



### **Week 8 FOMA Legislative Update**

**2026 Florida Legislative Session (March 2-6, 2026)**

#### **What happened this week!**

In Fiscal Policy, SB 688 Naturopathic Medicine was heard, passed, and fast-tracked to the floor. The Senate took up SB 688 on the floor on Thursday and passed 33-3. SB 688 is now in House messages.

SB1756 Medical Freedom was heard in the Rules Committee on Tuesday and passed, 14-8. The bill has been placed on Special Order Calendar for Friday, March 6. During a press conference on March 4th, Speaker Perez said the bill won't be heard on the House side. An article by the Tampa Bay Times writes...

*"Florida's Legislature won't change the state's vaccine laws this session.*

*Although the Florida Senate is set to pass legislation that would make it easier to opt out of vaccines that are required for school, House Speaker Daniel Perez on Wednesday confirmed the bill would not move forward in his chamber.*

***"That's a bill that wasn't heard in the House," Perez said. "A bill that hasn't moved in the House is not going to be brought up at this time."***

*Sen. Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, and Rep. Jeff Holcomb, R-Spring Hill, filed legislation that was milder than what Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo suggested when he proposed removing all vaccine mandates from law last year."*

**Read more here - <https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2026/03/05/vaccine-mandates-exemptions-medical-freedom-desantis-ladapo/>**

CS/HB 1175 by Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee / Redondo—Safety Design Standards for Office Surgery Suites passed in the Rules Committee as well.

SB 196 General Bill by Sharief - Uterine Fibroid Research Database (House Compare: HB 327) Uterine Fibroid Research Database – Passed 109-0 on the House Floor. The Senate substituted HB 327, added an amendment, and read on the floor, then passed 36-0. The bill is now in House messages because of the amendment, and the House must now accept it.

SB 42 General Bill by Sharief - Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations (House Identical: HB 47) (Identical to 42 c2) HB 47 General Bill by Human Services Subcommittee - Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations. The House passed HB 47 off the floor, the Senate substituted HB 47 for SB 42, and passed it 34-0. The bill is now enrolled.

SB 688 General Bill by Rodriguez Naturopathic Medicine is in House Messages after the Senate passed; YEAS 33 NAYS 3. The House bill is on the Calendar for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.

SB 914 General Bill by Calatayud - Dry Needling (House Similar: HB 867) The Senate bill was placed on the Special-Order Calendar for March 5 and was laid on the table and substituted for the House version. The House version passed the Senate on March 5 and is now enrolled.

SB 1668 General Bill by Burton - Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association; this bill gained life on the Senate side this week! The Senate took it up on the floor after passing it in Senate Rules. The bill passed on the floor 37-0 and is now in messages.

HB 697 Drug Prices and Coverage HB 697 and SB 1760 SB 1158 (Kincart-Johnson, Brodner and Grall) HB 697 Passed the House floor 108-0. The bill has been referred to Rules in the Senate.

Not to mention the struggles occurring with the budget – budget negotiations are not going smooth, an extended session is likely!

The timeline is now a major concern. Under legislative rules, the budget must be finalized several days before adjournment to allow for the constitutionally required 72-hour cooling-off period before final passage. With the regular 60-day session scheduled to end March 13, the Legislature would normally need a final agreement by roughly March 10 to meet that deadline. If negotiators cannot reach a deal by then, leadership would likely have to extend the session or reconvene in a special session solely to pass the budget, which is the only constitutionally required task for lawmakers each year.

As of this week, legislative leaders have not formally announced an extension, but they have openly acknowledged the possibility. Perez told reporters that completing the budget on time is “looking tough,” and leadership has not ruled out overtime negotiations similar to last year, when the Legislature needed several additional weeks to finalize spending and tax policy. The coming week will therefore be critical: if conference committees are not convened quickly and major spending differences narrowed, lawmakers may need to remain in Tallahassee beyond the scheduled adjournment to complete the state budget before the new fiscal year begins on July 1.



