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Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Legislative Update

Committee Week #2

October 13th – 17th, 2025

It's October 17th and the Florida Legislature just concluded its second week of committee meetings leading up to the sixty-day legislative session that begins on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. During these first two committee weeks, the Florida House of Representatives elected Representative Sam Garrison (R-Fleming Island) as the Speaker-Designate, and the Senate elected Senator Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton) as the President-Designate for the 2026-2028 Legislative Term.

Speaker-Designate Garrison represents Fleming Island, a suburb of Jacksonville, and will preside as Speaker of the House from November 2026 until October 2028. He fills the shoes of sitting Speaker Danny Perez, a Miami Republican who dominated headlines for initiating a rare break with Gov. Ron DeSantis and insisting the House be “independent” from the executive branch.

Speaker-Designate Garrison is 48 years old and was born in Illinois. He received his undergraduate degree in international relations from Samford University, near Birmingham, Alabama. He received his law degree (J.D.) from Illinois University and moved to Florida in 2001. He was an assistant state prosecutor from 2001-2011 and is currently Of Counsel to the law firm of Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne and Diebenow in Jacksonville.

President-Designate Boyd will succeed Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula) who presided over the ceremony, stating - *“A dedicated family man and business owner, we have all witnessed his strong work ethic, innate intellect, and willingness to tackle tough issues with grace and good humor. Jim always works to build consensus and has spent countless hours with*

Senators on both sides of the aisle exploring and talking through ideas to make legislation stronger and bring tough and complex issues across the finish line,”

Senator Boyd is the third member of his family to serve in the Florida Legislature. His grandfather, Hugh Boyd, served in the Florida House in the 1940s. His uncle, Wilbur Boyd, served in the Florida House from 1959 – 1966 and in the Senate from 1967 – 1972, including a term as President Pro Tempore from 1970 – 1972.

After the fanfare, subcommittee meetings were held to discuss health care budgets, health care professions and insurance. Committees heard presentations from the Agency for Health Care Administration ([AHCA](#)), the Agency for Persons with Disabilities ([APD](#)), the Department of Children and Family Services ([DCF](#)) and the Department of Health’s Office of Medical Marijuana Use ([OMMU](#)). If you are interested in reviewing the presentations, please click on the name above you wish to view.

Finally, on Wednesday, the Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee met to discuss HB 6003 that expands the scope of damages available under Florida’s Wrongful Death Act. HB 6003 by Rep. Trabulsy (R-Fort Pierce) expands the scope of damages available under Florida’s Wrongful Death Act by removing provisions prohibiting two specified classes of individuals from recovering noneconomic wrongful death damages for claims related to medical negligence. More specifically, the bill removes the prohibition on recovery of noneconomic wrongful death damages in medical negligence cases by the decedent’s children who are 25 years of age or older and by parents of a deceased child who was 25 years of age or older at the time of death. It is identical to her bill from last Session.

As a reminder of last year’s actions, this same language passed the House, passed the Senate and went to the desk of the Governor for his signature. However, Governor DeSantis vetoed this legislation, citing the lack of safeguards such as caps on damages and attorney’s fees and lacking those, future legislation would meet the same demise. Governor DeSantis encouraged *“future legislative action to include regulatory reforms and these safeguards, striking a balance between providing relief and accountability, while preserving quality access and care for Floridians.”*

HB6003 passed the Civil Justice and Claims Subcommittee 16-2. We will certainly see this legislation move through the House – as we have learned, the Speaker of the House is not smitten with the Governor’s wishes. This will certainly lead to the House taking the lead on this legislation. We continue to work with the Senate on placing caps in any legislation taken up on the Senate side. To date, there is no companion Senate bill to HB 6003. The FOMA Legislative Team continues to meet with members in both chambers to discuss the impacts HB 6003 would have on licensed Florida physicians.

The Legislature has four more committee weeks scheduled: November 3-7, November 17-21, December 1-5 and December 8-12.

