

**Florida Academy of Family Physicians**

**2024 November Legislative Session Interim Legislative Update – Week 5**

November 17, 2023

The House and Senate gathered again this week in Tallahassee for a series of substantive and appropriations Interim Committee meetings. The pace and preparations for the upcoming session have picked up considerably with a full slate of committee meetings.  The filed bill total is now at 493 bills for the 2024 Legislative Session: 238 in the Senate and 255 in the House.  There are two more interim committee weeks scheduled in Tallahassee before the start of the 2024 session on January 9, 2024.

**Special Session:**

Legislators met in Special Session last week to address a series of issues, including expressing support of Israel in its fight with Hamas, expanding the prohibitions against doing business with supporters of terrorism, hardening the security infrastructure for those at high risk for hate crime attacks, providing additional assistance to areas hit by 2023 Hurricane Idalia and expanding a school voucher program for children with disabilities. Bills and appropriations passed by the legislature in Special Session also included hurricane and disaster relief.

**Health Care Policy Updates:**

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo recently [announced](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fflsenate.gov%2fPublishedContent%2fOffices%2f2022-2024%2fPresident%2fDocuments%2f11_9_23_Live_Healthy.pdf&c=E,1,Y757-j8bX835ZM8NyObrZsv9ohbl4LGckVq5Y32jufSo7Zpao465r6Q6uBCwUVJhGuZrkZnBong15MWRqB5y5QPanDb_yu-M_Q40gTJ8iw,,&typo=1) her “Live Healthy” Initiative as a top priority for the Senate in the 2024 Legislative Session.  In anticipation of release of the initiative, the [Senate Health Policy Committee](https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/HP/) met on Tuesday, November 14th  to “begin the process of fine-tuning ideas, putting pen to paper, and of course, hearing more input from stakeholders.”  The Committee heard presentations from the Department of Health on physician and nursing workforce shortages, the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education Program, the Telehealth Minority Care Pilot Program, health screening programs, and licensure by endorsement regulations. The committee also heard a presentation from Tom Wallace, the Deputy Secretary for Healthcare Finance and Data at the Agency for Health Care Administration, on current Graduate Medical Education (GME) funding. The Committee ended the meeting with a presentation from a panel of experts on various health care innovations taking place in hospitals, health care centers and schools.  A copy of the packet can be found [here](https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/HP/MeetingPacket/5979/10504_MeetingPacket_5979_4.pdf).

The [House Select Committee on Health Innovation](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.myfloridahouse.gov%2fSections%2fCommittees%2fcommitteesdetail.aspx%3fCommitteeId%3d3266&c=E,1,BHzujgKIDjQ6Yw1ZQJ9PcULIvdxO2GpduU3bBTNq_k2-FHJ8jgeJenc-G6WKD-EvBWLZOR52FX71UVzV4k3AfYHv1eNNcz6VuK3ZHkF4ifXipro,&typo=1) met this week and heard presentations on insurance shared savings programs from the Department of Management Services state employee group health plan, the Healthcare Bluebook, and Employer Direct Healthcare.  Among the highlights of their discussions: increased costs of pharmaceuticals, difficulty in hospital price transparency, the rise in outpatient surgeries, the failure of the Centers for Excellence models on access and utilization, and questions on biomarker testing. Most of the discussions and questions from committee members centered on cost savings and increasing employee engagement.  Background information for the presentations can be found [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.myfloridahouse.gov%2fSections%2fDocuments%2floaddoc.aspx%3fPublicationType%3dCommittees%26CommitteeId%3d3266%26Session%3d2024%26DocumentType%3dMeeting%2bPackets%26FileName%3dshi%2b11-13-23.pdf&c=E,1,QV1KRCJae5cZhfpkUSF8Q73iZdQwSWJ5hccvpR-MLBKou7XCnfwKof4ax9Yoa5AEtO_oCVtgucCBYcqOnh0ZINckZWRjHplGnokbCYGYQg1kKIc,&typo=1).

The [Florida Health Advisory Board](https://floir.com/life-health/florida-health-insurance-advisory-board) met this week to finalize their 2024 legislative agenda. Legislative proposals include the creation of a deductible health credit transfer, providing a free copy of medical records to health care consumers, prohibiting insurance carriers from changing or removing covered prescription drugs during a policy year, applying payments by or on behalf of beneficiaries to count toward the out of pocket cost sharing calculations, capping the cost of insulin at $35 a month for individual and group policy holders, including full coverage for ground emergency transportation for policy holders and including applied behavioral analysis as a covered benefit on all insurance plans. A copy of the proposals can be [here](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2ffloir.com%2fdocs-sf%2fdefault-source%2ffhiab%2fagendas%2f2023%2fagenda---web.pdf%3fsfvrsn%3d1b06cd7_4&c=E,1,jaYvyxQSzAe761zbp08h6n6Nq4T58Kac8Y7nfEL-4Csa7gXGxq_GWR_9ju2Snm-57kHpfp95uo5YtDvMCc0Oz5I6KYh1hHgZD29GT2CB_ufuQnJXhCK6wkydGA,,&typo=1).

