



**FLORIDA OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**



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Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Legislative Update

December 1 – 12, 2025

Committee Week #5 & #6

During the final two weeks of the Florida Legislative Committee weeks, we celebrated Osteopathic Medicine and Health Awareness Day at the Florida Capitol. With over 50 members, students, residents, and Executive Committee Members, the FOMA met with legislators, toured the Capitol, discussed upcoming bills, and learned about the legislative process from our lobbyist Chris Lyon with Lewis Longman and Walker. The FOMA met with Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula), incoming Senate President Jim Boyd (R-Hillsborough), and Senator Ed Hooper in the Senate Chamber. The FOMA also presented Legislator of the Year awards to: Representative Kim Berfield (R-Pinellas) and Senator Stan McClain (R-Ocala)! The FOMA had the opportunity to visit with Lt. Governor Jay Collins in the Cabinet meeting room and took some great photos! It is always a great time in Tallahassee, and better when the halls of the Capitol are filled with white coats and physicians!

LATE BREAKING NEWS

The Florida House on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, unveiled a legislative healthcare package for the upcoming legislative session that would overhaul Medicaid and SNAP eligibility, expand provider workforce authority, and impose new controls on prescription drug pricing and pharmacy benefit managers. House Speaker Daniel Perez said the initiative, referred to as “Florida’s New Frontier in Healthcare,” is designed to align state policy with recent federal healthcare changes under President Donald Trump.

This legislation is all-encompassing for healthcare - the package includes two primary measures: HB695 Pub. Rec./Health Care: Provides exemptions from public meetings requirements

for certain portions of meetings of Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice & Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission; HB693 - the Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act, sponsored by Rep. Mike Redondo; and, HB697 the Prescription Reduction Incentives and Competition Enhancement Act, known as the PRICE Act, sponsored by Rep. Kincart Jonsson.

The Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act would revise eligibility and oversight rules for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). The bill would limit eligibility for certain immigrants who are in the country illegally, reduce retroactive Medicaid and CHIP coverage to two months, and codify federal prohibitions on Medicaid payments to barred entities.

The measure also includes several healthcare workforce and deregulatory provisions. It would repeal remaining Certificate-of-Need requirements for nursing homes, hospice providers, and intermediate care facilities serving individuals with developmental disabilities. Florida would join interstate licensure compacts for physician assistants and emergency medical services workers. The bill would authorize independent practice for all five advanced registered nurse specialties, remove supervisory limits on physician assistants, and expand the scope of practice for dental hygienists.

The bill dropped this week and the FOMA team is reviewing and preparing for this bill to be a top priority of the Florida House. The FOMA will continue to update you as this bill moves forward.

WEEK 5

Week 5 refers to the fifth of the interim committee weeks held before the 2026 Regular Session begins on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. In this period, committees meet to discuss, vet, and advance bills ahead of the regular session. This week was relatively quiet compared to some previous weeks: many scheduled meetings were canceled or had minimal activity. This was a **planning and stakeholder-input** week — committees gathered briefings, heard testimony, and requested fiscal analyses rather than advancing final bills.

The top areas to track for FOMA: scope-of-practice drafts, GME/residency funding, telehealth payment parity, public-health reporting changes (including immunization program language), and Medicaid rate proposals.

• Property tax & sovereign-immunity bills

- The HJR 201, HJR 205, CS/HJR 209, and HJR 211 — all dealing with elimination of certain property taxes on non-school homesteads — were heard in the House State Affairs Committee. Each was reported favorably.

- These proposals remain among the most significant tax-reform efforts likely to impact homeowners statewide; under the most sweeping measure, non-school property taxes on homesteads would be eliminated.
- Because they are joint resolutions of constitutional amendments, if passed by the Legislature, they would still need approval by statewide vote before taking effect.
- The likely effects — if enacted — include major reductions in revenue for local governments (counties, cities, special districts), which currently rely in part on such property taxes to fund public services (law enforcement, infrastructure, etc.)
- HB 145, proposing changes to Florida’s sovereign-immunity laws (raising liability caps for government negligence lawsuits), passed out of the House Budget Committee and moves to the next committee.