## **BILL TRACKING**

### **Scope of Practice and Professional Licensure**

- **Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Act – [HB 693](#) / [HB 695](#) (Redondo)**  
Filed as part of a Speaker-supported legislative package, these bills propose multiple scope-of-practice expansions across health care professions. *(Passed HHS FOMA placed card against and Placed on Calendar, on 2nd Reading February 26)*
- **Naturopathic Medicine – [HB 223](#) / [SB 688](#) / [SB 542](#) (Smith / Rodriguez / Garcia)**  
Creates a licensure pathway for naturopathic practitioners. *(Bills are ready for passage.)*
- **Use of Professional Nursing Titles – [HB 237](#) / [SB 36](#) (Salzman / Sharief)**  
Authorizes use of doctoral nursing titles while requiring clarification of professional role when using the term “doctor.” *(PASSED HOUSE FLOOR this week; Senate passed two of three committee stops. Bill is still moving; late filed amendment to SB version might delay this bill moving through Rules committee, its last stop.)*

### LIKELY DEAD

- **Autonomous Practice by a CRNA – [HB 375](#) / [SB 462](#) (Giallombardo / Rodriguez)**  
Permits certified registered nurse anesthetists to practice independently. *(PASSED HOUSE FLOOR – sent to Senate; Senate bill STILL has not been heard.)*
- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice – [HB 301](#) / [SB 138](#) (Shoaf / Truenow)**  
Expands autonomous practice authority for psychiatric advanced practice registered nurses. *PASSED HOUSE FLOOR – sent to Senate; Senate bill STILL has not been heard.)*
- **Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act [SB154/HB151](#) (Harrell/Conerly)** Expand ineligibility criteria for licensure by endorsement under the MOBILE Act to include nonaccredited dental program graduates. Revises the list of individuals ineligible for a health care license by endorsement under the MOBILE Act. Adds a new provision making those who have not graduated from an accredited dental school or dental hygiene program ineligible for licensure by endorsement under chapter 466. *(Senate passed the bill in its first committee this week, still has two stops to go; House has still not heard bill.)*
- **Ambulatory Surgical Centers [SB1156/HB1207](#) (Trumbull/Oliver)** Establish new licensure and regulatory requirements for ambulatory surgical centers under a newly created chapter separate from hospital regulations, strengthening standards, reporting, and oversight. *(Both Senate and House heard the bills this week; Senate version was Temporarily Postponed last week; House version moves to its final stop. This bill was moving. Likely dead on Senate side.)*

- **Autonomous Practice by Physician Assistants – [SB 668](#) (Truenow)**  
Authorizes physician assistants to practice independently. *(There is no House companion – this bill is dead)*
- **Acupuncture – [HB 169](#) / [SB 672](#) (Alvarez / Calatayud)**  
Updates statutory language governing acupuncture practice. *(House bill placed on Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading; Senate has not held first committee meeting. Bill is on life support)*
- **Prescribing for Physician Assistants – [HB 683](#) / [SB 374](#) (Partington / Trumbull)**  
Allows physician assistants to practice independently during a declared state of emergency. *(House bill was heard this week and passed but the Senate is not moving the bill)*
- **Chiropractic Medicine – [HB 439](#) / [SB 1524](#) (Cobb / Simon)**  
Authorizes chiropractic physicians to possess, prescribe, and administer specified substances, including vitamins, dietary supplements, and epinephrine. *(House Passed Floor and received; Sent to Senate Rules. Senate has not held first committee hearing.)*

#### **DEAD**

- **Patient-directed Medical Orders [SB 312](#)/[HB369](#) (Rodriguez/Plasencia)** Patient-directed Medical Orders: Revising definitions and defining the term “patient-directed medical order”; authorizing the execution of a patient-directed medical order for a specified purpose; requiring that certain health care services be provided to the principal regardless of the decision to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures; authorizing physicians, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures under certain circumstances without penalty; requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to create and update a database for the storage of patient-directed medical orders, etc. *(Bill is dead)*

