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Reply To: Tallahassee

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Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Legislative Update May 2, 2025

Legislation of Interest

It's over—for now! However, there is an extended session running through June 6. Additional information will be provided once the final session concludes.

Scope of Practice

Scope expansion bills – this year was no exception. The FOMA was actively engaged in the following scope expansion bills – in the end, not one scope expansion bill passed due to the relentless efforts of the FOMA.

1. Acupuncture

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360 South Rosemary Ave. Suite 1100 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401 T: 561.640.0820 F: 561.640.8202 HB 803 by Rep. J. Alvarez (R-Kissimmee) and SB 1722 by Sen. Wright (R-Port Orange) revise and update terminology and regulations around the practice of acupuncture in Florida. These bills redefine "acupuncturist" as a practitioner of the healing arts, allows acupuncturists to administer various supplements and non-controlled medications, modifies license qualifications, and outlines new licensure fees, among other things.

Status: HB 803 passed the full House, on April 24.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

2. Autonomous Practice by Certain Psychiatric Nurses – <u>OPPOSE</u>

SB 718 by Sen. Rodrigues (R-Doral) and HB 649 by Rep. Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) amend Florida statutes to authorize certain psychiatric nurses for autonomous practice. These bills allow advanced practice registered nurses to engage in autonomous practice in areas such as family medicine, general pediatrics, and internal medicine, and grant psychiatric nurses authority to admit, manage, and discharge patients in healthcare facilities, subject to federal limitations.

Status: HB 649 passed the full House on April 3.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

3. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice - <u>OPPOSE</u>

SB 758 by Sen. Simon (R-Quincy) and HB 883 Rep. Shoaf (R-11 counties in the panhandle) amends Florida statutes to grant autonomous practice to certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) under certain conditions. This bill exempts autonomous advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) certified as CRNAs from the requirements of administering anesthesia under onsite medical direction, although facilities may still mandate protocols.

a. Status: HB 883 passed the Full House on April 9.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

4. Chiropractic Medicine – OPPOSE

SB 564 by Sen. Gruters (R-Sarasota) and HB 849 by Rep. Chase Tramont (R-Port Orange) expand the scope and practices of chiropractic medicine in Florida. These bills update definitions to broaden the range of treatments chiropractic physicians can administer, allow pharmacists to fulfill prescription from qualified chiropractic physicians, and update disciplinary actions to align with the new definitions and practices allowed, among other things.

DID NOT PASS – FAILED.

5. Collaborative Pharmacy Practice for Chronic Health Conditions – <u>SUPPORT</u> SB 294 by Sen. Harrell (R-Stuart) and <u>HB 689</u> by Rep. Rachel Plakon (R-

Longwood) revise the definition of the term "chronic health condition" to exclude specified heart conditions for purposes of collaborative pharmacy practice for chronic health conditions.

a. Status: SB 294 passed the Senate Floor on March 19.
DID NOT PASS – FAILED.

6. Prescriptive Authority Certification for Psychologists - <u>OPPOSE</u>

HB 23 by Rep. Franklin (D-Tallahassee) and SB 250 by Sen. Simon (R-Quincy) expand prescriptive authority certification for psychologists under specific conditions and oversight by the Board of Psychology. These bills mandatory education and training paths including a structured sequence in various medical and psychological disciplines and specify conditions under which psychologists can prescribe drugs, including collaboration with the patient's primary physician.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

7. Naturopathic Medicine – OPPOSE

SB 470 by Sen. Rodriguez (R-Doral) and HB 533 by Rep. D. Smith (R-Winter Springs) revise the regulatory framework for the practice of naturopathic medicine, including licensure and operational standards. These bills establish a Board of Naturopathic Medicine within the Department of Health, define the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians, and set penalties for unlicensed practice or other legal infractions related to naturopathic medicine, among other things.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

8. Physician Assistant and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Services – MONITOR

HB 647 by Rep. Trabulsy (R-Fort Pierce) and SB 998 by Sen. Calatyud (R-Miami-Dade) & co-sponsor Sen. Rouson (D-Hillsborough, Pinellas) expands the roles of physician assistants (PAs) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) in various health care and legal responsibilities. This bill redefines "primary or attending practitioner to include PAs and APRNs within their scope, treating the decedent prior to death and in hospice settings, and grants these practitioners the authority to manage patient admission, transfer, and discharge from hospice or palliative care, among other things.

