

# 2025

## SUMMARY OF FLORIDA LAWS AFFECTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES



Florida Commission on the Status of Women

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Dear Friends of the Commission,

The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is proud to release our 2025 Summary of Florida Laws Affecting Women and Families. This annual report provides an accessible overview of legislation passed during the most recent session that shapes the daily lives of women, girls, and families across our state. From healthcare and child welfare to education and economic stability, these policies touch nearly every aspect of life in our communities. Their effects can be both visible and subtle, but understanding them is an essential first step toward informed engagement and ensuring your voice is heard.

We encourage women across Florida to use this report not only as a resource but as a starting point for deeper engagement in the legislative process. Whether it's contacting your elected officials, attending a local hearing, or simply sharing this information with your networks, your participation matters. When more women understand how laws are made and how to influence them, our policies become more representative, inclusive, and effective. Together, we can shape a future where all Floridians have the opportunity to thrive.

Sincerely,

Lori Day, Chair  
Florida Commission on the Status of Women



# Introduction

The 2025 Florida legislative session produced a broad range of laws impacting women and families, with key trends emerging in healthcare, mental health, and child welfare. Lawmakers expanded access to preventive care through mandated insurance coverage for breast cancer screenings. They also strengthened mental health services by enhancing the 988 crisis system and improving care coordination for individuals in crisis or distress. These changes reflect a growing legislative emphasis on early detection, access to care, and community-based support systems, especially for women and caregivers.

Child-focused legislation highlighted improvements in childcare safety, early learning access, and protections for vulnerable children and young adults. New laws increased oversight of childcare providers, prioritized housing and educational support for youth aging out of foster care, and introduced measures to better protect medically fragile children and surrendered infants. Together, these efforts point to a broader commitment to stability, safety, and support for children and families, particularly those with complex needs.

In education, lawmakers continued a trend of tightening school safety policies while expanding health services and access to extracurricular programs. Training for allergy response, diabetes care, and mental health support was mandated in schools, and eligibility for academic and sports programs was broadened to better include nontraditional and at-risk students. Across policy areas, there is a clear focus on increasing access, improving standards of care, and strengthening systems that support the everyday lives of Florida's women and families.

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# Healthcare and Health Policy

## SB 158 – Coverage for Diagnostic and Supplemental Breast Examinations

The bill requires state employee group health insurance products which provide coverage for diagnostic and supplemental breast examinations to provide the coverage without imposing any cost sharing liability on the insured, such as a deductible, copayment, or coinsurance. The bill provides parameters for what constitutes a supplemental breast examination.

The bill became law on May 20, 2025, chapter 2025-44, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on January 1, 2026.

## HB 655 – Pet Insurance and Wellness Programs

The bill formally recognizes coverage for pet accidents, illnesses, or diseases under Florida law. It establishes a regulatory framework for pet insurance policies sold in Florida, including detailed definitions (e.g., chronic condition, preexisting condition, wellness program), required disclosures, and consumer protections. The bill mandates transparency in policy exclusions, waiting periods, and claims processes, and allows a 30-day free-look period for consumers. Pet insurers must use standardized definitions when referenced and make those definitions available to policyholders.

The bill also regulates the marketing and sale of pet wellness programs to prevent them from being misrepresented as insurance. If sold alongside pet insurance, wellness programs must be optional, clearly separated, and independently priced. It imposes training requirements for agents and brokers selling pet insurance and wellness programs. Violations of the bill are considered violations of the Florida Insurance Code, and the commission is granted rulemaking authority to implement the bill's provisions.

The bill became law on April 18, 2025, chapter 2025-11, Laws of Florida, and will become effective on January 1, 2026.

## HB 677 – State Group Insurance Program Coverage of Standard Fertility Preservation Services

The bill requires state group health insurance program policies issued on or after January 1, 2026, to cover standard fertility services for enrollees who have been diagnosed with cancer for which the necessary treatment may cause infertility. Such policies must cover fertility retrieval and preservation services, including ovarian tissue, sperm, and oocyte retrieval and cryopreservation methods consistent with nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines and definitions. Coverage of these services expires three years after the date of the procedure presenting a risk of iatrogenic infertility occurred, or when the individual is no longer covered under the state group health insurance plan, whichever occurs first.

