

The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**  
HEALTH POLICY  
Senator Burton, Chair  
Senator Harrell, Vice Chair

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, October 7, 2025  
**TIME:** 9:00—10:30 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator Burton, Chair; Senator Harrell, Vice Chair; Senators Berman, Calatayud, Davis, Gaetz, Leek, Osgood, Passidomo, and Trumbull

BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS			
TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER		COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Presentations on Implementation of Recently-Enacted Health Care Laws: Agency for Health Care Administration and Department of Health		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			

# Senate Health Policy

## Implementation Updates

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**Brian Meyer, Deputy Secretary**  
**Division of Medicaid**

**Kimberly Smoak, Deputy Secretary**  
**Division of Health Quality Assurance**

October 7, 2025

# Outline

01

## **CS/SB 644 (2024)**

- Rural Emergency Hospitals
- 

02

## **CS/SB 7016 (2024) Live Healthy**

- Non-Emergent Care Access Plans
  - Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH)
- 

03

## **HB 121 (2023)**

- Florida KidCare Program Eligibility



# CS/SB 644 (2024) Rural Emergency Hospitals



# SB 644 (2024) Rural Emergency Hospitals

## Rural Emergency Hospitals

- Directed the Agency to create a new hospital license classification in response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) new Medicare certification option referred to as Rural Emergency Hospitals (REHs).
- This bill authorizes the Agency to designate qualifying hospitals as rural emergency hospitals. The Agency will license these facilities and ensure they meet the established criteria.
- This allows hospitals in rural communities to provide emergency and outpatient services for a higher rate of reimbursement without having to meet the current requirements of a full-service hospital.



# SB 644 (2024) Rural Emergency Hospitals

## Rural Emergency Hospitals

- Allows hospitals to participate in the Medicare program as an REH.
- REHs will provide rural emergency services and other care that do not require treatment beyond 24 hours.
- The Agency may designate a hospital as an REH if it demonstrates that it meets the following criteria:
  - Meets the requirements of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260.
  - Has no more than 50 beds.
  - Can adequately provide rural emergency services in the facility 24 hours a day and seven days a week.
  - Is sufficiently staffed and equipped to provide rural emergency services.
  - Has a current transfer agreement with a Level I or Level II trauma center.



# SB 644 (2024) Rural Emergency Hospitals

## Rule Revision

- Rules 59A-3.066 and 59A-3.252, F.A.C., were revised to include language specific to a hospital's classification as a Class V REH.
- These sections provide definition and detail for the designation and allow the Agency to classify the hospital pursuant to 395.607, F.S., and as described in 42 USC Chapter 7, Subchapter XVIII, Part E, (kkk).



# SB 644 (2024) Rural Emergency Hospitals

## Implementation

The Agency initiated rulemaking to amend Rules 59A-3.066, 59A-3.252, and 59A-3.273, F.A.C., These rules address Licensure Procedures, Classification of Hospitals, and Management and Administration.



The changes to the rule included:

- Incorporating requirements for a hospital to convert its current classification to a Class V REH by submitting a licensure application. The hospital must remove inpatient beds from its bed inventory, have a transfer agreement with a Level I or Level II trauma center, submit a plan outlining the hospital's actions for conversion to and operation as an REH and submit an attestation of compliance stating the hospital is currently enrolled in Medicare as a rural hospital.

The rule was adopted and became effective June 1, 2025.





# SB 644 (2024) Rural Emergency Hospitals

## Implementation

The Agency initiated rulemaking to amend Rule 59A-35.060, F.A.C., which is the core rule addressing Licensure Applications.



The rule changes pertained to updates to the licensure application to include:

- Adding REH to the Classification section of the application.
- Adding the REH action plan and attestation as a required supporting document for an application to change to a Class V Specialty Hospital.

The rule was adopted and became effective June 1, 2025.



# CS/SB 7016 (2024)

## Live Healthy



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP)

- Requires all hospitals with emergency departments (EDs), including off-campus EDs, to submit a Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP) to the Agency.
- The plan must assist patients with nonemergent health care needs or those lacking regular access to primary care in accessing appropriate care settings.
- The Agency must approve a hospital's NCAP before Initial licensure or licensure renewal **starting July 1, 2025**.



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP)

**The Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP) must include:**

- Procedures that ensure the actions will not conflict with s. 395.1041, F.S., (emergency access to care) or 42 U.S.C., s. 1395dd (Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act).
- Procedures to educate patients on the appropriate setting for their health care needs.
- Be capable of providing services directly or by contract to meet the patient's needs, such as an urgent care center or primary care office (which may be Medicare certified as a federally qualified health center).



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP)

### Plan Submission

- Rule 59A-3.066, F.A.C., requires each hospital offering emergency services and care to submit a non-emergent care access plan **effective July 1, 2025**, as part of the hospital's initial, renewal, or change of ownership application.

