



CAPITOL UPDATE

June 19, 2025



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The 2025 Legislative Session is Over

Late Monday night, June 16, the Senate and House passed a \$115.1 billion budget for the coming fiscal year and several accompanying bills and adjourned their session for the year. This rare extended session was needed to negotiate tax cuts and future savings that the state may need to cover potential reductions in federal contributions to Medicaid and disaster relief. The budget bill [Senate Bill 2500](#) will go to Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is expected to sign it into law by July 1. However, the Governor has line-item veto power and is expected to use it.

The Legislature chose to invest about \$47 million in the Managed Care Pilot for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities(I/DD) to transition volunteers off the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) iBudget pre-enrollment (waiting) list rather than put funding towards the iBudget to bolster a program that needs reinforcement for critical providers, data collection, and a cumbersome iConnect system. APD will have the funding necessary to help individuals in crisis, and they have been instructed to provide regular reports on the use of their funding.

The Florida Developmental Disabilities Council was hoping for an equal financial investment in these two programs and incentive funding to bring on providers to assist with the iBudget pre-enrollment (waitlist) list. The Council is

interested in data collected from this innovative pilot. This Managed Care Pilot will be available for volunteers, from the iBudget waitlist, from all over the state starting in October.

During the budget process, there are bills that go with the budget. [Senate Bill 2514](#) is the Health and Human Services conforming bill. Included in this bill are provisions that, with federal approval, will keep individuals with developmental disabilities “presumed eligible” for Medicaid so that their benefits will not be taken away from them during a Medicaid redetermination process. This is very positive language to prevent individuals from losing essential services like they did last year.

Please see below for other budget allocations for individuals with I/DD that the Council was tracking and supporting.

Dental services for individuals with I/DD - \$3,600,000. In the event the Agency for Persons with Disabilities is unable to competitively procure a contract with a nonprofit organization for a statewide dental services program for the developmentally disabled, funds will be used by the agency to administer the program until such contract can be executed.

Updating the iBudget algorithm - \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund are provided for the purpose of updating the waiver cost allocation algorithm.

Innovative Service Development Grant program - \$6,000,000 shall be used by the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to continue the Innovative Service Development Grant program. Funds shall be used to provide competitive grants to community transportation coordinators and non-traditional transportation service providers, such as transportation network companies, that provide door-to-door, on-demand, or scheduled transportation services for innovative service delivery that is more cost-efficient for the program and time-efficient for users. Projects serving a single county may receive up to \$750,000; projects serving multiple counties with a goal of providing regional mobility may receive a maximum of \$1,500,000. A ten percent local match is required for all grants. All funds shall be used to provide direct services to transportation-disadvantaged clients.

Below are bills the Council supports or tracks. Keep in mind that bills usually must pass through three or four committees before getting to the full House or Senate chambers. Once in a chamber, bills are read three times before final passage and then sent to the other chamber for acceptance to end up with one bill to send to the Governor.

When the Governor receives a bill, he can sign it, let it become law without his signature, or veto the bill. The Legislature can overturn a veto the next time they meet by two-thirds vote of both chambers.

Please click on bill links to track a bill's full journey through the legislative process.

The information on the status of bills is current as of Thursday, June 19, 2025.

CAPITOL UPDATE: KEY



New for 2025: next to each bill, you will see a graphic that indicates the stage at which the bill is in the legislative process.

Important Bills to Watch

[SB 460 - Student Elopement by Arrington](#)

The bill would have created a framework for addressing student elopement in Florida public schools by establishing various requirements for planning and response.

The bill defines "elopement" as the act of a student with disabilities leaving supervision and mandates each public school to set up a School Staff Assistance for Emergencies (SAFE) team and a comprehensive elopement plan.

Identical Bill

[HB 0345 Student Elopement by Eskamani](#)



[SB 112 - Children with Developmental Disabilities by Harrell](#)

Approved by the Governor

This bill expands the scope and services of healthcare and educational programs for children with developmental disabilities in Florida.

It amends the Cinotti Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program to include autism under eligible services and it creates the Early Steps



Passed

Extended Option, extending eligibility for existing early intervention services until a child's fourth birthday.

The bill mandates local program offices to prepare for children's transitions out of the Early Steps Program.

This bill establishes guidelines and funding priorities for startup grants managed by the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment aimed at supporting schools and summer programs for children with autism. It directs the Commissioner of Education to review and report on educational curricula for disabilities, enhancing training for professionals with a focus on supporting students with autism.

Identical Bill

[HB 0591 Children with Developmental Disabilities by Maggard](#)



Failed

[HB 377 - Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Tant](#)

The bill would have revised definitions related to health insurance coverage for individuals with developmental disabilities, impacting Medicaid options and law enforcement training. It updates the definition of "autism spectrum disorder" to match the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders by the American Psychiatric Association.

The bill changes the definition of "eligible individual" to expand criteria beyond age restrictions, focusing on the diagnosis of a developmental disability without specifying the

age at diagnosis.

