



FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



FOMA 2025 Legislative Preview

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SUMMARY



***FOMA President Michael
Markou, DO & State CFO
Jimmy Patronis***

In 2024, close to 11 million registered voters participated in the general election, a remarkable turnout of 78.76 percent of eligible voters. Republicans maintained veto-proof majorities in the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate. **The final tally is 86 House Republicans to 33 House Democrats and 28 Senate Republicans to 12 Senate Democrats.** This number includes legislators who resigned to run for federal office or switched parties after the election. The Florida House District 3 seat remains vacant, and Senator Randy Fine's Senate District 19 seat will soon be open as he pursues his run for Congress. His resignation takes effect on March 31, 2025.



***Steve Winn, Speaker
Daniel Perez & US Rep.
Jared Moskowitz***

Due to President Trump's cabinet appointments, State CFO Jimmy Patronis, Senator Randy Fine of State Senate District 19, and Representative Dr. Joel Rudman of District 3 resigned to run for the vacant Congressional Districts 1 and 6 seats. Patronis and Fine won their primary election. **The Special General Election will be held on April 1, 2025.**

The 2025 Legislative Session will begin on **March 4, 2025.** Legislators have completed three weeks of interim committee meetings and two special sessions, hearing reports from state agencies and hosting panel discussions on various health-related topics in preparation for the session. Three weeks of interim committees remain on the docket for this year.



***Chris Lyon, Esq, Senator
Gayle Harrell, & Jason D.
Winn, Esq.***

If you are interested in becoming more active in the legislative process, please work with the FOMA Legislative Committee. Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we work on behalf of patients and osteopathic physicians.

Governor's Budget



The Governor's recommended FY 2025-26 budget, the Focus on Fiscal Responsibility Budget, totals \$115.6 billion, \$3 billion lower than the current year. The General Revenue portion is \$50.2 billion, an increase of \$383.4 million over the Fiscal Year 2024-25. The budget also eliminates 741 government positions.

In addition, the Governor's budget allocates more than \$175.8 million from the nationwide Opioid Settlement Agreement to opioid recovery initiatives, which include support for the Office of Opioid Recovery and \$31.8 million for the Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network. Further, the budget provides over \$266.9 million to advance cancer research initiatives. This funding includes \$60 million for the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund, \$132.5 million for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program, and a \$30 million increase to launch the Cancer Connect Collaborative Incubator with an initial focus on pediatric cancer research.

FOMA PRIORITIES

- Building upon our success in prior years, **the FOMA supports the continued appropriation of robust funding for the Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) program.** This program provides medical loan reimbursement for qualified physicians practicing in underserved areas of the state.
- **The FOMA supports continuing robust funding for graduate medical education,** including the recently established Slots for Docs Program and other programs to retain tomorrow's physician-led workforce.
- In the interest of maintaining tomorrow's physician-led workforce, **the FOMA supports continued funding for the newly established Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program.** This program addresses the shortage of clinical training sites for medical students by providing financial support to facilities offering essential training opportunities.
- In the interest of reducing harm to patients, **the FOMA opposes expanding scope-of-practice surrounding autonomous specialty practice for advanced practice registered nurses, psychologist prescribing, and other measures.**
- **The FOMA opposes measures to expand individuals eligible to file medical malpractice claims.**

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

SB 250 by Simon & HB 23 by Franklin II - Prescriptive Authority Certification for Psychologists

This legislation grants certified psychologists prescriptive authority under the oversight of the Board of Psychology, with specific training, collaboration, and certification requirements. It mandates coordination with primary physicians, DEA registration for controlled substances, and liability insurance coverage. Restrictions include prohibited delegation of authority and prescribing without certification. The bill also establishes a formulary to guide drug prescribing, particularly for controlled substances and pediatric care, ensuring safe and regulated use.

SB 294 by Harrell - Collaborative Pharmacy Practice for Chronic Health Conditions

The bill revises the definition of "chronic health condition" in collaborative pharmacy practice to include conditions like asthma, arthritis, and Type 2 diabetes while explicitly excluding heart failure, coronary heart disease, and cardiac rhythm disorders.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

HB 25 by López (J) - Damages Recoverable in Wrongful Death Actions

HB 25, the "Keith Davis Family Protection Act," expands damages recoverable in wrongful death cases by allowing adult children and parents of adult children to claim mental pain and suffering damages in medical negligence cases. It clarifies beneficiary identification requirements, specifies recovery rights for minor and adult children, and grants parents recovery rights when no other survivors exist.

