



CS/CS/HB 25 Ambulatory Care Services

- **CS/CS/HB 25** provides lower-cost, high-quality alternatives for Floridians.
- The bill changes the allowable length of stay in an ambulatory services center (ASC) from less than one working day to no more than 48 hours.
- The bill also allows ASCs to provide advanced birth services such as planned low-risk cesarean deliveries, trial of labor after cesarean delivery for screened patients who qualify and vaginal deliveries for laboring patients from the beginning of the 37th week of gestation through the end of the 41st week of gestation if they meet certain quality standards.
- The bill creates a new licensure category for a Recovery Care Center (RCC), defined as a facility, to which a patient is admitted and discharged within 72 hours, and which is not part of a hospital. Recovery care services do not include intensive care services, coronary care services, or critical care services.
- The bill requires all patients to be certified by their attending or referring physician prior to admission to a RCC as medically stable and not in need of acute care in a hospital.
- Under the bill, a patient may receive recovery care services in a RCC upon:
 - Discharge from an ASC after surgery;
 - Discharge from a hospital after surgery or other treatment; or
 - Receiving out-patient medical treatment such as chemotherapy.
- The new RCC license is modeled after the current licensing procedures for hospitals and ASCs, subjecting RCCs to similar regulatory standards, inspections, and rules. RCCs must have emergency care and transfer protocols, including transportation arrangements, and a referral or admission agreement with at least one hospital.



HB 7089 Voting Rights Restoration

HB 7089 implements Amendment 4, the Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative. The bill clarifies definitions and provides standards for authenticating voting eligibility.

The bill resolves ambiguity in terms that the Department of State (DOS) and supervisors of elections must apply to authenticate voter eligibility.

- Murder includes:
 - First degree murder; and
 - Second degree murder.
- Felony sexual offense includes, but is not limited to, a felony violation for committing or attempting to commit:
 - Any predicate offense that requires an offender to register as a sexual offender or sexual predator;
 - Human trafficking for commercial sexual activity or forced labor;
 - Female genital mutilation; and
 - Sexual abuse of a dead human body.

The bill defines “completion of all terms of sentence” as any of the following when the term is ordered by the court as part of the sentence:

- Release from any term of incarceration;
- Termination from any term of supervision, including, but not limited to, probation or community control;
- Termination of any term of parole;
- Termination of any other term imposed; and
- Full payment of any financial obligation, regardless of whether it was converted to a civil judgment, including restitution, costs of supervision, and fines, fees, and court costs.
 - A court or payee may waive full payment.
 - Interest charges, surcharges, collections fees, and administrative or use fees incurred during a term of incarceration are specifically excluded.

The bill authorizes DOS to begin the rulemaking process to authenticate voting eligibility.

The bill will become effective upon becoming a law.



CS/HB 7071 Workforce Education

- **CS/HB 7071** promotes apprenticeships, enhances talent development, and increases career opportunities for Floridians.
- The bill creates the “SAIL to 60” Initiative to increase postsecondary credential attainment for working age Floridians. The goal is to raise the percentage of working age adults with a high-value postsecondary certificate, degree, or training experience to 60% by 2030.
- The bill renames the Higher Education Coordinating Council as the Florida Talent Development Council.
- The council will develop a coordinated, data-driven, statewide approach to meet Florida's needs for a 21st century workforce that employers and educators use as part of Florida's talent supply system.
- The bill requires the establishment of a reverse transfer agreement between the State University System and the Florida College System (FCS).
- The bill requires school districts and technical colleges to establish career pathways articulation agreements with the FCS institution in their area.
- The bill creates the Florida Apprenticeship Grant Program to expand existing, and establish new preapprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.
- The bill requires the Department of Education to publish on its website an annual report to promote these programs and increase transparency.
- On April 3rd, the Education Committee passed a PCS that incorporated **HB 7055**. These provisions include:
 - Requiring the Department of Education to provide assistance in increasing public awareness of apprenticeship and preapprenticeship opportunities.
 - Requiring the elimination of industry certifications that are not aligned to industry needs.
 - Establishing formal career dual enrollment agreements between high schools and career centers.
 - Allowing students to earn two mathematics credits for Algebra I.
 - Allowing a computer science credit to substitute for a mathematics or science credit and requiring a biennial review of career education courses for alignment with high school graduation requirements.
 - Establishing a “College and Career Decision Day” to recognize high school seniors for their postsecondary education and career plans.
 - Establishing a middle grades career planning course requirement.
 - Revising the school grades formula to recognize career certificate clock hour dual enrollment.
 - Doubling the cap on career and professional education (CAPE) Digital Tool certificates the State Board of Education may identify for weighted FTE funding.



