

# Capitol Update



April 27, 2015 Volume 15, Issue 9

## *Florida Developmental Disabilities Council, Inc.*

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### **Increased Funding for the iBudget Waiver: Increasing Provider Compensation and Providing Funding for individuals on the iBudget Waitlist**

Advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities want to remind legislators of budget initiatives that are waiting in the balance while strained budget negotiations continue. We know for sure there will be an extended session or a special session, but advocates want to continue to remind Legislators of their budget priorities while not knowing when the negotiations for line items will begin again in earnest. **Please see the Budget Update below.** The Council will continue to methodically remind legislators of our important budget priorities while being respectful of the larger budget negotiations.

In the last few weeks, the Braddock report, **The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities-Tenth Edition 2015** has Florida ranked 50<sup>th</sup> in the funding spent in total for individuals with developmental disabilities! With this statistic in mind, two of the Councils legislative budget priorities for the iBudget waiver are extremely relevant and important;

#### **1) An Across the Board 7 % Provider Rate Reinstatement is Required this Year to Begin the Process of Stabilizing the iBudget Service System:**

Retaining a qualified workforce is reaching crisis proportion with very large turnover rates. Florida needs to offer providers a rate that will maintain and improve the availability of a qualified workforce that can adequately address the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities.

In 2003 the Florida adopted a rate reimbursement system that established uniform rates for most of the Developmental Disabilities Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver. The rate system was based on direct care wages funded at the 25th percentile compared to national averages for wages. Since then reimbursement rates have undergone multiple cuts. Overall, iBudget HCBS waiver services rates are 14.17% lower than they were in FY 2003-2004. While some incidental increases have occurred, there has not been a systematic rate adjustment to address the increased operational costs providers face. Further, multiple unfunded mandates have been added in the form of billing requirements, background screening of staff, new licensure standards, staff training and experience requirements, and now additional residential and community integration standards.

An across the Board 7 % Provider Rate Reinstatement is required this year to begin the process of stabilizing the iBudget Service System.

## **2) Funding to Continue Moving 2,039 Individuals with Developmental Disabilities from the Waitlist to iBudget HCBS Services:**

The funding allocated in FY 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 was a significant step in the right direction, moving 2,313 off the Waitlist, thus far. However, more than 20,000 individuals with developmental disabilities are still waiting for basic services. Many have been waiting for more than 5 years. Being without services puts major financial, physical and emotional strain on caregivers with social and economic consequences for our state. 92% of Floridians with developmental disabilities live at home with their families, which typically results in better outcomes and lower service costs. Two-thirds of caregivers earn less than \$15,000 a year.

We need to continue to move individuals off of the waitlist and on to the iBudget HCBS waiver. This year, we are asking the Legislature for \$12.3 million in General Revenue (this includes the 7% provider rate increase previously mentioned for the 2039 individuals coming off the waitlist), supplemented by \$18.1 million in federal matching funds. This funding would not only move individuals who have come onto the waiver since July 1st with intensive needs (Category 3) or who are living with a caregiver over the age of 70 (Category 4), but would also at least enable the individuals with developmental disabilities who are transitioning from school to adulthood (Category 5) to be served by the iBudget HCBS waiver. The transition years are a critical stage in life for individuals with developmental disabilities, as they are separating from the services provided through the school system. Without the waiver funding, these individuals will remain at home with no job, few meaningful activities, and limited social connections, losing the skills learned in high school. With waiver funding, individuals with developmental disabilities transitioning from school will be able to continue with their post-secondary education, become employed, or engage in meaningful community activities.

If you want to share your opinion on this issue, contact your [legislators](#) and let them know how you feel about increased funding for the iBudget Waiver services and providers.

**Two committees of importance are the [Health care Appropriations Committee in the House](#) and [the Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee in the Senate](#).**

**If you want to share your opinion about this program, you can contact members of these appropriations committees as well.**

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### **Budget Update**

The battle continues over Medicaid expansion and the Low Income Pool (LIP) hospital supplemental payment renewal. The Agency for Health Care Administration has submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services the proposed \$2 billion Senate LIP plan which would provide supplemental Medicaid and indigent care funding. A formal plan had not been submitted by the agency previously, leading some Senator's to question why the Governor had not sought approval for Florida's plan until now. A decision on the state's LIP proposal is not expected until after the beginning of the 2015-16 fiscal year (July 1st), because of the required public comment period and other timeline requirements,

Meanwhile, the Governor has apparently reminded some Senators about the use of his veto authority after calling in several Republican members last weekend to share his displeasure of the Senate's desire to expand Medicaid. The 2015 Regular Session will most certainly be extended to resolve budget differences before July 1st.

