

The Florida Legislature adjourned, Sine Die, on March 13, 2026 without the traditional “hanky drop” ceremony. Senate President Ben Albritton and House Speaker Danny Perez announced a goal of coming back mid-April for a Special Session to pass a budget, which could not be agreed upon during the 60-day Regular Session. The exact dates have yet to be announced, though the 2026-27 fiscal year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

With a possible series of Special Sessions (Congressional Reapportionment and Property Tax Reforms) on the horizon, the legislature spent the final days of Regular Session focused on policy issues, with many bills bouncing back and forth for negotiation between the chambers. In total, the legislature passed 257 out of the 1,896 bills filed this session.

One of those approved bills was SB 1092 Podiatric Medicine by Senator Ralph Massullo. Along with HB 567 by Representative Linda Chaney, our companion bill, we were able to work around a few obstacles and pass meaningful legislation for the use of Cellular and Tissue-Based Products. A round of applause needs to go out to Dr. Massullo and Representative Chaney as champions of these bills. They were the perfect team to deliver for Podiatric Physicians in this state!

#### **BILLS OF INTEREST – PASSED**

**Aging and Disability Services** – [HB 1121](#) by Rep. Alex Rizo (R-Hialeah) revises aging and disability services provided by the Department of Elder Affairs, adds food and nutritional supplements as allowable uses of subsidy payments under the Home Care for the Elderly program, establishes competitive procurement requirements and salary limits for the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director of an Area Agency on Aging (AAA), authorizes AAAs to provide core services to seniors in certain circumstances, and clarifies when a AAA’s designation must be rescinded. HB 1121 also expands the regulatory and enforcement powers of the Office of Public and Professional Guardians over professional guardians, eliminates the requirement that the executive director be an attorney and adds a continuing education requirement for professional guardians regarding Alzheimer’s disease.

**HB 1121 passed the House 113-2, passed the Senate 35-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.**

**Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Initiative** - [SB 578](#) by Sen. Corey Simon (R-Tallahassee) requires the Department of Elderly Affairs to contract for the development and implementation of the Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Initiative.

**SB 578 passed the Senate 38-0, passed the House 112-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.**

**Diabetes Research** – [SB 816](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) codifies the University of Florida Diabetes Institute within the University of Florida College of Medicine as a statewide resource for diabetes research, prevention, treatment, and education, and focuses on all forms of diabetes, including type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes.

**SB 816 passed the Senate 39-0, passed the House 114-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.**

**Drug Prices and Coverage** – [HB 697](#) by Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson (R-Bartow) makes it unlawful for a PBM to force a pharmacy to take a loss when dispensing a drug or to reimburse a nonaffiliated pharmacy less than an affiliated pharmacy. HB 697 also requires PBMs to allow in-network pharmacies to submit consolidated appeals comprised of multiple adjudicated claims featuring identical drugs, day supplies, and dates of service. HB 679 excludes a PBM which only serves beneficiaries of a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) organization from current PBM law governing the terms and conditions of contracts between health plan sponsors and PBMs. HB 679 also provides \$30,901,933 to the DOH for implementation of the Ryan White Part B AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) through June 30, 2026, and requires DOH to provide detailed monthly accounting reports to the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget, the chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and the chair of the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

**HB 697 passed the House 108-0, passed the Senate 38-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026, except for the ADAP provisions which take effect upon becoming law.**

**Medical Assistance Eligibility for Working Persons with Disabilities** - [HB 915](#) by Rep. Allison Tant (D-Tallahassee) codifies the Working People with Disabilities Program created by the 2019-2020 General Appropriations Act to allow adults with developmental disabilities who are employed and enrolled in a Medicaid home and community-based services waiver to have increased income and asset limits while enrolled in the Medicaid program.

**HB 915 passed the House 115-0, passed the Senate 36-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect upon becoming law.**

**Naturopathic Medicine** –[SB 688](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) reestablishes the licensure and regulation of naturopathic doctors in Florida by redesignating chapter 462, F.S., as “Naturopathic Medicine” and by updating the chapter’s regulatory framework. SB 688 defines the scope of naturopathic practice to include specified diagnostic and natural treatment modalities but expressly excludes prescriptive authority for legend drugs or prescription drugs, except as expressly provided for certain natural, nonpharmacologic substances.

