

State Legislative Update: February 5, 2021

We have completed our third interim committee week. Bills are moving, including Senate leadership priority bills. Agency and Governor's office staff presented the Governor's recommended budget in both chambers in front of the various appropriations subcommittees. Some members of the Senate sounded skeptical hearing a presentation on Gov. Ron DeSantis' proposed budget, which grows by more than \$4 billion during the ongoing economic downturn amidst the pandemic. However, the increase in what the federal government is sending to the states for the Medicaid program is likely to remain in place for all of 2021, according to federal officials, meaning savings on spending of state dollars for the critical healthcare program.

Senate Appropriations Chair Stargel released a letter and full list of all Recurring Base Projects for the state budget. The letter explains that all requesting entities that receive recurring state dollars must provide general information via a form to the relevant Senate budget subcommittee. This form is due Friday, Feb. 19. All information will be available on the Senate Appropriations webpage at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Appropriations/2021>

At this time, 1488 bills have been filed, of those 829 are general bills. Included below are those bills where we are actively engaged and those we are monitoring on your behalf. Please review and notify us if you have questions, or if there are other issues you would like us to add to the tracking. The full text of each bill is available on the legislative web sites (www.flsenate.gov and www.myfloridahouse.com.)

COVID Update:

By the Numbers: as of 2/4/21

Total numbers of cases since the pandemic started: 1,744,619

Deaths of Florida Residents: 27,019

Percentage of available hospital beds statewide. 20.63%

Percentage of available adult intensive-care unit beds statewide. 16.98%

Vaccine Update as of 2/3/21

First dose: 1,788,326

Series Completed: 421,315

State Action:

- As previously noted, the Governor's executive order prioritizing seniors age 65+, and those healthcare providers with direct patient contact are the absolute priorities for vaccine distribution. While there are inconsistencies between the counties on allocations and the supply does not cover the demand, our care givers fall within the 4 corners of the executive orders and are eligible for the vaccine. Care workers should contact their County Health departments, hospitals or community partners to schedule timing for appointments. As vaccines are available in the community, partners will go back through the lists and schedule those appointments.
 - Home care workers were specifically addressed by Deputy Secretary Roberson in the Senate Health Policy Committee as members of the health care provider community eligible and in this first 1a grouping.
 - The state has launched its solution for vaccination appointment. Please visit:

www.myvaccine.fl.gov although some counties have opted out of using the site and will continue to use their system. ○ If one is experiencing issues with getting vaccinated, please email: Provider.covid19@flhealth.gov

- State Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz told The Associated Press on Friday that the state will set up a vaccine station in Belle Glade to serve it and its neighboring towns of Pahokee and South Bay.
- During Super Bowl week, the city of Tampa will enforce its face mask ordinance inside bars.
- Vaccine partnerships continue to grow as the Federal government announced it will begin shipping vaccine doses directly to Walmart and Sam's Clubs as soon as next week in 22 states, including Florida.

HB 309 Dementia related Staff Training (Byrd)

Dementia-related Staff Training: Requires certain entities, as condition of licensure, to provide dementia-related training for new employees; provides requirements for training; requires employees to receive additional training developed or approved by DOEA under certain circumstances; authorizes department to develop curriculum for training; encourages DOEA to consult certain nationally recognized organizations to develop registration process for training providers & assessments. Effective Date: July 1, 2021

- SB 634 Dementia related Staff training (Gibson)
Dementia-related Staff Training: Requires certain entities, as condition of licensure, to provide dementia-related training for new employees; provides requirements for training; requires employees to receive additional training developed or approved by DOEA under certain circumstances; authorizes department to develop curriculum for training; encourages DOEA to consult certain nationally recognized organizations to develop registration process for training providers & assessments. Effective Date: July 1, 2021
- SB 700 Telehealth (Rodriguez, A)
Requiring AHCA to reimburse the use of telehealth in certain limitation; revising the term telehealth; authorizing nonphysician health care 15 practitioners to satisfy a certain supervision 16 requirement through telehealth; authorizing out-of-17 state physician telehealth providers to engage in 18 formal supervisory relationships with certain 19 nonphysician health care practitioners in this state; revising the 23 definition of the term "pharmacy"; authorizing registered 26 pharmacy technicians to compound and dispense 27 medicinal drugs under certain circumstances
- SB 864 Telehealth (Brodeur)
Revising the definition of the term "telehealth"; revising an exemption from telehealth registration requirements, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2021

Additional News:

- Shevaun Harris, acting Secretary at AHCA will replace Chad Poppell at DCF.
- Simone Marstiller who is currently the DJJ secretary will replace Harris at AHCA.