

- Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> kicks off Florida's Regular Legislative session and adjourns on May 2
- Legislative committee weeks began during the month of December and ran through February

As Florida enters its 2025 Legislative Session, here are the bills we were tracking

### **HB21/SB82 Dental Therapy**

*Authorizes Medicaid to reimburse for dental services provided by certain mobile dental units; creates Council on Dental Therapy; specifies licensure requirements, services, limitations, & prohibitions relating to practice of dental therapy; requires DOH, in consultation with Board of Dentistry & AHCA, to submit reports to Legislature. (House, 1st Reading on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:00 PM. Senate: 03/04/25 S Introduced on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:54 PM)*

#### **Bill Sponsors:**

- Rep. Linda Chaney (R-Parts of Hillsborough and Pinellas)
- Sen. Jay Collins (R-Parts of Hillsborough)

### **HB 47/ SB 738: (Similar bills) Child Care and Early Learning Providers - *Recently Added***

*Revises licensing standards for child care facilities; child care personnel; minimum standards; child care regulation; & large family child care homes. (House: 1st Reading on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:01 PM; Senate, 03/04/25 S Introduced on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:54 PM)*

#### **Bill Sponsors:**

- Rep. Fiona McFarland (R-Parts of Sarasota)
- Sen. Colleen Burton (R- Part of Polk)

### **HB191/ SB70: (Identical bills) Instructional Hours for the Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program - *Recently Added***

*Revises instructional hours required to be delivered in Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program for school-year & summer programs. Strikes 540 instructional Hours and moves to at provide at least 1,440. (House: 1st Reading on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 8:00 PM; Senate, 03/04/25 S Introduced on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 6:54 PM)*

#### **Bill Sponsors:**

- Rep. Jervonte "Tae" Edmonds (D- Part of Palm Beach)
- Sen. Lori Berman (D-Part of Palm Beach) (CO-SPONSORS) Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Part of Orange County)



**[HB859](#) | [SB 1382](#) (Similar): **School Readiness Program| Access to School Readiness Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Households- *Updated with a companion bill*****

*Revises provisions relating to school readiness program. A child from birth to the beginning of the school year for which the child is eligible for admission to kindergarten in a public school under s. 1003.21(1)(a)2. who is from a working family that is economically disadvantaged, greater than 50 percent, but less than 65 percent, of the state median income. (House, 1st Reading on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 Senate: 03/10/25 Introduced on Monday, March 10, 2025)*

**Bill Sponsors:**

- Rep. Chase Tramont (R-Parts of Brevard and Volusia)
- Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami)

**[HB877](#)/[SB1102](#) (Identical): **School Readiness Program****

*Revises criteria for child to receive priority for participation in school readiness program; & provides requirements for school readiness program provider to be eligible for specified funding.(i.e., “reimbursement rates). (House, 1st Reading on Tuesday, March 4, 2025; Senate,03/04/25 S Introduced on Tuesday, March 4, 2025)*

**Bill sponsors:**

- Rep. Robin Bartleman (D- Part of Broward) Co-Sponsor Daryl Campbell (D-Part of Broward)
- Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami)

**[SB 112](#):/[HB 591](#): **Children with Developmental Disabilities****

*Revising the scope of the Dr. and Mrs. Alfonse and Kathleen Cinotti Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program to include autism-related services. Updating the Early Steps Program grant application to align with new regulations. Establishing the Early Steps Extended Option, with the Department of Health authorized to implement it without federal funding. Requiring the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to fund specialized summer programs for children with autism spectrum disorder. (Senate - 3/10/2025 CS/CS by Fiscal Policy read 1st time House -03/04/25 S CS by Education Pre-K - 12 read 1st time on Tuesday, March 4, 2025)*

**Bill sponsors:**

- Sen. Gayle Harrell (R- Consists of Martin County and parts of Palm Beach, St. Lucie)
- Rep. Randall Scott “Randy” Maggard (R- Part of Paco)



**[HB 1623](#) | [SB1780](#) - Early Education Workforce Support - **Recently Added****

*Establishes Early Education Workforce Support Pilot Program within DOE for two years to provide free early education services to eligible children of early education workers in two counties; provides program requirements. (House- 3/5/2025 Now in Careers & Workforce Subcommittee Senate- 3/10/2025 - Introduced)*

**Bill sponsors:**

- Rep. Angela Nixon (D-Part of Duval) and Anna Eskamani (D-Part of Orange)
- Sen. Carlos Guillermo Smith (D-Part of Orange)

**[SB 1306](#) - Exemption from Ad Valorem Taxes of Child Care Facilities- **Recently Added****

*Exempting from ad valorem taxes any portion of property used as a child care facility that has achieved Gold Seal Quality status; requiring that the lessor child care facility operator be considered eligible to derive the benefit of the exemption upon a specified demonstration, etc. (House- 03/10/25 S Introduced on Monday, March 10, 2025)*

**Bill sponsors:**

- Sen. Alexis Calatayud (R-Miami)

