Legislative Process Overview: 2026 Update



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Disclosure

The author(s) have no relationships to disclose pertinent to this presentation.



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Objectives

01 Detail the legislative process

02 Review the healthcare and nursing specific legislation for the 2026 session

03 Discuss the barriers to successful bill passage into law

04 Encourage nursing involvement in local, state and national government



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"All Legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

(Article I, Section 1, of the United States Constitution)



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Origins of a Bill

- Idea Formation
- Drafting
- Sponsors
  - Any member in the House of Representatives may introduce a bill at any time while the House is in session.
  - A public bill may have an unlimited number of co-sponsoring members.
- Build a Coalition
- Lobby for Support



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Legislative Action

- Referred to House Committee
- Public Hearings
- Mark up Sessions



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Committee Action

- Report
- With or Without Amendment
- Tabled



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Debate

- Equal time
- Usually ends in a vote



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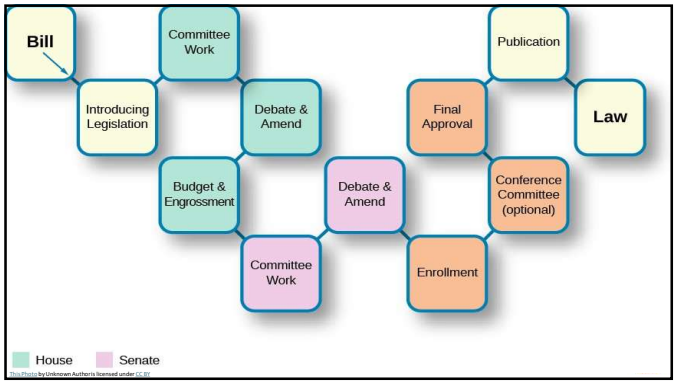
Off to the Senate…

- It must pass the House and Senate in the exact same form
- Either back to the House OR
- To the Governor or President
- Veto or Law



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Nursing Legislative Priorities



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Surgical Smoke

- HB 93 SB 162
- Senator Davis
- Representative Woodson
- 90% of surgeries expose 500,000 healthcare workers annually



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Nursing Education Program Oversight

- HB 121 SB 254
- Representative Harrell
- Senator Overdorf
- Since oversight shifted to Department of Education, Florida has dropped to 50th in NCLEX pass rate



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Patient Directed Medical Orders (PDMO)

- HB 369 SB 312
- Senator Rodriguez
- Representative Plasencia
- Already exists in 45 other states
- Allows for reliable portability of wishes



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Autonomous Practice for all NPs, including Psychiatric Mental Health (PMHNPs)

- HB 301 SB 138
- Senator Truenow
- Representative Shoaf
- Not an expansion of scope of practice
- Access to Mental Health Services

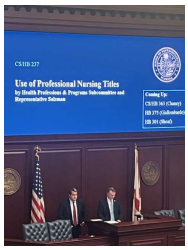


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Use of Professional Nursing Titles

- HB 237
- Senator Dr. Sharief
- (Sharief (CO-SPONSORS) Osgood; Davis; Rouson; Berman)



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State Legislative NP Update

- Governor DeSantis continued to push for essential property tax cuts and a ban on vaccine mandates for K–12 schools
- Last Session (2025) Budget standoff ended without resolution
- 2026 Legislature adjourned (Sine Die) on March 13, 2026
- Lawmakers scheduled to return on April 20,2026 for a Special Session to resolve budget and to redraw districts



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VP Legislation, Florida Nurse Practitioner Network

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Healthcare Reform: Health & Human Services

- HB 693 SB 1758
- Representative Redondo (CO-SPONSORS) Barnaby; Salzman; Shoaf
- Goal to improve access to care
- PA, EMS, SW licensure compacts
- Addresses delegable duties of Dentist
- Revises practice requirements for autonomous APRNs

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Performance of Physician Assistants and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses

- HB 683
- Representative Partington (CO-SPONSORS) Rizo; Salzman
- More Prescriptive authority for PAs
- Lifts restrictions on psychiatric NP selected medications



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Additionial Nursing Priorities….

- Addressing Florida's nursing shortage
  - Compensation
  - Educational Funding
  - Safe-staffing
- Addressing the impacts of environmental effects on public health
  - Heat – related issues
  - Water scarcity and reduced food production
  - Respiratory illness resulting from pollution
  - Malnutrition
  - Vector –borne illness
  - Illness due to water and ground contaminants
  - Flooding devastation, drowning

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Additional NP Legislative Priorities…

- Support NP Clinical education and decrease student financial burden
- Non autonomous NP signature authority under supervisory agreements
- Dry needling for APRNs



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Case Study: NP takes the Lead

- Monica Barfield, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC
- Owner, New Horizon Primary Care
- Region One Director, Florida Nurse Practitioner Network
- Secretary, Florida Coalition for Advanced Practice Nurses
- Chair, Autonomous Practice Committee



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HB 301 / SB 138 (2026) Expanding Access to Psychiatric Mental Health Care

- Purpose: Expand autonomous practice to PMHNPs
- Builds on HB 607 (2020)
- Addresses mental health access gaps
- 22 Florida counties lack a psychiatrist
- Developed with NP and legislative collaboration

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Sponsorship, Process & House Success

- House Sponsor: Rep. Jason Shoaf
- Senate Sponsor: Sen. Kieth Truenow

- Support:
- FNPN, FNA, FLANP, Hims & Hers

- Passed House Committees
- House Vote: 88 Yeas | 18 Nays

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Senate Status and Pathway Forward

- Stalled in Senate Rules Committee
- Barriers: Opposition, Misunderstanding of NP training
- Next Steps:
  - Engage Senate leadership
  - Educate stakeholders
  - Strengthen advocacy coalition
- Impact:
  - Improves access
  - Reduces delays
  - Supports rural communities

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Concluding Thoughts

- The process for developing and successful supporting a bill through the legislative process is complex
- It is imperative that we all participate
- No role is too small!
- There are countless resources to guide you

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Thank You

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