

## FRA Legislative meeting summary for 12/05/2025

The Florida Renal Association's (FRA) Legislative Committee met for the 11th time in 2025 on Friday December 5th. Below is a summary of the meeting led by FRA Lobbyist Ron Watson,

# **Kidney Day 2026 is Feb 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, please save the date!!**

### **NEWS and NOTES:**

- **ACA Subsidies set to expire** – The clock is ticking on the expiration of the Federal ACA subsidies. Florida has the largest enrollment of any state and will have the biggest impact on potential disenrollment. Sen. Rick Scott has been holding meetings on the topic and President Trump keeps his healthcare focus on drug prices and putting money into a Health Savings Account (HAS) instead. The focus on affordability is about to explode.
- **The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) race** is heating up now that Rep. Kevin Steele (R-Dade City) has entered the primary against former Senator Blaise Ingoglia, who was appointed to the Cabinet position by Governor DeSantis. Rep Steele is supported by Sen. Rick Scott and dropped \$5 million into his own campaign. Rep Steele is the wealthiest legislator and will be able to self-fund his campaign!! This could get ugly.
- **Lt Governor Jay Collins ??**- We are all awaiting the decision of Lt Gov Collins on whether he will officially enter the race for Governor. There are already 3 announced republican candidates with Trump supported Cong. Byron Donalds, former House Speaker Paul Renner, and investor James Fishback. Gov DeSantis has not endorsed anyone to date.
- **The House continues to feud w Governor** -Speaker Perez continues to have public disagreements with Governor DeSantis on a range of issues including property tax relief and congressional redistricting. The 2025 session went into a 45-day overtime to finally get a budget passed and the tensions have only increased since. Senate President Albritton has kept more quiet on major issues and seems to be siding with the Governor more than the House. How this plays out has a huge impact on this session!
- **Special Session on Redistricting??** – Governor DeSantis has called for a special session on April 20 to address congressional redistricting. He wants the legislature to wait until after the US Supreme Court rules on a case that might invalidate the existing districts that focus on race as a factor.
- **Former Rep Ralph Massullo elected to Senate** – Former Rep. Massullo, who is a physician, was elected to the Senate to fill the open seat of Blasé Ingoglia in Senate district 11 – Inverness. There is also a new **Rep. Rob Long** (D-Delray Bch) who won a special election in district 90 to replace Rep. Joe Casello, who passed away.
- **Immunization Rule Hearing** – There is a rule hearing in Panama City on Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> to address the school entry immunization requirements. Gov. DeSantis and the Surgeon General of Florida have suggested removing these requirements. There is no language provided ahead of the meeting, but it will most likely focus on MMR, DTap, Polio, Varicella, HiB and Hep B. The FRA strongly opposes these changes and has included this on our issue sheet!!

### **Committee Week Updates:**

- The **Senate** had another very light schedule last week with the Health Policy and the Appropriations subcommittee on Health and Human Services not meeting yet again! Only nine of 21 possible committees met and had only a few bills on the agenda. The Finance and Tax Committee heard a presentation by different property appraisers trying to explain ad valorem valuation. Senate President Albritton sent a memo to Senators saying they are NOT working on redistricting at this time even though the House has created a select committee.
- The **House** was much busier with the Healthcare Facilities and Systems subcommittee passing several bills including the FI Health Choices Program, a pediatric ER bill, a local bill and the surgical smoke bill. The Healthcare Budget committee got an update on the SNAP error rates and the big beautiful bill impact. The Health Professions subcommittee did not meet, and the full HHS committee passed a nursing education bill. The House also passed several bills that will be ready for the floor including lowering the age from 21 to 18 for long gun purchases, an increase in sovereign immunity limits and a civil liability bill for unborn children. The House also heard 4 of the 8 proposed homestead property tax repeals including all non-school property taxes, portability, 65 and older only and an increase of \$200,000 exemption if covered by property insurance. All proposals exempt school expenses and “law enforcement” from local cuts in spending.
- **Next committee week** in the House will be focused on AI in all committees. There is a Social Workers AI bill filed, which would allow AI for certain administrative responsibilities but would prohibit diagnosis and recommendations! Governor DeSantis has also released a AI bill even though a recent executive order from President Trump may supersede it.

The **FRA legislative agenda presently includes** supporting the social workers licensure compact, the living organ donor time off bill, the expanded use of home modalities, improved/accountable transportation options, food is medicine, self-administration of Erythropoietin (ESAs) in Medicaid coverage, continuation of third party payor of insurance premiums, protecting Medi-Gap policies and getting a Medicaid fee increase.

## **KIDNEY DAY 2026** **February 8-10**

*The 20th annual Kidney Day will take place from February 8-10 in Tallahassee. The tentative schedule includes an NKFF walk on Sunday the 8th at 4pm with a nice dinner reception at the private Governors Club Sunday evening. Monday should be a half-day meeting with CE credits being offered, a meeting with AHCA officials and a working reception that night to get prepared for Tuesday at the Capitol. We have reserved the entire 3rd floor Rotunda and will be hosting kidney screenings while we meet with legislators/staff throughout the day.*