The bill became law on July 3, 2025, chapter 2025-212, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 1070 – Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes

The bill requires electrocardiogram (EKG) assessments, beginning in the 2026–2027 school year, for students participating in athletics at public high schools, except for students who reside in a school district that is unable to provide EKGs at a rate of less than \$50 per student. The bill authorizes a parent to exempt their student from an EKG on the basis of religious tenants or practices or a medical exemption. EKGs completed up to 2 years prior to 2026–2027 satisfy the EKG requirement for a high school student. Florida High School Athletic Association bylaws must include a requirement that students in grades 9–12 receive an EKG to participate in athletics unless the student is otherwise exempt. The bylaws must also prohibit students with abnormal EKG results from participating in athletics until they obtain a medical clearance. A school district cannot be held liable if a student who received medical clearance suffers injury or death as a result of a cardiac event arising from participation in athletics or if the student is exempt from the EKG requirements through a medical or parental exemption. School districts are required to pursue public and private partnerships to provide low cost EKGs.

The bill became law on June 26, 2025, chapter 2025–183, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on January 1, 2026.

# HB 1091 – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

The bill makes substantive changes to civil and forensic mental health and substance use service programs. The bill recognizes Florida’s 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (988 Lifeline) as a component of the coordinated system of care and requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to authorize and provide oversight of the 988 Lifeline call centers.

The bill authorizes a designated receiving facility to retain a patient, who had an emergency medical condition and was transferred to the receiving facility after being medically cleared, for the remainder of the 72-hour involuntary examination period if the patient continues to meet the criteria for involuntary examination, regardless of whether the transferring facility complied with the transfer timing or notification requirements.

The bill establishes clear roles for the courts and administrative law judges regarding continued involuntary services proceedings.

The bill expands the training requirements for court-appointed forensic evaluators, requiring annual training and coverage of specified topics. The bill requires clinical psychologists to have at least three years of clinical experience to authorize the transfer of a patient from voluntary to involuntary status.

The bill also authorizes DCF to issue licenses to medication-assisted treatment providers without conducting an annual needs assessment.

The bill became law on June 16, 2025, chapter 2025–143, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# HB 1421 – Improving Screening for and Treatment of Blood Clots

The bill creates the Emily Adkins Family Protection Act to improve screening and treatment measures for, and prevention of venous thromboembolism in Florida residents.

The bill:

- Requires the Department of Health to contract with a private entity to create and maintain a statewide venous thromboembolism registry.
- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the incidence of venous thromboembolisms.
- Requires all hospitals with emergency departments to develop and implement policies and procedures for appropriate medical attention for persons at risk of forming venous thromboembolisms or deep vein thromboses (DVTs), and requires hospitals to train nonphysician personnel on their policies and procedures.
- Requires nursing homes to train personnel on how to recognize signs and symptoms of venous thromboembolism and DVT.
- Requires assisted living facilities to provide consumer information pamphlets to residents containing certain information about venous thromboembolisms.

The bill became law on July 2, 2025, chapter 2025-211, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 1490 – Children’s Medical Services Program

The bill requires the Department of Health to transfer the Children’s Medical Services managed care plan contracts, which serve children and youth with special health care needs, to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). This provision is effective July 1, 2025.

The bill also requires AHCA to develop a plan to redesign the Medicaid Model Waiver to include a new tiered service array for children and youth with special health care needs who receive private duty nursing services. The bill requires AHCA to submit a report on the plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 31, 2025.

The bill also requires a multiyear evaluation of the current Medicaid service model for medically fragile children, and requires AHCA to submit a final report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 15, 2028.

The bill became law on May 23, 2025, chapter 2025-88, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date except as otherwise provided.

# SB 1607 – Cardiac Emergencies

The bill requires school districts to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) once during middle school and once during high school in a physical education or health class. The instruction must allow students to practice the skills associated with performing CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED). By July 1, 2027, every public school, including charter schools, must have at least one operational AED on school grounds. Each public school must also develop a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies to guide school personnel in responding to sudden cardiac arrest or similar emergencies on school grounds.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-67, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 1620 – Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

The bill implements several recommendations made by the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder in its January 1, 2025, annual report.