**SB 688 passed the Senate 33-3, passed the House 85-22 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect December 31, 2026.**

**Podiatric Medicine** –[SB 1092](#) by Sen. Ralph Massullo (R-Inverness) limits the existing controlled substance prescribing continuing education requirement for all podiatric physicians to only those podiatric physicians registered with the U.S. DEA and authorized to prescribe controlled substances. The bill also authorizes podiatric physicians to perform procedures using cellular or tissue-based product that have not been approved by the U.S. FDA provided they meet specified criteria.

**SB 1092 passed the Senate 35-0, passed the House 112-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect upon becoming law.**

**Sickle Cell Disease Care Management and Treatment Continuing Education** – [SB 844](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) requires information related to the treatment of pain for

patients with sickle cell disease to be included in the continuing education course on controlled substance prescribing required for licensure renewal of certain health care practitioners registered to prescribe controlled substances.

**SB 844 passed the Senate 37-0, passed the House 113-0 and next goes to the Governor for consideration. If approved the act will take effect July 1, 2026.**

#### **BILLS OF INTEREST – DID NOT PASS**

**Advertisement of a Harmful Vaccine** – [SB 408](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 339](#) by Rep. Monique Miller (R-Palm Bay)

**Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Autonomous Practice** – [SB 138](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares) and [HB 301](#) by Rep. Jason Shoaf (R-Port St. Joe)

**Ambulatory Surgical Centers** – [SB 1156](#) by Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) and [HB 1207](#) by Rep. Vanessa Oliver (R-Port Charlotte)

**Autonomous Practice by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist** – [SB 462](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 375](#) by Rep. Mike Giallombardo (R-Cape Coral)

**Continuity of Care in Health Insurance Contracts** – [SB 114](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) and [HB 577](#) by Rep. Marie Woodson (D-Pembroke Pines)

**Department of Health** – [SB 902](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami) and [HB 733](#) by Rep. Ann Gerwig (R-Wellington)

**Discounted Drug Pricing Study** – [SB 886](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 573](#) by Rep. Linda Chaney (R-St. Petersburg)

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Affirmative Action** – [SB 1662](#) by Sen. Stan McClain (R-Ocala) and [HB 1189](#) by Rep. Judson Sapp (R-Palatka)

**Equity and Inclusion** – [SB 1114](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 6013](#) by Rep. Monique Miller (R-Palm Bay)

**Florida Health Choices Program** – [SB 440](#) by Sen Tom Leek (R-St. Augustine), [SB 1460](#) by Sen. Jonathan Martin (R-Fort Myers) and [HB 141](#) by Rep. Taylor Yarkosky (R-Clermont)

**Health Care** – [SB 1756](#) by Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville) and [HB 917](#) by Rep. Jeff Holcomb (R-Springhill)

**HIV Prevention Justice Act** – [SB 764](#) by Sen. Shevrin Jones (D-Miami Gardens) and [HB 1223](#) by Rep. Rashon Young (D-Orlando)

**Interactions with Artificial Intelligence** – [SB 1344](#) by Sen. Colleen Burton (R-Winter Haven) and [HB 659](#) by Rep. Christine Hunschofsky (D-Coconut Creek)

**Managed Care Plans** – [SB 568](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) and [HB 531](#) by Rep. Webster Barnaby (R-Deland)

**Mandatory Human Reviews of Insurance Claim Denials** – [SB 202](#) by Sen. Jennifer Bradley (R-Flemming Island) and [HB 527](#) by Rep. Hillary Cassel (R-Hollywood)

**Medicaid Coverage of Blood Pressure Monitoring Devices** – [SB 736](#) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills) and [HB 781](#) by Rep. Brian Hodgers (R-Viera)

**Medicaid Providers** - [SB 40](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 163](#) by Rep. Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens)

**Physician Assistants** – [SB 668](#) by Sen. Keith Truenow (R-Tavares)

**Prescribing Authority** – [SB 374](#) by Sen. Jay Trumbull (R-Panama City) and [HB 683](#) by Rep. Bill Partington (R-Daytona Beach)

