

Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2026 Legislative Session Capital Update - Week 7
February 28, 2026

Despite a hectic week seven of the nine-week legislative session, the political and policy discussions increasingly point toward both a possible extension of the regular session and an almost certain special session later this spring. The week featured a flurry of legislative activity on hundreds of bills as the committee meeting process officially winds down and attention shifts to floor action in both chambers. Bill amendments were the tool as legislators and lobbyists alike searched for viable “vehicles” to keep priority bills alive, often adding new bill language or the content of other bills, thus making it essential to track and closely read every amendment. However, notably absent were public negotiations on the state budget. Perhaps behind-the-scenes negotiations will prompt a budget resolution, but with less than 11 days before a budget must be “on the desks” of legislators, the prospects of an on-time adjournment are quickly fading.

Adding to the dynamics, Governor DeSantis signaled this week that his key priority, property tax reform, will likely be the subject of a future special session. This is on top of the already scheduled special session for Congressional Redistricting the week of April 20.

Family Medicine will be very visible the last third of session with three FAFP members serving each of the last three weeks. Monday, February 23, FAFP Board member Dr. Kam Geer served with resident Dr. Nicol Mignott (TMH) with Senator Jason Brodeur sponsoring. Tuesday, February 23, it was FAFP Foundation Vice President Dr. Michale Cromer with resident Dr. Markeeta Belmar (USF) sponsored by Senator Nick DiCeglie. Wednesday, February 25, it was FAFP Board Member Dr. Dan Montero and resident Dr. Jason Willis (TMH) sponsored by Senator Jennifer Bradley.



Drs. Mignot (L) and Geer (Rt)



Drs. Belmar (L) and Cromer (Rt)



Drs. Montero (L) and Wills (Ct)

House and Senate Release Tax Packages

On Tuesday afternoon, the House and Senate released their respective tax-cut packages. The House proposal ([HB 7031](#)) reduces recurring revenues by approximately \$27.6 million in FY 2026-27 and includes a broad array of sales tax exemptions, property tax modifications, and targeted tax credits. Notable provisions include temporary sales tax exemptions for certain propane tanks, firearm accessories, impact-resistant windows and doors, and outdoor supplies; date adjustments to the

Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday; and new requirements for advertising platforms to collect sales tax on vacation rentals. The House package also makes significant property tax changes, particularly related to Space Florida projects, mobile home park assessment caps, homestead protections for certain overseas federal employees, Save Our Homes portability, and exempts children's services councils from required sharing of tax revenue with community redevelopment agencies. In addition, the bill updates Florida's corporate income tax code, amends certain corporate tax credits, and creates a new Homebuyer Workforce Tax Credit applicable against Corporate Income Tax or Insurance Premium Tax liabilities.

The Senate proposal ([SB 7046](#)) reduces revenues by \$34.1 million in FY 2026-27 and focuses on property tax policy, fiscally constrained counties, and local government limitations. It revises Live Local opt-out criteria, adjusts school tax distribution language, restricts special assessments in RV parks, modifies funding and distribution formulas for fiscally constrained counties (including a guaranteed \$50 million annual sales tax distribution), establishes a permanent exemption for small, liquefied petroleum gas tanks, and provides a fall hunting, fishing, and camping sales tax holiday. The Senate package also includes broader policy provisions prohibiting governmental adoption or funding of net-zero policies and establishing a maximum millage for taxing authorities that did not levy in the prior year. The two chambers will reconcile these differing approaches in conference to determine the scope and structure of the final tax-cut package.

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 will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 3/4, but SB 672 has not been heard.

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 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now goes to the House floor. SB 578 has already passed the Senate.

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 Health Care Budget Subcommittee on Monday, 2/23. SB 560 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now goes to the Senate floor.

Department of Health – [SB 902](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 733](#) by Rep. Ann Gerwig (R-Wellington) revises the definition of low-THC and emergency rulemaking authority for the medical marijuana program, add Infantile Krabbe Disease to the newborn screening program, create a Neurofibromatosis Grant Program, require DOH to develop a pamphlet on neonate nutrition and develop procedures and protocols for various Early Steps functions, expand eligibility for the UF Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment autism micro-credential, allows a home health aide for medically fragile children to administer certain medication, require DOH to designate

certain specialty licensed children's hospitals as pediatric trauma centers, require practitioner advertisements include the practitioners full name and license number, revises the degree program accreditation requirements for marriage & family therapist licensure, extend sovereign immunity under the Access to Health Care Act to dental and dental hygiene students, expand the populations dentists and dental hygienists may serve under a loan repayment program, allow dental hygienists to use lasers for teeth cleaning under the direct supervision of a dentist, require DOH to immediately suspend the license of a practitioner who has been arrested for murder and prohibit marriage between first cousins.

HB 733 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 3/4.

SB 902 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now goes to the Senate floor.

✔ **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 has passed the Senate and HB 901 is on the House floor for consideration.

✔ **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.
HB 503 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 3/4.

△ **Drug Prices and Coverage** – [HB 697](#) by Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R-Bartow) and [SB 1158](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) is the “Prescription Reduction Incentives and Competition Enhancement Act” (PRICE Act). An amendment was adopted to the House bill that makes it unlawful for a PBM to prohibit or restrict a pharmacy from declining to dispense a prescription drug or biological product for less than the pharmacy’s actual acquisition cost. The amendment also makes it unlawful for a PBM to reimburse a nonaffiliated pharmacy less than the PBM reimburses an affiliated pharmacy.
HB 697 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Thursday, 2/26. SB 1158 has not been heard.

