COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

JUDICIARY Senator Yarborough, Chair Senator Burton, Vice Chair

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, March 4, 2025

TIME: 4:00—6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Yarborough, Chair; Senator Burton, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Hooper,

Leek, Osgood, Passidomo, Polsky, and Trumbull

AB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	SB 514 Harrell (Identical H 463)	Medical Malpractice Review Committees; Revising the definition of the term "medical review committee"; revising provisions related to discovery and evidence in civil and administrative actions to conform to changes made by the act, etc. JU 03/04/2025 Fav/CS CF RC	Fav/CS Yeas 11 Nays 0
2	SB 538 Bradley (Similar H 813)	State Courts System; Revising the availability of judges to require at least one circuit judge in each circuit to be available for hearings with limited notice; deleting the per diem cap for arbitrators who participate in court-ordered, nonbinding arbitration; authorizing judges to authenticate a jurat, or certificate of proof or acknowledgment, by affixing their signature and printing their name, title, and court, etc. JU 03/04/2025 Favorable ACJ RC	Favorable Yeas 11 Nays 0
3	SB 734 Yarborough (Similar H 25, H 6017, S 616)	Actions for Recovery of Damages for Wrongful Death; Deleting a provision prohibiting the recovery of certain damages by specified parties related to the decedent in wrongful death proceedings, etc. JU 03/04/2025 Favorable AHS RC	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 2

S-036 (10/2008) Page 1 of 1

The Florida Senate BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

	Prepared B	y: The Professional	Staff of the Commi	ttee on Judiciar	у		
BILL:	CS/SB 514						
NTRODUCER:							
SUBJECT: Medical Review Committees							
DATE:	March 5, 2025	REVISED:					
ANAL	YST SI	AFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE		ACTION		
. Collazo	Cib	ula	JU	Fav/CS			
•			CF				
•			RC				

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Technical Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 514 adds managing entities and employees of a managing entity to the list of state agencies, health care providers, and health care professionals that are authorized to participate in a medical review committee. A managing entity is a corporation under contract with the Department of Children and Families to manage the daily operational delivery of behavioral health services, which include mental health services and substance abuse services.

Participants in medical review committees are generally immune from liability for their actions in evaluating the quality and costs of previously provided health care services. Likewise, information relating to the proceedings, including witness testimony before a committee, is not discoverable or admissible in civil or administrative actions.

Accordingly, by allowing managing entities and their employees to participate in medical review committees, the bill grants them the same confidentiality protections and liability protections that apply to other medical review committees authorized by existing law.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

Medical Review Committees

Generally

A "medical review committee" is a committee of certain health care providers, organizations, or institutions that is formed to evaluate and improve the quality of health care rendered by providers of health service. A medical review committee determines whether:

- Health services rendered were professionally indicated or were performed in compliance with the applicable standard of care; or
- The cost of the health care rendered was considered reasonable by the providers of professional health services in the area.¹

Any of the following entities may establish a medical review committee:

- A hospital, an ambulatory surgical center, or a health maintenance organization.
- A physician-hospital organization, a provider-sponsored organization, or an integrated delivery system.
- A state or local professional society of health care providers.
- The medical staff of a licensed hospital or nursing home, provided the medical staff operates pursuant to written bylaws that have been approved by the governing board of the hospital or nursing home.
- The Department of Corrections or the Correctional Medical Authority or its employees, agents, or consultants.
- A professional service corporation or a corporation formed and operated for the practice of medicine, which has at least 25 health care providers who routinely provide health care services directly to patients.
- The Department of Children and Families, which includes employees, agents, or consultants to the department as deemed necessary to provide peer review, utilization review, and mortality review of treatment services.
- A mental health treatment facility or community mental health center, provided the quality assurance program operates pursuant to guidelines approved by the governing board of the agency.
- A substance abuse treatment and education prevention program, provided the quality
 assurance program operates pursuant to guidelines approved by the governing board of the
 agency.
- A peer review or utilization review committee.
- The Department of Health, a county health department, a healthy start coalition, or a certified rural health network, when reviewing quality of care, or employees of these entities when reviewing mortality records.
- A continuous quality improvement committee of a licensed pharmacy.²

¹ Section 766.101(1)(a)1.a.-l., F.S. It also includes a committee of an insurer, self-insurer, or joint underwriting association of medical malpractice insurance, or other persons conducting review under s. 706.106, F.S. Section 766.101(1)(a)2., F.S. ² Section 766.101(1)(a)1.a.-l., F.S.

Immunity from Liability

There is no monetary liability on the part of, and no cause of action for damages arising against, any of the following for any act or proceeding undertaken or performed within the scope of the functions of any medical review committee (provided the committee member or health care provider acts without intentional fraud):

- Any member of a duly appointed medical review committee.
- Any health care provider furnishing any information³ to such committee.
- Any person, including any person acting as a witness, incident reporter to, or investigator for, a medical review committee.⁴

The medical review committee statute does not confer immunity from liability upon any professional society, hospital, or health professional while performing services other than as a member of a medical review committee; or upon any person, including any person acting as a witness, incident reporter to, or investigator for a medical review committee, for any act or proceeding undertaken or performed outside the scope of the functions of such committee.⁵

Each member of, or health care professional consultant to, any committee, board, group, commission, or other entity is immune from civil liability for any act, decision, omission, or statement done or made in performance of his or her duties while serving as a member of, or consultant to, such entity. To qualify, the entity must be established and operated for purposes of quality improvement review, evaluation, and planning in a state-licensed health care facility; it must function primarily to review, evaluate, or make recommendations relating to any of the following:

- The duration of patient stays in health care facilities.
- The professional services furnished with respect to the medical, dental, psychological, podiatric, chiropractic, or optometric necessity for such services.
- The purpose of promoting the most efficient use of available health care facilities and services.
- The adequacy or quality of professional services.
- The competency and qualifications for professional staff privileges.
- The reasonableness or appropriateness of charges made by, or on behalf of, health care facilities.
- Patient safety, including entering into contracts with patient safety organizations.

The entity must also be:

- Established in accordance with state law;
- Established in accordance with the requirements of an applicable accrediting organization whose standards incorporate regulations that are comparable to those required by this state;
- Established and duly constituted by one or more public or licensed private hospitals or behavioral health agencies; or

³ Information concerning the prescribing of Schedule II substances is included. *See* s. 766.101(3)(a), F.S. (referencing s. 893.03(2), F.S., which lists Schedule II substances).

⁴ Section 766.101(3)(a), F.S.

⁵ Section 766.101(4), F.S.

⁶ Section 766.1015(1), F.S.

⁷ *Id*.

• Established by a governmental agency.⁸

Moreover, to qualify for the statute's immunity protections, the act, decision, omission, or statement may not be made or done in bad faith or with malicious intent.⁹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill expands the definition of "medical review committee" to permit not only the establishment of such committees by the Department of Children and Families, as is already permitted under existing law, ¹⁰ but also the establishment of medical review committees by a "managing entity."

A "managing entity" is a corporation selected by and under contract with the department to manage the daily operational delivery of behavioral health services through a coordinated system of care. ¹¹

The bill also provides that the committee created by the managing entity may include employees or agents of, or consultants to, the department or the managing entity and any other persons the department or the managing entity deems necessary to provide peer review, utilization review, or mortality review of treatment services provided pursuant to state law.¹²

By expanding the definition of "medical review committee" in this way, the bill extends the immunity protections that currently apply to medical review committees to committees established by managing entities as well.

Likewise, the restrictions on discovery and the admissibility of evidence relating to the other medical review committees authorized by existing law apply to the medical review committees authorized by the bill. Under these specific restrictions, the investigations, proceedings, and records of a medical review committee, arising out of the matters which are the subject of evaluation and review by such committee, are not subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or administrative action against a managing entity.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

⁸ Section 766.1015(2), F.S.

⁹ *Id*.

¹⁰ Section 766.101(1)(a)1.g., F.S.

¹¹ Section 394.9082(2), F.S.

¹² Specifically, chs. 394 (mental health), 397 (substance abuse services), and 916 (mentally ill and intellectually disabled defendants), F.S.

