Florida's Legislative Session Draws to a Close

The Florida Legislature adopted a budget, that still must be voted on, after several budget issues were finally resolved on Saturday. Except for the budget's final passage, all session work ended Friday night, March 13. Lawmakers will adjourn during the 72-hour pause required before a final binding vote and convene Wednesday to adopt the budget.

The plan goes a day beyond the three-day "cooling off period" because Tuesday is Florida's presidential primary and lawmakers want to be in home districts.

Complicating the completion of the state's budget was concern regarding the Coronavirus on the state's revenue. There were additional budget adjustments to ensure that about $300 million dollars are added to Florida's reserves to take care of budget shortages due to possible lower revenue from tourism and sales taxes.

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) closed out their budget items with generous funding from the House and the Senate as follows (all dollar amounts include federal matching funds).

- Adult Day Training Provider Rate Increase - $7,486,373
- Personal Supports Provider Rate Increase - $27,670,492
- Residential Habilitation Provider Rate Increase - $5,450,246
- Resources for Persons with Unique Abilities -$58,034,834
- Serve Additional Clients on the Home and Community Based Services Waiver Waitlist- $30,223,451
- Funding for the APD deficits from the past two years- $241 million dollars
Important Bills to Watch

CS/SB 82 - Individuals with Disabilities by Bean CS Sponsors: Appropriations

Summary

CS/SB 82 makes operational changes to the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver to improve the quality of services provided and to standardize agency processes by:

- Requiring waiver support coordinators to be employees of qualified waiver support coordination organizations; and
- Centralizing medical necessity determinations related to significant additional needs requests at the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) headquarters.
- The bill requires all service providers to bill for services and submit all required documentation through the agency's electronic client data management system.
- The bill also allows the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek federal approval to implement an increased rate for Medicaid intermediate care facilities that serve individuals with developmental disabilities (ICF/DD) who have severe behavioral or mental health needs.
- And establishes a certificate of need (CON) exemption for such ICF/DDs. The bill specifies requirements that an ICF/DD must meet in order to obtain the CON exemption and establishes additional licensure criteria for an ICF/DD that has been granted the CON exemption.
- Provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

Actions

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/09/20</td>
<td>SENATE Read Third Time; Amendment Adopted (697470); Passed (Vote: 37 Yeas / 2 Nays); Ordered engrossed</td>
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<td>SENATE Engrossed Text (E2) Filed</td>
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<td>HOUSE In Messages</td>
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<td>HOUSE Received; Referred to Calendar</td>
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<td>HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 03/10/20</td>
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<td>03/10/20</td>
<td>HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 03/11/20</td>
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<td>HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 78 Yeas / 37 Nays)</td>
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Similar Bills
Summary

This bill establishes an Independent Living Task Force within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and provides for duties, membership, and meetings of the task force. The Council would sit on the Task Force. The Task Force must develop and evaluate policy proposals that incentivize developers or contractors to create units within mixed-use developments that may be used as low-cost, supportive, and affordable housing for individuals with a disability, while giving special consideration to the needs of individuals who have a developmental disability or a mental illness. The bill requires the start of meeting by August 1, 2020. The bill requires that the task force submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature. Effective Date: upon becoming a law. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions

08/08/19 HOUSE Filed
09/23/19 HOUSE Referred to Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
01/20/20 HOUSE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading

Similar Bills

SB 0364 Independent Living Task Force by Rader
02/21/20 - SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
03/09/20 - HOUSE in Messages

HB 551 - Transportation Disadvantaged by Jenne and Co-Sponsors: Caruso, Cortes, Eskamani and CS Sponsors: Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee

Summary

This bill requires community transportation coordinators to increase and support programs that enhance cross-county mobility for transportation disadvantaged. The bill also requires coordinating boards to evaluate multicounty or regional transportation opportunities to increase and support such programs. Sensitivity training requirements were amended off the bill.
Effective Date: July 1, 2020. **The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.**

**Actions**

11/06/19 HOUSE  Filed
11/15/19 HOUSE  Referred to Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee; Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
01/16/20 HOUSE  Reference to Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee removed; Remaining references: State Affairs Committee
Now in State Affairs Committee
01/30/20 HOUSE  Favorable by State Affairs Committee; 22 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/06/20 HOUSE  Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/12/20
02/13/20 HOUSE  Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 117 Yeas / 0 Nays)
02/19/20 HOUSE  in Messages
02/19/20 SENATE in Messages

