



Week 9 FOMA Legislative Update

2026 Florida Legislative Session (March 9-13)

What a final week!

As the 2026 regular session of the Florida Legislature reaches its scheduled conclusion on March 13, it is increasingly clear that lawmakers will leave Tallahassee without fulfilling their only constitutional obligation: passing a balanced state budget. The House and Senate remain divided on overall spending levels, with the House advancing a budget proposal of roughly \$113.6 billion while the Senate's proposal is closer to \$115 billion. While the dollar gap of roughly \$1.4 billion may appear modest within a budget of this size, it reflects deeper disagreements about spending priorities and the direction of state government. Because the chambers have not even agreed on top-line allocations, the formal conference process required to reconcile the budget cannot begin, making it practically impossible for a final budget to pass before the scheduled end of the session.

The most likely procedural outcome is that the Legislature will adjourn the regular session on time and return later for a special session dedicated to completing the budget. Extending the regular session is technically possible, but in recent years, legislative leaders have preferred ending the constitutionally required 60-day session and reconvening once negotiations have progressed. Doing so allows leadership more flexibility to negotiate outside the pressures of the regular session calendar. If that occurs, lawmakers would likely return in late March or early April to finalize the budget through a brief special session once allocations are resolved.

Beyond the budget dispute, the dynamics between the leadership of the two chambers and the governor's office are shaping the final week of the session. The House, led by Daniel Perez, has taken a notably more assertive posture this year, emphasizing fiscal restraint and signaling a willingness to block or slow Senate priorities. Perez has repeatedly emphasized that the House intends to scrutinize spending more aggressively and reduce the overall size of government, a stance that has put the chamber at odds with the Senate's more traditional budgeting approach. The Senate, under Ben Albritton, has maintained a somewhat larger spending framework and has sought to preserve several policy priorities that the House has been reluctant to advance. The tension has manifested itself not only in budget negotiations but also in the movement of legislation, with several Senate-backed proposals never receiving hearings in the House.

The relationship with the governor has also added a layer of complexity to the session's closing days. Ron DeSantis has continued to push major priorities, particularly on tax policy and affordability measures, but legislative leaders—especially in the House—have increasingly demonstrated independence from the executive branch. Over the past several years, the Legislature has gradually asserted more control over fiscal and policy decisions that had previously been closely aligned with the governor's agenda. As a result, negotiations over the budget have become not only a debate over numbers but also a reflection of shifting institutional power between the executive branch and the Legislature.

Even after the budget is ultimately resolved, lawmakers are expected to return to Tallahassee for additional special sessions on other major issues. One anticipated session will address congressional redistricting following ongoing legal developments that could require adjustments to the state's current map. Another likely special session will focus on property tax policy, as legislative leaders and the governor continue to discuss potential reforms and the possibility of placing a constitutional amendment before voters in the November election. Because these issues are complex and politically significant, leadership appears prepared to handle them outside the compressed timeline of the regular session.

From a broader political perspective, the stalemate unfolding in the final week of the session is less about the relatively small difference between the chambers' spending proposals and more about positioning among the state's most powerful leaders. Speaker Perez is attempting to redefine the House as a more fiscally conservative and independent policymaking body, while President Albritton is balancing Senate priorities with the need to eventually reach a compromise that keeps the government funded. At the same time, Governor DeSantis remains a dominant political figure in the state, but legislative leaders are demonstrating that they are willing to negotiate on their own terms rather than simply advance the governor's agenda. The result is a session ending not with a clear legislative victory for any one branch of government, but with a visible recalibration of power inside Florida's Republican-controlled government—one that will continue to shape policy debates when lawmakers inevitably return to Tallahassee in the coming weeks.

BILL TRACKING

Here are the bills that have passed and are enrolled! Next stop is the Governor's desk!

Ordered by Bill Number

[HB 0047](#) Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations by Bartleman Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations: Providing an exception to the requirement that the Department of Children and Families immediately forward certain allegations to a law enforcement agency; requiring such allegations to be immediately forwarded to a law enforcement agency upon completion of the department's investigation; requiring a child protective investigator to inform the subject of an investigation of a certain duty; requiring Child Protection Teams to consult with a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse with certain experience when evaluating certain reports; requiring the physician or advanced practice registered nurse who performed certain medical examinations to submit a written report to the department and certain persons within a specified timeframe, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

[HB 0355](#) Health Care Patient Protection by Oliver Health Care Patient Protection: Requires hospital emergency departments to develop & implement policies & procedures, conduct training, record weights in certain manner, designate pediatric emergency care coordinator, & conduct specified assessments; authorizes hospital with emergency department to conduct National Pediatric Readiness Project's Open Assessment under certain conditions; requires agency to adopt certain rules for comprehensive emergency management plans, and, in consultation with Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Program, establish minimum standards for pediatric patient care in hospital emergency departments; requires agency to collect & publish results of specified assessments submitted by hospitals by specified dates; provides requirements for collection & publication of such assessment scores. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