**Protection from Surgical Smoke** – [SB 162](#) by Sen. Tracie Davis (D-Jacksonville) and [HB 93](#) by Rep. Marie Paule Woodson (D-Pembroke Pines)

**Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death** – [SB 1700](#) by Sen. Erin Grall (R-Fort Pierce) and [HB 6003](#) by Rep. Dana Trabulsky (R-Fort Peirce) and Rep. Anna Eskamani (D-Orlando)

**State Group Insurance Program Coverage for Obesity Treatment** – [SB 1070](#) by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez (R-Doral) and [HB 977](#) by Rep. David Borrero (R-Doral)

**Step-therapy Protocols** – [SB 70](#) by Sen. Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart)

**Storage and Disposal of Prescription Drugs and Sharps**- [SB 262](#) by Sen. Danny Burgess (R-Zephyrhills)

**Transparency in Health Care** – [SB 596](#) by Sen. Ileana Garcia (R-Miami)

**Use of Professional Nursing Titles** - [SB 36](#) by Sen. Barbara Sharief (D-Davie) and [HB 237](#) by Rep. Michelle Salzman (R-Cantonment)

## SB 1092 - Podiatric Medicine - 2026 by Massullo, Jr.

CS Sponsors: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, Health Policy

Modify continuing education requirements for certain podiatric physicians and authorize specified non-FDA-approved cellular or tissue-based procedures under detailed conditions.

- Revises the mandatory continuing education on prescribing controlled substances, limiting it to licensees who are registered with the DEA and authorized to prescribe controlled substances.
- Creates a new section allowing podiatric physicians to perform certain procedures using cellular or tissue-based products not approved by the FDA, provided they meet specific sourcing and storage standards.
- Requires podiatric physicians using these products to include a clear statutory notice in advertisements and to obtain a signed consent form from patients before proceeding.
- Prohibits procedures involving cells or tissues derived from aborted fetuses and imposes disciplinary action and potential criminal penalties for violations.

Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

### Committees of Reference/Summary

Senate Health Policy 02/11/26

Members questioned the use of synthetic material in wound care products and whether off-label therapies are FDA approved. They discussed clarifications on stem cell product regulations, the role of podiatrists in providing these treatments, and agreed on expanding access to these innovative therapies.

Senate Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services 02/18/26

Members primarily asked if the bill would allow off-label use of tissue-based products and whether it expanded podiatric scope; the sponsor clarified these therapies do not broaden scope, focusing instead on wound care with minimally manipulated cellular dressings. Additional questions addressed distinctions from PRP, and no opposition was voiced.

Senate Rules 02/24/26

Senator Berman asked whether the FDA is reviewing these cellular or tissue-based products, and the sponsor clarified that while research is ongoing, the FDA has not specifically approved them for the indicated scope of practice. No one spoke in opposition, and members expressed continued support for the bill's patient notification and quality standards.

### Actions

01/05/26	SENATE	Filed
01/12/26	SENATE	Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Rules
02/06/26	SENATE	On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 02/11/26, 3:00 pm, 412 K
02/11/26	SENATE	Favorable with CS by Health Policy; 11 Yeas, 0 Nays

02/12/26	SENATE	Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed
	SENATE	Now in Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services
02/13/26	SENATE	On Committee agenda - Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, 02/18/26, 8:30 am, 412 K
02/18/26	SENATE	Favorable with CS by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/19/26	SENATE	Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed
	SENATE	Now in Rules
	SENATE	On Committee agenda - Rules, 02/24/26, 12:00 pm, 412 K
02/24/26	SENATE	Favorable by Rules; 23 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/25/26	SENATE	Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
	SENATE	Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/26/26
02/26/26	SENATE	Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 35 Yeas / 0 Nays); Immediately certified
	HOUSE	In Messages
03/09/26	HOUSE	Received; Referred to House Calendar
	HOUSE	Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/10/26
03/10/26	HOUSE	Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 112 Yeas / 0 Nays)
03/17/26	SENATE	Ordered enrolled
03/18/26	SENATE	Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

