

2025 | State Legislative Session *Final Report*



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

[Insert Photo of Fort Lauderdale City Commission]

Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor

John Herbst
Vice Mayor

Steve Glassman
Commissioner | District 2

Pamela Beasley-Pittman
Commissioner | District 3

Ben Sorensen
Commissioner | District 4

Rickelle Williams
City Manager

Daphnee A. Sainvil
Public Affairs Manager

Table of Contents

Introduction 3

City Appropriations 4

Office of Policy and Budget Review of Local Government Authority | Section 124 Summary 7

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport 8

Office of Management and Budget 9

Comms & IT 24

Community Affairs 24

Economic Development 34

Education 37

Finance 40

Human Resources 41

Parks and Recreation..... 42

Public Safety 43

Public Works 48

Transportation 52

Introduction

The 2025 State Regular Legislative Session was defined by significant budget reductions, dynamic power shifts, and intensive negotiations. Commencing on March 4, 2025, and concluding on June 16, 2025 – six (6) weeks beyond the originally scheduled adjournment of May 2, 2025 – the Session was marked by extended budget negotiations. Nevertheless, lawmakers ultimately reached consensus, enacting a comprehensive budget, a tax package focused on the needs of Floridians, and a range of impactful policy measures.

In total, 1,989 bills were filed, with 269 passing both chambers. The Legislature approved a \$115.1 billion budget (SB 2500), which now awaits the Governor's review and line-item veto authority through July 1.

Throughout the Session, our contract teams collaborated closely with the City Manager's Office to advance the City's legislative priorities and secure appropriations, while also successfully opposing measures that would have imposed unfunded mandates or preempted local authority. We tracked approximately 350 bills and secured \$5.32 million in funding for key city projects.

This Final Report provides a summary of significant legislation—both passed and failed—as well as a focused overview of budget items relevant to the City. All referenced bills are linked within the report.

City Appropriations

The city submitted 12 projects totaling \$11,720,000. At the end of Session, the Legislature funded 9 for a total of \$5,320,000 – all subject to the Governor's veto pen. Below is a brief description of each funded project:

Fire Rescue Special Event Ambulances

Requested Amount: \$320,000 | Amount in budget: \$320,000

Sponsors: Sen. Osgood and Rep. LaMarca

This funding will replace three outdated medical rescue units that are used for special events in Fort Lauderdale. Ensuring reliable emergency response services will improve safety at large-scale events and strengthen the city's capacity for emergency preparedness. The House and Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government agreed – in its first offer – funded the

full requested amount of \$320,000 and closed out the line. This means that the funding is now included in the GAA and subject to the Governor's veto pen.

Homeless Transitional Housing Program***Requested Amount: \$1,000,000 | Amount in budget: \$500,000****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. Rosenwald*

This initiative will establish a transitional shelter facility for those experiencing street homelessness, offering temporary housing and support services. The project aligns with Florida's legislative focus on homelessness reduction and could contribute to a statewide decrease in homelessness rates. The House initially came into conference at \$500,000 and after two rounds – in the Senate's second offer – matched at \$500,000 to close out the line in the House Health Care Budget Subcommittee and Senate Appropriations Committee on Human Services. The funding is now included in the GAA and subject to the Governor's veto pen.

Education Enrichment Program***Requested Amount: \$500,000 | Amount in budget: \$350,000****Sponsors: Rep. Campbell and Sen. Osgood*

Continue to enrich the summer program hosted by the city and promote continuity of learning through expanded academic services in the City's after school program, which has contributed to closing the learning gap children have experienced. The House began by offering \$350,000 in its first offer. The Senate came and matched in their second offer – closing out the line. The funding is now included in the GAA and subject to the Governor's veto pen.

Galt Mile Improvement Project***Requested Amount: \$2,000,000 | Amount in budget: \$500,000 (still being negotiated)****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. LaMarca*

The project involves milling and resurfacing the 28-year-old pavement, widening sidewalks, and enhancing landscaping over 1.5 miles of the Galt Mile Streetscape. Additional upgrades include pedestrian lighting, pavement markings, and regulatory signage, improving safety and accessibility. This project could serve as a model for urban revitalization.

Roadway Resurfacing Project***Requested Amount: \$750,000 | Amount in budget: \$750,000****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. Campbell*

The resurfacing project focuses on city roadways with a pavement condition index (PCI) of 55 or lower, preventing the need for costlier reconstructions. This initiative promotes proactive infrastructure maintenance, improves transportation efficiency, and stimulates local job growth.

Sidewalk Repair Safety Project***Requested Amount: \$750,000 | Amount in budget: \$750,000****Sponsors: Rep. Campbell and Sen. Osgood*

This project intends to construct or reconstruct existing sidewalks within the City's right-of-way. The result of these upgrades will minimize the risk of trip and fall accidents caused by damaged sidewalks. Reconstruction will also improve mobility and compliance with the American Disability Act (ADA) standards.

SE 13th Bridge Replacement Project***Requested Amount: \$1,500,000 | Amount in budget: \$500,000****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. LaMarca*

The SE 13th Bridge has a sufficiency rating of 22.2 and is classified as scour critical and functionally obsolete. The bridge's T-beams show signs of cracks, spalls, and delamination, making a complete replacement necessary for public safety. It also supports job creation and economic growth through construction.

Las Olas Safety Improvements and ADA Upgrades***Requested Amount: \$1,000,000 | Amount in budget: \$1,000,000****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. Rosenwald*

This project will transform Las Olas Boulevard into a complete street that balances regional commuter needs with pedestrian accessibility. The enhancements support the City's Vision Zero Plan, which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries through improved pedestrian safety and ADA compliance. The request has been adjusted from \$5 million, and the project title has been updated from "Las Olas Mobility Project-Shops Segment."

Violence Interruption Program***Requested Amount: \$900,000 | Amount in budget: \$2250,000 (still being negotiated)****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. Gottlieb*

This pilot program focuses on reducing violent crime through evidence-based, data-driven strategies. By implementing a focused-deterrence approach, the initiative seeks to curb gun violence and enhance public safety. If successful, it could serve as a model for other Florida cities. While the House remains strong in its request to fund this project, the Senate did not include funding in its first round of offers. We continue to work with our contract teams and Senator Pizzo to get this included in the Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

Fort Lauderdale Growth Opportunities Program***Requested Amount: \$500,000 | Not included in budget****Sponsors: Sen. Pizzo and Rep. Campbell*

This initiative prepares justice-involved youth and young adults for employment through education, training, apprenticeships, and leadership development. The program aligns with Florida's workforce development and crime reduction strategies and could positively impact public safety and economic growth. While the Senate remains strong in its request to fund this project, the House did not include funding in its first round of offers. We continue to work with our contract teams and Representative Campbell to get this included in the House of Representatives Justice Budget Subcommittee.

Office of Policy and Budget Review of Local Government Authority (FL DOGE)

Found in the Budget Implementing bill – SB 2502, Section 124 grants authority to the Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget to require the following of local governments:

- **Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) Authority**
 - The Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) within the Executive Office of the Governor is **authorized to conduct reviews of local governmental entities, local governing authorities, or units of local general-purpose government.**
 - These reviews will cover their functions, procedures, policies, and expenditures for local fiscal years ending on September 30, 2024, and September 30, 2025.
 - The purpose of these reviews is to identify:
 - Any use of resources for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives that are inconsistent with law.
 - Any evidence of potential gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of resources.
 - Duplicative or redundant government functions.
 - For these reviews, the OPB may review various records, including:
 - Personnel costs, administrative overhead costs, contracts and subcontracts, programs, grants and subgrants, outsourcing, and any other expenditures.
 - Financial documents such as annual financial audits, annual budgets, millage reports, annual financial reports, and other financial account audits or reports.
 - Documents related to personnel standards and expectations, position responsibilities, and employee training and development.
- **Local Government Requirements**
 - **Each local government that received state funding during the current or previous fiscal year must, within 7 business days of a request, provide OPB personnel access to:**
 - Its responsive personnel and subject matter experts.
 - Its physical premises, subject to appropriate security considerations.
 - Its data systems and related data, also subject to appropriate security considerations.
 - This section does not require access to records that are confidential under federal or state laws.
 - Failure to provide access may subject the local government to a fine of \$1,000 per day for noncompliance.
 - Fines can be assessed if recommended by the OPB and approved by a three-fourths vote of the Administration Commission.
 - The assessment of a fine is considered final agency action.
 - Fines collected will be deposited into the General Revenue Fund.
 - Fines are enforced against the local government, not its employees.
 - **Any request for public records by the OPB to a local governmental entity is deemed a request to inspect its public records, subject to ss. 119.11 and 119.12, Florida Statutes, for enforcement.**
- **Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) Reporting**
 - The OPB must compile and submit an initial report by January 13, 2026, to the Governor, the Chief Financial Officer, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
 - This report must, at a minimum, include:

- Identification of each local government reviewed.
- A summary of each review.
- Specific instances of resource use for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives inconsistent with law.
- Specific evidence of potential gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of resources.
- Identification of duplicative or redundant government functions.
- Recommendations for good governance and methods to improve fiscal responsibility and streamline government services.
- The OPB must also provide the Legislative Auditing Committee with any information described as potentially gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement.
- **Additional Information:**
 - Nothing in this section precludes the OPB from engaging in additional activities to support its duties, including encouraging or receiving cooperation from a local government.
 - Section 124 expires on July 1, 2026.

Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport

SB 266 – Tax of Vertical Takeoff and Landing Aircraft, by Sen. Harrell

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This legislation exempts the sale of electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft from state sales tax when sold by a manufacturer to a qualified operator. The exemption applies specifically to sales as defined under state law and clarifies that an eVTOL aircraft is a machine powered by electric propulsion capable of both vertical and horizontal flight, excluding drones. An "operator" is defined as a person authorized under relevant federal aviation regulations. To claim the exemption, operators must comply with departmental rules and provide appropriate sales tax exemption certificates. The bill also provides that the term eVTOL aircraft does not include a drone. Ultimately, it was unable to garnish support to get out of the Senate and Finance and Tax Committee this Session.

HB 1485 – Tax on Aviation Fuel, by Rep. Basabe

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This proposal was not heard in its second committee of reference – House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee. Florida law imposes an excise tax of 4.27 cents on every gallon of aviation fuel sold in the state or brought into the state for use. The bill proposed the elimination of the excise tax on aviation gasoline, aviation turbine fuels and kerosene. It would do this by repealing Part III of Chapter 206, Florida Statutes. The Transportation Revenue Estimating Conference reported \$63 million in gross revenue from the aviation fuel excise tax in Fiscal Year 2023-24. After \$35.7 million in refunds were distributed and \$2.4 million in administrative fees and service charges were deducted, \$24.9 million was transferred to the State Transportation Trust Fund.

Office of Management and Budget

HB 503 – Local Business Taxes, by Rep. Botana | SB 1196, by Sen. Truenow

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This proposal was filed to reform the administration and oversight of local business taxes in Florida. Although both bills were indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration, they outlined significant changes to auditing practices, tax rate structures, and compliance obligations for local governments. The legislation would have required the Auditor General to notify non-compliant local governments regarding deficiencies in local business tax administration, demand corrective actions within set timeframes, and report unresolved noncompliance to the Legislative Auditing Committee.

The proposals also would have authorized certain entities to continue levying existing taxes while restricting the repeal or modification of specific tax ordinances after a future date, with clearly defined exceptions. Additionally, the bills revised the conditions under which taxing authorities could impose local business taxes, introducing provisions to recalculate and cap revenues to prevent excessive collections. If revenues exceeded a defined base level, local governments would have been obligated to adjust tax rates or issue refunds. The legislation further included comprehensive definitions for business classifications and revenue calculations, ensuring transparency and fiscal limits. Finally, local governments would have been required to submit a compliance affidavit with their audit reports, affirming adherence to the revised local business tax provisions.

SB 1664 – Local Option Taxes, by Sen. Trumbull | HB 1221, Rep. Miller

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This failed proposal aimed to introduce stricter requirements for the continuation of certain local option taxes in Florida. Though the bills were ultimately indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration, they would have required that specific taxes be periodically renewed or reenacted through ordinances approved by voter referendum. The proposals sought to establish expiration dates for these taxes, clarify provisions related to existing bond obligations, and create new procedures for holding referenda.

Specifically, the legislation mandated that any tourist development taxes in effect or approved prior to July 1, 2025, must be renewed or reenacted by both ordinance and voter referendum by a designated deadline to remain valid. However, tourist development taxes already pledged to existing bond debts would have been exempt from this renewal requirement until the bonds were fully retired. The bills also required that local option food and beverage taxes be subject to voter referendum reenactment, with clearly defined expiration dates. In addition, discretionary sales surtaxes would have needed to be renewed through referendum votes that included expiration terms and mandated specific financial disclosures when the proceeds were used to support bond indebtedness.

HB 7031 – Sales Tax Rate Reductions (Tax Package), by Ways & Means Committee

Approved by the Legislature during extended Session on June 16, 2025.

This is also considered the new tax package. It proposes to reduce the general rate of Florida's sales tax by 0.75 percent. Additionally, the bill reduces also all other sales tax rates by 0.75 percent. The rate on commercial rent is reduced from two to 1.25 percent, the rate on electricity is reduced from 4.35 to 3.6 percent, the rate on sales of new mobile homes is reduced from three to 2.25 percent, and the rate on coin-operated amusement machines is reduced from four to 3.25 percent; as well as making conforming changes to implement the rate reductions. It was placed in Conference; however, the Senate refused to pass the bill as passed by the House. At the end of the day, the Legislature passed a \$1.3 billion tax package on June 16, 2025. We've highlighted some areas of interest to the city.

Permanent Elimination of Sales Tax on Commercial Leases

Beginning October 1, 2025, the state will permanently eliminate the sales tax on commercial leases. This is accomplished by a full repeal of the relevant statute, which also removes local option surtaxes on these leases. The broad repeal is expected to have a significant negative fiscal impact on both state and local revenues.

Local Communications Services Tax (CST)

The moratorium on increasing local CST rates is extended until 2031. Local governments are now required to prioritize CST revenue for the timely review, processing, and approval of permit applications for the use of rights-of-way by communications providers.

Local Discretionary Surtaxes

Counties are now authorized to reduce or repeal local discretionary surtaxes, providing more flexibility in local tax policy.

Enterprise Zones

The timeframe for local incentive program benefits in enterprise zones is extended from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2035, for multi-phase projects that vested on or before December 31, 2021.

Tourist Development Taxes (TDT)

Tourist Development Tax funds may now be used to employ, train, and equip lifeguards, and Gulf Coast counties are permitted to use TDT funds for infrastructure projects.

Aviation and Natural Gas Fuel Taxes

The aviation fuel tax is fully repealed, eliminating this source of revenue for the state. The imposition of the natural gas fuel tax is delayed until 2030, extending the current tax holiday for this fuel type.

Ad Valorem (Property) Tax Changes

Study to Reduce or Eliminate Property Taxes

The Office of Economic and Demographic Research is directed to conduct a comprehensive study to develop a framework for reducing or eliminating property taxes on homesteaded property. The study is due to the Legislature by fall 2025 and is intended to inform a potential constitutional amendment for the 2026 ballot.

Gold Seal Certified Child Care Facilities

The education property tax exemption is extended to properties leased by Gold Seal certified childcare facilities, broadening the reach of this benefit.

