

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 Health Policy

BILL: SB 196

INTRODUCER: Senator Sharief and others

SUBJECT: Uterine Fibroid Research Database

DATE: February 10, 2026

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Smith | Brown | HP | Pre-meeting |
| 2. | | | AHS | |
| 3. | | | FP | |

I. Summary:

SB 196 removes the prohibition against including personal identifying information in the uterine fibroid research database because, under current law, the Department of Health (DOH) is unable to effectively implement the legislative purpose of the uterine fibroid research database without this information being submitted to the database.

The bill also requires the DOH to add uterine fibroids to the list of reportable diseases maintained under s. 381.0031(4), F.S., which requires health care providers and facilities to report certain diseases to the DOH. The bill specifies that information collected under this requirement is subject to s. 381.0031, F.S.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Uterine Fibroids¹

Uterine fibroids are tumors inside the uterus that grow on the muscular walls of the uterus. They are almost always benign (not cancerous). Fibroids can grow as a single tumor, or there can be multiple tumors, as small as an apple seed or as big as a grapefruit. Between 20 and 80 percent of women will have uterine fibroids before they turn 50. The DOH reports, “Black women are three times more likely to be diagnosed with fibroids than white women. They are also more likely to get them at a younger age and experience more severe symptoms.”

Most fibroids happen in women of reproductive age, and they can complicate getting or staying pregnant. The exact cause of uterine fibroids is unknown, but the hormones estrogen and

¹ Department of Health, *Diseases & Conditions: Uterine Fibroids*, available at <http://floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/disease/uterine-fibroids/> (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

progesterone play a role. Many women never have symptoms, but some do. Symptoms include abnormal bleeding, pelvic discomfort, pelvic pain, bladder problems, and bowel problems.

Fibroids may be treated depending on the impact they have on the affected woman's life. Treatment may include hormonal contraceptives or surgeries removing fibroids themselves (myomectomy) or the whole uterus (hysterectomy). Additionally, a uterine artery embolization (UAE) can be an alternative to major surgery for some women, stopping blood flow to the fibroids, which causes them to die (and shrink) over time.

Uterine Fibroid Research Database

In 2022, the Legislature created s. 381.9312, F.S., requiring the DOH to develop and maintain an electronic uterine fibroid research database to encourage research on the diagnosis and treatment of uterine fibroids and to ensure women are provided relevant information and health care necessary to prevent and treat uterine fibroids.² The statute requires the database to include, at a minimum, the incidence and prevalence of women diagnosed with uterine fibroids in the state, demographic attributes of women diagnosed with uterine fibroids, and treatments and procedures used by health care providers.³ Health care providers who diagnose or treat a woman with uterine fibroids must submit information to the DOH for inclusion in the database in a form and manner adopted by rule.⁴ No such rule has been adopted and the database remains only partially implemented.

Current law prohibits the database from including any personal identifying information of women diagnosed with or treated for uterine fibroids.⁵ As a result, the DOH cannot collect personal health information for purposes such as deduplication and matching.⁶ Without the ability to collect personal health information to deduplicate records and match individuals across submissions, the DOH indicates that accurately analyzing and understanding uterine fibroids in Florida's population is not achievable.⁷ The DOH cannot presently reliably determine the number of women with the condition or assess treatment outcomes.⁸

Notwithstanding the statutory restriction on personal identifying information in the database, the DOH reports it employs a defense-in-depth security approach with multiple security layers to protect the deidentified data in the uterine fibroid research database.⁹

DOH Mandated Reporting Requirements for Health Care Practitioners

All practitioners, health care facilities, and laboratories in Florida are required to notify the DOH of diseases or conditions of public health significance.¹⁰ DOH rules require reporting for each

² Section 381.9312(2)(a), F.S.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Section 381.9312(2)(b), F.S.

⁵ Section 381.9312(2)(c), F.S.

⁶ Department of Health, *HB 196 Legislative Bill Analysis* (received Jan. 28, 2026) (on file with the Senate Committee on Health Policy).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Section 381.0031, F.S.

disease for which the DOH seeks to immunize children under its Immunization Guidelines. For those specified diseases, practitioners must report as follows:

- Immediately upon initial suspicion, or upon ordering a test: measles; rubella; diphtheria; *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib); polio; and pneumococcal disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.
- Immediately upon confirmatory test or diagnosis: pertussis (whooping cough).
- By the next business day: hepatitis B (Hep B); mumps; tetanus; and varicella (chickenpox).¹¹

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 of the bill amends s. 381.9312, F.S., which currently establishes the uterine fibroid research database, to delete a prohibition on the inclusion of any personal identifying information of women diagnosed with or treated for uterine fibroids in the database.

The bill requires the DOH to include uterine fibroids in the list of diseases issued under s. 381.0031(4), F.S. That section requires the DOH to maintain a list of infectious or noninfectious diseases it determines to be a threat to public health. All practitioners, health care facilities, and laboratories in Florida are required to notify the DOH of the presence of those diseases within specified timeframes.

The bill specifies that, regarding the uterine fibroid research database, “the information required to be included under this subsection is subject to s. 381.0031, F.S.” See “*Constitutional Issues.*”

Section 2 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

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.

¹¹ Rule 64D-3.029, F.A.C.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

This bill appears to expand, by reference, the existing public records exemption in s. 381.0031(6), F.S., by including the personal identifying information of women diagnosed with or treated for fibroids. Article I, section 24(c) of the Florida Constitution requires that any law that creates or expands a public records exemption must be passed in a separate bill and must state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption. A public records exemption that is expanded to include additional records or information is considered a substantial amendment and, therefore, must be enacted through a stand-alone public records exemption bill that includes a public necessity statement. Such a bill must pass by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting in each house of the Legislature.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

CS/SB 864 is a public records exemption bill related to SB 196. CS/SB 864 also provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. If SB 196 were to take effect without the enactment of CS/SB 864 or similar legislation, the personal identifying information collected in the uterine fibroid research database would become publicly available and would not be protected by a public records exemption. To avoid this outcome, this bill should be amended to make its effective date contingent upon CS/SB 864 or similar legislation taking effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends 381.9312 of the Florida Statutes.

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.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
