

**Florida Academy of Family Physicians**

**2025 Legislative Session Update – Week 2**

March 14, 2025

Week 2 of the 9-week legislative session concluded. And it was a work week. There were no monumental speeches, nor major political pronouncements. Instead, legislators stayed busy conducting legislative business. Legislative Committees spent each day analyzing, negotiating, and voting on hundreds of bills. Interested parties testified in committee and met with individual legislators. Behind the scenes appropriations staff worked on draft budget proposals. The “process” part of the legislative process is in full swing.

**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.

SB 942 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 3/11. The FAFP was present during the hearing and testified in support of the legislation.

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 Trabulsky (R-Fort Peirce), [SB 734](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/734) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville), and [SB 616](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/616) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers), delete a provision prohibiting the recovery of certain damages by specified parties related to the decedent in wrongful death proceedings.

SB 734 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Tuesday, 3/18.

**Acupuncture** - [HB 803](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/803) by Rep. Danny Alvarez (R-Dover) 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.

**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 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Thursday, 3/13.

**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.

**Cardiac Emergencies** – [HB 337](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/337) by Rep. Debbie Mayfield (R-Melbourne) and [SB 104](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/104) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) require each public school to develop a cardiac emergency response plan (CERP), require school officials to work with local emergency service providers to integrate the CERP into emergency responder protocols, and provide a requirement for automated external defibrillator placement.

**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) create "Patterson's Law" and require child protective investigators to inform subjects of their investigations of the right to request specified examinations of the alleged victim and authorize an alleged perpetrator of child abuse to request that the alleged victim be examined by a licensed physician or APRN who did not perform the initial examination.

SB 304 was approved by the Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee on Wednesday, 3/12.

**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. The bills aim to improve early intervention and school readiness including authorizing the Department of Health (DOH) to implement the Early Steps Extended Option allowing a child to remain in the Early Steps Program until the child’s 4th birthday.

SB 112 passed the Senate 38-0 on Wednesday, 3/12.

**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.

**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.

**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.

SB 294 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, 3/12 and now goes to the Senate floor.

**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) revise the definition of "continuous glucose monitor," and require the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to provide coverage for continuous glucose monitors; provides requirements for such coverage and reimbursement.

**Coverage for Colorectal Cancer Screening and Diagnosis** – [HB 1335](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1335) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 1542](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1542) by Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) revise colorectal screening requirements for specified plans under Cover Florida Health Care Access Program, require certain health insurers to provide coverage for colorectal cancer screening tests, procedures, and examinations, and prohibit such policies and contracts from imposing any cost sharing for the coverage.

**Coverage of Prescription Drugs for Pain** – [HB 1093](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1093) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 1154](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1154) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) define "nonopioid pain drug," require the Medicaid program and Medicaid managed care plans, to provide coverage such that nonopioid pain drugs are not disadvantaged or otherwise discouraged relative to any opioid or narcotic drug for pain management or treatment.

**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 includes 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 or certain other additives is prohibited.

SB 700 was approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee on Tuesday, 3/11.

**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, medical marijuana treatment centers, medical marijuana testing laboratories,, Board of Orthotists and Prosthetists, and eligibility criteria for licensure by endorsement under MOBILE Act, and repeal provisions related to specified advisory and coordinating councils, and boards.

**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 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 was approved by the House Education Administration Subcommittee on Tuesday, 3/11.

SB 958 will be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 3/18.

**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 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Thursday, 3/13.

SB 772 will be heard in the Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee on Monday, 3/17.

**Diabetes Prevention and Obesity Treatment Act** – [HB 713](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/713) by Rep. Fabian Basabe (R-Miami Beach) and [SB 648](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/648) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) create the “Diabetes Prevention and Obesity Treatment Act.” The bills require the ACHA to provide Medicaid coverage for diabetes prevention programs if the Medicaid recipient meets specified criteria, require the agency to provide Medicaid coverage for certain treatments for obesity, and authorize the agency to seek federal approval through a state plan amendment or Medicaid waiver.