Status: HB 647 passed both chambers of the legislature, on April 23. **DID NOT PASS – FAILED.**

A. Optometry - OPPOSE

HB 449 by Rep. Rizo (R-Hialeah) amends various statutes governing optometry in Florida, including changes to definitions, licensure requirements, and scope of practice. The bill also modifies the membership requirements of the Board of Optometry to include certified optometrists, expands the scope of practice for optometrists, and imposes additional education and examination requirements for optometrists wishing to prescribe or administer oral ocular pharmaceutical agents, among other things.

a. Status: HB 449 passed the full House, on April 24.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

Medical Malpractice

For years the FOMA has fought against any changes in the current standard of not allowing adult children and parents of adult children from recovering specific damages in cases of medical negligence. Legislation this year will overturn that current standard. The FOMA is monitoring and engaged on the following bills:

B. Actions for Recovery of Damages for Wrongful Death - OPPOSE

SB 734 by Sen. Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and HB 6017 by Rep. Trabulsy (R-Fort Pierce) amend provisions related to the recovery of damages in wrongful death cases in Florida. These bills delete restrictions preventing adult children and parents of adult children from recovering specific damages in cases of medical negligence and clarifies that certain intentional torts resulting in death can be addressed through wrongful death actions without requiring criminal proceedings.

a. Status: HB 6017 passed the full Legislature and is awaiting action by the Governor.

FOMA working with FMA and others with the Governors office to seek a veto.

C. Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions - OPPOSE

<u>HB 25</u> by Rep. Lopez (D-Orlando) and <u>SB 616</u> by Sen. Martin (R-Fort Myers) removes the provision that prohibits adult children and parents of adult children from recovering certain damages in medical negligence suits. **DID NOT PASS – FAILED.**

D. Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child - MONITOR

<u>SB 1284</u> by Sen. Grall (R-St. Lucie) The bill expands civil liability for the wrongful death of an unborn child by redefining "survivors" and specifying damages parents can claim.

Redefines "survivors" under section 768.18 to include the parents of an unborn child, along with other immediate family members.

Status: SB 1284 passed its second committee, Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations, on April 10.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

E. Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child - OPPOSE

HB 1517 by Rep. Greco (R-Palm Coast) and SB 1284 by Sen. Grall (R-Fort Pierce) expand civil liability for the wrongful death of an unborn child. These bills redefine "survivors" in wrongful death cases to include the parents of an unborn child and authorizes the parents of an unborn child to recover damages for mental pain and suffering due to the wrongful death of the unborn child.

a. *Status*: HB 1517 passed the Full House on April 9, 79 Yeas – 32 Nays.

DID NOT PASS – FAILED.

F. Evidence of Damages to Prove Medical Expenses in Personal Injury or Wrongful Death Actions – <u>HB 947</u> by Rep. Blanco (R-Miami) and <u>SB 1520</u> by Sen. Grall (R-Fort Pierce) amend Florida Statute 768.0427 governing the admissibility of

evidence for medical expenses in personal injury and wrongful death cases to allow evidence that tends to demonstrate the actual value of medical treatments, not just fixed amounts previously mandated.

- a. *Status*: HB 947 passed the full House, on April 25. **DID NOT PASS FAILED.**
- G. Medical Malpractice Review Committees MONITOR

<u>SB 514</u> Sen. Harrell (R-Stuart) and <u>HB 463</u> by Rep. Spencer (D-Orange, Osceola) revises the definition and extends immunity provisions associated with medical review committees in Florida.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

H. Motor Vehicle Insurance

<u>HB 1181</u> by Rep. Alvarez (R-Dover) and <u>SB 1256</u> by Sen. Grall (R-Fort Pierce) reform motor vehicle insurance by repealing Florida's No-Fault Law and related provisions.