D. Fublic Recolds/Open Meetings issues	В.		Public Records/Open Meetings I	ssues:
--	----	--	--------------------------------	--------

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Any managing entity under contract with the Department of Children and Families may incur increased costs associated with the appointing and funding of a medical review committee, if the department does not assume those costs directly.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The Department of Children and Families may save costs associated with the appointing and funding of a medical review committee, if a managing entity under contract with the department assumes those costs instead.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 766.101 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. **Additional Information:**

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes: (Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Judiciary on March 4, 2025:

The committee substitute corrects a typographical error by deleting the word "malpractice" from the short title of the bill.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

153390

	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Senate	•	House
Comm: RCS	•	
03/04/2025	•	
	•	
	•	
	•	

The Committee on Judiciary (Harrell) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment

1 2 3

4

5

In title, delete line 2 and insert:

An act relating to medical review

By Senator Harrell

31-00468-25 2025514 A bill to be entitled

committees; amending s. 766.101, F.S.; revising the

revising provisions related to discovery and evidence

changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

definition of the term "medical review committee";

in civil and administrative actions to conform to

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

An act relating to medical malpractice review

12 13 14

16 17

> 20 21 22

24 2.5 26

27 2.8 29

10 11 Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) and subsection (5) of section 766.101, Florida Statutes, are amended to read: 766.101 Medical review committee, immunity from liability.-(1) As used in this section: 15 (a) The term "medical review committee" or "committee" means: 1.a. A committee of a hospital or ambulatory surgical 18 center licensed under chapter 395 or a health maintenance 19 organization certificated under part I of chapter 641; b. A committee of a physician-hospital organization, a provider-sponsored organization, or an integrated delivery system; 23 c. A committee of a state or local professional society of health care providers; d. A committee of a medical staff of a licensed hospital or nursing home, provided the medical staff operates pursuant to written bylaws that have been approved by the governing board of the hospital or nursing home; e. A committee of the Department of Corrections or the

Page 1 of 4

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 514

31-00468-25 2025514

Correctional Medical Authority as created under s. 945.602, or employees, agents, or consultants of either the department or the authority or both;

31

32

33

35

38

39

40

42

4.3

46

47

49

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

- f. A committee of a professional service corporation formed under chapter 621 or a corporation organized under part I of chapter 607 or chapter 617, which is formed and operated for the practice of medicine as defined in s. 458.305(3), and which has at least 25 health care providers who routinely provide health care services directly to patients;
- q. A committee of the Department of Children and Families or a managing entity as defined in s. 394.9082(2), which may include includes employees or, agents of, or consultants to the department or managing entity and any other persons the department or managing entity deems as deemed necessary to provide peer review, utilization review, or and mortality review of treatment services provided pursuant to chapters 394, 397, and 916:
- h. A committee of a mental health treatment facility licensed under chapter 394 or a community mental health center as defined in s. 394.907, provided the quality assurance program operates pursuant to the guidelines that have been approved by the governing board of the agency;
- i. A committee of a substance abuse treatment and education prevention program licensed under chapter 397 provided the quality assurance program operates pursuant to the guidelines that have been approved by the governing board of the agency;
- j. A peer review or utilization review committee organized under chapter 440;
 - k. A committee of the Department of Health, a county health

Page 2 of 4

31-00468-25 2025514

department, healthy start coalition, or certified rural health network, when reviewing quality of care, or employees of these entities when reviewing mortality records; or

59

60

61

62

63

64 65

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

8.3

85

86

 A continuous quality improvement committee of a pharmacy licensed pursuant to chapter 465,

which committee is formed to evaluate and improve the quality of health care rendered by providers of health service, to determine whether that health services rendered were professionally indicated or were performed in compliance with the applicable standard of care, or whether that the cost of health care rendered was considered reasonable by the providers of professional health services in the area; or

- 2. A committee of an insurer, self-insurer, or joint underwriting association of medical malpractice insurance, or other persons conducting review under s. 766.106.
- (5) The investigations, proceedings, and records of a committee as described in the preceding subsections <u>are shall</u> not be subject to discovery or introduction into evidence in any civil or administrative action against a provider of professional health services <u>or a managing entity</u> arising out of the matters which are the subject of evaluation and review by such committee, and <u>any no person</u> who was in attendance at a meeting of such committee <u>is not shall be permitted</u> or required to testify in any such civil action as to any evidence or other matters produced or presented during the proceedings of such committee or as to any findings, recommendations, evaluations, opinions, or other actions of such committee or any members thereof. However, information, documents, or records otherwise

Page 3 of 4

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 514

2025514

available from original sources are not to be construed as
immune from discovery or use in any such civil action merely
because they were presented during proceedings of such
committee, nor should any person who testifies before such
committee or who is a member of such committee be prevented from
testifying as to matters within his or her knowledge, but the
said witness cannot be asked about his or her testimony before
such a committee or opinions formed by him or her as a result of
said committee hearings.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

31-00468-25

97

Page 4 of 4

THE FLORIDA SENATE



Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Appropriations Committee on Higher Education, Chair Health Policy, Vice Chair Appropriations Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Education Postsecondary Environment and Natural Resources

SENATOR GAYLE HARRELL

31st District

February 24, 2025

Senator Yarborough 308 Senate Office Building Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chair Yarborough,

I respectfully request that SB 514 – Medical Review Committee be placed on the next available agenda for the Judiciary Committee.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Thank you,

Cc:

Senator Gayle Harrell Senate District 31

Layle

Tom Cibula, Staff Director

Lisa Larson, Committee Administrative Assistant

1	51	4	•	
	Bill 1	Vumb	er or Topic	

011 20	APPEARANCE RECURD	
Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number or Topic
Name Committee	FLLY Phone 8	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 50) 570 - 5747
Address 122 S. Caute	Email Na	TALLE @ FLMANAGINA
Speaking: For Aga	$\frac{3230}{State}$ inst \square Information \bigcirc OR Waive Speaking:	In Support Against
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am a registered lobbyist, representing: FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF MANAGINA ENTITES	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

2/4/25

APPEARANCE RECORD

514

		APPEA	KANCE K	ECOKD	011
Judio	Meeting Date Eiary		er both copies of this for ssional staff conducting	Bill Number or Topic	
	Committee				Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Barney Bishop			Phone	510-9922
Address	1454 Vieux Car	re Drive			ey@BarneyBishop.com
	Tallahassee	FL	32308		
	City	State	Zip		
	Speaking: For	Against Informatio	on OR W	/aive Speaking:	In Support
		PLEASE CHE	CK ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING:	
	n appearing without mpensation or sponsorship.	represe	egistered lobbyist, nting: art Justice Alli	iance	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

March 4 2025

The Florida Senate BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

	Prep	ared By: T	he Professiona	Staff of the Commi	ttee on Judiciary		
BILL:	SB 538						
INTRODUCER:	R: Senator Bradley						
SUBJECT: State Courts System							
DATE:	March 4, 20)25	REVISED:				
ANAL	YST	STAFF	DIRECTOR	REFERENCE		ACTION	
1. Bond		Cibula		JU	Favorable		
2				ACJ			
3.				RC			

I. Summary:

SB 538 allows a circuit court duty judge, which is a judge who is responsible for handling urgent matters outside of regular court hours, to hold and conduct hearings in places other than his or her chambers, repeals the \$1,500 per day limit on fees paid to a court-appointed arbitrator, and allows a judge to authenticate documents containing written statements under oath made by others without using a personal or court seal.

The bill is effective July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

Circuit Judges

In 1935, the Legislature enacted a requirement that judicial circuits having more than one circuit judge if possible, have at least one circuit judge available at all times to hold and conduct hearings in chambers. This judge is commonly referred to as a "duty judge." The statutory requirement to designate a duty judge in judicial circuits supports the prompt and efficient administration of justice by having a judge available during work hours, after hours, weekends, and holidays to handle emergency judicial matters. These emergency matters may include applications for search or arrest warrants, pen registers, petitions for *ex parte* injunctive relief to prevent domestic and repeat violence, communications intercepts, and medical consents. Over time, the number of circuit judges has grown, and presently all judicial circuits have more than one circuit judge. Accordingly, each circuit maintains a duty judge schedule.

¹ Ch. 17085, §4, at 699, Laws of Fla. (1935), codified in s. 26.20, F.S.

² The current number of circuit judges in each judicial circuit ranges from 4 in the 16th Judicial Circuit (Monroe County) to 80 in the 11th Judicial Circuit (Miami-Dade County). Section 26.031, F.S.

BILL: SB 538 Page 2

Along with growth in the number of circuit judges since 1935, technological innovations have transformed the way judges carry out judicial activities and conduct court proceedings. Judges routinely access case files, issue orders, and conduct hearings from locations other than a physical courthouse or their chambers using case management and communication technologies. The adoption of these technologies has led to greater efficiency for judges and court users and better access to the courts. The language of s. 26.20, F.S., implies that a duty judge must work at the courthouse or in a judge's chambers appears outdated.

Arbitration Fees

Section 44.103(2), F.S., authorizes a trial court to refer a contested civil action to nonbinding arbitration. Arbitrators in these proceedings are compensated by the parties or, if a party is indigent, by the court. The fee for arbitration services is set by the chief judge in each circuit but is subject to a statutory cap of \$1,500 per diem unless the parties agree otherwise.³ The statutory cap has not been adjusted since 2005.⁴

Oaths, Affidavits and Acknowledgements before a Judge

Except as otherwise provided under law, oaths, affidavits, and acknowledgments may be taken or administered by or before any judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of any court in this state, including the federal courts, or by or before any United States commissioner or any notary public. The jurat, or certificate of proof or acknowledgement, for the oath, affidavit, or acknowledgement must be authenticated by the signature and official seal of the person authenticating the document. A judge, clerk, or deputy clerk may also satisfy the seal requirement by using the seal of his or her court of record.

It is not uncommon for a judge to administer oaths at locations other than a courthouse where a personal or court seal is unavailable. Typically, in such circumstances, the judge provides his or her signature and prints his or her name, title, and court on the jurat or certificate of proof or acknowledgment. However, an oath recently authenticated by a District Court of Appeal judge in such a manner was rejected by the Department of State because it did not include the seal of the District Court of Appeal as required by s. 92.50, F.S.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill amends s. 26.20, F.S., to repeal outdated language and to allow a duty judge to hold and conduct hearings in places other than his or her chambers.

