices Program" and revise purposes and components of the program. The bills revise eligibility and participation requirements for vendors under the program, the types of health insurance products that are available for purchase through program, removes certain pricing transparency requirements, revise the structure of the insurance marketplace process under the program, remove the option for risk pooling under the program, and remove exemptions from certain requirements of Florida Insurance Code under the program.

✔ **Impact of Perimenopause and Menopause on Women's Health** – [SB 190](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 161](#) by Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson (D-Gainesville) require the DOH to

establish a perimenopause and menopause policy workgroup. The bills also require the department, in collaboration with the workgroup, to develop and make publicly available on its website information relating to perimenopause and menopause.

✔ **Interactions with Artificial Intelligence** – [SB 1344](#) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) and [HB 659](#) by Rep. Christine Hunschofsky (D-Coconut Creek) provide regulations for operators of companion chatbot platforms.

✔ **Managed Care Plans** – [SB 568](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 531](#) by Rep. Webster Barnaby (R-Deland) revise Medicaid managed care contract requirements to prohibit managed care plans from reviewing certain prior authorization claims for medical necessity, and require that managed care plans provide coverage for durable medical equipment and complex rehabilitation technology from a qualified provider within the network of the enrollees choosing.

✔ **Mandatory Human Reviews of Insurance Claim Denials** – [SB 202](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) and [HB 527](#) by Rep. Hillary Cassel (R-Hollywood) require that insurers' decisions to deny a claim or any portion of a claim be made by qualified human professionals and prohibit the use of algorithms, artificial intelligence, or machine learning systems as the sole basis for determining whether to adjust or deny a claim.

✔ **Maternal Health and Early Learning** – [SB 1508](#) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and [HB 1029](#) by Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson (D-Gainesville) require the Department of Health to expand the current home visit program to include a home visit program for expectant mothers within the Healthy Start program.

✔ **Medicaid Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitoring Devices** – [SB 736](#) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) and [HB 781](#) by Rep. Brian Rodgers (R-Viera) define the terms “blood pressure cuff” and “validated at-home blood pressure monitor,” require AHCA to provide coverage for validated at-home blood pressure monitors and blood pressure cuffs for certain Medicaid recipients who have a prescription for a validated at-home blood pressure monitor, and provide requirements for follow-up care for Medicaid recipients to continue receiving coverage.

✔ **Medicaid Providers** - [SB 40](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 163](#) by Rep. Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) require AHCA to establish standards to ensure that Medicaid enrollees have access to network providers during state holidays and outside of regular business hours.

△ **Medical Malpractice Liability Coverage** – [SB 1596](#) by Sen. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) increases the minimum amount of professional liability coverage certain physicians and osteopathic physicians, respectively, are required to maintain as a condition of licensure.

✔ **Medical Review Committees** - [SB 64](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 587](#) by Rep. Webster Barnaby (R-Deland) revise the definition of the term “medical review committee” to include managing entities for purposes of immunity under the medical malpractice statute.

✔ **Music Therapy** – [SB 478](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) and [HB 829](#) by Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) create a regulatory framework for licensed professional music therapists.

△ **Patient-directed Medical Orders** - [SB 312](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 369](#) by Rep. Susan Plasencia (R-Winter Park) define patient-directed medical order and authorize its use.

✔ **Pediatric Behavioral and Mental Health Screenings** – [SB 1302](#) by Sen. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) and [HB 1133](#) by Rep. Debra Tendrich (D-Lake Clarke Shores) require AHCA to adopt rules establishing certain practice parameters and protocols for early periodic screening, diagnostic, and treatment services for pediatric behavioral and mental health screenings, require health care providers to provide a parent or legal guardian information on sleep, screen time, and nutrition, and require DOH to develop and make such information available for download by health care providers.

✔ **Physician Assistants** – [SB 668](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) provides for the registration of physician assistants to engage in practice without physician supervision, provides financial responsibility requirements for registered physician assistants, specifies activities registered physician assistants may engage in without physician supervision while prohibiting surgical procedures deeper than subcutaneous tissue, and requires registered physician assistants to provide new patients with specified information either before or during the initial patient encounter.

✔ **Prescribing Authority** – [SB 374](#) by Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) and [HB 683](#) by Rep. Bill Partington (R-Daytona Beach) delete the requirement that a supervising physician notify DOH in writing of any delegation of prescribing authority to a PA, delete the requirement that a supervising physician's name be included in the prescription issued by a PA, and revise requirements for the drug formulary for PAs and APRNs. The bills also allow PAs and APRNs to practice independently under a state of emergency.

HB 683 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday, 2/18 and will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 2/25..

✔ **Protection from Surgical Smoke** – [SB 162](#) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and [HB 93](#) by Rep. Marie Paule Woodson (D-Pembroke Pines) require hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to adopt and implement policies requiring the use of smoke evacuation systems during certain surgical procedures.

✔ **Public Assistance** – [SB 1758](#) by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Pensacola) authorizes AHCA to conduct retrospective reviews and audits of certain claims under the state Medicaid program, requires the agency to seek federal approval to implement mandatory work and community engagement requirements for able-bodied adults as a condition of obtaining and maintaining Medicaid coverage, requires AHCA, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, to develop a business plan to implement specified provisions, revises the purpose of the Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee to include creation of a Medicaid preferred physician-administered drug list, a Medicaid preferred product list, and a high-cost drug list, and requires the department to develop and implement a food assistance payment accuracy improvement plan.

✔ **Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death** – [SB 1700](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 6003](#) by Rep. Dana Trubulsky (R-Fort Peirce) and Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) delete a provision prohibiting the recovery of certain damages by specified parties related to the decedent in wrongful death proceedings.

✔ **Reproductive Freedom** – [SB 1308](#) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and [HB 1151](#) by Rep. Fentrice Driskell (D-Temple Terrace) establish the fundamental right to reproductive health care, provide that every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about the individual's own reproductive health, prohibit the state from denying or interfering with an individual's right to access reproductive health care, prohibit such state and local entities from penalizing, prosecuting, or otherwise taking adverse action against an individual for exercising specified rights, or against an individual for assisting another in exercising such rights.

✔ **Right of Medical Conscience of Health Care Providers and Health Care Payors** – [SB 670](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 551](#) by Rep. Dean Black (R-Jacksonville) authorize a health care provider or health care payor to commence a civil action if the Attorney General fails to do so after 180 days for an alleged violation of the provider's or payor's medical conscience rights.

✔ **School Attendance Immunizations** – [SB 626](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) adds hepatitis B, chickenpox, haemophilus influenzae type b, and pneumococcal disease to the list of immunizations in statute that are required for school attendance.

✔ **State Group Insurance Program Coverage for Obesity Treatment** – [SB 1070](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 977](#) by Rep. David Borrero (R-Doral) require the Department of Management Services to provide for coverage of evidence-based treatment and management of obesity and related conditions in the state group health insurance program.

△ **Statewide Provider and Health Plan Claim Dispute Resolution Program** – [SB 1082](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 1449](#) by Rep. Demi Busatta (R-Coral Gables) specify additional circumstances under which a disputed claim is not subject to review under the statewide provider and health plan claim dispute resolution program.

✔ **Step-therapy Protocols** – [SB 70](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) requires AHCA to approve certain drug products for Medicaid recipients for treatment of serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization.

✔ **Terminology Associated with Autism** – [SB 1652](#) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) and [HB 411](#) by Rep. Randy Maggard (R-Zephyrhills) revise the definition of Autism to include autism spectrum disorder and clarify that both are a condition as defined by the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association.