Status: HB 1181 passed its second committee, Banking and Insurance, on April 3. **DID NOT PASS – FAILED.**

Practice of Osteopathic Medicine

While each year there are attempts to expand the scope of practice for other practitioners, the FOMA is supporting the following bills that relate to the practice of osteopathic medicine.

I. Step-therapy Protocols – <u>SUPPORT</u>

SB 264 by Sen. Harrell (R-Stuart) and HB 721 by Rep. Gonzales Pittman (R-Tampa) require the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to remove certain step therapy requirements for prescription drugs used to treat individuals with serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization.

- a. *Status*: SB 264 passed its first committee; Next stop Sen. Approp. Comm on HHS:
- b. House bill was filed on 2.19.25

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

J. Invalid Restrictive Covenants with Physicians - MONITOR

<u>HB 485</u> by Rep. Skidmore (D-Palm Beach) and <u>SB 942</u> by Sen. Burton (R-Winter Haven) amend Florida Statutes to make restrictive covenants prohibiting physicians from practicing medicine in certain geographic areas after leaving an organization void and unenforceable.

 a. Status: SB 942 passed its first committee on Tuesday, March 11, in the Health Policy Committee; next stop Sen. Commerce and Tourism
 DID NOT PASS – FAILED.

K. Nonopioid Advance Directives - MONITOR

SB 714 by Sen. Burton (R-Winter Haven) and HB 1081 by Rep. Maggard (R-Pasco) requires the Department of Health to create a voluntary nonopioid advance directive form to allow patients to refuse opioid treatments in incapacitation. This bill stipulates that a valid nonopioid advance directive must be signed by both the patient and a licensed physician and filed in the patient's medical record at a chosen health care facility or with a primary care physician. *a. Status:* SB 714 passed the Full Senate, on April 9.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

L. Office Surgery Standards of Practice - SUPPORT WITH CHANGES

<u>HB 309</u> by Rep. Gentry (R-DeBary) revises standards and regulations for office surgeries and healthcare professionals. The bill establishes fines and suspension of registration for offices refusing inspections or failing standards, prohibits certain complex surgical procedures and emergent surgeries in office settings, and establishes an oversight committee to monitor and report compliance violations, among other things.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

M. Patient Directed Medical Orders - SUPPORT

HB 353 by Rep. Plasencia (R-Winter Park) and SB 566 by Sen. Rodriguez (R-Doral) modify Florida Statutes concerning patient directed medical orders, including telehealth provisions and requirements for withholding or withdrawing life-prolonging procedures. These bills redefine and expand definitions related to patient health care instructions, broaden legislative intent

to emphasize palliative care for individuals with incurable or progressive illnesses, and ensures that health professionals are not subject to penalties for adhering to vali patient directed medical orders, among other things.

Status: SB 1288 passed its second committee, Judiciary, on April 1.

Status: HB 1505 passed the full House, on April 25.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

N. Electronic Prescribing - MONITOR

<u>HB1297</u> by Rep. Partington (R-Daytona Beach) and <u>SB 1568</u> by Sen. Brodeur (R-Lake Mary) The bill amends Florida Statutes to revise requirements for electronic prescriptions and authority delegation to physician assistants. Also eliminates exception to write prescription for the best interest of the patient, and other exceptions.

- a. *Status*: HB 1297 passed the Full House on April 9.
- b. *Status*: SB 1568 passed all committees and is available for consideration by the full Senate.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

O. Medical Spa Facilities – SUPPORT

<u>HB 625</u> by Rep. Gerwig (R-Greenacres) and SB625 Sen. Grall (R-St. Lucie) mandates transparency and consumer information requirements for medical spa facilities in Florida.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

General Healthcare Issues

The FOMA is following these bills of interest:

A. Department of Health -

<u>HB 1299</u> by Rep. Yarkosky (R-Clermont) and <u>SB 1270</u> by Sen. Collins (R-Tampa) modify regulations related to health care choices discrimination and educational institutions' mandates.

Status: HB 1299 passed the full Legislature and is awaiting action by the Governor.