The House has extended a budget allocation offer to the Senate last Thursday. The proposal includes a LIP plan that utilizes \$200 million in state general revenue that theoretically draws down \$300 million in federal dollars to distribute among Florida hospitals, bypassing local taxes known as Inter Governmental Transfers. The proposal does not include the alternative Senate Medicaid expansion plan. Senate President Andy Gardiner has responded to the offer maintaining the Senate position on LIP funding and the FHIH Medicaid expansion. He indicated in a memo that the Senate is maintaining open lines of communication with the House and Governor and is prepared to stay in Tallahassee until June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Shortly thereafter, the House presented its counteroffer to the Senate proposal. It outlined three parts of their offer to the Senate;

1. The Senate will discontinue consideration of the FHIH program or any other form of Medicaid expansion.
2. Within 24 hours of the Senate's agreement, the House will provide the Senate an offer that includes contingencies to address the potential loss of federal funding, up to \$600 million of General Revenue.
3. The contingencies created will eliminate the need to wait for federal funding because contingency funding provided will only be used in the event that federal funds are denied. If federal funds are approved the contingency funds can be used for other agreed upon priorities.

Then, as stated by Speaker Crisafulli "the House believes an automatic extension to June 30 is unnecessary, and is prepared to begin negotiations as early as possible and accomplish the work in a manner that will not incur costs to Florida taxpayers associated with an unnecessarily protracted extended Session".

President Andy Gardiner responded to the House's second offer. In his response, he stated that "The Senate shares the House's commitment to completing the budget in a timely manner. Health insurance coverage for 800,000 Floridians and billions in funding for services provided at hospitals are hanging in the balance of these negotiations. Short-term costs are less important than long-term cost effectiveness when the resolution of critical health care issues impacts every Floridian. He responded that the Senate is aware of the House's longstanding opposition to simple Medicaid expansion as contemplated by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). FHIH is not the simple Medicaid expansion the House has long-opposed. The FHIH program is a new, market-based, consumer-driven alternative with conservative guardrails that will protect Florida taxpayers if the federal government fails to meet its commitments. The Senate anticipates that the FHIH program will generate more than enough savings to cover any state costs. He further asserts that even with the \$604 million in health care contingency funding offered, we cannot completely mitigate the harm to Florida's economy caused by an end to the LIP program. Therefore equipped with this knowledge, the Senate is not willing to rush to a resolution that could damage Florida's economy - particularly when there is a clear alternative available to maximize federal taxpayer dollars returning to Florida while staying true to the Medicaid reform principles".

In his response to the House offer, President Gardiner reiterated that the federal government has stated approval of Florida's waiver amendment is linked to expansion. The Senate submitted a letter to CMS seeking a preliminary response on Florida's application to extend the Low Income Pool, as well as the potential for approval of the Senate's market-based approach to expanded health care coverage. In the meantime, "while Florida awaits a response from CMS, the Senate strongly agrees that both chambers can produce a fiscally responsible budget while also setting aside sufficient funds to address unknown health care contingencies. The Senate supports the House's willingness to move towards the Senate position of a \$604.8 million recurring general revenue health care

contingency fund and eagerly awaits the House's production of a spreadsheet offer that reflects this position".

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#### **[SB 146 - Relating to Autism by Ring, Cosponsor: Sachs](#)**

##### **Summary**

This bill requires that a physician refer a minor to an appropriate specialist for screening for autism spectrum disorder under certain circumstances and requires that certain insurers and health maintenance organizations provide direct patient access to an appropriate specialist for screening for evaluation or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. The bill also requires that certain insurance policies and health maintenance organization contracts provide a minimum number of visits per year for screening for or evaluation or diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder. Effective Date: July 1, 2015.

**The Council voted to support this bill.**

##### **Actions**

12/12/14 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Fiscal Policy

03/31/15 SENATE Favorable by Health Policy; 6 Yeas, 1 Nay

04/01/15 SENATE Now in Banking and Insurance

##### **Similar Bills**

#### **[HB 0023 - Relating to Autism by Cruz](#)**

12/19/14 HOUSE Now in Health Innovation Subcommittee

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#### **[SB 330 - Relating to Missing Persons with Special Needs by Dean CS Sponsors: Criminal Justice](#)**

