



Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2024 Legislative Session- Week 3
January 26, 2024

Space Day, Florida Bankers Day, BioFlorida Day, Hillsborough County Day, Florida Mosquito Control Association Day, Jimmy Buffett Day, Florida Youth Shine Day, Building Owners and Managers Association of Florida Day, Florida Home Care Day. These are just a few of the scores of groups and events in Tallahassee this week. Our state Capitol was packed with thousands of Florida citizens exercising their right to petition government and showcase their organizations. Legislator schedules were jammed with constituent meetings and a robust schedule of legislative committee meetings. And, overarching this entire week was the release of the House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees' initial budget proposals. With three weeks of the nine-week legislative session now in the books, the budget negotiations and "process" are officially in full swing.

FAFP member Dr. Kelly Myers was sponsored by Representative Allison Tan to serve as Doctor of the Day on Friday January 26. Many thanks to all the family physicians who serve in this important capacity throughout the legislative session.

FAFP Priority Legislation

Invalid Restrictive Covenants with Physicians – [HB 11](#) by Rep. Dr. Joel Rudman (R-Navarre) and [SB 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. The FAFP is working with the sponsors to ensure appropriateness and address any concerns and misinformation used to prevent passage.

SB 458 will be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 1/30, FAFP will be present and offer its support of the bill.

Legislation of Interest to Family Medicine (listed alphabetically)

Autonomous Practice for Certified Psychiatric Nurses – [HB 771](#) by Rep. Webster Barnaby (R-Deland) and [SB 936](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) authorize advanced practice registered nurses who are certified as psychiatric nurse practitioners to engage in autonomous practice under certain circumstances.

Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – [HB 257](#) by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) and [SB 810](#) by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia (R-Springhill) authorize certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice autonomously and authorize participation in the Medical Education Reimbursement and Loan Repayment Program.

Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screenings – [SB 168](#) by Sen. Tina Polsky (D-Boca Raton) and [HB 499](#) by Rep. Lauren Melo (R-Naples) require 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.

SB 168 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 1/23.

Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings – [SB 56](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 241](#) by Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) require 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.

[SB 56](#) was approved by the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee on Monday, 1/22.

Department of Health – [SB 1582](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 1441](#) by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs) contain the Department of Health’s legislative package. The bills exempt environmental health technicians from certain certification requirements under certain circumstances, create the Andrew John Anderson Rare Pediatric Disease Grant Program within the department, provide that any health care practitioner present at a birth or responsible for primary care during the neonatal period has the primary responsibility of administering certain screenings, and revise hearing loss screening requirements to include infants and toddlers.

[HB 1441](#) will be heard in the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee on Monday, 1/29.

Emergency Refills of Insulin and Insulin-related Supplies or Equipment – [HB 201](#) by Rep. Melanie Bell (R-Fort Meade) and [SB 516](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) authorize emergency refill of specified amounts of insulin and insulin-related supplies or equipment.

[SB 516](#) will be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 1/30.

Health Care - [SB 7016](#) by the Committee on Health Policy and [HB 1549](#) by Rep. Michael Grant (R-Port Charlotte) are the “Live Healthy” initiative. The bills revise the purpose of the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program, revise the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) Program, require the Department of Health to provide annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature on specified student loan repayment programs, create the Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program, create an advanced birth center designation, create the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program, create the emergency department diversion requirements for hospitals and Medicaid managed care plans, create limited licenses for graduate assistant physicians, create temporary certificates for physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to practice in areas of critical need and provide that Florida will enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

[SB 7016](#) passed the Senate 39-0 on Thursday 1/18.

Health Care Innovation – [SB 7018](#) by the Senate Health Policy Committee and [HB 1501](#) by Rep. Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) create the Health Care Innovation Council within the Department of Health and require the department to administer a revolving loan program for applicants seeking to implement certain health care innovations in this state, and authorize the department to contract with a third party to administer the program, including loan servicing, and manage the revolving loan fund.

[SB 7018](#) passed the Senate 39-0 on Thursday, 1/18.

Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations – [SB 1112](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 1295](#) by Rep. Dr. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) provide that, for specified purposes, the use of specified titles or designations in connection with one’s name constitutes the practice of medicine or the practice of osteopathic medicine, revise grounds for disciplinary action relating to a practitioner’s use of such titles or designations in identifying himself or herself to patients or in advertisements for health care services, and require certain health care practitioners to prominently display a copy of their license in a conspicuous area of their practice.

[SB 1112](#) will be heard in the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 1/30.

Interstate Mobility - [HB 1381](#) by Rep. Danny Alvarez (R-Riverview) and [SB 1600](#) by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) require respective boards of occupations, or the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) if there is no board to issue license or certificate to applicants who meet specified conditions, require DOH to verify certain information using National Practitioner Data Bank, specify circumstances under which person is ineligible for licensing, authorize boards or DOH to revoke license upon specified finding, authorize boards or DOH to require that applicants successfully complete jurisprudential examination, revise licensure by endorsement requirements for multiple health care practitioner licenses.

SB 1600 will be heard in the Senate Regulated Industries Committee on Monday, 1/29.

Intravenous Vitamin Treatment - [HB 227](#) by Rep. Alina Garcia (R-Miami) and [SB 672](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) provide requirements for persons administering intravenous vitamin treatment and require 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.

Naturopathic Medicine - [HB 843](#) by Rep. David Smith (R-Winter Springs) and [SB 898](#) by Sen. Ileana Rodriguez (R-Doral) create the Board of Naturopathic Medicine within the Department of Health (DOH). [HB 845](#) also by Rep. David Smith and [SB 900](#) by Sen. Ileana Rodriguez require the Board of Naturopathic Medicine to establish certain fees licensure by examination and licensure by endorsement, respectively, of naturopathic physicians.

HB 843 was approved by the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee on Wednesday, 1/24.

HB 845 was temporarily postponed in the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee on Wednesday, 1/24.

Payments for Health Care Providers and Surgical Procedures under Workers' Compensation - [HB 161](#) by Rep. Dan Daley (D-Coral Springs) and [SB 362](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Fleming Island) increase the maximum amounts of certain witness fees related to workers' compensation cases; increases maximum reimbursements for physicians & surgical procedures under workers' compensation.

HB 161 was approved by the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee on Thursday, 1/25.

SB 362 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 1/23.

Pharmacy - [SB 444](#) by Sen. Jay Collins (R-Tampa) and [HB 493](#) by Rep. Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers) authorize registered pharmacy technicians to dispense medicinal drugs under certain circumstances, define the terms "supervising pharmacy" and "telepharmacy," provide requirements for remote-site pharmacies, exempt registered pharmacists serving as prescription department managers for remote-site pharmacies from certain practice limitations.

HB 493 was temporarily postponed in the House Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee on Wednesday, 1/24.

Prescriptive Authority for Psychologists - [HB 955](#) by Rep. Gallop Franklin (D-Tallahassee) and [SB 1282](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) require the Board of Psychology to certify psychologists to exercise prescriptive authority if they meet specified criteria, specify requirements for the prescribing of drugs and controlled substances by a prescribing psychologists, and require the Board of Psychology to establish an interim panel for a specified purpose by a specified date.

Public Records/ Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the Audiology and Speech-language Pathology Interstate Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact - [HB 7041](#) by the House Select Committee on Health Innovation and [SB 322](#) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Lakeland) provide a public records exemption relating to records in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact,

the Audiology and Speech-language Pathology Interstate Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact created in the Live Healthy Initiatives.

HB 7041 will be heard in the House Ethics, Elections and Open Government Subcommittee on Monday, 1/29.

Recovery of Damages in Claims for Medical Negligence – [HB 77](#) by Rep. Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers), [HB 129](#) by Rep. Vicki Lopez (R-Coral Gables) and Rep. Mike Beltran (R-Apollo Beach), [SB 442](#) by Sen. Lauren Book (D-Plantation) [SB 248](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [SB 310](#) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) expand the application of the Florida Wrongful Death Act by repealing exceptions that prohibit certain parents and children of a deceased patient who dies due to medical negligence from recovering noneconomic damages. SB 248 was amended to limit non-economic damages that apply to all actions for medical negligence, require the Office of Insurance Regulation to examine the medical malpractice premium rates in light of the changes made in this legislation, and require the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to study the efficacy of the limits on noneconomic damages created by the bill and issue a report of its findings and recommendations.

SB 248 was approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Monday, 1/22.

Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools – [HB 883](#) by Rep. Traci Koster (R-Tampa) and [SB 962](#) by Sen. Ed Hooper (R-Palm Harbor) authorize schools to acquire stock a supply of short-acting bronchodilators to administer in respiratory distress.

SB 962 will be heard in the Senate Education, Pre-K-12 Committee on Tuesday, 1/30.

HB 883 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Wednesday, 1/24.

Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education for Physicians – [HB 349](#) by Rep. Felicia Simone Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) and [SB 552](#) by Sen. Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) require 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.