The bill amends s. 44.103, F.S., to repeal the statutory cap on the fees that a court-ordered arbitrator may charge. The current cap limits the fees that court-appointed arbitrators may charge to \$1,500 per day unless agreed otherwise by the parties. The repeal of the fee cap, however, does not affect the ability of the chief judge of a judicial circuit to limit such fees.

³ Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.810(b) provides: "The chief judge of each judicial circuit shall establish the compensation of arbitrators subject to the limitations in section 44.103(3), Florida Statutes."

⁴ Section 32, ch. 2005-236, Laws of Fla.

⁵ Section 92.50(1), F.S.

BILL: SB 538 Page 3

The bill amends s. 92.50, F.S., to authorize a state or federal judge in this state to authenticate oaths, affidavits, and acknowledgements by simply providing a signature and printing the judge's name, title, and court on the jurat or certificate of proof or acknowledgment. The use of a personal or court seal is no longer required when a judge authenticates those documents.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

I١	٧.	Cane	24i4114	ional	Issues	•
	V .	CULI	sutut	JULIAL	issucs.	-

IV.	Cons	intutional issues:
	A.	Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:
		None.
	B.	Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:
		None.
	C.	Trust Funds Restrictions:
		None.
	D.	State Tax or Fee Increases:
		None.
	E.	Other Constitutional Issues:
		None.
٧.	Fisca	I Impact Statement:
	A.	Tax/Fee Issues:
		None.
	B.	Private Sector Impact:
		None.
	C.	Government Sector Impact:
		None.
VI.	Techi	nical Deficiencies:

VII. Related Issues:

None.

None.

BILL: SB 538 Page 4

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 26.20, 44.103, and 92.50.

This bill reenacts the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 28.2221, 92.525, 110.12301, and 112.181.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Bradley

6-00636-25 2025538

A bill to be entitled An act relating to the state courts system; amending s. 26.20, F.S.; revising the availability of judges to require at least one circuit judge in each circuit to be available for hearings with limited notice; amending s. 44.103, F.S.; deleting the per diem cap for arbitrators who participate in court-ordered, nonbinding arbitration; amending s. 92.50, F.S.; authorizing judges to authenticate a jurat, or certificate of proof or acknowledgment, by affixing their signature and printing their name, title, and court; reenacting ss. 28.2221(6)(b), 92.525(1), 110.12301(2)(a) and (d), and 112.181(2), F.S., relating to electronic access to official records restricted from public display, inspection, or copying; verification of documents; spouse and dependent eligibility verification by affidavit; and affidavits from firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, and correctional officers to be entitled to a certain presumption, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 92.50, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 26.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to

28 read:

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

29

26.20 Availability of judge for hearings in chambers. - In

Page 1 of 10

 ${\tt CODING:}$ Words ${\tt stricken}$ are deletions; words ${\tt \underline{underlined}}$ are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 538

6-00636-25 2025538_ circuits having more than one circuit judge, At least one

circuits having more than one circuit judge, At least one circuit judge in each circuit must of said judges shall be available as nearly as possible at all times to hold and conduct hearings with limited notice in chambers. In each circuit, there must be at least one judge available on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and after hours on weekdays to hear motions for a temporary injunction ex parte in domestic violence cases. The chief judge may assign a judge for this purpose.

Section 2. Subsection (3) of section 44.103, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

44.103 Court-ordered, nonbinding arbitration.-

31

32

35

38

39

40

42

46

49

51

53

54

56

57

(3) Arbitrators shall be selected and compensated in accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court. Arbitrators shall be compensated by the parties, or, upon a finding by the court that a party is indigent, an arbitrator may be partially or fully compensated from state funds according to the party's present ability to pay. At no time may an arbitrator charge more than \$1,500 per diem, unless the parties agree otherwise. Prior to approving the use of state funds to reimburse an arbitrator, the court must ensure that the party reimburses the portion of the total cost that the party is immediately able to pay and that the party has agreed to a payment plan established by the clerk of the court that will fully reimburse the state for the balance of all state costs for both the arbitrator and any costs of administering the payment plan and any collection efforts that may be necessary in the future. Whenever possible, qualified individuals who have volunteered their time to serve as arbitrators shall be appointed. If an arbitration program is funded pursuant to s. 44.108, volunteer arbitrators shall be

Page 2 of 10

6-00636-25

entitled to be reimbursed pursuant to s. 112.061 for all actual expenses necessitated by service as an arbitrator.

Section 3. Subsection (1) of section 92.50, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

59

60

61

62

63

64 65

67

68

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

8.3

84

85

86

92.50 Oaths, affidavits, and acknowledgments; who may take or administer; requirements.—

(1) IN THIS STATE. - Oaths, affidavits, and acknowledgments required or authorized under the laws of this state (except oaths to jurors and witnesses in court and such other oaths, affidavits and acknowledgments as are required by law to be taken or administered by or before particular officers) may be taken or administered by or before any judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of any court of record within this state, including federal courts, or by or before any United States commissioner or any notary public within this state. The jurat, or certificate of proof or acknowledgment, shall be authenticated by the signature and official seal of such officer or person taking or administering the same; however, when taken or administered by or before any judge, clerk, or deputy clerk of a court of record, the seal of such court may be affixed as the seal of such officer or person. The jurat, or certificate of proof or acknowledgment, may also be authenticated by a judge by affixing his or her signature and printing his or her name, title, and court.

Section 4. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 92.50, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 28.2221, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

28.2221 Electronic access to official records.-

Page 3 of 10

 ${\tt CODING:}$ Words ${\tt stricken}$ are deletions; words ${\tt \underline{underlined}}$ are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 538

6-00636-25 2025538

(6)

88

89

90

93

96

97

99

100

101

102

103

104

105

106

107

108

110

111

112

114

115

116

(b)1. For the purpose of conducting a title search, as defined in s. 627.7711(4), of the Official Records, as described in s. 28.222(2), and upon presentation of photo identification and affirmation by sworn affidavit consistent with s. 92.50 to the county recorder, information restricted from public display, inspection, or copying under paragraph (5)(a) pursuant to a request for removal made under s. 119.071(4)(d) may be disclosed to:

- a. A title insurer authorized pursuant to s. 624.401 and its affiliates as defined in s. 624.10;
- b. A title insurance agent or title insurance agency as defined in s. 626.841(1) and (2), respectively; or
- c. An attorney duly admitted to practice law in this state and in good standing with The Florida Bar.
- 2. The photo identification and affirmation by sworn affidavit may be delivered in person, by mail, or by electronic transmission to the county recorder.
- 3. The affiant requestor must attest to his or her authority and the authorized purpose to access exempt information pursuant to this section for the property specified within the sworn affidavit.
- 4. The affiant requestor must identify the Official Records book and page number, instrument number, or the clerk's file number for each document requested within the sworn affidavit and must include a description of the lawful purpose and identify the individual or property that is the subject of the search within the sworn affidavit.
 - 5. Affidavits submitted by a title insurer, title insurance

Page 4 of 10

6-00636-25 2025538

agent, or title insurance agency must include the Florida Company Code or the license number, as applicable, and an attestation to the affiant requestor's authorization to transact business in this state. Affidavits submitted by an attorney authorized under this section must include the affiant requestor's Florida Bar number and a statement that the affiant requestor has an agency agreement with a title insurer directly or through his or her law firm.

- 6. The county recorder must record such affidavit in the Official Records, as described in s. 28.222(2), but may not place the image or copy of the affidavit on a publicly available Internet website for general public display.
- 7. Upon providing a document disclosing redacted information to an affiant requestor under this section, the county recorder must provide a copy of the affidavit requesting disclosure of the redacted information to each affected party at the address listed on the document or on the request for removal made by the affected party under s. 119.071. The county recorder must prepare a certificate of mailing to be affixed to the affidavit and must receive the statutory service charges as prescribed by s. 28.24 from the affiant requestor.
- 8. Any party making a false attestation under this section is subject to the penalty of perjury under s. 837.012.

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 92.50, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 92.525, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

92.525 Verification of documents; perjury by false written declaration, penalty.—

Page 5 of 10

 ${f CODING:}$ Words ${f stricken}$ are deletions; words ${f underlined}$ are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 538

6 00626 25

	2023336
146	(1) If authorized or required by law, by rule of an
147	administrative agency, or by rule or order of court that a
148	document be verified by a person, the verification may be
149	accomplished in the following manner:
150	(a) Under oath or affirmation taken or administered before
151	an officer authorized under s. 92.50 to administer oaths;
152	(b) Under oath or affirmation taken or administered by an
153	officer authorized under s. 117.10 to administer oaths; or
154	(c) By the signing of the written declaration prescribed in
155	subsection (2).
156	Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
157	made by this act to section 92.50, Florida Statutes, in
158	references thereto, paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (2) of
159	section 110.12301, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:
160	110.12301 Competitive procurement of postpayment claims
161	review services and dependent eligibility verification services;
162	public records exemption
163	(2) The department is directed to contract for dependent
164	eligibility verification services for the state group insurance
165	program.
166	(a) The department or the contractor providing dependent
167	eligibility verification services may require the following
168	information from subscribers:
169	 To prove a spouse's eligibility:
170	a. If married less than 12 months and the subscriber and
171	his or her spouse have not filed a joint federal income tax
172	return, a government-issued marriage certificate;
173	b. If married for 12 or more months, a transcript of the

Page 6 of 10

most recently filed federal income tax return; or

6-00636-25 2025538

c. If the documentation specified in sub-subparagraph a. or sub-subparagraph b. cannot be produced, an attestation of the marriage by sworn affidavit consistent with s. 92.50.

