

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Health Policy

CS/HB 647 — Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Services

by Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee and Rep. Trabulsy and others (CS/SB 998 by Health Policy Committee and Senator Calatayud)

The bill provides that, in the absence of a funeral director, an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) providing hospice care pursuant to a written protocol with a licensed physician may file a certificate of death or fetal death. The bill authorizes such an APRN to certify the cause of death and correct information on a permanent certificate of death or fetal death.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 111-0

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CS/CS/HB 791 — Surrendered Infants

by Health & Human Services Committee; Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee; and Rep. Cobb and others (SB 1690 by Senator McClain)

The bill (Chapter 2025-17, L.O.F.) statutory provisions relating to surrendered infants, revising the definition of “infant” and defining “infant safety device.”

The bill provides an additional method of lawful surrender by authorizing a hospital, an emergency medical services (EMS) station, or a fire station that is staffed 24 hours per day to use a qualifying infant safety device in order to accept surrendered infants.

The bill requires a hospital, an EMS station, or a fire station that uses an infant safety device to use the device’s surveillance system to monitor the inside of the infant safety device 24 hours per day, to physically check the device at least twice daily, and to test the device at least weekly to ensure the alarm system is in working order.

The bill requires that a participating fire station must use the dual alarm system of the infant safety device to dispatch immediately the nearest first responder to retrieve any infant left in the infant safety device in the case that all firefighter first responders are dispatched from the fire station for an emergency.

Existing provisions related to the presumption that the parent intended to surrender the infant, consented to appropriate medical treatment and care, and to termination of parental rights; the care and custodial processing of an infant upon lawful surrender; and the parent’s anonymity upon surrender, are extended by the bill to occasions when infants are surrendered in an infant safety device.

Lastly, the bill further provides technical and conforming changes, such as utilizing the term “surrendered” instead of “left,” or “child” instead of “minor.”

These provisions were approved by the Governor and take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 33-4; House 106-0

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CS/CS/HB 1089 — Newborn Screenings

by Health & Human Services Committee; Health Care Budget Subcommittee; and Reps. Booth, Anderson, and others (CS/SB 524 by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services and Senator Harrell)

The bill requires, subject to legislative appropriation, the Florida Department of Health to adopt and enforce rules requiring every newborn in the state to be screened for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at the appropriate age, beginning January 1, 2027.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 115-0

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CS/CS/SB 1808 — Refund of Overpayments Made by Patients

by Rules Committee; Health Policy Committee; and Senator Burton

The bill requires health care practitioners, facilities, providers, and anyone who accepts payment from insurance for services rendered by health care practitioners, to refund any overpayment made by the patient no later than 30 days after determining that the patient made an overpayment.

Under the bill, if a health care practitioner fails to timely refund an overpayment after he or she determines that an overpayment was made, the failure constitutes grounds for disciplinary action by the applicable board, or the Department of Health if there is no board.

Under the bill, if a facility or provider licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration fails to timely refund an overpayment, the agency may impose an administrative penalty of up to \$500 on the licensee.

The bill's requirement to timely refund such an overpayment does not apply to overpayments made to providers by health insurers and health maintenance organizations, and the bill instead defers to existing law for such cases.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect January 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 112-0

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SB 7018 — OGSR/Parental Consent Requirements Before Terminating a Pregnancy

by Health Policy Committee and Senator Harrell

The bill saves an existing public records exemption from repeal under the Open Government Sunset Review Act. The exemption protects certain information that could be used to identify a minor who is petitioning for a judicial waiver of parental consent under the Parental Notice of and Consent for Abortion Act. The exemption was created in 2020 and was scheduled for repeal on October 2, 2025.

The exemption protects from disclosure any identifying information held by a circuit or appellate court, the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, or the Justice Administrative Commission. These entities may possess the identifying information when the minor seeks a judicial waiver from a court, when the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel represents the minor in a court proceeding, or when the Justice Administrative Commission processes payments for a court-appointed private attorney who represents the minor.

The Open Government Sunset Review Act requires the Legislature to review each public record exemption five years after enactment. The bill removes the scheduled repeal date of the public records exemption so that the identifying information continues to be confidential and exempt from disclosure.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect October 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 115-0