



2026 Legislative Session Update - Week 9

Gone, but not forgotten. The Legislature adjourned, Sine Die, this afternoon without the traditional Hankie Drop ceremony. Senate President Ben Albritton and House Speaker Danny Perez announced a goal of coming back in mid-April for a Special Session to pass a budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The exact dates have yet to be announced, though the 2026-2027 fiscal year begins July 1.

Governor DeSantis already called the Legislature into a Special Session beginning on April 20 to address issues related to congressional district reapportionment. He also intimated that he would call an additional special session to address proposed property tax reforms.

With a series of Special Sessions on the horizon, the Legislature spent the final days of Regular Session focused on policy issues, with many bills bouncing back and forth for negotiation between the chambers. In total, the Legislature passed 237 bills (including 44 local bills) out of the 1,896 bills filed this session.

Legislation of Interest (listed alphabetically)

Agency for Persons with Disabilities – HB 565 by Rep. Allison Tant (D-Tallahassee) requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to recognize Tatton-Brown-Rahman syndrome as a qualifying condition for APD services and requires all employees, instead of only managers and supervisors, of APD-licensed adult day training and residential facilities to undergo a level 2 background screening. The bill also

physician assistant, nurse, or paramedic to serve as the pediatric emergency care coordinator in the ED. Finally, the bill requires 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, passed the Senate 36-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.**

requires APD to contract with a state university to survey qualified organizations, waiver support coordinators, iBudget clients about waiver support coordination services. APD must also furnish a gap analysis about the geographic distribution and caseload capacity across the state and submit a report of the full survey results to the Governor and Legislature by February 15, 2027.

HB 565 passed the House 110-0, passed the Senate 37-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect upon becoming a law, with some provisions taking effect on July 1, 2026.

Alzheimer's Disease Awareness

Initiative - SB 578 by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) requires the Department of Elderly Affairs to contract for the development and implementation of the Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Initiative.

SB 578 passed the Senate 38-0, passed the House 112-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Athletics in Public K-12 Schools – SB

178 by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) requires the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws authorizing a head coach to support the welfare of a student by using personal funds to provide certain effects such as food, transportation and physical therapy services to the student. SB 178 requires parental consent and requires the head coach to report such use of personal funds to the Association.

SB 178 passed the Senate 37-0, passed the House 112-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Diabetes Research – SB 816

by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) codifies the University of Florida Diabetes Institute within the University of Florida College of Medicine as a statewide resource for diabetes research, prevention, treatment, and education, and focuses on all forms of diabetes, including type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes.

Medical Assistance Eligibility for Working Persons with Disabilities - HB

915 by Rep. Allison Tant (D-Tallahassee) codifies the Working People with Disabilities Program created by the 2019-2020 General Appropriations Act to allow adults with developmental disabilities who are employed and enrolled in a Medicaid home and community-based services waiver to have increased income and asset limits while enrolled in the Medicaid program.

HB 915 passed the House 115-0, passed the Senate 36-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect upon becoming law.

Memory Care – SB 1404 by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) amends, creates, and repeals several sections of law to create a new assisted living facility specialty license type for “memory care services.”

SB 1404 passed the Senate 37-0, passed the House 111-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect upon becoming law.

Naturopathic Medicine –SB 688 by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) reestablishes the licensure and regulation of naturopathic doctors in Florida by redesignating chapter 462, F.S., as “Naturopathic Medicine” and by updating the chapter’s regulatory framework. SB 688 defines the scope of naturopathic practice to include specified diagnostic and natural treatment modalities but expressly excludes prescriptive authority for legend drugs or prescription drugs, except as expressly provided for certain natural, nonpharmacologic substances.

SB 688 passed the Senate 33-3, passed the House 85-22 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect December 31, 2026.

Parkinson's Disease Registry –

HB 1443 by Rep. Demi Busatta (R-Coral Gables) requires the Florida Institute for Parkinson’s Disease within the University

SB 816 passed the Senate 39-0, passed the House 114-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Drug Prices and Coverage – HB 697 by Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R-Bartow) makes it unlawful for a PBM to force a pharmacy to take a loss when dispensing a drug or to reimburse a nonaffiliated pharmacy less than an affiliated pharmacy. HB 697 also requires PBMs to allow in-network pharmacies to submit consolidated appeals comprised of multiple adjudicated claims featuring identical drugs, day supplies, and dates of service. HB 679 excludes a PBM which only serves beneficiaries of a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organization from current PBM law governing the terms and conditions of contracts between health plan sponsors and PBMs. HB 679 also provides \$30,901,933 to the DOH for implementation of the Ryan White Part B AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) through June 30, 2026, and requires DOH to provide detailed monthly accounting reports to the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the chair of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

HB 697 passed the House 108-0, passed the Senate 38-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026, except for the ADAP provisions which take effect upon becoming law.

Dry Needling –HB 867 by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs) authorizes occupational therapists to perform dry needling.