##### **Summary**

This bill and HB 69 have changed considerably. They no longer have provisions for immunity from civil liability for certain persons who comply with a request to release information concerning missing persons with special needs to appropriate agencies. The bill no longer requires the Department of Law Enforcement, contingent on funding, to provide electronic monitoring devices to certain persons with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities and no longer requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to make an annual report concerning such individuals to the department. The bill also had required the Department of Children and Families, contingent on funding, to provide electronic devices but this was removed. The bill stands as a four county pilot program in Representative Porter's area with the help of the CARD center at the University of Florida. Specifically, the pilot project is in Baker, Columbia, Hamilton, and Suwannee Counties and will be known as "Project Leo" to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs in the case of elopement. **This bill passed unanimously in the House and needs to be withdrawn from Appropriations in the Senate (because there are no more Appropriations meetings) in order to be heard on the Senate floor.** Effective Date: 7/1/2015

##### **Actions**

01/28/15 SENATE Referred to Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations

03/02/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Criminal Justice; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/03/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

03/24/15 SENATE Favorable by Judiciary; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays

04/09/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays

04/10/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed

04/13/15 SENATE Now in Appropriations

##### **Identical Bills**

#### **[HB 0069 - Relating to Missing Persons with Special Needs by Porter](#)**

04/22/15 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 118 Yeas / 0 Nays)

SENATE In Messages

## **[SB 152 - Relating to Disability Awareness by Ring CS Sponsors: Education Pre-K - 12](#)**

### **Summary**

This bill requires rather than authorizes, each district school board to provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools beginning in 2016-2017. Presentations by individuals with a disability are to be included in the disability history and awareness instruction; the bill also requires each public school to establish a disability history and awareness advisory council; providing membership on the council; providing responsibilities of the council; providing meeting times for the council. **The Council voted to support the parts of the bills that require rather than authorize, each district school board to provide disability history and awareness instruction in all K-12 public schools beginning in 2016-2017. And the Council voted to add the flexibility of being able to provide this instruction anytime during the school year instead of just the first two weeks of October.**

### **Actions**

SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

### **Similar Bills**

**[HB 0123 - Relating to Disability Awareness by Cortes \(J\)](#)**

01/08/15 HOUSE Now in K-12 Subcommittee

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## **[HB 71 - Relating to Service Animals by Smith \(J\) Cosponsor: Sprows](#)**

### **Summary**

This bill requires a public accommodation to permit use of a service animal by an individual with a disability under certain circumstances. The bill provides conditions for a public accommodation to exclude or remove a service animal. The bill revises penalties for certain persons or entities who interfere with use of a service animal in specified circumstances and the bill provides a penalty for knowing and willful misrepresentation with respect to use or training of a service animal. **The Council voted to support this bill.**

### **Actions**

03/27/15 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 112 Yeas / 0 Nays)

04/23/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading; Substituted for SB 0414; Read  
SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays)

### **Similar Bills**

**[SB 0414 - Relating to Service Animals by Altman](#)**

04/23/15 SENATE Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 0071; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0071

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## **[SB 206 - Relating to Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Hukill Cosponsors: Detert, Gaetz \(D\), Sachs, Soto, Galvano](#)**

### **Summary**

This bill establishes the program within the Department of Financial Services. The bill requires the department to develop and implement the program in consultation with specified stakeholders; providing for the participation of banks, credit unions, savings associations, and savings banks. The bill requires the program to provide information and other offerings on specified issues to individuals with developmental disabilities and employers in this state. The bill requires the department to establish on its website a clearinghouse for information regarding the program and to publish a brochure describing the program. Effective Date: 10/1/2015. **The Council voted to support this bill.**

### **Actions**

03/23/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

### **Similar Bills**

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[HB 7085 - Relating to Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Regulatory Affairs Committee](#)

HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

**Compare Bills**

[SB 7022 - Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Governmental Oversight and Accountability](#)

04/02/15 HOUSE In Messages

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[SB 256 - Relating to Identification Cards by Sobel](#)

**Summary**

This bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue an identification card(at the request of parent ,guardian or individual with a developmental exhibiting a special designation (a capital D) for a person who is diagnosed by a licensed physician as having a developmental disability. The bill requires payment of an additional fee of \$10 and proof of diagnosis. It authorizes the issuance of a replacement identification card that includes the special designation without payment. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **After several lengthy discussions, the Council did not take action on this bill and will watch it.**

**Actions**

01/15/15 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

04/02/15 SENATE Favorable by Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

SENATE Now in Appropriations

**Identical Bill**

[HB 0519 - Relating to Identification Cards by Murphy](#)

02/05/15 HOUSE Now in Highway & Waterway Safety Subcommittee

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[SB 380 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Bradley](#)

**Summary**

This bill requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to allow an applicant whose parent or guardian is a member of the United States Armed Forces, the Florida National Guard or the United States Reserve Forces to receive Medicaid home and community based waiver program services under certain conditions. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council voted to support this bill.**