### Plan Updates

- For subsequent renewal applications, the hospital shall update the plan as needed and provide a narrative that demonstrates its implementation and results.
- The plan must meet the criteria as outlined in section 395.1055(1)(j), F.S.



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## System Updates

Nonemergent Care Access Plan System Updates	Status
Conducted discussion sessions with the hospital industry to gather input regarding NCAPs from May to July of 2024.	Completed
Implement system changes to the licensure database and online hospital licensing in October of 2024.	Completed
As of September 22, 2025, the Agency has received a total of 78 applications that require the approval of NCAPs. Currently 42 applications have been approved and 36 are pending completion.	Ongoing



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Implementation

The Agency initiated rulemaking to amend Rules 59A-3.066, 59A-3.252, and 59A-3.273, F.A.C., These rules address Licensure Procedures, Classification of Hospitals, and Management and Administration.



The changes to the rule included:

- Adding a requirement for providers that submit an initial, renewal, and change of ownership application to also submit the nonemergent care access plan as part of the application and update as needed.
- Requiring a narrative description demonstrating the implementation and results of the plan to include the number of patients presenting to the emergency department indicating lack of regular access to primary care and activities as it pertains to those patients for the last 18 months.

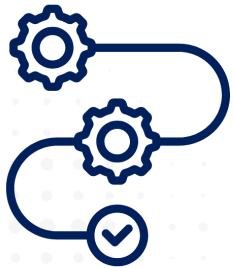
The rule was adopted and became effective June 1, 2025.



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Implementation

The Agency initiated rulemaking to amend Rule 59A-35.060, F.A.C., licensure applications.



The rule changes pertained to updates to the licensure application to include:

- The NCAP as required supporting document for initial, renewal, and change of ownership applications.
- A note in the Hospital Emergency Services section that informs hospitals that provide emergency services via an emergency department that there is a requirement to attach an NCAP compliant with statute.

The rule was adopted and became effective June 1, 2025.





# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Nonemergent Care Access Plan (NCAP)

### Managed Care Coordination

- For patients who are enrolled in the Medicaid program and members of a Medicaid managed care plan, the hospital's NCAP must include outreach to the patient's Medicaid managed care plan establishing a relationship between the patient and primary care setting as appropriate.



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Implementation

Implementation Steps	Status
On May 27, 2025, created informational material on how the Florida Health Information Exchange (HIE) Program can assist hospitals and Medicaid managed care plans in meeting NCAP requirements for the purpose of supporting public health data registries and patient care coordination.	Completed
Hosted a webinar on June 3, 2025, for Medicaid managed care plans explaining the process of receiving updated contact information from hospitals so they can assist enrollees with primary care provider engagement and care coordination.	Completed
Hosted a webinar on June 5, 2025, for hospitals explaining the process of receiving and sharing updated contact information for the patient with the patient's managed care plan.	Completed



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 26: NCAP

## Challenges/Solutions

- The Florida Health Information Exchange (HIE) is not the only service that can assist hospitals with meeting the NCAP requirements of supporting public health data registries and patient care coordination.

**Solution:** *Hospitals continue to identify alternative methods and workflows for complying with these requirements.*

- Opportunity for increased awareness of all the benefits of the Florida HIE at some hospital executive levels.

**Solution:** *The Florida HIE continues to provide education and outreach to hospitals and other health care providers on how the Florida HIE can assist with care coordination.*

- Due to the high demand, the previous Florida HIE vendor does not have the capacity to assist all hospitals needing to enhance their connections at the same time.

**Solution:** *Hospitals continue to identify alternative methods and workflows for complying with these requirements.*



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program

**\$25M**

- Appropriated \$25M in recurring General Revenue (GR) funds to offset the costs of clinical training and education of 10 unique student types at eligible:
  - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)
  - Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC)
  - Rural Health Clinics (RHC)
  - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)

**\$2M**

- SB 330 (2024) *Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals (BHTHs)*
- Appropriated \$2M in recurring GR funds to be equally distributed to the 4 newly designated BHTHs<sup>1</sup>

1. Tampa General Hospital, UF Health Shands Hospital, UF Health Jacksonville Hospital, and Jackson Memorial Hospital



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Eligibility

- Participating organizations are **capped at \$75,000 per facility per fiscal year.**
- Providers holding ACGME<sup>1</sup> or CODA<sup>2</sup> accreditation(s) are **capped at \$100,000 per facility per fiscal year.**
- **To receive funding, providers must:**
  1. Meet and maintain all applicable accreditation(s).
  2. Ensure clinical preceptors meet Agency standards.
  3. Enter into an agreement with the Agency.
  4. Submit quarterly reports to the Agency *by the first day of the second month following the end of a quarter.*



- The Agency-developed standardized reporting form allows facilities to track the number of participating students, their specialties, and the number of hours worked.
- The document is submitted along with an attestation form signed by the provider.

1. Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
2. Commission on Dental Accreditation



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Reimbursements

First year  
reimbursable  
student types  
and hourly rates:



Student Type	Hourly Rate
Medical or Dental Resident	\$50
First-Year Medical Student	\$27
Second Year Medical Student	\$27
Third-Year Medical Student	\$29
Fourth-Year Medical Student	\$29
Dental Student	\$22
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Student	\$22
Physician Assistant Student	\$22
Behavioral Health Student	\$15
Dental Hygiene Student	\$15



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Reimbursements

- In Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the Agency reimbursed \$6,805,917 to 59 Parent Organizations.

- Of the 59 Parent Organizations:

Provider Type	# Participating	Amount Reimbursed
Community Behavioral Health Centers	31	\$1,440,088 (21.1%)
Federally Qualified Health Centers	28	\$5,365,828 (78.89%)

- In aggregate, the two quarterly data submissions captured:



**1819** unique students



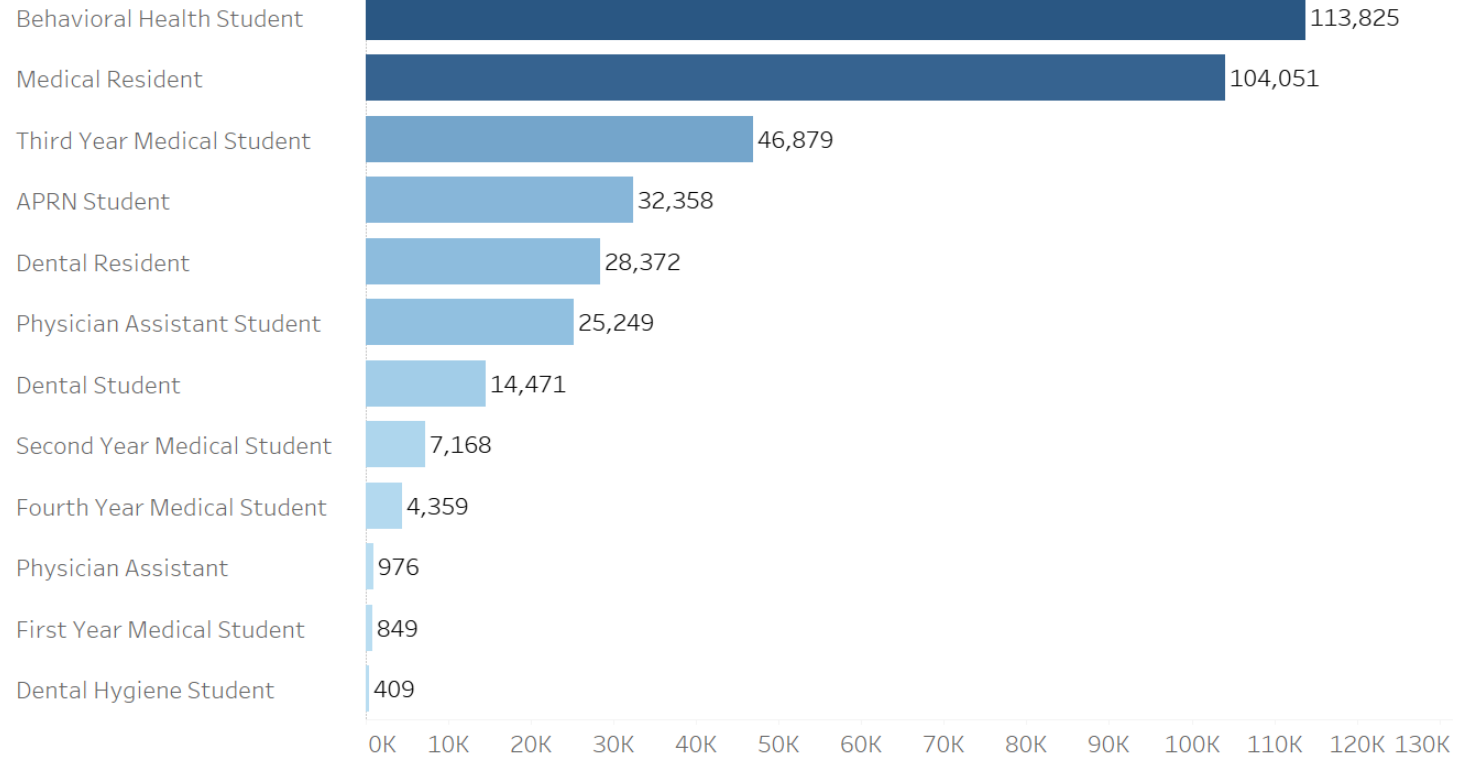
**378,966** clinical hours



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Hours

First year  
hours  
reported by  
student type:





# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Top 10

Top 10 parent organizations reimbursed:



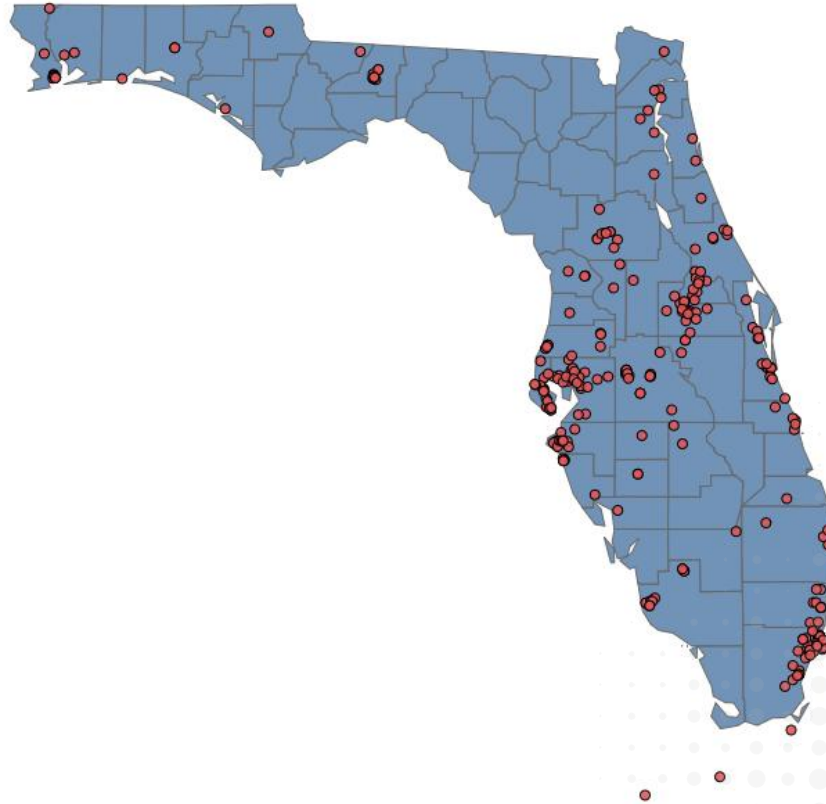
Parent Organization	Total Reimbursement	Students	Facilities
Tampa Family Health Centers	\$ 694,452.00	146	14
Borinquen Healthcare Center	\$ 377,932.00	34	7
Evara Health	\$ 324,906.80	99	10
Suncoast Community Health Centers	\$ 306,612.00	49	8
North Broward Hospital District	\$ 305,059.00	134	5
Miami Beach Community Health Center	\$ 302,584.00	117	10
Aspire Health Partners	\$ 300,450.00	88	8
Citrus Health Network	\$ 294,316.00	71	8
BayCare Health System	\$ 288,792.60	38	9
Community Health of South Florida	\$ 276,940.00	76	8



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Geographic Distribution

Geographic distribution of first year facilities:



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Rulemaking

Rulemaking Steps for Rule 59G-6.009, F.A.C., Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health Funding Program	Status
Held Rule Workshop	June 11, 2025
Posted Notice of Proposed Rule	September 3, 2025
Finalization and Adoption of Rule	October 2025



# TEACH Updates for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**For Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the TEACH section was amended to:**



Add a distinct Nursing Student category, separate from APRN<sup>1</sup>, at \$22 per hour.



Expand the Qualified Facility definition to include: publicly funded nonprofit organizations serving Medicaid recipients or other low-income patients in an area designated as a health professional shortage area and approved by the Agency.

Both changes were implemented in the 2025-2026 application materials

1. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Student



# TEACH Updates for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

## Performance Measures



As directed by the Legislature, the Agency collects evaluation forms from the student participants.

In FY 2024-2025, the survey consisted of 12 Likert-scale questions and three free-response questions.



**541 students** submitted the survey in FY 2024-2025.



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Student Evaluation Summary Statistics

Average scores on the  
2024-2025 student evaluation  
survey, in which:

Strongly Agree = 5

Agree = 4

Neither Agree Nor Disagree = 3

Disagree = 2

Strongly Disagree = 1

Question/Statement	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
1. Clinical cases were diverse	4.67	0.56
2. Sufficient opportunities to interact with patients	4.62	0.68
3. Clinical cases increased primary care interest	4.39	0.87
4. Preceptors were clear and helpful	4.67	0.63
5. Regular and constructive feedback was received	4.59	0.72
6. The clinical environment was safe and supportive	4.68	0.64
7. Clinical resources were adequate and available	4.52	0.80
8. The experience improved clinical decision-making	4.66	0.61
9. Students were able to communicate with patients	4.71	0.61
10. The experience contributed meaningfully	4.72	0.58
11. The experience increased interest in Medicaid	4.47	0.80
12. The experience increased interest in underserved areas	4.40	0.88
<b>Average:</b>	<b>4.59</b>	<b>0.70</b>

n = 541



# SB 7016 (2024) Section 29: TEACH

## Next Steps



First Annual TEACH Program report due to the Legislature and the Governor.

Due December 1, 2025



Finalize preceptor training modules.

