

**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 Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

---

BILL: SB 1736

INTRODUCER: Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Insulin Administration by Direct-support Professionals and Relatives

DATE: March 18, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Rao	Tuszynski	CF	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			AHS	
3.			RC	

---

**I. Summary:**

SB 1736 creates a new section of law that allows direct-support professionals or a client’s relative to administer insulin in an APD licensed group home facility to a client with a developmental disability.

The bill defines the term “direct-support professional” to refer to an individual paid to provide services directly to a client with developmental disabilities that receives home and community-based services.

The bill allows direct-support professionals or relatives to administer insulin in group home facilities if the group home facility provides training, and adopts policies and procedures governing the administration of insulin by direct-support professionals or relatives.

The bill provides immunity from civil liability to group home facilities that are compliant with the requirements for the administration of insulin. The bill also provides civil and criminal immunity to direct-support professionals or relatives arising out of the administration of insulin in group home facilities, so long as the direct-support professional or relative were compliant with the requirements of administration.

The bill is expected to have an insignificant, negative fiscal impact on the government or private sector. *See* Section V. Fiscal Impact Statement.

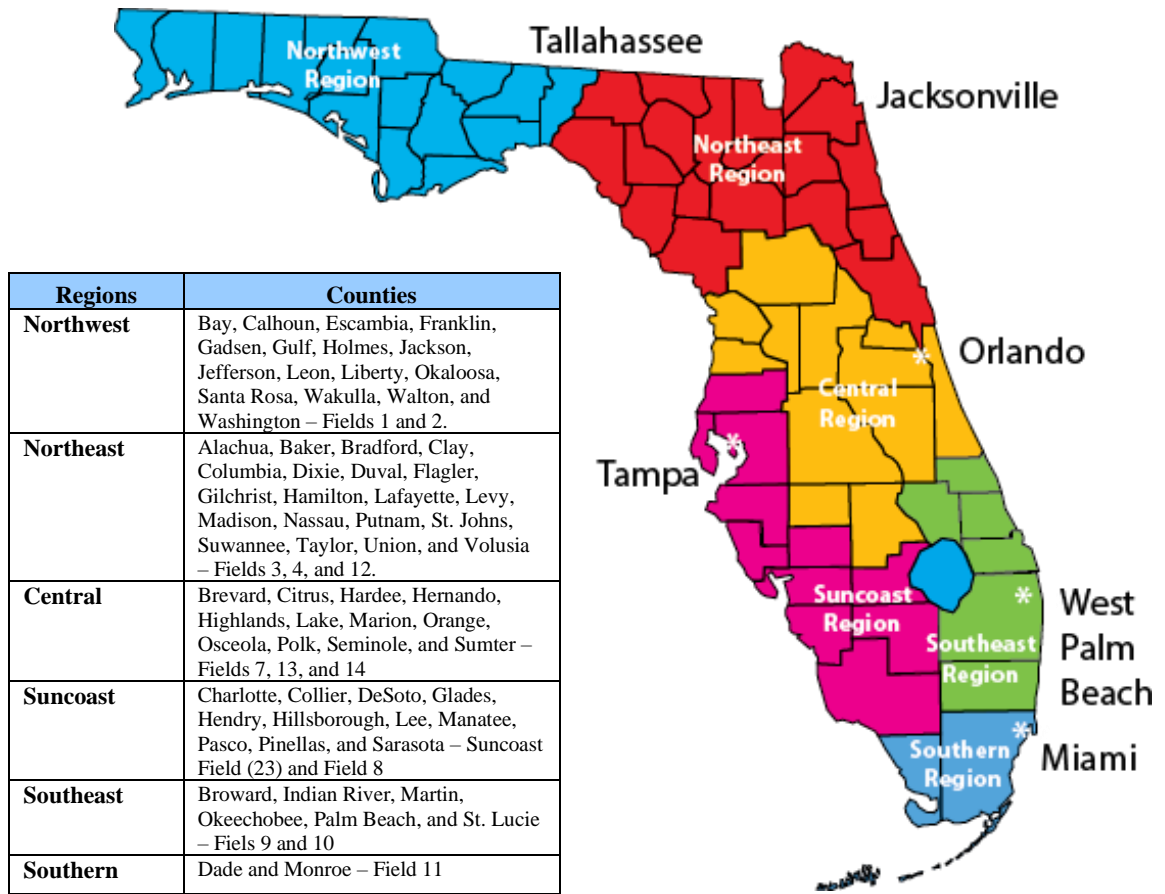
The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2025.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Agency for Persons with Disabilities — Generally**