The bill:

- Requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to adopt rules for mobile response services available for persons age 65 and over to meet the specialized needs of such persons.
- Requires managing entities (MEs) to promote the use of person-first language and trauma-informed care through training and sharing of best practices.
- Requires DCF, in consultation with the Agency for Health Care Administration, to biennially assess the need for additional short-term residential facilities and beds and to address such needs.
- Requires discharge plans from certain facilities to address the administration of and access to long-term injectable medication prior to and after discharge, respectively.
- Requires providers under contract with DCF and MEs to use the most recent version of the DLA20 assessment tool when serving children and adolescents and in school districts' plans for mental health assistance programs.
- Requires the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to analyze substance abuse and mental health services provided through publicly funded programs, including Medicare.

The bill became law on June 26, 2025, chapter 2025-184, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# Children, Families, and Elder Care

## SB 232 – Debt Collection

The bill exempts email communications from the general prohibition on communications by a debt collector with a debtor between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. All communications other than email remain prohibited during this period.

The bill became law on May 16, 2025, chapter 2025-23, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

## HB 393 – My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program

The Legislature created the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program (Program) within the Department of Financial Services in 2024. The Program received a nonrecurring appropriation of \$30 million from the General Revenue Fund.

The bill prohibits a condominium association from applying for an inspection or grant unless the association has complied with milestone inspection requirements and structural integrity reserve requirements; and provides that only 75 percent of unit owners, rather than 100 percent of unit owners, must approve applying for the grant.

The bill clarifies that all grants under the Program must be matched on the basis of \$1 provided by the condominium association for every \$2 provided by the state towards the actual cost of the project; revises the roof improvements that are eligible for funding; and provides that grant funds may only be awarded for a mitigation improvement that will result in a mitigation credit, discount, or other rate differential.

The bill became law on June 23, 2025, chapter 2025-173, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

## SB 584 – Young Adult Housing Support

The bill requires each state college and university to develop a plan prioritizing placement of students who are or were formerly in foster care or who are homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness in residence halls owned by the institution. If a state college or university implements a priority system for assigning students to housing or work-study opportunities, it must give first priority to students who are eligible for a tuition and fee exemption due to their involvement with the child welfare system or classification as a homeless child or youth. State colleges and universities are prohibited from requiring students receiving specified housing support from needing a cosigner or guarantor to obtain housing.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF), community-based care lead agencies (CBCs), and housing authorities are required to administer the federal Foster Youth to Independence initiative and other federal programs and vouchers offered by the United State Department of Housing and Urban Development. DCF, CBCs, and their subcontracted service providers that administer housing funds for young adults in the child welfare system must document actions taken to facilitate a young adult's acquisition of a residential lease.

The Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is required to conduct a study of the barriers young adults who are homeless or were formerly in foster care face when trying to obtain housing and issue its findings, including recommendations, by December 1, 2026.

The bill became law on June 27, 2025, chapter 2025-196, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 593 – Dangerous Dogs

The bill creates the “Pam Rock Act,” revising provisions relating to dangerous dogs by requiring:

- Certain dog owners to securely confine their dog in a proper enclosure as if the dog had been determined to be “dangerous.”
- Animal control authorities to hold dogs during the course of a dangerous dog investigation in certain instances.
- An animal control authority to humanely euthanize a dangerous dog in certain instances.
- Dogs that have been declared dangerous to be microchipped and spayed or neutered.
- The owner of a dangerous dog to obtain liability insurance.

The bill makes the intentional removal of a microchip from a dangerous dog a third-degree felony and resisting or obstructing an animal control authority investigation into a dangerous dog a first-degree misdemeanor. The bill increases criminal penalties for the owners of dogs that severely injure or cause the death of a person in certain instances and increases the maximum fine for violations of the dangerous dog statute.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-61, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 711 – Spectrum Alert

The bill establishes the Spectrum Alert, a statewide system to help locate missing children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and appropriates \$190,000 in nonrecurring funds to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to implement the alert system.

The bill became law on June 5, 2025, chapter 2025-123, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 791 – Surrendered Infants

The bill authorizes hospitals, emergency medical service stations, and fire stations to use infant safety devices to accept surrendered newborn infants, and establishes criteria for their use.

