



GOVERNOR'S SCOPE OF PRACTICE EXPANSION AND LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS PROPOSAL GETS COUNCIL REFERENCES

The Governor's scope of practice expansion and licensure by credentials proposal, HB 1367 by Rep. Stan Jordan (R-Jacksonville), received two council references this week, the House Healthcare Council chaired by Rep. Aaron Bean (R-Fernandina Beach) and the House Council on Policy and Budget chaired by Rep. Ray Sansom (R-Ft. Walton Beach). Chairman Bean has referenced HB 1367 to the Health Quality Committee, which Rep. Alan Hays (R-Umatilla) serves as Vice Chair.

The Senate companion bill, SB 2760 by Sen. Durell Peaden (R-Crestview) received a reference to the Committee on Health Regulation, chaired by Sen. Jeff Atwater (R-North Palm Beach) and to the Committee on Health and Human Services Appropriations chaired by Sen. Peaden. The FDA anticipates that SB 2760 will be heard next Wednesday, March 19, in Senate Health Regulation.

The FDA is preparing an alert to send to dentists who are LCD's for Senators on the Senate Health Regulation Committee.

STATE REVENUES CONTINUE TO DECLINE

The state's revenue estimating conference met this week to update the budget forecast for fiscal year 2008-2009. The conference reported that state revenues continue to decline and has projected that the Legislature will have to reduce spending by \$3 billion. This news comes after the Legislature adopted a budget reduction bill for fiscal year 2007-2008 of over \$500 million. The Legislature finally adopted the budget reduction bill without including a controversial issue that would freeze reimbursement rates for hospitals, nursing homes and health maintenance organizations (HMOs), as well as eliminate their automatic rate increases. The budget reduction bill now awaits action by the Governor.

MARKETPLACE FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

The House Healthcare Council met this week in concert with all of their



sub-committees; Health Quality, Health Innovation, Healthy Seniors and Healthy Families; to discuss the House strategy to help all Floridians access affordable health insurance. The concept will be known as the "Marketplace for Affordable Health Care." A House bill has not been filed yet; however, each committee chair described and outlined specific goals this bill will address.

The overall concept centers on increasing competition and providing more choices for affordable health insurance. A marketplace environment will be established whereby employers can sign up and allow their employees to choose from a wide range of products that will be free from "mandates." This could range from a "bare-bones" coverage to a more robust package, with the employee making those individual choices in a cafeteria style environment. The idea is to make this portable and by individual, so if someone loses their job, they could continue to keep their coverage. A post enrollment risk adjustment will ensure the pooling benefits of insurance will be available to individual policies, according to the House summary. A web-based comparison is envisioned, including both price transparency and quality of products with brokers helping people make decisions on offerings.

There were several questions from both Republicans and Democrats regarding issues such as adverse selection, pre-existing conditions, insurance company participation guidelines and co-payment levels. Many questions still remain unanswered and this was described as a "work-in-progress" during this initial discussion. FDA lobbyists anticipate a bill being released from the House Healthcare Council soon. It is unclear at this time how they envision including dental services in this marketplace environment. FDA lobbyists will continue to monitor this issue.

SENATE COMMITTEE CONFIRMS BOARD OF DENTISTRY APPOINTMENTS

On Tuesday, the Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections unanimously voted to confirm Dr. Robert Perdomo's appointment to the Florida Board of Dentistry. His appointment must now be approved by the full Senate. Dr. Perdomo was appointed to the Board last year by the Governor. His term ends October 31, 2008.

Dr. Wade Winker, Dr. Daniel Gesek and consumer member, Ms. Elmira Gainey, were confirmed by the

Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections on December 11, 2007. Their appointments await full Senate approval. All three Board members were appointed by the Governor last June. Dr. Winker's and Dr. Gesek's terms end on October 31, 2010. Ms. Gainey's term ends on October 31, 2009.

MEDICAID IMPACT CONFERENCE

This week, the Medicaid impact conference met to discuss and project the potential cost savings and fiscal impact certain Medicaid policy decisions could have on the state's budget. Included in the discussion was the Governor's \$21.8 million increase for Medicaid dental providers. The Governor's recommendation funds the dental fee increase 100 percent from trust funds, which is not a stable or secure funding methodology. The conference also looked at eliminating all optional Medicaid services for adults, which includes adult dental services (emergency services, partial and full dentures). In addition, the conference looked at options to change the cost-based reimbursements for county health departments to the level of hospital inpatient reimbursement rates, which are lower. The conference discussed freezing the county health department rates at the June 30, 2008 level and reducing the 2008-2009 rates by one percent. Rate freeze and rate reductions were also discussed for the Florida Healthy Kids Programs and KidCare services.

PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINE REPORTS

Sen. Dennis Jones (R-Seminole) has filed SB 2646 to have disciplinary actions and adverse incidents of a licensed health care practitioner at a licensed health care facility be reported to the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) within the Department of Health (DOH) rather than to the Division of Health Quality Assurance of the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA). This transition will remove AHCA from having to determine whether a disciplinary action of a practitioner is warranted for review by the appropriate Board. Further, the bill provides that the employer or clinic is the responsible records owner of abandoned medical records following abandonment of records or closure of a clinic or facility. The bill authorizes the department or the appropriate probable cause panel to find reasonable cause to subpoena patient's records without patient authorization under certain conditions. Lastly for annual inspections in a physician's office and in an osteopathic physician's office where certain medical procedures are performed (level 2 procedures lasting more than 5 minutes and all level 3 surgical procedures in an office setting), the bill removes their ability to be exempt from inspection by being accredited by accrediting organizations approved by the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine. At this time, there is no House companion bill.

CAPITAL HILL CLUB DINNER ON APRIL 1



The FDA's Capital Hill Club will have a private dinner at the Governor's Club on Tuesday, April 1 at 8:00 p.m.

immediately following the Dentists' Day on the Hill reception and issues briefing. Dinner attendees will be pleased to hear from special guest, Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum.

If you are interested in attending the Capital Hill Club dinner and have not yet RSVP'd, please call Christine Mortham at the FDA Governmental Affairs Office at (800) 326-0051 no later than Monday, March 24.

It is not too late to join Capital Hill Club! For more information on Capital Hill Club or to join, please contact Mary Edenfield at the FDA Governmental Affairs Office at (800) 326-0051.

REGISTER TODAY FOR DENTISTS' DAY ON THE HILL



The FDA's annual Dentists' Day on the Hill is on Tuesday, April 1 and Wednesday, April 2 in Tallahassee. As of today, only 115 dentists have registered to attend. Your help is needed now more than ever

at Dentists' Day. The FDA is facing huge legislative issues this Session and Dentists' Day is a great opportunity for you to meet with your legislators face-to-face.

Some of the issues that you will be asked to discuss with your legislators are:

- opposition to Governor's scope of practice expansion and licensure by credentials proposals (HB 1367 & SB 2760)
- support of an increase in Medicaid dental fees (HB 329 & SB 1410)
- support of student loan repayment for dental graduates
- opposition to expanding dental Medicaid managed care

If you are planning to attend Dentists' Day on the Hill, now is the time to start making appointments to visit your legislators. When making appointments, let them know that you are a constituent and you are at the Capitol for Dentists' Day. If your legislator is not available for a meeting, ask to meet with the legislator's aide. Keep in mind that legislative meetings are not scheduled until a few days before the actual meeting occurs therefore you may be asked to call back to set up a time after the meeting schedules have been released. If you are not sure who your legislators are, visit the FDA's Grassroots Action Center at

<http://floridadental.org/pro/members/governmental/lookup.html> or call the FDA Governmental Affairs Office at (800) 326-0051.

For more information on Dentists' Day on the Hill or to register, visit <http://floridadental.org/pro/members/governmental/hill.html>.

LEGISLATOR SPOTLIGHT

Rep. Doug Holder (R-Sarasota) was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2006. He represents House District 70 which covers part of Sarasota County. Rep. Holder is a member of the Health Quality Committee; Economic Expansion and Infrastructure Council; Tourism and



Trade Committee; Conservation and State Lands Committee; and Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee. Rep. Holder is seeking re-election this November.

Rep. Holder's LCDs are Drs. John Pelton and Michael Dorociak.

FDA LEGISLATIVE TRACKING CHART
(As of March 14, 2008)

- ✓ =Passed
- X =Defeated
- Φ=Not Referenced
- H=House of Representatives
- S=Senate
- B=Bill
- TP'D=Temporarily Postponed
- CS=Committee Substitute

PRIORITY INITIATIVES SUPPORTED

ISSUE	COMMITTEE 1 ACTION	COMMITTEE 2 ACTION	COMMITTEE 3 ACTION	FLOOR ACTION	GOV'S ACTION
HB 329 – Physician and Dental / Medicaid Fee Increase	Health Innovation	Healthcare Council	Policy and Budget Council		
SB 1410 – Physician & Dental / Medicaid Fee Reimbursement	Health Policy	Children and Families	Health and Human Services Appropriations		

PRIORITY INITIATIVES OPPOSED

ISSUE	COMMITTEE 1 ACTION	COMMITTEE 2 ACTION	COMMITTEE 3 ACTION	FLOOR ACTION	GOV'S ACTION
HB 1367 – Governor’s scope of practice expansion and licensure by credentials proposal	Health Quality	Health Council	Policy and Budget Council		
SB 2760 – Governor’s Access to Oral Health Act Governor’s scope of practice expansion and licensure by credentials proposal	Health Regulation	Health and Human Services Appropriations			

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