Pending contract completion



Submit the Evaluation Study to the Legislature and the Governor.

Due January 1, 2030



# HB 121 (2023) Florida KidCare Program Eligibility





# HB 121 (2023) Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

Florida KidCare is the umbrella name for both CHIP and Medicaid for children in Florida.



Together, currently the two programs provide free or low-cost health insurance to children in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level.



# HB 121 (2023) Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

## Enhancement

With the passage of HB 121 in 2023, the Florida Legislature recognized that changes could be made to Florida's CHIP program that would create a bridge for Floridians to close the gap between the cost of the premiums for subsidized CHIP coverage for those with incomes under 200% FPL and the cost of insurance premiums available in the marketplace. HB 121 made the following change:

CHIP Component	Current	Change after HB 121 Implementation
Income Limit for Subsidized Coverage	200% FPL*	300% FPL
Monthly Premiums	<p>Monthly premium payment is required to receive services.</p> <p>Families pay a monthly premium of \$15 per family (for family income between 133% to 150% FPL) or \$20 per family (for family income above 150% up to 200% FPL).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If the family income is reduced during the year they are placed into a lower tier.</li></ul>	<p>Monthly premium payment is required to receive services.</p> <p>The Agency is directed to establish new premium tiers for families with incomes above 150% FPL.</p> <p>The Corporation is directed to establish at least 3 but no more than 6 tiers of premiums.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>If the family income is reduced during the year they are placed into a lower tier.</li></ul>

\*Income limits after disregards are 206 - 210%



# HB 121 (2023) Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

## Federal Approval Timeline



# HB 121 (2023) Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

## Litigation Timeline



# CONTACT US



@AHCA\_FL



@AHCAFLORIDA



FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH  
CARE ADMINISTRATION



FLORIDA AGENCY FOR HEALTH  
CARE ADMINISTRATION



**Jim Browne, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Legislative Affairs**

(850) 567-2133

[Jim.Browne@AHCA.myflorida.com](mailto:Jim.Browne@AHCA.myflorida.com)

October 7, 2025

Meeting Date

Health Policy

Committee

The Florida Senate

## APPEARANCE RECORD

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

Agency Implementation

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Kim Smoak, AHCA Deputy Secretary of Health Care Quality & Assurance

Phone (850) 412-3611

Address 2727 Mahan Drive, Building 3, Room 3132

Email LegAffairs@AHCA.MyFlorida.com

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32308

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  
(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 \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

October 7, 2025

Meeting Date

Health Policy

Committee

The Florida Senate

## APPEARANCE RECORD

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Agency Implementation

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Brian Meyer, AHCA Deputy Secretary of Medicaid Phone (850) 412-3611

Address 2727 Mahan Drive, Building 3, Room 3132 Email LegAffairs@AHCA.MyFlorida.com

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32308

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information **OR** Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

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Meeting Date

Committee

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

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☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
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Hospital/POHC partnerships from Live Healthy Act

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S-001 (08/10/2021)



The Florida Senate

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Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

10/7/25  
Meeting Date  
Health Policy  
Committee

Name Elodie Dorso, CEO EVARA Health Phone 727-824-8181

Address 707 Druid Rd Street  
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Email edorso@hcnetwork.org

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 (travel, meals, lodging, etc.), sponsored by:

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

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Bill Number or Topic

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Meeting Date

Committee

Name

Phone

Address

Email

Street

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

☒

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compensation or sponsorship.

☐

I am a registered lobbyist,  
representing:

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
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sponsored by:

TEACH Program

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

AHCA Presentation

Bill Number or Topic

10/7/25

Meeting Date

SEN Health Policy

Committee

Name

Jossie Barroso

Phone

850-545-4938

Address

2523 Mar Court

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jossie@healthyfla.org

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

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☐

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☐

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

10/1/2025

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

KidCare

Bill Number or Topic

Health Policy

Committee

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

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Melanie Andrade Williams

Phone 754-273-8344

Address

Street

Email Williams@Floridahealthjustice.org

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:

Florida Health Justice  
Project

☐

I am not a lobbyist, but received  
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S-001 (08/10/2021)



Senate Health Policy Committee

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# Implementation Update

**Florida Department of Health**

October 7, 2025

**Florida  
HEALTH**

# Presenter



**Melissa Jordan, MS, MPH**  
Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health  
Florida Department of Health

# SB 7016 Health Care

## FRAME Reimbursement Loan Programs

### Outcomes

- Volunteer service form published and adopted April 2025
- FRAME: 5-year partnership established with independent third party for FRAME evaluation processing; data collection began in 2025

### FRAME Dental 2024–25 Awards

- Program made payments for 78 dentists and 15 dental hygienists

### FRAME Awards (additional \$30 million)

- 1,157 in FY 2023-24
- 1,298 in FY 2024-25
- MDs and DOs comprise the largest number of applicants and awardees





