



**Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2020 Legislative Session
Capitol Update – WEEK ONE
January 17, 2020**

The 2020 Legislative Session commenced this week. Judging by the remarks of our state leaders and the pace of the first week of the legislative session, legislators are making up for a relatively slow interim committee process. Senate President Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, used his opening remarks to emphasize the need to put aside personality and politics for good policy, urging Senators to prioritize the big picture for Florida instead of their personal agendas. He stressed that the Senate had the opportunity to set the bar for the 2020's through debating and exchanging ideas while maintaining civility and decorum.

On the other side of the capitol, House Speaker Jose Oliva, R-Miami Lakes, was more policy-focused in his remarks and identified healthcare as his top priority and the chief challenge facing the state. He referred to the "Healthcare Industrial Complex," made up of hospitals, medical device manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies, as the "Great Robber-Barons of our time," a term defined by "government manipulation, monopolizing industry and price gouging." The Speaker identified stand-alone ERs, exorbitant drug prices, an insufficient supply of primary care physicians, and scope of practice as issues within Florida's healthcare space. He explicitly stated his support for allowing advanced nurse practitioners to practice independently, honoring a nurse practitioner instead of a physician before his remarks – a striking gesture that disrupts the tradition of the legislature. The FAFP, FMA, and all of organized medicine remain united in its stringent opposition to Speaker Oliva's desire to expand scope of practice.

Governor Ron DeSantis kicked off his second legislative session with the official *State of the State* speech themed around a "season of opportunity" and for Florida to "to tax lightly, spend wisely and regulate reasonably" in the proposed a \$91.4-billion budget (a 0.4% increase from 2019). With the direction set by Florida's leaders, the legislature spent the remainder of the week digging into these policy issues and hundreds more. It's going to be a hectic nine weeks!

2020 Doctor of the Day Program

Now is the time for FAFP members to volunteer to take part in the 2020 Doctor of the Day program during each of the nine-weeks of the 2020 Legislative Session which is early this year, running from January 14 through March 13. Special thank yous to Drs. Maria Mahmoodi and Shawn Hamm (left) sponsored by Senator Audrey Gibson (Jacksonville) and Dr. Dan Montero (right, with his son) sponsored by Rep. Cyndi Stevenson (Jacksonville) for serving at Doctors of the Day this week! FAFP's membership has



maintained strong representation in Tallahassee to advance our advocacy efforts! For further information about the program, please contact FAFP Executive Vice President Jay Millson at jmillson@fafp.org.

On opening day of the 2020 Legislative Session, House Speaker Jose Oliva (R-Miami Lakes) announced the inauguration of a “Nurse Practitioner of the Day” program daily throughout the session. Revamping the health care industry remains a priority on House Speaker Oliva’s administration.

Legislation of Importance to FAFP

Bills are marked with FAFP’s position: **Support** **Oppose** **Monitoring**

APRN Scope of Practice Expansion – *House Bills Moving*

HB 607 by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-Avon Park) allows advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) and physician assistants (PA) to engage in independent practice. The bill allows APRNs and PAs to act as a patient’s primary care provider; provide a signature, certification, stamp, verification, affidavit, or other endorsement currently required to be provided by a physician; certify a cause of death and sign, correct, and file death certificates. A Senate companion measure **has not been filed to-date**. This remains FAFP’s #1 legislative priority to defeat in 2020.

A linked committee bill, **HB 7017** by the Health Quality Subcommittee, deals with the registration and biennial renewal fees for licensing advanced practice registered nurses. **On January 15th, HB 607 and HB 7017 passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a vote of 11 to 0.**

Link to HB 607: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/607>

Link to HB 7017: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/7017>

Influenza & Strep Testing – *FAFP Testifies Against Bill*

HB 389 by Rep. Tyler Sirois (R-Cocoa) and **SB 714** by Senator Travis Hutson (R-Elkton) authorize pharmacists to test for and treat the influenza virus and streptococcal infections within the framework of an established written protocol between the pharmacist and a supervising physician. **On January 15th, HB 389 passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a vote of 10 to 1.**

Link to HB 389: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/389>

Link to SB 714: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/714>

Wellness Examinations

SB 208 by Senator Perry Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale) specifies that physical examinations are provided to students as a part of the student support services team program. Mirroring the current childhood vaccination law, the bill also requires proof of well-care examination for school enrollment, but parents would be able to exempt the child from the well-care examination requirement on religious grounds.

