



**2025  
LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION UPDATE  
HEALTHCARE**

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# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

The Florida Legislature concluded most of its regular session work on May 2, but has not formally adjourned *sine die*. On that date, both chambers agreed to extend the session through June 6 to finalize the state budget and related bills (HCR 1631). This week, the House reconvened for a floor session, passed a resolution to further extend the session through June 30 (HCR 1633), and held a meeting of the Select Committee on Property Taxes. The Senate has not yet approved the June 30 extension. The extended session remains limited to appropriations and related implementing and conforming bills, with no additional policy legislation eligible for consideration.

Throughout the regular session, legislators focused on a broad range of priorities, including healthcare, infrastructure, education, economic development, public safety, and workforce initiatives. A total of 1,982 bills were filed across both chambers. Of these, 255 passed and are now either awaiting the Governor's signature or undergoing final review. This year's output aligns with previous sessions and reflects a focus on targeted reforms and program implementation.

## Health Care Highlights

Healthcare remained a major focus this session, with 382 healthcare-related bills filed and 46 passing the whole legislature. Key legislation aimed to strengthen behavioral health services, support medically fragile children, improve maternal health outcomes, and expand access to school-based and emergency care. Lawmakers also addressed insurance transparency, medical debt collection, and fertility preservation coverage. Regulatory requirements for home health agencies and managing entities were revised, alongside new investments in rare disease research, newborn screening, and chronic disease prevention. These measures reflect a continued legislative emphasis on improving access, affordability, and outcomes across Florida's healthcare system.

## Budget Update

Although House and Senate leaders announced a budget agreement late on May 2, the two chambers remain far apart on key issues, delaying the start of the budget conference process. Once conferencing begins, joint committees will work to reconcile remaining silo differences. The final budget will then be subject to a constitutionally required 72-hour "cooling off" period before a vote in both chambers. The Governor will retain line-item veto authority following passage.

## What Comes Next

Our team will continue monitoring budget outcomes and the Governor's bill actions, including potential vetoes and implementation updates from relevant agencies. We will continue to provide updates throughout the process. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

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## **SB 68 HEALTH FACILITIES**

**Senator Martin (HB 229, Representative Oliver)**

This bill expands the definition of “health facility” to include not-for-profit entities and associations, including limited liability companies under nonprofit control, thereby broadening eligibility for financing through health facilities authorities. It grants these authorities the power to issue both secured and unsecured loans, as well as to refinance or refund existing obligations. The bill also updates project financing requirements to include specific payment and maintenance responsibilities, and revises statutory references for consistency. Additionally, it modifies existing law to make fentanyl confirmation testing in hospitals optional rather than mandatory.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 112 CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Senator Harrell (HB 591, Representative Maggard)**

This legislation enhances services for children with developmental disabilities, particularly autism, by adding autism screenings to the Dr. and Mrs. Alfonse and Kathleen Cinotti Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program. It clarifies statutory definitions and establishes the Early Steps Extended Option, allowing eligible children to remain in the program until the school year following their fourth birthday. It creates startup grants for charter schools that serve only students with autism and funds specialized summer programs for children on the autism spectrum. The bill also establishes the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to oversee these initiatives, develop an autism-specific micro-credential with a one-time stipend for educators, and administer related grants. Additionally, it mandates that training on supporting students with autism be integrated into teacher recertification requirements and directs the Commissioner of Education to review relevant continuing education curricula.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming a law*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **SB 116 VETERANS**

**Senator Burgess (HB 1043, Representative Plakon)**

This bill reduces the number of annual nominees to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame from 20 to 5 and expands the scope of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to include a comprehensive study on veterans' awareness of available state and federal programs. It requires detailed annual reporting and a new 2025 evaluation on veteran health literacy. The bill promotes coordination with the U.S. Department of Defense and local veteran service officers to connect veterans with benefits and services. It revises the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program to mandate specialized mental health and condition identification training, administered through a qualified third-party provider. It also directs Florida Is For Veterans, Inc., to report on the needs of recently separated or retired service members and their spouses and includes a direct-support organization under the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program. The Department is tasked with developing a plan for adult day health care facilities, including detailed cost and location analyses, to be submitted to the Legislature. Lastly, the bill authorizes the use of up to 10 percent of Gadsden Flag specialty license plate revenue for administrative expenses and includes appropriations to implement the bill's key provisions.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 158 COVERAGE FOR DIAGNOSTIC AND SUPPLEMENTAL BREAST EXAMINATIONS**

**Senator Berman (HB 141, Representative Woodson)**

This bill mandates that the state group insurance program eliminate all cost-sharing requirements, such as deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance, for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations. These exams include procedures used to evaluate breast abnormalities or to supplement mammography for individuals with dense breast tissue. In Health Savings Account (HSA)-qualified plans, the prohibition on cost sharing applies only after the required deductible is met unless the exams qualify as preventive care. The bill also includes statutory renumbering and updates to reflect these changes across affected employee groups.

