



Capitol Update

May 2, 2017 Volume 17, Issue 6

"To advocate and promote meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities"

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is waiting for the final budget

The Council's budget priorities for waitlist funding and provider rate increases were bumped up to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House this past week-end.

The Council is seeking iBudget Waitlist funding for 682 individuals in Priority Categories three and four, the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council is advocating for a \$7 million dollar increase to the reimbursement rates for Residential Habilitation, Personal Supports and Life Skills Development (LSD 1) Companion as priority services for funding increases for the 17-18 Fiscal Year.

Please click [here](#) to see the Council's Budget issues for 2017.

[HB 0039 Relating to Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers by Jenne](#)

03/30/17 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 115 Yeas / 0 Nays)

04/04/17 SENATE in Messages

[SB 0154 Relating to Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers by Thurston](#)

04/13/17 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Summary

This legislation requires the Florida Department of law enforcement to establish employment training component relating to crisis intervention for individuals with Autism. The bill specifies instruction to be included in training component and provides that completion of training shall count toward continued employment instruction requirements. **This legislation is poised to pass. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

[SB 0182 Relating to Consumer Protection from Nonmedical Changes to Prescription Drug Formularies by Mayfield](#)

04/27/17 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 37 Yeas / 0 Nays)

HOUSE in Messages

[HB 95 - Relating to Consumer Protection from Nonmedical Changes to Prescription Drug Formularies by Massullo, Jr. Co-Sponsors: Baez, Byrd, Clemons \(C\), Cortes \(J\), Goodson, Grant \(M\), Gruters, Harrell, Jenne, Killebrew, La Rosa, Mercado, Miller \(A\), Plasencia, Renner, Brown CS Sponsors: Health Innovation Subcommittee](#)

03/01/17 HOUSE Now in Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

Summary

This legislation limits changes to health insurance policy prescription drug formulary during policy year and requires small employer carriers to provide continuity of care with respect to prescription drug coverage. This legislation is being held up in the House over concerns about possible increases in the cost of a particular drug during the contract year, but has passed the Senate. **The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

SB 104 - Relating to Computer Coding Instruction by Brandes

Summary

This bill authorizes high schools to offer students opportunities to take specified computer coding courses. The bill provides that high schools will not be required to offer such courses and requires the Commissioner of Education to identify the computer coding courses that satisfy two credits of sequential foreign language instruction under certain circumstances. **HB 265** now has language that substitute's math for foreign language so sponsors are looking for a way to carve out students who are aphasic from the foreign language requirement. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

02/07/17 SENATE Now in Rules

Similar Bill

HB 0265 Relating to Computer Coding Instruction by Porter

05/02/17 - HOUSE Read Third Time; Amendment Adopted (943285); Passed (Vote: 117 Yeas / 0 Nays)

HB 151 - Relating to Proceedings Involving Minors or Certain Other Persons by Brodeur, Moskowitz

Co-Sponsors: Williamson, Stevenson CS Sponsors: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee

04/13/17 HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

SB 0416 Relating to Use of Animals in Proceedings Involving Minors by Montford

04/06/17 - SENATE Read Third Time; Substituted for HB 0151; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0151

Summary

This bill provides that judges may allow use of certain service animals, therapy animals, or facility dogs in proceedings involving abuse, abandonment, or neglect and allows such animals to be used when taking testimony of certain other persons including adults with intellectual disabilities. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

This bill passed.

HB 0371 Relating to Assistive Technology Devices by Ausley

04/28/17 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 118 Yeas / 0 Nays)

SENATE In Messages

SB 772 - Relating to Assistive Technology Devices by Rouson

05/01/17 - SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Summary

This bill revises provisions relating to the accessibility and use of assistive technology devices by persons with disabilities; providing for use at home and in the community after school. **The Council is supporting this legislation and it is poised to pass.**

[SB 810 - Relating to Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Stewart Co-Sponsors: Campbell](#)

[SB 1418 Relating to Seclusion and Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Flores](#)

[HB 0233 Relating to Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Edwards](#)

04/24/17 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed

04/28/17 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Summary

A combination of SB 810 and SB 1418 language was offered by Senator Stewart as an amendment to SB 926. This good amendment was later withdrawn and the sponsor indicated that the issue will be taken up next year.

Representative Edwards filed a Committee Substitute bill for CS/HB233 in the Education Committee and it passed. This bill included imminent danger as the only reason to use restraint and kept the imminent danger reporting language that is already in statute. The bill prohibits seclusion, straight jackets and restraints that block breathing. Mechanical and prone restraints are still included for imminent danger situations. **The Council prefers SB 1418 language and opposes SB 810 language. This legislation appears to be dead for this session.**

[SB 868 - Relating to Educational Options and Services by Baxley](#)

Summary

Educational Options and Services; Providing that a participant in an adult or youth work experience activity in the Division of Blind Services is considered an employee of the state for workers' compensation coverage; revising student eligibility requirements for the Florida Virtual School and virtual instruction programs; requiring an institution that seeks initial approval after a specified date to offer a graduate-level teacher preparation program to offer students certain options. **Please note that Senator Galvano filed this bill as the Workers' Comp amendment on SB 1468. The Council is supporting this amendment to SB 1468.**

05/01/17 - SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 05/03/17

[HB 0899 Relating to Comprehensive Transitional Education Programs by Stevenson](#)

04/20/17 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 118 Yeas / 0 Nays)

[SB 714 - Relating to Comprehensive Transitional Education Programs by Garcia](#)

05/01/17 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 05/03/17

Summary

Comprehensive Transitional Education Programs; Currently, this bill authorizes the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to be a receiver for a comprehensive transitional education program under certain circumstances. **The Council has not taken a position on this bill and it is poised to pass.**

[HB 7117 - Relating to Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program by Health & Human Services Committee, Cummings](#)

04/26/17 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 81 Yeas / 34 Nays)

SENATE in Messages

This bill;

- Consolidates the eleven SMMC program regions into eight regions, which reflect enrollee utilization patterns and provider referral patterns over the first five years of the program;

- Increases, in each region, the minimum or maximum number of plans with which AHCA will contract to provide services to MMA and LTC enrollees;
- Directs AHCA to request federal approval to require enrollees to engage in work activities to maintain eligibility for MMA benefits.
- Directs AHCA to request federal approval to require monthly enrollee premiums, based on income, as a requirement for eligibility and enrollment in the SMMC program. This includes a one year loss in health care if one misses a payment. **Amended Out - 04/25/17**
- Allows AHCA to waive the monthly premium due to hardship or for completing one or more healthy behavior programs; **Amended Out - 04/25/17**
- Requires AHCA to fine managed care plans for failing to promptly pay provider claims;
- Requires LTC plans and providers to negotiate mutually acceptable payment rates, methods, and terms of payment;

Advocates are watching this legislation to see if the Senate accepts all or part of this proposed legislation. Please click [here](#) for the Councils position.