

Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

CS/SB 330 — Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals

by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services and Senators Boyd and Rouson

The bill creates the designation of behavioral health teaching hospitals to advance Florida’s behavioral health systems of care by creating a new integrated care and education model.

Specifically, the bill includes provisions related to the following topics:

Designation

- Creates a new “behavioral health teaching hospital” designation within ch. 395, F.S., for licensed teaching hospitals that partner with a state university school of medicine and offer specific behavioral health education programs.
- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to designate the following hospital and university partnerships as Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals (BHTHs) within 30 days of the bill becoming law:
 - Tampa General Hospital, in affiliation with the University of South Florida;
 - UF Health Shands Hospital, in affiliation with the University of Florida;
 - UF Health Jacksonville, in affiliation with the University of Florida; and
 - Jackson Memorial Hospital, in affiliation with the University of Miami.
- Beginning July 1, 2025, allows specific Florida-based medical schools to partner with one eligible statutory teaching hospital, notwithstanding the university affiliated with two in the initial BHTH designations once the bill becomes law.
- Limits a BHTH designation to 2 years, with a renewal process, and authorizes the AHCA to deny, revoke, or suspend a designation for non-compliance.
- Allows BHTHs to participate in the AHCA’s new Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) funding program for hospitals to offset administrative costs and loss of revenue to train behavioral health workforce professionals.
- Allows BHTHs to participate in the AHCA’s Graduate Medical Education Slots for Doctors Program funding to provide each BHTH up to 10 residency slots at \$150,000 per slot.

Grant Program

- Establishes a grant program, subject to legislative appropriation, in the AHCA to fund BHTH operations and expenses and fixed capital outlay, including facility renovation and upgrades.
- Requires the ACHA to provide 30-day open application periods on November 1 of 2025 and 2026, to accept applications, accompanied by detailed spending plans, from designated BHTHs.
- On or before January 1 of 2025 and 2026, hospitals that plan to apply for designation must submit a letter of intent to the AHCA.

- The AHCA, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), will evaluate and rank grant applications and submit recommendations for grant awards to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- The AHCA may submit budget amendments requesting the release of funds to make awards.

Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce

- Establishes the Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce (Center) within the University of South Florida's Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to support an adequate, highly skilled, resilient, and innovative workforce that meets the current and future human resources needs of the state's behavioral health system and develop and disseminate best practices. The Center will:
 - Describe and analyze current workforce and possible future workforce demand and produce a statistically valid biennial analysis of the supply and demand of the workforce;
 - Expand pathways to behavioral health professions through enhanced educational opportunities and improved faculty development and retention;
 - Promote behavioral health professions; and
 - Convene stakeholders to assist the Center in its work.

Mental Health Inpatient Treatment Services Capacity Study

- Requires the DCF to contract for a detailed study of the capacity for inpatient treatment services for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance or psychosis in this state's forensic inpatient, safety-net voluntary and involuntary civil inpatient placement, and Medicaid statewide inpatient psychiatric programs.
- The study must be completed by January 31, 2025.

The bill includes the following appropriations:

- \$300 million in nonrecurring general revenue funds to the AHCA to award grants of up to \$100 million each fiscal year beginning with Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the development and implementation of the behavioral health teaching hospital model. Funds will held in reserve and released pursuant to ch. 216, F.S., to designated behavioral health teaching hospitals for operating and capital expenditures contingent upon a detailed spending plan. The grant program can carry forward any non-disbursed grant funds for up to eight years.
- \$5 million in recurring general revenue funds to the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute for the operation of the Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce.
- \$6 million in recurring funds, including \$2.6 million in general revenue funds and \$3.4 million from the Medical Care Trust Fund, to the AHCA for the Graduate Medical Education Slots for Doctors Program for residency positions at \$150,000 each.

- \$2 million in recurring general revenue funds to the AHCA to provide each BHTH up to \$500,000 in TEACH program funds.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided.

Vote: Senate 40-0; House 114-0

Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

CS/SB 7072 — Cancer Funding

by Fiscal Policy Committee and Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

The bill revises the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program’s purpose to include the promotion of the provision of high-quality, innovative health care for persons undergoing cancer treatment in Florida and requires the program’s allocation agreements to contain specific contractual requirements.

The bill specifies that grant funding available through the Cancer Innovation Fund is available to health care providers and facilities that demonstrate excellence in patient-centered cancer treatment or research.

The bill codifies the Cancer Connect Collaborative (Collaborative) in statute by providing that the Collaborative is created within the Department of Health (DOH) to advise the department and the Legislature on developing a holistic approach to the state’s efforts to fund cancer research, cancer facilities, and treatments for cancer patients. Under the bill, the Collaborative must:

- Advise the DOH on the awarding of grants issued through the Cancer Innovation Fund;
- Make recommendations on proposed legislation, proposed rules, best practices, data collection and reporting, issuance of grant funds, and other proposals for state policy relating to cancer research or treatment; and
- Develop a long-range comprehensive plan for the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program by December 1, 2024.

The bill revises the membership of the Florida Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council from 15 to 16 members and requires that one member be a representative of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville.

The bill is expected to have a minimal impact on the DOH, however, such impacts are indeterminate. The 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act provides \$40 million in recurring general revenue funds for the Cancer Innovation Fund.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2024.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 115-0

Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

HB 7085 — Sickle Cell Disease

by Health & Human Services Committee and Reps. Skidmore, Driskell, and others (SB 7070 by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services)

The bill establishes the Sickle Cell Disease Research and Treatment Grant Program (Program) within the Department of Health (DOH). The Program will fund projects that improve the quality and accessibility of health care available for persons living with sickle cell disease (SCD) in the state and advance the collection and analysis of comprehensive data to support SCD research. Grants must be awarded to community-based sickle cell disease treatment and research centers to fund the following types of projects:

- SCD workforce development and education; and
- Operational and facility enhancement support for Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Centers of Excellence.

The bill requires the DOH to submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the status and progress of each grant award.

The bill revises the SCD and sickle cell trait screening requirements to require that screening providers notify a newborn's parent or guardian, rather than the newborn's primary care physician, of certain information. The bill also authorizes individuals, other than newborns, that have been identified as having SCD or carrying the sickle cell trait, to volunteer for inclusion on the DOH's sickle cell registry.

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the DOH to establish the Program. The 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act provides \$10 million in recurring general revenue funds for the Program.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 116-0