• **Redistricting talks begin...**

- The House’s new select committee on congressional redistricting held its first meeting of the season. On December 4, 2025, the first official meeting of the Select Committee on Congressional Redistricting was held.
- The committee convening appears to mark the start of a mid-decade redistricting push in Florida, as state leaders consider redrawing U.S. congressional district boundaries ahead of the 2026 election cycle.
- During the meeting, the committee did not release new district maps, but it initiated the process: discussing potential timelines, gathering input, and laying groundwork for drafting maps.
- Debate and public scrutiny were immediate: the meeting drew protests from opponents of a mid-decade redraw, who argue such action may be driven by partisan motives rather than redistricting based on neutral demographic shifts.
- However, while the process was set in motion, there was no commitment yet to producing new maps. Top lawmakers emphasized the need for caution.
- The start of redistricting talks signals early movement on what could become a politically consequential issue ahead of future elections.
- Many believe this will be a discussion for a special session after the normal 60-day session ends March 13, 2026.

Week 5 was not a barn burner for bills or activity - the advancement of property-tax amendments and sovereign-immunity reform indicates that tax and liability policy will likely be major focuses in the upcoming 2026 session.

WEEK 6

Week 6, December 8-13, will end the last of the 6 committee weeks – fittingly, the last week did have some medical bills being heard, and it was Artificial Intelligence Week at the Florida House!

- **Artificial Intelligence Week**

- The House officially designated December 8–12 as “AI Week.” All subcommittees were asked to hold discussions on how artificial intelligence (AI) might affect their policy areas, weighing both benefits and risks. Across committees, scheduled topics included: AI’s role in health care, emergency management, utilities/infrastructure, education (K–20), workforce dynamics, professional regulation, and data-center/utility-impact issues.
- The intent was exploratory: to gather information, expert testimony, and stakeholder perspectives — not to pass sweeping new AI laws this week.

- **Property Tax Relief** - The House property-tax relief package continued to gain traction. The proposed constitutional amendments from the previous week remained in focus as lawmakers negotiate how to deliver tax relief while balancing concerns about funding for local services, including public safety, education, infrastructure, and other critical municipal functions.

- **Executive Initiatives / AI-Related Legislation**

- Around the same time, Ron DeSantis announced a proposed “Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights” aimed at protecting Floridians from certain risks: misuse of AI for deepfakes, protecting personal data, limiting “hyperscale” AI-data centers, and safeguarding utility, water and environmental resources from undue burden.
- The proposals underscore a push for state-level AI oversight — even as national debates and potential federal regulation continue.

As we look toward the 2026 session, key legislative areas to watch are Vaccinations and Immunizations and whether the Florida House or Senate will take up the issue; scope of practice will be a big issue in the House – we will see if the Senate holds true to years past in not advancing bills with an expansion of scope, time will tell. The compacts continue to be a constant theme with three to four additional compacts being promoted this year – Podiatry, EMT, PAs, and Social Work...however, as we have learned from the DOH, the compacts are not doing much in the way of bringing in additional licensees; instead, they are seeing healthcare practitioners leaving the state through the compacts.

Opening day is Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – till then, may the bills be drafted to protect the patient and promote the physician-patient relationship! Happy holidays!

Legislative Issues to Watch:

1. **HB 693 - Health and Human Services (Rep. Redondo):** Transform health care regulation by repealing certificate-of-need requirements, establishing interstate licensure compacts, and revising licensure, eligibility, and scope of practice provisions across multiple health professions. Repeals certificate-of-need (CON) requirements for nursing homes, hospitals, and other health facilities, removing associated statutory references and reporting obligations. Creates the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, allowing out-of-state EMS personnel and PAs to practice in Florida under streamlined licensure recognition. Updates Florida Kidcare, Medicaid, and food assistance program eligibility, including provisions for lawfully residing children, residency verification, and reporting of payment errors. Authorizes expanded scope of practice for physician assistants, autonomous advanced practice registered nurses, and dental hygienists, clarifying supervision requirements and prescribing authority. Revises local health councils' duties and removes previous obligations tied to CON-related data monitoring and reporting.
2. **HB 695 Pub. Rec./Health Care (Rep. Redondo):** Provides exemptions from public meetings requirements for certain portions of meetings of Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice & Physician Assistant Licensure Compact Commission; respectively; provides exemption from public records requirements for recordings, minutes, & records generated during exempt portions of such meetings; provides for future legislative review & repeal of exemptions; provides statement of public necessity.
3. **HB 697 Drug Prices and Coverage (Rep Kincart Jonsson):** Requires prescription drug manufacturer permitholders to annually report to AHCA international drug price data; requires agency to contract with entity to designate reference price source countries & analyze certain data; requires agency to publish annually prescription drug & product reference prices; requires pharmacies to charge cash-paying customers up to reference prices for prescribed drugs & products; requires contracts between pharmacy benefit managers & pharmacy benefits plans & programs to prohibit PBMs from offering & implementing certain formularies; requires health insurers, Medicaid managed care plans, state group insurance programs & HMOs to provide reimbursement for covered prescription drugs & products up to reference prices; requires savings from such reimbursement limits to be used for certain purposes; limits changes that health insurance policies & health maintenance contracts can make relating to prescription drug formularies.
4. **EKGs – Monitor:** No bills filed to date, watching this issue for any changes from last year's legislation.

