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Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Legislative Update April 18, 2025

Legislation of Interest

With close to 2000 bills expected to be filed again this year, we know that providing a listing of all bills would not be helpful to the reader. So, we have listed this week's bills in groupings of substance – Scope of Practice; Medical Malpractice; Practice of Osteopathic Medicine; and Healthcare Issues

Scope of Practice

For years we have seen an attempt at expansion of scope by many health care practitioners – this year is no exception. The FOMA is monitoring and actively engaged in the following bills:

1. Acupuncture

[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

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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 its second committee, Health and Human Services, on April 15.

2. **Autonomous Practice by Certain Psychiatric Nurses – OPPOSE**
[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.

3. **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice – OPPOSE**
[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.

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.

5. **Collaborative Pharmacy Practice for Chronic Health Conditions – SUPPORT**
[SB 294](#) by Sen. Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 689](#) 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.*

6. **Prescriptive Authority Certification for Psychologists – OPPOSE**

[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.

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.

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 the full House on April 16, and is now in Senate Messages.

Status: SB 998 passed its second committee, Rules, on April 16.

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 its second committee, Health and Human Services, on April 15. There is still no Senate companion.

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:* SB 734 passed its third and final committee, Rules, on March 26th.

b. *Status:* HB 6017 passed the full house on March 26th.

C. Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions – OPPOSE

[HB 25](#) by Rep. Lopez (D-Orlando) and [SB 616](#) 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.

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

[SB 1284](#) 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.

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.

F. Evidence of Damages to Prove Medical Expenses in Personal Injury or

Wrongful Death Actions – [HB 947](#) by Rep. Blanco (R-Miami) and [SB 1520](#) 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 was referred to Judiciary and passed Judiciary on April 17.

G. **Medical Malpractice Review Committees – MONITOR**

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

H. **Motor Vehicle Insurance**

[HB 1181](#) by Rep. Alvarez (R-Dover) and [SB 1256](#) 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.

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 – SUPPORT**

[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*

J. **Invalid Restrictive Covenants with Physicians – MONITOR**

[HB 485](#) by Rep. Skidmore (D-Palm Beach) and [SB 942](#) 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

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.

L. Office Surgery Standards of Practice – SUPPORT WITH CHANGES

[HB 309](#) 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.

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 valid patient directed medical orders, among other things.

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

Status: HB 1505 passed its second committee, Judiciary, on April 8.

N. Electronic Prescribing – MONITOR

[HB1297](#) by Rep. Partington (R-Daytona Beach) and [SB 1568](#) 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 its second committee, Health and Human Services Appropriations, on April 10.

O. Medical Spa Facilities – SUPPORT

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

General Healthcare Issues

The FOMA is following these bills of interest:

A. Department of Health –

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

Status: SB 1270 passed its second committee, Health and Human Services Appropriations, on April 10.

Status: HB 1299 passed its first committee, Health Professions and Programs, on March 27.

B. Health Insurance Claims – [HB 1231](#) by Rep. Den Black (R-Jacksonville) and [SB 1526](#) 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.

C. Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities – [HB 377](#) by Rep. Tant (D-Tallahassee) and [SB 756](#) 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.

D. Patient Access to Records – MONITOR

[HB 1083](#) by Rep. Booth (R-Orlando) and [SB 1606](#) 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 passed the Full House on April 9.

Status: SB 1606 passed its second committee, Health and Human Services Appropriations, on April 10.

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.

- F. Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations – SUPPORT**
[SB 158](#) by Sen. Berman (D-Boynton Beach) and [HB 141](#) 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 the full Senate, on March 17. HB 141 passed its second committee, budget, on April 16.

- G. Rural Renaissance Initiative**
[SB 110](#) by Sen. Simon (R-Quincy) and [HB 1427](#) by Rep. Griffiths (R-Panama City) amend various statutes to support rural communities by establishing funding, guidelines, and programs across multiple sectors.

a. *Status:* HB 1427 passed its second committee, Health and Human Services, April 15. Senate has passed their version on the Senate floor and is in messages to the House.

- H. Dense Breast Tissue Screenings – SUPPORT**
[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.

- 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.

- J. **Prohibitions and Limitations on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Requirements for Medical Institutions of Higher Education – MONITOR**
[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.
- K. **Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – MONITOR**
[SB 700](#) by Sen. Truenow (R-Tavares) and [HB 651](#) 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- N. **Health Care Practitioner Identification – [HB 1341](#)** by Rep. Gonzalez Pittman (R-Tampa) and [SB 172](#) 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 first committee, Health Professions and Programs, on April 10.

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.

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.

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: SB 890 passed its second committee, Health and Human Services Appropriations, on April 15. HB 1421 passed its second committee, Health Care Budget, on April 9.

The following bills have been filed and will continue to be monitored. As these bills begin to move forward in committee, we will move these bills up the list into one of the categories.

Sickle Cell Care Management and Treatment Education

[HB 333](#) by Rep. Robinson (D-Miami Gardens) and [SB 522](#) 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

[HB 1337](#) by Rep. Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral) and [SB 1566](#) 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 – [HB 725](#) by Rep. Rayner (D-St. Petersburg) and [SB 876](#) 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 – [HB 1545](#) by Rep. Busatta (R-Coral Gables) and [SB 1800](#) by Sen. Calatayud (R-Miami) establish the Parkinson's Disease Research Fund Act to support innovative research and provide caregiver assistance.

Employment Agreements – [SB 922](#) 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 – [HB 497](#) by Rep. Grow (R-Inverness) and [SB 480](#) 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 – [HB 657](#) by Rep. Abbott (R-DeFuniak Springs) and [SB 1064](#) 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 – [HB 427](#) by Rep. Redondo (R-Miami) and [SB 596](#) 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 – [SB 500](#) by Sen. Avila (R-Hialeah Gardens) and [HB 711](#) 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 – [HB 633](#) by Rep. Koster (R-Safety Harbor) and [SB 1354](#) 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 – [HB 1333](#) by Rep. Ane Gerwig (R-Greenacres) and [SB 680](#) by Sen. Rodriguez (R-Doral) establish regulations for individualized investigational treatments in eligible facilities for patients with life-threatening or severely debilitating illnesses.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse – [SB 1355](#) by Rep. Maney (R-Fort Walton Beach) and [SB 1492](#) 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.