# SB 7016 Health Care Cinotti Grant Program

## Screening and Services Grant Program and Portal

- 24 awards to non-profits for 11 different screening types, services in 42 counties
- Health care screening portal displays screenings or services that are at no or reduced cost ([HealthCareScreenings.FloridaHealth.gov](https://HealthCareScreenings.FloridaHealth.gov))
- Licensed health care practitioners can use the website to identify volunteer opportunities
- Portal link is prominently placed on the Department of Health website, used and promoted by county health departments





# SB 7018

## Health Care Innovation

### Council Launch

- Held orientation meeting of Council, October 25, 2024
- First full Council meeting, November 19, 2024
- Second Council meeting, June 26, 2025

### Loan Program

- Finalized mission, vision, and success criteria (strategic framework)
- Created four priority focus areas: patient care innovations, cost reduction strategies, health care workforce, and technology integration
- Agreement with fiscal third-party administrator executed
- Emergency rulemaking in progress
- Website created and ready to launch
- Assessment of alternative funding sources complete
- Loan application portal developed and ready to launch



# SB 7018

## Health Care Innovation

### Launch the Health Care Innovation Loan Portal and Website

- Anticipated October 2025
- Open loan application portal and accept submissions
- Begin Council reviews and make initial determinations

### Expanding Operations

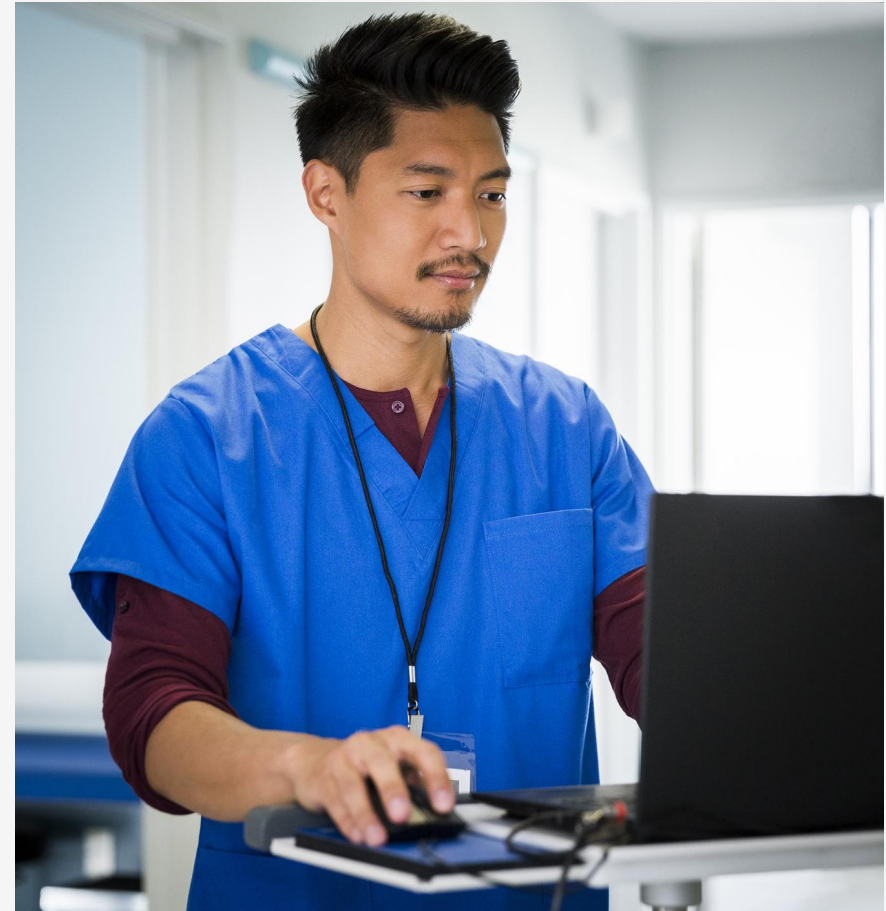
- Anticipated January 2026
- Disburse funds for approved loans
- Expand outreach to innovators
- Additional loan application cycles, program monitoring, and evaluation