CS/CS/HB 1197 Charter Schools

- **CS/CS/HB 1197** increases the number of eligible charter school operators to address the needs of educational capacity, workforce qualifications, and career education opportunities that may extend beyond a school district's boundaries.
- The bill authorizes state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to sponsor charter schools upon approval by the Department of Education (DOE).
- The bill repeals present limitations on charter schools operated by an FCS institution with a teacher preparation program.
- The bill provides that the board of trustees of a sponsoring state university or FCS institution is a local educational agency for the purpose of receiving federal funds and accepting responsibility for all requirements of that role.
- The bill requires the DOE, in collaboration with charter school sponsors and operators, to develop a sponsor evaluation framework and report results in its annual charter school application report. In addition, the bill revises charter school application reporting requirements and submission dates for both sponsors and the DOE.
- The bill establishes operational funding and capital outlay funding formulas for charter schools sponsored by a state university and FCS institution.



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CS/HB 807 Civics Education

- Civic literacy and preparing students to become engaged and knowledgeable adults who positively contribute to their communities are priorities of Florida's K-20 education system.
- **CS/HB 807** requires instructional materials used for the middle grades civics education course to be reviewed and approved by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with various organizations and stakeholders.
- The bill requires the Commissioner to review and make recommendations for improvements to current state adopted civics material and the statewide civics end-of-course assessment by December 31, 2019.
- The Department of Education is required to review civics education course standards by December 31, 2020.



CS/CS/CS/HB 839 Higher Education

- **CS/CS/CS/HB 839** is a comprehensive higher education package that ensures our students and higher education institutions continue to succeed.
- The bill requires the Board of Governors (BOG) and the State Board of Education (SBE) to annually report on the intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity at each institution to ensure students and faculty will feel safe on campus to express their viewpoints.
- The bill increases transparency by including Florida College System (FCS) institution employee salaries and other information on the Florida Has a Right to Know website.
- The bill authorizes FCS institutions and state universities to provide either an opt-in or an opt-out provision to students regarding textbook and instructional materials affordability.
- The bill revises the data source used to determine whether an institution is designated as preeminent or emerging preeminent to allow for more timely performance data.
- The bill modifies state university performance funding metrics to include metrics that focus on the success rate of Pell Grant-eligible students and “2+2” Associate in Arts (AA) degree transfer students and prohibits the adjustment of such metrics once data has been received.
- The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to submit recommendations to the SBE and the Legislature for the most efficient process to achieve a complete performance-based model.
- The bill requires the BOG to define the data and methodology required to calculate each metric used in performance and preeminence funding, and requires each state university to conduct and submit an audit to the BOG’s Office of Inspector General.
- The bill requires the BOG to enter into an agreement with the Department of Economic Opportunity for access to individual reemployment assistance wage reports for auditing and evaluation purposes.
- The bill increases accountability by prohibiting the transfer of state appropriations by a university board of trustees to any of its direct-support organizations’ subsidiaries and affiliates.
- The bill supports our students who transfer into the SUS system by establishing the “2+2” targeted pathway program to improve student retention and on-time graduation.
- The bill requires a reverse transfer agreement for FCS AA degree students who transfer to a state university.
- The bill requires the BOG legislative budget request to include 5-year trend information on the number of faculty and administrators at each university and specifies that the growth rate of administrators may not exceed the growth rate of faculty.



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- The bill requires the University of South Florida (USF) St. Petersburg and USF Manatee/Sarasota to maintain branch campus status when each campus's accreditation is consolidated into a single accreditation, as monitored by the BOG, and prohibits the BOG from using the consolidated data for determining funding eligibility, subject to meeting certain deadlines.
- The bill removes the limitation that prohibits a Phosphate Research and Activities Board member from serving more than 180 days after the expiration of his or her term.



