



**THE FLORIDA SENATE**  
**SENATOR BEN ALBRITTON**  
*President*

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**Senate Passes Bill to Improve Access, Accountability in Florida’s Medicaid Program**  
*Legislation includes work requirements for able-bodied adults asking for government assistance*  
*Maximizes health and wellness benefits for Floridians on Medicaid*  
*New reporting requirements ensure cost-effectiveness and financial accountability to taxpayers*  
*SNAP guardrails address high error rate*

**Tallahassee**—The Florida Senate today passed Senate Bill (SB 1758), Public Assistance, by Senator Don Gaetz (R-Crestview). The comprehensive legislation adds important guardrails to improve access and accountability within Florida’s Medicaid program and to adhere to federal requirements designed to reduce the error rate in Florida’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

“Medicaid is designed as a safety net. It’s designed for children, pregnant women, the elderly and the disabled, because as Americans, we believe the most vulnerable among us deserve access to health care services that can sustain and improve their quality of life. That fact remains, as the cost of Medicaid consumes more and more of our budget each year, we have an obligation to make certain we provide the best and most robust services to those truly in need, while establishing basic, minimal standards that ensure able-bodied adults on Medicaid are on the path to self-sufficiency,” said Senator Gaetz. “With strong exceptions for caregivers of young children and former foster youth, among others, we are making it clear that able-bodied adults who do not have the responsibility of a young child at home, are expected to work to help pay for their own health care. We are also enhancing oversight of our Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program to make sure we maximize benefits for folks on Medicaid and improve transparency and accountability to the Florida taxpayers who fund it.”

The bill seeks to improve access to care for the 4 million Floridians served by Medicaid through a new waiver program that will provide an array of community-based behavioral health services. Additionally, the bill will improve accountability to the Florida taxpayers who fund Medicaid by requiring certain able-bodied adults to meet work requirements, establishing new tools that ensure Medicaid gets the best price for drugs and devices, and enhancing oversight of the Medicaid program with new reporting requirements that expand transparency and financial accountability.

“It doesn't sit right with me that any child in Florida would go to bed hungry night, after night, after night. We have worked hard to make certain we have a strong food banking infrastructure across Florida, so that hungry families can have access to fresh, wholesome food. SNAP benefits are critical for families struggling to keep food on the table. We want to make certain those benefits are there for Floridians who need them, and to do that, we need to address our error rate. Fifteen percent is too high. Common sense guardrails ensure the long-term financial integrity of this key public assistance program,” said Senate President Ben Albritton. “I applaud President Gaetz for addressing this important issue.”

Under a new federal SNAP quality control incentive passed as part of President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, federal matching requirements are determined based on a state's SNAP payment error rate. To adhere to this initiative, the bill takes several steps to reduce Florida's error rate to below six percent. Florida's most recently calculated SNAP payment error rate was 15.13 percent for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024.

### **Senate Bill 1728**

For Medicaid, the bill:

- Enacts work or community engagement requirements for certain program recipients to be eligible for the Florida Medicaid program.
- Directs the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek federal approval for a home and community-based behavioral health services program designed to cover an expanded array of services to adults with serious mental illness who are high utilizers of services in institutional settings.
- Expands the responsibilities of the Medicaid Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committee to include the development of a preferred physician-administered drug list, preferred product list, and high-cost drug list to promote cost-effective purchasing of prescribed drugs and therapeutic supplies.
- Authorizes reimbursement for physicians and clinics for long-acting injectables to patients with severe mental illness, outside of the diagnosis-related group reimbursement system that applies to inpatient care under the Florida Medicaid program.
- Authorizes the AHCA to engage a vendor and perform a study of the utilization of the federal 340B Discount Drug Purchase program.
- Clarifies the AHCA may perform retrospective audits of provider claims irrespective of prior utilization reviews or prior authorizations.
- Authorizes the AHCA to send overpayment notice to providers by other common carriers in addition to the U.S. Postal Service.

For SNAP, the bill:

- Codifies federal SNAP eligibility requirements related to citizenship and immigration status and requires all SNAP participants to provide documentation verifying shelter and utility expenses at the time of application and redetermination.
- Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop and implement a statewide SNAP payment accuracy plan designed to reduce the state's payment error rate

to below six percent, submit an improvement plan to by July 15, 2026, and submit quarterly reports to the Governor and Legislature beginning October 1, 2026.

- Requires the DCF to issue SNAP electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards that include photographic identification, to the extent allowed under federal law.
- Expands SNAP employment and training participation requirements to individuals aged 18 through 64 who do not have a child under the age of 14, replacing the current statutory upper age limit of 59 and the exemption for individuals with a child under age 18.

For more information, please visit [www.FLSenate.gov](http://www.FLSenate.gov).

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