### Conduct Forums for Health Care Innovators

- December 2025 and March/April 2026

### Permanent Rulemaking

- Anticipate completion by June 2026

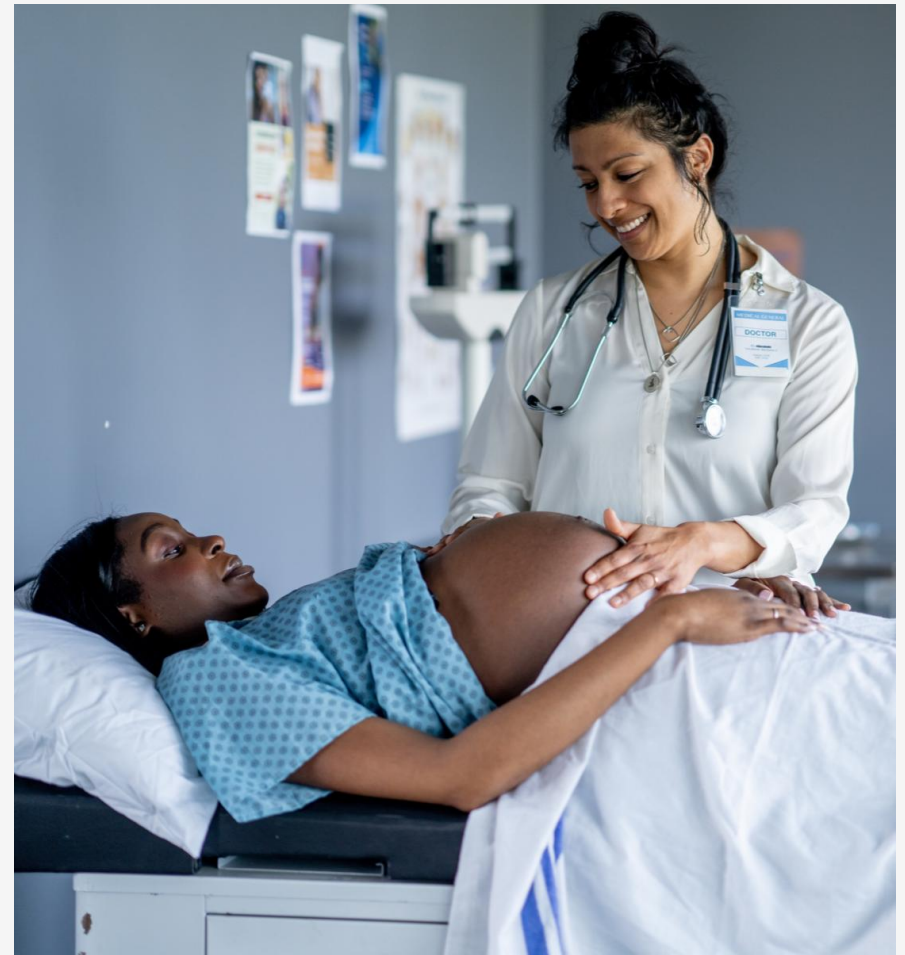


# SB 7016

## Health Care

### Telehealth Maternity Care Program

- Section 383.2163, F.S., expanded the Telehealth Maternity Care Program statewide.
- Program uses telehealth to assess the service needs and gaps of pregnant and postpartum women who are at increased risk for severe maternal morbidities.



### Telehealth Maternity Care Program Implementation

During FY 2024–25, 9,945 women enrolled in the program:

#### High-Risk Health Conditions Identified

- Gestational diabetes: 426
- Pre-existing diabetes: 117
- Hypertension: 1,962

#### Devices Provided During FY 2024-25

- Scales: 2,539
- Blood pressure cuffs: 3,939
- Glucometers: 323

The program has seen an improvement in postpartum visit attendance with an increase from 37% of women attending their postpartum visit in FY 2023-24 to **52% of women attending their postpartum visit in FY 2024-25.**

# SB 544

## Swimming Lesson Voucher Program

### FREE Swimming Lessons for:

- Children aged 4 years and younger
- Florida residents
- Family income of no more than 200% of the federal poverty level

Participants receive a \$200 voucher, good for eight, 30-minute swimming lessons.



The graphic features a large background image of a young boy swimming underwater in a pool, wearing blue goggles and holding a blue ring. In the top left corner, the 'Florida HEALTH' logo is displayed. Two circular inset photos are on the right: the top one shows a woman smiling while holding a young child in the water, and the bottom one shows a woman smiling at a young child who is also smiling in the water. At the bottom, the text 'Swimming Lesson Voucher Program' is written in large white and blue letters, with a blue splash graphic to the left. Below this, a line of smaller white text reads: 'Providing free swimming lessons to eligible Florida families.'



# SB 544

## Swimming Lesson Voucher Program

### Implementation

#### FY 2024-25

- Application Period: September 2024–June 2025
- Total Applications Submitted: **18,207**
- Total Vouchers Awarded: **4,945**

#### FY 2025-26

- Application Period: August 1-31, 2025; subsequent windows will resume after initial vouchers awarded
- Applications to Date: **6,801**

### Legislative Report

- Due December 31, 2025



# HB 159

## Infection Prevention Drugs

House Bill 159 allows certified pharmacists to order and dispense HIV post-exposure prophylaxis drugs under written collaborative practice agreements with a licensed physician.

It also requires participating pharmacies to submit an annual access to care plan to the Department and the Board of Pharmacy to ensure patients have access to primary care services.

The Board of Pharmacy is required to collaborate with the Boards of Medicine and Osteopathic Medicine regarding certification course content.



# Contact Information



**JP Bell**

Director

Office of Legislative Planning

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The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

*Dot presentation*

*10-7-25*

Meeting Date

Bill Number or Topic

*Health Policy*

Committee

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

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name *MeLisa Jordan*

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address *4025 esplanade way*  
Street

Email *John.Bell@FLhealth.gov*

*Tallahassee*

City

*FL*

State

*32312*

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  
(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.