[HB 0569](#) Forensic Client Services by Chaney Forensic Client Services: Revises definition of "forensic client" to include person committed to involuntary residential services in a secure facility of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, republishing s. 916.303, F.S., relating to determination of incompetency. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

[HB 0797](#) Nonprofit Corporations by Tuck Nonprofit Corporations: Conforms terminology for consistency with Model Nonprofit Corporation Act adopted by American Bar Association; aligns provisions with Florida Business Corporation Act; revises corporate powers; updates provisions on distributions, dividends, & board vacancies; revises who may answer DOS interrogatories; specifies acceptable methods of written notice; requires officers to act in good faith, with reasonable care, & in corporation's best interests; establishes requirements for judicial removal of directors; provides construction; allows board actions to satisfy meeting & voting requirements if no members exist; removes affiliate chapter registration requirement; ensures equal member rights & obligations; authorizes board to admit members for consideration & set payment terms; permits membership termination per terms; prohibits corporation from being its own member; allows fines or penalties if authorized; permits certain nonprofits to purchase membership interests; sets rules for buying interests of resigned or terminated members; revises meeting procedures & special meeting requirements; provides proxy voting rules & effects of incapacity; revises remote participation provisions; updates board composition, election, & term rules; grants liability immunity to all officers & directors; authorizes eligible mergers; requires statements for property held for charitable purposes. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

[HB 0809](#) Temporary Certificates for Practice in Areas of Critical Need by Benarroch Temporary Certificates for Practice in Areas of Critical Need: Revises conditions under which Board of Medicine, Board of Osteopathic Medicine, & Board of Nursing, respectively, may issue temporary certificates for practice in areas of critical need; authorizes certificate-holders to continue primary care services after such areas lose their critical need designation. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

[HB 0867](#) Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists by Anderson Dry Needling by Occupational Therapists : Defines "dry needling" & "myofascial trigger point"; requires Board of Occupational Therapy Association to establish minimum standards of practice for performance of dry needling by occupational therapists; provides performance requirements; requires board to establish additional supervision & training requirements; requires DOH to submit specified report to Legislature by specified date. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

[HB 1175](#) Safety Design Standards for Office Surgery Suites by Redondo Safety Design Standards for Office Surgery Suites: Requires Florida Building Commission & State Fire Marshal to establish safety design standards for certain office surgical suites by specified date; defines "office surgery suite." Effective Date: July 1, 2026

[HB 1445](#) Pub. Rec./Parkinson's Disease Registry by Busatta Pub. Rec./Parkinson's Disease Registry: Provides public records exemption for specified patient information for Parkinson's disease registry; authorizes certain information to be disclosed; provides for future legislative review & repeal of exemption; provides statement of public necessity. Effective Date: on the same date that HB 1443 or similar legislation takes effect Generated 3/12/2026 01:50 PM

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 passed and are heading to the Governor! FOMA will do a letter campaign with the Governor's office requesting a veto!.)*

LIKELY DEAD

- **Use of Professional Nursing Titles – [HB 237](#) / [SB 36](#) (Salzman / Sharief)**
- **Autonomous Practice by a CRNA – [HB 375](#) / [SB 462](#) (Giallombardo / Rodriguez)**
- **Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice – [HB 301](#) / [SB 138](#) (Shoaf / Truenow)**
- **Mobile Opportunity by Interstate Licensure Endorsement Act [SB154](#)/[HB151](#)**
- **Ambulatory Surgical Centers [SB1156](#)/[HB1207](#) (Trumbull/Oliver)**
- **Autonomous Practice by Physician Assistants – [SB 668](#) (Truenow)**
- **Acupuncture – [HB 169](#) / [SB 672](#) (Alvarez / Calatayud)**
- **Prescribing for Physician Assistants – [HB 683](#) / [SB 374](#) (Partington / Trumbull)**
- **Chiropractic Medicine – [HB 439](#) / [SB 1524](#) (Cobb / Simon)**

DEAD

- **Patient-directed Medical Orders [SB 312](#)/[HB369](#) (Rodriguez/Plasencia)**

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.*
 - **Senate took up HB697, added an amendment and sent to House in returning messages.**

LIKELY DEAD

- **Pharmacy** – [SB 1142](#) / [HB 1425](#) (Wright / Booth)
- **Administration of Medications by Pharmacists** – [HB 407](#) / [SB 294](#) (Alvarez / Rodriguez)
- **Practice of the Profession of Pharmacy** – [HB 1021](#) / [SB 868](#) (Young / Sharief)

Wrongful Death and Medical Liability

LIKELY DEAD

- **Medical Negligence/Wrongful Death** – [HB 6003](#) / [SB 1700](#) (Trabulsy / Grall)
- **Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child** – [HB 289](#) / [SB 164](#) (Greco / Grall)

