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How To Access Bills We Are Tracking:

Please visit www.foma.org. Once there, scroll down the page and click on “Capitol Updates.” Then scroll down to “Quicklinks” and click on “Bill Tracking.” Look for your bill number and click on it for the most current information. If you have any questions, please call the FOMA Office of Governmental Relations at (850) 878-7364 and we will be glad to help you.

2018 FOMA Capitol Updates:

To access the FOMA’s 2018 Capitol Updates, please visit: <http://www.foma.org/capitol-updates.html>

How to Find Your Legislators:

Please use the following link and input your respective information,
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Friday ended the seventh week of the nine-week session with the possibility of having to extend the session because of budget negotiation breakdowns between the House and Senate. With two weeks left in session, the direction of session has now been overcome by the massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Budget negotiations between the House and the Senate aren’t just stalled, they’re not happening. House budget chairman Carlos Trujillo said there has been “no progress” on allocations and, instead, that legislators are focused on responding to the tragedy in Parkland. However, “I think we have made some really good progress in the past several days toward being able to complete our budget work on time and to be able to bridge what really are very manageable differences between the House and Senate budgets,” Senate President Joe Negron, told reporters Thursday afternoon.

On Friday, Gov. Rick Scott offered a \$500 million proposal to address school safety, gun laws and mental-health issues after the mass shooting this month that killed 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward

County. The proposal, in part, calls for at least one school resource officer to be stationed in every public school in the state. It also calls for requiring that people buying guns be at least 21 years old, a requirement already in place for handguns but not long guns. It also includes proposed changes designed to keep guns out of the hands of people who are violent or mentally ill and pose threats. The package does not include a ban on semi-automatic weapons, commonly known as “assault” rifles, and would not lead to arming teachers. The News Service will have full coverage later Friday. The full plan can be found [here](#).

Special Elections

Two primary elections were held on Tuesday. **Josie Tomkow** and **Andrew Vargas** won their Republican primaries for House Districts 39 and 114, respectively. Tomkow will face Democrat Ricky Shirah, and Vargas faces Democrat Javier Fernandez and NPA candidate Liz de la Cuevas. Both general elections will be May 1, 2018.

Below are a number of key issues the FOMA is following that occurred this week.

Monday

No legislation that the FOMA is following was heard

Tuesday

On Tuesday, leaders from the Meningitis Angels, the National Meningitis Association and the Florida Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) along with FOMA leadership met with Senators and Representative Julio Gonzalez to discuss the importance of meningitis vaccinations. Rep. Gonzalez sponsored the House Resolution recognizing the importance of awareness of the meningococcal diseases. The group had their photographs taken in the House Chamber with Rep. Gonzalez and were recognized in the gallery while the House was in Session.



PASSED/SUPPORT SB 1494 – Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency by Montford

SB 1494 requires a pharmacist or his or her authorized employee to inform customers of potential lower cost generically equivalent alternatives for their prescriptions and whether a

prescription's cost sharing amount exceeds the retail price in the absence of prescription drug coverage.

The bill also creates a requirement for pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to biennially register with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR), provide information on certain key personnel, report within 60 days changes in key personnel and other information, and pay registration and renewal fees that cover administrative costs of the OIR or \$500, whichever is less.

Action: Passed Banking & Insurance (10-0), now in Appropriations

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/1494>

Companion: HB 351 – Prescription Drug Pricing Transparency by Santiago; on floor for full House vote

Wednesday

PASSED/MONITOR HB 21 – Controlled Substance by Boyd

A 161-page strike-all amendment was unanimously adopted by the Health & Human Services committee. The amended bill would limit to three days opioid prescriptions for patients suffering from “acute pain,” which is defined as the “normal, predicted, physiological, and time-limited response to an adverse chemical, thermal, or mechanical stimulus associated with surgery, trauma, or acute illness.”

Physicians could prescribe up to seven-day opioid supplies if they determine three days would be inadequate. They would be required to write “acute pain exception” on the prescriptions.

Action: Passed Health & Human Services (19-0); on House floor awaiting full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/21>

Companion: SB 8 – Controlled Substances by Benacquisto; on Senate floor awaiting full vote

PASSED/SUPPORT HB 425 – Physician Fee Sharing Task Force by Plasencia

HB 425 creates a task force within the Department of Health (DOH) to address the issues related to barriers to innovation and modernization of provider payment models created by federal and state law and requires the task force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2018. The bill requires the task force members to serve without compensation or reimbursement for per diem and travel expenses. DOH must use existing and available resources to administer and support the activities of the task force.