The bill became law on April 29, 2025, chapter 2025-17, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## SB 948 – Flood Disclosures

The bill requires landlords of residential properties to provide prospective tenants with a flood disclosure prior to or when a rental agreement is executed. If a landlord fails to disclose flood information truthfully, the tenant may terminate the rental agreement within a certain timeframe and the landlord must refund the tenant all amounts paid in advance by the tenant; however, a tenant remains liable for sums owed to the landlord prior to the date the rental agreement was terminated. These requirements also apply to mobile home park owners and prospective lessees of a mobile home lot.

The bill revises the type of flood information that must be disclosed to prospective purchasers of residential real property to include whether the seller is aware of damage to the property caused by flooding during the seller’s ownership of the property; and the information that a developer must disclose to prospective purchasers of a residential condominium unit to include a statement that the homeowners’ insurance policy does not cover damage for flooding, and whether the developer is aware of damage to the property caused by flooding, has filed a claim for flood damage, or has received assistance for flood damage.

The bill became law on June 20, 2025, chapter 2025-166, Laws of Florida, and became effective on October 1, 2025.

## HB 1089 – Newborn Screenings

The bill requires the Newborn Screening Program within the Department of Health to screen newborns for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy beginning January 1, 2027, subject to legislative appropriation.

The bill became law on May 20, 2025, chapter 2025-51, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 1156 – Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program

The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek federal approval to exclude any income earned by a family under the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children (HHAMFC) Program from being considered in a Medicaid eligibility determination, and establishes a deadline for AHCA to do so.

The bill also increases the utilization cap of reimbursable hours to 12 hours per day, and 40 hours per week, per medically fragile child.

The bill reduces the total hours of required training from 85 hours to 76 hours, and requires the 76 hours of training to consist of:

- At least 40 hours of home health aide training.
- At least 20 hours of nursing skills training, which must be tailored to the child’s individualized care needs.
- At least 16 hours of clinical training related to the specific needs of an eligible relative under the direct supervision of a licensed registered nurse.

The bill requires home health agencies to report HHAMFC-related adverse incidents to their managed care plans and AHCA, within 48 hours, and requires AHCA to include data on such adverse incidents in the annual assessment report.

The bill became law on June 23, 2025, chapter 2025-171, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

# HB 1103 – Services for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

The bill revises and expands the Intellectual Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program (IDD Pilot) administered by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). The bill:

- Expands the IDD Pilot in three phases to include all persons on the iBudget waitlist or enrolled in any home- and community-based services waiver program.
- Requires individuals eligible for the IDD Pilot to make an affirmative choice to enroll and prohibits automatic enrollment.
- Requires AHCA to provide a call center to assist prospective enrollees and their families.
- Requires AHCA to coordinate with the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop partnerships with community-based organizations to disseminate information about the IDD Pilot to providers and potential enrollees.

The bill makes changes to the iBudget waiver program and certain APD functions. The bill:

- Requires individuals eligible for voluntary enrollment in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program to make an affirmative choice, and prohibits automatic enrollment.
- Requires APD to contract for a study to review, evaluate, and identify recommendations regarding the iBudget allocation algorithm and report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by November 15, 2025.
- Requires APD to publish quarterly reconciliation reports and the current and total number of individuals in each preenrollment category, by county of residence, on its website.
- Requires APD participation in DCF transition planning for young adults with developmental disabilities in extended foster care or transitioning from the child welfare system.
- Establishes the Statewide Family Care Council

The bill became law on June 9, 2025, chapter 2025-130, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 1286 – Harming or Neglecting Children

The bill prohibits the Department of Children and Families (DCF) from finding harm for purposes of a child welfare investigation when a caregiver leaves a child without appropriate supervision, in some instances. Specifically, a caregiver may allow a child of sufficient maturity and physical condition to engage in unsupervised, independent activities without risk of DCF intervention, unless doing so is so reckless as to endanger the child's health or safety.

The bill also prohibits a court from finding a caregiver guilty of neglect of a child for purposes of a criminal proceeding when a caregiver allows a child to engage in unsupervised, independent activities, in some instances. Specifically, a caregiver does not commit a crime unless he or she willfully fails to provide the supervision necessary to maintain the child's physical and mental health. Such behavior constitutes one or more willful and wanton acts or omissions of culpable negligence if the child's independent, unsupervised activities results in, or could reasonably be expected to result in, serious physical or mental injury, or a substantial risk of death, to the child.

