



*"To advocate and promote meaningful participation in all aspects of life for Floridians with developmental disabilities"*

## The Florida Legislative Session and the Budget Veto Suspense are over!

The Florida Legislative Session was over on May 8, 2017 but there was strong speculation that the Governor would veto the entire budget and call a Special Session. The Governor was disappointed that some of his priorities were not funded so many advocates wondered how the Governor would use his veto authority. Last Friday, the Governor used his line item veto authority, which yielded almost \$410 million dollars. On Friday, the Governor called a Special Session to address education funding, tourism promotion and a new employment initiative and he also signed the budget. The money from the vetoed items and trust fund sweeps will fund new initiatives that are voted on during Special Session 2017-A. Please click for [2017 Veto List](#).

The final budget highlights from the 2017 Session for individuals with intellectual developmental disabilities include;

### Agency for Persons with Disabilities

- \$3.4 million dollars of state general revenue that will draw down a sixty percent federal Medicaid match for about 350 individuals to come off the iBudget waitlist.
- \$15.7 million for Department of Labor hourly adjustment and provider rate increases. (\$4.4 million of this for personal supports, residential habilitation, adult day training and supported employment rate increases). This is non-recurring which means that this funding is only good for one year.
- \$750,000 for employment internships and supported employment services.

### Transportation

- \$5 million increase for Transportation Disadvantaged (TD)
- \$3.5 million in Transportation Disadvantaged Grants
- \$100,000 for Transportation study and Task Force for individuals with DD.

### **HB 0039 Relating to Autism Awareness Training for Law Enforcement Officers by Jenne**

Passed and signed by the Governor.

#### **Summary**

This legislation requires the Florida Department of law enforcement to establish an employment training component related to crisis intervention for individuals with Autism.

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### **SB 0182 Relating to Consumer Protection from Nonmedical Changes to Prescription Drug Formularies by Mayfield**

Died

#### **Summary**

This proposed legislation had limited changes to health insurance policy prescription drug formulary during policy year and requires small employer carriers to provide continuity of care with respect to prescription drug coverage. This legislation was held up in the House over concerns about possible increases in the cost of a particular drug during the contract year, but had passed the Senate.

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### **SB 104 - Relating to Computer Coding Instruction by Brandes**

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

#### **Summary**

This bill authorized high schools to offer students opportunities to take specified computer coding courses.

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### **HB 151 - Relating to Proceedings Involving Minors or Certain Other Persons by Brodeur, Moskowitz Co-Sponsors: Williamson, Stevenson CS Sponsors: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee**

Passed and signed by the Governor.

#### **Summary**

This bill provides that judges may allow use of service animals, therapy animals, or facility dogs in proceedings involving abuse, abandonment, or neglect and allows such animals to be used when taking testimony of certain other persons including adults with intellectual disabilities.

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### **HB 0371 Relating to Assistive Technology Devices by Ausley**

Passed

#### **Summary**

This bill revises provisions relating to the accessibility and use of assistive technology devices by persons with disabilities; providing for use at home and in the community after school.

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[SB 810 - Relating to Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Stewart Co-Sponsors: Campbell](#)

[SB 1418 Relating to Seclusion and Restraint of Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Flores](#)

[HB 0233 Relating to Students with Disabilities in Public Schools by Edwards](#)

All indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

**Summary**

A combination of SB 810 and SB 1418 language was offered by Senator Stewart as an amendment to SB 926. This good amendment was later withdrawn and the sponsor indicated that the issue will be taken up next year.

In the House, Representative Edwards filed a Committee Substitute bill for CS/HB233 in the Education Committee and it passed. This bill included imminent danger as the only reason to use restraint and kept the imminent danger reporting language that is already in statute.

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[SB 868 - Relating to Educational Options and Services by Baxley](#)

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

**Summary**

This bill provided that a participant in an adult or youth work experience activity in the Division of Blind Services is considered an employee of the state for workers' compensation coverage. The bill also revised student eligibility requirements for the Florida Virtual School and virtual instruction programs. **Please note that Senator Galvano filed this bill as the Workers' Comp amendment on SB 1468, then this bill was substituted for HB 833. The Council is supported this amendment to SB 1468.**

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[HB 0899 Relating to Comprehensive Transitional Education Programs by Stevenson](#)

Passed

**Summary**

This bill authorizes the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to be a receiver for a comprehensive transitional education program under certain circumstances.

[HB 7117 - Relating to Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program by Health & Human Services Committee, Cummings](#)

This bill was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

**Summary**

This bill;

- Consolidated the eleven SMMC program regions into eight regions, which reflect enrollee utilization patterns and provider referral patterns over the first five years of the program.
- Increased, in each region, the minimum or maximum number of plans with which AHCA will contract to provide services to MMA and LTC enrollees.
- Directed AHCA to request federal approval to require enrollees to engage in work activities to maintain eligibility for MMA benefits.
- Directed AHCA to request federal approval to require monthly enrollee premiums, based on income, as a requirement for eligibility and enrollment in the SMMC program. This included a one year loss in health care for a missed payment. **Amended Out - 04/25/17**
- Allowed AHCA to waive the monthly premium due to hardship or for completing one or more healthy behavior programs; **Amended Out - 04/25/17**
- Required AHCA to fine managed care plans for failing to promptly pay provider claims.
- Required Long Term Care plans and providers to negotiate mutually acceptable payment rates, methods, and terms of payment.