20261092er

1  
2 An act relating to podiatric medicine; amending s.  
3 461.007, F.S.; requiring certain podiatric physicians,  
4 instead of all podiatric physicians, to complete  
5 specified continuing education; creating s. 461.011,  
6 F.S.; providing legislative findings and intent;  
7 defining terms; authorizing podiatric physicians to  
8 perform procedures using cellular or tissue-based  
9 products not approved by the United States Food and  
10 Drug Administration under certain circumstances;  
11 specifying requirements for the cellular or tissue-  
12 based products that may be used by such podiatric  
13 physicians; requiring such podiatric physicians to  
14 include a specified notice in any form of  
15 advertisement; specifying requirements for such  
16 notice; requiring podiatric physicians to obtain a  
17 signed consent form from the patient or his or her  
18 representative before performing procedures using  
19 cellular or tissue-based products; specifying  
20 requirements for the consent form; providing  
21 applicability; providing for disciplinary action;  
22 providing criminal penalties; authorizing the Board of  
23 Podiatric Medicine to adopt rules; providing an  
24 effective date.

25  
26 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

27  
28 Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 461.007, Florida  
29 Statutes, is amended to read:

20261092er

30 461.007 Renewal of license.—

31 (3) The board may by rule prescribe continuing education,  
32 not to exceed 40 hours biennially, as a condition for renewal of  
33 a license, with a minimum of 2 hours of continuing education  
34 related to the safe and effective prescribing of controlled  
35 substances for licensees who are registered with the United  
36 States Drug Enforcement Administration and authorized to  
37 prescribe controlled substance pursuant to 21 U.S.C. s. 822. The  
38 criteria for such programs or courses shall be approved by the  
39 board.

40 Section 2. Section 461.011, Florida Statutes, is created to  
41 read:

42 461.011 Cellular and tissue-based products.—

43 (1) The Legislature recognizes the significant potential of  
44 cellular and tissue-based products in advancing medical  
45 treatments and improving patient outcomes and further recognizes  
46 the need to ensure that such treatments are provided using  
47 cellular or tissue-based products obtained in an ethical manner  
48 that does not involve cells derived from aborted fetuses. It is  
49 the intent of the Legislature to foster medical innovation while  
50 upholding ethical standards that respect the sanctity of life.  
51 By encouraging the use of cellular or tissue-based products, the  
52 state will advance regenerative medicine in a manner consistent  
53 with the values of the state.

54 (2) As used in this section, the term:

55 (a) "Cellular or tissue-based products" means products  
56 containing or consisting of human cells or tissues which are  
57 intended for implantation, transplantation, infusion, or  
58 transfer into a human recipient. The term does not include:

20261092er

- 59           1. Vascularized human organs for transplantation;  
60           2. Whole blood or blood components or blood derivative  
61 products;  
62           3. Secreted or extracted human products, such as milk,  
63 collagen, and cell factors, other than semen;  
64           4. Minimally manipulated bone marrow for homologous use and  
65 not combined with another article other than water,  
66 crystalloids, or a sterilizing, preserving, or storage agent, if  
67 the addition of the agent does not raise new clinical safety  
68 concerns with respect to the bone marrow;  
69           5. Ancillary products used in the manufacture of human  
70 cells, tissues, or cellular or tissue-based products;  
71           6. Cells, tissues, and organs derived from animals;  
72           7. In vitro diagnostic products;  
73           8. Blood vessels recovered with an organ which are intended  
74 for use in organ transplantation and labeled "For use in organ  
75 transplantation only"; or  
76           9. Harvesting and reimplantation of autologous tissue.  
77           (b) "Minimally manipulated" means:  
78           1. For structural tissue, processing that does not alter  
79 the original relevant characteristics of the tissue relating to  
80 the tissue's utility for reconstruction, repair, or replacement.  
81           2. For cells or nonstructural tissues, processing that does  
82 not alter the relevant biological characteristics of cells or  
83 tissues.  
84           (c) "Procedure using cellular or tissue-based products"  
85 means a treatment involving the use of human cells, tissues, or  
86 cellular or tissue-based products which complies with the  
87 regulatory requirements provided in this section. The term does

20261092er

88 not include treatment or research using human cells or tissues  
89 derived from a fetus or an embryo after an abortion.