#### **Pharmacy Practice**

Multiple bills address pharmacy practice and pharmacist authority:

- **Drug Prices and Coverage [HB697](#) and [SB1760](#) [SB1158](#) (Kincart-Johnson, Brodner and Grall)** **During HHS this week, an amendment was introduced and accepted that included the removal of the MFN language for drug pricing. It further went on to:** *Exclude from coverage any plan exclusively serving PACE organizations, require consolidated appeals for multiple claims, and prohibit certain PBM reimbursement practices. Removes from regulatory oversight plans exclusively serving PACE organizations. Expands administrative appeals to allow consolidated multiple-claim actions for the same drug and day supply within a calendar month. Prohibits PBMs from disallowing a pharmacy to decline dispensing if reimbursement is below acquisition cost. Bars PBMs from reimbursing affiliated pharmacies at higher rates than nonaffiliated pharmacies.*

- The House passed this bill 108-0 on March 5.

## LIKELY DEAD

- **Pharmacy – [SB 1142](#) / [HB 1425](#) (Wright / Booth)**  
Expands consultant pharmacy provisions to include clinics. *(House bill was heard in its first committee – no questions, no opposition. Passed 18-0)*
- **Administration of Medications by Pharmacists – [HB 407](#) / [SB 294](#) (Alvarez / Rodriguez)**  
Authorizes pharmacists to administer medications for medication-assisted treatment and opioid addiction. *(Bills are on life support – House has not held its first committee meeting; Senate has not held its first hearing.)*
- **Practice of the Profession of Pharmacy – [HB 1021](#) / [SB 868](#) (Young / Sharief)**  
Allows pharmacists to administer medications in Level I and Level II trauma centers. *(Bills are on life support – House passed bill placed on Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading; Senate has not held a committee meeting.)*

## Wrongful Death and Medical Liability

- **Medical Negligence/Wrongful Death – [HB 6003](#) / [SB 1700](#) (Trabulsy / Grall)**  
Removes the prohibition on recovery of noneconomic damages in certain medical negligence wrongful death cases involving adult children and parents. *(House version passed FLOOR and has been referred to Senate Rules; Senate bill has not been heard in its first committee.)*
- **Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child – [HB 289](#) / [SB 164](#) (Greco / Grall)**  
Expands Florida’s Wrongful Death Act to allow parents of an unborn child to recover damages. *HB289 passed the house floor and has been referred to Senate Rules Committee. The Senate version is at its third and final stop, Rules Committee. These bills are moving.)*

## Vaccines, Parental Rights, and Medical Conscience

### LIKELY DEAD

- **Parental Rights – [HB 173](#) / [SB 166](#) (Kendall / Grall)**  
Requires parental consent in various health care situations, including contraceptive information and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. *(House version placed on Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading this week; Senate bill has not been heard.)*



- **Medical Freedom/Vaccines – [HB 917](#) / [SB 1756](#) (Holcomb / Yarborough)**  
Addresses vaccination discrimination, parental consent and disclosures, alternative vaccination schedules, pharmacist authority to dispense ivermectin, exemptions from immunization requirements, and related liability provisions. *(House version not moving; Senate at second of three committee stops. Bill is dying.)*
  - **Senate version is on Special Order Calendar on March 6; the House Version not moving and Speaker of House said bill won't be heard this year!**
- **Advertisement of a Harmful Vaccine – [SB408](#) / [HB339](#) (Grall/Miller)** – defines advertisement for vaccine promotions and impose liability on manufacturers for harm caused by advertised vaccines. *SB408 passed its first committee but is stuck in Health Policy committee. House had first of three committee hearings this week and passed its first stop; Bills are on life-support.)*
- **Medical Conscience – [HB 551](#) / [SB 670](#) (Black / Yarborough)**  
Authorizes health care providers to bring a civil cause of action based on medical conscience protections. *(Bills are on life support – neither bill have been heard in their first committee.)*
- **Prohibited Sex-reassignment Prescriptions and Procedures [SB1010](#) / [HB743](#) (Yarborough/Melo)** Prohibit health care practitioners from aiding or abetting in prohibited sex-reassignment prescriptions or procedures for minors and authorize the state to pursue civil actions and penalties. *(House bill placed on Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading this week; Senate version is at its second of three stops.)*