The bill became law on June 20, 2025, chapter 2025-167, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# Criminal Justice

## SB 130 – Compensation of Victims of Wrongful Incarceration

The bill removes the “clean hands” provision of the Victims of Wrongful Incarceration Compensation Act (Act) to allow a person with any prior criminal conviction, who is otherwise eligible, to receive compensation under the Act. The bill retains the bar to compensation for any period of incarceration during which a person was also concurrently serving a sentence for another felony conviction for which he or she was lawfully incarcerated.

The bill prospectively extends the deadline to file a petition for status as a “wrongfully incarcerated person” from 90 days to within two years after an order vacating a conviction and sentence becomes final and the criminal charges against a person are dismissed or the person is retried and acquitted. The bill authorizes a person to file a petition by July 1, 2027, if he or she was previously precluded from filing a petition because his or her case was not dismissed or otherwise resolved prior to the 90-day filing deadline or he or she was previously ineligible because of the “clean hands” requirement.

The bill also removes provisions prohibiting a wrongfully incarcerated person from bringing both a civil lawsuit and filing for compensation under the Act and replaces these provisions with an offset provision whereby the person must repay the state a specified amount if he or she receives a monetary award both under the Act and through a civil lawsuit.

The bill became law on June 27, 2025, chapter 2025-194, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 255 – Aggravated Animal Cruelty

The bill creates a sentencing multiplier for aggravated animal cruelty offenses which included the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal that injured, mutilated, or killed the animal. For the purpose of determining applicability of the sentencing multiplier, the bill specifies that the term “animal” does not include an animal used for agricultural purposes or permitted as captive wildlife.

The bill also requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, beginning January 1, 2026, to post on its website, in a searchable format, the names of individuals who have been convicted of, or who have entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, animal cruelty offenses.

The bill became law on May 28, 2025, chapter 2025-102, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 351 – Dangerous Excessive Speeding

The bill creates the crime of dangerous excessive speeding if a driver exceeds the speed limit by 50 miles per hour (mph) or more or drives 100 mph or more in a manner that threatens the safety of other persons or property or interferes with the operation of any vehicle. The bill also requires a mandatory hearing for traffic infractions relating to speeding in excess of 50 mph.

The bill became law on May 22, 2025, chapter 2025-77, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 479 – Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Only Damage to Vehicle or Property

The bill authorizes a court to order a driver who is convicted for leaving the scene of a crash that resulted in damage to an attended vehicle or other property to make restitution to the vehicle or property owner for any damage caused by the driver’s vehicle, when such driver caused or otherwise contributed to the crash.

The bill became law on April 29, 2025, chapter 2025-14, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2025.

# SB 612 – Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances Resulting in Death

The bill creates an additional offense of third degree murder if:

- A person under 18 years of age unlawfully distributes a substance or mixture that he or she knew or should have known contained fentanyl, alfentanil, carfentanil, sufentanil, or other fentanyl derivatives or analogs.
- The substance or mixture is proven to have caused, or is proven to have been a substantial factor in producing, the death of the user.

The offense of third degree murder created by the bill is punishable as a second degree felony.

The bill became law on May 22, 2025, chapter 2025-69, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 878 – Probation for Misdemeanor Offenses

The bill authorizes a court to sentence a defendant who is found guilty of any misdemeanor to a term of probation of up to one year if the court finds that a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog, or a chemical substance is a significant factor in the commission of the offense.

The bill became law on May 22, 2025, chapter 2025-70, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# HB 757 – Sexual Images

The bill prohibits a person from possessing with the intent to promote a lewd or lascivious image, as a second-degree felony. Under the bill, it is a third-degree felony, if a person knowingly solicits, possesses, controls, or intentionally views a lewd or lascivious image. The bill defines a “lewd or lascivious image” as any image that depicts a person masturbating, exhibiting his or her genitals in a lewd or lascivious manner, or committing any other sexual act that does not involve physical or sexual contact with the victim, in the presence of an identifiable victim who is less than 16 years of age.

The bill prohibits a person from knowingly soliciting child pornography, as a third-degree felony. Additionally, the bill provides criteria that may be used to evidence actual or simulated lewd exhibition of the genitals of a minor for the purposes of classifying an image as child pornography.

The bill also prohibits a person from doing the following without the consent of the identifiable person depicted:

- Willfully generating an altered sexual depiction, as a third-degree felony.
- Soliciting any altered sexual depiction, as a third-degree felony.
- Possessing any altered sexual depiction with the intent to maliciously promote such visual depiction, as a third-degree felony.