△ **Dry Needling** – [SB 914](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and [HB 867](#) by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs) authorize occupational therapists to perform dry needling.
SB 914 was approved by the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now goes to the Senate floor. HB 867 passed the House 112-2 on Wednesday, 2/25 and is now in the Senate Rules 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 has passed all committees and is on the House floor, but the FAFP continues to monitor the Senate as SB 101 is in the Health Policy Committee which is not scheduled to meet again.

△ **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) amend operational and financial requirements for the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA), codify current benefit policies, increase access to psychotherapy providers, require continuous comprehensive major medical health coverage for the participant or enrollment in Medicaid, and require the Plan to cover a participant’s premiums and out-of-pocket costs. The bills also require NICA to compensate the Medicaid program for services furnished to

Plan participants, authorize NICA to recoup overpaid expenses from family members via an administrative proceeding and revise NICA financial oversight by establishing timelines for existing provider assessments and restructuring the remedies available to OIR for addressing potential financial unsoundness of NICA.

HB 1291 is on the House floor and SB 1668 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 3/3. The FAFP is working with the FMA and others specialty societies to ensure any proposed physician fee increases are reasonable.

☒ 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 693 and HB 695 were approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Tuesday, 3/3.

☒ Health Care “Medical Freedom” – [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.

FAFP President Dr. Danielle Carter testified against this legislation on Jan 26 and the FAFP continues to fight to defeat the bill along every step of the way through the Senate and House chambers.

SB 1756 was approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 3/3.

HB 917 has not been heard by any of the three committee of references.

Health Care – [SB 2518](#) by the Senate Appropriations Committee and [HB 5301](#) by Rep. Alex Andrade (R-Pensacola) are the health care budget bills that make statutory changes as a result of health care policy in the state proposed budgets.

The House and Senate have agreed to work out the differences in HB 5301 and SB 2518 in the Budget Conference process.

HB 5301 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, 3/2.

Health Care Coverage - [SB 1760](#) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) 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, 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, and prohibits a PBM from maintaining any ownership or investment interest in an affiliated manufacturer.

SB 1760 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, 3/2.

△ 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.

HB 355 passed the House 109-0 on 1/15 and SB 68 is waiting to be heard on the Senate floor.

☒ 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 and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now goes to the House floor.

SB 688 will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Monday, 3/2.

△ 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 will be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Monday, 3/2.

☒ 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 Education and Employment Committee on Tuesday, 2/17 and now goes to the House floor. SB 166 has not be heard.

△ **Parkinson's Disease Registry** – [SB 1684](#) by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and [HB 1443](#) by Rep. Demi Busatta (R-Coral Gables) require the Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease within the University of South Florida to establish a statewide Parkinson's disease registry. The bills require physicians and advanced practice registered nurses who diagnose or treat a patient with Parkinson's disease or atypical parkinsonism to report nationally recognized performance measures to the registry beginning January 1, 2027, and grant them liability protection for doing so. The Parkinson's Disease Research Board (Board) must submit annual reports on the registry data to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives beginning October 15, 2028. [SB 1686](#) and [HB 1445](#) by provide public records exemptions for specified patient information for Parkinson's disease registry.

SB 1684 and SB 1686 were approved by the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now go to the Senate floor.

HB 1443 passed the House 115-0 and HB 1445 passed the House 116-0 on Wednesday, 2/25.

☑ **Podiatric Medicine** – [SB 1092](#) by Sen. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) and [HB 567](#) by Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) limit the existing controlled substance prescribing continuing education requirement for all podiatric physicians to only those podiatric physicians registered with the U.S. DEA and authorized to prescribe controlled substances. The Senate bill authorizes podiatric physicians to perform procedures using cellular or tissue-based product that have not been approved by the U.S. FDA provided they meet specified criteria.

SB 1092 passed the Senate 35-0 on Thursday, 2/26 and is now in House Messages.

☒ **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 passed the House 110-2 on Wednesday, 2/25.

△ **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 will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Wednesday, 3/4.

☑ **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.

HB 93 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Thursday, 2/26. SB 162 is in the Rules Committee but has not been placed on the agenda for consideration.

☑ **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.
SB 1758 will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Monday, 3/2.

△ **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 Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 2/24.
HB 1515 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Tuesday, 3/3.

☑ **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](#).

☒ **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. The FAFP assisted in amending this language to prevent additional mandatory CME requirements.
HB 353 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and now goes to the House floor.
SB 844 passed the Senate 37-0 on Wednesday, 2/25 and is now in House Messages.

△ **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 will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Tuesday, 3/3.
SB 1480 is on the Senate Special Order Calendar.

△ **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, consistent with their degree. 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 will be heard in the Senate Rules Committee on Tuesday, 3/3.

△ **Uterine Fibroid Research Database** – [SB 196](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 327](#) by Rep. Lisa Dunkley (D-Lauderhill) require health care providers to submit identified information to DOH for inclusion in the Uterine Fibroid Research Database. The bills also add 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 Fiscal Policy Committee on Tuesday, 2/24 and is now on the Senate Special Order Calendar.

HB 327 will be heard on the House Special Order Calendar on Tuesday, 3/3.

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

☒ **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.

☒ **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.

☒ **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.

☒ **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.

△ **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.

△ **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.

△ **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.

HB 527 was approved by the House Commerce Committee on Thursday, 2/26 and now goes to the House floor.

☑ 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.

☑ 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 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.

△ 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 passed the House 112-2 on Wednesday, 2/25.

△ 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.

☒ 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.

☒ 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.

HB 1449 was approved by the House Health and Human Services Committee on Thursday, 2/26 and now goes to the House floor.

☒ 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.