



Issue Spotlight: Making Health Care Better

We are committed to improving access to affordable, quality healthcare. Our goal is to remove governmental barriers to innovation and empower consumers to get better services at better prices.

The following bills advance this commitment to increase access to affordable and quality health care. Please refer to bill texts and analyses for additional information on what each bill does and does not do.

Direct Health Care Agreements – HB 7, Rep. Duggan

- HB 7 expands the opportunities for consumers to directly purchase healthcare services. Current law only addresses agreements for primary care services. HB 7 authorizes patients to enter into a “Direct Health Care Agreement” with any health care provider for any health care services they offer within the scope of their professional license. This bill ensures that these patient-provider agreements are not treated like insurance and will not be regulated by the Office of Insurance Regulation.
- This bill empowers patients with greater choice and flexibility in how they receive and pay for their care.

STATUS: On Health Market Reform Subcommittee agenda for March 7, 2019

Health Care Facility Market Barriers – HB 21, Rep. Fitzenhagen

- HB 21 repeals the entire CON program in Florida and the specialty hospital ban.
- AHCA will still enforce licensure requirements for each facility and service that is no longer subject to the CON program.
- The bill removes regulatory barriers that hinder competition and block innovation. Free and competitive markets are the most effective means for reducing prices and improving quality.

STATUS: On Health Market Reform Subcommittee agenda for March 7, 2019

Hospital Observation Status – HB 813, Rep. Tomkow

- HB 813 requires hospitals to inform a patient immediately when placed on observation status and to provide written notice using a standard federal form.
- Observation status can affect reimbursement for a hospital stay. Consumers should know the financial impact of healthcare decisions that affect them.

STATUS: On Health Market Reform Subcommittee agenda for March 7, 2019

Patient Access to Primary Care Providers – HB 843, Rep. Rodriguez, A.M.

- HB 843 requires hospitals to notify primary care physicians when their patients are admitted and allows patients to request their primary doctors to consult on their plan of care.
- The bill closes gaps in provider communication and promotes continuity of care from the inpatient to outpatient setting.



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- Primary care physicians have a comprehensive knowledge of the patient's health history that can be vital during hospital admissions.

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Price Transparency in Contracts – HB 935, Rep. Rodriguez, A.

- HB 935 prohibits a health insurer or HMO from limiting the ability of any provider to discuss pricing information with a patient. Health care providers will be allowed to share all information on costs of care, and the availability of more affordable care options.
- Clear, accurate information about the cost and quality of health care is necessary for consumers to select health care services that provide good value.

STATUS: On Health Market Reform Subcommittee agenda for March 7, 2019

Health Plans – HB 997, Rep. Gregory

- HB 997 allows Floridians to take advantage of the new federal regulations on AHPs and short-term health plans.
- Increased access to short-term health plans gives consumers a more affordable alternative to comprehensive coverage. These plans represent a legitimate alternative for many individuals.

STATUS: On Health Market Reform Subcommittee agenda for March 7, 2019

Medical Billing – HB 999, Rep. Toledo

- HB 999 helps patients manage their healthcare costs in three ways:
 - Requires facilities to provide estimates of cost for effective procedures and makes those estimates binding unless the reasons for the charge are expressed in writing.
 - Requires facilities to establish a formal appeal process to contest charges on an itemized bill.
 - Increases consumer protection in debt collection proceedings.

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