



2026 Legislative Session Interim Update - Week 4

This week marked the fourth committee week of the Florida Legislature, and the pace of work continued to accelerate as legislators worked on major policy proposals ahead of the 2026 Session. Committees were packed with high-profile briefings and bill hearings, with two of the most significant policy areas – property insurance and property taxes – taking center stage. Both the House and Senate were briefed on the state of Florida’s property insurance market, and the House Select Committee on Property Taxes heard eight measures aimed at reducing property taxes. Other highlights of the week included consideration of a sweeping gambling bill, presentations on an audit explaining how last year’s K-12 budget fell short, and a briefing on Florida’s participation in various health care compacts. Outside of committee rooms, legislators were focused on Friday’s bill drafting deadline, working to finalize the measures they plan to sponsor.

Looking ahead, after weeks of relative quiet, the House is signaling movement on redistricting, scheduling a meeting of the House Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting for December 4. Speaker Perez also announced that the final interim committee week, set for December 8–12, will be designated “Artificial Intelligence Week” in the House, featuring presentations and discussions on the state’s approach to the emergence of this complex technology. With only two committee weeks left in December, lawmakers will be busy locking in priorities and finalizing bills before the holidays and quick turnaround into Session in the new year.

House to Focus on AI

The Florida House of Representatives plans to focus on [artificial intelligence](#) during the last scheduled committee week December 8–12, 2025. Speaker Perez has directed all committees and subcommittees to devote time to examining how artificial intelligence is beginning to influence their respective policy areas. Chairs have been asked to lead balanced discussions that address both the opportunities AI presents—such as economic growth and innovation—and the potential challenges, including impacts on education, workforce dynamics, and public wellbeing. This themed week is intended to ensure legislators enter the 2026 session with a stronger grounding in AI-related issues that may drive significant policy proposals.

Senate looks at Compacts

The Senate Health Policy Committee met Tuesday to review of Florida's participation in various [health care licensure compacts](#). Staff from the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's (OPPAGA) outlined the potential benefits of compacts, such as improved provider mobility and shared disciplinary data, but also highlighted drawbacks including implementation costs, operational hurdles, and conflicts with existing scope-of-practice laws. The review found little reliable evidence that compacts meaningfully reduce workforce shortages, noting that participation rates vary widely across professions, with relatively low engagement among physicians and psychologists. OPPAGA concluded that legislators may need to plan for additional resources, annual assessments, staffing demands, and reduced licensing revenue if Florida continues expanding its compact involvement.

Legislation of Interest (listed alphabetically)

Acupuncture – [HB 169](#) by Rep. Jose Alvarez (D-Kissimmee) revises licensure requirements for acupuncturists including allowing for the order and administration of herbs, homeopathic and other nutritional supplements.

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.

Continuity of Care in Health Insurance Contracts – [SB 114](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) requires health insurers and contracted health care practitioners to provide 60 days' notice 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

Parental Rights – [SB 166](#) by Sen. Erin Grail (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.

Practice of Chiropractic Medicine – [HB 439](#) by Rep. Nan Cobb (R-Eustis) authorizes board certified chiropractic physicians to possess, prescribe, and administer vitamins, nutrient preparations, homeopathic remedies, dietary supplements, and epinephrine and authorizes licensed pharmacists to fill, compound, or dispense certain nutritional prescriptions prescribed by certified licensed chiropractic physicians.

Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death – [HB 6003](#) by Rep. Dana Tabulsky (R-Fort Peirce) and Rep. Dr. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando) deletes a provision prohibiting the recovery of certain damages by specified parties related to the decedent in wrongful death

ketoacidosis device.

Coverage for Mammograms and Supplemental Breast Cancer Screenings – HB 137 by Rep Dianne Hart (D-Tampa) requires AHCA to provide coverage for yearly mammograms and yearly supplemental breast cancer screenings to certain Medicaid women and revises coverages for mammograms and supplemental breast cancer screenings under certain individual accident and health insurance policies.

Employment Eligibility – HB 197 by Rep. Berny Jacques (R-Clearwater) requires all private employers, rather than only those employing more than specified number of employees, use E-Verify system to verify new employee's employment.

Florida Health Choices Program – HB 141 by Rep. Taylor Yarkosky (R-Clermont) renames the "Florida Health Choices Program" as "Florida Employee Health Choices Program" and revises purposes and components of program. The bill revises 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, revises the structure of the insurance marketplace process under the program, removes the option for risk pooling under the program, and removes exemptions from certain requirements of Florida Insurance Code under the program.

Mandatory Human Reviews of Insurance Claim Denials – SB 202 by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) requires that insurers' decisions to deny a claim or any portion of a claim be made by qualified human professionals and prohibits the use of algorithms, artificial intelligence, or machine learning systems as the sole basis for determining whether to adjust or deny a claim.

Medicaid Providers - SB 40 by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and **HB 163** by Rep. Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens)

proceedings.

HB 6003 was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday, 10/19 and now goes to the House floor.

Rural Communities – SB 250 by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) is a comprehensive package of legislative proposals to create opportunities for rural communities to expand education offerings, increase health care services, and modernize commerce. The bill invests in farm-to-market roads, requires the state land planning agency to give preference for technical assistance funding to local governments located in a rural area of opportunity, revises the conditions required for a county to be considered a fiscally constrained county, creates the Office of Rural Prosperity within the Department of Commerce, requires the Office of Rural Prosperity to administer the Renaissance Grants Program to provide block grants to eligible communities, creates the Public Infrastructure Smart Technology Grant Program within the Office of Rural Prosperity, expands the existing FRAME program to include medical doctors or osteopathic doctors who are board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine, establishes the Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetric Response and Education (SCORE) Grant Program, appropriates additional funding to enhance Medicaid payments to reimburse rural hospitals similar to Medicare reimbursement, and creates the Florida Arterial Road Modernization Program within the Department of Transportation. More information [here](#).

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.

Transparency in Health Care – SB 596 by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) defines the term "personal benefit," requires health care practitioners to report any personal

require the AHCA to establish standards to ensure that Medicaid enrollees have access to network providers during state holidays and outside of regular business hours.

SB 40 was approved by the Senate Health Policy Committee on Tuesday, 11/18.

Naturopathic Medicine – HB 223 by Rep. David Smith (R-Winter Springs) reestablishes licensure and regulation of naturopathic physicians, and establishes new standards for the practice. The bill provides licensure authority over naturopathic physicians to the Department of Health and creates the Board of Naturopathic Medicine to assist DOH in the regulation of naturopathic physicians.

benefit received from a pharmaceutical company to DOH, requires the department to establish uniform reporting procedures and a publicly accessible online database for the reports, and requires the department to establish certain guidelines for health care practitioners.

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

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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