- 2. To prove a biological child's or a newborn grandchild's eligibility:
 - a. A government-issued birth certificate; or
- b. If a birth certificate cannot be produced, an attestation of the subscriber-dependent relationship by sworn affidavit consistent with s. 92.50.
 - 3. To prove an adopted child's eligibility:
 - a. An adoption certificate;

175

176

177

178

179

180

181

182

183

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

201

202

203

- b. An adoption placement agreement and a petition for adoption; or
- c. If the documentation specified in sub-subparagraph a. or sub-subparagraph b. cannot be produced, an attestation of the subscriber-dependent relationship by sworn affidavit consistent with s. 92.50.
 - 4. To prove a stepchild's eligibility:
- a. A government-issued birth certificate for the stepchild; and
- b. The transcript of the subscriber's most recently filed federal income tax return.
- 5. To prove a child's eligibility under a guardianship, a copy of the court order naming the subscriber or the subscriber's spouse as the child's legal guardian or custodian.
- 6. To prove a foster child's eligibility, a copy of the records showing the subscriber or the subscriber's spouse as the dependent's foster parent.
 - 7. To prove eligibility of an unmarried child age 26 to 30:

Page 7 of 10

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 538

2025538 a. A copy of the child's government-issued birth

- certificate or adoption certificate naming the subscriber or the subscriber's spouse as the child's parent, or a copy of the court order naming the subscriber or the subscriber's spouse as the child's legal guardian or custodian;
- b. A copy of the Certification of Over-Age Dependent Eligibility Form; and

6-00636-25

204

205

206

207

208

209

210

211

212

213

214

216

217

218

219

220

221

222

223

224

225

226

227

228

229

230

231

232

- c. A document confirming the child's current enrollment as a student, including the name of the child, the name of the school, and the school term; or a bill or statement in the child's name which is dated within the past 60 days and is mailed to the child at a Florida address.
- 8. To prove eligibility for a disabled child age 26 or older:
- a. A copy of the child's government-issued birth certificate or adoption certificate naming the subscriber or the subscriber's spouse as the child's parent, or a copy of the court order naming the subscriber or the subscriber's spouse as the child's legal guardian or custodian; and
- b. A copy of the transcript of the subscriber's most recently filed federal income tax return listing the child's name and the last four digits of the child's social security number and identifying the child as the subscriber's dependent for tax purposes.
- (d) Foreign-born subscribers unable to obtain the necessary documentation within the specified time period of producing verification documentation may provide a sworn affidavit consistent with s. 92.50 attesting to eligibility requirements.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment

Page 8 of 10

6-00636-25 2025538

made by this act to section 92.50, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (2) of section 112.181, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

2.57

258

259

2.60

261

- 112.181 Firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, correctional officers; special provisions relative to certain communicable diseases .-
- (2) PRESUMPTION; ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS.—Any emergency rescue or public safety worker who suffers a condition or impairment of health that is caused by hepatitis, meningococcal meningitis, or tuberculosis, that requires medical treatment, and that results in total or partial disability or death shall be presumed to have a disability suffered in the line of duty, unless the contrary is shown by competent evidence; however, in order to be entitled to the presumption, the emergency rescue or public safety worker must, by written affidavit as provided in s. 92.50, verify by written declaration that, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief:
- (a) In the case of a medical condition caused by or derived from hepatitis, he or she has not:
- 1. Been exposed, through transfer of bodily fluids, to any person known to have sickness or medical conditions derived from hepatitis, outside the scope of his or her employment;
- 2. Had a transfusion of blood or blood components, other than a transfusion arising out of an accident or injury happening in connection with his or her present employment, or received any blood products for the treatment of a coagulation disorder since last undergoing medical tests for hepatitis, which tests failed to indicate the presence of hepatitis;
 - 3. Engaged in unsafe sexual practices or other high-risk

Page 9 of 10

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 538

behavior, as identified by the Centers for Disease Control and

2025538

6-00636-25

262

263

264

265

266

267

2.68

269

270

271

272

273

274

275

277

278

Prevention or the Surgeon General of the United States, or had sexual relations with a person known to him or her to have engaged in such unsafe sexual practices or other high-risk behavior; or

- 4. Used intravenous drugs not prescribed by a physician.
- (b) In the case of meningococcal meningitis, in the 10 days immediately preceding diagnosis he or she was not exposed, outside the scope of his or her employment, to any person known to have meningococcal meningitis or known to be an asymptomatic carrier of the disease.
- (c) In the case of tuberculosis, in the period of time since the worker's last negative tuberculosis skin test, he or she has not been exposed, outside the scope of his or her employment, to any person known by him or her to have tuberculosis.

Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Page 10 of 10

THE FLORIDA SENATE

SENATA OF FLOR

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Regulated Industries, Chair
Appropriations Committee on Higher
Education, Vice Chair
Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education
Criminal Justice
Ethics and Elections
Fiscal Policy
Rules

JOINT COMMITTEES: Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, Alternating Chair

SENATOR JENNIFER BRADLEY 6th District

February 20, 2025

Senator Clay Yarborough, Chairman Senate Committee on Judiciary 308 Senate Building 404 South Monroe Street Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Chairman Yarborough:

I respectfully request that Senate Bill 538 be placed on the committee's agenda at your earliest convenience. This bill relates to the state courts system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bradley

January Brackley-

cc: Tom Cibula, Staff Director Lisa Larson, Administrative Assistant

☐ 1845 East West Parkway, Suite 5, Fleming Island, Florida 32003 (904) 278-2085

□ 406 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5006

Ĵ.	-4-25	APPEARANCE	RECORD	
a la	Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of t Senate professional staff condu		Bill Number or Topic
	Committee	_		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Helly Overstree	+ Johnson	Phone	850-566-1605
Address	511 Bolloin Broo	K LN	Email K	eligooverstreetjohnson.com
	Tallahassee	FL 32312— State Zip		
	Speaking: For A	gainst Information OR	Waive Speakir	ng: In Support Against
		PLEASE CHECK ONE OF T	THE FOLLOWING	G:
	m appearing without mpensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyis representing: ADR Section of		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

March 4, 2025 **APPEARANCE RECORD**

SB 538

Judic	Meeting Date iary Committee		ver both copies of this fo essional staff conducting	Bill Number or Topic						
7	Committee				Amendment Barcode (if applicable)					
Name	Judge Clay Roberts	<u>s</u>		_ Phone (850)	487-1000					
Address			_ Email							
	Street									
	Tallahassee	Florida	32399							
	City	State	Zip	_						
	Speaking: For .	Against 🔲 Information	on OR w	aive Speaking:	In Support					
PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:										
	n appearing without npensation or sponsorship.	represe	registered lobbyist, enting: Conference of	DCA Judges	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:					

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

March 4, 2025 APPEARANCE RECORD

Florida

State

SB 538

Meeting Date

Judiciary Committee

Committee

Committee

Committee

Committee

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Phone

Address

Address

Address

Phone

Deliver both copies of this form to
Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Email

Speaking: For Against Information OR Waive Speaking: In Support Against

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

34112

I am a registered lobbyist, representing:

Florida Conference of Circuit Judges

I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

Street

City

Naples

I am appearing without

compensation or sponsorship.

538

March 4, 2025 APPEARANCE RECORD Bill Number or Topic Meeting Date Deliver both copies of this form to **Judiciary** Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Committee 850-510-9922 Barney Bishop III Name Barney@BarneyBishop.com 1454 Vieux Carre Drive Street Tallahassee FI 32308 City State Zip Waive Speaking: In Support For Against Information PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am not a lobbyist, but received I am appearing without I am a registered lobbyist, compensation or sponsorship. something of value for my appearance representing: (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), Fla. Smart Justice Alliance sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

(08/10/2021) S-001

The Florida Senate BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Judiciary									
BILL:	SB 734								
INTRODUCER:	Senator Yarborough								
SUBJECT:	Actions for Recovery of Damages for Wrongful Death								
DATE:	March 4, 2025 REVISED:								
ANAL	YST	STAFF DIRECTOR		REFERENCE		ACTION			
1. Bond		Cibula		JU	Favorable				
2.				AHS					
3.				RC					

I. Summary:

SB 734 expands the application of the Florida Wrongful Death Act by repealing exceptions that prohibit certain parents and children of a deceased patient who dies due to medical negligence from recovering noneconomic damages.

The bill is effective July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

History of Wrongful Death Actions

Most of the state's tort law is derived from the common law. At common law, there was no right to recover for the negligent wrongful death of another person. Over time, however, the Legislature authorized recoveries for wrongful death and expanded the types of damages recoverable and the classes of survivors entitled to recover. "Because wrongful death actions did not exist at common law, all claims for wrongful death are created and limited by Florida's Wrongful Death Act."

The early versions of the state's wrongful death laws limited the right to recover damages to a surviving spouse, to surviving children if there was no surviving spouse, and to those dependent upon the decedent for support if there was no one belonging to the prior two classes, and finally to the executor of the decedent's estate if there was no one belonging from the prior three classes.³ To show dependence on the decedent, a claimant had to show that he or she was a minor, physically or mentally disabled, or elderly.⁴ Adults who were mentally and physically

¹ Louisville & Nashville Railroad Co. v. Jones, 45 Fla. 407, 416 (Fla. 1903).