Affordable Housing Exemptions

- The "missing middle" affordable housing exemption is expanded to allow successive owners to apply for and receive the exemption.
- Nonprofits leasing land from a Housing Finance Authority and subleasing for 99 years for affordable housing now qualify for the exemption. The exemption is also extended to projects with agreements with local Housing Finance Authorities.
- A new exemption is created for improvements and land for newly constructed multifamily affordable housing (at least 70 units) on government property leased for at least 30 years for affordable housing purposes.
- A new exemption is established for affordable housing on state-owned lands leased to local governments and subleased to housing providers for at least 70 units for 60 years.

Sales Tax Changes

Sales Tax Holidays

- A permanently recurring, month-long Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday is established for August, covering clothing, shoes, backpacks, school supplies, and computers or related accessories, including software.
- A sales tax holiday for hunting, fishing, and camping supplies will run from September 8 to December 31, 2025.

Permanent Sales Tax Eliminations

- Permanent exemption for certain batteries, fuel tanks, portable generators, tarps, and ground anchors or tie-down kits.
- Permanent exemption for fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, sunscreen, insect repellent, bicycle helmets, and life jackets.
- Admission to Florida State Parks is now permanently exempt from sales tax.
- Gold, silver, and platinum bullion in units under \$500 are exempt from sales tax.

Additional Sales Tax Provisions

- Tickets to the NASCAR Championship Race are exempt from the sales tax on admissions.
- The timeframe for the Department of Revenue to issue sales tax exemption certificates for data centers is extended to June 30, 2037, and the minimum qualifying megawatts is increased to 100.

Corporate and Business Tax Changes

Home Away From Home Tax Credit

A new program provides tax credits to Florida businesses that contribute to charitable organizations housing families of critically ill children at little or no cost while the child receives care.

Rural Communities Investment Program

A new program administered by the Department of Commerce allows investors to earn tax credits against the corporate income tax or insurance premium tax by investing in a rural fund. The program is capped at \$7 million in the first fiscal year and \$35 million cumulatively.

Corporate Income Tax

Charitable trusts are now exempt from the Florida corporate income tax, aligning with federal treatment.

Retirement System Changes

- Regular Class: Normal cost increases from 6.73% to 7.10%; UAL from 4.84% to 4.87%.
- Special Risk Class: Normal cost increases from 18.66% to 20.10%; UAL from 12.07% to 13.03%.
- Special Risk Administrative Support Class: Normal cost decreases from 11.54% to 10.88%; UAL increases from 26.22% to 26.54%.

- Elected Officer Class (County): Normal cost decreases from 12.39% to 11.79%; UAL decreases from 44.23% to 40.72%.
- Senior Management Service Class: Normal cost increases from 8.56% to 8.73%; UAL decreases from 23.90% to 22.45%.
- Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP): Normal cost increases from 8.49% to 9.37%; UAL remains nearly unchanged.

A provision allowing elected officers (other than legislators) to remain in office and continue to receive DROP after age 59.5 was not included. The changes are estimated to have a fiscal impact of -\$149.3 million on counties and -\$18.4 million on other entities statewide.

PreK-12 Education

- \$25 million in funding is provided for Schools of Hope, with revised criteria and new district requirements.
- Lab School funding is moved through the FEFP, a neutral change for PPCS.
- Funding levels for AP/IB/AICE/Dual Enrollment are maintained but moved to a different categorical.
- Adjustments are made to FEFP and School Readiness Reimbursement Rates.

Natural Resources

- The previous session's dedication of Seminole Gaming Compact revenues to conservation lands, resiliency, and clean water infrastructure is repealed.
- The Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan Tier 1 criteria now include the degree to which a project reduces flood risk and increases credits for communities in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.
- At least 25% of the water quality grant program must go to rural areas.

Health & Human Services

- Medicaid: Provides continuous eligibility for permanently disabled persons currently receiving Medicaid services. The Agency for Health Care Administration is authorized to provide financial assistance to high-cost Medicaid recipients if cost-effective.
- Cancer Research: Expands the Cancer Innovation Fund to include screening, sets criteria for recipients, and creates the Cancer Connect Collaborative Research Incubator, prioritizing pediatric cancer. Establishes the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute VisionGen Initiative for inherited eye diseases and ocular oncology.
- Colorectal Cancer Screening: Expands optional Medicaid services and requires managed care plans to cover blood biomarker testing.
- TEACH Funding Program: Now includes publicly funded nonprofit organizations serving Medicaid or low-income patients in health professional shortage areas, with a \$22/hour reimbursement rate for nursing students.
- Nursing Homes: Establishes criteria for medical directors, requires consumer satisfaction and patient safety surveys in the Quality Incentive Program, and imposes new data reporting and fines for noncompliance.

City Attorney's Office

SB 42 – Florida Statutes, by Sen. Passidomo | HB 7017, by Rules & Ethics Committee

Approved by the Governor on April 10, 2025 | Chapter 2025-6

The Division of Law Revision of the Office of Legislative Services is required, by statute, to conduct a systematic and continuing study of the Florida Statutes. The purpose of this study is to recommend to the Legislature changes that will remove inconsistencies, redundancies, and unnecessary repetition from the statutes; improve clarity and facilitate correct interpretation; correct grammatical and typographical errors; delete obsolete, repealed, or superseded provisions; and revise statutory provisions to conform to directives of the Legislature. These recommendations are submitted to the Legislature in the form of technical, nonsubstantive reviser's bills.

SB 1730 – Affordable Housing | HB 943 – Real Property and Land Use and Development (Live Local Expansion)

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

The Live Local Act, originally enacted in 2023, was designed to accelerate the development of affordable multifamily rental housing by preempting certain county and municipal zoning and land use regulations. The 2025 amendments further refine and clarify the Act, streamlining the approval process and removing barriers that previously hindered affordable housing projects across Florida.

Under the updated law, local governments are now expressly permitted to approve affordable housing developments on parcels owned by religious institutions, expanding the range of available sites for such projects. The amendments also prohibit local governments from requiring developers to obtain a transfer of density or development units, or to pursue amendments to developments of regional impact, before moving forward with a proposed multifamily development. This change is intended to eliminate procedural hurdles and expedite project timelines.

For projects located within historic districts listed in the National Register of Historic Places, local governments may restrict building height or require compliance with local architectural design standards, provided these requirements do not affect the development's allowable height, floor area ratio, or density. This provision seeks to balance historic preservation with the need for affordable housing.

Parking requirements have also been addressed. Upon request, local governments must reduce parking requirements by 15 percent for developments situated within a quarter mile of a transit stop, within a half mile of a major transportation hub, or with available parking within 600 feet of the proposed site. Additionally, local governments may authorize the inclusion of adjacent parcels within a proposed multifamily development, increasing flexibility for project design and land assembly.

The amendments introduce new legal protections for affordable housing developers. Courts are now required to prioritize civil actions filed against local governments for violations of affordable housing laws, and prevailing parties are entitled to attorney fees and costs, capped at \$250,000. Local governments are also prohibited from imposing building moratoria that would delay permitting or construction of affordable or mixed-use residential developments.

Finally, the Act establishes annual reporting requirements for local governments, mandating disclosure of litigation and project approvals related to affordable housing under the Live Local Act. Collectively, these changes are intended to streamline the development process, provide greater certainty for developers, and reinforce the state's commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

SB 100 – Display of Flags by Governmental Entities, by Sen. Fine | HB 76, Rep. Borrero

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This proposal would have prohibited a governmental agency, local government, or other unit of local government, including a public school, college, or university, from erecting or displaying a flag that represents a political viewpoint, including a politically partisan, racial, sexual orientation, gender, or political ideological viewpoint.

Further, any governmental entity that displays the United States flag must do so in a way the United States flag is in a more prominent position than any other displayed flag. The bill would have allowed an active or retired member of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard to use reasonable force to prevent the desecration, destruction, or removal of the United States flag, or to replace it to a prominent position, except when directly ordered not to do so by a law enforcement officer who is acting in the scope of his or her employment.

SB 120 – Homeowners’ Association Ombudsman, by Sen. Burgess | HB 137, by Rep. Edmonds
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Had it not been withdrawn, this bill would have created an Office of the Homeowners’ Association Ombudsman within Florida’s Department of Business and Professional Regulation. The ombudsman, appointed by the Governor, would oversee homeowners’ associations, facilitate dispute resolution, monitor elections upon request, and help clarify and enforce homeowners’ rights and association rules. The office would also have reporting duties and the authority to establish branch offices and hire staff.

SB 184 – Housing, by Sen. Gaetz
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This measure sought to streamline the use of reusable tenant screening reports by authorizing landlords to accept such reports and prohibiting related fees. It would have required local governments to permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in single-family residential zones, eliminating previous requirements such as owner-occupancy affidavits. The measure also would have prohibited denial of homestead exemptions solely due to the presence of an ADU and mandates separate taxation if the ADU is rented.

Additionally, it would have expanded local government density bonus incentives to include property donations for affordable housing targeted at military families. It would have directed the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to study the role of mezzanine financing and tiny homes in affordable housing solutions.

SB 226 – Smoking in Public Places, by Sen. Gruters
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have updated Florida’s laws on smoking and vaping in public places by expanding definitions and restrictions to include both tobacco and marijuana products. It clarified legislative intent to protect the public from exposure to secondhand smoke and vapor, while allowing exceptions for medical research and approved cessation programs. The bill broadened the definition of “public place” to cover locations such as streets, parks, hospitals, and retail establishments, and extended prohibitions on smoking and vaping to all enclosed indoor workplaces and public areas, except for unfiltered cigars. Additionally, it specifically banned the smoking or vaping of marijuana products in airport smoking rooms and updated statutory references for consistency.

HB 1033 - Immigration Status and Employment Eligibility, by Rep. Tant
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have strengthened enforcement of employment eligibility laws in Florida by requiring all private employers to use the E-Verify system, expanding the definition of “employee,” and increasing penalties for hiring unauthorized aliens. Oversight would have shifted to the Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency, with escalating fines and license revocations for violations. The bill also barred violators from future public contracts and allowed law enforcement to use E-Verify to check the immigration status of detained individuals.

SB 782 – Immigration, by Sen. Pizzo

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have required all private employers in Florida to use the E-Verify system to verify new employees’ work eligibility, regardless of company size. It expanded the enforcement role of the Office of Economic Accountability and Transparency, increased fines and strengthened penalties for employing unauthorized aliens, and allowed law enforcement to use E-Verify to investigate the immigration status of detained individuals. The bill also barred contractors who violated these provisions from future public contracts and directed collected fines to the Florida Highway Patrol Safety Operating Trust Fund.

HB 1435 - Immigration and State-issued Identification, by Rep. Joseph | SB 1668, by Sen. Smith

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have expanded protections and rights for immigrants in Florida by establishing the Office for New Americans to promote inclusion and address workforce needs. It would have eased driver license requirements for foreign nationals, limited the sharing of certain information with immigration enforcement agencies, and repealed statutes requiring patient immigration status data collection. The bill also restricted local law enforcement from conducting immigration enforcement near sensitive locations, decriminalized certain activities related to immigration status, allowed Form I-9 as an alternative to E-Verify for employment verification, improved educational access for immigrant children, and prohibited discrimination based on immigration status in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

SB 1668 - Immigration and State-issued Identification, by Sen. Smith (C)

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have overhauled Florida’s immigration policies to promote economic prosperity and inclusivity for immigrants. It would have established the Office for New Americans to support integration and economic mobility, broadened acceptable identification for driver licenses, and restricted the sharing of personal data with immigration enforcement agencies. The bill also removed E-Verify requirements for certain private employers, extended anti-discrimination protections to cover immigration status, and enhanced services and protections for immigrant children and families. Additional provisions included repealing several state immigration enforcement measures, ensuring access to professional licenses for lawful immigrants, and waiving out-of-state fees for eligible immigrant students in higher education

SB 1498 - Services to Noncitizens, by Sen. Ingoglia

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have tightened state regulations on legal aid, housing assistance, employment verification, and financial services for noncitizens and unauthorized aliens in Florida. It authorized counties to require proof of lawful presence for financial aid, prohibited state and local entities from providing down payment assistance to noncitizens who are not lawfully present (with violations resulting in repayment and foreclosure), and barred future aid to those found ineligible even if their status later changed. Eligibility

for state homeownership programs would be limited to individuals lawfully present in the U.S. The bill also increased penalties for employers hiring unauthorized aliens, mandated E-Verify use by all private employers starting July 2025 and required money services businesses to verify clients' legal status for foreign remittance transfers, with audits and penalties for noncompliance.

HB 301 – Suits Against the Government, by Rep. McFarland | SB 1570, by Sen. DiCegile

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have increased the liability limits for tort claims against state and local government entities, with phased caps based on when a claim arises. It allowed government subdivisions to settle claims above these limits without requiring legislative approval and prohibited insurance policies from tying benefit payments to the passage of a claim bill. The bill also reduced the deadline for filing most claims from three years to eighteen months and shortened the period for state agencies to respond to claims from six to four months. Additionally, it revised the statute of limitations for government tort claims, including new exceptions for certain minor sexual assault cases, and updated related statutes referencing sovereign immunity.

HB 393 – My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program, by Rep. Lopez | SB 592, by Sen. Leek

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

This bill requires condominium associations to comply with milestone inspection and structural integrity reserve requirements before applying for inspections or grants under the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program. It lowers the approval threshold for grant applications to 75% of unit owners, clarifies that grants must be matched with \$1 from the association for every \$2 provided by the state, and updates the types of roof improvements eligible for funding. Additionally, the bill specifies that grant funds may only be awarded for mitigation improvements that result in an insurance credit, discount, or other rate differential.

SB 420 – Official Actions of Local Governments, by Sen. Yarborough

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have prohibited counties and municipalities in Florida from funding, promoting, or taking official actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. It defined DEI broadly, voided existing local DEI policies, and banned the use of public funds for DEI offices or officers. The bill made violations by elected official's grounds for misfeasance or malfeasance, allowed residents to sue local governments over violations, and required contract or grant recipients to certify non-engagement with DEI activities. Exceptions were provided for actions required by law and basic administrative support by nonelected bodies.

SB 482 – Impact Fees, by Sen. DiCegile

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have amended Florida statutes to add new definitions and stricter requirements for local governments seeking to increase impact fees. It defined "plan-based methodology" for projecting growth and capital needs, and "extraordinary circumstances" for cases requiring fee increases beyond standard limits. The bill mandated a demonstrated-need study using local data before any such increase, required multi-session public workshops, and set a two-thirds approval threshold by the governing body. It also prohibited impact fee increases if fees had not been adjusted in the previous five years (except in disaster years) and voided increases unless justified by specific, documented needs. These changes aimed to ensure that impact fee increases are transparent, data-driven, and limited to well-justified situations.

HB 665 – Local Government Impact Fees and Development Permits and Orders, by Rep. Steele

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have prohibited local governments in Florida from requiring developers to install or pay for works of art as a condition for development permits, invalidating any conflicting local ordinances or regulations. It also established new definitions and stricter requirements for increasing impact fees, including the use of a “plan-based methodology” with localized data and a requirement for a demonstrated-need study before certain fee increases. The bill introduced “extraordinary circumstances” as a threshold for exceeding established impact fee caps and barred increases if no adjustments had been made in the previous five years, except in hurricane disaster years.