HB 867 passed the House 112-2, passed the Senate 37-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Firefighter Cancer Benefits and Prevention – SB 984 by Sen. Nick DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) amends eligibility requirements for death benefits available to former firefighters after a cancer diagnosis.

of South Florida to establish a statewide Parkinson's disease registry. The bill requires 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 grants them liability protection for doing so. The Parkinson's Disease Research 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. **HB 1445** also by Rep. Busatta provides a public records exemption for specified patient information for the Parkinsons disease registry.

HB 1443 passed the House 107-0, passed the Senate 32-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Podiatric Medicine –SB 1092 by Sen. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) limits 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 bill also 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, passed the House 112-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect upon becoming law.

Student Health and Safety – HB 1201 by Rep. Jim Mooney (R-Key Largo) requires DOH's educational programs to include training on epilepsy, broadens the definition of "school" to include charter schools, revises individualized seizure action plans to ensure the plan aligns with the form determined by a medical professional, requires all employees in regular contact with a student with epilepsy or seizure disorders to complete training, with such training remaining valid for 5 years, and mandates schools to display a poster

SB 984 passed the Senate 37-0, passed the House 109-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Grants for Genetic Counseling Education – HB 1115 by Rep Bill Partington (R-Daytona Beach) creates the Genetic Counseling Education Enhancement Grant Program within State University System to support the development, growth and sustainability of graduate level genetic counseling programs.

HB 1115 passed the House 107-0, passed the Senate 38-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Health Care Patient Protection –HB 355 by Rep. Vanessa Oliver (R-Punta Gorda) requires 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 bill requires all hospitals with EDs to develop and implement policies and procedures for pediatric patient care in the ED, and to designate a physician,

describing the steps for responding to a seizure.

HB 1201 passed the House 112-0, passed the Senate 37-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Uterine Fibroid Research Database – HB 327 by Rep. Lisa Dunkley (D-Lauderhill) removes the prohibition against including personal identifying information in the uterine fibroid research database. **HB 1515** by Rep. Lisa Dunkley (D-Lauderhill) provides 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 327 passed the House 103-0, passed the Senate 36-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

HB 1515 passed the House 109-0, passed the Senate 37-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.

Legislation that **did not pass** during the 2026 Legislative Session

Acupuncture – SB 672 by Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami) and **HB 169** by Rep. Jose Alvarez (D-Kissimmee)

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)

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)

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)

Motor Vehicle Insurance – SB 522 by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and **HB 769** by Rep. Meg Weinberger (R-West Palm Beach)

Parental Rights – SB 166 by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and **HB 173** by Rep. Kim Kendall (R-St. Johns)

Physical Therapy Treatment Plans – SB 1262 by Sen. Nick DiCeglie

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)

Coverage for Orthotics and Prosthetics Services – [SB 1110](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) and [HB 1301](#) by Rep. Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens)

Coverage for Treatment of Stuttering – [SB 922](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) and [HB 785](#) by Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando)

Department of Health – [SB 902](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 733](#) by Rep. Ann Gerwig (R-Wellington)

Drowning Prevention Education – [SB 606](#) by Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Orlando) and [HB 503](#) by Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando)

Employment Eligibility – [SB 1278](#) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) and [HB 197](#) by Rep. Berny Jacques (R-Clearwater)

Enforcement of Protections for Minors – [SB 1010](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 743](#) by Rep. Melo (R-Naples)

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)

Health and Human Services - [HB 693](#) by Rep. Mike Redondo (R-Miami)

Health Care – [SB 1756](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 917](#) by Rep. Jeff Holcomb (R-Springhill)

Health Care Coverage – [SB 1760](#) by Sen. Jason Brodeur (R-Lake Mary)

Interstate Podiatric Medical Licensure Compact – [SB 1312](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 1213](#) by Rep. Gallop Franklin (D-Tallahassee)

(R-St. Petersburg) and [HB 869](#) by Rep. Adam Anderson (R-Tarpon Springs)

Physician Assistants – [SB 668](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares)

Practice of Chiropractic Medicine – [SB 1524](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) and [HB 439](#) by Rep. Nan Cobb (R-Eustis)

Practice of the Profession of Pharmacy – [SB 868](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 1021](#) by Rep. RaShon Young (D-Orlando)

Public Assistance – [SB 1758](#) by Sen. Don Gaetz (R-Pensacola)

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)

Recruitment and Retention of Speech-language Pathologists – [SB 574](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) and [HB 471](#) by Rep. Kevin Chambliss (D-Homestead)

Respiratory Care Interstate Compact – [SB 970](#) and [SB 972](#) by Sen. Tom Wright (R-Port Orange) and [HB 1235](#) and [HB 1237](#) by Rep. Bill Conerly (R-Lakewood Ranch)

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)

Rural Communities – [SB 250](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee)

State Medicaid Program - [HB 1453](#) by Rep. John Snyder (R-Palm City)

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)

Managed Care Plans – SB 568 by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 531** by Rep. Webster Barnaby (R-Deland)

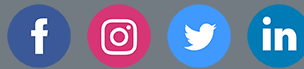
Use of Professional Nursing Titles - SB 36 by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and **HB 237** by Rep. Michelle Salzman (R-Cantonment)

We hope this summary is helpful. We look forward to working with you during the 2026 Legislative Session. Please contact us if you have any questions.

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