² Chinghina v. Racik, 647 So. 2d 289, 290 (Fla. 4th DCA 1994).

³ Duval v. Hunt, 34 Fla. 85 (Fla. 1894) (discussing a wrongful death statute enacted in 1883).

⁴ *Id.* at 101-102.

capable of providing for themselves could not recover damages despite having been supported by the decedent.⁵ Any damages recoverable were limited to a form of economic damages.

The wrongful death law was substantially re-written in 1972.⁶ That law created the Florida Wrongful Death Act, which provides the framework for current law. One of the major changes made by this law was to consolidate or merge survival and wrongful death actions.⁷ A survival action is a legal action allowed under the survival statute to continue notwithstanding the plaintiff's death. As merged, the 1972 law allowed the statutory survivors to recover damages for their pain and suffering as a substitute for recoveries for the decedent's pain and suffering under the survival statute.⁸

The type of damages that a survivor is entitled to under the 1972 law depends upon the classification of the survivor. The 1972 law allows all survivors to recover the value of lost support and services, a type of economic damages. A surviving spouse may also recover loss of marital companionship and pain and suffering, types of noneconomic damages. Minor children, then defined as under age 21° and unmarried, may also recover damages for loss of parental companionship and for their pain and suffering. The parents of a deceased minor child may also recover damage for their pain and suffering. Any survivor who pays the decedent's final medical, funeral, and burial expenses may recover those costs. The estate of the decedent may recover lost earnings from date of injury to date of death, plus net accumulations, which is essentially an estimate of the present value of the future estate that would have been available for inheritance.

A 1981 act expanded the definition of "minor children" to include all children of the decedent under age 25, regardless of whether any child is married or dependent. ¹⁰ The statutes did not authorize a wrongful death action by a nondependent, adult child for the loss of a parent or an action by a parent for the loss of an adult child. ¹¹

In 1990, the Legislature generally expanded the class of survivors entitled to recover damages for pain and suffering for a wrongful death. As expanded, a decedent's adult children may recover damages for pain and suffering if there is no surviving spouse. The parents of an adult decedent may also recover damages for pain and suffering if there is no surviving spouse or surviving minor or adult children. 13

However, the same law that expanded the class entitled to recover damages for pain and suffering for a wrongful death precluded the additional class members from recovering those

⁵ The Court interpreted the dependency requirement in the statute as requiring a person to have a genuine inability to support himself or herself based on the view that strong, healthy adults who are capable of earning a livelihood should not be content to "live in idleness upon the fruits of [another's] labor." *Id.* at 101.

⁶ Chapter 72-35, Laws of Fla.

⁷ Sheffield v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., 329 So. 3d 114, 121 (Fla. 2021).

⁸ Martin v. United Sec. Services, Inc., 314 So. 2d 765, 767 (Fla. 1975).

⁹ Florida changed the age of majority from 21 to 18 in the following year, but that act did not change the reference to age 21 in the wrongful death law. Section 743.07, F.S.; chapter 73-21, Laws of Fla.

¹⁰ Chapter 81-183, Laws of Fla.

¹¹ Mizrahi v. North Miami Medical Center, Ltd., 761 So. 2d 1040, 1042 (Fla. 2000).

¹² Chapter 90-14, Laws of Fla.

¹³ *Id.* (amending s. 768.18(3) and (4), F.S.). The adult children were also authorized by the 1990 law to recover noneconomic damages for lost parental companionship, instruction, and guidance.

damages for a wrongful death based on medical malpractice.¹⁴ Thus, a narrower group of survivors may recover damages for pain and suffering for a wrongful death that is caused by medical malpractice, and a broader group may recover damages for pain and suffering for a death that is caused by all other forms of negligence.

In a 2000 opinion, the Florida Supreme Court found the medical negligence exception constitutional.¹⁵ The Court found that the exception was rationally related to the need to control the costs of health care and medical malpractice insurance due to a medical malpractice insurance crisis. However, Justice Pariente, in her dissenting opinion, argued that the exception should be found to be unconstitutional because of her belief that the medical malpractice insurance crisis, which initially justified the exception, no longer existed.¹⁶ The Florida Supreme Court later found that the malpractice crisis was over,¹⁷ but that finding did not overrule the ruling that the medical negligence exceptions are constitutional.¹⁸

Current Effect of the Medical Negligence Exceptions to the Wrongful Death Law

Currently, neither an adult child (25+) of an unmarried person who dies due to medical negligence, nor the parents of an adult child (25+) who dies due to medical negligence, may recover noneconomic damages (commonly referred to as "pain and suffering damages"). They may, however, recover through the estate economic damages such as net accumulations, final medical bills, and funeral and burial expenses. Plaintiff's attorneys report that these other damages are often insufficient to warrant the cost and time required to prosecute a medical negligence case.¹⁹

Medical Negligence Actions

Procedures for a Medical Negligence Action

Medical negligence claims are subject to statutory presuit screening and investigation requirements. A claimant may, and typically does, request the relevant medical records, which must be furnished by the medical providers at a reasonable charge. The claimant must then conduct a reasonable investigation of the claim and obtain a written opinion from a medical expert that malpractice occurred. The claimant may then serve a notice of intent to initiate litigation on every prospective defendant. The suit may not be filed until at least 90 days after service of the notice. During the 90 days, the parties must engage in pretrial discovery and the

¹⁴ *Id.* (amending s. 768.18(8), F.S.).

¹⁵ Mizrahi v. North Miami Medical Center, Ltd., 761 So. 2d 1040, 1042 (Fla. 2000).

¹⁶ Id.

¹⁷ Estate of McCall v. United States, 134 So. 3d 894 (Fla. 2014). North Broward Hospital District v. Kalitan, 219 So. 3d 49 (Fla. 2017).

¹⁸ Santiago v. Rodriguez, 281 So. 3d 603 (Fla. 2nd DCA 2019), rev. dismissed, 2020 WL 927717 (Fla. 2020).

¹⁹ Fasig Brooks Law Offices, *Unfair and Illogical: Florida's Wrongful Death Medical Malpractice Law*, https://www.fasigbrooks.com/2019/02/unfair-and-illogical-floridas-wrongful-death-med/, last visited Feb. 27, 2025, (stating that "such limited recovery would not make a malpractice lawsuit financially feasible").

²⁰ Sections 766.104, 766.106 and 766.203, F.S.

²¹ Sections 766.104(3) and 766.204, F.S.

²² Sections 766.104(1) and 766.203(2), F.S.

²³ Section 766.106(4), F.S.

²⁴ Section 766.106(6) and 766.205, F.S.

prospective defendant must conduct an investigation.²⁵ If not resolved in the 90 days, the claimant may file suit. When filing the suit, the attorney must file a certificate that he or she has reviewed the evidence and has a good faith belief that a medical negligence case is warranted.²⁶ Failure of the claimant to pursue the pretrial process constitutes grounds for a dismissal of the claim. A failure of any party to the action to cooperate with the presuit process may be grounds to strike any claim or defense raised by the non-cooperative party.²⁷ After the presuit requirements are met, a claim of medical negligence generally proceeds through the court system like any other tort action.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill expands the application of the Florida Wrongful Death Act by repealing exceptions that prohibit certain parents and children of a deceased patient who dies due to medical negligence from recovering noneconomic damages. The bill provides that, where a wrongful death occurs as a result of medical negligence, a decedent's adult children may recover noneconomic damages if there is no surviving spouse and provides that the parents of an adult decedent may recover noneconomic damages if there is no surviving spouse or surviving minor or adult children.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified in Article VII, s. 18 of the Florida Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

²⁵ Section 766.203(3), F.S.

²⁶ Section 766.104(1), F.S.

²⁷ Section 766.106(7), F.S.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

The bill may provide for wrongful death recoveries by parties who are barred by current law, and thus may correspondingly increase medical malpractice insurance premiums or medical malpractice self-insurance costs of medical providers. Similarly, the availability of damages for mental pain and suffering may provide a sufficient incentive for plaintiff attorneys who work on a contingency-fee-basis to pursue more medical negligence lawsuits.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill may create an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on the state and local governments to the extent that the state or a local government operates or controls a medical care facility. Any such claims, however, would be limited by the state's sovereign immunity limits.²⁸

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 768.21, 400.023, and 400.0235.

This bill reenacts the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 95.11 and 429.29.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

-

²⁸ Section 768.28, F.S.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

By Senator Yarborough

4-00329-25 2025734_ A bill to be entitled

An act relating to actions for recovery of damages for

wrongful death; amending s. 768.21, F.S.; deleting a provision prohibiting the recovery of certain damages by specified parties related to the decedent in wrongful death proceedings; amending ss. 400.023, 400.0235, and 429.295, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; reenacting ss. 95.11(11) and 429.29(1), F.S., relating to limitations other than for recovery of real property and civil actions to enforce rights, respectively, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 768.21, F.S., in references

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

thereto; providing an effective date.

