

Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2026 Legislative Session Capital Update – Week 4
February 7, 2026

The legislature completed week 4 of the nine-week legislative session, moving closer to completing the substantive committee meeting process and, perhaps, beginning to shift focus toward each chamber’s respective budget. As the session approaches the halfway point, pressure is mounting for lawmakers to advance their bills through “the process.” Committee chairs signaled the likelihood of their final committee meetings occurring very soon, meaning many bills that have not been heard in an initial committee may not make it to the finish line. For example, The Senate



Health Policy Committee’s last scheduled meeting is Wednesday, February 11th. Week 4 was also rumored to be the week initial budget proposals were released, but that was not the case. Instead, some light bickering between the House and Senate led to a delay, drawing speculation about a seamless budget negotiation process in the final half of the session.



FAFP President Dr. Danielle Carter (top - left) and resident member Dr. Elise Gonzalez (both from St. Vincent’s FM Residency) served as Doctor of the Day on February 4 during week four of the Florida Legislative Session. Senator Tracey Davis sponsored Drs. Carter and Gonzalez who were invited to the Black Caucus Luncheon where they connected with former state representative Mia Jones (bottom - left).

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 Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Tuesday, 2/3. SB 672 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda which means the bill will likely not advance – the same for all such bills below.

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.

HB 301 passed the House 88-18 on Wednesday, 2/4 and is now in Senate Messages. 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.

SB 578 passed the Senate 38-0 on Wednesday, 2/4 and is now in House Messages. HB 513 was approved by the House Human Services Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/4.

☒ **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.

[HB 375 passed the House 78-28 on Wednesday, 2/4 and is now in Senate Messages.](#)
[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 Trabulsky (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 was approved by the House Human Services Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/4.](#)

☒ **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.

☑ **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.

[SB 1494 was approved by the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on Wednesday, 2/4.](#)

△ **Department of Health** – [SB 902](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 733](#) by Rep. Ann Gerwig (R-Wellington) broadens eligibility requirements for the dental student loan repayment program. The bills revise the definition of “low-THC cannabis,” require qualified physicians and medical directors of medical marijuana treatment centers to renew their training course certification biennially, prohibit medical marijuana treatment centers from being located within certain distance of specified areas, update DOH duties relating to the Early Steps Program and Early Steps Extended Option, revise eligibility requirements for developmental evaluation and early intervention services, revise transition to education requirements for children with disabilities, provide that committing criminal offense relating to murder is cause for immediate suspension of health care practitioner’s license, and revise eligible individuals for University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment’s autism micro-credential.

[HB 733 was approved by the House Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Thursday, 2/5.](#)

[SB 902 will be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.](#)

☑ **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.

[HB 901 was approved by the House Education and Employment Committee on Tuesday, 2/3 and now goes to the House floor. SB 816 was approved by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Thursday, 2/5 and now goes to the Senate floor.](#)

☑ **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.

[SB 514 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.](#)

☑ **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.

[SB 606](#) was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/4.

△ **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.

△ **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 Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.

[HB 867](#) will be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/10.

△ **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](#) will be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.

△ **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.

△ **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](#) was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Tuesday, 2/3.

△ **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. **HB 1291 was approved by the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, 1/29 and SB 1668 was approved by the Senate Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, 1/28. Any implications re additional assessments on physicians if the bill passes is still to be determined.**

△ **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.

☒ **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.

☒ **Health Care** – [SB 1756](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 917](#) by Rep. Jeff Holcomb (R-Springhill) make changes to vaccination policy in Florida statutes including in public health advisories and public health emergencies, , require licensed health care practitioners to inform a parent or legal guardian of a minor child of risks, benefits, safety, and efficacy of specified vaccines, obtain signatures from parents or legal guardians before the administration of a vaccine, and provide a parent or legal guardian with the option of alternative vaccination schedules. The bills authorize pharmacists to provide ivermectin without prescription and immunity from civil and criminal liability and disciplinary action. Finally, the bills authorize parents to exempt their children from health examinations or from administration of immunizing agents based on conscience grounds, and require DOH to make publicly available, by posting on its Internet website, exemption forms for parents and legal guardians. In addition, HB 917 contains provisions that creates liability for health care providers under the Florida Patient bill of rights and prohibits discrimination against a patient based on the patient's vaccination status.

SB 1756 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 1/26. 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.

△ **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.

SB 68 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/4. HB 355 passed the House and is now available to be considered by the Senate.

☑ **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.

☑ **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.

☒ **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.

SB 688 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.

△ **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.

SB 1574 is schedule to be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.

☒ **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 is scheduled to be heard by the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, 2/10.

△ **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.

☑ **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 bills also authorize podiatrists to perform stem cell therapy under certain circumstances. [HB 567 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Tuesday, 2/3.](#)

[SB 1092 is scheduled to be heard by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.](#)

☒ **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 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcomm on Tuesday, 2/3 and is scheduled to be heard in the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/10.](#) [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 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Tuesday, 2/3 and is scheduled to be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/10.](#) [SB 868 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.](#)

☑ **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** – [HB 1453](#) by Rep. John Snyder (R-Palm City) 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. In the Senate, components of the package are addressed in separate bills [SB 1758](#) by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Pensacola) and [SB 1760](#) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary).

[SB 1758 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.](#)

[SB 1760 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.](#)

△ **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.

[SB 268 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.](#)

△ **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 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.](#)

[HB 1515 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Tuesday, 2/3.](#)

☒ **Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death** – [SB 1700](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 6003](#) by Rep. Dana Trabulsky (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.

☑ **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) revise requirements for a continuing education course on prescribing controlled substances, require physicians and certain nurses to complete a 2-hour continuing education course on sickle cell disease care management as part of the first licensure or certification renewal.

[SB 844 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.](#)

△ **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.

[SB 1082 was approved by the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on Wednesday, 2/4.](#)

[HB 1449 was approved by the House Health Care Facilities and Systems Subcommittee on Thursday, 2/5.](#)

△ **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.

[HB 809 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcomm on Tuesday, 2/3.](#)

[SB 1480 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/4.](#)

△ **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.”

[SB 36 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Monday, 2/2.](#)

[HB 237 passed the House 111-0 on Wednesday, 2/4 and is now in Senate Messages.](#)

△ **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 is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.

As we move into the fifth week of the Legislative Session, the following bills have not received a committee hearing and it is unlikely they will pass:

☒ **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.

△ **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.

☑ **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.

✔ **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.

△ **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.

✔ **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.

✔ **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.

☑ 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.