HB 517 – Pub. Rec./ Municipal Clerks and Staff, by Rep. Casello

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

If this bill had passed, it would have exempted the personal information of municipal clerks and their staff from disclosure of public records. Specifically, it would have protected details such as home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of these individuals. The exemption would have extended to include similar personal information about their spouses and children, including names, addresses, contact information, birth dates, employment details, and the names and locations of schools or daycare facilities attended by their children. The bill also included a provision for review and potential repeal by October 2, 2030, in accordance with the Open Government Sunset Review Act.

HB 623 – Pub. Rec./County and City Administrators and Managers, by Rep. Gerwig

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

If this bill had passed, it would have exempted the personal identifying and location information of current county and city administrative officials and their families from public records requirements. The exemption would have covered details such as home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of the officials, as well as the names, addresses, contact information, and employment details of their spouses and children. It would also include the names and locations of schools and daycare facilities attended by their children. The bill emphasized the necessity of the exemption to protect these individuals from potential harm due to their roles in public decision-making and included a sunset provision requiring legislative review and reenactment by 2030.

HB 583 – Registration of Agents and Organizations Associated with Foreign Countries of Concern, by Rep. Owen

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Had it been enacted, this bill would have established registration requirements for individuals and organizations acting as agents of foreign countries of concern—specifically China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela (Maduro regime), Qatar, and Syria—when engaging in political activity in Florida. Political activity is defined to include efforts to influence the public, public officials, elections, or government policies.

Agents would have been required to register with the Division of Elections within 10 days of becoming an agent and update their registration every 90 days. The registration form, created by the Division, would have required detailed information, including personal and business addresses, affiliations, financial transactions, and the nature of political activities conducted on behalf of the foreign country.

Additionally, the bill would have required all foreign-supported political organizations to register with the Division by January 1, 2026, and disclose leadership information, political expenditures, and foreign financial involvement, with updates every 90 days. Enforcement authority would have been granted to the Florida Elections Commission, with penalties ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 for violations, depending on severity and frequency.

SB 766 – Registration of Agents and Organizations Associated with Foreign Countries of Concern, by Sen. Burgess

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill proposed enhanced transparency measures by requiring certain agents and political organizations affiliated with foreign countries of concern to register and regularly report their activities and financial transactions.

Specifically, it would have created a new section in Florida law mandating that agents register with the Division of Elections within 10 days of acting on behalf of a foreign country of concern. It would have also required both agents and foreign-supported political organizations to update their registrations at least every 90 days.

The registration would have included detailed information such as addresses, business and political activities, and payments received or made. To ensure compliance, the bill outlined enforcement measures including monetary fines and potential disqualification from future political activities.

SB 768 – Foreign Countries of Concern, by Sen. Calatayud | HB 1543, by Rep. Busatta

Approved by the Governor on May 27, 2025 | Chapter 2025-6

This bill, which has been successfully passed, modifies licensure requirements for health care providers in Florida by focusing restrictions on direct ownership ties to foreign countries of concern or scrutinized companies. Under the new law, health care providers must ensure that any person or entity with a direct controlling interest in their organization does **not** hold an interest in a business that has ties to countries of concern—such as China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, the Maduro regime in Venezuela, or Syria—or that is otherwise prohibited under statutes targeting scrutinized companies (e.g., those boycotting Israel or operating in sanctioned nations).

The bill removes the requirement for providers to vet indirect controlling interests, thereby easing compliance burdens, particularly for licensees who may not have access to such indirect ownership information. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

HB 679 – Term Limits for Members of County Commissions and District School Boards, by Rep. Salzman | SB 802, by Sen. Ingolia

Died in Senate Rule and Community Affairs

Had it passed, this joint resolution would have proposed an amendment to the Florida Constitution to establish term limits for county commissioners and school district board members, limiting them to eight consecutive years in office. The term limits would have applied to county commissioners beginning with terms starting after November 3, 2026, and to school board members for terms beginning on or after November 8, 2022.

The resolution also included a provision allowing a term-limited county commissioner elected from a single-member district to run for a county-wide office, such as chairperson or county mayor, if permitted by the county charter. If approved by the Legislature, the proposed constitutional amendment would have appeared on the 2026 general election ballot for voter consideration. The measure was determined to have no fiscal or economic impact.

SB 860 – Political Advertisements by Governmental Officials, by Sen. Smith

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Had it passed, the Broadcast Freedom Protection Act would have aimed to protect the independence of broadcasters and ensure the integrity of political advertising related to statewide ballot initiatives in Florida. The bill would have prohibited elected or appointed government officials from using their position to influence a broadcaster's decision to air or reject such ads. It clearly defined key terms such as "broadcaster," "elected or appointed official," and "statewide ballot initiative."

The legislation would have made it a third-degree felony for any official to threaten or coerce a broadcaster regarding political content. Additional penalties could have included removal from office and permanent disqualification from holding future public office. The bill also would have empowered the Florida Commission on Ethics to investigate violations and recommend penalties. Furthermore, it would have allowed affected individuals or organizations to file complaints or seek legal remedies, including injunctive relief, through the Commission or the courts.

HB 983 – Homeowner's Associations | SB 368, Sen. Garcia

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Had it passed, this bill would have significantly overhauled Florida's homeowners' association (HOA) laws, streamlining operations, clarifying financial and election procedures, and introducing new requirements for privately-owned recreational amenities.

The bill would have removed the term "amenity fee" from the legal definition of "assessment" and introduced a new definition for "financial statements," while affirming that recreational covenants are not part of an HOA's governing documents. It would have added legislative findings on private property rights, authorized homeowners to petition the Office of the Condominium Ombudsman to oversee HOA elections and created a new legal framework—Part IV—for regulating privately-owned recreational amenities.

Major changes to election procedures would have included eliminating certain secret ballot requirements, disallowing proxies, establishing strict notice timelines, and clarifying that delinquent owners and co-owners are ineligible to run. The bill also would have revised recall procedures to prevent the suspension of voting rights, allowed for immediate effectiveness of recalls upon board meeting, and set new conditions for challenging recalls.

Private amenity owners would have been required to provide annual financial reports to residents, while HOAs would have been barred from collecting dues on their behalf. The bill also would have revised dispute resolution processes by allowing faster hearings without juries, awarding attorney fees to prevailing parties, and permitting some legal actions without prior mediation.

Finally, the bill would have required broader disclosure for prospective homebuyers – including bylaws, financial reports, and meeting minutes—and allowed buyers to cancel a sale within three business days if disclosures were not received. It also would have limited annual increases to amenity dues and mandated transparency and notice requirements for properties subject to private recreational covenants.

SB 110 – Rural Communities, by Sen. Simon

Failed during Conference in extended Session

This bill – the Senate President’s priority – aimed to overhaul professional licensing under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), dissolve or consolidate various boards, and shift regulatory authority to the DBPR. It would have reduced or eliminated continuing education requirements for professions like barbers, engineers, and CPAs.

It proposed to prohibit the creation of new Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs) after July 1, 2025, and to sunset existing CRAs no later than September 30, 2045. The bill also aimed to streamline permitting processes, exempting certain small-scale residential projects from permit requirements and easing post-disaster rebuilding rules. Additionally, it proposed deregulating several licensing and education mandates across industries, including hotel and food service, engineering, accounting, and barbershops. Notably, it introduced enhanced oversight of consumable hemp sales and telehealth for veterinary services. These sweeping reforms were intended to modernize state regulatory frameworks and reduce administrative burdens on both local governments and businesses. Finally, the bill sought to terminate certain community redevelopment agencies by 2025, limit local permit denials tied to landscaping post-disaster, and expand rural development programs and funding.

Originally focused on rural development, this bill was significantly expanded through a House amendment to include broad reforms under the new title “Community and Economic Development (HB 991).” It was ultimately rejected by the Senate. Had they concurred, the bill would have restructured oversight of professional licensure and community redevelopment.

SB 1098 – Elections, by Sen. Martin | HB 1249, by Rep. Black

Died in Ethics and Elections and House Government Operations Subcommittee

This proposal would have revised candidate qualification procedures, added strict deadlines, and allowed legal challenges to candidacy within 20 days of filing. It would have tightened rules around voter guides, campaign affiliations, and political advertising. If it passed, election procedures would have become more rigorous and transparent, with clearer standards for candidate eligibility and stronger oversight of political materials. Further, it would have standardized the candidate withdrawal process, clarified deadlines for qualification paperwork, and regulate political advertising and party affiliations.

HB 1203 – Elections, by Rep. Barnaby | SB 396, by Sen. Garcia

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill proposed comprehensive election security reforms, including new audit procedures, stricter identification verification for mail-in ballots, and defined roles for poll watchers. It also introduced penalties for unauthorized election activities. Had it passed, it would have bolstered election integrity but added administrative burdens for election officials and may have complicated voting for some citizens.

HB 1381 – Elections, by Rep. Persons-Mulicka

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

HB 1381 aimed to enhance electoral transparency by requiring documentation of citizenship for voter registration, refining voter database management, and updating recount and ballot handling procedures. If passed, the bill would have fortified the accuracy of voter rolls but could have introduced new barriers to registration, particularly for naturalized citizens.

SB 1414 – Elections, Sen. Ingoglia

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill proposed that the Attorney General must seek a Supreme Court opinion on constitutional amendments, increased election crimes oversight, and revised absentee ballot procedures. It also addressed election contest procedures and ballot access for overseas voters. If passed, it would have centralized review of ballot measures and tightened absentee voting protocols, potentially reducing fraud but also adding new steps for voters and election officials.

SB 1416 - Election Dates for Municipal Office, by Sen. DiCeglie

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

SB 1416 would have required all municipal elections, including runoffs, to occur during statewide primary and general elections, eliminating local control over election dates. If passed, it would have increased voter turnout in local races but limited municipalities' flexibility and required term extensions for current officeholders.

SB 1188 - Local Governing Authorities, by Sen. McClain

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill focused on limiting local government authority by exempting certain school construction projects from concurrency rules, banning traffic-stacking ordinances at schools, and preventing extra development restrictions on charter schools. If it had passed, it would have eased development near schools and supported charter school growth, but at the expense of local planning autonomy.

HB 1205 - Amendments to the State Constitution, by Rep. Persons-Mulicka

Approved by the Governor on May 2, 2025 | Chapter 2025-21

Beginning July 1, 2025, a new bill will significantly tighten regulations around the citizen initiative petition process in Florida. It mandates that all petition circulators, whether paid or volunteer, must register with the Division of Elections and be both Florida residents and U.S. citizens. Convicted felons may not circulate petitions unless their voting rights have been restored. The bill limits unregistered individuals from holding no more than 25 signed petitions (excluding their own or close family members') and invalidates any petition forms submitted by ineligible or unregistered circulators. Additional voter information must now be included on petition forms, and deadlines for submitting them to county election supervisors are updated.

Starting October 1, 2025, supervisors must notify voters once their petition signature is verified and must also provide a process to revoke that signature. The bill also shifts the financial impact review process to occur before signature collection begins and requires that this impact statement appear on the petition form. If substantial changes are made to a petition, it must be refiled, and all previously collected forms are void. Finally, the bill imposes higher fines and new criminal penalties for violations, creating a more restrictive and regulated environment for citizen-driven ballot initiatives in Florida.

HB 1209 - Land Use and Development Regulations, by Rep. Steele

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have significantly altered Florida's land use framework by streamlining the development process for agricultural enclaves. It would have allowed enclave owners to bypass traditional comprehensive plan amendments, treating their projects as conforming uses regardless of local zoning rules. The bill aimed to limit local government authority by prohibiting them from imposing stricter

regulations on agricultural enclaves and would have made comprehensive plan approvals more difficult by requiring a supermajority vote. It also would have introduced faster approvals for infill housing and required clearer financial disclosures in communities with recreational covenants. Overall, the bill would have shifted land use power from local to state-level processes, accelerating development and reducing local oversight.

HB 1257 - Property Tax Benefits for Residential Properties, by Rep. Busatta | HB 1259, by Busatta
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This joint resolution proposed creating substantial new property tax exemptions for certain long-term rental properties owned by individuals who also claim a homestead exemption elsewhere in Florida. It would have introduced two \$25,000 exemptions and capped annual assessment increases. Additionally, it proposed a temporary 5-year exemption (up to 50% of property value) for first-time homestead applicants, gradually phasing out by 20% annually. These changes would have expanded tax relief for specific property owners and incentivized residential leasing, while reducing non-school property tax revenues for local governments.

HB 1259 would have implemented the constitutional changes proposed by HB 1257. If the amendment were approved by voters in 2026, this bill would have established the process for applying the tax exemptions to eligible non-homestead properties and created the 5-year temporary exemption for new homestead claimants. It also specified the method of assessment limitation for long-term leased properties. Together with HB 1257, this measure would have increased housing affordability for renters and provided tax savings to landlords meeting eligibility requirements, though at the cost of reduced tax revenue for cities and counties.

HB 1399 - Emergency Powers During a Declared Public Health Emergency, by Rep. Miller
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill would have curtailed the Governor's power during public health emergencies by shortening the maximum duration of such declarations from 60 to 30 days and requiring renewals within that window. Once expired, a declaration could not be reinstated. It also would have empowered the Legislature to terminate public health emergencies or related executive orders via concurrent resolution and barred the State Health Officer from declaring similar emergencies after legislative termination. These changes would have significantly increased legislative oversight and limited executive authority in managing future public health crises.

HB 1581 – Local Government Salaries and Benefits, by Rep. Buchanan
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill, which was indefinitely postponed, sought to impose stricter oversight on compensation increases for local elected officials. It would have required that any increases to salaries, retirement benefits, or other forms of compensation for members of county, municipal, or special district governing bodies be approved by a majority of voters during a general election in a presidential election year. It preserved retirement increases tied to the Florida Retirement System and provided detailed conditions for how commissioner salaries should be set in different types of counties. The bill aimed to enhance public accountability and reduce the potential for self-approved salary increases, ensuring such changes undergo voter scrutiny.

SB 1694 – Prohibited Preferences in Government Contracting, by Sen. Fine
Withdrawn from consideration.

Also indefinitely postponed, this bill proposed eliminating race, ethnicity, or minority status as factors in awarding government contracts. It would have repealed statutes and provisions supporting minority business enterprise programs, removed related reporting and certification requirements, and dissolved the Office of Supplier Diversity. The bill aimed to establish a race-neutral procurement framework but would have significantly reduced support and opportunities previously provided to minority-owned businesses in public contracting, likely impacting supplier diversity initiatives and economic inclusion efforts across state and local agencies.

HB 1445 – Public Officers and Employees, by Rep. Mayfield | SB 1760, by Sen. Grall

Presented to Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025.

Unanimously passed, this legislation imposes new residency and citizenship requirements on high-ranking state officials and appointees. Starting in October 2025, certain executive and quasi-public positions must be held by U.S. citizens who are Florida residents. Additional criteria for university system board members will take effect in 2027, requiring them to be either Florida residents or graduates of Florida universities. The bill also prohibits reimbursement for travel between an official's residence and department headquarters. Its effects include reinforcing state-level loyalty and accountability among top officials and reducing public spending on local commuting costs for government executives.

HB 4037 – Downtown Development Authority of City of Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, by Rep. LaMarca

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025.

