Florida Academy of Family Physicians
2019 Legislative Session
Legislative Update
January 25, 2019

The pace of the interim legislative committee process is slowly ramping up as legislators received their final background briefings on the mechanics of state government and delved into more specific policy discussions. Despite the shortened week, the legislature successfully crammed four days’ worth of work into three. On a parallel track, scores of Senate and House bills are being filed every day that will begin to work their way through the legislative process. The legislature takes a break next week and will return to Tallahassee on February 4th.

As of January 25th, 575 House and Senate bills have been filed for consideration during the 2019 Legislative Session. Legislation of interest to the FAFP is tagged and tracked as bills are filed.

Following is a brief summary of the key issues impacting the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.

**2019 Doctor of the Day Program**

The new 2019 application for the legislature’s Doctor of the Day Program has been released. Now is the time for family physicians to volunteer to take part in this important program during each of the nine-weeks of the 2019 Legislative Session which runs from March 5 through May 3. FAFP's membership has maintained strong representation in Tallahassee to advance our advocacy efforts! For further information about the program, please contact Jay Millson at jmillson@fafp.org.

**Legislation of Importance to FAFP**

Bills are marked with FAFP’s position: ✅ Support ☐ Oppose ☝ Monitoring

**Influenza & Strep Testing**

HB 111 by Rep. Rene Plasencia (R-Orlando) and SB 300 by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) authorize pharmacists to test and treat for the influenza virus and streptococcal infections within the framework of an established written protocol of a supervising physician. The legislation requires pharmacists to maintain patient records for a minimum of 5 years, to carry professional liability insurance, and to obtain certification. The bills require pharmacists to notify the patient’s primary care provider within 2 business days after providing testing or treatment.

Psychologist Prescribing
SB 304 by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) and HB 373 by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-Avon Park) allow certified, licensed psychologists to prescribe, administer, discontinue, and distribute prescription drugs, including controlled substances.

Link to SB 304: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/304
Link to HB 373: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/373

Immunization Registry
HB 213 by Rep. Ralph Massullo (R-Lecanto) and SB 354 by Senator Bill Montford (D-Tallahassee) eliminates unnecessary paperwork for physician's office and makes it more convenient for parents to comply with school immunization rules. The bills require health care providers to report into the DOH SHOTS database any immunizations administered to children and college or university students, 18 to 23 years of age, at a college or university student health care facility. Automated data upload from existing automated systems is an acceptable method for updating immunization information in the immunization registry. Mandatory reporting to the registry will eliminate the use of the paper-based certification of immunizations. The reporting of the vaccination data to the registry for other persons is permitted, but not required.

Link to HB 213: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/213

HPV Immunizations
HB 245 by Rep. Heather Fitzenhagen (R-Fort Myers) and SB 356 by Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez (D-Miami) revise the child immunization requirements to include the vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV).

Link to HB 245: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/245

Physician Orders for Life-sustaining Treatment
SB 206 by Senator Jeff Brandes (R-St. Petersburg) establishes the Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Program within the Department of Health, specifies which document takes precedence when directives in POLST forms conflict with other advance directives, and requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), by January 1, 2020, to establish and maintain a clearinghouse for compassionate and palliative care plans. In addition, the bill authorizes home health agency personnel to withhold or withdraw cardiopulmonary resuscitation if presented with a POLST form that contains an order not to resuscitate the patient. SB 208 also filed by Senator Brandes creates the requisite public records exemption for personal identifying information contained in compassionate and palliative care plans filed with the Clearinghouse for Compassionate and Palliative Care Plans managed by AHCA. House companion measures have not been filed to-date.

Link to SB 206: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/206
Link to SB 208: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/208
**Physician Fee Sharing Task Force**

**HB 503** by Rep. Jamie Grant (R-Tampa) establishes a 25-member Physician Fee Sharing Task Force within DOH. Five members of the task force will be health care practitioners, each of whom practices in a different area of medicine, appointed by the State Surgeon General. A Senate companion measure has not been filed to-date.


**Stem Cell Treatments**

**HB 65** by Rep. Chuck Clemons (R-Newberry) establishes patient eligibility criteria and requirements relating to the access to and use of investigational stem cell treatments, requires the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt rules, prohibits governmental interference in such stem cell treatments, requires institutional review boards to oversee treatments, keep records, and submit reports, and prohibits the purchase or sale of stem cells. A Senate companion bill has not been filed to-date.


**Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)**

Legislation passed last session required physicians or their designee to consult the statewide PDMP database before prescribing a controlled substance. **HB 375** by Rep. Cary Pigman (R-Avon Park) creates an exemption for patients that have a terminal condition or are receiving palliative care for the relief of symptoms related to an incurable, progressive illness or injury. A Senate companion bill has not been filed to-date.


**Opioid Prescribing**

**HB 491** by Rep. Dianne Hart (D-Tampa) excludes pain related to sickle-cell anemia from the definition of acute pain for purposes of limitations on prescriptions of opioids for acute pain. A Senate companion bill has not been filed to-date.


**Prior Authorization for Opioid Alternatives**

**SB 398** by Senator Gary Farmer (D-Fort Lauderdale) prohibits health insurance policies from requiring that treatment with an opioid analgesic drug product be attempted and have failed before authorizing the use of a nonopioid-based analgesic drug product. A House companion bill has not been filed to-date.


**Medical Malpractice**

**SB 80** filed by Senator Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) specifies how to calculate damages in certain personal injury or wrongful death actions and prohibits admission of specified information relating to costs of medical or health care as evidence in such actions. A House companion measure has not been filed to-date.

HB 149 filed by Reps. John Cortes (D-Kissimmee) and Sam Killebrew (R-Winter Haven), and SB 514 by Senator Kevin Radar (D-Delray Beach) authorize an adult child who was under the care of a legal parental guardian at the time of a parent's death to file a medical negligence claim and authorize a legal parental guardian of an adult child to file claim for medical negligence under certain circumstances.

Link to HB 149: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/149
Link to SB 514: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/514

**Medicaid Expansion**

SB 126 by Senator Perry Thurston (D-Fort Lauderdale) and HB 223 by Rep. Barbara Watson (D-Miami Gardens) extend Medicaid eligibility to adults who are under 65 years of age whose income does not exceed 133 percent of the federal poverty level.

Link to SB 126: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/126
Link to HB 223: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/223

SJR 284 by Senator Annette Taddeo (D-Miami) proposes the creation of a new section of the State Constitution to require amending the state Medicaid plan to provide Medicaid coverage to persons under age 65 who have an income equal to or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level. A House companion resolution has not been filed to-date.

Link to SJR 284: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/284

**Health Insurance Coverage for Enteral Formulas**

SB 358 by Senator Kelli Stargel (R-Lakeland) and HB 539 by Rep. Ardian Zika (R-Land O'Lakes) require the state group insurance program to provide coverage for certain enteral formulas and amino-acid-based elemental formulas.

Link to SB 358: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/358
Link to HB 539: http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2019/539