Chapter 393, F.S., identifies the need to provide community-based services and programs for individuals with developmental disabilities that enable individuals to achieve their greatest potential for independent living while reducing the number of individuals in unnecessary institutional placements.<sup>1</sup>

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) provides services to individuals with developmental disabilities and manages Medicaid waivers that provide federally approved services for individuals with developmental disabilities.<sup>2</sup> In addition to central headquarters in Tallahassee, the APD operates a total of six regional offices and 14 field offices throughout the state, as detailed below:<sup>3</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Section 393.062, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> Section 20.197, F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Agency for Persons with Disabilities, *Regional Offices*, available at: <https://apd.myflorida.com/region/> (last visited 3/11/25).

***Agency for Persons with Disability - Licensed Placement Array***

Law requires the APD to license facilities and adult day training programs for individuals with developmental disabilities.<sup>4</sup> The APD licenses the following facilities, which provide an array of services for individuals with developmental disabilities:<sup>5</sup>

<b>Licensed Placements for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities</b>	
<b>Facility</b>	<b>Description</b>
Foster Care Facility	A residential facility licensed under ch. 393, F.S. that provides a family living environment including supervision and care necessary to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of its residents. The capacity of such a facility may not be more than three residents. <sup>6</sup>
Group Home Facility	A residential facility licensed under ch. 393, F.S. which provides a family living environment including supervision and care necessary to meet the physical, emotional, and social needs of its residents. The capacity of such a facility shall be at least 4 but not more than 15 residents. <sup>7</sup>
Residential Habilitation Center	A community residential facility licensed under ch. 393, F.S. which provides habilitation services. The capacity of such a facility may not be fewer than nine residents. After October 1, 1989, new residential habilitation centers may not be licensed and the licensed capacity for any existing residential habilitation center may not be increased <sup>8</sup>
Adult Day Training Program	A program of services which takes place in a nonresidential setting, separate from the home or facility in which the client resides, and is intended to support the participation of clients in meaningful and valued routines of the community. These services include, but are not limited to, the acquisition, retention, or improvement of self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills. <sup>9</sup>

The APD is required to adopt license application procedures, provider qualifications, facility and client care standards, requirements for client records, requirements for staff qualifications and training, and requirements for monitoring the licensed placements.<sup>10</sup> The APD is required to adopt rules relating to the oversight and accountability of such placements.<sup>11</sup> If the licensee fails to comply with licensure or statutory requirements, Florida law authorizes the APD to take disciplinary action against the licensee, such as the revocation or suspension of a licensing, or the imposition of administrative fines.<sup>12</sup>

***Administration of Medication in APD Licensed Facilities***

Florida law allows an unlicensed direct service provider to supervise the self-administration of medication or to administer oral, transdermal, ophthalmic, otic, rectal, inhaled, enteral, or topical prescription medications to a client, provided the unlicensed direct service providers meets

---

<sup>4</sup> Section 393.067, F.S.  
<sup>5</sup> See generally 65G-2, F.A.C.  
<sup>6</sup> Section 39.063(17), F.S.  
<sup>7</sup> Section 39.063(18), F.S.  
<sup>8</sup> Section 39.063(34), F.S.  
<sup>9</sup> Section 39.063(1), F.S.  
<sup>10</sup> Section 393.067, F.S.  
<sup>11</sup> Section 393.067, F.S.  
<sup>12</sup> Section 393.0673, F.S.

statutory requirements.<sup>13</sup> Unlicensed direct service providers who have completed an APD-approved training course and have current validation to provide clients with medication administration or assist clients with self-administration of medication are referred to as Medication Assistance Providers under administrative rule.<sup>14</sup> Medical Case Managers<sup>15</sup> teach Basic Medication Administration Courses to unlicensed direct service providers.<sup>16</sup> Currently, administrative rule does not reference medication administration by non-paid family members.<sup>17</sup>

Medication Assistance Providers are not allowed to prepare syringes for a client's use during the self-administration of medication via a subcutaneous, intra-dermal, intra-muscular, or intravenous route.<sup>18</sup> Syringes, insulin pens, and insulin pumps administer insulin subcutaneously.<sup>19</sup> Currently, licensed nurses are the only individuals who are allowed to administer insulin in APD facilities.<sup>20</sup>