**Similar Bills**

[SB 0076 Transportation Disadvantaged by Book](02/17/20 - SENATE Now in Appropriations)

[HB 79 - Student Elopement by Jenne and Co-Sponsors: Daley, Gottlieb, Mercado, Polo, Raschein](#)

**Summary**

This bill requires public schools to create School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) Team and school elopement plan. The bill provides requirements for the team and the plan. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. **The Council is neutral on this proposed legislation at this time.**

**Actions**

08/21/19 HOUSE  Filed
09/23/19 HOUSE  Referred to PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Committee
Now in PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

**Identical Bills**

[SB 0650 Student Elopement by Book](11/06/19 - SENATE Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations)
**HB 361 - Developmental Disabilities by Hattersley Co-Sponsors: Polo**

**Summary**

This bill revises the definition of the term "developmental disability." This definition would move Florida closer to using the federal definition for a developmental disability. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

**Actions**

10/15/19 HOUSE Filed
10/23/19 HOUSE Referred to Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee
Now in Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

**Similar Bills**

**SB 0532 Developmental Disabilities by Cruz**
11/01/19 - SENATE Referred to Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

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**HB 601 - Public School Transportation by Pritchett and Co-Sponsors: Cortes, Eskamani**

**Summary**

This bill requires district school boards to provide transportation for each public elementary school student through sixth grade, if student's single parent or guardian has a developmental disability. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

**Actions**

11/12/19 HOUSE Filed
11/25/19 HOUSE Referred to PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Committee
Now in PreK-12 Innovation Subcommittee

**Identical Bills**

**SB 0472 Public School Transportation by Bracy**
11/01/19 - SENATE Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations

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**SB 1106 - Universal Changing Places by Baxley**
Summary
The bill requires new, large public buildings to install and maintain at least one universal changing place that can accommodate an adult. This legislation was created by Sabrina Kimball, a former Partners in Policymaking graduate. Ms. Kimball has worked on this proposed legislation in the past. New Hampshire used her bill language and passed it and now she wants to try again to get this legislation passed in Florida. The bill would require that large, high use public offices and venues offer changing tables for adults who need them. The bill specifies requirements for a universal changing place. Effective Date: 7/1/2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions
12/03/19 SENATE   Filed
12/13/19 SENATE   Referred to Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; Rules

Similar Bills
HB 0669 Universal Changing Places by Newton
12/03/19 - HOUSE Now in Business & Professions Subcommittee

HB 787 - Driver Licenses by Tomkow

Summary
This bill authorizes person with specified disabilities to have capital letter "D" placed on his or her driver license and provides requirements for placement of such letter on person's driver license. This bill would provide fees (see linked bills) for placement of specified letter on driver license of person who has a developmental disability. The license would be voluntary for adults with no guardians and is intended to alert law enforcement to unusual behaviors and responses. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. The Council narrowly voted to stay neutral on this bill.

Actions
11/26/19 HOUSE   Filed
12/16/19 HOUSE   Referred to Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee; Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee
Now in Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee
02/27/20 HOUSE   Favorable with CS by State Affairs Committee; 23 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/28/20 HOUSE   Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed
3/11/20 SENATE   Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 39 Yeas / 0 Nays)
3/11/20 HOUSE   Ordered Enrolled
Enrolled Text (ER) Filed
Identical Bills

**SB 1692 Driver Licenses by Flores**
03/10/20 - SENATE Read Second Time; Submitted for HB 0787; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0787

Linked Bills

**HB 0789 Driver License Fees by Tomkow**
03/11/20 - HOUSE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

Compare Bills

**SB 1694 Driver License Fees by Flores**
03/10/20 - SENATE Read Second Time; Submitted for HB 0789; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0789

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**SB 1198 - Purple Alert by Berman**

Summary

This bill redefines the term "missing endangered person". The bill requires the Department of Law Enforcement, in cooperation with the Department of Transportation, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of the Lottery, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish and implement the Purple Alert. The bill authorizes local law enforcement agencies to broadcast information concerning certain missing adults; requiring local law enforcement agencies to notify certain media and alert subscribers if a Purple Alert is determined to be necessary and appropriate.