Action: Passed Health & Human Services (15-0); on House floor awaiting full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/425>

Companion: N/A

PASSED/SUPPORT HB 937 – Perinatal Mental Health by Nunez

The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to provide perinatal mental health information through its Family Health Line toll-free hotline. The bill requires the hotline to provide basic information on postpartum depression and authorizes hotline operators to recommend that a

caller be further evaluated by a qualified health care provider or refer a caller to an appropriate health care provider in the caller's local area.

The bill revises components that are included in postpartum evaluation and follow-up care provided by birth centers to include a mental health screening, provision of information on postpartum depression, and the telephone number of the Family Health Line.

Action: Passed Health & Human Services (17-0), on House floor awaiting full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/937>

Companion: SB 138 – Perinatal Mental Health by Book; in Appropriations

PASSED/SUPPORT HB 1047 – Department of Health by Gonzalez

HB 1047 makes numerous changes related to programs overseen by Medical Quality Assurance, within the Department of Health (DOH), which licenses and regulates health care practitioners in this state.

The FOMA recommended two amendments that were adopted.

Action: Passed Health & Human Services (18-0), on House floor awaiting full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/1047>

Companion: SB 1486 – Department of Health by Grimsley by Book; in Appropriations

TP/SUPPORT SB 800 – Infectious Disease Elimination Pilot Programs by Braynon

SB 800 was temporarily postponed (TP) on the Senate floor. This bill remains on the floor.

SB 800 expands the existing sterile needle and syringe exchange pilot program to be implemented statewide. The bill authorizes the Department of the Health (DOH) to establish additional pilot programs upon request from eligible entities, provides program requirements, modifies the types of entities that are eligible to operate a program, and extends the program expiration date to July 1, 2023.

Action: TP on Senate floor (no vote); remains on Senate floor for full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/800>

Companion: HB 579 – Infectious Disease Elimination Pilot Programs by Jones; in Health & Human Services

TP/SUPPORT SB 162 – Payment of Health Care Claims by Steube

SB 162 was temporarily postponed (TP) on the Senate floor. This bill remains on the floor.

SB 162 prohibits health insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) from retroactively denying a claim at any time if the insurer or HMO verified the eligibility of an insured or subscriber at the time of treatment and provided an authorization number. The provisions of the bill apply to policies or contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2019. Medicaid managed care plans are exempt from the provisions of the bill. Currently, a health

insurer or HMO may retroactively deny a claim because of an insured's ineligibility up to 1 year after the payment of the claim. Under existing law, the patient is responsible for those claims, which potentially exposes the physician to financial risk if the patient does not pay the claims

Action: TP on Senate floor (no vote), remains on Senate floor for full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/162>

Companion: HB 217 – Payment of Health Care Claims by Hager; in Health & Human Services

Thursday

PASSED/MONITOR SB 280 – Telehealth by Bean

SB 280 establishes practice standards for telehealth health care services, addresses the prescribing of controlled substances and issuance of a physician certification for medical marijuana through telehealth, and prescribes recordkeeping and patient consent. Telehealth is the delivery of health care services using telecommunication technologies, which allows licensed practitioners in one location to diagnose and treat patients at a different location. The bill will remove regulatory ambiguity regarding the provision of health care services using this technology because it is not currently addressed in Florida Statutes.

Action: Passed Appropriations (20-0), now on Senate floor awaiting full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/280>

Companion: HB 793 – Telehealth by Massullo; in Health Quality Subcommittee

PASSED/MONITOR SB 710 – Prescription Drug Donation Program by Book

SB 710 changes the name of the Cancer Drug Donation Program (CDDP) to the Prescription Drug Donation Program. The bill expands the program from handling only cancer drugs to permitting the donation of any prescription drug – excluding controlled substances – that meet the applicable safety criteria. The bill also extends participation in the program to certain, licensed nursing home facilities with a closed drug delivery system.

Action: Not considered in Appropriations (no vote), on Senate floor awaiting full vote

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/710>

Companion: HB 291 – Prescription Drug Donation Repository Program by Yarborough; in Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

PASSED/MONITOR SB 1594 – Nursing by Brandes

SB 1594 changes the title of “advanced registered nurse practitioner” (ARNP) to “advanced practice registered nurse” (APRN) throughout the Florida Statutes. Instead of being certified to practice in this state as currently required for ARNPs, the bill requires APRNs to be licensed.

The bill repeals the clinical nurse specialist (CNS) license and incorporates the CNS specialty certification into APRN licensure. All authorizations granted to, and requirements of, APRNs will be applicable to a CNS, including but not limited to, the authority to prescribe controlled substances under certain parameters and to maintain medical malpractice insurance.

Action: Passed Appropriations (20-0), now in Rules

Link: <http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/1594>

Companion: HB 1337 – Nursing by Pigman; on House floor awaiting full vote

**Please note that position on legislation is current of this publication and could change with amendments throughout the legislative process.