**Doula Services in Maternal Health Initiatives** – [HB 747](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/747) by Rep. Daryl Campbell (D-Fort Lauderdale) and [SB 780](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/780) by Sen Rosalind Osgood (D-Tamarac) create the Doula Support for Healthy Births Pilot Program within the DOH. The bills require DOH to collaborate with specified entities to integrate doula services into existing maternal health programs and facilitate outreach and service delivery.

**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 with few exceptions.

**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 medical professionals.

SB 922 will be heard in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on Monday, 3/17.

**End-of-life Options –**[HB 471](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/471) by Rep. Joe Casello (D-Boynton Beach) and [SB 1700](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1700) by Sen. Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach) establish procedures to allow an adult who has mental capacity and who has terminal condition to obtain medication to end his or her life.  The bills also provide requirements for health care providers, health care facilities and the Department of Health.

**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.

**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. There is a $25,000,000 attached to the bill.

HB 907 was approved by the House Education Administration Subcommittee on Tuesday, 3/11.

SB 1356 will be heard in the Senate Education Postsecondary Committee on Monday, 3/17.

**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.

**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.

SB 480 was approved by the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on Monday, 3/10 and will be heard in the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee on Monday, 3/17.

HB 497 was approved by the House Health Care Facilities and Systems Subcommittee on Tuesday, 3/11.

**Health Insurance Coverage for CAR T-Cell Therapies** – [HB 725](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/725) by Rep. Michele Rayner (D-St. Petersburg) and [SB 876](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/876) by Sen. Lori Berman (D-Boynton Beach) prohibit insurance companies that offer CAR T therapies from refusing to contract with in-network health care facilities for provision of CAR T-cell therapies.

**Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** – [HB 377](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/377) by Rep. Allison Tant (D-Tallahassee) and [SB 756](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/756) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) revise the definition of term "autism spectrum disorder" to have the same meaning as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association. The bills also revise the definition of term "eligible individual" to mean person of any age who has been diagnosed as having developmental disability, thus removing any age restrictions.

SB 756 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Tuesday, 3/18.

**Health Screenings For K-12 Students** – [HB 219](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/219) by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D-Delray Beach) and [SB 370](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/370) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) authorize specified screening services to be performed on K-12 students after written parental notification of such services is provided and student's parents are given the opportunity to deny consent or opt his or her student out of such services.

SB 370 was approved by the Senate Education Pre-K–12 Committee on Tuesday, 3/11.

**Insurance Claims Payments to Physicians** – [HB 1231](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1231) by Rep. Dean Black (R-Jacksonville) and [SB 1526](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1526) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) prohibit contracts between certain physicians and health insurers from specifying credit card payments to physicians as the only acceptable method for payments, authorize the use of electronic funds transfers by health insurers and HMOs for payments to physicians, prohibit health insurers from charging fees for automated clearinghouse transfers as claims payments to physicians, and prohibit health insurers and HMOs from denying claims subsequently submitted by physicians for procedures that were included in prior authorizations.

**Insurer Disclosures on Prescription Drug Coverage** – [HB 899](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/899) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 1342](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1342) by Sen. Ana Maria Gonzalez (R-Doral) require health insurers to provide notice of prescription drug formulary changes, and annually submit specified reports to the Office of Insurance Regulation. The bills also require health insurers to apply payments of prescription drugs by or on behalf of insureds toward total contributions of insureds' cost-sharing requirements.

**International Health Organization Policies** – [HB 6011](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/6011) by Rep. Ryan Chamberlin (R-Ocala) and Rep. Monique Miller (R-Palm Bay) and [SB 340](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/340) by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota) repeal the provision authorizing certain entities and institutions to adopt, implement, or enforce specified policies by rule or executive order of Governor.

**Medical Malpractice Review Committees** – [HB 463](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/463) by Rep. Leonard Spencer (D-Winter Garden) and [SB 514](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/514) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) revise the definition of term "medical review committee."

**Medical Spa Facilities** - [HB 625](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/625) by Rep. Anne Gerwig (R-Wellington) and [SB 1638](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1638) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) require medical spa facilities to prominently post on their websites and in conspicuous locations in their facilities specified information about the physician supervising the facility.

**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.

**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 Department of Health’s rules on newborn screening to include screening for Duchenne muscular dystrophy beginning January 1, 2027.