#### **Patient Access to Records**

- **Patient Access to Records – [HB 1309](#) / [SB 1140](#) (Booth / Grall)**  
Requires medical records to be furnished within 14 days of request. *(Senate bill not moving; House version Received in Senate; Referred to Rules.)*

#### **Health Insurance and Managed Care**

Several bills propose reforms to insurance practices, managed care, and patient protection:

#### **LIKELY DEAD**

- **Managed Care Plans – [HB 531](#) / [SB 568](#) (Barnaby, Basabe / Harrell)**  
Revises Medicaid managed care contract requirements, including limits on prior authorization reviews. *(Bills are on life support – neither bill have been heard in their first committee.)*
- **Insurance Claims Payments to Health Care Providers – [HB 1015](#) / [SB 1130](#) (Cassel / Massullo)** Prohibits certain insurance payment practices, including downloading requirements. *(Bills are on life support – neither bill have been heard in their first committee.)*

- **Insurance Claims Payments to Health Care Providers – [HB 1023](#) / [SB 1198](#) (Black / Massullo)** Addresses claim disputes, fees, and related insurance reforms. *(Bills are on life support – neither bill have been heard in their first committee.)*
- **Health Insurer Accountability – [HB 1097](#) (Berfield)**  
Requires insurer credentialing within 30 days and includes prompt payment and retroactive denial provisions. *(No Senate companion – Bill is dying.)*
- **Step Therapy – [SB 70](#) (Harrell)** Requires AHCA approval of certain drug products for Medicaid recipients with serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization. *(No House companion – Bill is dying.)*
- **Continuity of Care in Health Insurance Contracts – [HB 577](#) / [SB 114](#) (Woodson / Jones)** Requires 60 days’ notice to policyholders before termination of provider contracts. *(Bills are on life support – neither bill have been heard in their first committee.)*
- **Medicaid Providers [SB40/HB163](#) (Shareif/Robinson)** Medicaid Providers; Requiring the Agency for Health Care Administration to include specified requirements in its contracts with Medicaid managed care plans; defining the term “outside of regular business hours”. *(Bills are on life support.)*

### Other Legislation of Interest

#### LIKELY DEAD

- **Health Care Patient Protection – [SB 68](#) (Harrell (R-Stuart)) and [HB 355](#)** by Rep. (Oliver (R-Punta Gorda)) require AHCA, in consultation with the Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, to adopt rules that establish minimum standards for pediatric patient care in hospital emergency departments (ED). The bills require all hospitals with EDs to develop and implement policies and procedures for pediatric patient care in the ED, and to designate a physician, physician assistant, nurse, or paramedic to serve as the pediatric emergency care coordinator in the ED. Finally, the bills require all hospital EDs to conduct the National Pediatric Readiness Assessment in accordance with timelines established by the National Pediatric Readiness Project. *(This bill passed the House and is now in Senate Messages and referred to Fiscal Policy. Senate bill was placed on Calendar, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading.)*
- **Employment Eligibility – [HB 197](#)** by Rep. Berny Jacques (R-Clearwater) [SB1542](#) Sen. Pizzo (D-Miami) and [SB 1278](#) Sen. Martin (R-Lee) requires all private employers, rather than only those employing more than specified number of employees, use E-Verify system to verify new employee's employment. *(HB197 has passed the House and is currently in Senate Rules Committee. Neither Senate bills have had their first hearing.)*
- **Florida Health Choices Program – [SB 440](#) (Leek (R-St. Augustine)) and [HB 141](#) (Yarkosky (R-Clermont)) and [SB1460](#) (Martin (R-Lee))** rename the "Florida Health Choices Program" as "Florida Employee Health Choices Program" and revise purposes



and components of the program. The bills revise eligibility and participation requirements for vendors under the program, the types of health insurance products that are available for purchase through program, removes certain pricing transparency requirements, revise the structure of the insurance marketplace process under the program, remove the option for risk pooling under the program, and remove exemptions from certain requirements of Florida Insurance Code under the program. *(Bills on life support)*