Vaccines, Parental Rights, and Medical Conscience

LIKELY DEAD

- **Parental Rights** – [HB 173](#) / [SB 166](#) (Kendall / Grall)
- **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 dead.)*

o **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)
- Medical Conscience – [HB 551](#) / [SB 670](#) (Black / Yarborough)
- Prohibited Sex-reassignment Prescriptions and Procedures [SB1010](#) / [HB743](#) (Yarborough/Melo)

Patient Access to Records

- Patient Access to Records – [HB 1309](#) / [SB 1140](#) (Booth / Grall)

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)
- Insurance Claims Payments to Health Care Providers – [HB 1015](#) / [SB 1130](#) (Cassel / Massullo)
- Insurance Claims Payments to Health Care Providers – [HB 1023](#) / [SB 1198](#) (Black / Massullo)
- Health Insurer Accountability – [HB 1097](#) (Berfield)
- Step Therapy – [SB 70](#) (Harrell)
- Continuity of Care in Health Insurance Contracts – [HB 577](#) / [SB 114](#) (Woodson / Jones)
- Medicaid Providers [SB40/HB163](#) (Shareif/Robinson)

Other Legislation of Interest

LIKELY DEAD

- Health Care Patient Protection – [SB 68](#) (Harrell (R-Stuart)) and [HB 355](#)
- Employment Eligibility – [HB 197](#) by Rep. Berny Jacques (R-Clearwater) [SB1542](#) Sen. Pizzo (D-Miami) and [SB 1278](#) Sen. Martin (R-Lee)
- Florida Health Choices Program – [SB 440](#) (Leek (R-St. Augustine)) and [HB 141](#) (Yarkosky (R-Clermont)) and [SB1460](#) (Martin (R-Lee))
- Rural Communities – [SB 250](#) (Simon (R-Tallahassee)) and [HB723](#) (Abbott (R-Washington))

- **Sale and Purchase of Ivermectin – [HB 29](#) (Holcomb (R-Springhill))**
 - Even with the late try by adding this to the Medical Freedom Bill by Sen. Yarborough.
- **Protection from Surgical Smoke – [SB162/](#)[HB93](#) (Davis/Woodson)**
- **Temporary Certificates for Practice in Areas of Critical Need [SB1480](#) [HB809](#) (Burton/Benarroch)**
- **Statewide Provider and Health Plan Claim Dispute Resolution [SB1082/](#)[HB1449](#) (Grall/Busatta)**

Looking to Special Sessions!

Looking beyond the end of the regular session, Florida lawmakers are almost certain to return to Tallahassee for multiple special sessions in the coming months. The first and most immediate will likely be a budget session to finalize the state’s spending plan once negotiations between the House and Senate leadership produce agreed-upon allocations. Under the Florida Constitution, the Legislature must pass a balanced budget before July 1, when the new fiscal year begins, so there is still significant time for negotiations to continue outside the formal session environment. The expectation among most Capitol observers is that leaders in the House and Senate will continue working behind the scenes after adjournment, allowing budget chairs to resolve major differences before calling members back for a short special session focused almost entirely on budget conference reports and final passage.

A second anticipated special session will focus on congressional redistricting, which has become an increasingly likely outcome as legal challenges continue to work their way through the courts regarding Florida’s current congressional map. The existing map was drawn during the 2022 cycle under the direction of Governor Ron DeSantis and significantly reshaped several districts across the state. Depending on court rulings expected later this year, lawmakers may be required to revisit portions of that map. Because redistricting is politically sensitive and procedurally complex, legislative leadership has already begun preparing for the possibility that a dedicated special session will be required to address it.

Another major issue likely to drive a special session is property tax reform. Over the past year, state leaders have increasingly discussed structural changes to Florida’s property tax system, including proposals that could eventually be placed before voters as a constitutional amendment. House leadership under Daniel Perez has expressed interest in broader tax relief and structural reforms, while Senate leadership under Ben Albritton has signaled a willingness to explore options that could reduce the property tax burden for homeowners while maintaining stable revenue for local governments and school districts. Because any significant change to the property tax framework could require a constitutional amendment or major statutory revisions, lawmakers may need a separate special session to debate and craft the proposal in time for potential placement on the November ballot.



Taken together, these expected special sessions suggest that the conclusion of the regular legislative session will not represent the end of policymaking activity in Tallahassee this year. Instead, it marks the beginning of a second phase of legislative negotiations in which leaders will attempt to resolve the budget, respond to court developments affecting congressional districts, and potentially pursue one of the most significant tax policy debates the state has seen in years. For legislative leaders and the governor's office, these upcoming sessions also represent an opportunity to recalibrate relationships following a tense regular session and to shape the policy agenda heading into the next election cycle.