**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.

**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) delete exceptions for certain parental rights, create the parental right to review and consent to a survey or questionnaire provided to his or her minor child, revise exceptions for specified requirements of parental consent, prohibit the use of a biofeedback device on a minor child without written permission from the minor child’s parent or guardian, and define the term “biofeedback device.”

**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 DOH 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.

**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.

**Patient-directed Medical Orders** – [HB 353](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/353) by Rep. Susan Plasencia (R-Winter Park) and [SB 566](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/566) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) revise legislative findings and intent to include palliative care for progressive illnesses, provide a purpose and requirements for a patient-directed medical order, and authorize physicians, physician assistants, and certain advanced practice registered nurses to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures under certain circumstances without penalty.

**Patient Referrals by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Managed Care Plans** – [HB 815](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/815) by Rep. Fabian Basabe (R-Miami Beach) and [SB 1478](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1478) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) authorizes AHCA to determine if managed care plans and their subcontractors violate Medicaid program integrity in their patient referrals, and prohibits them from referring Medicaid recipients, for treatments and services, to entities they have certain financial relationships with.

**Pharmacy** – [HB 273](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/273) by Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) and [SB 906](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/906) by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) provide for permitting and requirements for remote-site pharmacies.

**Physician Assistant and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Services** – [HB 647](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/647) by Rep. Dana Trabulsky (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.

**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.

**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 for writ of mandamus compelling the state agency to comply, prohibit a person from being excluded on examining or licensing board based on the grounds of race, color, ethnicity, gender, or sex, prohibits examining or licensing board from establishing or effectuating race-based policies, including affirmative action, create a private cause of 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.

SB 1710 will be heard in the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee on Tuesday, 3/18.

**Qualifying Medical Conditions for Medical Use of Marijuana** – [SB 778](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/778) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) revises the list of qualifying medical conditions for the medical use of marijuana to include an addiction to or dependence on an opioid drug.

**Rural Communities** – [HB 1427](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1427) by Rep. Griff Griffits (R-Panama City) and [SB 110](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/110) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) require the state land planning agency to give preference for technical assistance funding to local governments located in a rural area of opportunity, authorize eligible counties to receive a distribution of sales and use tax revenue, create the Office of Rural Prosperity within the Department of Commerce, create the Public Infrastructure Smart Technology Grant Program within the Office of Rural Prosperity, and require, rather than authorize, that certain funds received from the State Transportation Trust Fund be used for the Small County Road Assistance Program. The bills also create the Rural Access to Primary and Preventative Care Grant Program within the DOH to provide incentive funding for primary care physicians, physician assistants, and autonomous Advanced Practice Registered Nurses to open new practice locations in rural and underserved areas of the state.

SB 110 was approved by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Thursday, 3/13 and now goes to the Senate floor.

**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.

**Step-therapy Protocols** – [HB 721](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/721) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 264](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/264) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) require AHCA to remove certain step therapy requirements for prescription drugs used to treat individuals with serious mental illness.

**Termination of Pregnancies** – [HB 1139](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1139) by Rep. Fentrice Driskell (D-Temple Terrace) and [SB 870](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/870) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) prohibit physicians from knowingly performing or inducing a termination of pregnancy after determining that the fetus is sustainable outside the womb through standard medical measures, with exceptions.

**Treatment of Chronic and Terminal Illnesses** – [HB 1407](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1407) by Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka (R-Fort Myers) and [SB 632](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/632) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) authorize certain patients, to determine, with assistance and guidance of their health care provider, individual courses of treatment and authorize compounding pharmacies to access certain ingredients for compounding.

**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.

HB 1043 was approved by the House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee on Wednesday, 3/12.

SB 116 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Wednesday, 3/12.

**Voluntary Nonopioid Advance Directive Forms** – [HB 1081](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1081) by Rep. Randy Maggard (R-Zephyrhills) and [SB 714](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/714) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) require health care facilities to create a voluntary nonopioid advanced directive form, authorize individuals to revoke the form for any reason by specified means, and provide immunity from civil and criminal liability for health care practitioners.

SB 714 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Tuesday, 3/18.