



Florida Chapter Advocate E-News



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE—FEBRUARY 26, 2016



Tallahassee Legislative Report
Week Seven Session
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With only two weeks left in the 2016 Legislative Session, action was fast and furious this week, with legislators and lobbyists scurrying to find “vehicles” on which to attach their legislative priorities and to position bills for final passage. The most frantic action was in Thursday’s all-day Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, the last stop for most Senate bills before heading to the full floor. In the course of the day, a bill designed to allow 24 hour ASC operation was amended to severely restrict such operation, but also to include Direct Primary Care and significant managed care reforms. Also passing this committee were allowances for ARNP and PA controlled substance prescribing, as well as prohibitions on balance billing in an emergency setting. Two bills regarding health care technology also passed the Committee, one requiring hospitals and providers to provide transparency of their pricing and the other allowing telemedicine (but only for Florida licensed professionals).

Tuesday is the ACP Super Bowl in the House, during which they will consider the following bills on Special Order:

HB 37-	Direct Primary Care
HB 81-	Needle Exchange Pilot
HB 221-	ER Balance Billing
HB 423-	ARNP and PA Prescribing
HB 4007-	Medical Assistants

At this point, the issues are teed up for final actions on the House and Senate Floor, and we look forward to actually passing some meaningful legislation over the next two weeks.