Link to SB 208: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/208>

✘ Psychologist Prescribing – *House Companion Measure Filed*

SB 448 by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) and **HB 1443** by Rep. David Santiago (R-Deltona) allow certified, licensed psychologists to prescribe, administer, discontinue, and distribute prescription drugs, including controlled substances.

Link to SB 448: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/448>

Link to HB 1443: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1443>

✘ Consultant Pharmacists – *House Bill Scheduled*

HB 599 by Rep. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and **SB 1094** by Senator Manny Diaz (R-Hialeah) allow consultant pharmacists to provide medication management services, order and evaluate laboratory or clinical tests, conduct patient assessments, and administer drugs within the framework of a collaborative practice agreement between the pharmacist and a physician, podiatrist or dentist. **HB 599 will be heard in the Health Quality Subcommittee on January 21st.**

Link to HB 599: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/599>

Link to SB 1094: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1094>

✘ Legislative Review of Occupational Regulations – *House Bill Approved*

HB 707 by Rep. Paul Renner (R-Palm Coast) and **SB 1124** by Senator Manny Diaz (R-Hialeah) schedule the automatic repeal of state licensure for over one-hundred professions and occupations over four years, beginning July 1, 2021, and ending July 1, 2024, unless the Florida legislature renews each of those licensing laws. The legislation establishes that it is the intent of the legislature to complete a systematic review of the costs and benefits of certain occupational regulatory programs prior to the date set for repeal to determine whether the program should be allowed to expire, be fully renewed, or be renewed with modifications. **On January 16th, HB 707 passed the Commerce Committee by a vote of 22 to 1.**

Link to HB 707: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/707>

Link to SB 1124: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1124>

✘ Electronic Prescribing – *House Bill Passes*

Beginning July 1, 2021, **HB 1103** by Rep. Amber Mariano (R-Hudson) and **SB 1830** by Senator Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) eliminate current electronic prescribing exemptions and require prescribers to generate and transmit all prescriptions electronically, except when electronic prescribing is unavailable due to a temporary electrical or technological failure. **On January 15th, HB 1103 passed the Health Quality Subcommittee by a vote of 9 to 4.**

Link to HB 1103: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1103>

Link to SB 1830: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1830>

✘ Administration of Vaccines

HB 825 by Rep. Juan Fernandez-Barquin (R-Miami) allows pharmacists or registered interns under the supervision of a pharmacist to administer vaccines to children. A Senate companion bill has not been filed to-date.

Link to HB 825: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/825>



Prohibited Acts by Health Care Practitioners – *Senate Bill Clears Committee*

HB 309 by Rep. Ralph Massullo (R-Beverly Hills) and **SB 500** by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) authorize disciplinary action to be enforced by DOH for the use of specified names or titles without a valid license or certification to practice as such and provides penalties. The FAFP is working to ensure the language “family physician” is a covered term by the bill. **On January 14th, SB 500 passed the Health Policy Committee by a vote of 10 to 3. An amendment was adopted to the bill which clarifies that non-physicians are banned from using a long list of titles, including “physician,” “primary care physician,” “pediatrician,” and many other specialty titles. HB 309 is scheduled to be heard next in the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee on January 21st.**

Link to HB 309: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/309>

Link to SB 500: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/500>



“Bait & Switch”

SB 696 by Senator Debbie Mayfield (R-Vero Beach) and **HB 561** by Rep. Thad Altman (R-Indialantic) requires individual and group health insurers and HMOs to provide notice of prescription drug formulary changes to current and prospective insureds and the insureds’ or subscribers’ treating physicians and specifies the requirements for a notice of medical necessity submitted by the treating physician. The legislation also requires insurers to apply certain reductions in out-of-pocket expenses for prescription drugs toward an insured’s cost-sharing obligation.

Link to SB 696: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/696>

Link to HB 561: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/561>



Access to Treatment

SB 820 by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 373** by Rep. Ralph Massullo, MD (R-Beverly Hills) prohibit insurance companies from excluding coverage for certain cancer treatment drugs and provides additional requirements and procedures around step-therapy protocols. SB 820 also prohibits health insurers from retroactively denying a claim if the insurance company verified the subscriber’s eligibility at the time of treatment or provided an authorization number.