**Actions**

01/23/15 SENATE Referred to Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

02/17/15 SENATE Favorable by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/11/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; 7 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/13/15 SENATE Now in Appropriations

**Similar Bills**

[HB 0177 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Hill](#)

03/16/15 HOUSE Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

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**[HB 437 - Relating to Guardians for Dependent Children who are Developmentally Disabled or Incapacitated by Adkins Cosponsors: Van Zant CS Sponsors: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee](#)**

**Summary**

This bill requires continued review of necessity of guardianships for young adults; requires updated case plan developed in face-to-face conference with child, if appropriate, and other specified persons. The bill provides requirements for DCF when court determines there is good faith basis to appoint guardian. The bill provides that probate court has jurisdiction over proceedings for appointment of guardian advocate if petitions are filed for certain minors subject to Ch. 39, F.S., proceedings when such minors have reached specified age; provides that such minor has same due process rights as certain adults and provides that if child is subject to proceedings under Ch. 39, F.S., parents may act as natural guardians unless court finds that it is not in child's best interests or their parental rights have been terminated. Effective Date: July 1, 2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

**Actions**

04/24/15 HOUSE Received from Messages; Concurred with Amendment (517794); Passed (Vote: 115 Yeas / 0 Nays)

**Similar Bills**

**[SB 0496 - Relating to Guardians by Detert](#)**

04/22/15 SENATE Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 0437; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0437

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**[SB 642 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Benacquisto, Banking and Insurance Cosponsors: Sobel CS Sponsors: Banking and Insurance](#)**

**Summary**

General Individuals with Disabilities; Creating the "Florida Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act"; requiring the Florida Prepaid College Board to establish a direct-support organization known as "Florida ABLE, Inc."; authorizing the organization to use certain services, property, and facilities of the Florida Prepaid College Board; providing that specified moneys, assets, and income of a qualified ABLE program, including the Florida ABLE program, are not subject to attachment, levy, garnishment, or certain legal process in favor of certain creditors or claimants, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

**Actions**

04/23/15 HOUSE Substituted for HB 0935; Read Second Time;  
04/24/15 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 117 Yeas / 0 Nays)

**Compare Bills**

**[HB 0937 - Relating to Trust Funds/Florida ABLE Trust Fund/State Board of Administration by Rodrigues \(R\)](#)**

04/23/15 HOUSE Substituted for SB 0644; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0644

**[HB 0939 - Relating to Pub. Rec./Florida Prepaid College Board/Florida ABLE, Inc./Florida ABLE Program by Rodrigues \(R\)](#)**

04/23/15 HOUSE Substituted for SB 0646; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0646

**Similar Bills**

**[HB 0935 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Rodrigues \(R\)](#)**

04/23/15 HOUSE Substituted for SB 0642; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0642

**Linked Bills**

**[SB 646 - Relating to Public Records/Information Held by the Florida Prepaid College Board, Florida ABLE, Inc., and the Florida ABLE program by Benacquisto](#)**

04/24/15 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 114 Yeas / 0 Nays)

**[SB 644 - Relating to Florida ABLE Trust Fund/State Board of Administration by Benacquisto](#)**

04/24/15 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 114 Yeas / 0 Nays)

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### **SB 7030 - Relating to Postsecondary Education for Students with Disabilities by Higher Education**

#### **Summary**

This bill creates the "Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act"; establishing eligibility requirements for enrollment in the Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program. The bill establishes the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities and establishes a Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Scholarship for certain qualified students. HB 7091 does not include the scholarship provision. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

#### **Actions**

04/01/15 SENATE Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (569682); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately Certified  
SENATE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed  
HOUSE In Messages

#### **Similar Bills**

### **HB 7091 - Relating to Postsecondary Options for Students with Disabilities by Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee**

04/02/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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### **SB 848 - Relating to Employment of Individuals With Disabilities by Richter**

#### **Summary**

This bill would be called the "Employment First Act" and require specified state agencies and organizations from the Executive Order to develop and implement an interagency cooperative agreement. This bill also requires the interagency cooperative agreement to provide the roles, responsibilities, and objectives of state agencies and organizations.

