

Capitol Update



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Budget conference negotiations start soon!

We are in the second half of the 2016 Regular Session that is scheduled to end on March 11th so it is a good time to step back and take a look at how the budget is shaping up between the two chambers. Both the House and Senate passed their respective spending plans (85-29 in the House and 40-0 in the Senate) and will begin budget negotiations to hammer out a final product once allocations have been agreed to by House and Senate leadership. Currently, the Senate budget is funded at \$80.9 billion or about \$989 million more than the \$79.9 billion House plan. Below we'll take a look at the differences and similarities between the two budgets in funding areas that affect those with developmental disabilities.

The Senate health care budget is about \$400 million higher than the House plan primarily found within the Agency for Health Care Administration budget. The Senate allocates \$34.1 billion to the state's six health care agencies while the House funds them at \$33.7 billion. The Senate includes \$14 million for a grant program to increase access to primary care services in the state which is not included in the House plan. The House also has about \$17 million more for Medicaid residency programs.

Both plans provide roughly \$1.2 billion dollars for the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, \$3 billion dollars to the Department of Children and Families, and \$2.8 billion dollars for the Department of Health. The Senate has also included \$14.1 million in general revenue to remove individuals from the Individual (iBudget) Waiver Waitlist and the House has \$5.8 million dollars in general revenue to remove individuals from the Individual (iBudget) Waiver Waitlist. Both the Senate and the House do not have funding for iBudget provider rates. They each only have \$400,000 dollars for a rate study.

The Senate has also included \$8 million for the Transportation Disadvantaged program to provide funding for competitive grants and an allocation designated for those with disabilities and other underserved groups to existing Community Transportation Coordinators. The House currently has nothing in the budget for the program.

The real work of agreeing on allocations between the two chambers has begun with the budget conference expected to begin this week. Compared to last year, this budget

conference should go smoothly, probably due to the fact that 2016 is an election year. Please click [here](#) for the Council's 2016 Budget Conference issues.

[SB 144 - Relating to Autism by Ring](#)

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

Actions

09/09/15 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Fiscal Policy

Similar Bill

[HB 49- Relating to Autism by Cruz](#)

08/27/15 HOUSE Now in Health Innovation Subcommittee

[SB 138 - Relating to Disability Awareness by Ring](#)

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 Council voted to support the bill with the addition of language that would 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

09/09/15 SENATE Referred to Education Pre-K - 12; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Fiscal Policy

Identical Bill

[HB 0317 - Relating to Disability History and Awareness Instruction by McGhee](#)

10/30/15 HOUSE Now in K-12 Subcommittee

[SB 718C1 - 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. **After several lengthy discussions, the Council did not take action on this bill and will watch it.**

Actions

11/18/15 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

12/03/15 SENATE Favorable with CS by Transportation; 4 Yeas, 0 Nays

12/04/15 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

01/13/16 SENATE Favorable by Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays
SENATE Now in Appropriations

Identical Bill

[HB 1105 - Relating to Identification Cards by Stark](#)

02/02/16 HOUSE Now in Appropriations Committee

[SB 230C1 - Missing Persons with Special Needs by Dean](#)

Summary

This bill creates a pilot project in specified counties to provide personal devices to aid search-and-rescue efforts for persons with special needs. The bills provide for administration of the project and require reports. The Senate bill and the House bill are covering the same counties now..

APPROPRIATION: \$100,000.00. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

01/15/16 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 35 Yeas / 0 Nays)

02/19/16 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/23/16

Similar Bill

[HB 11 by Porter](#)

02/19/16 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/23/16

[SB 7034 - Prenatal Services and Early Childhood Development by Children, Families and Elder Affairs](#)

Summary

This legislation revises the requirements for the Department of Health to maintain a clearinghouse of information for parents and health care providers on developmental evaluation and early intervention programs. The bill renames the "Infants and Toddlers Early Intervention Program" as the "Early Steps Program" and requires the development of an individual family support plan for each child served in the program. The bill specifies duties, provides for accountability and eligibility requirements. The House bill did not make it through all its assigned committees so advocates are looking at have the language put on a Department of Health bill or an Early Learning bill. The Senate language was also put on the Senate Early Learning bill SB 7058. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

SENATE Retained on Calendar

Similar Bills

[HB 0943 - Relating to Prenatal Services and Early Childhood Development by Gonzalez](#)

01/25/16 HOUSE Now in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

[SB 7058 - Relating to Child Care and Development Block Grant Program - by Education Pre-K - 12](#)

02/18/16 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/23/16 - If Received

SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 15 Yeas, 0 Nays

[HB 7053 - Relating to Child Care and Development Block Grant Program by Education Committee](#)

[SB 1142 Treatments for Stable Patients- Hayes](#)

Summary

This bill prohibits an insurer or a pharmacy benefits manager from limiting or excluding coverage for a drug for an insured with a certain medical condition under certain conditions. In an effort to cut costs, insurance companies are increasingly forcing patients who are stable on their medications off their therapies. It may happen mid-plan year when a health plan removes a drug from its formulary or when it increases patient out-of-pocket costs – regardless of the health impact on the patient.