Other Legislative Issues:

1. EKGs – **Monitor**. no bills filed to date, watching this issue for any changes from last year’s legislation.
2. Vaccines – **Monitor**. No news from DOH on workshop or hearing. Waiting to see what Governor’s vaccine package will contain. Might see a medical conscious exemption. Also, discussion around requirements to treat individuals that have not been vaccinated.
3. [Wrongful Death – HB 6003 \(Trabulsky\)](#) – **Oppose**. Removes provision precluding certain persons from recovering damages for medical negligence resulting in death.
4. Parental Rights – [SB 166 \(Grall\)](#) [HB 173 \(Kendall\)](#) – **Oppose** unless fix issues from last year’s language re: STD’s. Parental Rights; Revising requirements for the provision of maternal health and contraceptive information and services to minors; requiring consent from a parent or guardian for a minor’s treatment for certain diseases; repealing a provision relating to minors’ access to outpatient crisis intervention services and treatment; requiring school districts to provide parents with specified information before the district administers certain questionnaires or forms to students, etc.
5. [Acupuncture – HB 169 \(Alvarez\)](#) – **monitor**. if same as last year – good with language. Acupuncture: Revises licensure requirements; provides applicability; exempts certain persons from certain regulations governing practice of acupuncture. Effective Date: July 1, 2026
6. [Step therapy - SB 70 \(Harrell\)](#) – **support**. Step-therapy Protocols; Requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to approve drug products for Medicaid recipients for the treatment of serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization under certain circumstances; directing the agency to include rate impacts resulting from the act in certain rates that become effective on a specified date, etc.
7. [Temporary Licensure of AAs – SB 148 \(Harrell\)](#) – **Anesthesiologists support**. Temporary Licensure of Anesthesiologist Assistants; Requiring the Department of Health to issue a temporary license to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant to applicants meeting specified criteria; providing that temporary licensees may practice only under the direct supervision of an anesthesiologist and pursuant to a written protocol, etc.
8. [Medical Review Committee – SB 64 \(Harrell\)](#) – **Monitor**. Inclusion of amendment for DO to be added. Medical Review Committees; Revising the definition of the term “medical review committee”, etc.

9. [Mandator Review of Insurance Claim Denials \(SB 202 \(Bradley\)](#) – **Monitor**. necessary amendment if moves. Mandatory Human Reviews of Insurance Claim Denials; Requiring that insurers' decisions to deny a claim or any portion of a claim be made by qualified human professionals; prohibiting the use of algorithms, artificial intelligence, or machine learning systems as the sole basis for determining whether to adjust or deny a claim; authorizing the Office of Insurance Regulation to conduct market conduct examinations and investigations under certain circumstances, etc.
10. [Psychiatric APRN – SB 138 \(Truenow\)](#) – **Oppose**. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice; Authorizing certain advanced practice registered nurses to engage in autonomous practice to provide mental health services as defined by rule of the Board of Nursing, etc.
11. [Florida Health Choices Program – HB 141 \(Yarkosky\)](#) – **review and observe**. Renaming "Florida Health Choices Program" as "Florida Employee Health Choices Program"; revises legislative findings & intent; revises definitions; revises purpose & components of program; revises eligibility & participation requirements for vendors under program; revises types of health insurance products that are available for purchase through program; removes certain pricing transparency requirements to conform to changes made by act; revises structure of insurance marketplace process under program; removes option for risk pooling under program; removes exemptions from certain requirements of Florida Insurance Code under program; renaming corporation administering program as "Florida Employee Health Choices, Inc."; revises membership of board of directors; authorizes corporation to exercise certain powers; revises duties of board & corporation; revises fiscal year in which corporation's annual report is due.
12. Chiropractic Medicine – **Neutral**. Nothing filed to date, should be compromise language.
13. Pharmacists/MATs – **Neutral**. latest compromise language with treat to limit it to certain physicians.
14. [Naturopath HB223 \(Smith, D.\)](#)– **Oppose**. Naturopathic Medicine: Creates Board of Naturopathic Medicine within DOH; provides for licensure by examination of naturopathic doctors; provides financial responsibility requirements as condition of licensure for naturopathic doctors; provides that patients are responsible for advising treating health care practitioners about any legend drug, nutrient, or natural medicinal substance that naturopathic doctor has prescribed or recommended to patient; provides for licensure by endorsement of naturopathic doctors.
15. Physician Assistants – **Oppose**. Nothing filed to date, seeking independent practice.
16. Mobile – **Neutral**. Nothing filed to date.
17. Psychology Prescribing – **Oppose**

18. Electronic Prescribing – No news, nothing filed to date.
19. Out of Network Providers – No news, nothing filed to date.
20. Federal Rural Health Transformation Grant Program - No news.