- **Rural Communities** – [SB 250](#) (Simon (R-Tallahassee)) and [HB723](#) (Abbott (R-Washington)) is a comprehensive package of legislative proposals to create opportunities for rural communities to expand education offerings, increase health care services, and modernize commerce. The bill invests in farm-to-market roads, requires the state land planning agency to give preference for technical assistance funding to local governments located in a rural area of opportunity, revises the conditions required for a county to be considered a fiscally constrained county, creates the Office of Rural Prosperity within the Department of Commerce, requires the Office of Rural Prosperity to administer the Renaissance Grants Program to provide block grants to eligible communities, creates the Public Infrastructure Smart Technology Grant Program within the Office of Rural Prosperity, expands the existing FRAME program to include medical doctors or osteopathic doctors who are board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine, establishes the Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetric Response and Education (SCORE) Grant Program, appropriates additional funding to enhance Medicaid payments to reimburse rural hospitals similar to Medicare reimbursement, and creates the Florida Arterial Road Modernization Program within the Department of Transportation. *SB250 is now in House Messages and waiting on action by the Florida House.*
- **Sale and Purchase of Ivermectin** – [HB 29](#) (Holcomb (R-Springhill)) authorizes the sale and purchase of ivermectin suitable for human use as over-the-counter medication without prescription or consultation with a health care provider. *(Still no companion in the House – bill is dying. This language made it into SB1756).*
- **Protection from Surgical Smoke** – [SB162/](#)[HB93](#) (Davis/Woodson) Requires hospitals & ambulatory surgical centers to adopt & implement policies requiring use of smoke evacuation systems during certain surgical procedures. *(HB93 passed off the House Floor on March 5, 107-2; Referred to Rules in Senate.)*
- **Temporary Certificates for Practice in Areas of Critical Need** [SB1480](#) [HB809](#) (Burton/Benarroch) Allow continued practice by certain health care practitioners under temporary certificates in areas of critical need even if those areas lose their designation, provided specific conditions are met. *(Action this week in the House with their version being placed on special order calendar for March 3. Senate version retained on special order calendar on March 6. These bills should pass both chambers.)*
- **Statewide Provider and Health Plan Claim Dispute Resolution** [SB1082/](#)[HB1449](#) (Grall/Busatta) Specifies additional circumstances excluding disputed claims from the

statewide provider and health plan claim dispute resolution program. Adds claims involving services initiated under s. 395.1041 or 42 U.S.C. s. 1395dd that have been submitted for resolution through the federal independent dispute resolution process to the list of exclusions. Excludes claims for services rendered by out-of-network providers that have been submitted for resolution through the federal independent dispute resolution process. *(Senate bill in Rules, need bill to be placed on Agenda. House bill on Feb 26 passed in HHS Comm. 25-0 and placed on calendar 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, this will pass the House Floor)*

### **Looking to Week 9!**

Looking ahead to next week, the primary focus of the Florida Legislature will be the formal launch of budget conference negotiations between the House and Senate as leaders work to reconcile the remaining differences between their spending plans. Conference committees are expected to begin resolving allocations across major budget areas, including health care, education, and infrastructure, with particular attention likely on Medicaid funding, physician workforce and residency support, and other health-related appropriations. With the constitutionally required 72-hour cooling-off period before final passage of the budget, legislative leaders will be under pressure to reach a framework agreement early in the week if they hope to complete the process before the scheduled adjournment of the 60-day session on March 13. If negotiators cannot narrow the gap quickly, lawmakers may need to extend the session or return in a brief special session dedicated to finalizing the state budget.