

FLACP

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians

**Legislative Update
April 14, 2014**

Tallahassee Session Update
April 14, 2014
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With last week being the last opportunity for non-Appropriation committee meetings, there was a flurry of activity as bills were advanced, left for dead, and/or combined to make huge health care "trains."

Without doubt, the most notable activity was the House Health and Human Services Committee combining its Telemedicine, ARNP Independent Practice, and Trauma legislation into one bill (HB 7113). Of note is that this bill would, over our strenuous objections, allow independent practice for ARNPs and would not require out of state telemedicine providers to possess a Florida license.

Special thanks go out to resident member Jeremy Latimer, MD, FSU Internal Medicine Residency Program for taking time away from his duties to provide last-minute testimony on this important bill.

By contrast, amendments made to the Senate Telemedicine Bill, SB 1646, would require Florida licensure, while the Senate legislation on ARNPs, SB 1352, would only allow for ARNPs to prescribe controlled substances (it should be noted that SB 1352 still has two more committee stops).

Other Senate action was again favorable to physicians. The Health Care Clinic Act passed yet another committee, while the FMA's Managed Care package also passed the Banking and Insurance Committee. Unfortunately, the House companion bills to both pieces of legislation continue to lag.

There will be no report on Friday April 18th as both chambers are taking this week off in observance of the Passover/Easter holidays.

Next week will begin with Tuesday's Senate Appropriations scheduled to meet all day, when most of our legislation will hopefully be heard. Stay tuned for an eventful final two weeks.