The bill authorizes a person who is portrayed in an altered sexual depiction without his or her consent to initiate a civil cause of action against specified offenders.

The bill became law on May 27, 2025, chapter 2025-99, Laws of Florida, and became effective on October 1, 2025.

## HB 903 – Corrections

The bill makes the following changes relating to the Department of Corrections (DOC):

- Applies the lien requirement in the Prisoner Indigency Statute to certain legal actions and provides a one-year statute of limitation on specified petitions and tort actions filed by an indigent prisoner.
- Provides requirements related to federal civil actions under section 1983 filed by prisoners.
- Clarifies when consecutive sentences are required to be imposed under 10-20-Life.
- Authorizes a death sentence to be executed by any method not deemed unconstitutional under specified circumstances.
- Authorizes a warden to directly petition the circuit court for an order compelling an inmate to submit to emergency surgical intervention or other medical services when the inmate is competent but refusing necessary treatment and is engaging in active or ongoing self-injurious behavior that presents a threat to the safety of DOC staff or other inmates.
- Exempts jail and prison personnel from the criminal prohibitions on the installation and use of tracking devices and applications.
- Overhauls the DOC Mental Health Act and establishes procedures related to advance health care directives for inmates.
- Changes the process for the appointment of commissioners to the Florida Commission on Offender Review to require direct appointment by the Governor.
- Amends specified DOC contract requirements related to the provision of specified inmate services.

The bill became law on May 22, 2025, chapter 2025-81, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 1099 – Arrest and Detention of Individuals with Significant Medical Conditions

The bill specifies that a law enforcement officer may use his or her discretion based on the totality of the circumstances when determining whether to make an immediate arrest of a person who has a significant medical condition, including an arrest for an offense committed against an elderly person or a disabled adult. The bill specifies that a law enforcement officer may consider all lawful methods to make an arrest of such a person, including seeking an arrest warrant, but does not preclude the officer from making an immediate physical arrest of such a person.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-64, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 1161 – Removal of Altered Sexual Depictions Posted Without Consent

The bill revises provisions of Florida’s deepfake law to require covered platforms, such as websites and online services, to remove altered sexual depictions and copies of such depictions from their platform upon request of the victim. The bill requires such platforms to establish a process for persons to notify them of deepfake depictions and request their removal. The bill requires the platforms to remove such content within 48 hours of receiving a request, provides liability protections for platforms that act in good faith, establishes penalties for failure to comply, and makes such failures a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. The bill provides an exception for certain information or telecommunications services and certain online services that do not primarily consist of user-generated content.

The bill became law on June 10, 2025, chapter 2025-133, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

# HB 1168 – Installation or Use of Tracking Devices on Applications

The bill increases the penalty for unlawfully installing, placing, or using a tracking device or tracking application from a third degree felony to a second degree felony if a person installs, places, or uses such device or application to commit a dangerous crime or to facilitate the commission of a dangerous crime.

The bill became law on May 22, 2025, chapter 2025-71, Laws of Florida, and became effective on October 1, 2025.

# HB 1451 – Sexual Cyberharassment

The bill revises the elements of the offense of sexual cyberharassment to remove the requirement from current law that an offender must have specified intent to commit a violation and to allow the publishing or dissemination of a sexually explicit image that does not contain the depicted person’s personal identifying information (PII) to constitute a violation if the PII of the depicted person is contemporaneously published or disseminated in a specified manner. The bill creates an enhanced penalty, making a sexual cyberharassment offense punishable as a third-degree felony instead of a first-degree misdemeanor, if a person commits an act of sexual cyberharassment for the purpose of pecuniary gain.

The bill extends the statute of limitations for violations of sexual cyberharassment and authorizes a victim to recover punitive damages in a civil action against the offender. The bill includes sexual cyberharassment for pecuniary gain as a “felony sexual offense,” a conviction of which precludes a person from having his or her voting rights restored without restoration of his or her civil rights.

The bill became law on May 22, 2025, chapter 2025-84, Laws of Florida, and became effective on October 1, 2025.

