

FPMA Report Tallahassee Update

The Florida Legislature needed one additional day to complete its business and adjourned Sine Die at 2:03 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2019.

In total, the 2019 regular session included:

- 3,571 Bills and PCBs filed
- 2,997 Amendments filed
- 3,765 Votes take
- 40 Floor Sessions
- 196 Bills passed both chambers

This year, healthcare issues captured the news headlines; ranging from CON – Telehealth. Set forth below are the 2019 healthcare issues and outcomes.

HEALTHCARE

PASSED:

AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS - HB 843: Allows patients to stay up to 24 hours in ambulatory surgery centers.

CERTIFICATE OF NEED – HB 21: removes a requirement that general hospitals apply and obtain approval from the state to build or expand.

DRUG IMPORTS – HB 19: Allows drugs approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to be imported into Florida by Canada and other countries.

HEART SURGERIES – HB 843: Increases oversight of pediatric heart surgeries by allowing teams of doctors make unannounced visits to struggling programs to review death records.

OPIOID LAWSUIT – HB 1253: Would allow state lawyers to access a Florida Department of Health database of patients' opioid prescriptions. State Attorney General Ashley Moody needs the database for a lawsuit alleging Walgreens and CVS “raced to sell as many opioids as possible” in Florida while failing to stop suspicious shipments of drugs.

PLASTIC SURGERY – SB 732: Tightens regulations for offices and clinics performing plastic surgeries. Requires those that are not completely owned by a licensed doctor to show financial responsibility for claims against them.

TELEHEALTH – HB 23: Establishes a regulatory framework for telehealth.

FAILED:

CULTURE SURVEYS – HB 319/SB 1194: Requires the state to develop surveys that assess patient safety culture in hospitals; requires health care facilities to complete the surveys and submit the data.

MEDICAID CLAIMS – SB 192: Would permanently shorten how long patients can have Medicaid cover past healthcare bills.

Our final 2019 FPMA Session report will be ready in a few weeks.