B. **Health Insurance Claims** – <u>HB 1231</u> by Rep. Den Black (R-Jacksonville) and <u>SB 1526</u> by Sen. Gyle Harrell (R-Stuart) address changes in insurance claims payments to physicians, altering methods of payment and claim denial conditions. These bills prohibit health insurers and health maintenance organizations from mandating credit card payments as the only method for payments to physicians and authorize and regulate the use of electronic funds transfers by health insurers and health

maintenance organizations for payments to physicians, requiring advance notification and written consent from physicians.

a. *Status*: HB 1231 passed the Insurance & Banking Committee on March 20. Its next stop is the Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

C. **Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities** – <u>HB 377</u> by Rep. Tant (D-Tallahassee) and <u>SB 756</u> by Sen. Burton (R-Winter Haven) revise definitions related to health insurance coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities, impacting Medicaid options and law enforcement training.

Status: SB 756 passed the Full Senate on April 9. **DID NOT PASS – FAILED.**

D. Patient Access to Records - MONITOR

<u>HB 1083</u> by Rep. Booth (R-Orlando) and <u>SB 1606</u> by Sen. Gall (R-Fort Pierce) enhance the guidelines for providing patient access to various medical records by specifying timelines and methods for record distribution.

Status: HB 1838 was temporarily postponed by the Senate.

Status: SB 1606 passed its third and final committee, Rules, on April 21. **DID NOT PASS – FAILED.**

E. Parental Bill of Rights -

SB1288 by Sen. Grall (R-St. Lucie) and HB1505 by Rep Plakon (R-Seminole) & Rep Kendall (R-St. Johns) Enhances parental rights concerning their minor children's health care and educational interactions. Removes existing exceptions to a parent's right to make healthcare decisions and to access and review medical records, except when part of a crime investigation against the minor. Introduces the right for parents to review and consent to surveys or questionnaires given to their minor children, including the right to grant permission for the sharing or distribution of the survey results.

Specifies that biofeedback devices can only be used on minor children with express written permission from the parent or guardian, and mandates that all results be provided to the parent or guardian as confidential medical records. Reenacts sections of the Florida Statutes to enforce administrative fines for violations concerning parental consent requirements.

Status: HB 1505 passed the full House this week. SB 1288 has passed all committees and is available to be considered by the Full Senate. **DID NOT PASS – FAILED.**

F. Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations – <u>SUPPORT</u>

<u>SB 158</u> by Sen. Berman (D-Boynton Beach) and <u>HB 141</u> by Rep. Woodson (D-Pembroke Pines) expand coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without cost-sharing for enrollees in the state group insurance program.

a. Status: SB 158 passed the full Legislature and is awaiting action by the Governor.

G. Rural Renaissance Initiative

SB 110 by Sen. Simon (R-Quincy) this bill was amended, and ultimately this bill was designated as one of the policy bills that will be heard during the extended session starting on May 12. This is the priority of the Senate President and as such, will be a key issue during the budget/policy discussions that will begin on May 12.

This bill will be part of the extended session.

<u>HB 1427</u> by Rep. Griffitts (R-Panama City) was amended during the final day of the session, and passed both chambers. This bill modifies the nursing education programs in Florida. Florida ranks 50 out of 50 states in Nursing education and passage rates. This bill sets forth stricter accountability measures for programs that do not meet required passage rates.

a. Status: HB 1427 was amended by the House and was heard by the Senate and passed. The bill is now enrolled and ready for the signature of the governor.
 PASSED

H. Dense Breast Tissue Screenings - <u>SUPPORT</u>

HB 131 by Rep. Caruso (R-West Palm Beach) and SB 372 by Sen. Harrell (R-Stuart) allows patients identified with dense breast tissue in mammography report to receive an ultrasound or additional screening tests without needing a conventional mammogram first.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

I. Treatment of Chronic and Terminal Illnesses – MONITOR

SB 632 by Sen. Martin (R-Fort Myers) defines and supports the rights of chronically and terminally ill patients in Florida to choose their treatment course, involving individualizing medications compounded by specially licensed pharmacies. This bill establishes that both chronically and terminally ill patients can decide on their treatment plans with their health care providers' help using specialized drugs from a compounding pharmacy.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

