



Session Highlights

FLORIDA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

2025



OFFICE *of* THE MAJORITY LEADER

At the beginning of the session, each of us received a brick, symbolic of a timeless truth: alone, we are vulnerable, but together, we form an unbreakable House. Guided by our core conservative principles, we worked with integrity and perseverance to build a stronger Florida, brick by brick.

Members, be proud of yourselves, and of one another, for all that our conference has accomplished.

From groundbreaking immigration legislation to a transformative budget, House Republicans led with bold, dynamic conservatism. Whether it was ensuring government accountability, delivering tax relief, or protecting our environment, we acted with conviction to make Florida safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

Our House Majority Office has compiled the 2025 Session Highlights, a resource entailing our top legislative achievements. Inside, you will find key messages, high-level summaries, and essential facts to help you and your staff communicate our successes to constituents in a compelling and meaningful way.

For more detailed information on 2025 legislation, please do not hesitate to contact the Majority Office staff.

Hopefully this information is useful as you tell our story and promote our hard work with constituents. As we prepare for the dawn of the 2026 session, over the horizon awaits new challenges and fearless, principled leadership.

Let's remain steadfast. Let's remain as an unbreakable House. And let's get ready to lead again.

MAJORITY LEADER TYLER SIROIS
FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



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Legislative Achievements

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES





Legislative Achievements

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

One of the key pillars to good governance is defending those who struggle to defend themselves. This session, the Florida House passed legislation to do just that. Sometimes Florida families face difficult challenges that require special attention.

Children's Health

All lives are worth fighting for, especially our youngest. Making investments towards improving the lives of our babies and children isn't only reflective of stronger communities, but promotes safe and healthy families.

- ✓ Combated rare genetic diseases that don't receive the same level of attention as more prevalent ones by establishing the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases to focus on research and clinical care and adding Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the state's newborn screening panel (HB 907 & HB 1089).
- ✓ Secured the health and safety of babies by authorizing the use of infant safety devices, or "baby boxes", at current locations to safely surrender infants (HB 791).
- ✓ Ensured children with diabetes have access to life-saving glucagon by allowing schools throughout the state to maintain supplies (HB 597).
- ✓ Improved the child welfare system by establishing treatment foster homes and requiring targeted recruitment efforts for child protective professionals (SB 7012).

“When you vote yes on this bill, you're voting to save lives. You're voting to save money. And you're voting to help Florida usher in the future of medicine.”

—REP. ANDERSON (R-57)



Legislative Achievements

Protecting Our Most Vulnerable

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONTINUED...

Services for People with Complex Needs

Florida thrives when our disabled and vulnerable populations are supported and empowered to reach their full potential. We've demonstrated our commitment by providing services tailored to meet each individual's unique needs.

- ✓ Expanded the developmental disabilities pilot program to provide coordinated comprehensive care tailored to the needs of each participant (HB 1103).
- ✓ Made it easier for family members to be employed caregivers for medically fragile children in Medicaid (SB 1156).
- ✓ Secured necessary funding to provide robust services and grants dedicated towards child autism services, including early school intervention, school readiness, academic opportunities, and workforce training (SB 112).
- ✓ Planned for fundamental reforms to how we care for medically fragile children by requiring a reform proposal and budget analysis by the end of the year (SB 1490).
- ✓ Increased access to lifesaving medication by authorizing direct support professionals and family members of developmentally disabled individuals in group homes to administer insulin (HB 1567).

“This bill... gives clients a lifeline and access to services that some have been waiting decades for.”

—REP. KINCART JONSSON (R-49)



Legislative Achievements School Choice and Better Schools

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

As a national leader in education, Florida remains committed to putting students and families at its center. By removing barriers and delivering practical, student-centered solutions, we are creating more opportunities for success at every step of a child's educational journey.

School Flexibility

Every student deserves the chance to learn in an environment that fits their needs. By expanding access and removing unnecessary barriers, we're making sure more students can participate fully in their education.

- ✓ Expanded access to school activities by allowing private and home-schooled students to play sports that they don't have access to (SB 248).
- ✓ Provided school districts flexibility in meeting start time requirements (SB 296).
- ✓ Enhanced charter school operations through increased enrollment flexibility, streamlined facility approvals, and expanded enrollment preferences to better serve unique student populations (HB 443).

“Education in Florida is the Statue of Liberty, where we take everybody. That's the basis of the choice movement: no student, no child, will be left behind.”

—REP. RIZO (R-112)

Student Safety

Students learn best when they feel secure, supported, and healthy – whether traveling to school, in the classroom, or throughout the community. Prioritizing wellbeing at every stage of a child's day helps create an environment where they can focus, grow, and thrive.

- ✓ Increased school route safety by expanding access to state-funded transportation for students who walk along hazardous roadways (HB 85).
- ✓ Required electrocardiogram screenings for student athletes to help prevent life-threatening emergencies during school activities (SB 1070).
- ✓ Equipped school staff with training to recognize and report signs of human trafficking, helping protect vulnerable students from exploitation beyond the classroom (HB 1237).
- ✓ Ensured prompt action when serious misconduct occurs by requiring school districts to remove arrested teachers within 24 hours and notify affected parents (SB 1374).
- ✓ Strengthened school safety measures for our youngest students by authorizing licensed child care facilities to participate in the Guardian Program (SB 1470).