17 Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 768.21, Florida 18 Statutes, is amended to read:

768.21 Damages.—All potential beneficiaries of a recovery for wrongful death, including the decedent's estate, shall be identified in the complaint, and their relationships to the decedent shall be alleged. Damages may be awarded as follows:

(8) The damages specified in subsection (3) shall not be recoverable by adult children and the damages specified in subsection (4) shall not be recoverable by parents of an adult child with respect to claims for medical negligence as defined by s. 766.106(1).

Section 2. Subsection (9) of section 400.023, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of

Page 1 of 5

 ${\tt CODING:}$ Words ${\tt stricken}$ are deletions; words ${\tt \underline{underlined}}$ are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 734

4-00329-25 2025734

0 that section is republished, to read:

400.023 Civil enforcement.-

- (1) An exclusive cause of action for negligence or a violation of residents' rights as specified under this part which alleges direct or vicarious liability for the personal injury or death of a nursing home resident arising from such negligence or violation of rights and which seeks damages for such injury or death may be brought only against the licensee, the licensee's management or consulting company, the licensee's managing employees, and any direct caregivers, whether employees or contractors. A passive investor is not liable under this section. An action against any other individual or entity may be brought only pursuant to subsection (3).
- (b) If the action alleges a claim for the resident's rights or for negligence that caused the death of the resident, the claimant shall, after the verdict, but before the judgment is entered, elect survival damages pursuant to s. 46.021 or wrongful death damages pursuant to s. 768.21. If the action alleges a claim for the resident's rights or for negligence that did not cause the death of the resident, the personal representative of the estate may recover damages for the negligence that caused injury to the resident.
- (9) An action under this part for a violation of rights or negligence recognized herein is not a claim for medical malpractice, and s. 768.21(8) does not apply to a claim alleging death of the resident.

Section 3. Section 400.0235, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

400.0235 Certain provisions not applicable to actions under

Page 2 of 5

4-00329-25 2025734

this part.—An action under this part for a violation of rights or negligence recognized under this part is not a claim for medical malpractice, and the provisions of s. 768.21(8) do not apply to a claim alleging death of the resident.

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

8.3

85

86

87

Section 4. Section 429.295, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

429.295 Certain provisions not applicable to actions under this part.—An action under this part for a violation of rights or negligence recognized herein is not a claim for medical malpractice, and the provisions of s. 768.21(8) do not apply to a claim alleging death of the resident.

Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.21, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (11) of section 95.11, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

95.11 Limitations other than for the recovery of real property.—Actions other than for recovery of real property shall be commenced as follows:

(11) FOR INTENTIONAL TORTS RESULTING IN DEATH FROM ACTS DESCRIBED IN S. 782.04 OR S. 782.07.—Notwithstanding paragraph (5)(e), an action for wrongful death seeking damages authorized under s. 768.21 brought against a natural person for an intentional tort resulting in death from acts described in s. 782.04 or s. 782.07 may be commenced at any time. This subsection shall not be construed to require an arrest, the filing of formal criminal charges, or a conviction for a violation of s. 782.04 or s. 782.07 as a condition for filing a civil action.

Section 6. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment

Page 3 of 5

 ${\tt CODING:}$ Words ${\tt stricken}$ are deletions; words ${\tt \underline{underlined}}$ are additions.

Florida Senate - 2025 SB 734

4-00329-25 2025734

made by this act to section 768.21, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 429.29, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

429.29 Civil actions to enforce rights.-

92 (1) Any person or resident whose rights as specified in this part are violated shall have a cause of action. The action 93 may be brought by the resident or his or her guardian, or by a person or organization acting on behalf of a resident with the consent of the resident or his or her guardian, or by the personal representative of the estate of a deceased resident regardless of the cause of death. If the action alleges a claim for the resident's rights or for negligence that caused the death of the resident, the claimant shall be required to elect 100 101 either survival damages pursuant to s. 46.021 or wrongful death damages pursuant to s. 768.21. If the action alleges a claim for 103 the resident's rights or for negligence that did not cause the death of the resident, the personal representative of the estate 104 may recover damages for the negligence that caused injury to the 105 106 resident. The action may be brought in any court of competent 107 jurisdiction to enforce such rights and to recover actual 108 damages, and punitive damages for violation of the rights of a resident or negligence. Any resident who prevails in seeking 110 injunctive relief or a claim for an administrative remedy is 111 entitled to recover the costs of the action and a reasonable 112 attorney's fee assessed against the defendant not to exceed 113 \$25,000. Fees shall be awarded solely for the injunctive or 114 administrative relief and not for any claim or action for 115 damages whether such claim or action is brought together with a request for an injunction or administrative relief or as a 116

Page 4 of 5

4-00329-25 2025734 117 separate action, except as provided under s. 768.79 or the 118 Florida Rules of Civil Procedure. Sections 429.29-429.298 119 provide the exclusive remedy for a cause of action for recovery of damages for the personal injury or death of a resident arising out of negligence or a violation of rights specified in 121 122 s. 429.28. This section does not preclude theories of recovery 123 not arising out of negligence or s. 429.28 which are available 124 to a resident or to the agency. The provisions of chapter 766 do 125 not apply to any cause of action brought under ss. 429.29-126 429.298. 127

Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Page 5 of 5

March 4, 2025 Meeting Date	The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECOR Deliver both copies of this form to	D SB 734 Bill Number or Topic
Name ALYSSA FJER	Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) $(904) + 793 - 3538$
Address 2016 Chaucer	Email #	ALYSSA FJERANO
Porte Vedra F	2081 Zip	GMAIL. Com
Speaking: For Against	Information OR Waive Speak	ing: In Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWIN	NG:
l am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/.

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 734

Meeting Date

3-4-25

Deliver both copies of this form to

Bill Number or Topic

something of value for my appearance

(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),

sponsored by:

Se	nate Judiciary	Senate professional staff conduct	ing the meeting
1	Committee		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Cindy Jenkins		Phone 904-662-2273
Address	Street	+-	_ Email Cindya Lindy Jenkihs group.
	St Augustine City State	12 32 09 Z te Zip	
	Speaking: For Against	Information OR	Waive Speaking: In Support Against
	Speaking. To Day Against	I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	valve speaking.
/		PLEASE CHECK ONE OF TH	E FOLLOWING:
lar lar	n appearing without	I am a registered lobbyist,	I am not a lobbyist, but received

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules, pdf (fisenate.gov)

I am a registered lobbyist,

representing:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

I am appearing without

compensation or sponsorship.

3-4-2	APPEARANCE RECORD	SB 134
Meeting D	•	Bill Number or Topic
Committe		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name CCC	•	27-992-3894
Address 2546	Baywood do. Email E	OSMail COM
City Class	State 34640	@Small : Com
Speaking:	For Against Information OR Waive Speaking:	:
/	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:	
I am appearing withou compensation or spor		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

7	2
	-74

sponsored by:

03.04.05 APPEARANCE RECORD Bill Number or Topic Meeting Date Deliver both copies of this form to Judiciary Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Committee Randy Ray 850-556-5269 Name Email randallgray@comcast.net 189 Silver Pine Drive Address Street 32092 St. Augustine FL City Zip State OR Speaking: For Against Information Waive Speaking: In Support Against PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am not a lobbyist, but received I am a registered lobbyist, am appearing without something of value for my appearance compensation or sponsorship. representing: (travel, meals, lodging, etc.),

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules, pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

ADDEADANCE DECODO

_		. 4
	-	? /I
//) ~

Bill Number or Topic

03.0	4.05	APPEA	RANCE R	ECORD	734
Judio	Meeting Date Ciary	 Deliv	ver both copies of this fo essional staff conducting	orm to	Bill Number or Topic
	Committee			707	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Miriam Ramire	ez 		_ Phone	567-1333
Address	_s 5542 Sago Pa	alm Drive		_ _{Email} mjea	ın1@gmail.com
	Street Orlando	FL	32819	_	
	City	State	Zip	_	
	Speaking: For	Against Informati	ion OR w	/aive Speaking:	In Support Against
	/	PLEASE CH	ECK ONE OF THE I	FOLLOWING:	
	m appearing without mpensation or sponsorship.		registered lobbyist, enting:		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules, pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

The Florida Senate APPEARANCE RECORD Bill Number or Topic Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Email Waive Speaking: In Support Information PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (fisenate.gov)

I am a registered lobbyist,

representing:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

I am appearing without

compensation or sponsorship.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

I am not a lobbyist, but received

(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),

sponsored by:

something of value for my appearance

1	The Florida Senate	80 M711
3-4-2025	APPEARANCE RECORD	061/37
Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of this form to	Bill Number or Topic
DUNICIAVU	Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	
Committee		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name OCIVIS, Sa	prina Phone 81	3.300.5014
8 2 0		
Address 5011 Sto 41	the well Email	
Street		
Cycimesvine, F	L. 32608	
City State	Zip	
Speaking: For Against [Information OR Waive Speaking:	In Support Against
oposimiy.		
	DI FACE CLIECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING.	
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:	
I am appearing without	I am a registered lobbyist,	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance
compensation or sponsorship.	representing:	(travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
· ·		sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

2/1/2	The Florida	Senate	2
3/4/25	APPEARANC	E RECORD	SB 734
Meeting Date Judicia Cur	Deliver both copies Senate professional staff cor		Bill Number or Topic
Name	Scheppler "	Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 561 401 7350
Address 101 SE Bo	alboa Ave	Email /	marcia FLa Rieloud. com
Stuart	FL 34994 State Zip		
Speaking: For	Against Information OR	Waive Speakir	ng:
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF	THE FOLLOWING	ā:
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	l am a registered lobb representing:	yist,	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