J. Prohibitions and Limitations on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Requirements for Medical Institutions of Higher Education – <u>MONITOR</u>

HB 731 by Rep. Melo (R-Naples) and SB1710 by Sen. DiCeglie (R- Pinellas) implements restrictions on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in state agencies and medical institutions, and sets new mandates relating to health care training and certification. This bill, among other things, mandates healthcare providers and medical institutions to certify annually that they do not require DEI training, with a public list of compliant entities to be published by the Florida Board of Medical Examiners, requires medical institutions provide traditional letter grades for assessments rather than pass/fail evaluations, and requires medical institutions to utilize a standardized test focused on science and medical knowledge for admissions.

a. *Status*: SB 1710 passed its first committee, the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability, on March 18. Its next stop is the Committee on Postsecondary Education.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

K. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - MONITOR

<u>SB 700</u> by Sen. Truenow (R-Tavares) and <u>HB 651</u> by Rep. Tuck (R-Sebring) The bill amends various statutes to adjust agricultural policies, clarify the roles and duties concerning the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and promote electrical utilities' accountability in environmental conservation. This is the no Fluoride in the water bill.

PASSED is now enrolled and will be sent to the governor.

L. Doula Services in Maternal Health Initiatives - MONITOR

HB 747 by Rep. Campbell (D-Fort Lauderdale) and SB 780 by Sen. Osgood (D-Tamarac) Establishes a pilot program to integrate doula services into maternal health initiatives in Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties to improve birth outcomes using evidence-based methods.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

M. End-of-life Options - MONITOR

HB 471 by Rep. Casello (D-Boynton Beach) and SB 1700 by Sen. Berman (D-Palm Beach) The bill establishes the "Florida End-of-Life Options Act," enabling qualified patients to obtain medication to end their lives peacefully under specific conditions.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

N. **Health Care Practitioner Identification –** <u>HB 1341</u> by Rep. Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and <u>SB 172</u> by Sen. Burton (R-Lakeland) Revises the identification and advertisement standards for health care practitioners to improve public safety and prevent misleading representation. Requires the Florida Department of Health to

adopt rules for health care practitioners' identification disclosing their license type and degree.

Status: SB 172 passed the Full Senate on April 9. HB 1341 passed its second and final committee on April 22.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

O. Pharmacy - MONITOR

HB 273 by Rep. Chaney (R-St. Petersburg) and SB 906 by Sen. Collins (R-Tampa) provide for permitting and requirements for of remote-site pharmacies.

DID NOT PASS – FAILED.

P. Physician Assistants - MONITOR

SB 1540 by Sen. Collins (R-Tampa)

Revises the definition and scope of practice for physician assistants (PAs), facilitating more autonomous functions under specific conditions.

DID NOT PASS - FAILED.

Q. Improving Screening for and Treatment of Blood Clots -

HB 1421 by Rep. Black (R-Jacksonville) and SB 890 by Sen. Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) revise the Chronic Diseases Act, expanding legislative findings to include genetic predisposition for developing blood clots and pulmonary embolisms and establish a statewide registry through the Department of Health, mandating licensed facilities to report information on diagnosed blood clots and related conditions, among other things.

Status: 1421 passed the full Legislature and is awaiting action by the Governor.

The following bills were filed but did not pass.

Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education

<u>HB 333</u> by Rep. Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) and <u>SB 522</u> by Sen. Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) mandate new continuing education requirement focused on sickle cell disease for certain healthcare professionals during their first licensure or certification renewal.

Emergencies

<u>HB 1337</u> by Rep. Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) and <u>SB 1566</u> by Sen. Simon (R-Quincy) revise provisions related to emergency management and services in Florida. These bills allow certain servicemembers to provide medical care in emergency conditions.

Health Insurance Coverage for CAR T-Cell Therapies – <u>HB 725</u> by Rep. Rayner (D-St. Petersburg) and <u>SB 876</u> by Sen. Berman (D-Boynton Beach) expand health insurance coverage mandates to include CAR T-Cell therapies, a form of cancer treatment. These bills

individual health insurance policies, group health insurance policies, and health maintenance contracts from refusing to contract with, or denying coverage for, CAR T-cell therapies administered by in-network health care facilities.