This local bill, which passed unanimously, eliminates the previously established sunset date for the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) of Fort Lauderdale, effectively allowing the DDA to continue indefinitely unless dissolved by future legislation. Upon dissolution, the DDA's assets will be transferred to the City of Fort Lauderdale. The continuation of the DDA ensures ongoing management and promotion of economic development in the downtown area, supporting long-term planning and investment without the disruption of statutory expiration.

HB 4039 – Broward County, by LaMarca

Died in Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee

Stalled in the subcommittee, this bill aimed to exempt specific entertainment districts—such as Holiday Park in Fort Lauderdale and areas in Sunrise and Coral Springs—from "Tied House Evil" restrictions under Florida's Beverage Law, which limit relationships between alcohol manufacturers and vendors. By creating exceptions, the bill would have enabled more flexible business arrangements in those areas, likely encouraging investment and increased alcohol-related revenues. An economic impact analysis projected a revenue increase of up to \$195,000 in the first two years post-enactment, underscoring its potential financial benefit to local governments. We can expect this proposal to come back in 2026.

SB 1622 – Beaches, by Sen. Trumbull | HB 6043, by Rep. Andrade

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025.

This bill, which passed unanimously, repeals the statutory procedures that governed how governments assert public recreational use of private beaches (known as "customary use"). It returns authority to local

governments to adopt customary use ordinances without the need for public hearings or judicial proceedings outlined in the previous law. Property owners wishing to contest such ordinances must now file lawsuits. The bill also facilitates beach restoration in certain Gulf Coast counties by declaring the mean high-water line as the erosion control line and easing procedural requirements. These changes streamline restoration efforts and reinforce public access to eroded beaches, while potentially increasing legal disputes over private property rights.

Communications & Information Technology

HB 1183 – Cybersecurity Incident Liability, by Rep. Giallombardo

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill, which was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration, aimed to limit the legal liability of local governments and private entities in the event of cybersecurity incidents. Specifically, it would have granted immunity to counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions from lawsuits related to such incidents if they demonstrated substantial compliance with cybersecurity standards, aligned with established cybersecurity frameworks, maintained disaster recovery plans, and implemented multi-factor authentication. Private entities and third-party agents would have been afforded a legal presumption against liability in class action lawsuits under similar conditions. Entities regulated by federal or state cybersecurity laws could also qualify for this protection by showing substantial compliance with those applicable requirements.

Had it been enacted, the bill could have had a positive fiscal impact by reducing legal exposure and associated costs for both public and private sectors. It also had the potential to lessen the burden on the state court system by decreasing the volume of litigation related to cybersecurity breaches. However, the overall fiscal effect remains uncertain, as it would depend on the number of cases affected and how frequently the legal protections would be successfully invoked.

Community Affairs

HB 89 – Food Insecure Areas, by Rep. Rayner

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This legislation sought to revise various elements of the Homeowners' Association Act (HOA Act) with the aim of increasing transparency and property rights protections. Among its goals, the bill intended to

clarify the applicability of statutory changes to existing HOAs based on whether their governing documents included "Kaufman language," meaning they incorporated the HOA Act as amended over time. The bill aimed to codify legislative intent to preserve individual property rights, safeguard the taxable value of property, and promote environmentally responsible development. Ultimately, the proposed changes would have enhanced standards of property management and ensured the Act better reflected the evolving needs of parcel owners and their communities.

HB 365 – Rent of Affordable Housing Dwelling Units, by Rep. Tendrich | SB 382, by Sen Bernard
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill proposed new protections for tenants living in affordable housing by restricting rent increases during the term of a rental agreement. Specifically, landlords who receive public funding or tax incentives for providing affordable housing would have been prohibited from raising rent during active lease periods, although increases could occur upon lease renewal. The bill applied only to new rental agreements of 13 months or less, starting July 1, 2026, and included exceptions for rent increases required by federal law. Had it passed, the legislation would have provided greater housing stability for low-income renters and limited abrupt cost increases for vulnerable tenants.

Mirroring its House counterpart, the Senate bill aimed to protect tenants in affordable housing from rent increases during a lease term when the landlord benefits from public funds or tax incentives. The bill reinforced the principle that rent should remain fixed during the agreed rental period, allowing increases only at the time of lease renewal. This protection was targeted at renters earning less than 120% of the area median income and paying no more than 30% of their income toward rent. While it did not prevent rent increases outright, it would have given tenants more predictability and security within the leasing period.

HB 619 – Termination of Rental Agreement by Victim of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, or Stalking, by Rep. López (J)
Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Aiming to enhance tenant protections, this bill would have allowed victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, or stalking to terminate their rental agreements without penalty. Tenants would have been able to provide written notice and limited verification to exit leases early, avoiding financial and legal consequences. The bill also included lock-change requirements, rent proration, protection of tenant deposits, and strong confidentiality provisions. Landlords would have been prohibited from using past terminations due to violence as grounds for rental denial. This legislation sought to provide safety, flexibility, and dignity to survivors navigating housing challenges.

HB 913 - Condominium and Cooperative Associations, by Rep. Lopez, V. | SB 1742, by Sen. Bradley
Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

This unanimously approved legislation strengthens the oversight and flexibility of condominium and cooperative associations, particularly in matters related to building safety and financial management. The bill extends the deadline for certain associations to complete the required Structural Integrity Reserve Studies (SIRS) to December 31, 2025, giving associations more time to comply. It introduces new financial tools, allowing associations to use special assessments, loans, and lines of credit to fund reserves and permitting pooled reserve accounts and baseline funding plans. Additionally, associations

may now invest reserve funds in certificates of deposit or depository accounts without a unit owner vote and conduct meetings via video conference.

The measure also expands the use of alternative reserve funding methods to all multi-condominium associations. Local building enforcement agencies are now required to report annually on association compliance with milestone inspection mandates. The bill further enhances the regulation of community association managers and firms and includes safeguards against conflicts of interest by prohibiting design professionals or contractors from participating in milestone inspections if they have undisclosed financial ties to the inspecting entity. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

HB 923 – Housing, by Rep. Lopez, V.

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Focused on expanding affordable housing initiatives, this bill proposed adjustments to property tax exemptions, eligibility definitions, and historic preservation incentives. It aimed to broaden exemptions for properties owned by nonprofits or governments and allowed greater flexibility in how affordable units are developed and certified. The bill also promoted adaptive reuse of non-residential properties into housing and introduced a new tax credit for the rehabilitation of historic buildings used for affordable or workforce housing. It included provisions to preserve existing exemptions, even during foreclosure or property transfers. If enacted, it would have incentivized the expansion of affordable housing supply through financial and regulatory support mechanisms.

HB 1471 – Housing, by Rep. Harris

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This proposed legislation sought to significantly enhance tenant protections and expand access to affordable housing through a multi-faceted policy approach. The bill would have created a new Department of Housing and Tenant Rights, mandated feasibility studies on vacancy taxes, and introduced tenant-friendly lease reforms. Key provisions included capping security deposits at one month's rent, restricting upfront application fees, mandating code-compliance inspections, and offering eviction protection measures—particularly for tenants facing domestic violence or unjust eviction. The bill also proposed a prohibition on bulk purchases of single-family homes, aimed at reducing corporate control over the rental market. Local governments would have been authorized to impose impact fees on displacement-causing developments, with the funds redirected to affordable housing efforts. Furthermore, the Act outlined the creation of municipal land banks to manage and convert unused land into housing, prioritizing community-driven redevelopment.

SB 1594 – Housing, by Sen. McClain

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

SB 1594 would have made several technical and strategic changes to increase the flexibility and reach of Florida's affordable housing funding mechanisms. Specifically, it aimed to broaden the eligibility criteria for projects funded under the Live Local Act and expand the scope of property tax exemptions. The bill sought to ease financing restrictions imposed by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation and redefine terms like "qualified contract" and "qualified project" to accommodate a wider array of developments. It proposed creating the Florida Housing Revitalization Act, offering corporate income and insurance premium tax credits for the rehabilitation of historic properties into affordable housing. Furthermore, it would have allowed more flexible uses of local infrastructure tax revenues to support housing projects, aligning with a broader vision to increase the supply of affordable and workforce housing across the state.

SB 184 – Housing, by Sen. Gaetz | HB 247, Rep. Conerly

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This proposal would have increased affordable housing options through land use flexibility and adaptive reuse, particularly supporting people with mental health conditions. One of its key components encouraged local governments to authorize accessory dwelling units (ADUs) but removed provisions allowing short-term rental bans on those units. Additionally, the bill clarified that converting certain nonprofit-owned buildings into small-scale residential settings for adults with mental health disorders would not require occupancy reclassification under building and fire codes. This regulatory relief was intended to streamline the development of supportive housing while maintaining health and safety standards. These changes aimed to encourage diverse, community-based housing options without overburdening nonprofits with unnecessary code restrictions.

SB 954 – Certified Recovery Residences, by Sen. Gruters | HB 1163, by Rep. Owen

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

This bill requires local governments to adopt ordinances that streamline the process for granting reasonable accommodations in zoning and land use regulations to certified recovery residences. For Level IV certified recovery residences, it removes staffing requirements during times when residents are not present and allows administrators to oversee up to 300 residents (increased from 150) if a 1:6 staff-to-resident ratio is maintained while residents are on site. The bill supports the expansion and operational flexibility of certified recovery homes, improving access to addiction recovery services while ensuring reasonable oversight. It also helps standardize local government processes across Florida, reducing barriers for operators seeking to open these facilities. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

HB 963 – Veterans Rental Assistance Grant Program, by Rep. Rosenwald

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

Had it passed, HB 963 would have established a dedicated rental assistance program for honorably discharged veterans experiencing housing insecurity. Administered by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, the initiative proposed one-time grants of up to \$2,000 to help veterans cover security deposits when renting a home. Eligibility would have been based on income (at or below 140% of the area median) and state residency. The bill recognized the unique challenges faced by veterans in accessing housing and aimed to reduce entry barriers by addressing upfront rental costs. It also authorized rulemaking to ensure effective program implementation and oversight.

HB 983 - Homeowner's Associations, by Rep. Porras

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill proposed several amendments to the Florida Homeowners' Association Act (Chapter 720, F.S.). The actual applicability of the amendments to existing HOAs would depend on whether they were procedural, remedial, or substantive, and whether the HOA's governing documents included "Kaufman language," which incorporates future legislative changes. The bill could have affected governance and operations within HOAs, especially those whose documents allow for legislative updates to be automatically adopted. Its failure means no changes will be made to current HOA law under this proposal, maintaining the status quo for HOA governance across the state.

SB 1022 – Fines for Public Nuisance Abatement, by Sen. Wright

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill proposed strengthening local government authority to fine property owners for public nuisances, increasing daily fines, allowing liens to be foreclosed after a few months of nonpayment, and enabling special assessments for fine collection. It also protected homestead properties and outlined legal processes for owners to resolve nuisances. If passed, this would have empowered cities and counties to address the blight more aggressively but also raised concerns about property rights and foreclosure risks.

Development Services

HB 11 – Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Rates, by Rep. Robinson, F. | SB 202, by Sen. Jones *Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025*

This unanimously passed legislation standardizes utility rates across municipal boundaries under specific conditions. The bill requires that municipalities providing water or sewer services through a municipally owned utility to another municipality must charge the same rates, fees, and charges as they do to consumers within their own boundaries—if the utility has physical facilities located in the recipient municipality and is within a county governed under section 125.011(1), F.S. To clarify implementation, the bill defines key terms such as “facility,” “wastewater treatment facility,” and “water treatment facility.” While promoting fairness in utility pricing, the bill may reduce revenue for municipalities impacted by this equalized rate structure. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

SB 62 – Resilient Buildings, by Sen. Rodriguez | HB 143, by Rep. Barnaby *Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.*

SB 62 proposed the creation of the Resilient Building Tax Credit Program, which would have offered corporate income tax credits to owners of buildings that achieve certain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certifications aligned with the LEED resilience pathway. Eligible buildings would need to be certified as silver, gold, or platinum in either Building Design and Construction (BD+C) or Operations and Maintenance (O+M). The credit amounts would have ranged from \$0.50 to \$2.00 per square foot annually for five years, depending on certification type and level. Building owners would have been required to apply to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) by March 1 of the year following certification, providing documentation of the LEED status and agreeing to report energy usage annually. The credit could be carried forward or transferred for up to five years. In addition to the tax credit program, SB 62 would have established the Florida Resilient Building Advisory Council within DBPR. The council, composed of gubernatorial and legislative appointees with expertise in resilient construction and policy innovation, would have been tasked with advising DBPR and the Legislature on measures to enhance resilient and hurricane-resistant buildings across the state. Despite unanimous interest in resilience policy, SB 62 was indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

SB 184 – Housing, by Sen. Gaetz | HB 247, by Rep. Conerly *Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration*

These bills aim to expand access to affordable housing by streamlining rental processes and increasing flexibility in local housing development. They would have allowed landlords to accept reusable tenant screening reports without charging additional fees, reducing costs for prospective renters. The legislation also required local governments to permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in single-family neighborhoods without imposing owner-occupancy or other burdensome conditions. To further protect homeowners, the bills prohibited denial of a homestead exemption solely due to the presence of an ADU and required separate taxation only when the ADU was rented. Additionally, the proposals extended existing density bonus incentives to include donations of property for affordable housing, particularly benefiting military families. Lastly, they directed a study on mezzanine financing and tiny homes as innovative solutions for affordable housing. Had these bills passed, they would have increased housing

options, encouraged local governments to adopt more inclusive zoning policies, and promoted creative financing and design alternatives—all contributing to a more affordable and flexible housing landscape in Florida.

HB 281 - Local Government Code Enforcement, by Rep. Partington

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

HB 281 proposed significant changes to enhance the tools and authority available to local governments for code enforcement. The bill would have allowed municipalities and counties to appoint *special magistrates*—experienced attorneys authorized to hear code violation cases—in lieu of or alongside code enforcement boards. It included provisions to streamline administrative procedures, expand methods of serving notices, and record enforcement actions in public records to inform future property owners. A notable aspect of the bill was the mandate for policies on the use of body cameras by code inspectors, including training and data retention. To further protect inspectors, the bill increased criminal penalties for assaults and batteries committed against them. Despite its comprehensive scope, the bill did not pass.

HB 503 - Local Business Taxes, by Rep. Botana

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This proposed legislation aimed to enhance the auditing and compliance framework for local business taxes in Florida while revising the structure and regulation of those taxes. It would have required the Auditor General to engage non-compliant local governments, request corrective actions within specific timeframes, and report unresolved issues to the Legislative Auditing Committee. The bill authorized certain entities to continue levying designated taxes but restricted the repeal or modification of specific ordinances after a future cutoff date, with outlined exceptions. It also introduced provisions to recalculate and cap revenues from local business taxes, ensuring that revenue did not exceed defined limits. Local governments exceeding these limits would have been required to make rate adjustments and, in some cases, issue refunds. Additionally, the bill mandated that a compliance affidavit be included in audit reports submitted by local governments.

If it had passed, the bill might have significantly tightened fiscal oversight of local business tax practices, increased transparency, and enforced revenue controls. While promoting accountability and limiting excessive local tax collections, it could have also constrained the fiscal autonomy of local governments, potentially impacting funding for local services or operations reliant on business tax revenue.