This bill helps patients who have complex, chronic, or rare conditions by limiting the change of a stable patient's medication that puts the patient's health at risk (potentially causing adverse side effects and decreased effectiveness of their medication). **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

02/01/16 SENATE Favorable with CS by Banking and Insurance; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays

02/03/16 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

02/09/16 SENATE Favorable by Health Policy; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays

SENATE Now in Appropriations

Similar Bills

[**HB 0915 - Relating to Continuity of Care for Medically Stable Patients by Mayfield**](#)

01/08/16 HOUSE Now in Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

[**SB 962 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation by Gaetz \(D\)**](#)

Summary

This bill 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 submit a performance report annually to the Governor and the Legislature which includes specified information. This year the Senate worked with the Division to get their input and align the goals with federal WIOA requirements. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

02/11/16 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 40 Yeas / 0 Nays)

02/18/16 HOUSE In Messages

Identical Bills

[**HB 1359 - Relating to Vocational Rehabilitation by Fresen**](#)

02/18/16 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

[**HB 495 - Relating to Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living**](#) by Harrell CS Sponsors: Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Summary

This bill requires specified agreements to be maintained; requiring the program to provide additional support and services. The bill requires the program to reimburse Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living for certain costs approved by Advisory and Oversight Committee. **The Council is supporting this bill.**

Actions

02/17/16 HOUSE Read Second Time; Substituted for SB 0202; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0202

Similar Bills

[**SB 0202 - Relating to Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living by Bean**](#)

02/18/16 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 113 Yeas / 0 Nays)

[**SB 7054 - Relating to Agency for Persons with Disabilities - by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs**](#)

Summary

This bill creates and amends certain statutes to provide the Agency for Persons with Disabilities ("agency" or "APD") the ability to assign priority of clients to the waiting list. The bill allows family members of active duty service members to receive waiver services. The bill allows for utilization reviews and allow contractors to use agency data management systems. The bill requires annual

reviews of persons involuntarily admitted to residential services and allows for the use of video and audio monitoring of the comprehensive transitional education programs facilities.

The bill provides that individuals that are 18 but not yet 22 and staying in extended foster care are eligible to receive foster care services and waiver services. The bill directs persons or entities under contract with the agency to use the agency data management systems to document service provision to clients. The bill clarifies the process used in development of a client's iBudget and adds transportation as a service that can be considered for an increase when determining the allocation of funds to the client's iBudget.

Additionally, the bill directs the agency to conduct utilization review activities in both public and private intermediate care facilities as necessary to meet the requirements of the approved Medicaid state plan and federal law. The bill provides that persons involuntarily admitted to residential services by court order shall have such admission orders reviewed annually by a qualified evaluator employed by the agency. Such reviews shall consider the appropriateness of placement, treatment, habilitation, and rehabilitation in the residential setting.

The bill revises the purposes of comprehensive transitional education programs, authorizes the agency to approve the admission or readmission of individuals to the program and provides for video and audio recording and monitoring of common areas and program activities in the facilities. The bill would allow the establishment of residential facilities that meets with local land use and zoning requirements that does not exceed a capacity of 15 persons. **The Senate bill is comprehensive and House bill 1083 now includes all the information of the Senate bill except for HB 4037. The Council is supporting SB 7054 and HB 1083.**

Actions

02/15/16 SENATE Now in Appropriations

Compare Bills

[**HB 4037 - Relating to Licensure of Facilities and Programs for Persons with Developmental Disabilities by Rodrigues \(R\)**](#)

01/26/16 HOUSE Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading

[**HB 0919 - Relating to Involuntary Admission to Residential Services by Wood**](#)

02/09/16 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

[**HB 1083 - Relating to Agency for Persons with Disabilities by Renner**](#)

02/09/16 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Health & Human Services Committee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays

02/15/16 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed

02/18/16 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Appropriations Committee, 02/22/16, 3:00 pm, 212 K

[**HB 1089 - Relating to Criminal History Information - by Rooney**](#)

Summary

This bill provides for a reduced fee for criminal history information (in line with other agencies) provided to Agency for Persons with Disabilities under specified provisions. **The Council supports this bill.**

Actions

02/18/16 HOUSE Favorable by Judiciary Committee; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays

HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Similar Bills

[**SB 0628 - Relating to Fees for Records by Richter**](#)

02/18/16 HOUSE In Messages