CS /HB 1159 Private Property Rights

- **CS/HB 1159** informs the public of their rights as property owners and protects the rights of property owners to maintain trees on their property.
- The bill gives residential property owners more power to prune, trim, or remove trees on their property by prohibiting local governments from requiring any sort of permit or notice when a tree is determined by a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect to be a danger to others or property.
- The bill prohibits local governments from requiring the property owner to replant a tree that is pruned, trimmed, or removed under these specified conditions.
- The bill allows a property owner adjacent to an electric utility right-of-way to request an electric utility to maintain the right-of-way without approval from the local government.
- The bill requires county property appraisers to post a Property Owner Bill of Rights on their websites.
- The form must list the following seven property rights:
 - The right to acquire, possess, and protect your property.
 - The right to use and enjoy your property.
 - The right to exclude others from your property.
 - The right to dispose of your property.
 - The right to due process.
 - The right to just compensation for property taken for a public purpose.
 - The right to relief, or payment of compensation, when a new law, rule, regulation, or ordinance of the state or a political entity unfairly affects your property.
- The website must state the Bill of Rights is not comprehensive and does not represent all property rights under Florida law.



CS/HB 7101 Elections

CS/HB 7101 ensures that supervisors of elections, poll workers, and county canvassing board members have the time and tools necessary to ensure smooth elections in the future.

- The bill addresses vote-by-mail process issues by:
 - Moving the last day voters can request a vote-by-mail ballot from 6 days to 10 days before an election and prohibiting supervisors of elections (SOEs) from mailing them less than 8 days prior to the election.
 - Allowing SOEs to mail domestic vote-by-mail ballots between 40 and 28 days before an election instead of 35 to 28 days, therefore extending voting in the state by up to 5 extra days.
 - Allowing a voter to drop a vote-by-mail ballot at a secure drop box located at each early voting location.
 - Allowing canvassing of vote-by-mail ballots to start one week earlier, beginning 22 days before an election rather than the current 15 days.
 - Moving the deadline for a voter to update his or her signature for purposes of validating a vote-by-mail ballot from the beginning of the vote-by-mail canvassing period to when the ballot is received by the SOE.
 - Extending the deadline for curing defective vote-by-mail ballot signatures from 5 PM on the day before the election to the second day after the election.
 - Requiring the Department of State to provide formal signature-matching training to SOEs and county canvassing boards.
 - Creating a process modeled after the vote-by-mail ballot cure process to cure provisional ballots with a signature problem to ensure that provisional ballots with signature problems have a cure option.
- The bill moves the primary election from 10 weeks to 11 weeks before the general election to give SOEs more time to prepare for a general election.
- The bill fixes transparency issues among county canvassing boards by:
 - Requiring the county canvassing board to post on the supervisor's website the time the board expects to reconvene if the board recesses for more than an hour. If the board does not reconvene at that specified time, the board must provide at least 2 hours' notice before reconvening.
 - Requiring county canvassing board members and staff to wear identification badges during any period in which the board is canvassing votes or performing official duties.
 - Increasing the security of ballots by requiring the Department of State to develop rules regarding minimum security standards to address the chain of custody of ballots, transportation of ballots, and ballot security, including requiring ballots to be kept in a locked room when not being canvassed.



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- The bill preserves the sanctity of the polling place by expanding the no solicitation zone at polling places and early voting sites from 100 feet to 150 feet.
- The bill removes the prohibition on photography in the polling room by decriminalizing the action of voters taking pictures of his or her own ballot.
- The bill requires all ballot instructions to be horizontal across the top of the ballot or vertical on the leftmost column as long as there are no individual races underneath the instructions. This action will address issues with confusion of ballot design.
- The bill prohibits SOEs from collecting a special qualification salary for a period of 2 years if they are found by a court to have violated a provision of the Election Code. This will provide increased accountability for supervisors.
- The bill addresses voter confusion by:
 - Eliminating confusing language from a primary ballot for gubernatorial candidates if they have not designated a lieutenant governor by a time certain.
 - Providing that publication of sample ballots in a newspaper is not necessary if the SOE sent a sample ballot by mail or email to every registered voter in the county.
 - Allowing SOEs to use ballot-on-demand printers on election day.