S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

DoH presentation

10-7-25

Meeting Date

Health Policy

Committee

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Senate professional staff conducting the meeting

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Senniter, whenhold

Phone

Address

4025 Espinade way

Email

John.Bell@FLhealth.gov

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32312

Zip

Speaking:

☐ For

☐ Against

☒ Information

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

10-7-25

Meeting Date

The Florida Senate  
**APPEARANCE RECORD**

DOH presentation

Bill Number or Topic

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

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Health policy  
Committee

Name Laura Corbin

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address 4025 Espande way  
Street

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tallahassee FL 32312  
City State Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

**PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

The Florida Senate

**APPEARANCE RECORD**

Dot Presentation

10-7-25

Meeting Date

Health

Committee

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

Bill Number or Topic

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name

Dr. Emma Spencer

Phone

Address

4025 Esplanade Way

Street

Tallahassee

City

FL

State

32312

Zip

Email

John.Bell@FLhealth.gov

Speaking:

☐

For

☐

Against

☒

Information

**OR**

Waive Speaking:

☐

In Support

☐

Against

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S-001 (08/10/2021)

# CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: KB 412

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Health Policy Committee

Judge:

Started: 10/7/2025 9:01:33 AM

Ends: 10/7/2025 10:56:57 AM

Length: 01:55:25

9:01:38 AM Roll call  
9:01:58 AM Quorum present  
9:07:38 AM tab 1 - implementation presentations  
9:08:08 AM Presentation by Kimberly Smoak, AHCA's Dep'y Sec'y, Div. of Health Quality Assurance  
9:14:53 AM Sen. Harrell recognized for questions  
9:16:19 AM follow up from Sen. Harrell  
9:17:21 AM Pres. Gaetz recognized for questions  
9:19:12 AM follow up from Pres. Gaetz  
9:20:17 AM Sen. Berman recognized for a question  
9:21:54 AM Ms. Smoak continues presentation  
9:36:35 AM Sen. Harrell recognized for a question at end of presentation  
9:37:37 AM Pres. Gaetz recognized for a question  
9:40:13 AM Chair Burton clarifies question  
9:41:13 AM Sen. Davis recognized for a question  
9:42:04 AM follow up from Sen. Davis  
9:43:22 AM further questioning from Sen. Davis  
9:44:32 AM Sen. Osgood recognized for questions  
9:45:58 AM follow up from Sen. Osgood  
9:46:41 AM Sen. Berman recognized for questions  
9:47:30 AM follow up from Sen. Berman  
9:48:23 AM Presentation by Brian Meyer, AHCA's Dep'y Sec'y for Medicaid  
9:59:27 AM Sen. Harrell recognized for questions  
10:03:58 AM Sen. Osgood recognized for questions  
10:05:25 AM Sen. Berman recognized for questions  
10:06:30 AM Sen. Davis recognized for questions  
10:15:31 AM Sen. Osgood has questions regarding this part of presentation (HB 121 from 2023)  
10:17:01 AM follow up from Sen. Osgood  
10:17:34 AM question from Sen. Osgood  
10:18:50 AM Sen. Harrell recognized for questions  
10:20:34 AM follow up from Sen. Harrell  
10:22:24 AM Sen. Berman recognized for questions  
10:23:23 AM Sen. Calatayud recognized for comments  
10:24:39 AM Sen. Berman recognized for one more question  
10:25:57 AM Joseph Resnick, CEO Premier Community Healthcare  
10:26:11 AM Elodie Dorso, CEO Evara Health, testifies  
10:27:30 AM Dr. Temple Robinson, CEO of Bond Community Health Center in Tallahassee, testifies  
10:29:18 AM Ms. Jossie Barroso with Healthy Fla., testifies  
10:31:42 AM Melanie Andrade Williams with Fla. Health Justice Project, testifies  
10:33:31 AM next presentation from Melissa Jordan, Asst. Dep'y Sec'y for Dept. of Health  
10:43:07 AM Sen. Calatayud recognized for questions  
10:44:01 AM Jennifer Whenhold w/ Dept. of Health, helps to answer question  
10:44:57 AM Sen. Davis recognized for questions  
10:46:33 AM follow up from Sen. Davis  
10:47:09 AM Dr. Emma Spencer w/ DOH, helps answer question  
10:49:01 AM final follow up from Sen. Davis  
10:49:19 AM Dr. Spencer responds  
10:49:47 AM question from Sen. Davis  
10:50:55 AM Sen. Harrell recognized for questions  
10:52:41 AM follow up from Sen. Harrell  
10:54:18 AM follow up from Sen. Harrell  
10:55:04 AM Sen. Berman recognized for questions  
10:56:07 AM follow up from Sen. Berman

**10:56:42 AM** Sen. Harrell moves to adjourn