Upon a medication error, the Medical Assistance Provider or facility administrator is required to document the incident in a procedure identified in administrative rule.<sup>21</sup>

There is no reference to insulin administration in 65G-7, F.A.C., which establishes the requirements for Medication Administration in APD facilities.<sup>22</sup>

### *Diabetes*

Diabetes occurs when an individual's blood glucose, or blood sugar, is too high.<sup>23</sup> High blood glucose may lead to negative effects on an individual's heart, nerve, eye, and kidney function.<sup>24</sup> An individual receives blood glucose through the food he or she eats, and the hormone insulin, produced by the pancreas, assists blood glucose absorption into the cells to produce energy.<sup>25</sup>

An individual with diabetes may have trouble producing the insulin necessary to help glucose absorption. The most common types of diabetes are type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes, which affects individuals during pregnancy.<sup>26</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> Section 393.506, F.S.

<sup>14</sup> 65G-7.001, F.A.C.

<sup>15</sup> "Medical Case Managers" refer to a registered nurse or Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner employed by the Agency to provide nursing consultation and technical assistance to an Area office regarding the medical care of Agency clients. *See* 65G-7.001, F.A.C.

<sup>16</sup> Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities, *2025 Agency Analysis*, pg. 2, on file with the Senate Committee on Children, Families, and Elder Affairs.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*

<sup>18</sup> 65G-7.005, F.A.C.

<sup>19</sup> Shah, Rima B. et al. "Insulin delivery methods: Past, Present, and Future." *International Journal of Pharmaceutical Investigation* vol. 6, 1 (2016): 1-9. doi: 10.4103/2230-973X.176456.

<sup>20</sup> *Supra*, Note 16.

<sup>21</sup> 65G-7.006, F.A.C.

<sup>22</sup> 65G-7.001, F.A.C.

<sup>23</sup> National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, *Diabetes Statistics*, available at: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-statistics/diabetes-statistics> (last visited 3/14/25).

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, *Type 2 Diabetes*, available at: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/what-is-diabetes/type-2-diabetes> (last visited 3/14/25).

<sup>26</sup> National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, *Diabetes Statistics*, available at: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-statistics/diabetes-statistics> (last visited 3/14/25).

Type 1 diabetes typically occurs when an individual’s immune system attacks and destroys the cells in the pancreas responsible for producing insulin, causing the pancreas to cease insulin production.<sup>27</sup> This causes abnormal levels of blood glucose, as the glucose cannot absorb into the cells and remains in an individual’s blood.<sup>28</sup> An individual with type 1 diabetes will take synthetic insulin everyday to facilitate the absorption of blood glucose into an individual’s cells.<sup>29</sup>

Type 2 diabetes occurs when an individual’s pancreas does not produce enough insulin or does not utilize insulin well.<sup>30</sup>

***Insulin Types and Administration***

There are a variety of insulin types an individual may take to manage their diabetes.<sup>31</sup> The following chart shows different types of insulin<sup>32</sup>

Insulin Types				
Insulin Type	Onset	Peak Time	Duration	Method
Rapid acting	15 minutes	1 hour	2 to 4 hours	Usually taken right before a meal. Often used with longer-acting insulin.
Rapid-acting inhaled	10 to 15 minutes	30 minutes	3 hours	Usually taken right before a meal. Often used with injectable long-acting insulin.
Regular/short acting	30 minutes	2 to 3 hours	3 to 6 hours	Usually taken 30 to 60 minutes before a meal.
Intermediate acting	2 to 4 hours	4 to 12 hours	12 to 18 hours	Covers insulin needs for half a day or overnight. Often used with rapid- or short-acting insulin.
Long acting	2 hours	Does not peak	Up to 24 hours	Covers insulin needs for about a full day. Often used, when needed, with rapid- or short-acting insulin.
Ultra-long acting	6 hours	Does not peak	36 hours or longer	Provides steady insulin for long periods.
Premixed	5 to 60 minutes	Peaks vary	10 to 16 hours	Combines intermediate- and short-acting insulin. Usually taken 10 to 30 minutes before breakfast and dinner.