Identical Bill

[SB 0756 Health Insurance Coverage for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities by Burton](#)

[HB 447 - Disability History and Awareness Instruction by Salzman](#)

Approved by the Governor

This bill provides an option for comprehensive disability history and awareness instruction in schools, replacing prior optional guidelines with



Passed

required educational content.

The bill designates the act as the "Evin B. Hartsell Act." It requires that for a two-week period, students receive intensive instruction on individuals with disabilities, including disability history and the disability rights movement.

The instructional content across educational levels includes:

- Grades K-3: Conversations on bullying and activities teaching about physical disabilities.
- Grades 4-6: Provides information and activities related to autism spectrum disorder.
- Grades 7-9: Includes content and activities about hearing impairments.
- Grades 10-12: Focuses on different types of

learning and intellectual disabilities, with practical activities to illustrate these conditions.

The bill allows district school boards to collaborate with the Evin B. Hartsell Foundation for curriculum development.

Identical Bill

[SB 0540 Disability History and Awareness Instruction by Collins](#)



Failed

[HB 413 - Swimming Safety by Gossett-Seidman](#)

This bill would have enhanced water safety requirements and regulations for children, particularly those with autism, at public swimming areas and prohibits organizations from allowing children access to public bathing places or pools without swimming proficiency verification from a parent or legal guardian.

The bill requires organizations to provide U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation devices (for public bathing places and pools) to children identified as non-swimmers or at-risk and allows organizations to refuse water access to children without the required documentation and penalizes

organizations for non-compliance by allowing disciplinary actions, including administrative penalties.

Similar Bill

[SB 0568 Swimming Safety by Rodriguez](#)

[SB 102 - Exceptional Student Education by Gaetz](#)



Failed

The bill would have mandated the development and implementation of a workforce credential program for students with autism spectrum disorder by the Department of Education.

It mandates the Department of Education to develop and implement a workforce credential program by January 31, 2026, specifically designed for students with autism spectrum disorder to aid in securing employment upon graduation.

Requires the program to allow students to earn badges that demonstrate the acquisition of skills needed by employers, with each badge representing five discrete skills, including workplace safety.

Similar Bill

[HB 0127 Exceptional Student Education by Kendall](#)



Passed

[SB 1156 - Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program by Harrell](#)

This bill revises training and operational requirements for the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program to improve care and coordination.

The bill specifies family caregiver training to include minimum hours of theoretical instruction, skills tailored to the child's care needs and directed clinical training. It also establishes a Medicaid fee schedule for home health aides at a minimum rate of \$25 per hour with a daily cap of 12 hours per child, requiring justification for additional hours.

The bill mandates a swift federal approval process for Medicaid waivers or amendments to include private duty nursing and home health providers in the program and exempt home health aide income from public assistance eligibility considerations.

Lastly, the bill requires an annual program assessment detailing caregiver satisfaction, support needs, hospitalization rates, adverse incidents, and comparison data between home health aides and registered or licensed nurses.

Similar Bill

[HB 1529 Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program by Tramont](#)

Passed as SB 1156



Failed

[SB 412 - Repair of Motorized Wheelchairs by Smith \(C\)](#)

This bill would have established requirements for the availability of motorized wheelchair repair resources under the "Motorized Wheelchair Right to Repair Act."

The bill mandates that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) provide documentation, parts, and tools necessary for diagnosing, maintaining, or repairing motorized wheelchairs, including updates, on fair and reasonable terms.

The purpose of the bill is to offer more options for wheelchair repair and the bill stipulates that any contractual provision attempting to waive or

limit OEM obligations under this act are void and enforces violations of these provisions under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

Similar Bill

[HB 0311 Repair of Motorized Wheelchairs by Eskamani](#)



Passed

[SB 1050 - Agency for Persons with Disabilities by Bradley](#)

Approved by the Governor as HB 1103

The Committee Substitute of this bill enhances services for individuals with developmental disabilities through several key provisions and requirements targeting state agencies and Medicaid programs. It removed the Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services merger to APD and expands the developmental disabilities managed care pilot to cover the whole state. The bill includes transparency and choice in services for individuals with developmental disabilities by establishing new Family Care Councils requiring timely reporting and revising waiver enrollment options. The bill more

specifically includes the following.

- A requirement that the Agency for Persons with Disabilities furnish a written list of qualified organizations within 5 days of enrollment in iBudget.
- A requirement to post quarterly reconciliation reports online within 5 days of submission.
- The bill mandates the agency's active involvement in transition planning for certain foster youth.
- The bill requires posting of the total number of individuals in each priority category by county at least every 5 days.
- Guidelines to establish the Statewide Family Care Council to coordinate

with local family care councils are identified.

- Revises Medicaid managed care enrollment by prohibiting automatic enrollment of certain Medicaid recipients and requiring an affirmative choice to opt in.
- The bill amends the developmental disabilities pilot program to be fully voluntary and allows immediate assessment for each enrollee, including all services under s. 393.066(3), mandates plan oversight and corrective actions, and updates reporting and evaluation requirements.
- Two amendments give the Pilot almost full authority to implement the pilot and clarifies that no federal approval is necessary to add a person-directed option or to expand the pilot to the whole state of Florida.
- Finally, the bill directs a study of the iBudget algorithm and requires the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to report findings and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by November 15, 2025.

Similar Bill

[HB 1103 Agency for Persons with Disabilities by Kincart Jonsson](#)

Passed



Failed

[HB 257 - Exceptional Students and Video Cameras in Public Schools by Chambliss, Tramont](#)

The bill would have mandated that each public and charter school with self-contained classrooms must install video cameras and stipulates that cameras must monitor and record all classroom areas, excluding restrooms and changing areas.

The bill specifies that recordings must be retained for a minimum of three months or until all associated investigations and legal actions are resolved and designates school principals as custodians of the video cameras and recordings, detailing protocols for viewing and handling

recordings.

Similar Bill

[SB 1006 - Video Cameras in Public School Classrooms by Calatayud](#)

[HB 299 - Elevator Accessibility Requirements by Woodson](#)

The bill would have amended Florida Statutes to specify requirements for support rails in elevator car interiors for accessibility.

The bill would require that:

- Each elevator car must have at least one continuous support rail.



Failed

- The support rail must be between 31 and 33 inches high from the floor, not exceeding 2 1/2 inches in diameter.
- The minimum length of the support rail must be 42 inches.

Identical Bill

[SB 0960 Elevator Accessibility Requirements by Bernard](#)



Passed

[HB 711 - Spectrum Alert by Borrero, Campbell CoSponsors: Booth, Grow, Maggard, Partington](#)

Approved by the Governor

The bill establishes the Spectrum Alert in Florida to address safety risks associated with children who have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) prone to wandering, particularly leading to accidents or deaths from drowning and traffic accidents. The bill requires the Department of Law Enforcement to work with transportation, highway safety, lottery departments, and local law enforcement to create and implement the Spectrum Alert. The bill also includes the following:

- Instructs these departments to collaboratively develop a training program and alert system compatible with existing emergency systems, focusing on improving responses to missing ASD children incidents.
- Mandates the implementation of crisis intervention training for law enforcement to better manage interactions with ASD children.
- Specifies that policies and procedures be set for handling reported missing ASD children, including quick dissemination of information and informing relevant emergency and law enforcement personnel.
- Stipulates increased awareness efforts to understand autism-related elopement risks and strengthen community support for ASD children.

Identical Bill

[SB 0500 Spectrum Alert by Ávila](#)

[HB 877 - School Readiness Program by Bartleman, Trabulsy Co-Sponsors: Campbell, López, J., Partington](#)

Approved by the Governor



Passed

This bill will require training for all providers who choose to take advantage of this increased rate. This bill incentivizes early learning providers to accommodate students with special needs and equips teachers with the training necessary to manage these students so that they can maintain a classroom conducive to all learners. It also requires training for autism screenings and increases access to after-school programs. Early identification is key, and it is vital that every child is provided with a strong foundation.

This bill

- Reassigns participation priority in the School Readiness Program by emphasizing children from economically disadvantaged working families, at-risk children, and children mandating special accommodations validated by qualified professionals.
- Introduces specific requirements for children with special needs, including a validated IEP, individual family support plan, diagnosed special need, or determined accommodations.
- Establishes eligibility for additional funding for providers caring for children meeting enhanced criteria, including those under subsection (6) of revised statute.
- Creates a special needs differential allocation which school readiness providers can access if they meet program standards, undertake specific training, and fulfill ongoing educational requirements by July 1, 2027.

Identical Bill

[SB 1102 School Readiness Program by Calatayud](#)



Failed

[HB 1227 - Medicaid Enrollment for Permanently Disabled Individuals by Tramont](#) [Co-Sponsors: Bartleman, Melo, Tant CS](#) [Sponsors: Health & Human Services Committee, Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee](#)

Similar bill language is in the approved conforming bill to the budget.

This bill establishes continuity of Medicaid coverage for permanently disabled individuals during redeterminations. Highlights of this bill include the following.

- The bill presumes continued eligibility for individuals initially determined disabled who are receiving Medicaid services like institutional care, hospice, or specific home and community-based services unless their disability or economic status changes.
- The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to continue

payments for these services throughout the redetermination process unless there is a reported change in disability or financial status.

- There is a requirement that recipients or their caregivers notify the agency and the Department of Children and Families of any changes impacting eligibility, triggering a possible redetermination of continued coverage.
- The term “permanently disabled” is defined as a person previously determined disabled whose disability is certified by a licensed physician as permanent.
- The bill directs the agency to seek federal authorization to exempt qualified permanently disabled individuals from annual redeterminations and to develop a notification process with the Department of Children and Families.

Identical Bill

[SB 7032 Medicaid Enrollment for Permanently Disabled Individuals by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services](#)



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