*Effective Date: January 1, 2026*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **SB 168 MENTAL HEALTH**

**Senator Bradley (HB 1207, Representative Cobb)**

This bill significantly expands Florida’s mental health diversion framework by broadening the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program to include training for 911 dispatchers, emergency medical personnel, and support for veterans’ treatment courts. It emphasizes community-based evaluations for individuals with mental illness and creates diversion programs for both misdemeanors and certain felony offenses, allowing dismissal of charges upon successful treatment completion. The bill incorporates Hillsborough County into the Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program and mandates physical and mental health evaluations for inmates prior to work assignments. It further requires post-restoration mental health evaluations for defendants as a condition of probation. A statewide Florida Behavioral Health Care Data Repository is created to consolidate and analyze behavioral health data, with funding appropriated to support this infrastructure.

*Effective Date: October 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **HB 259 SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

**Representative Gerwig (SB 214, Senator Polsky)**

This bill establishes August 21 of each year as “Fentanyl Awareness and Education Day” in the State of Florida. It encourages public agencies, schools, and local governments to conduct activities and programs that educate the public on the dangers of fentanyl, prevention strategies, and available drug prevention resources. The goal is to raise awareness about the health risks associated with fentanyl use and to promote community engagement in overdose prevention efforts.

*Effective Date: July1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 447 DISABILITY HISTORY AND AWARENESS INSTRUCTION**

**Representative Salzman (SB 540, Senator Collins)**

This bill enhances disability education requirements in Florida public schools by creating specific grade-level instructional content, designated as the “Evin B. Hartsell Act.” It requires that students in kindergarten through third grade receive instruction on bullying prevention and physical disabilities. Students in grades four through six must receive education on autism spectrum disorder, while grades seven through nine will focus on hearing impairments. Students in grades ten through twelve will be taught about learning and intellectual disabilities. The Department of Education is authorized to consult with the Evin B. Hartsell Foundation to further develop instructional materials and guidance.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 480 NONPROFIT AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION MEDICAL BENEFIT PLANS**

**Senator DiCeglie (HB 497, Representative Grow)**

This bill authorizes nonprofit agricultural organizations to offer medical benefit plans to their members that are not regulated as insurance under the Florida Insurance Code. These plans must include a prominent disclaimer stating they are not insurance products, and they may not be marketed or sold by agents licensed under the Department of Financial Services. The bill requires annual financial audits of these plans by independent certified public accountants and mandates public availability of the audit reports.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## HB 519 ADMINISTRATION OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES BY PARAMEDICS

**Representative Bartleman (SB 1224, Senator Harrell)**

This bill authorizes certified paramedics to administer controlled substances under the supervision and direction of a licensed practitioner in emergency medical situations. It adds certified paramedics to the list of authorized individuals permitted to administer such substances while providing emergency care, provided that the practitioner is directly involved and responsible for the supervision.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming a law*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 531 PUBLIC EDUCATION OF BACKGROUND SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

**Representative Hunschofsky (SB 614, Senator Polsky)**

This bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), in coordination with several other agencies, to create and maintain a publicly accessible background screening education webpage. The site must include detailed information on Level 2 screening standards, fingerprinting procedures, positions that require background screening, and processes for compliance. It also mandates that all relevant agencies link to this resource and include the information in their job postings. The webpage must be live by January 1, 2026, and updated annually.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## HB 547 MEDICAL DEBT

**Representative Partington (SB 656, Senator Rodriguez)**

This bill revises provisions relating to extraordinary collection actions by medical facilities and allows for the sale of certain medical debt under strict consumer protection conditions. It expands the definition of extraordinary collection actions to include any bill for care, not just those covered by financial assistance policies. Facilities may sell medical debt only if the purchaser agrees not to charge interest or fees, pursue extraordinary collections, or keep the debt if the patient is later found eligible for financial assistance.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 597 DIABETES MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOLS

**Representative Smith (SB 772, Senator Calatayud)**

This bill authorizes public schools to acquire, store, and administer undesignated glucagon to treat diabetic students during hypoglycemic emergencies. Schools may obtain glucagon through purchase, donation, or grant funding and are permitted to acquire prescriptions through their county health department. Administration may be performed by school nurses or trained staff in accordance with a student's diabetes management plan. The bill also provides civil and criminal immunity for health care professionals, pharmacists, school employees, and districts acting in good faith when administering glucagon.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-15*

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## HB 633 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MANAGING ENTITIES

**Representative Koster (SB 1354, Senator Trumbull)**

This bill strengthens oversight and transparency of Florida’s behavioral health managing entities. It requires the Department of Children and Families to contract for biennial operational and financial audits and to submit a final performance improvement report by December 1, 2025. Managing entities must report standardized data electronically and submit contract-required documents with embedded metadata for streamlined processing. New monthly performance and system outcome measures must be submitted to the Department, which will publicly post the data to track trends and outcomes.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 647 ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSE SERVICES

**Representative Trubulsky (SB 998, Senator Calatayud)**

This bill expands the authority of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) by allowing those providing hospice services to certify and file death or fetal death certificates. It updates definitions in the law to include these APRNs as primary or attending practitioners, and it permits them to amend permanent death or fetal death certificates when necessary.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 677 STATE GROUP INSURANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE OF STANDARD FERTILITY PRESERVATION SERVICES

**Representative Trubulsky (SB 924, Senator Calatayud)**

This bill requires the state group health insurance program to cover medically necessary fertility preservation services for individuals undergoing medical treatment—such as chemotherapy—that may result in iatrogenic infertility. Coverage includes retrieval and storage of reproductive materials for up to three years or until the end of insurance coverage.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 791 SURRENDERED INFANTS**

**Representative Cobb (SB 1690, Senator McClain)**

This bill authorizes hospitals, emergency medical services stations, and fire stations to install and maintain infant safety devices that allow for the anonymous surrender of infants up to approximately 30 days old. These facilities must monitor the devices 24 hours a day, conduct regular physical checks, and test alarms weekly to ensure infant safety and prompt retrieval. The bill updates statutory language to refer to “surrendered” instead of “left” infants and affirms that such surrender is not considered abandonment. It also reinforces parental anonymity and legal protection unless there is evidence of abuse or neglect.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-17*

## **HB 797 VETERAN AND SPOUSE NURSING HOME BEDS**

**Representative LaMarca (SB 788, Senator Truenow)**

This bill allows nonprofit skilled nursing facilities located on retirement community campuses that exclusively serve veterans and their spouses to designate or reclassify beds as veteran and spouse nursing home beds. The Department of Veterans’ Affairs may approve these designations and adopt implementing rules. The bill removes the requirement that at least 50 percent of a state veterans’ nursing home's construction costs be federally funded to qualify for certificate-of-need exemption. It also provides a certificate-of-need exemption for the transfer or consolidation of beds within 100 miles between such facilities under common control.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 901 COURT-APPOINTED PSYCHOLOGISTS**

**Representative Borrero (SB 976, Senator Bernard)**

This bill requires that any party wishing to file an administrative complaint against a court-appointed psychologist must first move to disqualify the psychologist in court. The complaint may not be filed anonymously and must include the complainant's contact information. Upon a showing of good cause, the presiding judge may appoint a new psychologist. The bill also updates provisions for awarding attorney fees and costs in supplemental proceedings related to complaints against court-appointed psychologists.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **HB 907 FLORIDA INSTITUTE FOR PEDIATRIC RARE DISEASES**

**Representative Anderson (SB 1356, Senator Burton)**

This bill creates the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases at the Florida State University College of Medicine to advance research, diagnosis, and treatment in this field. It establishes the five-year Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program to conduct voluntary whole genome sequencing for newborns, with required parental consent and oversight reporting. The bill also creates the Sunshine Genetics Consortium, a statewide network led by representatives from universities and children's hospitals to coordinate data sharing, research collaboration, and innovation in genetic and precision medicine.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 929 FIREFIGHTER HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Representative Booth (SB 1212, Senator DiCeglie)**