Source: Center for Disease Control

Individuals often take insulin differently depending on the type of insulin they use and what method they are most comfortable with when administering insulin. The following chart displays common methods for administering insulin<sup>33</sup>:

<sup>27</sup> National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, *Type 1 Diabetes*, available at: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/what-is-diabetes/type-1-diabetes> (last visited 3/14/25).

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, *Type 2 Diabetes*, available at: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/diabetes/overview/what-is-diabetes/type-2-diabetes> (last visited 3/14/25).

<sup>31</sup> Center for Disease Control Diabetes, *Types of Insulin*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/about/how-to-use-insulin.html> (last visited 3/14/25).

<sup>32</sup> Center for Disease Control Diabetes, *Types of Insulin*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/about/how-to-use-insulin.html> (last visited 3/14/25).

<sup>33</sup> Center for Disease Control Diabetes, *4 Ways to Take Insulin*, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/about/4-ways-to-take-insulin.html> (last visited 3/14/25).

Insulin Administration Methods	
Method	Description
Syringe	This method delivers insulin through a needle. This is often referred to as “sliding-scale” administration as the amount needed (the bolus) is calculated based on the current blood glucose level and drawn from a container into a syringe and then administered subcutaneously.
Insulin Pen	Cartridges may be inserted into an insulin pen for insulin administration. Some insulin pens are pre-filled and single use. The insulin is injected through a needle.
Insulin Pump	Insulin pumps give an individual a dose of short- or rapid-acting insulin per hour. An individual calculates the insulin dosage, and the insulin in the pump delivers the bolus (short- or rapid-acting insulin take at or before mealtimes).  The pump delivers insulin through a thin plastic tube placed in the fatty layer under an individual’s skin.
Insulin Inhaler	An individual uses an oral inhaler to deliver ultra-rapid-acting insulin at the beginning of meals. Inhaled insulin is used with an injectable long-acting insulin.

**III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** of the bill amends s. 393.063, F.S. to define the new term “direct-support professional” in Ch. 393, F.S. A direct-support professional is defined as a person paid to provide services directly to a client with developmental disabilities that receives home and community-based services to address activities of daily living or instrumental activities of daily living, behavioral supports, employment supports, or other services to promote community integration of the client.

**Section 2** of the bill creates s. 393.504, F.S. to allow a direct-support professional (DSP) or a client’s relative to administer insulin to a client in a group home facility if the group home facility has established training procedures and has adopted policies and procedures governing the administration of insulin by DSP and relatives. The term “relative” is defined in s. 393.063(30), F.S., and refers to an individual who is connected by affinity or consanguinity to the client and who is 18 years of age or older.

If a group home facility wants to allow a DSP or relative to administer insulin, the bill requires the group home facility to have an established procedure to provide training to the DSP or relative in the administration of insulin. This training must be provided by:

- A registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter 464;
- A physician licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459; or
- A physician assistant licensed under chapter 458 or chapter 459.

The bill requires the group home facility to adopt policies and procedures governing the administration of insulin by direct-support professionals and relatives; these policies and procedures must include, but need not be limited to, the following provisions:

- Requirements to have the client’s prescribed dosage of insulin required for the client and proof of the direct-support professional’s or relative’s training on file.

- Coordination procedures in place between the group home facility and direct-support professional or relative to avoid duplication in insulin administration.
- Established emergency procedures related to the administration of insulin to clients.
- Certifications for direct-support professionals or relatives to administer insulin if the individual is in compliance with requirements.
- Requirements for the group home facility to immediately notify a direct-support professional or relative if he or she is not in compliance with these requirements and immediately cease to allow them to administer insulin.

The bill provides compliant group home facilities with immunity from civil liability for damages arising out of the administration of insulin by a direct-support professional or a client's relative.

The bill provides compliant direct-support professionals or relatives with immunity from civil liability or criminal penalties arising out of the administration of insulin to the client.

**Section 3** of the bill amends s. 1002.394, F.S. to update cross references.

**Section 4** of the bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2025.

#### **IV. Constitutional 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 identified.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The APD reports the bill language will require enhancements to the iConnect system, the APD's client data management and electronic visit verification system, and estimates the cost to be \$20,000 based on the number of hours it will take to make the necessary modifications to some of the impacted forms in the iConnect system.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill amends ss. 393.063 and 1002.394, Florida Statutes.  
This bill creates s. 393.504, Florida Statutes.

**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.