**Legislation of Interest to Family Medicine (listed alphabetically)**

**\*Indicates FAFP Priority Legislation**

**Access to Appropriate Medications for Serious Mental Illness / Step-Therapy Protocols** – [HB 491](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/491) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 268](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/268) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) require the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) to approve drug products for Medicaid recipients for treatment of serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization and direct the agency to include rate impact of this act in certain program rates that become effective on specified date.

**Anaphylaxis in Public Schools** – [SB 52](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/52) by Sen. Linda Stewart (D-Orlando) and [HB 65](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/65) by Rep. Rita Harris (D-Orlando) and Rep. Dotie Joseph (D-North Miami) require the Department of Education to publish on its website each district school board’s anaphylaxis policy, require each district school board to adopt an anaphylaxis policy, and require a certain percentage of specified school personnel to receive certain training.

**Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist** – [HB 257](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/257) by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) revises staff membership and clinical privileges for certified registered nurse anesthetists, authorizes certified registered nurse anesthetists to perform specified acts, and authorizes certain advanced practice registered nurses to participate in Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program.

**Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screenings** – [SB 168](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/168) by Sen. Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) requires certain hospitals to administer congenital cytomegalovirus screenings on newborns admitted to the hospital under specified circumstances, provides coverage under the Medicaid program for the screenings and any medically necessary follow-up reevaluations, and requires that newborns diagnosed with congenital cytomegalovirus be referred to a primary care physician for medical management, treatment, and follow-up services.

**Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings** – [SB 56](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/56) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 241](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/241) by Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) requires certain health insurance companies, to provide coverage and payment for annual skin cancer screenings performed by a licensed dermatologist without imposing any cost-sharing requirement.

**Designation of a Diagnosis on Motor Vehicle Registrations** – [HB 341](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/341) by Rep. Michelle Salzman (R-Cantonment) and [SB 288](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/288) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) authorizes a motor vehicle owner or registrant to designate on his or her application form for motor vehicle registration that he or she has been diagnosed with, or is parent or legal guardian of child or ward who has been diagnosed with, developmental disability or psychiatric disorder. The bills also authorize removal of such designation upon request.

**Emergency Refills of Insulin and Insulin-related Supplies or Equipment** – [HB 201](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/201) by Rep. Melanie Bell (R-Fort Meade) authorizes emergency refill of specified amounts of insulin and insulin-related supplies or equipment.

**Health Insurance Cost Sharing** – [SB 228](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/228) by Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange) and [HB 363](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/363) by Rep. Lindsay Cross (R-St. Petersburg) and Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman (R-Navarre) define the term “cost-sharing requirement” and require specified individual health insurers and their pharmacy benefit managers to apply payments by or on behalf of insureds toward the total contributions of the insureds’ cost-sharing requirements.

**Intravenous Vitamin Treatment** – [HB 227](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/227) by Rep. Alina Garcia (R-Miami) provides requirements for persons administering intravenous vitamin treatment and requires the Board of Nursing, and Board of Medicine & Board of Osteopathic Medicine to adopt rules establishing procedures to administer intravenous vitamin treatment and emergency protocols.

**\*Invalid Restrictive Covenants with Physicians** – [HB 11](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/11) by Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman (R-Navarre) and [SB 458](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/458) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) provide restrictive covenants which prohibit physician from practicing medicine within specified area for certain period of time are void and unenforceable.

**Patient-directed Doctor's Orders** – [HB 219](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/219) by Rep. Susan Plasencia (R-Winter Park) and [SB 390](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/390) by Sen. Joe Gruters (R-Sarasota), and establishes the PDDO Program within Department of Health. The bill authorizes EMTs & certain health care professionals to withhold or withdraw cardiopulmonary resuscitation or other medical interventions if presented with PDDO form that contains order not to resuscitate and provides specified health care providers & legal representatives with limited immunity. [HB 221](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/221) also by Rep. Plasencia and [SB 392](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/392), also by Sen. Gruters, creates an exemption from public records for personal identifying information held in database for Patient-directed Doctor's Order forms and authorize disclosure of such information to certain entities and individuals under specified conditions.

**Proprietorship by Nonphysicians** - [SB 316](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/316) by Sen. Bobby Powell (D-West Palm Beach) and [HB 345](https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/345) by Rep. Kelly Skidmore (D-Delray Beach) prohibit specified acts by persons or entities other than licensed physicians and licensed entities.

**Recovery of Damages in Claims for Medical Negligence** – [HB 77](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/77) by Rep. Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers), [HB 129](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/129) by Reps Vicki Lopez (R-Coral Gables) and Mike Beltran (R-Apollo Beach), [SB 248](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/248) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [SB 310](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/310) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) remove a provision that prohibits parents of adult child from recovering certain damages in medical negligence suits.

**Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education for Physicians** – [HB 349](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/349) by Rep. Felicia Simone Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) requires education on sickle cell care management and treatment protocols for physicians to renew a license and requires the Department of Health to evaluate physician survey results and annually report to Governor and Legislature on patient outcomes as result of such education.

**Sudden Cardiac Arrest Informational Posters** – [SB 124](https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/124) by Sen. Linda Stewart (D-Orlando) requires the Department of Health to create an informational poster relating to the treatment of sudden cardiac arrest.