5. **Vaccines – Monitor:** DOH Rules Workshop, Friday, December 12 at 9 am CST in Panama City Beach, FL.
6. **HB 6003 Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death (Trabusly) – Oppose:** Removes the provision precluding certain persons from recovering damages for medical negligence resulting in death.
 - a. During week 4 the Judiciary Committee heard this one bill and after testimony, debate and questions – the committee passed the bill 15-1.
 - b. There is still no Senate companion.
7. **SB 166 (Grall) & HB 173 (Kendall) Parental Rights – Oppose:** Unless fix issues from last year’s language re: STDs. 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.
8. **HB 169 (Alvarez) Acupuncture – Monitor:** If the same as last year – good with language. Acupuncture: Revises licensure requirements; provides applicability; exempts certain persons from certain regulations governing the practice of acupuncture. Effective Date: July 1, 2026. This bill has only two committees of reference.
9. **SB 70 Step therapy (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.
10. **SB 148 Temporary Licensure of AAs (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.
11. **SB 64 Medical Review Committee (Harrell) – Monitor:** Inclusion of amendment for DO to be added. Medical Review Committees; Revising the definition of the term “medical review committee”, etc.
12. **SB 202 Mandatory Review of Insurance Claim Denials (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.

13. **SB 138 Psychiatric APRN (Truenow) and HB 301 (Shoaf) – 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.
14. **HB 141 Florida Health Choices Program (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.
15. **HB 439 Practice of Chiropractic Medicine Chiropractic Medicine** – Expand the scope of chiropractic medicine to permit the possession, prescribing, and administration of certain substances by injection under board certification. Authorize chiropractic physicians to prescribe and administer vitamins, nutrient preparations, homeopathic remedies, dietary supplements, and epinephrine by injection, excluding intravenous therapy. Require board certification with at least 36 hours of specialized education and passage of an examination for administering these substances by injection. Permit licensed pharmacists to fill, compound, or dispense prescriptions for vitamins, nutrient preparations, homeopathic remedies, and dietary supplements from certified chiropractic physicians.
16. **Pharmacists/MATs – Neutral.** latest compromise language with threat to limit it to certain physicians.
17. **HB223 (Smith, D.) SB542 (Garcia) and SB0688 (Rodriguez) Naturopath – 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. This bill has three committees of reference.
18. **HB 683 Performance of Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (Partington) – ?:** Removes notification requirements for prescribing authority and allows physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to practice without physician supervision during declared emergencies. Eliminates the need for supervising physicians to notify the Department of Health of delegated prescribing authority for

physician assistants and removes the requirement to include a supervising physician's name on prescriptions. Revises the physician assistant drug formulary by changing supply limits for controlled substances and clarifying prescribing restrictions. Authorizes certain physician assistants to deliver medical services without physician supervision in counties under a state of emergency, subject to existing laws and rules. Updates the advanced practice registered nurse drug formulary requirements and extends the same emergency practice provisions to qualifying advanced practice registered nurses.

a. Filed on December 8, 2025.

19. **SB 154 Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act (Harrell)**: adds requirement that dentists and dental hygienist must graduate from a school or college accredited by the American Dental Association.

20. Psychology Prescribing – Oppose

21. **SB 374 Prescribing Authority (Trumbull)**: Deleting the requirement that a supervising physician notify the Department of Health in writing of any delegation of prescribing authority to a physician assistant; deleting the requirement that a supervising physician's name be included in the prescription issued by a physician assistant; revising requirements for the drug formulary for physician assistants; revising the drug formulary requirements for advanced practice registered nurses authorized to prescribe medications

22. **SB 294 Connecting to Care Act (Rodriguez)**: Names the legislation as the 'Connecting to Care Act. Provides that pharmacists, in addition to nurses and physician assistants, may deliver medication in medication-assisted treatment programs when authorized. Expressly permits pharmacists to administer antipsychotic medications and opiate treatment medications by injection under a protocol with a supervising physician. Requires pharmacists to complete an 8-hour continuing education course on safe and effective administration of these medications.