This bill enhances health and safety protections for firefighters by requiring employers to purchase gear free of hazardous chemicals when available and to notify personnel if such gear is used. It encourages limiting firefighter work schedules to 42 hours per week and mandates training on chemical hazards, cancer prevention, mental health, resiliency, and stress management. The Division of State Fire Marshal is granted authority to enforce compliance, issue fines, and impose cease and desist orders on employers that violate the new requirements.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 944 INSURANCE OVERPAYMENT CLAIMS SUBMITTED TO PSYCHOLOGISTS**

**Senator Davis (HB 839, Representative Booth)**

This bill adds psychologists licensed under chapter 490, Florida Statutes, to the group of health care providers for whom insurance overpayment claims must be submitted within 12 months of the original payment. The 12-month filing window applies to services provided on or after January 1, 2026, aligning psychologists with other providers already subject to the same claim deadline.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **SB 954 CERTIFIED RECOVERY RESIDENCES**

**Senator Gruters (HB 1163, Representative Owen)**

This bill requires counties and municipalities to adopt local ordinances by January 1, 2026, that establish a standardized process for reviewing and approving certified recovery residences, including provisions for requesting reasonable accommodations. The ordinance must include written procedures, timelines for determinations, and must comply with federal fair housing and disability laws. The bill also clarifies that staffing ratios apply only when residents are present and permits increased occupancy under certain staffing conditions.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 958 TYPE 1 DIABETES EARLY DETECTION PROGRAM**

**Senator Bernard (HB 723, Representative Tant)**

This bill requires the Department of Health to create and distribute educational materials on early detection of Type 1 diabetes. School districts must notify parents or guardians of students in voluntary prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade about the availability of these materials using a standardized method. It also amends the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program statute to include this annual notification requirement by early learning coalitions.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 969 REPORTING OF STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES**

**Representative Cassel (SB 1310, Senator Bradley)**

This bill directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to evaluate school-based mental health services. An initial report is due by December 31, 2025, assessing compliance, outcomes, and integration with behavioral health systems. A final report is required by December 1, 2026, and must include recommendations for improving capacity and performance. School districts, the Department of Education, and other stakeholders must provide necessary data and support for the evaluation process.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming a law*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 1070 ELECTROCARDIOGRAMS FOR STUDENT ATHLETES**

**Senator Simon (HB 1135, Representative Shoaf)**

This bill, titled the "Second Chance Act," requires all high school student athletes to receive at least one electrocardiogram (ECG) screening before participating in interscholastic sports. Exemptions are allowed for religious objections or documented medical exceptions. The Florida High School Athletic Association must adopt rules prohibiting participation until medically cleared if abnormal ECG results are found. The bill also authorizes certain out-of-state medical professionals to perform the evaluations and encourages public-private partnerships to offer low-cost ECGs.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## HB 1089 NEWBORN SCREENINGS

**Representative Booth (SB 524, Senator Harrell)**

This bill adds Duchenne muscular dystrophy to Florida's newborn screening panel, contingent on a legislative appropriation. The Department of Health is required to implement the screening beginning January 1, 2027. The bill maintains existing requirements that the newborn screening program align with conditions recommended by the Genetics and Newborn Screening Advisory Council.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 1091 SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

**Representative Gonzalez Pittman (SB 1240, Senator Calatayud)**

This bill enhances Florida's behavioral health care system by integrating the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline call center into state crisis services. It aligns procedures for involuntary outpatient and inpatient placement, allowing administrative law judges to hold hearings and issue final orders for continued services. The bill requires psychologists involved in placement evaluations to have at least three years of clinical experience, clarifies outpatient discharge protocols, and authorizes medication administration during the discharge process. It also updates training requirements for forensic evaluators and removes certain limitations on establishing medication-assisted treatment providers.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **SB 1156 HOME HEALTH AIDE FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN PROGRAM**

**Senator Harrell (HB 1529, Representative Tramont)**

This bill strengthens the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program by mandating enhanced training standards, including CPR and HIV/AIDS education, while reducing required training hours from 85 to 76. It requires annual adverse incident reporting and expands Medicaid reimbursement to a minimum of \$25 per hour, raising the daily cap from 8 to 12 hours and creating a flexible 40-hour weekly cap. The bill also secures broader federal approval for provider eligibility and allows home health aide income to be excluded from Medicaid eligibility determinations through waivers and plan amendments.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming a law*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **HB 1195 FENTANYL TESTING**