HB 569 – Construction and Facilities, by Rep. Kendall

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill aimed to streamline land use and construction requirements for charter schools. It classified charter schools as public facilities for concurrency purposes and restricted local governments from enforcing additional building regulations or mandating land use changes for these schools. Additionally, it would have allowed developers to receive education impact fee credits for certain contributions to charter schools or school districts. The bill also sought to prohibit local governments from applying vehicular stacking ordinances in ways that restrict charter school enrollment. Had it passed, the bill would have reduced local regulatory authority over charter school facilities.

HB 665 - Local Government Impact Fees and Development Permits and Orders, by Rep. Steele

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

HB 665 proposed restrictions on the use of development permits and impact fees to fund public art. Specifically, it would have prohibited local governments from requiring developers to install or pay for

public art—or cover related costs—as a condition for permit approval. The bill also sought to amend the Florida Impact Fee Act by defining “extraordinary circumstances” and requiring local governments to conduct a demonstrated-need study using a plan-based methodology before raising impact fee rates beyond statutory phase-in limits. The bill was designed to enhance transparency and limit discretionary cost burdens on developers.

HB 683 – Construction Regulations, by Rep. Griffiths Jr. | SB 712, by Sen. Grall

Approved by the Governor on June 13, 2025 | Chapter 2025-140

Unanimously passed by the Legislature, this bill makes several changes to streamline construction processes and clarify regulatory authority. It directs the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to establish uniform standards for installing synthetic turf in residential areas and prevents local governments from enacting conflicting regulations. The bill also mandates that local governments approve or deny contractor change orders within 35 days and prohibits public entities from penalizing or favoring certain construction bidders. Additionally, it authorizes private providers to use software to review certain building plans and shortens the timeframe for building departments to process specific permit applications.

Other provisions include expanding the scope of certified alarm system contractors, requiring only one continuous 42-inch interior support rail in elevators, exempting space launch-related structures from the Florida Building Code, and prohibiting local building departments from requiring contract documents to issue or process permits. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

HB 703 - Utility Relocation, by Rep. Robinson, W. | SB 0818, by Sen. McClain

Approved by the Governor on June 5, 2025 | Chapter 2025-122

Signed into law on June 5, 2025 (Chapter 2025-122), this legislation updates the procedures and funding responsibilities for relocating communications facilities located within public road or rail rights-of-way. When counties or municipal authorities require the relocation of such infrastructure, service providers must carry out the work upon notification, but the local authority is not responsible for associated costs unless otherwise specified by law. To assist providers with these expenses, the bill establishes the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program within the Department of Commerce, offering reimbursements for actual, documented relocation costs—but not for indirect or administrative expenses. The Department of Revenue will transfer \$50 million annually to fund the program, beginning in fiscal year 2025-26.

For state-led infrastructure projects, the bill requires departments to notify providers within 90 days of adding a project to its schedule if relocation may be needed. Providers must respond with cost and timeline estimates, and if work proceeds under a joint participation agreement, the department must cover at least 50% of relocation costs for infrastructure installed within the past seven years. The bill also authorizes emergency rulemaking to expedite implementation. However, the Revenue Estimating Conference anticipates a recurring \$50 million annual revenue loss to local governments starting in FY 2025-26. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

SB 1080 – Local Government Land Regulation by Sen. McClain | HB 579, by Rep. Overdorf

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

This bill seeks to streamline the local development approval process by mandating clear submission requirements, tightening timelines for permit decisions, and defining what constitutes substantive project changes. It also imposes stricter rules on increasing impact fees, requiring unanimous votes and phased implementation. Additionally, it revises school district fee collection policies and modifies procedures

related to comprehensive plan amendments. It may reduce bureaucratic delays for developers, curb excessive fee hikes, and improve clarity and efficiency in land-use decisions. The law takes effect October 1, 2025.

SB 1118 – Land Use and Development Regulations, by Sen. McClain

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This sweeping bill targeted local land-use restrictions by prohibiting mandates for public art in development, easing approval processes for agricultural enclaves, and limiting local control over private recreational amenities. It redefined regulatory terms, set new rules for impact fee increases, and required faster approvals for plats. If it had passed, developers would have faced fewer local obligations and delays, while private amenities and covenants would have been regulated more uniformly statewide—reducing homeowners' associations' oversight of them.

HB 1137 - Utility Service Restrictions, by Rep. Shoaf | SB 1002, by Sen. Truenow

Approved by the Governor on May 19, 2025 | Chapter 2025-42

This bill expands the state's preemption over local government actions that attempt to restrict or ban specific types or fuel sources of energy. It prevents local boards, agencies, or commissions from regulating or limiting the energy sources (such as natural gas or electricity) or appliances that residents and businesses may use. It also voids any such local ordinances enacted before July 1, 2021, that violate these preemptions.

The law strengthens state control over energy policy and utility regulation, ensuring uniformity and protecting utility providers' ability to offer services without local interference. It effectively blocks local governments from enacting climate-related energy restrictions, which may be seen as a setback for local environmental initiatives but a win for energy providers and property rights advocates. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

HB 1035 - Building Permits for Single-family Dwellings, by Rep. Esposito

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill aimed to simplify and expedite the permitting process for single-family homes. It proposed extending the validity of building permits to at least 180 days or until the next Florida Building Code update (whichever is later). It would have restricted local governments from requiring permits for projects under \$7,500 in value, excluding electrical, plumbing, or structural work. Additionally, it introduced faster review timelines—five business days for projects under \$15,000—and would have deemed certain permit applications automatically approved in disaster-affected areas if certified by an architect or engineer. The bill would have streamlined residential construction and repair, reduced permitting delays, and eased the regulatory burden on homeowners and contractors, especially in areas recovering from declared emergencies.

SB 1128 - Building Permits for a Single-family Dwelling, by Sen. Ingoglia

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

Similar in intent to HB 1035, this bill sought to ensure that building permits for single-family dwellings remained valid through the current building code cycle. It also would have provided automatic compliance status for permit applications submitted in jurisdictions affected by a state of emergency within the past 24 months, if the plans were certified by a licensed architect or engineer.

SB 1134 - Alternative Plans Review and Inspections, by Sen. Calatayud

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill proposed expanding the role of private providers in reviewing and inspecting construction work. It introduced the concept of “single-trade plans review,” enabling private professionals to review plans for individual construction trades (e.g., plumbing, mechanical, electrical) and allowing the use of software-based systems for this purpose. The bill also would have reduced permit processing times from 20 to five days for certain homes and permitted virtual inspections for solar energy and energy storage systems.

SB 1188 - Local Governing Authorities, by Sen. McClain

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill proposed a series of changes aimed at reducing regulatory burdens on schools and developers. It would have exempted the construction of public facilities, including schools, from concurrency requirements, and granted impact fee credits to developers who partner with schools on nearby improvements. The bill also sought to prevent counties and municipalities from limiting school enrollment through vehicular stacking ordinances and would have blocked local governments from enforcing stricter building or zoning rules on charter schools beyond what the state mandates. We can expect to see this bill come back next session.

HB 1209 - Land Use and Development Regulations, by Rep. Steele

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

HB 1209 focused on overhauling Florida’s land use and zoning framework, particularly concerning agricultural enclaves and residential developments. The bill would have streamlined the approval process for development within agricultural enclaves, limited local governments’ authority to enforce restrictive planning regulations, and introduced new criteria for infill housing. It also included provisions for transparency in homeowners’ associations, particularly regarding financial disclosures tied to recreational covenants and amenities.

SB 1262 - Construction Contracting, by Sen. Burgess

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

SB 1262 proposed a series of reforms to contractor regulation, accountability, and consumer protection. It introduced mandatory continuing education topics for contractors and created a centralized disciplinary tracking system maintained by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR). Local boards would have been required to report contractor violations and check the system before issuing licenses. The bill also imposed stricter obligations on contractors for project timelines, refunds, and documentation. Criminal penalties were included for those falsely claiming to be licensed contractors and taking consumer payments.

SB 1298 - Building Construction, by Sen. Simon

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill, sponsored by Senator Simon, was a comprehensive bill aimed at modernizing and clarifying Florida’s construction and permitting regulations, but it was indefinitely postponed and did not pass. Had it become law, the bill would have reinstated continuing education requirements for building code administrators and inspectors, expanded interagency cooperation between qualifying jurisdictions, and more clearly defined the role of residential inspectors. Notably, it would have established three new internship pathways—for residential inspectors, residential plans inspectors, and roofing inspectors – potentially strengthening the state’s construction workforce pipeline.

The bill also sought to make the permitting process more efficient and transparent. It would have allowed both in-person and virtual permit applications and required owners to sign disclosure statements in certain contract scenarios, enhancing accountability. For construction businesses, it clarified the process of designating a new qualifying agent, including timelines, liability rules, and procedures for permit transitions. Additionally, SB 1298 would have updated the notice of commencement requirements and reinforced owner involvement in high-value contracts.

HB 1345 - Infrastructure and Resiliency, by Rep. LaMarca

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

Had this bill passed, it would have granted the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) sole authority to implement coastal resiliency projects through public-private partnerships (P3s). These projects would have included efforts to mitigate flooding and rising sea levels, repair and upgrade seawalls and drainage systems, and strengthen infrastructure against extreme weather. The bill sought to encourage private sector investment by offering incentives such as expedited permitting, long-term revenue-sharing agreements, and workforce development through vocational training. Additionally, the bill mandated transparency via biennial progress reports and a real-time online dashboard for public tracking. If enacted, this legislation could have accelerated climate adaptation efforts statewide, streamlined resiliency project delivery, and bolstered public infrastructure through innovative financing and collaboration with private entities.

HB 1415 - Structural Integrity Reserve Studies, by Rep. Antone

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

HB 1415, if passed, would have significantly impacted condominium and cooperative associations by strengthening requirements for structural integrity reserve studies. Specifically, buildings six stories or taller would have been required to conduct these studies every 10 years to estimate repair costs for critical components and ensure sufficient reserves. The bill would have shifted mandatory compliance thresholds upward from three to six stories, thereby exempting lower-rise buildings while allowing them to waive or reduce reserve contributions by vote. It also would have clarified and standardized procedures for conducting and reporting such studies, including roles for licensed inspectors. The legislation aimed to enhance safety and financial preparedness in high-rise residential buildings, potentially preventing catastrophic failures like the Surfside condo collapse by reinforcing long-term maintenance planning.

HB 1461 - Industries and Professional Activities, by Rep. Yarkosky

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

If passed, HB 1461 would have significantly deregulated various professional licensing and oversight processes in Florida. The bill proposed eliminating continuing education requirements for certain licensed professionals, repealing several regulatory boards and commissions within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs), and removing secondary licensing requirements for private investigators, security officers, and recovery agents. It also aimed to broaden pathways to licensure, potentially making it easier to enter regulated professions. While the bill may have reduced barriers for professionals and lowered costs for both the state and licensees, it also could have weakened oversight and professional standards, potentially affecting public safety and consumer protection.

HB 1477 - Enforcement of the Florida Building Code, by Rep. Partington

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

Although primarily categorized under building code enforcement, HB 1477 introduced a new criminal penalty focused on public safety at large events. The bill would have made trespassing in restricted areas during large-scale ticketed events (with more than 5,000 attendees) a third-degree felony. This would have applied to individuals entering without authorization or refusing to leave after being warned. By defining “restricted areas” and “covered events,” and specifying who is authorized to issue trespass warnings, the bill aimed to deter unauthorized access and improve event security. If enacted, the measure could have strengthened public safety protocols at major venues and events across the state, particularly in the context of heightened security concerns.

HB 1561 - Adoption of Comprehensive Plan Amendments, by Rep. Sapp*Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration*

If passed, HB 1561 would have streamlined and tightened the process by which local governments amend their comprehensive plans, shifting the focus of state agency review to only direct impacts on state resources or facilities. It would have required agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection or Department of Transportation to provide specific mitigation suggestions for any identified adverse impacts. Local governments would have been held to stricter timelines for transmitting amendments and responding to feedback. Overall, the bill aimed to expedite development approvals and reduce bureaucratic delays. However, this could have limited broader, long-term planning input from state agencies, potentially weakening environmental oversight and intergovernmental coordination.

SB 1694 - Prohibited Preferences in Government Contracting, by Sen. Fine*Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration*

SB 1694 would have eliminated race- and ethnicity-based preferences in government contracting, effectively dismantling Florida’s minority business enterprise (MBE) support infrastructure. The bill would have repealed statutes governing MBE certifications, reporting requirements, and diversity-focused procurement policies across state agencies, local governments, state universities, and economic incentive programs like brownfield redevelopment. If enacted, the bill would have marked a significant rollback in efforts to promote diversity in public contracting. Supporters might argue it promotes a race-neutral approach to procurement, while critics would contend it could widen disparities in business opportunities for historically marginalized groups.

Economic Development

HB 685 - Conversion of Hotels into Residential Housing, by Rep. Alvarez (J)*Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration*

This bill proposed the creation of the Hotel-to-Home Tax Credit Program, which would have incentivized the conversion of existing hotel properties into residential housing. The program offered a tax credit of up to 9% of a project’s total cost annually over a defined credit period and authorized the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to manage the allocation of these credits. Developers could transfer the credit once to another party, and eligibility was determined based on criteria such as project location, local housing needs, economic feasibility, and readiness for occupancy. The corporation would also have been responsible for preparing an annual allocation plan and establishing application procedures, subject to gubernatorial approval. If enacted, this bill could have helped address Florida’s housing shortage by

accelerating the adaptive reuse of underutilized hotel properties, especially in urban and tourism-heavy areas, without the need for large-scale new construction.

HB 821 - Business Development Incentives for Veterans and Military Spouses, by Rep. Gantt

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill proposed to create the Florida Veterans and Military Spouse Business Development Act, designed to support businesses owned by veterans and military spouses through fee waivers and business incentives. It defined qualifying businesses based on ownership, size, residency, and control criteria, and tasked the Department of State with waiving registration fees for new or relocating businesses between 2025 and 2030. Additionally, the Department of Veterans' Affairs would have been required to track and report economic outcomes, such as job creation and tax contributions. Had it passed, the bill would have created an encouraging business environment for veterans and military spouses, likely boosting entrepreneurship and economic inclusion across the state. However, it was ultimately withdrawn from consideration.

HB 991 – Community and Economic Development, by Giallombardo | SB 1242, by Sen. McClain

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This set of bills proposed significant reforms to Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs), which are local entities tasked with addressing blight and promoting affordable housing. The bill would have restricted CRAs from expanding their boundaries or extending their redevelopment timelines and prohibited spending on hotel public spaces or sponsoring community events such as concerts and festivals. It also clarified that CRAs must terminate upon reaching their sunset dates unless extensions had already been authorized by May 1, 2025. These changes would have narrowed the scope of CRA operations and increased fiscal restrictions, potentially limiting community engagement and redevelopment flexibility in economically distressed areas. A pivotal point during Session was when this language was placed on SB 110 – Rural Renaissance by the House. The Senate did not agree to the added language resulting in both bills dying during Session. We can expect to see this bill return in 2026. Currently, we are working with the Florida League of Cities to craft countermeasures and collaborate with Legislative Leadership to craft legislation that benefits all Floridians.

HB 1125 – Regional Planning and Economic Development, by Rep. Owen

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill aimed to restructure Florida's economic development and planning framework by eliminating regional planning councils and revising economic development programs. It replaced "minority-owned businesses" with "businesses in economically disadvantaged areas" across statutes and introduced new initiatives like the Rural Accelerator Program and the RISE Investment Tax Credit Program to stimulate private investment and support rural growth. It also established the Office of Secure Florida and made changes to state board composition and planning requirements. If passed, the bill would have significantly overhauled Florida's regional development strategies and redirected resources to broader economic equity initiatives, but it was indefinitely postponed.

HB 1185 - Department of Management Services, by Rep. Sapp

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

HB 1185 sought to eliminate affirmative action and minority business participation language from state laws and revise public contracting standards. The bill proposed repealing numerous statutes that mandated minority inclusion, amending hiring policies to prohibit race- or gender-based employment preferences, and replacing “affirmative action” references with broader equal opportunity language. It also proposed renaming the Office of Supplier Diversity to the Office of Supplier Development, shifting the focus from minority businesses to Florida-based enterprises in general. Additionally, the bill would have created a prohibited vendors list to prevent entities with records of discrimination or public contracting violations from receiving state contracts. While the bill aimed to streamline and standardize state employment and procurement policies, critics raised concerns about the removal of longstanding protections for minority-owned businesses. Ultimately, the bill was withdrawn from consideration.

SB 1264 - Rural and Urban Business Enterprises, by Sen. Collins

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill aimed to redefine and expand economic development efforts by replacing minority business enterprise language with “certified rural or urban business enterprises,” based on income and unemployment thresholds. It also proposed eliminating regional planning councils, while allowing local governments to create their own regional entities. The bill included several provisions to boost rural and urban development, such as the creation of the RISE Investment Tax Credit Program, expanded law enforcement recruitment incentives, and the renaming of state offices and councils to reflect a broader focus on small, rural, and urban business support. Other provisions included exemptions for military land transfers, continued sales tax exemptions for data centers, and expanded classification of certain managerial state employees. The bill sought to modernize economic development frameworks while moving away from race-based classifications, but it too was ultimately withdrawn.

SM 1488 – United States Sovereign Wealth Fund, by Sen. Avila | HB 4063, by Rep. Anderson

Signed by Officers and filed with Secretary of State.

This legislative memorial urges the U.S. Congress to create a framework for a federal sovereign wealth fund aimed at enhancing long-term national economic stability. The memorial highlights potential benefits such as reducing tax burdens on households and small businesses, investing in critical domestic infrastructure, and strengthening the U.S. position in global economic leadership. It also calls for efficient implementation guidelines and directed Florida’s Secretary of State to send the proposal to relevant federal authorities and the state’s congressional delegation. Though non-binding, this memorial emphasizes Florida’s support for strategic federal fiscal planning.

HB 6031 – Tourist Development Taxes, by Rep. Eskamani

Died in the House Ways and Means Committee

The bill proposed revising how tourist development tax revenues can be used by removing the requirement that at least 40% of these funds be dedicated specifically to advertising and tourism promotion. Instead, it would have allowed greater flexibility in spending, permitting funds to support public facilities like convention centers and sports complexes, tourism bureaus, and the maintenance of natural resources such as beaches and rivers. The bill also would have enabled infrastructure improvements that enhance tourism-related activities, provided they meet fiscal oversight requirements. The intent was to give counties more discretion in addressing local tourism needs, but the bill was ultimately withdrawn from consideration.

While this bill failed as a standalone bill, some expansion found its way into HB 7031 – Taxation. TDT can be used for lifeguard services.

Education

SB 42 – Florida Statutes, by Sen. Passidomo

Approved by the Governor on April 10, 2025 | Chapter 2025-6

This is a comprehensive legislative measure aimed at modernizing and clarifying Florida's statutes by removing obsolete provisions, correcting errors, and eliminating inconsistencies across various sectors, including education, public safety, healthcare, environmental regulation, and financial services. The bill amends multiple statutes to update terminology, adjust fee structures, and revise requirements for professional certifications and operations, thereby ensuring that statutory language reflects current practices and entities. It also introduces new procedural rules for governmental and educational operations, mandates additional training requirements, and recalibrates penalties and administrative procedures to enhance statutory clarity and operational efficiency. Once enacted, SB 42 will provide clearer guidance for stakeholders such as educators, public officials, healthcare providers, and the public, reducing confusion and improving compliance with state laws.

SB 738 – Child Care and Early Learning Providers, by Sen. Burton | HB 0047 - Child Care and Early Learning Providers, by Rep. McFarland

Presented to Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

Unanimously passed, this bill focused on reforming the regulation of childcare and early learning providers in Florida. Key provisions included renaming “family day care homes” to “family childcare homes” to better reflect the professional nature of the service and requiring counties with local licensing agencies to annually affirm their designation by a majority vote of the county commission. The bill mandated that the Department of Children and Families (DCF) complete background screenings for childcare personnel within three business days or issue a 45-day provisional hire status under direct supervision if delays occurred, thereby streamlining hiring processes while maintaining safety standards. It also modernized training requirements by providing the mandatory 40-hour introductory childcare course online at no cost and allowing competency exams to be taken online or in person. Additional changes included limiting periodic health exams to facility drivers, updating safety and sanitation standards, and reducing duplicative inspections for compliant providers. The impact of SB 738 was to enhance the professionalism, efficiency, and safety of childcare services in Florida, while reducing administrative burdens and improving access to training for childcare personnel.

SB 356 – Holocaust Remembrance Day, by Sen. Berman | HB 251 - Holocaust Remembrance Day, by Rep. Tendrich

Approved by the Governor on May 23, 2025 | Chapter 2025-86

This bill, sponsored by Senator Berman and Representative Tendrich respectively, was enacted into law on May 23, 2025, as Chapter 2025-86. This legislation designates January 27th – coinciding with International Holocaust Remembrance Day – as an official day of remembrance in Florida. The bill mandates that the Governor annually issue a proclamation recognizing the day and encourages appropriate observances in public schools, the Capitol, and other venues. It also allows schools to offer instruction on the Holocaust's atrocities, the dangers of anti-Semitism, and the enduring contributions of the Jewish community to humanity. The bill's passage intends to ensure a formal and consistent statewide acknowledgment of the Holocaust, reinforcing the importance of historical education and promoting tolerance and awareness among students and the public. By embedding this observance into the educational and civic calendar, Florida reinforces its commitment to combating hate and preserving historical memory.

HB 569 – Construction and Facilities, Rep. Kendall

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

House Bill 569 – Construction and Facilities, sponsored by Representative Kendall, addressed regulatory barriers to charter school construction and site development. The bill clarified that charter schools qualify as public facilities for concurrency purposes and restricted local governments from imposing building or site-development requirements stricter than those outlined in the State Requirements for Educational Facilities within the Florida Building Code. It also prohibited local jurisdictions from requiring charter schools to seek special exemptions or conditional use approvals to operate in designated zones.

HB 681 – Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding, by Rep. Melo | SB 1458, by Sen. DiCieglio

Approved by the Governor on June 13, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-139

This bill will improve the transparency, consistency, and administration of apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs across Florida. The legislation directs the Department of Education (DOE) to establish uniform minimum standards and policies to govern partnerships between Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and registered apprenticeship (RA) providers. It also mandates the creation of a standard model contract, enhances reporting requirements, and introduces a funding transparency tool by July 1, 2026. Additionally, the District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee must hold public meetings and share documentation when developing funding model recommendations for the DOE, which must then provide this model to the Legislature at least two months before the start of the regular session.

The bill's passage supports greater alignment and equity in funding and policy enforcement for career education programs, helping both LEAs and RA partners collaborate more efficiently. By clarifying responsibilities, standardizing contracts, and increasing fiscal transparency, the legislation enhances accountability and may lead to stronger workforce development outcomes statewide.

HB 1145 – Workforce Education, by Rep. Shoaf | SB 742, by Sen. Simon

Approved by the Governor on June 13, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-144

The bill expands access to workforce education funds by allowing charter schools to apply directly for Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (CAP Grant) funds, rather than being limited to submissions through school districts. It also strengthens the "money-back guarantee" program by requiring each school district and Florida College System (FCS) institution to cover at least six workforce education programs—up from the previous three. Institutions must establish clear eligibility and work search criteria for tuition reimbursement and report these annually to the State Board of

Education. With its enactment, this bill empowers more educational institutions to offer workforce training tied to guaranteed employment outcomes, potentially boosting student confidence in program value while promoting labor market alignment. It strengthens Florida's commitment to workforce readiness by expanding access to funding and encouraging institutional accountability for employment results.

HB 571 - Career Planning Opportunities for Students, by Rep. Kendall

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This proposal sought to strengthen career readiness in Florida high schools by enhancing access to apprenticeships and formalizing student career planning. The bill would have required schools to schedule work-based learning to maximize student participation and to host career fairs that connect students with employers offering registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs. It also mandated the annual review of students personalized academic and career plans with signatures from students, guardians, and counselors. Additionally, the legislation directed the State Board of Education and Board of Governors to create statewide policies for awarding postsecondary credit and career education clock hours for apprenticeship participation, supported by an articulation workgroup tasked with developing course equivalencies.

SB 1188 - Local Governing Authorities, by Sen. McClain

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill proposed significant changes to the regulatory landscape affecting public and charter school development. The bill would have exempted public school construction from concurrency requirements and barred local governments from applying more restrictive building or zoning standards to charter schools than those set by the state. It also offered education impact fee credits to developers who contribute to nearby school infrastructure and prohibited vehicular stacking ordinances that could limit school enrollment. Had this bill passed, it would have accelerated the construction and expansion of both public and charter schools, reducing regulatory hurdles and local government influence over school siting and design. While it could have supported faster educational infrastructure growth, it may also have raised concerns among local governments over reduced control in planning decisions.

SB 2508 – Judges, by Appropriations

Unanimously passed by the Legislature. Not presented to Governor as of June 19, 2025.

This bill aligns judicial staffing levels with Florida's growing population and caseload demands by establishing 39 new judgeships statewide. The bill creates 22 new circuit court positions across 11 judicial circuits and 15 new county court positions in counties such as Palm Beach, Marion, and Miami-Dade. Additionally, two new district court judgeships are added to the Sixth District Court of Appeal, while the Second District will gradually be reduced to 13 judges through attrition. These changes conform with the state's General Appropriations Act and reflect a legislative finding of significant public interest. The passage of this bill directly addresses judicial capacity constraints across Florida, enhancing access to justice and reducing case backlogs. The new positions are expected to improve court efficiency, particularly in rapidly growing regions, and ensure timely legal proceedings for Florida residents.

Finance

HB 683 – Construction Regulations, by Rep. Griffiths Jr. | SB 712 , by Rep. Grall

Approved by the Governor on June 13, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-140

The new law introduces new statewide standards for synthetic turf installation and reforms for prompt payments in local government construction contracts. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is tasked with creating minimum environmental and design standards for installing synthetic turf on single-family residential properties of one acre or less. Once adopted, these DEP standards preempt local government authority, prohibiting any local regulation that conflicts with or bans synthetic turf installations. Additionally, the bill mandates that local governments respond within 35 days to change order price quotes from contractors – either approving or rejecting with detailed reasons – or the quote is automatically approved and payable upon completion. The passage of this bill curbs local government discretion over synthetic turf regulations; however, it may pose some issues in Finance and Procurement when it comes to quote changes.

HB 977 – Contracting with Foreign Countries of Concern, by Rep. Greco

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

Although ultimately withdrawn, aimed to bolster state security in procurement practices by restricting contracts with vendors affiliated with foreign countries of concern—such as China, Russia, Iran, and others. The bill would have prohibited state agencies and local governments from entering, renewing, or extending contracts with vendors, or their parent or subsidiary companies, that have any ownership by these foreign governments. It required vendors to submit sworn affidavits attesting to their independence from such entities, with violations carrying severe consequences including civil penalties and multi-year bans from state contracts.

HB 1153 – Governmental Entity Access to and Use of Vendor Background Information, by Rep. McFarland

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill proposed giving governmental entities broader authority to access and utilize vendor background information. The bill authorized the Department of Management Services to provide electronic access to systems containing vendor records, allowing agencies to verify affidavit claims made during bidding processes. Based on this verification, entities could determine that a vendor is irresponsible or non-responsive, with such determinations not subject to traditional protest procedures.

HB 1155 – Pub.Rec./Electronic Systems, by Rep. McFarland

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

Unfortunately, this proposal was also withdrawn from consideration, would have created a public records exemption for sensitive vendor background information held in state-maintained electronic systems. The bill allowed the Department of Management Services to share this data with other government entities while maintaining its confidentiality under Florida's public records laws. It included a sunset provision for legislative review in 2030 and stated that the exemption was necessary to protect proprietary information

and maintain fairness in competitive bidding. If enacted, this bill would have enhanced the confidentiality of vendor information in procurement processes, helping to safeguard trade secrets and internal evaluations while balancing transparency with competitive integrity.

Human Resources

HB 83 – Protections for Public Employees who use Medical Marijuana as Qualified Patients, by Rep. Rosenwald | SB 142, by Sen. Polsky

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill aimed to create clear employment protections for public employees in Florida who are qualified medical marijuana patients. It would have prohibited adverse personnel actions solely based on lawful medical marijuana use, unless job performance was demonstrably impaired. The legislation included a structured process for contesting positive drug tests and provided legal remedies for those wrongfully disciplined. If enacted, the bill would have marked a significant step toward balancing employee rights with workplace safety, offering clarity for both public employers and medical marijuana users, while still respecting federal law limitations.

HB 541 - Minimum Wage Requirements, by Rep. Chamberlin | SB 676, by Sen. Martin

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill sought to create exemptions from Florida's state minimum wage for students and trainees in work-based learning programs, such as internships or pre-apprenticeships, for a limited time. It mandated voluntary written waivers, parental consent for minors, and required wages no lower than the federal minimum wage. If passed, the bill could have increased access to experiential learning opportunities by making it easier for employers to offer unpaid or lower-paid roles. However, critics might have raised concerns about exploitation or the undermining of wage standards for young or vulnerable workers.

HB 905 – Florida Health Choices Program, by Rep. Yarkosky | SB 1034, by Sen. Martin

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration

This bill proposed renaming and restructuring the Florida Health Choices Program into the "Florida Employee Health Choices Program," shifting its focus to help employers offer individual health insurance to employees through Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangements (ICHRAs). It would have removed outdated components, established new governance and conflict-of-interest rules, and created a self-sustaining administrative corporation by 2028.

HB 955 – Employment Eligibility, by Rep. Jacques

Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration.

This bill, if it had passed, would have significantly expanded the use of the E-Verify system across Florida by requiring all private employers, regardless of size, to verify the employment eligibility of new hires beginning July 1, 2025. It would have eliminated the existing employee threshold, making E-Verify mandatory for every private business. Public agencies would have been required to continue using E-Verify as already mandated. Additionally, employers would have been required to annually certify their compliance with E-Verify requirements when submitting payments to the state's unemployment or reemployment assistance system.

HB 1219 – Employment Agreements, by Rep. Koster | SB 922, by Sen. Leek

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

This bill creates the CHOICE Act to authorize and regulate the use of two types of employment agreements: covered garden leave and covered noncompete agreements. These agreements are designed to protect employer investments in confidential information and client relationships for up to four years, either during or after employment. The law provides a legal framework ensuring these agreements are enforceable under specific, narrowly defined conditions. Its passage gives Florida employers a new, structured tool to safeguard sensitive business interests while addressing long-standing concerns over the fairness and enforceability of noncompete clauses. The law takes effect July 1, 2025.

HB 1601 – Labor Regulations, by Rep. Johnson | SB 1776, by Sen. McClain

Died in House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee and senate Judiciary

This bill aimed to revise labor law provisions concerning retaliatory actions by employers. It sought to redefine employee classifications and set stricter procedural requirements for employees to file retaliation claims, including written notice and an opportunity for the employer to address concerns. It also limited recovery if alternative remedies were pursued and cost-shifting rules imposed for legal fees

HB 1619 – Employee Wages and Salary, by Rep. Joseph

Died in House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee

The proposed "Wage Fairness Act" aimed to bring greater transparency and equity to compensation practices across Florida's public and private sectors. It would have prohibited employers and employment agencies from requesting a candidate's wage or salary history during the hiring process and required job postings to include wage ranges and general benefits. Employers would also be mandated to provide wage and benefits details at hiring, promotion, or transfer, and annually thereafter. The bill included provisions for recordkeeping, voluntary salary disclosures, and civil penalties for noncompliance.

Parks and Recreation

HB 35 – Heat Illness Prevention, by Rep. Gottlieb | SB 510, by Sen. Rouson

Died in House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee and Senate Commerce and Tourism

This bill proposed mandatory heat illness prevention programs for employers with outdoor workers in industries like agriculture, construction, and landscaping. It would have required accessible shade, adequate drinking water, and annual training for both employees and supervisors in languages they understand. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Health would have been tasked with developing and enforcing rules. Similarly, SB 510, emphasized education on heat-related symptoms, provision of shade and water, and compliance through rulemaking by relevant state agencies. If it had passed, it would have reinforced Florida's workplace safety standards amid rising temperatures, aligning the state with best practices seen in other hot-weather regions and reducing occupational health risks among outdoor workers.

HB 289 – Boating Safety, by Rep. Oliver

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

This bill aligns penalties for leaving the scene of a boating accident with those for fleeing a vehicle crash. It establishes graduated penalties based on the severity of harm caused, from a second-degree misdemeanor for property damage to a first-degree felony with a mandatory four-year prison term for fatalities. The enactment of this bill closes a critical gap in maritime law enforcement, strengthens accountability for reckless boating, and reinforces the importance of rendering aid in boating incidents, promoting safer waterways across Florida. It will take effect on July 1, 2025.

HB 413 – Swimming Safety, by Rep. Gossett-Seidman | SB 568, by Sen. Rodriguez

Died in House Human Services Subcommittee and Senate Health Policy

Targeting child safety, particularly for children with autism, this bill would have introduced sweeping reforms to swimming safety at public pools and bathing places. It required parental verification of swimming ability, mandated life jackets for non-swimmers, and empowered facilities to restrict access based on risk. It also introduced the “Open Water Safety Act,” launching pilot programs with life-saving equipment and signage, and encouraged local sponsorship for drowning prevention.

HB 1599 – Protection of Historic Monuments and Memorials, by Rep. Black | SB 1816, by Sen. McClain

Died in House Government Operations Subcommittee and Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability

This bill would have created a statewide framework – the Historic Florida Monuments and Memorials Protection Act – to preempt local government authority over historic monuments and memorials. It sought to prevent local removal or damage to such monuments, enforce restoration when unauthorized actions occur, and impose fines and legal consequences on violators. The Division of Historical Resources would oversee protection decisions, consulting with the Department of Veterans' Affairs on military monuments. The bill intended to provide uniform protection of historical landmarks across Florida, potentially avoiding inconsistent local actions and preserving cultural heritage statewide.

Public Safety

SB 66 – Firefighter Benefits, by Sen. García | HB 87, by Rep. Casello

Died in Senate Community Affairs and House Government Operations Subcommittee

This bill sought to expand the scope and depth of cancer treatment benefits available to Florida firefighters. The bill proposed to broaden the definition of “cancer” to include acute myeloid leukemia and establish clear eligibility criteria allowing firefighters to receive benefits without needing to file workers’ compensation claims. It aimed to enhance financial support by covering out-of-pocket costs such as deductibles and co-payments, providing a one-time \$25,000 payment upon diagnosis, and aligning leave and retention benefits with those granted for other line-of-duty injuries.

Additionally, the bill would have ensured continued health coverage for up to ten years post-employment, specified disability and death benefits tied to cancer, and prohibited employers from increasing employee contributions to fund these benefits. The Division of State Fire Marshal was also tasked with developing best practices to reduce cancer risks associated with firefighting. Had it passed, this legislation would have significantly strengthened protections and financial security for firefighters facing cancer, reflecting

the state's commitment to supporting those who serve in hazardous conditions. It would also likely improve early detection and prevention efforts through mandated safety standards, ultimately benefiting firefighters' health and well-being.

HB 169 – Community Violence Task Force, by Rep. Bracy Davis | SB 236, by Sen. Jones
Died in House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Senate Criminal Justice

This set of bills proposed establishing a temporary task force under the Department of Law Enforcement focused on addressing crime in Florida's urban areas. The task force would have included members appointed by state leadership and representatives from major law enforcement associations and social services. Its mandate was to identify systemic failures contributing to high crime rates, develop actionable recommendations, and enhance coordination among agencies to reduce violence in vulnerable communities. The task force would have access to confidential crime data while maintaining strict privacy protections and was required to submit a comprehensive report by June 1, 2027. The task force's existence would have concluded on June 30, 2027.

If implemented, this task force could have provided a strategic and collaborative platform to analyze and combat urban crime more effectively, promoting evidence-based interventions and improving communication between law enforcement and social services. The findings and recommendations may inform future legislative or administrative reforms aimed at enhancing public safety in Florida's most affected neighborhoods.

SB 180 – Emergencies DiCeglie | HB 1535, by Rep. McFarland
Presented to Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025.

Passed by the Legislature, significantly enhances Florida's emergency management, recovery, and rebuilding processes following natural disasters. The bill streamlines post-disaster procedures by restricting certain local government actions, such as prohibiting cumulative substantial improvement ordinances aimed at flood protection and banning moratoriums or overly restrictive development rules in hurricane-affected areas. It mandates landlords notify tenants and provide access to retrieve belongings from damaged properties, exempts or reduces impact fees for rebuilding without increasing land use intensity, and raises thresholds for homestead rebuilding without reassessment. The legislation also prioritizes hurricane shelter funding, expands medical care authorizations for servicemembers during emergencies, and improves statewide emergency preparedness through updated training requirements and enhanced public health collaboration.

Moreover, the bill requires transparent reporting of state emergency contracts and expenditures, obligates local governments to provide accessible storm recovery information online, and implement expedited permitting and fee freezes to facilitate rapid rebuilding. It establishes penalties for vendors breaching emergency recovery contracts and directs agencies to identify and report on vulnerable infrastructure at flood risk. Other provisions include clarifying crane safety standards during hurricanes, allowing caregivers to shelter with special needs individuals, and mandating improved registration outreach for special needs shelters. These comprehensive updates aim to improve disaster resilience, recovery efficiency, and protect vulnerable populations while balancing development and environmental concerns.

The impact is substantial: it strengthens Florida's overall readiness and resilience against future natural disasters. However, it may do so at the cost local government's ability to regulate and streamline processes necessary to ensure public safety.

**SB 234 – Criminal Offenses Against Law Enforcement Officers and Other Personnel, by Sen. Leek
| HB 175, by Rep. Baker***Died in Returning Messages*

Known as the “Officer Jason Raynor Act,” this proposal aimed to enhance protections for law enforcement and related personnel by increasing penalties for crimes committed against them and clarifying the legal framework surrounding arrest resistance. The bill proposed life imprisonment without parole for individuals convicted of killing or committing manslaughter against officers in the line of duty and increased the offense severity ranking for battery on officers. It also sought to prohibit the use of force to resist arrest and redefined “acting in good faith” to include sincere attempts to follow legal procedure, even if later proven unlawful. Although the bill died in Messages, had it passed, it would have significantly strengthened legal deterrents for crimes against officers, potentially improving safety for public servants but also raising concerns about due process and the limits of lawful resistance. We may see this again in 2026.

HB 271 - Crimes Evidencing Prejudice, by Rep. Rosenwald | SB 450, by Sen. Berman*Died House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Senate Criminal Justice*

This bill proposed expanding Florida’s hate crime statute by broadening the list of protected characteristics to include gender, gender identity, and an updated definition of disability. The bill aimed to reclassify penalties for offenses committed with prejudice against these groups, aligning them with existing protections for race, religion, and other categories. It defined “gender identity” as a person’s self-perceived identity or behavior, regardless of assigned sex at birth, and modernized the term “disability” to include physical, psychological, or intellectual impairments. Additionally, the bill permitted individuals or organizations targeted by hate-motivated acts to seek civil remedies, including treble damages. Had it passed, HB 271 would have marked a significant advancement in Florida’s anti-discrimination and civil rights protections, offering stronger legal recourse and deterrence for crimes motivated by bias against marginalized communities.

HB 279 – False Reporting, by Rep. Partington*Approved by the Governor on May 21, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-60*

Approved by the Governor and set to take effect on July 1, 2025, strengthens penalties for the misuse of the 911 emergency system and the reporting of false information to law enforcement. The bill expands criminal liability to include individuals who cause others to make false emergency reports and imposes enhanced felony penalties if such actions result in serious injury or death during the response. It reduces the threshold for enhanced penalties based on repeat offenses and requires convicted individuals to pay restitution to public safety agencies and affected victims. The legislation also removes outdated penalty triggers based on service cost and emphasizes fiscal accountability by mandating full cost recovery for agencies involved. The law is expected to deter fraudulent emergency calls, improve public safety response integrity, and reduce the financial and operational burden on emergency services and law enforcement agencies.

HB 341 – Identification Cards for Public Works Employees, by Rep. Woodson*Died in Government Operations Subcommittee*

This bill proposed a feasibility study to explore implementing a state-issued identification card for public works personnel to be recognized as first responders. The bill tasked the Office of Program Policy

Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) with completing a report by January 1, 2026, considering the inclusion of the national Public Works First Responder symbol. If passed, this bill would have helped elevate the status and recognition of public works employees during emergency responses, potentially improving coordination and access to restricted zones during disasters. However, it was indefinitely withdrawn and did not move forward.

HB 421 – Peer Support for First Responders, Rep. Maggard | SB 86, by Sen Burgess

Approved by the Governor on April 18, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-9

This legislation expands the definition of “first responder” to include crime scene support personnel—individuals involved in investigating crime scenes or processing evidence—thus making them eligible for peer support services and ensuring the confidentiality of their communications within peer support sessions. By extending this protection, the bill recognizes the psychological toll on non-sworn staff in high-stress environments and fosters a more inclusive, trauma-informed support system across law enforcement agencies. The law is expected to improve mental health outcomes and job retention for these critical personnel. Effective date of July 1, 2025.

HB 491 – Use of Artificial Intelligence by Governmental Agencies to Detect Concealed Firearms, by Rep. Miller | SB 562, by Sen. Ingoglia

Died in Rules

This bill sought to prohibit government agencies from using AI to detect concealed firearms in public places, while allowing its use in schools and other restricted areas where concealed carry is already unlawful. It would have introduced strict limitations on surveillance technology, raising important privacy and civil liberties considerations. Its enactment would have curtailed broad use of AI-driven security measures in public spaces while preserving targeted applications in sensitive or high-risk environments. While the House bill made it to the House floor for a vote, the Senate did not take it out of the Rules Committee for a full Senate vote.

HB 929 – Firefighter Health and Safety, by Rep. Booth | SB 1212, by Sen. DiCeglie

Approved by the Governor on June 5, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-124

This bill updates the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act to include occupational diseases and suicide among the monitored risks. It directs the Division of State Fire Marshal to adopt new rules related to gear safety, mental health support, and workplace scheduling. Notably, the legislation encourages employers to transition to gear free from hazardous chemicals and enhances cancer prevention practices and mental health protocols. The law’s passage marks a significant step in protecting firefighter well-being, reducing long-term health risks, and promoting sustainable work conditions in one of the state’s most hazardous professions. It becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

HB 1019 – Weapons and Firearms, by Rep. Hunschofsky

Died in House Criminal Justice Subcommittee

With a focus on tightening gun safety and accountability, this bill proposed universal background checks for firearm sales, mandatory secure storage at point of sale, and new restrictions on undetectable firearms and unregistered parts. It also targeted unregulated manufacturing via 3D printers and introduced criminal penalties for violations. Furthermore, the creation of the Veteran’s Firearm Suicide Reduction Task Force emphasized mental health and suicide prevention. Though indefinitely postponed, this legislation could

have advanced gun safety reforms in Florida, potentially decreasing unauthorized firearm access, enhancing public safety, and supporting at-risk veteran populations.

SB 1022 – Fines for Public Nuisance Abatement, by Sen. Wright | HB 1343, by Rep. Booth
Died in Senate Community Affairs and House State Affairs Subcommittee

This proposal would have expanded the authority of county and municipal abatement boards to more effectively enforce public nuisance ordinances. It would have eliminated existing limits on total fines and allowed for increased daily penalties—up to \$500 per day—for unresolved nuisances lasting over a year. The bill also included provisions for attorney fee awards, jurisdictional retention until abatement, and lien foreclosure mechanisms. Additionally, it permitted recovery of fines through non-ad-valorem special assessments via agreements with tax collectors. While never making it to the floor, this proposal could have significantly strengthened local government enforcement tools, incentivizing faster compliance by property owners and deterring chronic nuisance behavior in neighborhoods.

SB 1202 - Benefits for Firefighters Injured During Training Exercises, by Sen. McClain | HB 749, by Rep. Sapp
Approved by the Governor on May 22, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-72

Effective July 1, 2025, this bill extends health insurance benefits to firefighters, their spouses, and dependent children if the firefighter becomes totally and permanently disabled during an official training exercise. By qualifying such injuries for family health insurance premium payments, the legislation ensures long-term support for those severely injured while preparing to protect public safety. While this offers vital financial relief for affected families, it may have a negative fiscal impact on state and local government budgets due to increased insurance obligations. Nonetheless, the bill strengthens Florida's commitment to its first responders.

HB 1211 – Public Safety, by Rep. Abbott | SB 1554, by Sen. Collins
Died in House Justice Budget Subcommittee and Senate Criminal Justice Committee

This comprehensive public safety proposal aimed to modernize and strengthen Florida's approach to emergency response and homeland security ultimately failed. Key provisions included the creation of a specialized Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Unit within the Department of Law Enforcement, broadened peer support services to more criminal justice professionals, and refined procedures for reporting missing persons. It also supported inclusivity by allowing amputee first responders to serve if certified and introduced formal honors such as the Florida Medal of Valor. Although the bill was withdrawn, its passage could have improved interagency coordination, mental health services, and recognition of heroic service within the public safety community.

HB 1487 – Emergency Services, by Rep. Basabe | SB 1644, by Sen. Rodriguez
Approved by the Governor on May 23, 2025 | 2025-94

Signed into law and becomes effective on July 1, 2025 – this bill modifies the criteria under which faith-based, nonprofit, volunteer ambulance services can qualify for an exemption from the certificate of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) requirement. It increases eligibility thresholds—requiring more years of experience, a greater number of certified volunteers, and multi-county operation—while expanding the number of counties where the exemption may apply from four to fifteen. Notably, the bill allows such organizations to receive government funding while restricting access to grants exclusive to publicly operated agencies. These changes are intended to broaden access to emergency services through qualified volunteer organizations while reinforcing accountability and service quality.

Public Works

SB 50 – Nature-based Methods for Improving Coastal Resilience, by Sen. García | HB 371, by Rep. Mooney, Jr.

Died in Messages

This proposal aimed to promote environmental resilience by directing the Florida Flood Hub and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish standards for using green infrastructure to mitigate sea level rise and storm surge impacts. The bill encouraged mangrove restoration, living shorelines, oyster reefs, and dune protection as strategies to reinforce coastal ecosystems. It also included provisions for workforce development, permitting incentives, and a statewide feasibility study to quantify the benefits of nature-based flood risk reduction. While the bill did not make it past the finish line, it had the potential to enhance Florida's long-term climate adaptability, protect coastal properties, reduce insurance costs, and foster sustainable development through environmental restoration.

HB 73 – Safe Waterways Act, by Rep. Gossett-Seidman | SB 156, by Sen. Rodriguez

Died in House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee and Senate Health Policy

The Safe Waterways Act proposed a major realignment of responsibility for water quality oversight, shifting bacteriological sampling and public health advisories from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). It mandated the creation of public databases, interagency cooperation agreements, and stricter incident reporting requirements by local governments. This transition aimed to streamline waterway safety regulation and enforcement, enhance transparency, and improve public access to real-time water quality information. Though the bill did not pass, its implementation could have strengthened public health protections at beaches and bathing areas by increasing accountability and responsiveness to contamination threats.

SB 164 – Vessel Accountability, by Sen. Rodriguez | HB 1149, by Rep. Basabe

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

The bill introduces a series of reforms aimed at improving the management and accountability of derelict vessels, vessels at risk of becoming derelict, and long-term vessel anchoring in Florida. It broadens the definition of who is considered a vessel owner under boating laws, ensuring that more individuals can be held responsible for compliance. Law enforcement officers are now authorized to immediately require a test of a vessel's propulsion system if the owner or operator is present, helping to ensure vessels are seaworthy and not at risk of becoming derelict.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is granted expanded authority to use funds from the derelict vessel grant program not only for the removal of derelict vessels but also for the prevention of vessels becoming at risk. The bill also establishes a requirement for vessel owners or operators to obtain a no-cost, long-term anchoring permit if they intend to anchor in one place for an extended period. Vessels that accumulate three or more violations related to being at-risk within a 24-month period must now be declared public nuisances, and similar rules apply to vessels with multiple violations for unpermitted long-term anchoring. Penalties have been increased for leaving a derelict vessel in state waters for more than 24 hours, and it is now a first-degree misdemeanor to reside on a vessel that has been determined by a court or administrative order to be derelict. These changes are designed to address public safety, environmental concerns, and the financial burden associated with the removal and management of problem vessels on Florida's waterways. Effective date is July 1, 2025.

HB 295 – Comprehensive Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, by Rep. Casello | SB 200, by Sen. Berman

Presented to the Governor | Must act by July 3, 2025

Unanimously passed by legislature, this bill mandates the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to develop a statewide waste reduction and recycling plan by July 1, 2026, rooted in sustainable materials management and waste diversion. The plan must include strategies for recycling education, local government assistance, and development of recycling materials markets, informed by a technical advisory group and prior DEP reports. Upon completion, DEP must submit recommendations for legislative changes to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Effective July 1, 2025, the bill positions Florida to modernize its recycling infrastructure, address market challenges, and increase waste diversion through statewide collaboration and strategic planning.

SB 700 – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, by Sen. Truenow

Approved by the Governor on May 15, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-22

SB 700 is a wide-ranging reform bill that updates and expands the authority, programs, and regulatory scope of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The bill addresses agricultural operations, consumer protection, environmental regulation, criminal law, and charitable organization oversight. Key provisions include protections for farmworker housing, expanded drone regulations, statewide preemption of electric vehicle (EV) charging station permitting, criminal penalties for various acts including psilocybin trafficking and mail theft, modernization of grant and licensing programs, and new regulatory standards for labeling plant-based products. It also introduces the Florida Farmer Financial Protection Act, prohibiting ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) criteria from being used to deny financial services to farmers, and establishes a statewide Honest Services Registry for charitable organizations.

This legislation has far-reaching implications across Florida's agricultural and regulatory landscape. By preempting local control in areas such as EV charging station regulation and farmworker housing, it centralizes oversight with the state, reducing jurisdictional conflict but potentially limiting local flexibility. The protection of agricultural lands and facilitation of surplus land sales align with rural preservation goals while offering development opportunities under easement protections. Expanded drone laws and criminal penalties enhance agricultural security and property rights. The bill also strengthens consumer protections through updated labeling laws and charitable organization transparency, while modernizing the department's infrastructure to support workforce development, including veterinary pathologists. In sum, SB 700 marks a significant consolidation of agricultural authority at the state level, with broad regulatory, economic, and legal implications for stakeholders across agriculture, energy, environment, and public policy. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

HB 795 - Anchoring and Mooring at Seaports, by Rep. LaMarca | SB 594, by Sen. Rodriguez

Died in House State Affairs Committee and Senate Fiscal Policy

This bill proposed granting certain Florida seaports the authority to establish no anchoring or mooring zones for uninsured vessels anchored for over 45 days. It included procedures for public hearings, regulatory review by the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and integration of the zones into port security and strategic plans. Though it did not pass, the bill would have enhanced maritime security, protected commercial operations, and reduced risks posed by derelict or unregulated vessels in high-traffic port areas.

SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems, by Sen. Burgess | HB 1436, by Sen McClain | HB 739, by Rep. Grow

Died on Calendar, Senate Environment and Natural Resources and House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

This bill was initially similar to HB 739, and later the Legislature attempted to take some language and incorporate it into the Emergencies bill (SB 180) – requiring all counties and municipalities to follow the Department of Transportation's construction standards for stormwater systems. It included provisions for third-party inspections and preempted all local standards.

The city along with the Florida League of Cities (FLC) expressed significant concerns as City officials note that our current MS4 permit, issued by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, already requires annual reporting and a systematic inspection process where all assets are inspected within a five-year cycle. Mandating annual inspections for every asset, as the bill suggests, would place an unmanageable burden on city resources without providing additional funding. The City emphasizes that such a requirement is impractical given the sheer volume and diversity of stormwater infrastructure, including thousands of inlets, conduits, manholes, and other components.

To illustrate the scale of the challenge, Fort Lauderdale provides detailed data on its stormwater assets, which include over 11,800 stormwater inlets, 20,000 conduits, 2,230 manholes, and nearly 200 miles of gravity mains, among other features. Further, the City is actively working to improve asset management through registries and predictive dashboards but stressed that the proposed legislation did not account for the operational realities faced by local governments.

While ultimately withdrawn, the bill reflected a legislative effort to streamline regulatory practices and ensure uniform infrastructure quality, though it raised concerns about local governments' autonomy to address specific environmental or engineering challenges in their regions.

HB 973 – Special Districts, by Rep. Overdorf | SB 986, by Sen. Truenow

Died in House State Affairs Committee and Senate Community Affairs

This proposal, by Rep. Overdorf, sought to modernize operations and reduce liability for special districts across Florida. It proposed limited legal liability for districts offering public access to recreational lands, allowed special districts to utilize state purchasing agreements, and authorized criminal background checks for employees, vendors, and facility users. The bill also introduced specific reforms: independent fire control districts would retain services even if annexed by a municipality and would no longer be subject to five-year performance reviews. For soil and water conservation districts, the bill dissolved 35 districts and revised governance structures for the remainder. Though the bill was withdrawn, it would have increased operational flexibility and efficiency across several district types.

The Senate version extended reforms further. It abolished specified soil and water conservation districts, transferring their responsibilities to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and prohibited municipalities from assuming services in areas already served by fire control districts. It streamlined public notice requirements, expanded purchasing powers, and removed periodic state performance review mandates for certain districts. The bill also enabled criminal background checks for sensitive roles and established updated qualifications for supervisors of remaining conservation districts. While ultimately not enacted, it would have restructured district oversight, reduced redundancy, and clarified service authority boundaries.

HB 1177 – Labor Regulations, by Rep. Gottlieb

Died in House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee

Unfortunately, this proposal for comprehensive labor protections and benefit reforms for Florida's workforce died in committee. The bill expanded union dues deductions for more public employees and eliminated recertification requirements based on membership thresholds. It introduced a state-mandated heat safety program for outdoor workers in sectors like agriculture and construction, requiring preventive protocols including hydration and shaded rest areas. The bill would have created a benefit framework for independent contractors, directing contracting agents to contribute to health and retirement benefits managed by nonprofit providers. Although it failed to pass, it would have significantly enhanced worker safety and expanded benefit access for non-traditional employees.

SB 1398 – Resilience Infrastructure Loans, by Sen. Rodriguez

Died in Senate Commerce and Tourism

This proposal never made it out of its first committee of reference and had no House companion. It aimed to establish a state-backed loan program to fund infrastructure projects rooted in resilience engineering. Administered by the Department of Commerce, the program would be financed through state and federal grants and permitted bond issuance independent of the Division of Bond Finance. The bill set parameters for project eligibility, loan terms (max 20 years), and underwriting standards, and required repayment within three years of project completion. The initiative, backed by the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund, would have created a critical financing tool for strengthening Florida's infrastructure against climate and structural risks.

SB 1580 – Infrastructure and Resiliency, by Sen. Rodriguez | HB 1345, by Rep. LaMarca

Died on Calendar

So close to passing, the unfortunately died at the very end. The bill proposed significant enhancements to Florida's approach to coastal resilience by broadening the scope of public-private partnerships (P3s). It amended the definition of "qualifying project" to include coastal resiliency initiatives, such as flood mitigation, sea level rise adaptation, infrastructure repair, and construction of protective barriers. The bill granted the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) exclusive authority to manage and execute these projects through P3s, with mechanisms to attract private investment via revenue-sharing agreements and expedited permitting. It also emphasized transparency and workforce development, requiring the DEP to provide biennial progress reports and maintain a real-time online dashboard. Although not enacted, the bill would have centralized and accelerated the state's coastal resilience efforts.

HB 6023 – Auxiliary Containers, Wrappings, and Disposable Plastic Bags, by Rep. Bartleman | SB 836, by Sen. Smith, C.

Died in Senate Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee and House Environment and Natural Resources Committee

This proposal sought to empower local governments by removing state preemption over the regulation of recyclable materials such as plastic bags and auxiliary containers. The bill directed the Department of Environmental Protection to revisit and update its 2010 report on retail bags, incorporating input from government agencies, businesses, and the public. It required the updated findings to be submitted to the Legislature by December 31, 2021, potentially laying the groundwork for future local ordinances on plastic waste reduction. Though the bill was withdrawn, its passage would have signaled a shift toward greater local control in environmental policy.

Transportation

HB 85 – Hazardous Walking Conditions, by Rep. Kendall | SB 650, by Sen. Leek

Approved by the Governor on May 21, 2025 | Chapter No. 2025-59

This bill revises the legal definition of hazardous walking conditions specifically for public school students in Florida. It expands the types of roads classified as hazardous to include “limited access facilities,” which typically encompass highways and expressways where pedestrian access is restricted or unsafe. The bill maintains existing criteria related to the physical characteristics of the roadway—such as lane width, surface quality, and speed limits—that are used to determine if a walking path poses a hazard. By explicitly including limited access facilities, the bill strengthens protections for student pedestrians, ensuring that school districts and local governments recognize these areas as requiring special attention when planning safe walking routes to and from school. The bill was approved by the governor and took effect on May 21, 2025.

SB 462 – Transportation, by Sen. DiCeglie | HB 567, by Rep. McFarland

Presented to the Governor | Must act on the bill by July 3, 2025.

This expansive transportation bill touches on numerous aspects of Florida’s transportation system, aiming to enhance infrastructure, streamline processes, and support workforce development. Counties are required to annually report detailed information on how they use the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax, increasing transparency and accountability for local transportation funding. The bill also raises speed limits by five miles per hour on certain highways, which may improve traffic flow but could raise safety considerations. Airports are prohibited from imposing new landing fees for aircraft conducting flight training by designated institutions, supporting aviation education. The legislation empowers public-use airports to participate in federal investment programs and access state funding, and initiates a pilot program at Sarasota Manatee Airport to test alternative airport permitting methods. FDOT gains enhanced authority, including eminent domain powers to preserve corridors for future improvements and the ability to grant workforce development grants to support training in heavy civil construction. The bill emphasizes timely project development and environmental review by setting an 18-month target for completion. Contracting rules are adjusted to improve bidding processes, insurance requirements for bridge contracts are updated, and qualifications for contractors on maintenance contracts are clarified. The legislation also mandates better oversight and accountability for metropolitan planning organizations and revises geographic residency requirements for members of the Greater Miami Expressway Agency board. Finally, FDOT is tasked with reporting on plans to widen Interstate 4. This bill became effective on July 1, 2025, and carries potential fiscal implications for government entities.

SB 1662 – Transportation, by Sen. Collins | HB 1397, by Rep. Abbott

Presented to the Governor | Must act on the bill by July 3, 2025.

This legislation significantly expands Florida’s transportation policy framework to support economic growth, innovation, and infrastructure modernization. It creates new leadership positions within the Department of Transportation, including an Executive Director focused on transportation technology, and broadens the Florida Transportation Commission’s membership while instituting public officer standards of conduct for its members. The bill establishes the Florida Transportation Research Institute to drive research and workforce development initiatives tailored to emerging transportation technologies and needs. In seaport regulation, the bill broadens permissible project types to include spaceports, commercial shipbuilding, and manufacturing facilities, while imposing stricter reporting requirements and limiting the conversion of cargo facilities in counties with spaceport operations.

The bill also revises airport regulations by expanding the definition of intermodal logistics centers to include airports and revising requirements for private airports deemed to be of public interest. It prohibits airports from charging new landing fees for certain flight training operations and incorporates advanced air mobility considerations into statewide aviation planning. Additionally, the bill promotes commercial service airport infrastructure through dedicated programs.

A notable policy shift replaces previous disadvantaged business enterprise programs with a broader small business development initiative, revising bonding and procurement processes to support this change. The legislation prohibits municipalities from restricting certain septic-to-sewer conversion projects, enhances statewide right-of-way regulations, and boosts FDOT's capacity to acquire insurance and heavy equipment for road operations and emergency response. Lastly, the bill increases transparency and reporting requirements for seaports, airports, and transit entities to ensure alignment with state energy policy goals and funding accountability. The bill becomes effective on July 1, 2025.



For more information contact us:

Daphnee A. Sainvil, Public Affairs Manager
(954) 299-7806 | DSainvil@fortlauderdale.gov

Ashley Dixon, Policy Analyst
(954) 828-5130 | Adixon@fortlauderdale.gov

City of Fort Lauderdale – Public Affairs Division
101 NE 3rd Ave., Suite 2100
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301