Parkinson's Disease Research Program Registry – <u>HB 1545</u> by Rep. Busatta (R-Coral Gables) and <u>SB 1800</u> by Sen. Calatayud (R-Miami) establish the Parkinson's Disease Research Fund Act to support innovative research and provide caregiver assistance.

Employment Agreements – <u>SB 922</u> by Sen. Leek (R-St. Augustine) establishes and governs employment agreements related to antitrust and trade secret protection in Florida. The bill implements rules for garden leave agreements and noncompete agreements, specifying their enforceability, notice requirements, and engagement restrictions during notice periods.

Health Coverage by Nonprofit Agricultural Organizations – <u>HB 497</u> by Rep. Grow (R-Inverness) and <u>SB 480</u> by Sen. DiCeglie (R-St. Petersburg) amend Chapter 632 of the Florida Statutes to include and regulate nonprofit agricultural organizations alongside fraternal benefit societies. These bills authorize nonprofit agricultural organizations to offer health coverage to their members, specifying that this coverage is not considered insurance under the Florida Insurance Code.

Medicaid Pharmacy Discounted Drug Prices – <u>HB 657</u> by Rep. Abbott (R-DeFuniak Springs) and <u>SB 1064</u> by Sen Collins (R-Tampa) mandate the sale of certain drugs to Medicaid pharmacies at 340B discounted prices.

Patient Referrals by Medicaid Managed Care Organizations and Managed Care Plans – HB 815 by Rep. Basabe (R-Miami Beach) and SB 1478 by Sen. Rodriguez (R-Doral) enhance oversight of Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) and plans by authorizing investigations into referrals that may compromise program integrity. These bills authorize the Agency for Health Care Administration to execute reviews, investigations, analyses, audits, or any combination thereof, to identify potential violations of Medicaid integrity by MCOs, plans, or their subcontractors through improper referrals.

Rules for Adult Cardiovascular Services – <u>HB 427</u> by Rep. Redondo (R-Miami) and <u>SB 596</u> by Sen. Leek (R-St. Augustine) amend criteria and procedures for establishing adult cardiovascular services in Florida hospitals. These bills mandate that hospitals seeking a Level I program have a formalized, written transfer agreement with a Level II program hospital, including protocols to ensure patient transfer within 60 minutes and require compliance with updated guidelines from the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association, Heart Rhythm Society, and Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions concerning staffing, procedures, equipment, and patient care standards to ensure quality and safety.

Spectrum Alert – <u>SB 500</u> by Sen. Avila (R-Hialeah Gardens) and <u>HB 711</u> by Rep. Borerro (R-Doral) mandate the establishment and implementation of the Spectrum Alert to address the unique challenges and safety risks faced by children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), notably their propensity to wander.

Behavioral Health Managing Entities – <u>HB 633</u> by Rep. Koster (R-Safety Harbor) and <u>SB 1354</u> by Sen. Trumbull (R-Panama City) amend Florida statutes to enhance transparency and accountability in behavioral health managing entities. These bills require the Department of Children and Families to contract for operational and financial audits that review business practices, services administered, provider network adequacy, expenditures, and claims, among other aspects and impose on managing entities the responsibility to report specific metrics, such as the number of high utilizers, wait times for appointments, and rates of behavioral health-related emergency room visits.

Individualized Investigational Treatments – <u>HB 1333</u> by Rep. Ane Gerwig (R-Greenacres) and <u>SB 680</u> by Sen. Rodriguez (R-Doral) establish regulations for individualized investigational treatments in eligible facilities for patients with lifethreatening or severely debilitating illnesses.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse – <u>SB 1355</u> by Rep. Maney (R-Fort Walton Beach) and <u>SB 1492</u> by Sen. Rodriguez (R-Doral) amend multiple Florida statutes to improve and expand the provisions related to mental health and substance abuse treatment. These revisions aim to streamline processes, expand professional responsibilities, protect patient rights, and update legal terminology and procedures relating to mental health and substance abuse in the state.