Link to SB 820: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/820>

Link to HB 373: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/373>



Keep Our Graduates Working Act – *Legislation Ready for Floor Consideration*

SB 356 by Senator Travis Hutson (R-Elkton) and **HB 115** by Rep. Nick Duran (D-Miami) remove the state authority to take disciplinary action against a healthcare practitioner who defaults on a federal- or state-guaranteed student loan or who fails to comply with the terms of a service scholarship. Under the bills, a healthcare practitioner may not have a license, certificate or registration suspended or automatically revoked by the Department of Health solely because of a loan default or failure to complete service scholarship obligation. **On January 15th, SB 356 passed its final committee of reference, the Rules Committee, by a vote of 16 to 0. On January 16th, the House companion bill passed its last**

committee stop, the Commerce Committee, by a vote of 22 to 0. Both bills are now ready for consideration by their respective full chambers.

 **Emergency Room Health Care Practitioners Public Records Exemption – *Senate Bill Advances***

HB 145 by Rep. Mike Grieco (D-Miami Beach) and **SB 878** by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) provide a public records exemption for personal identifying and location information of current or former emergency room health care practitioners and their spouses and children. **On January 14th, SB 878 passed the Health Policy Committee by a vote of 9 to 1.**

Link to HB 145: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/145>

Link to SB 878: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/878>

 **Prescription Insulin Drugs – *Rescheduled Bill Gets Hearing***

HB 109 by Reps. Nick Duran (D-Miami) and Joseph Casello (D-Boynton Beach) and **SB 116** by Senator Janet Cruz (D-Tampa) require individual and group health insurance policies and health maintenance contracts to cap an insured's monthly cost-sharing obligation for covered prescription insulin drugs at an amount not to exceed \$100 per 30-day supply of the insulin drug, regardless of the prescription's amount or type of insulin. **On January 15th, SB 116 passed the Senate Banking & Insurance Committee by a vote of 8 to 0.**

Link to HB 109: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/109>

Link to SB 116: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/116>

 **Nonopioid Alternatives – *House Bill Scheduled***

HB 743 by Rep. Scott Plakon (R-Longwood) and **SB 1080** by Senators Keith Perry (R-Gainesville) and Baxley (R-Ocala) amend last year's enacted legislation. Beginning July 1, 2020, the legislation provides an exception to the requirement to provide nonopioid alternatives when treating a patient in an emergency room, a critical care unit, or when the patient is receiving hospice services. The legislation eliminates the requirement to provide such alternatives when dispensing or administering Schedule II opioid drugs and allows information on the nonopioid alternatives to be provided to the patient's representative, in addition to the patient directly. **HB 743 is scheduled to be heard in the Health Quality Subcommittee on January 21st.**

Link to HB 743: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/743>

Link to SB 1080: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1080>

 **Automated Pharmacy Systems – *Both Bills Advance in Committees***

HB 59 by Rep. Matt Willhite (D-Wellington) and **SB 708** by Senator Travis Hutson (R-Elkton) authorize a community pharmacy to provide outpatient dispensing through the use of an automated pharmacy system (APS). The bills establish criteria for such systems and a community pharmacy's responsibilities when using this system. **On January 14th, SB 708 passed the Health Policy Committee by a vote of 10 to 0. The Senate bill was amended to:**

- **Eliminate the authorization for the use of an APS not located at the same location as the community pharmacy;**

- Add the requirement that the automated pharmacy system be located either inside the community pharmacy's pharmacy department; or inside the same establishment as the community pharmacy; and
- Mandate that an APS may not contain or dispense any controlled substances.

On January 15th, HB 59 passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a vote of 11 to 0.

Link to HB 59: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/59>

Link to SB 708: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/708>



Dispensing Medicinal Drugs – *House & Senate Bills Advancing*

SB 100 by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 57** by Rep. Matt Willhite (D-Wellington) authorize individuals licensed to prescribe medicinal drugs in an institutional pharmacy to dispense a 48-hour supply, rather than a 24-hour supply. The legislation also authorizes these individuals to dispense a 72-hour supply of drugs if a state of emergency has been declared in the area. On January 15th, HB 57 passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a vote of 11 to 0 and will be heard in its final committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, on January 23rd.