23. **HB 289 (Greco) and SB 164 (Grall) Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child**: Prohibits right of action against mother for wrongful death of unborn child or against health care provider for legal medical care provided in certain circumstances; authorizes parents of unborn child to recover certain damages; prohibits recovery of certain damages if decedent is unborn child.

a. SB164 was heard in the Judiciary committee on November 4 and passed 5-4, the senate language has two more committee meeting stops.

b. HB289 was heard in the House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee on Tuesday November 18. The bill passed 13-3 and now moves to the Judiciary Committee as its last committee stop.

24. Electronic Prescribing – No news, nothing filed to date.

25. Out of Network Providers – No news, nothing filed to date.

26. **Federal Rural Health Transformation Grant Program**: The AHCA presented the Rural Health Transformation Program on Tuesday November 4, 2025, before the House Health and Human Services Committee. Brian Meyer, Deputy Secretary Division of Medicaid presented on the Rural Health Transformation Act (RHTA) outlining the state's strategy for utilizing the program's funding to address rural healthcare challenges, focusing on improving access, outcomes, and workforce development. Key areas of the presentation included the required eight elements of the state plan: improving access, enhancing outcomes, using new technology, strengthening partnerships, recruiting/training a workforce, implementing data-driven solutions, planning for long-term financial solvency, and identifying causes of hospital closures.
27. **SB 312 Patient Directed Medical Orders (Rodriguez, AM)**: Create a new category of patient-directed medical orders to guide end-of-life care and clarify providers' responsibilities. Redefine "advance directive" to include patient-directed medical orders and permit their use in tandem with existing do-not-resuscitate orders. Authorize physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to collaborate with patients, including via telehealth, to establish these orders. Require continued provision of necessary health care or comfort care even if certain life-prolonging procedures are withheld or withdrawn. Protect health care professionals from liability or disciplinary action for honoring patient-directed medical orders executed in accordance with the law. Mandate creation of an Agency for Health Care Administration database to store patient-directed medical orders at the patient's option.
- a. This bill was heard on Tuesday December 9 during the Senate Health Policy Committee – the bill had many supporters and one advocate against. The bill passed out of committee unanimously with a vote of 7-0 in favor.
28. **SB 782 Health Care Freedom Act (Jones)**: Health Care Freedom Act; Citing this act as the "Health Care Freedom Act"; repealing provisions relating to the prohibited use of state funds for travel to another state for purpose of abortion services, the prohibited use of state funds for sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures, and the right of medical conscience of health care providers and health care payors, respectively; creating the "Health Care Transparency and Accessibility Act"; requiring a covered entity to, by a specified date, adopt a policy relating to providing written notice of a complete list of its refused services to patients, etc.
- a. Senate bill filed Dec. 8
29. **SB 784 Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors (Harrell)**: Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors; Requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration, within a specified timeframe, to seek federal approval as needed to provide coverage of continuous glucose monitors and related supplies as a durable medical equipment benefit under the Medicaid program; providing for the reimbursement of such equipment, etc.
- a. Filed Dec. 8, 2025

30. **SB 788 Health Care (Sen. Harrell)**: Authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration to authorize certain agencies and organizations to access, use, and run reports in a specified database for certain purposes; authorizing assisted living facilities to retain certain licenses under certain circumstances; requiring referral agencies for assisted living facilities to disclose specified information to a consumer; providing requirements for contracts entered into between a referral agency and an assisted living facility; creating the Assisted Living Task Force adjunct to the agency for specified purposes, etc.
- a. Filed Dec. 8, 2025
31. **HB 693 Health and Human Services (Rep Redondo)**: Transform health care regulation by repealing certificate-of-need requirements, establishing interstate licensure compacts, and revising licensure, eligibility, and scope of practice provisions across multiple health professions. Repeals certificate-of-need (CON) requirements for nursing homes, hospitals, and other health facilities, removing associated statutory references and reporting obligations. Creates the Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact and the Physician Assistant Licensure Compact, allowing out-of-state EMS personnel and PAs to practice in Florida under streamlined licensure recognition. Updates Florida Kidcare, Medicaid, and food assistance program eligibility, including provisions for lawfully residing children, residency verification, and reporting of payment errors. Authorizes expanded scope of practice for physician assistants, autonomous advanced practice registered nurses, and dental hygienists, clarifying supervision requirements and prescribing authority. Revises local health councils' duties and removes previous obligations tied to CON-related data monitoring and reporting.