



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH DUDEK
SECRETARY

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AHCA Praises Passage of HB 1245, Relating to Medicaid Provider Overpayments
~ Estimates Show that HB 1245 Will Save State up to \$3 Million Annually ~

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) Secretary Elizabeth Dudek praised the passing of House Bill 1245, authorizing the Agency to certify that a Medicaid provider has gone out of business. Under current law, the Agency has one year to seek repayment from a Medicaid provider for overpayments before refunding the federal share of the overpayment from the state's Medical Care Trust Fund. Florida is required to repay the federal government regardless of the Agency's ability to recoup the overpayment from the provider.

Federal law allows an exemption for the repayment if the state can certify that the provider has gone out of business and the overpayment is not recoverable. Currently, the Agency has no statutory authority to certify that the provider is no longer in business and is unable to make use of the federal exemption. HB 1245 provides the Agency with the mechanism to certify out of business providers and claim the exemption.

Secretary Dudek said, "Our agency works hard to find cost saving measures, and House Bill 1245 is estimated to save the state between \$1-3 million annually. I want to thank the Legislature for giving the Agency this valuable tool that will not only save taxpayers millions, but also allow the Agency to operate more efficiently in certifying that Medicaid providers are no longer in operation."

HB 1245 was sponsored by Rep. Kathleen Peters, R-Treasure Island, and the Senate counterpart was sponsored by Sen. Denise Grimsley, R-Sebring. The bill passed both chambers unanimously.

Rep. Peters said, "Over the last three years, the state of Florida has sent close to \$11 million dollars to the federal government covering providers who fail to pay their bills. House Bill 1245 closes a loophole by giving the Agency the authority to retain these federal moneys, and I am proud to sponsor this legislation that will save the state money."

Sen. Grimsley said, "As technology advances, so must the state's ability to combat fraud. House Bill 1245 increases the Agency's ability to combat Medicaid provider overpayments and fraud by expanding the possible tools Medicaid Program Integrity/Managed Care Plans can use."

The bill will now head to Governor Rick Scott for consideration.

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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 48,500 health care facilities and 45 health plans, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).