**APPROPRIATION:** $322,836  
**Effective Date:** Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1, 2020, this act shall take effect July 1, 2021. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions

12/10/19 SENATE  Filed

12/18/19 SENATE  Referred to Infrastructure and Security; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Rules

01/27/20 SENATE  Favorable by Infrastructure and Security; 5 Yeas, 0 Nays

02/11/20 SENATE  Favorable with CS by Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays

02/12/20 SENATE  Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed  
Now in Rules

Similar Bills

**HB 0899 Purple Alert by Casello**
12/19/19 - HOUSE Now in Criminal Justice Subcommittee
SB 1344 - Intermediate Care Facilities by Harrell

Summary

The bill requires certain facilities that have been granted a certificate-of-need exemption to demonstrate and maintain compliance with specified criteria. The bill provides an exemption from a certificate-of-need requirement for certain intermediate care facilities. The bill prohibits the Agency for Health Care Administration from granting an additional exemption to a facility unless a certain condition is met. Effective Date: 7/1/2020. The Council is neutral on this proposed legislation.

Actions

12/27/19 SENATE Filed
01/13/20 SENATE Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations
01/28/20 SENATE Favorable by Health Policy; 9 Yeas, 0 Nays
01/29/30 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services
02/18/20 SENATE Subcommittee Recommendation: Favorable with CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/27/20 SENATE on Committee agenda - Appropriations, 03/03/20, 1:00 pm, 412 K - PCS
03/11/20 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 79 Yeas / 36 Nays)
03/11/20 SENATE Ordered Enrolled
Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

Similar Bills

HB 1163 Intermediate Care Facilities by Burton
03/10/20 - HOUSE Laid on Table

HB 1349 - Social Services Estimating Conference by Ausley

Summary

This bill specifies information Social Services Estimating Conference must develop related to a certain Medicaid waiver services program related to the iBudget for the home-based and community-based Medicaid waiver services program and must include iBudget enrollment, the number of current waiver recipients, the size of the waitlist, the rate of utilization of program services, and expenditure information that the conference determines is needed to plan for and project future budgets and the drawdown of federal matching funds. Effective Date: July 1, 2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.
SB 1780 Social Services Estimating Conference by Berman
01/17/20 - SENATE Referred to Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

SB 1644 - Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Book Co-Sponsors: Flores

Summary
This bill requires school districts to prohibit the use of seclusion on students with disabilities in public schools; prohibits specified restraint techniques; requires a video camera to be placed in specified classrooms upon the request of a parent; requiring continuing education and inservice training for instructional personnel teaching students with emotional or behavioral disabilities, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions
01/09/20 SENATE Filed
01/17/20 SENATE Referred to Education; Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; Appropriations
02/10/20 SENATE Favorable by Education; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays
Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Education
02/20/20 SENATE In Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, 02/25/20, 9:00 am, 412 K
02/20/20 SENATE Subcommittee Recommendation: Favorable with CS by Appropriations Subcommittee on Education; 8 Yeas, 0 Nays
02/26/20 SENATE Now in Appropriations

Identical Bills
HB 1231 - Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by DuBose
03/10/20 - HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 112 Yeas / 0 Nays)
03/10/20 - SENATE Ordered enrolled
Enrolled Text (ER)

SB 828 - Florida ABLE Program by Benacquisto
Summary
This bill extends the support and review of the Florida ABLE program until 2025.

Actions
02/20/20 SENATE  Placed on Special Order Calendar, 02/26/20
03/10/20 HOUSE  Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 112 Yeas / 0 Nays)
    SENATE  Ordered Enrolled
    SENATE  Enrolled Text (ER) Filed

Compare Bills
HB 0887 - Florida ABLE Program by Rodrigues (R)
03/09/20 - HOUSE Laid on Table

SB 1784 - Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Gainer CS Sponsors: Appropriations

Summary
This bill revises information that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation must include in its annual performance report to the Governor and the Legislature and requires the division to provide pre-employment transition services to certain eligible persons with disabilities. The bill also provides eligibility requirements for the provision of pre-employment transition services and revises the composition of the Florida Rehabilitation Council. Effective Date: 7/1/2020. The Council is supporting this proposed legislation.

Actions
03/02/20 SENATE  Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
03/10/20 SENATE  Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 0901; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0901

Similar Bills
HB 0901-Vocational Rehabilitation Services by Ponder
02/26/20 HOUSE Read Second Time; Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 114 Yeas / 0 Nays)

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