

2023 Florida Legislative Session Bill Tracker

SB 1434 & HB 1533: Prior Authorization Reform

Redefining the term “health insurer” as “utilization review entity” and revising the definition; requiring utilization review entities to establish and offer a prior authorization process for accepting electronic prior authorization requests; specifying additional requirements and procedures for, and restrictions and limitations on, utilization review entities relating to prior authorization for covered health care benefits, etc.

Neither bill has had a committee hearing as of yet.

SB 236 & HB 837: Civil Remedies

Creating a rebuttable presumption that a lodestar fee is a sufficient and reasonable attorney fee in most civil actions; reducing the statute of limitations for negligence actions; providing standards for bad faith actions; providing standards for the admissibility of evidence to prove the cost of damages for medical expenses in certain civil actions; providing that a party in a negligence action who is at fault by a specified amount may not recover damages under a comparative negligence action, etc. This is the Governors Tort Reform package supported by the business community.

SB 236 has passed one of the three committees it has been referred to. HB 837 has passed both its committees and is ready for action on the Floor of the House.

SB 112 and HB 183: Step-Therapy Protocols for Mental Illness

Creates an exception from step-therapy prior authorization requirements within the Florida Medicaid program for a drug product that is prescribed for the treatment of a serious mental illness, as that term is defined in the bill, or a medication of a similar drug class if prior authorization was previously granted for the prescribed drug and the medication was dispensed to the patient during the previous 12 months. SB 112 has cleared two committees. HB 183 has not had a hearing yet.

SB 230 & HB 583: Health Care Practitioner Titles & Designations

1. The bill provides that if someone other than an allopathic or osteopathic physician attaches to his or her name any of the titles or designations listed in the bill, in an advertisement or in a manner that is misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent, the person is practicing medicine or osteopathic medicine without a license.

2. The bill amends s. 456.072(1)(t), F.S., to provide that a practitioner’s failure to wear a name tag, which must include his or her name and profession, when treating or consulting with a patient, is grounds for discipline unless he or she is in his or her office where the practitioner’s license is

prominently displayed in a conspicuous area, and the practitioner must verbally identify himself or herself to all new patients by name and profession.

3. The bill further amends s. 456.072(1)(t), F.S., to provide that any advertisement naming a practitioner must include the practitioner's profession and educational degree and to require practitioner regulatory boards, or the Department of Health (DOH) if there is no board, to adopt rules to determine how their practitioners must comply with this paragraph of statute.

SB 230 has cleared both committees and is ready for floor action. HB 583 has not had a hearing yet.

SB 298 & HB 267: Telehealth Practice Standards

Formally recognizes Audio-Only services in the statutory definition of telehealth services.

SB 298 passed one committee and has two to go. HB 267 has not had a hearing yet.

SB 1500 & HB 1545: Health Insurance ID Cards

Requiring certain health insurance identification cards to include specified information in a certain manner, including information on the type of plan and where patients can submit coverage complaints or concerns to the appropriate regulatory body.

Neither bill has received a committee hearing as of yet.

SB 1344 & HB 1299: Workers Compensation Fee Schedule

Bills would increase the fee schedule for treating workers compensation patients to 200% of Medicare and increase the hourly expert witness fee set in statutes to \$300.

Neither bill has received a committee hearing as of yet.

Budgetary Requests

Loan Forgiveness for Physicians – seeking \$6 million to continue program started in 2023.

Stop the Bleed – seeking \$1.5 million to fund kits in public facilities including schools.