Link to SB 100: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/100>

Link to HB 57: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/57>



Pharmacy Benefit Managers – *Senate Bill Scheduled/House Releases Proposed Committee Bill*

Proposed committee legislation by the House Health Market Reform Subcommittee (**PCB HMR 20-02**) requires drug manufacturers to provide notification of upcoming price increases to every health insurer that covers the drug at least 60 days prior to the effective date of any manufacturer drug price increase. In addition, the drug manufacturer must submit a report to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) and the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) on each manufacturer drug price increase made during the previous calendar year. The committee bill also has several requirements around pharmacy audits and contracts between a health insurer and a pharmacy benefit manager (PBM). The committee bill requires a health insurer to submit a report to OIR information by its contracted PBM. Finally, the committee bill requires OIR to publish the reports on its internet website and publish an analysis of the reported information. **PCB HMR 20-02 will be heard in the Health Market Reform Subcommittee on January 21st.**

SB 1444 by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 961** by Reps. Jackie Toledo (R-Tampa) and Randy Fine (R-Palm Bay) prohibit PBMs from doing a variety of things including conducting spread pricing in this state, denying a pharmacy or pharmacist the opportunity to participate in a pharmacy network at the preferred participation status, charging a fee to a pharmacist for adjudicating a claim, imposing certain additional registration or permit requirements for a pharmacy, prohibiting a pharmacy or pharmacist from providing information regarding drug pricing, contract terms, or drug reimbursement rates to a member of the Legislature, and engaging in the practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine or pharmacy. The bills also prohibit any contract language between a PBM and a payor that would limit the fiduciary duty of a PBM to the covered individuals.

SB 1682 by Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez (D-Miami) creates the “Prescription Drug Price Transparency Act,” and prohibits pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) from doing a variety of things, including participating in spread pricing in this state, charging a pharmacist or pharmacy a fee related to adjudication of a claim, prohibiting a pharmacy or pharmacist from providing to a covered individual or a covered individual’s caregiver information regarding the pricing of a prescription drug, denying a pharmacy or pharmacist the opportunity to participate in a pharmacy network at the preferred participation status and imposing certain additional registration or permit requirements for a pharmacy.

SB 1338 by Senator Tom Wright (R-New Smyrna Beach) revises provisions of the Florida Insurance Code relating to the oversight of pharmacy benefit managers by the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR). Specifically the bill clarifies that OIR has the authority to conduct market conduct examinations of PBMs to determine compliance with the provisions of the code, requires insurers and their PBMs to comply with the pharmacy audit provisions, provides that a pharmacy may appeal audit findings, relating to the payment of a claim or the amount of a claim payment, through the Statewide Provider and Health Plan Claim dispute Resolution Program, clarifies that an insurer remains responsible for any violations of the prompt pay law by a PBM acting on its behalf, clarifies the OIR’s authority to review contracts that an insurer has with a PBM, requires PBMs to pass through generic rebates to an insurer, requires the submission of an annual report to the OIR regarding rebates and other information, revises definition of the term, “maximum allowable cost;” and creates definitions of the terms, “brand drug,” and “generic drug.” **SB 1338 is scheduled to be heard in the Banking and Insurance Committee on January 21st.**

Link to PCB HMR 20-02:

[https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3020&Session=2020&DocumentType=Proposed%20Committee%20Bills%20\(PCBs\)&FileName=PCB%20HMR%2020-02.pdf](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=3020&Session=2020&DocumentType=Proposed%20Committee%20Bills%20(PCBs)&FileName=PCB%20HMR%2020-02.pdf)

Link to SB 1444: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1444>

Link to HB 961: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/961>

Link to SB 1682: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1682>

Link to SB 1338: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1338>



Prescription Drug Affordability Commission

SB 1724 by Senator Janet Cruz (D-Tampa) and **HB 1293** by Rep. Margaret Good (D-Sarasota) create a Prescription Drug Affordability Commission, which would review increases in prescription drug prices. The bills also prohibit insurance companies from dropping coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

Link to SB 1724: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1724>

Link to HB 1293: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1293>



Exemptions from School-entry Vaccinations

SB 64 by Senator Lauren Book (D-Plantation) removes the exemptions from school-entry health examinations and immunization requirements for religious reasons and requires the

Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to jointly create a medical exemption review panel.

