

# 2019 Florida Legislative Session on Healthcare

## Update on May 9, 2019

### Women Health - Abortion

**FETAL HEARTBEAT ABORTION (FAILED):** Blocks physicians from performing abortions if fetal heartbeats have been detected. Would lead to third-degree felony charges for any “person who knowingly or purposefully performs or induces an abortion on a pregnant woman with the specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn human being whose fetal heartbeat has been detected.” ([HB 235](#) / [SB 792](#))

**PARENTAL CONSENT (FAILED):** Requires minors to obtain parental consent or judicial order waiving consent before getting an abortion. ([HB 1335](#) / [SB 1774](#))

### Other Health

**AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTERS (PASSED):** Allows patients to stay up to 24 hours in ambulatory surgery centers. ([HB 843](#))

**CERTIFICATE OF NEED (PASSED):** Removes a requirement that general hospitals apply and obtain approval from the state to build or expand ([HB 21](#))

**CONVERSION THERAPY (FAILED):** Prohibits the practice of trying to change a person’s sexual orientation, for an individual who is younger than 18. ([SB 84](#) / [HB 109](#))

**CULTURE SURVEYS (FAILED):** Requires the state to develop surveys that assess patient safety culture in hospitals; requires health care facilities to complete the surveys and submit the data. ([HB 319](#) / [SB 1194](#))

**DRUG IMPORTS (PASSED):** Allows drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be imported into Florida by Canada and other countries. ([HB 19](#)) *Diamond and Newton oppose in house. Rousson in Senate*

**FIREFIGHTERS (SIGNED):** Provides certain benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer and benefits to the families of firefighters who die as a result of cancer or cancer treatment. ([SB 426](#))

**HEART SURGERIES (PASSED):** Increases oversight of pediatric heart surgeries by letting team of doctors make unannounced visits to struggling programs and review death records. ([HB 843](#))

**HPV SHOT (FAILED):** Expands school immunization requirements to include a vaccine for human papillomavirus. ([SB 356](#) / [HB 245](#))

**MEDICAID CLAIMS (FAILED):** Would permanently shorten how long patients can have Medicaid cover past healthcare bills. ([SB 192](#))

**OPIOID LAWSUIT (PASSED):** Would allow state lawyers to access a Florida Department of Health database of patients’ opioid prescriptions. State Attorney General Ashley Moody needs the database for a lawsuit alleging Walgreens and CVS “raced to sell as many opioids as possible” in Florida while failing to stop suspicious shipments of drugs. ([HB 1253](#))

**NEEDLE EXCHANGE (PASSED):** Expands the pilot needle exchange established in Miami-Dade County by allowing other counties to create their own programs with the approval of their county commissions. ([SB 366](#))

**PLASTIC SURGERY (PASSED):** Tightens regulations for offices and clinics performing plastic surgeries. Requires those that are not completely owned by a licensed doctor to show financial responsibility for claims against them ([SB 732](#))

**TELEHEALTH (PASSED):** Establishes a regulatory framework for telehealth. ([HB 23](#))

## **Update on March 9, 2019**

Issues list for the Pinellas DEC Issues Committee This document contains issues for the upcoming 2019 Florida Legislative Session.

We are recommending supporting the following bills: House Bill 49, Senate Bill 332 - Dignity for Incarcerated Women - Bills allow for the provision of sanitary napkins and tampons for free to incarcerated women.

ACLU notes on this bill <https://www.acluf.org/en/legislation/house-bill-49-senate-bill-332-dignity-incarcerated-womenact>

We are not supporting the following bill: House Bill 235 - Fetal heartbeat bill, bans abortions once a heartbeat is detected. This usually occurs around 6 weeks, most women would not even know they were pregnant. Of course the bill has been put forward by 2 men.

Here is an article about the bill <https://www.wmnf.org/florida-fetal-heartbeat-bill-could-outlaw-abortion-after-about-six-weeksof-pregnancy/>