This text is also in **SB 7022 (next below)**. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council wrote this bill.**

#### **Actions**

02/20/15 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations  
03/10/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays  
03/12/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed  
SENATE Now in Commerce and Tourism

#### **Similar Bills**

### **HB 1083 - Relating to Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities by Rooney**

04/08/15 HOUSE Favorable by State Affairs Committee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays  
HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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### **SB 7022 - Relating to Individuals With Disabilities by Governmental Oversight and Accountability** **Cosponsors: Galvano**

#### **Summary**

This is a proposed committee bill (PCB) for individuals with disabilities. The bill revises definitions and defines the term "individual who has a disability". The bill revises the state's equal employment opportunity policy to include individuals who have a disability and requires each executive agency to annually report to the Department of Management Services regarding the agency's progress in increasing employment among certain underrepresented groups. The bill requires the department to develop and implement certain programs geared toward individuals who have a disability. The language of the Employment First bill and the financial literacy bill were added to this bill as well as



an opportunity to earn a Unique Partners credential for employers. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

#### **Actions**

04/01/15 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays)

04/02/15 HOUSE In Messages

#### **Compare Bills**

##### **[SB 0206 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Hukill](#)**

03/23/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

##### **[HB 0177 - Relating to Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Hill](#)**

03/16/15 HOUSE Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

##### **[SB 0848 - Relating to Employment of Individuals With Disabilities by Richter](#)**

03/12/15 SENATE Now in Commerce and Tourism

##### **[SB 1246 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Detert](#)**

03/27/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

##### **[HB 1083 - Relating to Employment Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities by Rooney](#)**

04/08/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

##### **[HB 7085 - Relating to Financial Literacy Program for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Regulatory Affairs Committee](#)**

03/31/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

##### **[HB 7099 - Relating to Individuals with Disabilities by Economic Affairs Committee](#)**

03/31/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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##### **[SB 1008 - Relating to Seclusion and Restraint on Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Flores](#)**

#### **Summary**

This bill requires that manual physical restraint be used only in an emergency when there is an imminent risk of serious injury or death to a student or others. The bill prohibits the use of manual physical restraint by school personnel who are not certified to use district-approved methods for applying restraint techniques. The bill also prohibits school personnel from placing a student in seclusion. The bill requires that parents be notified of a school district's policies regarding the use of manual physical restraint. Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

#### **Actions**

02/18/15 SENATE Filed

02/27/15 SENATE Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Rules

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##### **[SB 802 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation by Gaetz \(D\)](#)**

#### **Summary**

This bill provides for the future repeal of the designation of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as the administrative unit for purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, subject to legislative review of a required report. The bill also requires the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to initiate, by a specified date, a performance improvement plan designed to achieve specified goals. The bill requires the division to develop and implement a pilot program to improve the state vocational rehabilitation program. HB 1153 was amended to only include performance measures that are

consistent with The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) regulations. HB 1153 no longer has the repeal language or the pilot language. The bills are no longer identical. The Effective Date: 7/1/2015. **The Council is monitoring this bill**

#### **Actions**

04/14/15 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 35 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately certified  
HOUSE In Messages

#### **Compare Bills**

[HB 1153 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Ingoglia](#)

**The Council is supporting this bill.**

04/09/15 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

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[SB 7048 - Relating to Developmental Disabilities by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Cosponsors: Deterf](#)

#### **Summary**

This bill clarifies when the Agency for Persons with Disabilities will provide services to children with disabilities in foster care. The agency administers the Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waiver to provide services beyond those available under the traditional Medicaid program. The bill revises section 393.065, F.S., which establishes categories of priority groups to be added to the waiver. The waiver program currently has a waiting list and this bill clarifies the priority category 2 relating to children in foster care. The Agency for Persons with Disabilities will provide disability specific services to children in extended foster care, ages 18 to 21. The community-based care agencies, under contract with the Department of Children and Families, will continue to provide room and board to children with disabilities in extended foster care.

The bill would have an estimated fiscal impact of approximately \$3 million on the Agency for Persons with Disabilities. Costs for the community-based care agencies would be reduced. This language is being added to the APD implementing bill which will last for one year. An attempt was made to add this language to a Guardianship bill but it was withdrawn. The bill is effective July 1, 2015. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

#### **Actions**

03/12/15 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

SENATE Committee Bill Text Filed

03/17/15 SENATE Referred to Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations.

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[SB 7044 - Relating to Health Insurance Affordability Exchange by Health Policy and CS Sponsors: Appropriations](#)

#### **Summary**

This bill creates the Florida Health Insurance Affordability Exchange Program or FHIX in the Agency for Health Care Administration. The bill provides patient rights and responsibilities. The bill provides for the development of a long-term reorganization plan and the formation of the FHIX Workgroup. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

#### **Actions**

03/05/15 SENATE Filed

03/10/15 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill by Health Policy; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/17/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/26/15, SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 18 Yeas, 0 Nays

03/27/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

03/30/15 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading