

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

**STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

In Re:

SUSPENSION OF STATUTES, RULES,  
AND ORDERS PURSUANT TO  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER  
24-156 MADE NECESSARY BY  
TROPICAL WAVE INVEST 97L

DOH No. 24-001

RECEIVED  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
2024 AUG -2 PM 5:23  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK

**EMERGENCY ORDER**

**WHEREAS**, on August 1, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-156 regarding Invest 97L and declared a state of emergency in 54 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Invest 97L is expected to strengthen into a tropical depression over the weekend and early next week and is projected to constitute a major disaster; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 4 of Executive Order 24-156 authorizes each state agency to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conduct of state business or the orders or rules of that agency, if strict compliance with the provisions of any such statute, order, or rule would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency, and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the Department of Health to expeditiously procure commodities, goods, and services to effectively respond to the threat posed by Invest 97L; and

**WHEREAS**, the threat posed by Invest 97L requires supplemental deployment of licensed health care professionals from neighboring jurisdictions to prevent interruption in the delivery of critical health care services; and





**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to waive certain statutes and rules administered and enforced by the Department of Health, with which strict compliance would prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency, including the provision of medical transport, treatment, and care for patients in Florida,

**NOW THEREFORE I, JOSEPH A. LADAPO, MD, PhD**, pursuant to Section 4.B. Executive Order 24-156, find that strict compliance with the provisions of certain regulatory statutes and rules prescribing the procedures for the conduct of state business by the Florida Department of Health will prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency caused by Invest 97L. In order to effectively respond to the threat posed by Invest 97L, it is necessary to promulgate the following:

**Section 1: Procurement**

Sections 287.055(3)(a)-(d), (4)(a)-(d), (5)(a)-(c), and 287.057(3), Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rules 60A-1.002(4), 60A-1.021(2), and 60A-1.043(1)-(3), are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency and are hereby suspended.

**Section 2: Waiver of Emergency Medical Licensure Requirements**

Sections 401.25(1), 2(d), 401.251(1), (4)(b), Florida Statutes, which require basic life support service providers, advanced life support service providers, and air ambulance services to obtain Florida licenses and certificates of public convenience from each county in which they operate, are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The provisions of sections 401.25(1), 2(d), 401.251(1), (4)(b), Florida Statutes, are hereby suspended for any basic life support service provider, advanced life support service



provider, and air ambulance service provider that holds a valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license in any state, territory, and/or district while providing services necessary to prepare for, respond to, or mitigate the effects of Invest 97L.

**Section 3: Waiver of Practitioner Licensure Requirements**

Sections 456.065(2) and 401.41(1)(b), Florida Statutes, which establish penalties for the unlicensed practice of health care professions in Florida, are likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The provisions of sections 456.065(2) and 401.41(1)(b), Florida Statutes, are hereby suspended for any health care professional listed below that holds a valid, unrestricted, and unencumbered license in any state, territory, and/or district while providing services necessary to prepare for, respond to, or mitigate the effects of Invest 97L. The permitted provision of health care services under this section is limited to the following licensees:

- a. Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians under Chapter 401, Florida Statutes.

**Section 4: Prescription Drug Monitoring Reporting**

Section 893.055(3)(a), Florida Statutes, which requires dispensers to report controlled substance prescription data to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program within one business day, is likely to impede the Department of Health's ability to take actions needed to effectively facilitate the mitigation, response, and recovery necessary to respond to this emergency. The Department of Health authorizes a reporting extension in accordance with Section 893.055(3)(a), Florida Statutes, for up to 30 days.



**STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

The effective dates of this Emergency Order correspond with the effective dates of Executive Order 24-156, and any extension thereof.

Executed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August 2024, in Department of Health Offices, Tallahassee, Leon County, Florida.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ladapo".

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**JOSEPH A. LADAPO, MD, PhD  
STATE SURGEON GENERAL**