90 (3) (a) A podiatric physician may perform a procedure using  
91 cellular or tissue-based products that are not approved by the  
92 United States Food and Drug Administration if such products are  
93 used for treatment or procedures within the scope of practice  
94 for such podiatric physician and the treatment or procedures are  
95 related to connective tissue, ligament, and tendon repair; wound  
96 care; or pain management.

97 (b) To ensure that the retrieval, manufacture, storage, and  
98 use of any cellular or tissue-based products pursuant to this  
99 section meet the highest standards, any cellular or tissue-based  
100 products used by a podiatric physician for a procedure provided  
101 under this section must meet all of the following conditions:

102 1. Be retrieved, manufactured, and stored in a facility  
103 that is registered and regulated by the United States Food and  
104 Drug Administration.

105 2. Be retrieved, manufactured, and stored in a facility  
106 that is certified or accredited by one of the following  
107 entities:

108 a. The National Marrow Donor Program.

109 b. The World Marrow Donor Association.

110 c. The Association for the Advancement of Blood and  
111 Biotherapies.

112 d. The American Association of Tissue Banks.

113 3. Contain viable or live cells upon post-thaw analysis and  
114 be included in a post-thaw viability analysis report for the  
115 product lot, which must be sent to the podiatric physician  
116 before use with the podiatric physician's patient.

20261092er

117       (4) (a) A podiatric physician who performs a procedure using  
118 cellular or tissue-based products pursuant to this section shall  
119 include the following in any form of advertisement:

120  
121       THIS NOTICE MUST BE PROVIDED TO YOU UNDER FLORIDA LAW.  
122       This podiatric physician performs procedures using  
123 cellular or tissue-based products that have not yet  
124 been approved by the United States Food and Drug  
125 Administration. You are encouraged to consult with  
126 your primary care provider before undergoing any  
127 procedure using these products.

128  
129       (b) The notice required under paragraph (a) must be clearly  
130 legible and in a type size no smaller than the largest type size  
131 used in the advertisement.

132       (5) (a) A podiatric physician who performs a procedure using  
133 cellular or tissue-based products pursuant to this section shall  
134 obtain a signed consent form from the patient before performing  
135 the procedure.

136       (b) The consent form must be signed by the patient or, if  
137 the patient is not legally competent, the patient's  
138 representative, and must state all of the following in language  
139 the patient or his or her representative may reasonably be  
140 expected to understand:

- 141       1. The nature and character of the proposed treatment.  
142       2. That the proposed procedure uses cellular or tissue-  
143 based products that have not yet been approved by the United  
144 States Food and Drug Administration.  
145       3. The anticipated results of the proposed treatment.

20261092er

146       4. The recognized serious possible risks, complications,  
147 and anticipated benefits involved in the treatment and in the  
148 recognized possible alternative forms of treatment, including  
149 nontreatment.

150       5. That the patient is encouraged to consult with his or  
151 her primary care provider before undergoing the procedure.

152       (6) This section does not apply to the following:

153       (a) A podiatric physician who has obtained approval for an  
154 investigational new drug or device from the United States Food  
155 and Drug Administration for the use of human cells, tissues, or  
156 cellular or tissue-based products; or

157       (b) A podiatric physician who performs procedures using  
158 cellular or tissue-based products under an employment or other  
159 contract on behalf of an institution certified or accredited by  
160 any of the following:

161       1. The Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular  
162 Therapy.

163       2. The Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network.

164       3. The Association for the Advancement of Blood and  
165 Biotherapies.

166       (7) A violation of this section may subject the podiatric  
167 physician to disciplinary action by the board.

168       (8) A podiatric physician who willfully performs, or  
169 actively participates in, the following commits a felony of the  
170 third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083,  
171 or s. 775.084, and is subject to disciplinary action under this  
172 chapter and s. 456.072:

173       (a) Treatment or research using human cells or tissues  
174 derived from a fetus or an embryo after an abortion; or

20261092er

175           (b) The sale, manufacture, or distribution of computer  
176 products created using human cells, tissues, or cellular or  
177 tissue-based products.

178           (9) The board may adopt rules necessary to implement this  
179 section.

180           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.