

Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2026 Legislative Session Capital Update – Week 5
February 15, 2026

The legislative session reached its halfway mark this week as the Senate held the final meetings of its policy committees and House committee and subcommittee agendas remained packed with bills. House subcommittee meetings are expected to conclude next week. Most importantly, this week was the point in session timing when the number of bills “in play” narrows. These deadlines are established in both Senate and House rules and represent standard operating procedure.



The budget process, however, has been anything but standard operating procedure. The initial rollout of the Senate and House budget proposals diverged from traditional practice. With only four weeks remaining in the legislative session, capitol observers hope these early bumps in the budget process will not lead to missing the Sine Die deadline of March 13.

Family Medicine was present once again with FAFP Past President Dr. Christy Cavanagh along with resident Dr. Steven Paul serving as Doctor of the Day with sponsorship by Senator Johnathan Martin, on February 12

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.

SB 672 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.

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

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

HB 301 has now been received by the Senate.

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

HB 513 will be heard in the House Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Monday, 2/16.

Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist – [SB 462](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 375](#) by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) authorize

autonomous certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) to perform CRNA-specific acts without an established supervisory physician protocol.

**SB 462 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.
HB 375 was passed and has been received by the Senate.**

△ Child Welfare – [SB 560](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 763](#) by Rep. Dana Trubulsky (R-Fort Pierce) streamline the procedures to provide or continue a psychotropic medication prescription for a child in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Families.
SB 560 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Thursday, 2/12.

☒ Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child – [SB 164](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 289](#) by Rep. Sam Greco (R-Palm Coast) expand Florida’s Wrongful Death Act to allow the parents of an unborn child to recover damages pursuant to the Act from a person who committed a negligent act that caused the death of the unborn child. **This legislation continues to move through the committee process on each side, but organized medicine is doing everything possible to defeat these bills.**

△ Department of Health – [SB 902](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 733](#) by Rep. Ann Gerwig (R-Wellington) prohibit new medical marijuana treatment centers facilities from being located within 500 feet of a park, daycare or early learning facility, clarifies that physicians and medical directors must renew medical marijuana certifications biennially, revise the definition of low-THC cannabis, require DOH to develop procedures and protocols for various Early Steps functions, require the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to make the autism micro-credential available to early intervention service providers who have been credentialed through the Early Steps program and allow DOH to immediately suspend a license of a practitioner who has been arrested for murder.
SB 902 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11 and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18.

☑ Diabetes Research – [SB 816](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) and [HB 901](#) by Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R-Bartow) establish the University of Florida Diabetes Institute within the University of Florida College of Medicine.
SB 816 passed the Senate 39-0 on Wednesday, 2/11 and is now in House Messages.

☑ Doula Support for Healthy Births Pilot Program – [SB 514](#) by Sen. Rosalind Osgood (D-Tamarac) and [HB 515](#) by Rep. Daryl Campbell (D-Fort Lauderdale) establish The Doula Support for Healthy Births pilot program in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties and require DOH, in collaboration with its maternal and child health section, to implement and oversee the pilot program.
The Senate Appropriations Act provides \$704,000 for this program.

☑ Drowning Prevention Education – [SB 606](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) and [HB 503](#) by Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) require DOH to develop educational materials on drowning prevention safety measures and safe bathing practices and require hospitals, birth centers, and home birth providers to provide the educational materials to new parents and caregivers as part of their postpartum education and care.
**SB 606 was approved by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Thursday, 2/12.
HB 503 was approved by the House Health Care Facilities and Systems Subcommittee on Thursday, 2/12.**

△ **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.

[HB 867](#) was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/10 and now goes to the House floor.

[SB 914](#) will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18.

△ **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, require certain hospitals, birth centers, and obstetrics and gynecology physician practices to provide the educational materials to parents/caregivers and require certain practitioners complete a one-hour board-approved course on congenital cytomegalovirus as a part of initial licensure and every other licensure renewal.

[SB 1414](#) was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11 SB and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18.

[HB 1203](#) has not been heard in committee.

△ **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](#) will be heard in the House Judiciary committee on Tuesday, 2/17.

△ **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 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 State Administration Budget Subcommittee on Thursday, 2/12.

[SB 1668](#) was approved by the Senate Insurance & Banking Subcommittee, 1/28. Any implications or additional assessments on physicians if the bill passes are still to be determined.

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

hygienists. [HB 695](#), also by Rep. Redondo, provides exemptions from public meetings requirements for the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission.

[HB 695 was approved by the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11. No Senate companion so this legislation will most likely not advance.](#)

☒ Health Care – [SB 1756](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 917](#) by Rep. Jeff Holcomb (R-Springhill) create a statutory nonmedical exemption from immunization requirements for a child attending a K-12 school if the administration of a vaccine conflicts with the parent’s conscience. The bills require DOH to make the nonmedical exemption form available on its website and require health care practitioners and paramedics who administer vaccines to a minor child to provide informational materials approved and adopted by joint rule of the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine before a vaccine may be administered. The bills also require that when more than one vaccine is to be administered to a child, the practitioner must discuss the parent’s or guardian’s options for the timing of the vaccinations. The bills authorize pharmacists to provide ivermectin as a behind-the-counter medication without a prescription to a person 18 years of age or older and grant immunity from civil or criminal liability or disciplinary action under Florida law for pharmacists acting in accordance with these provisions. HB 917 has additional provisions that prohibit discrimination against a patient based on the patient’s vaccination status. [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 Coverage - [SB 1760](#) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) establishes the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Oversight, bill establishes the Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Oversight, creates additional Medicaid managed care plan reporting requirements for purposes of capitation rate setting and disclosure of financial relationships with affiliated entities, requires that a contract between AHCA and a Medicaid managed care plan must require that any third party administrative entity contracted by the plan must adhere to all pertinent requirements of the Medicaid program placed on the plan under the plan’s contract with the AHCA, provides that payments made by a Medicaid managed care plan to affiliated entities in excess of market rates are excluded as an allowable expense when the AHCA calculates such plan’s achieved savings rebate (ASR), revises ASR statutes to alter the amount of profit that a managed care plan may retain versus how much of such profit must be shared with the state, amends statutes relating to Medicaid managed care plan medical loss ratios (MLR) to correct a reference to federal regulations and to specify that MLRs must be calculated for each plan separately for each component of Statewide Medicaid Managed Care and for each plan in the aggregate, amends the Insurance Code relating to the oversight of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), creates prohibitions against PBM behavior relating to contracting with and reimbursing Pharmacies, prohibits a PBM from maintaining any ownership or investment interest in an affiliated manufacturer. [SB 1760 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11.](#)

