



Florida Services
Chapter

FL Advocate Newsletter



Manning Hanline, Jr, MD FACP FACEP, President/Governor ❖ George Everett, MD MACP, Governor

LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT — FEBRUARY 25, 2022

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With two weeks left in the Legislative Session, we are in the “End Game” on several issues:

Medical Specialty Designation Bill (HB 861): Just passed the House and is in Messages to the Senate. Senate likely will not take it up, but it remains available as “trade bait” during the last two weeks of Session.

Telehealth (SB 312): Different versions have passed both the House and Senate, both of which allow for telehealth prescribing of Schedules III-V. The only issue is whether “telephone-only” constitutes telehealth (House says it should not). The bill is now in Messages in the Senate. We would be surprised if a resolution is not reached in the last two weeks.

PBMs (HB 357/SB1476): The House Bill is now up for final passage today, and the Senate Bill has its last committee stop on Monday. The bill places PBMs under the jurisdiction of the Office of Insurance Regulation and requires some transparency, but it is only a first step.

Step Therapy (HB 459/SB 730): The House Bill has advanced to Third (i.e., final) Reading, and the Senate Bill is on the floor. The bill facilitates overrides of Step Therapy, but does not limit Step Therapy protocols.

Physician Free Speech: (HB 687/SB 1184) The House Bill is in the House Health and Human Services Committee, which is scheduled to meet one last time on Monday. The Senate Bill is still in Appropriations, but it is not on Monday’s agenda, which currently would be its last opportunity under the current schedule. Something extraordinary would have to happen for this to pass.

What Has Already Been Passed: Covid Liability Protection for Physicians (SB 7014). Governor Desantis signed the bill last night!

What Has Already Been Defeated: APRN and PA Scope of Practice Expansion, Restrictions on Physician Mergers, Additional Physician Disclosures.

Threats Still Remaining: Wrongful Death Actions Against Physicians. A bill to allow such actions by adult children of victims passed the House Judiciary Committee this week and is scheduled for House debate next week, but has seen no movement yet in the Senate.

Please feel free to contact our Chapter Counsel/Lobbyist Chris Nuland at Nulandlaw@aol.com with any questions.

ADVOCATES FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK

Join more than 15,000 colleagues in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn) in advocating for the interests of internal medicine in Washington, D.C. The AIMn program is for ACP members interested in participating in federal advocacy. It is designed to help members engage with their federal lawmakers on policy issues important to ACP and internal medicine.

Enroll now: <https://cqrcengage.com/acplac/app/register?0&m=13815>

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College emails or faxes legislative alerts to AIMn members through our Legislative Action Center (LAC). Legislative alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) to make informative contacts with members of Congress, and ACP staff is always available to provide support and answer legislative questions.

Once enrolled as an Advocate you can use the College's LAC to respond easily to current ACP legislative alerts, identify your federal legislators, monitor important legislation, and e-mail or call your members of Congress.

Legislative Action Center: <https://cqrcengage.com/acplac/home?0>