Link to SB 64: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/64>



Insurance Coverage for Hearing Aids for Children – *Senate Hearing Scheduled*
HB 125 by Rep. Chuck Brannan (D-Lake City) and **SB 1006** by Senator Dennis Baxley (R-Ocala) require certain health insurance policies to provide hearing aid coverage for insured children and provide coverage requirements, including a minimum coverage amount of \$3,500 per ear within a 24-month period for the child. **SB 1006 will be heard in the Banking and Insurance Committee on January 21st.**

Link to HB 125: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/125>

Link to SB 1006: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1006>



DOH Legislative Package – *No Action*

SB 230 by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 713** by Rep. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) update numerous provisions relating to health care practitioners and facilities regulated by the Department of Health (DOH), Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA). Some of the specific provisions contained in the bill:

- Grants rulemaking authority to the DOH for responsibilities relating to maximizing the use of existing programs and coordinating stakeholders and resources to develop a state strategic plan, including the process of selecting physicians under the Conrad 30 Waiver Program;
- Requires DOH to develop strategies to maximize federal-state partnerships that incentivize physicians to practice in medically underserved or rural areas;
- Repeals the requirement that the Board of Medicine (BOM) conduct a review of organizations that board-certify physicians in dermatology;
- Updates the osteopathic internship and residency accrediting agencies to include the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME);
- Revises and updates the massage therapy licensure requirements, athletic trainer educational and internship requirements, as well as licensure requirements for Marriage and Family Therapists and Mental Health Counselors;
- Updates the name of the accreditation body for psychology programs and revises the requirements for psychology licensure;
- Replaces the term “acquired immune deficiency syndrome” with “human immunodeficiency virus” to broaden the purpose of the DOH’s regional patient care networks to include persons with HIV, who might not have developed AIDS, as well as patients with AIDS;
- Revises the DOH’s health care practitioner licensing provisions to permit the DOH to issue a temporary license, that expires in 60 days, instead of 30 days, to a nonresident or non-citizen physician who has accepted a residency, internship, or fellowship in Florida and has not yet received a social security number; and
- Authorizes the DOH to issue medical faculty certificates to full-time faculty at Nova Southeastern University or Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

On October 15th, SB 230 passed the Health Policy Committee as a committee substitute by a vote of 10 to 0. On December 11th, HB 713 passed the Health Quality Subcommittee by a vote of 11 to 0.

Link to SB 230: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/230>

Link to HB 713: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/713>



Osteopathic Physician Licensure Requirements – *House Bill Passes*

SB 218 by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 221** by Rep. Spencer Roach (R-North Fort Myers) update the osteopathic internship and residency accrediting agencies to include the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

On October 22nd, SB 218 passed the Senate Health Policy Committee by a vote of 9 to 0. On January 15th, HB 221 passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a vote of 11 to 0.

Link to SB 218: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/218>

Link to HB 221: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/221>



Health Care Licensing Requirements for Veterans – *House Bill Passes*

HB 409 by Rep. Cary Pigman (Avon Park) and **SB 780** by Senator George Gainer (R-Panama City) exempt allopathic and osteopathic physicians from specified licensing requirements when providing certain services to veterans in this state.

On January 15th, HB 409 passed the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee by a vote of 11 to 0.

Link to HB 409: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/409>

Link to SB 780: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/780>



Interstate Medical Licensure Compact

SB 926 by Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and **HB 1143** by Rep. Tommy Gregory (R-Sarasota) implement the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in Florida and establish that physicians and osteopaths licensed under the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact are deemed to be licensed under chapters 458 and 459, respectively. The Senate bill also deletes a provision classifying that the failure to repay a student loan issued or guaranteed by the state or federal government in accordance with the terms of the loan as a failure to perform a statutory or legal obligation. **SB 928** also filed by Senator Harrell and **HB 1269** by Rep. Gregory are the accompanying public records exemption bills for this legislation.

Link to SB 926: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/926>

Link to SB 928: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/928>

Link to HB 1143: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1143>

Link to HB 1269: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2020/1269>