	3/4/25		rida Senate NCE RECORÍ	.	5B734
(Meeting Date Judi Ciary Committee		opies of this form to aff conducting the meeting		Bill Number or Topic Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Karen A	equilar	Phone	813-	148-0821
Addr	ess 7553 Gran	ritville or.	Email	Cut	ep5510 @ aol.com
	wesley Cha	PEL FE 33545 Zip			
	Speaking: For A	against Information	OR Waive Speakin	ng: 🗌 In St	upport Against
	/	PLEASE CHECK ON	NE OF THE FOLLOWING	G:	
9	I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	l am a registered representing:	d lobbyist,		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

03/04/2025 Meeting Date Civil Justice	APPEARANCE REC Deliver both copies of this form Senate professional staff conducting the	to	SB	734 Bill Number or Topic
Name DAry L Pernt	-	Phone <u>904</u>		ndment Barcode (if applicable) - 1915
Address 5495 I street		Email Smok	2GNÍ.	bhq@yahoo.co
ST. Augustone Flacity State Speaking: For Against	320 GO Zip Information OR Waiv	e Speaking:	In Suppor	t Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FO	LLOWING:		
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:		somet (travel	ot a lobbyist, but received hing of value for my appearance I, meals, lodging, etc.), ored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

-	0	A
	.3	4
	<u> </u>	

03.04.25 APPEARANCE RECORD Bill Number or Topic Meeting Date Deliver both copies of this form to Judiciary Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Committee (813) 848-0600 Andy Bolin Name asb@bolin-law.com 1905 E. 7th Ave. Address Street 33605 Tampa FLCity State Zip Waive Speaking: In Support Against Speaking: For Against Information PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am not a lobbyist, but received I am a registered lobbyist, I am appearing without something of value for my appearance compensation or sponsorship. representing: (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), Florida Justice Reform Institute sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

E O M	314 25 Meeting Date		ARANCE Deliver both copies of the rofessional staff conduction		Bill Number or Topic
<u> </u>	Committee				Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Luven Korni	jenko		Phone	321-501-6804
Address	s 7615 Willbro	ook Ave		Email	
	We bourne City	FL State	32940 Zip		
	Speaking: For	Against Inform	ation OR	Waive Speaki	ng:
		PLEASE (HECK ONE OF T	HE FOLLOWING	G:
	m appearing without mpensation or sponsorship.		n a registered lobbyist resenting:		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

APPEARANCE RECORD

_	
"2	Λ
U	
	3

Meeting Date Judiciary			Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting		Bill Number or Topic
Name	Shelly Knick			_ Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 206-757-6255
Address	806 Edgewate	er Drive		Email	sknick@phyins.com
	Inverness	FL	34453	_	
	City	State	Zip		
	Speaking: For	Against Informatio	n OR Wa	aive Spea	aking: In Support Against
		PLEASE CHE	CK ONE OF THE F	OLLOWI	ING:
	n appearing without npensation or sponsorship.	I am a re represer	egistered lobbyist, nting:		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

03.04.05

APPEARANCE RECORD Bill Number or Topic Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Name 37872 State City Waive Speaking: In Support Against PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am not a lobbyist, but received I am a registered lobbyist, I am appearing without something of value for my appearance representing: compensation or sponsorship. (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

7	0	A
	:3	4
	U	

03.04.25		APP	APPEARANCE RECORD 1/34			
Judio	Meeting Date Ciary	Senate	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting		Bill Number or Topic	
Name	Kathryn Maga	r	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Phone Phone			
Address		vd		Email kathryn.magar	n.magar@hf.org	
	Rockledge	FL	32955			
	Speaking: For	State Against Inform	Zip mation OR W	ive Speaking: In Support	Against	
	m appearing without mpensation or sponsorship.	[] I	CHECK ONE OF THE Fam a registered lobbyist, epresenting:	I am not a somethir	a lobbyist, but received ng of value for my appearance neals, lodging, etc.), ed by:	

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

3 3 4 25
Meeting Date
So Tudicionu
Committee

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB 734 Bill Number or Topic

Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

	Committee				Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Beah	young		Phone \$50-591	-6979
Address	3418 Street	farrey Mill	CNEEK Rd	Email ASUBER	123 Ggmail, oan
co	Tallah	SSLE PL State	32310 Zip		
	Speaking: 🐧	For Against Info	rmation OR Wai	ive Speaking:	upport Against
		PLEAS	E CHECK ONE OF THE FO	OLLOWING:	
	n appearing without npensation or sponso		am a registered lobbyist, representing:		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

APPEARANCE RECORD

12 20	- 1
713	24
) /

Meeting Date 3/6/95 E	Deliver both copies of this form to senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number or Topic
Committee		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name TRAVIS CREIGHTON	Phone Phone	-264-7060
Address 4228 AUTUMW LEAVES Street	OR. Email PERFOR	RMING-SOLUTIONS @ GMATL.CO
TAMPA FL City State	33624 Zip	
Speaking: For Against	Information OR Waive Speaking:] In Support
PLE	EASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:	
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

JUDICIARY S

2/1/2	The Florida Ser	nate	73/1
5/4/25	APPEARANCE	RECORD _	1) 7
Meeting Date Judicias S	Deliver both copies of thi Senate professional staff conduct		Bill Number or Topic
Name Exic Tins	tman-F.J.A	Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Address 218 S. Monro	e 5+	Email Ecilo	
TLH F. State	323 o	1 Firm	· (om
Speaking: For Against	☐ Information OR	Waive Speaking: In	Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF TH	E FOLLOWING:	
Tam appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

3/4/2025	(Deliver BOTH cop	es of this form to the Senator of	Senate Professional St	an conducting the meeting)	734
Meeting Date	_				Bill Number (if applicable)
Topic Wrongful Dea	th			Amend	Iment Barcode (if applicable)
Name Daniel Daube	, MD				
Job Title Physician					
Address 200 Doctor	s Drive			Phone 850-224	-6496
Panama Ci	ty	Florida	32405	Email skipdaube	e@gmail.com
City Speaking: For [✓ Against	State Information	and the second of the second o	peaking: In Si ir will read this inform	upport Against ation into the record.)
Representing FI	orida Medical	Association			
Appearing at reques	t of Chair:	Yes No	Lobbyist regist	ered with Legislat	ure: Yes No
While it is a Senate tradi					peak to be heard at this can be heard.
This form is part of the	public record f	or this meeting.			S-001 (10/14/14)

3/4/25 Meeting Date Judici any	APPEARANCE RECORI Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	SB 734 Bill Number or Topic
Name Carolyn Johns	Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 850 - 621 - 1235
Address 134 S Bronou Street Tallahassee City S	Email	521-1200
Speaking: For Again	st Information OR Waive Speaking	ng:
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING	G:
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing: FL Chamber of Commerce	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

APPEARANCE RECORD

SB	734

Rill Number or Tonic

I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am a registered lobbyist, representing:	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:
Speaking: For Against [Zip Information OR Waive Speaking:	☐ In Support ☐ Against
Street		
Address	Email	
Name DAVID M	TCA Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number of Topics

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

SB 734 3.4.25 APPEARANCE RECORD Bill Number or Topic Meeting Date Deliver both copies of this form to S Judiciary Senate professional staff conducting the meeting Amendment Barcode (if applicable) Committee 8502247173 Adam Basford Name abasford@aif.com 516 North Adams St Street FL 32301 Tallahassee City State Zip Speaking: For Against Information OR Waive Speaking: In Support PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: I am not a lobbyist, but received I am a registered lobbyist, am appearing without something of value for my appearance compensation or sponsorship. representing: (travel, meals, lodging, etc.),

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (fisenate.gov)

Associated Industries of Florida

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

sponsored by:

	The Florida Senate	
Meeting Date Sudicional	APPEARANCE RECOR Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number or Topic
Name APRP - Karen	Murillo Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 850-567-0414
Address 215 5. Monro	e St., Stel 603 Email	Kmurillo Daarporg
Tallahasser F	1 3230 l e Zip	
Speaking: For Against	Information OR Waive Speak	ing:
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWIN	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

APPEARANCE RECORD

		ĺ
Senate Bill	721	
ou euc par	107	

Senate Judicians	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number or Topic
Committee		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name Darry McGuil	Phone	321.759.9665
	Circle Email	
Street		
Melbrume 7	<u>1</u> 32940State Zip	
Speaking: For Again	nst Information OR Waive Speaking	ng: In Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING	i:
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (fisenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

3/4/25

	, ,	THE HOHA	a Schate	
	3/4/25	APPEARANC	CE RECORD	734
P	Meeting Date	Deliver both copie		Bill Number or Topic
7-1	Judiciary	Senate professional staff co	onducting the meeting	
	Committee	_		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Chris Nolar	d	Phone90	04-233-3051
Address	4427 Herse	hel St	Email	landlawe act com
Street				
T	1 11 (2			
	acksonville, 12 3	2210		
City		State Zip		
Sp	eaking: For Ag	gainst 🗌 Information 🔼	R Waive Speaking:	In Support Against
organization and the state of t		PLEASE CHECK ONE C	F THE FOLLOWING:	
	aring without ation or sponsorship.	representing:	byist,	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:
	Florida Cha	oter American (allow of Phi	