# Education

## HB 248 – Student Participation in Interscholastic and Intrasccholastic Extracurricular Sports

The bill expands the ability of private school students to participate in interscholastic athletics at Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) member public and private schools by amending the requirement that the private school the student attends not be a FHSAA member and removing enrollment limits. An otherwise eligible student may participate in a sport at a member school if the private school the student attends does not offer that sport, based on team designation. A home education student is eligible to participate on an interscholastic athletic team at any public school in the district in which he or she resides. Appeals decisions made by the FHSAA committee on appeals, the executive director, and the FHSAA board of directors must be published, in a deidentified manner, online and in a searchable format.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-52, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## SB 296 – Middle School and High School Start Times

The bill allows district school boards and charter school governing boards to be in compliance with the requirement that, by July 1, 2026, the instructional day for all public and charter middle schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and for high schools no earlier than 8:30 a.m., if the board submits to the Department of Education a report by June 1, 2026. The report must include school start times for all schools in the district, documentation of strategies considered to implement the start time changes, impact of implementation including financial, and any identified unintended consequences as a result of implementation.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-53, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 443 – Education

The bill authorizes a charter school to adopt its own code of student conduct and give an enrollment preference to prekindergarten program completers, providing specified requirements are met. Charter school governing boards must adopt procedures relating to student welfare and parental rights and requirements are specified for who can serve on a governing board. Charter school sponsors are prohibited from imposing certain deadlines and enrollment limitations on charter schools and are required to provide access to and share student data with charter schools. A high-performing charter school may assume the charter of another charter school in the same district.

For purposes of concurrency, a charter school is considered a public facility. Universities operating developmental research (lab) schools and charter lab schools are authorized to use discretionary capital improvement funds for certain purchases, leases, and lease-purchases. Eligible students enrolled in fulltime virtual education programs are authorized to participate in interscholastic athletics at any public school in the district where the student resides or develop an agreement to participate at a private school.

The bill became law on May 30, 2025, chapter 2025-106, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# HB 597 – Diabetes Management in Schools

The bill expands diabetes management in public schools by authorizing school districts or public schools to acquire and maintain a supply of undesignated glucagon for use on students with diabetes experiencing hypoglycemic emergencies. School districts or public schools are authorized to obtain the glucagon through a prescription from a county health department or authorized healthcare practitioner or through arrangements with manufacturers or suppliers.

The bill outlines storage, maintenance, and administration requirements for the acquired glucagon and provides immunity to the school district and its employees along with the glucagon supplier, provided that any injury is not the result of gross negligence or deliberate misconduct.

The bill became law on April 29, 2025, chapter 2025-15, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

# SB 1102 – School Readiness Program

The bill revises the criteria to receive priority to participate in the School Readiness Program (SR) as a child with special needs. Under the bill, a student is eligible for priority if he or she requires additional accommodations beyond those required under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The bill expands the permitted forms of identification for determining eligibility and allows any child that meets the criteria as special needs, regardless of their age, to participate in the program. The bill also provides specific accountability and training requirements for SR program providers to be eligible to receive the special needs differential allocation.

The bill became law on May 30, 2025, chapter 2025-105, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# HB 1255 – Education

The bill expands the definition of an “at-risk child” and revises the definition of “economically disadvantaged” by replacing “income that does not exceed 150 percent of the federal poverty level” with “income that does not exceed 55 percent of the state median income” for families seeking school readiness (SR) services. Various references to the SR waitlists are updated to require the tracking of children on waitlists by family income and priority. The bill requires estimates adopted by the Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference to consider county specific trends and changes.

In addition, the bill:

- Revises the required components of the school district reading instruction plan.
- Requires private schools participating in scholarship programs to comply with new screening requirements. • Requires the mandatory financial literacy course to cover postsecondary expenses.
- Saves the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children from repeal.
- Provides additional supports to military students and families related to the transfer of records and Bright Futures Scholarship Program eligibility.
- Revises provisions related to the emergency opioid antagonists in K-12 and postsecondary institutions.
- Removes restrictions on withdrawal from and reenrollment in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program.
- Requires school districts to provide additional notifications regarding New Worlds program eligibility.
- Requires parental opt-in for corporal punishment in all public schools.
- Revises provision related to student discipline and authorizes extensions of expulsion periods.
- Revises provisions governing charter school facilities and private school facilities, specifically; how local governing agencies manage the approval of such facilities.
- Authorizes the administration of the Classic Learning Test (CLT) 10 to students in grade 10.
- Incorporates CLT scores into University preeminence standards.
- Renames Hillsborough Community College to Hillsborough College.

