THE SOUTHERN GROUP 2025 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION: HEALTHCARE UPDATE



LEADERSHIP BREAKDOWN





Ben Albritton Senate President





Ron DeSantis Governor of Florida



Daniel Perez House Speaker **LEGISLATIVE BREAKDOWN**

Florida House Florida Senate of Representatives 120 40



Republican







Independent

SESSION EXTENSION... STILL NO BUDGET...



SESSION GOES INTO OVERTIME WITH NO FINAL BUDGET



HOUSE VS. GOVERNOR / HOPE FLORIDA



By Lawrence Mower Times staff Justin Garcia Times staff Alexandra Glorioso Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau





SO WHAT DID WE GET ACCOMPLISHED?





BY COMPARISON









13.06% Passage Rate

2023

19.5% **Bills Filed Passed**

SB 68 – HEALTH FACILITIES BY SEN. MARTIN

- Broadens the definition of "health facility" to include any not-for-profit entity or association, such as limited liability companies under nonprofit control.
- Grants health facilities authorities expanded powers to issue secured or unsecured loans and to refinance or refund existing obligations for the benefit of health facilities.
- Revises the requirement for fentanyl confirmation testing in hospitals to make it an optional rather than mandatory step.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025



HB 547 – MEDICAL DEBT BY REP. PARTINGTON



- Removes language limiting extraordinary collection actions to bills covered under a financial assistance policy, expanding the definition of such actions to any bill for care.
- Permits facilities to sell debt if the contractual agreement prevents the purchaser from charging interest or fees, pursuing extraordinary collection actions, and requires returning the debt if the patient is later found eligible for financial assistance.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025



HB 633 – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MANAGING ENTITIES BY REP. KOSTER



- Requires the Department of Children and Families to contract biennially for operational and financial audits focusing on a wide range of managing entity functions, including referral patterns and provider network adequacy.
- Directs the Department to contract for recommendations on improving performance transparency and to prepare a final report by December 1, 2025.
- Mandates managing entities to report required data in a standardized electronic format allowing for interoperability and efficient data analysis.
- Obligates managing entities to electronically submit contract-required documents with specific metadata to enable accurate organization and processing.
- Establishes new outcome and system measures that managing entities must submit monthly to the Department, which will then post the data publicly to track performance trends.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 791 – SURRENDERED INFANTS BY REP. COBB

- Creates and defines "infant safety devices" for hospitals, emergency medical services stations, and fire stations to receive surrendered infants securely.
- Redefines "infant" to cover children up to approximately 30 days old.
- Requires qualifying facilities to monitor these devices 24 hours per day, perform regular physical checks, and test alarms weekly to ensure the infant's safety and prompt retrieval.
- Clarifies that parents may remain anonymous and cannot be followed or pursued under most circumstances unless there is evidence of abuse or neglect. • Maintains that surrendering an infant according to the prescribed measures is not
- deemed abandonment and extends confidentiality protections to parents.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025



HB 1103 – SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES **BY REP. KINCART JONSSON**

- Requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide newly enrolled clients with a list of qualified organizations within 5 days, and to promptly post quarterly waiver expenditure reconciliation reports online.
- Mandates APD participation in transition planning for certain young adults and requires posting of updated priority category data for waiver enrollment at least every 5 days.
- Establishes a Statewide Family Care Council to review local reports, advise APD on policy, and coordinate consistent input from local family care councils, with revamped membership criteria, reporting requirements, and administrative support.
- Clarifies that certain Medicaid-eligible persons may voluntarily enroll in managed care rather than being automatically enrolled.
- Directs APD to contract for a study of the current budget allocation algorithm, including possible improvements or alternatives that better fit waiver expenditure needs.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1156 – HOME HEALTH AIDE FOR MEDICALLY FRAGILE CHILDREN PROGRAM **BY SEN. HARRELL**



- Requires annual publication of an assessment that includes new adverse
- incident reporting and data collection from Medicaid managed care plans. Mandates enhanced training programs, including HIV/AIDS education and CPR certification, reducing required training hours from 85 to 76 and adding flexible competency validation as care needs change.
- Increases the Medicaid reimbursement rate to a minimum of \$25 per hour and expands the daily cap from 8 to 12 hours, with a new 40-hour weekly cap that may be exceeded if justified and approved.
- Offers broader federal approval for providers to participate in the program, and excludes a home health aide's income from Medicaid eligibility determinations through federal waivers and plan amendments.
- Effective Date: Upon becoming a law



- Creates Gage's Law, mandating fentanyl testing for patients treated for possible overdose.
- Requires a confirmatory lab test if initial urine
 - test results are positive for fentanyl.
- Directs hospitals to retain the test results in the patient's clinical record.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025



HB 1421 – IMPROVING SCREENING FOR AND TREATMENT OF BLOOD CLOTS **BY REP. BLACK**



- Adds chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, chronic critical illness, and genetic predisposition for venous thromboembolism to the list of chronic diseases under state legislative findings.
- Requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to develop policies and regularly train staff to screen for and treat venous thromboembolisms using evidence-based best practices.
- Creates a statewide venous thromboembolism registry, managed by a qualifying private entity, to collect and track data from hospitals and generate reports to improve patient outcomes and compliance.
- Mandates updated in-service training for certified nursing assistants in nursing homes on recognizing and responding to venous thromboembolism symptoms and procedures. • Requires assisted living facilities to provide new residents with a pamphlet containing information about venous thromboembolism risk factors, signs, and symptoms.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025

1808 – REFUND OF OVERPAYMENTS MADE BY **BY SEN. BURTON**



- Requires health care facility licensees to provide patient refunds within 30 days of determining an overpayment was made and defines "tenders charges for reimbursement".
- Adds an administrative fine for failing to timely refund patient overpayments.
- Requires health care practitioners to refund patient overpayments within 30 days and defines "tenders charges for reimbursement".
- Adds that failure to comply is grounds for discipline. • Effective Date: January 1, 2026



HB 6017 – RECOVERY OF DAMAGES FOR MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE RES **BY REP. TRABULSY & J. LÓPEZ**

- Eliminates the prohibition on recovery of lost parental companionship, instruction, and guidance and mental pain and suffering by adult children and by parents of adult children in medical negligence wrongful death actions.
- Deletes references to s. 768.21(8) in statutes governing civil enforcement actions in nursing homes and assisted living facilities, ensuring consistency with the removal of these recovery prohibitions.
- Effective Date: July 1, 2025



OTHER LEGISLATION OF NOTE

- SB 112 Children with Developmental Disabilities
- SB 480 Nonprofit Agricultural Organization Medical Benefit Plans
- HB 647 Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Services
- HB 711 Spectrum Alert
- SB 768 Foreign Countries of Concern
- SB 954 Certified Recovery Residences



SB 112 Sen. Gayle Harrell



SB 480 Sen. Nick DiCeglie



HB 647 Rep. Dana Trabulsy



HB 711 Rep. David Borrero





SB 768 Sen. Alexis Calatayud



SB 954 Sen. Joe Gruters

OTHER LEGISLATION OF NOTE

- HB 1099 Arrest and Detention of Individuals with Significant Medical Conditions
- HB 1299 Department of Health
- HB 1353 Home Health Care Services
- HB 1427 Nursing Education Programs
- SB 1490 Children's Medical Services
- SB 1768 Stem Cell Therapy



HB 1099 Rep. Jennifer Canady



HB 1299 **Rep. Taylor Michael** Yarkosky



HB 1353 Rep. Gallop Franklin II



HB 1427 Rep. Philip Wayne Griffitts





SB 1490 Sen. Gayle Harrell



SB 1768 Sen. Jay Trumbull

QUESTIONS?

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Influence creates opportunity. Let us show you how.