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

	The Florida Senate	$CD \supset 2d$
3/9/2025	APPEARANCE RECORD	<u> </u>
Judiciar X	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number or Topic
Name Committee Value Dele	999/ Phone	Amendment Barcode (if applicable) 850583 - 7400
Address 201 E. Park	Email	narko)dgaH.com
Street 7214 G	EC 32301 e Zip	
Speaking: For Against	☐ Information OR Waive Speaking	: In Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:	
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	Tam a registered lobbyist, representing:	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
ProAssurance Co	· Poralion	sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

. 1	The Florida Se	nate	2 - 1
Mar 4, 2025	APPEARANCE	RECORD	5B 734
Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of th		Bill Number or Topic
_udiciary	Senate professional staff conduc —	ting the meeting	
Committee	m If		Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name andra /	Dilham	Phone	850-251-2283
Address 6675 Weesbing	Willaw Way	Email 5 n	northan Caol. com
Street			
Tallehassee	FL 32311		
City	State Zip		
Speaking: For Ag	gainst Information OR	Waive Speaking:	: In Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF TH	E FOLLOWING:	r-
l am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	Tam a registered lobbyist, representing:	Compan	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

	The Florida Sen	ate	
March 4, 25	APPEARANCE F	RECORD	734
Meeting Date Tudicle Miles	Deliver both copies of this Senate professional staff conducti		Bill Number or Topic
Committee 1			Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name On Lavge		Phone <u>(85</u>	50)556-1461
Address 1100 Brookwood	d PR	_ Email	i @ largestrategi
Tallahassee FL City State	32308 Zip	, 	com
Speaking: For Against	☐ Information OR N	Waive Speaking:	In Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE	FOLLOWING:	
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:		I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.),
Florida Orthopedia	Society		sponsored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

	61,100	The Florida Senat	e	- 0	
	5/4/25	APPEARANCE RI	ECORD	SB	734
	Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of this for			Bill Number or Topic
-	OUCILCIUTY	Senate professional staff conducting	the meeting		
	Name Stre	Red	Phone		ndment Barcode (if applicable) 670 – 2110
	Address 360 Central A	<i>J</i> .	Email	lstree	da aarp.or
	Street St Peters by Fr	- 33701 Zip	-		
	City	ΣΙΡ			
	Speaking: For Against	Information OR Wa	aive Speaking	: In Support	Against
		PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING:		
	I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:) R	somet (travel	ot a lobbyist, but received hing of value for my appearance , meals, lodging, etc.), ored by:

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

2-16-25	The Florida Senate	224
0-4-12	APPEARANCE RECORD	
Meeting Date	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting	Bill Number of Topic
Name Sarbus Vo	Phone 8	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Address 625E, Brev	and Email b	arbunderoue 12
Street	CL 32308	Janos Con
City State	Zip	
Speaking: For Against	Information OR Waive Speaking	: In Support Against
	PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:	
I am appearing without compensation or sponsorship.	I am a registered lobbyist, representing:	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance
representing & Alliance for Wetered America		(travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:
	77	11 VILLAGE A DE

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

3/4/25 APPEARANCE RI	ECORD 734
Meeting Date Deliver both copies of this fo Senate professional staff conducting	
Committee	Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name George Feijoo ("Fay-Jew")	Phone 305 720 7099
Address [08 S. Monroe St.	Email <u>Grfeijoo</u> Gflapartners.com
Tallahessee FL 32301 City State Zip	-
Speaking: For Against Information OR Wa	aive Speaking: 🔲 In Support 💢 Against
PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE F	OLLOWING:
I am appearing without a lam a registered lobbyist, representing: The Florida Insurance Cou	I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules.pdf (fisenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

3/4/25 Meeting Date Judiciary		APR	PEARANCE	734		
		Sena	Deliver both copies of this form to Senate professional staff conducting the meeting			Bill Number or Topic
	Committee					Amendment Barcode (if applicable)
Name	Dan Hendrickso	on	Phone			5701967
Addres			Email danbhendrickson@comcast.ne			
	Tallahassee	FI	32301			
	City	State	Zip			
	Speaking: For	Against Info	ormation OR	Waive Spea	aking:	In Support Against
PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:						
	am appearing without ompensation or sponsorship.		I am a registered lobbyist, representing:			I am not a lobbyist, but received something of value for my appearance (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

While it is a tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this hearing. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard. If you have questions about registering to lobby please see Fla. Stat. §11.045 and Joint Rule 1. 2020-2022 Joint Rules, pdf (flsenate.gov)

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: SB 110 Case No.: Type: Caption: Senate Judiciary Committee Judge:

Started: 3/4/2025 4:01:16 PM

Ends: 3/4/2025 5:30:23 PM Length: 01:29:08

- 4:01:16 PM Chair Yarborough calls meeting to order
- 4:01:20 PM Roll call
- 4:01:37 PM Chair Yarborough makes opening remarks
- **4:01:58 PM** Tab 1: SB 514 by Senator Harrell
- 4:02:03 PM Chair Yarborough recognizes Senator Harrell
- 4:02:07 PM Senator Harrell explains the bill
- **4:04:01 PM** Amendment 153390
- 4:04:08 PM Senator Harrell explains amendment
- 4:04:36 PM Questions:
- 4:04:40 PM Public testimony
- 4:04:44 PM Debate
- 4:04:46 PM Senator Harrell waives close on amendment
- 4:04:51 PM Chair Yarborough reports on amendment
- 4:04:55 PM Questions on bill:
- 4:04:59 PM Public testimony
- 4:05:21 PM Debate
- 4:05:25 PM Senator Harrell closes on bill
- 4:05:46 PM Roll call
- 4:06:10 PM Chair Yarborough reports on bill
- 4:06:23 PM Tab 3: SB 734 by Chair Yarborough
- **4:06:29 PM** Vice Chair Burton recognizes Chair Yarborough
- 4:06:40 PM Chair Yarborough explains the bill
- 4:09:12 PM Questions:
- 4:09:18 PM Public testimony
- 4:09:25 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Randy Ray
- 4:09:54 PM Randy Ray
- 4:11:48 PM Senator Osgood
- 4:12:14 PM Randy Ray
- 4:13:19 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Miriam Ramirez
- 4:13:38 PM Miriam Ramirez
- 4:15:00 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Sarah Franqui
- 4:15:15 PM Sara Franqui
- 4:20:26 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Sabrina Davis
- 4:20:38 PM Sabrina Davis
- **4:22:53 PM** Vice Chair Burton recognizes Marcia Scheppler
- 4:23:05 PM Marcia Scheppler
- 4:25:49 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Karen Aguilar
- 4:26:01 PM Karen Aguilar
- 4:33:00 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Lauren Korniyenko
- 4:33:21 PM Lauren Kornivenko
- 4:37:33 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Daryl Perritt
- 4:37:46 PM Daryl Perritt

```
4:42:28 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Alyssa Fjeran
4:42:39 PM Alyssa Fjeran
4:45:58 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Peter Finnell
4:46:12 PM Peter Finnell
4:49:56 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Andy Bolin - Florida Justice Reform Institute
4:50:09 PM Andy Bolin
4:52:41 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Cindy Jenkins
4:52:53 PM Cindy Jenkins
4:56:20 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Shelly Knick
4:56:30 PM Shelly Knick
4:59:39 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Ethan Lepez
4:59:54 PM Ethan Lepez
5:02:40 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Kathryn Magar
5:02:50 PM Kathryn Magar
5:04:13 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Beth Young
5:04:25 PM Beth Young
5:07:23 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Travis Creighton
5:07:40 PM Travis Creighton
5:09:45 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Eric Tinstman - F.J.A
5:09:55 PM Eric Tinstman
5:10:25 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Dr. Daniel Daube - Florida Medical Association
5:10:31 PM Dr. Daniel Daube
5:12:38 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Carolyn Johnson - Florida Chamber of Commerce
5:12:46 PM Carolyn Johnson
5:13:47 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes David Mica - Florida Hospital Association
5:13:57 PM David Mica
5:15:51 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Adam Basford - Associated Industries of Florida
5:16:00 PM Adam Basford
5:16:53 PM Vice Chair Burton recognizes Karen Murillo - AARP
5:17:00 PM Karen Murillo
5:18:14 PM Debate
5:18:17 PM Senator Passidomo
5:19:43 PM Senator Hooper
5:22:28 PM Chair Yarborough closes on the bill
5:23:17 PM Roll call
5:23:39 PM Vice Chair Burton reports on the bill
5:24:03 PM Recording Paused
5:27:32 PM Recording Resumed
5:27:35 PM Tab 2: SB 538 by Senator Bradley
5:27:40 PM Chair Yarborough recognizes Senator Bradley
5:27:44 PM Senator Bradley explains the bill
5:28:55 PM Questions:
5:29:00 PM Public testimony
5:29:25 PM Debate
5:29:29 PM Senator Bradley waives close on bill
5:29:35 PM Roll call
5:29:57 PM Chair Yarborough reports on the bill
5:30:10 PM Senator Osgood moves to adjourn meeting
5:30:18 PM Meeting Adjourned
5:30:20 PM
```

5:30:20 PM