

TATE LEVEL:

From the Florida House of Representatives-

This bill passed the Health and Human Services Committee and is scheduled to be considered by the full House of Representatives on Wednesday February 21, 2024, and we expect the bill will pass.

CS/CS/SB 1320 - HIV Infection Prevention Drugs

HIV Infection Prevention Drugs: Authorizing pharmacists to screen adults for HIV exposure and provide the results to such adults, with advice to seek consultation or treatment from a physician; authorizing pharmacists to dispense HIV preexposure prophylaxis drugs only pursuant to a prescription; specifying requirements for the practice agreements; requiring pharmacists who enter into such practice agreements to submit the agreements to the Board of Pharmacy; requiring that pharmacists, before ordering and dispensing HIV postexposure prophylaxis drugs, be certified by the Board of Pharmacy in accordance with rules adopted by the board and approved by the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2024

Last Event: 02/13/24 S CS/CS by Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services read 1st time on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 4:06 PM

NATIONAL LEVEL:

- The FDA's top vaccine regulator, Peter Marks, [testified](#) before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic on Thursday to address the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the agency (subscription required). Marks emphasized the benefits of vaccination, especially considering the emergence of new variants of the virus that pose a higher risk of infection and severe disease. He assured lawmakers and the public that the FDA is closely monitoring the vaccine performance and adverse events, and that the agency is prepared to update the vaccine recommendations as needed. CDC Director of the National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID) Dan Jernigan and HRSA's Director of the Division of Injury Compensation Programs CDR George Reed Grimes also testified at the hearing.
- NIH Deputy Director Michael Lauer testified on Thursday at a House Science Committee [hearing](#) on research security and protecting the US science and technology enterprise, along with White House science adviser Arati Prabhakar and other federal science agency representatives. The hearing discussed the progress and challenges of implementing the research security policies and guidelines that were passed by Congress and the Administration in the past few years. The hearing also addressed the importance of maintaining the openness and diversity of the US research community.
- Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) has [called](#) for permanent telehealth legislation to prevent telehealth from becoming a "just another extender" in the healthcare delivery system (subscription required). The Senator mentioned that telehealth prescribing of controlled substances should continue with proper monitoring. While

telehealth provisions may not be included in the March appropriations package, lawmakers are hopeful that funding will extend the Affordable Connectivity Program

- CMS has released [draft guidance](#) for the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan, which outlines requirements for Medicare Part D plan sponsors for the program's first year, 2025. The Medicare Prescription Payment Plan allows patients to spread costs over the year, allowing them to pay more in a year. The guidance complements CMS' national education and outreach efforts to engage interested parties on program implementation and ensure effective communication.

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