**Representative Harris (SB 1346, Senator Polsky)**

Known as "Gage's Law," this bill requires hospitals to include fentanyl testing when performing urine drug tests for suspected overdose cases. If the test is positive for fentanyl, a confirmatory lab test must follow, and the results must be included in the patient's medical record.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Approved by Governor; Chapter No. 2025-19*

## **SB 1202 BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS INJURED DURING TRAINING EXERCISES**

**Senator McClain (HB 749, Representative Sapp)**

This bill extends employer-paid health insurance benefits to firefighters who become totally and permanently disabled as a result of injuries sustained during official training exercises. The bill maintains existing coverage for injuries sustained during emergency responses or unlawful acts and declares the benefit extension to be a matter of important state interest.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## HB 1299 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**Representative Yarkosky (SB 1270, Senator Collins)**

This bill extends the repeal date for the definition of “messenger ribonucleic acid vaccine” from 2025 to 2027, preserving statutory provisions related to vaccine and mask discrimination. It removes background check requirements for board members and officers of medical marijuana treatment centers while retaining them for owners and managers. The bill requires prompt notification to law enforcement in the event of marijuana product theft or diversion attempts. It reduces practice requirements for certain license applicants under the MOBILE Act and updates how adverse actions in the National Practitioner Data Bank are considered. References to the “American Association of Physician Specialists” are replaced with the “American Board of Physician Specialties,” and additional pathways for physician licensure and faculty certificates are introduced. The bill also revises definitions in the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact to clarify member-state access to licensee investigations.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 1353 HOME HEALTH CARE SERVICES

**Representative Franklin (SB 1412, Senator Calatayud)**

This bill removes geographic restrictions on administration of home health agencies by allowing a single administrator to oversee up to five agencies, regardless of location. It also permits contract staff—not just direct employees—to conduct admission, evaluation, and discharge nursing visits, with the agency remaining responsible for care quality and compliance. The bill revises Excellence in Home Health Program criteria to prioritize patient satisfaction, workforce stability, service excellence, and innovation over narrowly defined patient care metrics.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## HB 1421 IMPROVING SCREENING FOR AND TREATMENT OF BLOOD CLOTS

**Representative Black (SB 890, Senator Yarborough)**

Known as the “Emily Adkins Family Protection Act,” this bill expands screening and prevention efforts for venous thromboembolism in hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. It requires the development of evidence-based training and protocols for healthcare personnel, creates a statewide blood clot registry, and mandates that new assisted living facility residents be provided educational pamphlets on blood clot risks and symptoms. Certified nursing assistants in nursing homes must receive updated inservice training on blood clot recognition and response.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## HB 1427 NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**Representative Griffitts, Jr**

The bill enhances the Board of Nursing’s oversight of nursing education programs by tightening application requirements, increasing accountability, and removing flexibility for accreditation compliance. It mandates disclosure of program director information and past disciplinary actions, and allows the Board to deny or revoke approval based on adverse findings. Programs must meet stricter annual reporting standards, including exit exam results, with noncompliance leading to potential termination and director discipline. A single year of low passage rates triggers probation, and failure to implement remediation can result in program closure. Programs with passage rates below 30% must reimburse students for tuition and fees and provide free exam remediation. The Board gains expanded rulemaking and enforcement authority, including onsite inspections, while the option to extend accreditation deadlines is eliminated.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 1487 EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**Representative Basabe (SB 1644, Senator Rodriguez)**

This bill eliminates the limit on the number of red or red-and-white warning signals that volunteer firefighters, emergency medical staff, and organ transporters can display on privately owned vehicles. It expands eligibility for grant exemptions to not-for-profit, faith-based volunteer ambulance services operating for at least 15 years with at least 150 emergency personnel across three counties. The number of counties eligible for the exemption is increased from 4 to 15. The bill adds affidavit requirements, penalties for false attestations, and restricts these services from accessing grant programs designated for publicly operated emergency services.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 1514 ANAPHYLAXIS IN PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**Senator Smith (HB 1197, Representative Harris)**

This bill requires all public and charter schools serving kindergarten through 8th grade students to provide training for school personnel in the recognition and emergency response to anaphylaxis, including the use of epinephrine auto-injectors. Each school must ensure that a student's emergency action plan for anaphylaxis is accessible at all times during school hours and school-sponsored activities. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, must adopt implementing rules by October 1, 2025.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 1545 PARKINSON'S DISEASE**

**Representative Busatta (SB 1800, Senator Calatayud)**

This bill establishes the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research at the University of South Florida to advance scientific understanding and treatment of Parkinson's disease. A Parkinson's Disease Research Board is created to set priorities, develop an annual research plan, and provide updates to the Governor and Legislature. The bill also creates the Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease as a statewide resource for improving patient outcomes through research, clinical care, education, and advocacy.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **HB 1567 INSULIN ADMINISTRATION BY DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS AND RELATIVES**

**Representative Tuck (SB 1736, Senator Grall)**

This bill allows trained direct-support professionals and certain relatives to administer insulin to residents with developmental disabilities in group homes. It defines "direct-support professional" in statute and authorizes insulin and epinephrine administration by unlicensed providers under specific training and policy requirements. It also provides civil immunity for those administering insulin in compliance with the law and updates cross-references in disability-related statutes.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 1607 CARDIAC EMERGENCIES**

**Representative Yarkosky (SB 430, Senator Simon)**

This bill requires all public schools to develop and implement a “PULSE” (Plan for Urgent Life-Saving Emergencies) protocol and expand first aid training, including hands-on CPR and defibrillator use, in both middle and high school. Each school must maintain at least one operational automated external defibrillator (AED) on-site and train staff on its use. The bill provides liability protections for school personnel and volunteers who use AEDs under existing Good Samaritan laws.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 1620 MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS**

**Senator Rouson (HB 1439, Representative Hunschofsky)**

This bill strengthens Florida’s mental health and substance use system by requiring providers to use standardized assessment tools like the DLA-20 and to update treatment plans at set intervals. It expands mobile crisis team training for serving older adults, mandates enhanced discharge planning with emphasis on access to long-acting injectables, and directs periodic reviews of telehealth services in schools. It also launches a statewide analysis of behavioral health workforce needs, encourages trauma-informed practices, and calls for biennial reviews of residential treatment capacity. School district mental health programs must incorporate approved assessment tools.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor’s Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **SB 1768 STEM CELL THERAPY**

**Senator Trumbull (HB 1617, Representative Buchanan)**

This bill allows Florida-licensed physicians to perform certain FDA-unapproved stem cell therapies for orthopedics, wound care, or pain management, provided the cells are sourced and processed in facilities registered with the FDA and accredited by an approved body. Physicians must provide patients with a signed informed consent form disclosing risks, lack of FDA approval, and the option to consult with a primary care provider. Advertising must include a notice that the therapy is not FDA-approved. The bill prohibits the use of stem cells derived from aborted fetuses or embryos and imposes felony penalties and disciplinary action for violations.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 1808 REFUND OF OVERPAYMENTS MADE BY PATIENTS**

**Senator Burton (HB 1513, Representative Greco)**

This bill requires health care facilities and individual practitioners to issue refunds to patients for overpayments within 30 days of identifying the overpayment. It establishes administrative penalties for facilities and disciplinary actions for individual practitioners who fail to comply. "Overpayment" is defined as charges exceeding what is owed after all reimbursement sources have been considered.

*Effective Date: January 1, 2026*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

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## **HB 6017 RECOVERY OF DAMAGES FOR MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE RESULTING IN DEATH**

**Representative Trabulsy (SB 734, Senator Yarborough)**

This bill removes statutory provisions that prevented adult children and parents of adult children from recovering noneconomic damages—including pain and suffering—in wrongful death lawsuits stemming from medical negligence. It also amends related statutes governing civil actions in nursing homes and assisted living facilities to reflect these changes.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*

## **SB 7012 CHILD WELFARE**

**Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs (HB 1127, Representative Weinberger)**

This bill makes comprehensive reforms to Florida's child welfare system. It requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to improve recordkeeping of human trafficking assessments and establishes new pilot programs for treatment foster care. The bill replaces broad disqualification exemptions with limited, role-specific ones, creates a recruitment program for protective investigators and case managers, and eliminates the fidelity bond requirement for lead agencies. It also mandates studies on residential bed capacity and commercial sexual exploitation services, creates liability protections for certain subcontractors, and directs DCF to convene a workforce group to review and improve procedures.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

*Governor's Action: Awaiting Presentation*