The bill became law on May 30, 2025, chapter 2025-110, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## **SB 1374 – School District Reporting Requirements**

The bill supports student safety by requiring district school boards to adopt a policy to temporarily remove instructional personnel from the classroom within 24 hours of a self-report or notification by law enforcement of specified arrests, expanding the offenses that require notification to educational entities by law enforcement after the arrest of a school employee, and requiring instructional and administrative staff to self-report specified arrest and final judgement information to school districts. The bill clarifies that school districts have discretion when screening school volunteers.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-56, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## **SB 1402 – Students Enrolled in Dropout Retrieval Programs**

The bill defines a dropout retrieval program as serving students who have officially withdrawn from high school before graduation and who are not engaged in the education system at the time of enrollment in the program. A dropout retrieval program must choose to receive a school grade or a school improvement rating.

Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) providers may choose to receive a school improvement rating in lieu of a school grade for each district with which it contracts and the school improvement rating must be based on the assessment scores of all students served within the school district. A VIP exclusively serving as a dropout retrieval program is exempt from receiving a district grade.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-57, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## **SB 1470 – School Safety**

The bill authorizes Florida’s licensed child care facilities to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program and authorizes child care facilities to employ school security guards. The training, certification, and reporting requirements for school security guards is aligned with the existing requirements for school guardians. The Department of Education must convene a workgroup to explore the establishment of a Florida Institute of School Safety and, subject to appropriation, must identify a centralized system for use by all public safety answering point infrastructure which can receive alerts from all panic alert systems and integrate digital maps used by public schools, charter schools, and other educational institutions.

The requirements regarding school perimeter and door security measures are updated and clarified to address concerns raised during implementation of the requirements passed during the 2024 Legislative session. Additionally, Career and Technical Education classrooms are exempted from door security requirements in specified circumstances. Each substitute teacher must be provided all school safety protocols and procedures prior to his or her first day of substitute teaching.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-58, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

## **SB 1514 – Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools**

The bill requires district school boards and charter school governing boards to ensure that an emergency action plan for a student with anaphylaxis in kindergarten through grade 8 is in effect and accessible at all times when the student is on school grounds or participating in school-sponsored activities.

The bill also requires training for responding to allergic reactions for school personnel and contracted personnel at a school that serves students in kindergarten through grade 8. The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health, must adopt rules, including identifying an approved training curriculum, by October 1, 2025.

The bill became law on May 20, 2025, chapter 2025-47, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

# Military and Veterans Affairs

## HB 797 – Veteran and Spouse Nursing Home Beds

The bill allows certain licensed skilled nursing facilities to designate or alter the designation of specific beds exclusively for veterans and their spouses provided specific criteria are met, and authorizes the director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs to approve bed designation requests under certain criteria. The bill provides an exemption from the requirement to obtain a certificate of need in certain instances.

The bill became law on June 6, 2025, chapter 2025-129, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

# Transportation

## SB 994- Driver License Education Requirements

The bill requires an applicant for a learner's driver license to complete a driver education course that meets or exceeds the standards of the Department of Education's semester-long traffic safety classroom course.

The bill became law on May 30, 2025, chapter 2025-104, Laws of Florida, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

## HB 1525 - Prearranged Transportation Services

The bill prohibits a person from willfully impersonating a transportation network company (TNC) driver by making a false statement; displaying counterfeit signage or emblems of a trade dress, trademark, brand, or logo of a TNC; or engaging in any other act that falsely represents that he or she represents a TNC or is responding to a passenger ride request for a TNC. Under the bill, a violation of the prohibition is a generally a second degree misdemeanor, however, a person commits a third degree felony if he or she willfully impersonates a TNC driver during the commission of, or to facilitate the commission of, a separate felony offense.

Additionally, the bill clarifies that services purchased from a TNC do not qualify as privately owned or operated bus transit systems and that a TNC is not a transportation service provider, and thus TNCs are not subject to specified regulations. The bill also authorizes the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to expend funds to contract with alternative providers to support transportation services for persons with disabilities.

The bill became law on May 21, 2025, chapter 2025-66, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

# Sources

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