HEALTH CARE PROCEDURE & FACILITY REGULATION

SB 68 by Martin & HB 229 by Oliver- Health Facilities Authorities

This legislation expands the definition of "health facility" to include not-for-profit entities and authorizes health facility authorities to issue loans, refinance bonds, and execute agreements. It establishes requirements for project financing, including valid certificates of need, maintenance obligations, and payment prioritization. Authorities can secure bonds through trust agreements and revenues from fees or rents while clarifying bondholder protections, refinancing, and revenue management provisions.

HB 103 by Woodson & SB 152 by Davis- Protection from Surgical Smoke

This bill mandates Florida hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to implement smoke evacuation systems **by January 1, 2026**, for procedures generating surgical smoke. The systems must capture, filter, and eliminate harmful airborne byproducts. Definitions clarify key terms such as "surgical smoke" and "smoke evacuation system," ensuring standardized compliance.

SB 104 by Burgess - Cardiac Emergencies

This legislation updates the requirement for instruction on cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED). It mandates that each public school create a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) and collaborate with local emergency service providers to incorporate the CERP into their emergency responder protocols. Additionally, it establishes a requirement to place automated external defibrillators in schools.

HB 115 by Chamberlin & SB 380 by McClain- Clinical Laboratory Personnel

This legislation streamlines clinical laboratory personnel licensure in Florida by eliminating state-run exams, trainee registration, and training program approvals. It recognizes applicants meeting federal criteria as qualified for licensure and adjusts definitions, fee structures, and related provisions to reflect these changes.

HB 131 by Caruso & SB 372 by Harrell - Dense Breast Tissue Screenings

This legislation allows patients with dense breast tissue identified in a mammography report to undergo an ultrasound or other screenings without first having a conventional mammogram. It defines "mammography report" using federal standards under 21 C.F.R. s. 900.12(c).

INSURANCE & PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HB 149 by Barnaby - Claims for Adverse Reactions to Vaccine and Drugs under the Medicaid and Medically Needy Programs

HB 149, titled "Cody's Law: Florida No Vaccine-Injured Patient Left Behind," mandates the expedited processing of claims for severe adverse reactions to vaccines or emergency countermeasure drugs under the Medicaid and medically needy programs.

The Agency for Health Care Administration must publish related medical conditions, adverse reactions, and updates online.

SB 158 by Berman and HB 187 by Rep. Hart – Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations

This bill expands the state group insurance program to cover diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations without cost-sharing. It defines key terms, sets conditions for cost-sharing exemptions, and ensures compliance with federal health savings account regulations under the Internal Revenue Code.

SB 196 by Gruters - Foods Containing Vaccines or Vaccine Materials

SB 196 redefines "drug" under Florida law to include foods containing vaccines or vaccine materials approved by the FDA for immunization. Such foods must be labeled as "contains vaccine or vaccine material."

SB 264 by Harrell - Step-therapy Protocols

SB 264 streamlines Medicaid access to medications for serious mental illnesses, such as bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, bypassing step-therapy prior authorizations under specific conditions. The bill mandates immediate approval if alternatives are ineffective, or documentation shows medical necessity.

HB 273 by Chaney - Pharmacy

This bill expands the definition of pharmacies to include remote-site pharmacies and establishes rules for pharmacists' remote supervision. It authorizes registered pharmacy technicians to handle drug transactions and exempts specific tasks under remote oversight. The bill sets permitting, storage, and operational requirements, restricts the dispensing of Schedule II drugs without a pharmacist on-site, and designates responsibilities for prescription department managers. The Board of Pharmacy is authorized to create further operational criteria for remote-site pharmacies.

HB 283 by Grow - Storage and Disposal of Prescription Drugs and Sharps

HB 283 mandates a study by the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Protection on the safe collection and disposal of sharps used for self-administering prescription drugs at home. The study will assess risks, evaluate disposal methods like mail-back programs and drop-off sites, and collaborate with local governments and private entities. A comprehensive report, due by July 1, 2026, will provide recommendations and impact assessments on healthcare and home settings, promoting safer sharps handling and disposal practices.

SB 334 by Gruters - Marijuana Products

SB 344 allows qualified patients aged 21 or older to cultivate up to two cannabis plants at home for personal use, subject to Department of Agriculture regulations. Applicants must secure property owner consent, and plants must be grown in secure, non-visible locations. The use of home-grown cannabis follows existing medical marijuana restrictions.

The Legislative Preview is not a complete list of legislation filed for the 2025 Legislative Session. Legislators may file bills up to the noon deadline on March 4, 2025.

For a comprehensive list of legislation filed to date, please visit the legislative bill tracking page on the **FOMA website** at <https://www.foma.org/bill-tracking> and click on the “**2025**” link. This report will list all legislation the FOMA is monitoring to date and contains links to all bills listed to assist you with your legislative research.