



Rick Scott
Governor

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State Surgeon General

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The Department of Health would like to bring to your attention a number of bills that passed during the 2011 Legislative Session. These bills may affect your practice. Unless otherwise noted the bills will become effective July 1, 2011.

CS/CS/HB 155 Enrolled– Privacy of Firearm Owners

The provisions of this bill take effect upon becoming law. It creates the “Medical privacy act concerning firearms” law and establishes grounds for discipline for violation of certain provisions of the law. It prohibits a licensed health care practitioner or licensed health care facility from intentionally entering any disclosed information concerning firearm ownership into a patient’s health record if the information is not relevant to the patient’s medical care or safety or the safety of others. A health care provider or facility is prohibited from inquiring about the ownership of firearms or ammunition unless the information is relevant to the patient’s medical care or safety or the safety of others. Patients are permitted to decline answers or provide any information concerning the ownership of a firearm; a decision not to answer does not alter existing law regarding a physician’s authority to choose patients.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1319 Enrolled-Certificates/Licenses/Health Care Practitioners

This bill authorizes the department to issue a temporary license to a health care practitioner whose spouse is stationed in Florida on active duty with the Armed Forces if the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for a full license and is qualified to take the licensure examination. It also requires the applicant for a temporary license to pay for fingerprint processing for a criminal history check in addition to the application fee.

It is imperative that you review each of these bills in their entirety to understand and comply with new provisions.

There may be other bills passed by the 2011 Legislature that could affect your practice. Some bills are still awaiting Governor Scott’s signature.