△ 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 Fiscal Policy Committee on Thursday, 2/12 and now goes to the Senate floor.

△ Medical Placement for High-acuity Children – [SB 1560](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) and [HB 475](#) by Rep. Michelle Salzman (R-Cantonment) require specific needs of high-acuity child to be considered when determining child's best interest, revise the role of and services provided by Child Protection Teams and multidisciplinary teams, require multidisciplinary team staffing for placement decisions of a high-acuity child, provide a process for if multidisciplinary team cannot reach consensus on plan for placement of high-acuity child, require licensed health care professionals to perform medical screening, require a judge to place a high-acuity child in a medical placement after the child is evaluated, require the court to set emergency evidentiary hearings under certain circumstances, provide requirements for medical placement, require the court to conduct periodic reviews during the duration of medical placements, prohibit medical placement from exceeding specified number of days, provide that high-acuity children are eligible for Children's Medical Services program and Children's Medical Services Safety Net program, and require that high-acuity children be placed in category 1 for priority purposes of Medicaid waiver services.

SB 1560 is pending withdrawal.

HB 475 was approved by the House Human Services Subcommittee on Thursday, 2/12.

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

HB 223 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11 and will be heard in the House Health Care Budget SubComm on Monday, 2/16.

SB 688 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11, but has not been agenda'd for week 5.

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

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

HB 173 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, 2/10 and will be heard in the Senate Education & Employment Committee on Wednesday, 2/18.

☑ **Podiatric Medicine** – [SB 1092](#) by Sen. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) and [HB 567](#) by Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) narrow the controlled substance continuing education requirements for podiatrists to only podiatrists registered and authorized to prescribe controlled substances by the DEA. The Senate bill also authorizes podiatrists to perform stem cell therapy under certain circumstances.

[SB 1092 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11 and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18.](#)

☒ **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.

[SB 1524 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.](#)

[HB 439 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/10.](#)

△ **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.

[SB 868 did not make the agenda for the last Senate Health Policy Committee agenda.](#)

[HB 1021 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/10 and now goes to the House floor.](#)

☑ **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. **No significant movement, unlikely to pass.**

△ **Public Assistance** – [SB 1758](#) by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Pensacola) authorizes AHCA to conduct retrospective reviews and audits of certain claims under the state Medicaid program, requires the agency to seek federal approval to implement mandatory work and community engagement requirements for able-bodied adults as a condition of obtaining and maintaining Medicaid coverage, requires AHCA, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families, to develop a business plan to implement specified provisions, revises the purpose of the Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee to include creation of a Medicaid preferred physician-administered drug list, a Medicaid preferred product list, and a high-cost drug list, and requires the department to develop and implement a food assistance payment accuracy improvement plan. **No companion.**

△ **Public Records/Emergency Physicians** - [SB 268](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 251](#) by Rep. Tiffany Esposito (R-Fort Myers) define the term “emergency physician” and provide for exemptions from public records requirements for the personal identifying and location information of current or former emergency physicians and their spouses and children.

[HB 251 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11.](#)

△ **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.

HB 1515 was approved by the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11.

SB 864 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Thursday, 2/12.

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

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

☒ **Sickle Cell Disease Care Management and Treatment Continuing Education** – [SB 844](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) and [HB 353](#) by Rep. Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) require information related to the treatment of pain for patients with sickle cell disease to be included in the continuing education course on controlled substance prescribing required for licensure renewal of certain health care practitioners registered to prescribe controlled substances.

HB 353 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11.

SB 844 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Thursday, 2/12 and will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/18.

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

SB 1480 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/17.

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

HB 237 has been received by the Senate.

SB 36 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Thursday, 2/12.

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

SB 196 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2/11 and will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services on Wednesday, 2/18.

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

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

HB 339 was approved by the House Civil Justice and Claims Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

marketplace process under the program, remove the option for risk pooling under the program, and remove exemptions from certain requirements of Florida Insurance Code under the program.

✔ **Impact of Perimenopause and Menopause on Women’s Health** – [SB 190](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 161](#) by Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson (D-Gainesville) require the DOH to establish a perimenopause and menopause policy workgroup. The bills also require the department, in collaboration with the workgroup, to develop and make publicly available on its website information relating to perimenopause and menopause.

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

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

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

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

✔ **Medicaid Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitoring Devices** – [SB 736](#) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) and [HB 781](#) by Rep. Brian Hodgers (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.

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

✔ **Medical 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.
HB 587 was approved by the House Civil Justice and Claims Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11.

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

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

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

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

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

HB 683 was approved by the House Health Professions and Programs Subcommittee on Wednesday, 2/11.

✔ **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. *Passed House, SB 1700 not been heard in committee.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HB 411 was approved by the House Human Services Subcommittee on Thursday, 2/12.