CS/CS/CS/HB 997 Health Plans

- **CS/CS/CS/HB 997** expands the availability of association and short-term health insurance.
- The bill allows Floridians to take advantage of the new federal regulations on association health plans and short-term health plans.
 - The bill adds flexibility for the use of association health plans by indicating an association may be established for the purpose of providing health benefits so long as it serves at least one other professional purpose.
 - The bill provides greater flexibility for the use of short-term health insurance by allowing an insurer to offer it for a period of up to 12 months, with the opportunity for renewal up to a total coverage period of 36 months. These extended policy terms are consistent with the parameters included in the revised federal regulations.
- The bill also requires the Office of Insurance Regulation to evaluate the state's current essential health benefits (EHB) benchmark plan required under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).
 - The bill takes advantage of new federal regulations to give insurers increased flexibility in meeting the PPACA requirement to provide at least one service or coverage under each of the 10 EHBs.
 - The bill allows insurers to meet the EHB requirements by replacing one or more of its current EHBs coverages with those available in another state; or creating a new EHB plan that meets the new federal requirements for the provision of at least one service or coverage under each of the 10 EHB categories.
- Finally, the bill addresses preexisting conditions in health insurance contracts by requiring that, in the event that PPACA is repealed or invalidated, each insurer or health maintenance organization shall offer at least one comprehensive major medical policy or contract that does not exclude or delay coverage based upon preexisting medical conditions.



CS/HB 955 Medicaid Eligibility Requirements

- **CS/HB 955** creates a reasonable eligibility requirement for Medicaid to incentivize employment.
- The bill directs the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek federal approval to require able-bodied adults in the Medicaid program to work or be in school – consistent with the requirements for federal cash assistance programs.
- The work requirements would apply to an estimated 501,554 Medicaid recipients.
 - Under the bill, the work requirements would only apply to Managed Medical Assistance enrollees; not Long-Term Care enrollees, who are elderly or disabled. As with the federal cash assistance programs, disabled people are exempt from the work requirements, and medical exceptions also apply.
 - The bill's work requirements would apply to able-bodied adults with children, and able-bodied adults without children ages 19-20, who meet the current income eligibility requirements. Medicaid recipients who are also temporary cash assistance (TCA) beneficiaries are already subject to Temporary Aid for Needy Families work requirements.
- If approved by the federal government, MMA enrollees would be required to submit proof to Department of Children and Families of work activities for no more than 40 hours per week, consistent with federal TCA requirements.



CS/HB 7123 Taxation

- **CS/HB 7123** proposed tax package makes a substantial contribution to improving prosperity and opportunities for all Floridians.
- These tax reductions and tax related modifications directly impact both families and businesses. Here are some highlights of the proposed tax package:

Florida Families:

- Back-to-School Holiday
 - Provides a **three-day sales tax holiday** from August 2-4, 2019.
 - Clothing, footwear, and backpacks costing \$60 or less will be exempt.
 - School supplies costing \$15 or less per item will be exempt.
 - The first \$1,000 for personal electronics such as computers, tablets, and laptops will be exempt
- Disaster Preparedness Holiday
 - Provides a **seven-day sales tax holiday** from May 31, 2019 to June 6, 2019.
 - A variety of Items will be exempt from sales tax, such as flash lights, radios, food storage coolers and portable generators.

Florida Business Owners:

- Sales Tax on Rental of Commercial Real Estate (Business Rent Tax)
 - Reduces the state sales tax rate on commercial property rentals from 5.7 percent to 5.35 percent, beginning January 1, 2020.
 - **Florida is the only state to charge sales tax on rentals of commercial real property.**

Florida Property Tax Changes:

- Increases requirements for non-profit hospitals to qualify for a charitable tax exemption.
- Clarifies that school district voted operating tax levies be shared proportionally with charter schools.
- Slightly delays payments from the state to local fiscally constrained counties and Monroe County due to hurricanes in 2016 and 2017.
- Provides additional flexibility to the Department of Revenue in conducting in-depth reviews of property assessment rolls in counties affected by natural disasters.



CS/HB 533 Disposition of Surplus Funds by Candidates

- A candidate must dispose of his or her surplus funds upon completion on an election within 90 days and file a termination report reflecting the disposition of all remaining funds.
- Currently, there are four ways that a candidate, or former candidate may dispose of his or her funds:
 - Return funds pro rata to each contributor.
 - Donate the funds to a charitable organization or organizations that meet the requirements of s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
 - Rebate up to \$25,000 to the candidate's political party or an affiliated party committee.
 - Deposit funds to the General Revenue Fund, in the case of a candidate for state office, or to a local political subdivision, in the case of a candidate for local office.
- **CS/HB 533** prohibits a candidate and his or her family members from directly benefiting in the form of compensation in exchange for a donation of surplus funds given to a charitable organization.
- Compensation includes any earnings, stipend, tips, or paid employment.
- The bill also provides if the surplus funds are disposed of by donation to a charitable organization, the candidate or the candidate's spouse, parent, child, or sibling are prohibited from being a principal of the organization.

Floor Amendments

- Amendment **964827** by Payne
 - Replaces prohibitions on a candidate's family members benefiting from surplus funds donated to a charitable organization to prohibiting a candidate from being employed by the charitable organization to which he or she donates the funds.

Status: Amendment will be heard and voted on during Second Reading on April 26, 2019.



CS/HB 7125: Public Safety

- **HB 7125** encompasses a wide array of areas in criminal justice that will further efforts to reform the criminal justice system.
- The bill provides mechanisms to improve fairness and transparency in the criminal justice system.

The bill:

- Allows a court to sentence a defendant to **administrative probation**, which is a non-reporting supervision that is currently available to low-risk offenders only by transfer of the Department of Corrections (DOC) upon completion of half their probationary term.
- Requires a court, subject to certain exceptions, to early terminate or convert to administrative probation if an eligible offender has successfully completed half of his or her probation term, including all conditions, with no violations.
- Authorizes each judicial circuit to create a **community court**, a type of problem solving court that addresses misdemeanor crimes affecting a particular community.
- Increases the threshold values for specified theft offenses, including:
 - Petit theft;
 - Retail theft; and an
 - Grand theft.
- Reforms probation violations and standardizes a system for alternative sanctioning to respond to technical violations of probation.
- Requires each clerk of court to create a **Driver License Reinstatement Days** program to facilitate reinstatement for those who have had their license suspended or revoked.
- Expands **reentry services** for recently released inmates by providing greater job training and career planning opportunities by:
 - Authorizing DOC to expand the use of job assignment credentialing and industry certifications; and
 - Requiring DOC to develop a Prison Entrepreneurship Program and adopt procedures for inmate admission.
- Reduces barriers to occupational licensing for persons with a criminal history record by:
 - Limiting the period for which an agency may consider an applicant's criminal history;
 - Permitting a person incarcerated or on supervision to apply for licensure and to appear by teleconference or video conference at a licensing hearing; and
 - Requiring DOC to cooperate with a licensing board or agency to facilitate an applicant's appearance.
- Expands eligibility for veteran's treatment programs to current or former US Department of Defense contractors or military members of a foreign allied country.
- Creates a new section of law listing ineligible offenses for court-ordered sealing and expunction by name and statute number for clarity and improved readability.
- Creates an automatic sealing process for any criminal history record in which (1) charges were not filed, (2) charges were dismissed, unless dismissal was due to incompetency to proceed, or (3) the defendant was acquitted, by either a verdict of not guilty or a judgment of acquittal.
- Repeals mandatory suspension of driver's license for certain non-driving offenses, such as
 - Providing alcohol to persons under 21,



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- Underage possession of alcohol;
 - Underage possession of tobacco,
 - Graffiti for a minor delinquent; and
 - Possession of a firearm by a minor.
- Amends the definition of Prison Release Reoffender to include a person released from a county detention facility for a prison sentence.
 - Prohibits awarding attorney fees in injunction proceedings for repeat, dating, or sexual violence, and stalking.
 - Defines cyberstalking to include accessing, or attempting to access, the online accounts or Internet-connected home electronic systems of another person without that person's permission.
 - Expands the crime of sexual cyber harassment to include electronically disseminating a sexually explicit image.
 - Authorizes qualified active or retired law enforcement or correctional officers to carry a concealed firearm during off-duty hours in any state.
 - Criminalizes possessing, selling, lending, giving away, distributing, transmitting, showing, or advertising an obscene, child-like sex doll.
 - Raises the hydrocodone trafficking mandatory-minimum thresholds to bring them in line with similar controlled substances.
 - Expands eligibility for a pretrial drug court program to a person with up to two prior nonviolent felony convictions.
 - Authorizes a court to sentence a person meeting all other criteria as a youthful offender if he or she was 21 or younger at the time of the offense, regardless of age at the time of sentence.
 - Repeals all mandatory direct file provisions, allowing but not requiring, a state attorney to direct file an information against a child meeting discretionary direct file criteria.