“It's sad that we have to pass bills like this, but it is our duty to keep Florida students as safe as possible while providing the best possible environment for learning and growing while they're at school.”

—REP. YEAGER (R-56)



Legislative Achievements **School Choice and Better Schools**

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



CONTINUED...

Child Development

Strong instruction as well as a well-rounded life outside of the classroom are foundational to student achievement. By raising standards for educators and promoting activities, Florida is ensuring students get the tools they need to master core subjects and build the confidence to succeed in school and beyond.

- ✓ Ensured students are not left behind by stipulating school districts implement stronger reading and math support plans, requires the mandatory financial literacy course to cover postsecondary expenses, and authorizes the administration of the Classical Learning Test to students in grade 10 (HB 1255).
- ✓ Updated child neglect laws to protect parents who let their kids engage in unsupervised activities – reflecting that a child alone at home or at the store is not a child being neglected (SB 1286).

“**Teachers should absolutely be equipped to do the job they’ve been called to do, but they should be equipped with the facts—not somebody’s political distortion of those facts.”**

— REP. TRAMONT (R-30)

Early Learning

The earlier we support a child’s development, the greater their long-term success. Strengthening early learning helps close achievement gaps before they widen and makes sure all children, especially those with special needs, start school ready to learn.

- ✓ Benefits children with special needs by revising the criteria for eligibility for the School Readiness Program so students can receive additional accommodations (SB 1102).

“**Every child deserves a strong start—no child is left behind simply because their needs are different.”**

— REP. TRABULSY (R-84)



Legislative Achievements

Government Accountability

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

As part of Florida's ongoing commitment to limited government and responsible stewardship, the House advanced common-sense reform this Session to cut waste, fraud, and abuse; strengthen ethical standards; and increase transparency. These efforts reinforce the trust Floridians place in their institutions by ensuring state government remains efficient, accountable, and focused on serving the public, not itself.

Government Oversight

Clear, consistent rules help cut bureaucratic red tape, reduce confusion, and make it easier for businesses and citizens to navigate government processes. Florida is promoting transparency, economic growth, and reinforcing trust in how decisions are made.

- ✓ Made the rulemaking process more accountable by requiring agencies to regularly clean up outdated rules and providing easier access to documents or forms created by rules (SB 108).
- ✓ Ensured taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively with comprehensive audits for behavioral health managing entities and more stringent reporting to measure outcomes (HB 633).

“We are requiring each agency to examine every single rule in their books, including their guidance documents, to ensure they are following our legislative intent”

—REP. OVERDORF (R-85)

Ethics

The Florida House believes that strengthening ethical standards in state government ensures decisions are made in the best interest of Floridians rather than for political gain or personal influence.

- ✓ Would have enhanced ethical oversight by requiring high-level state officials to be U.S. citizens and Florida residents, and tightening rules on political fundraising by public employees (HB 1445)

“We are ensuring our elected and appointed officials are fully committed and focused on their primary duties of serving the state of Florida”

—REP. MAYFIELD (R-32)



Legislative Achievements

Domestic Security

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

Protecting our state from threats takes many forms. Floridians face risks from natural disasters, foreign influence, and even internal threats. That's why staying proactive is essential. This session, we passed legislation to strengthen our response to natural disasters and defend our government from subversive threats.

Protecting our Constitution

It's no secret that foreign actors and deep-pocket conglomerates attempt to influence Florida's governance and politics. This is a practice that is unhealthy for society and for democracy. As public servants, we must maintain safeguards that ensure policy is served to the public. By this very principle, we used this session to secure our sacred constitution for the will of the people, as well as punish those who manipulate our economy for political gain.

- ✓ Safeguarded Florida's ballot initiative process setting more stringent requirements on petition circulators to combat fraud and ensure those signing petitions are properly informed (HB 1205).

“We must take action, we must put integrity back into the initiative process.”

—REP. PERSONS-MULICKA (R-78)

Emergency Response

Natural disasters are a reality for Floridians, and 2024 was no exception. Communities were faced with grappling with the aftermath of powerful hurricanes while bracing for the next. This session, we took decisive action to strengthen our storm preparedness and improve the speed and efficiency of recovery efforts.

- ✓ Updated and modernized Florida's emergency preparedness and response system by increasing statewide storm preparation efforts, improving access to storm preparation and recovery information and shelters, and streamlining post-disaster rebuilding (SB 180).

“This bill represents all of the lessons learned from hurricanes and codifies... how we can best respond to disasters and emergencies.”

—REP. McFARLAND (R-73)



Legislative Achievements Harnessing Florida's Natural Beauty

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

Florida's environment is inextricably tied to our history, our economy, and our way of life. From the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of America, from the Keys to the Panhandle, Florida's natural beauty provides endless recreational opportunities, a billion-dollar tourism industry, and countless jobs for Floridians. As stewards of the state, it's our moral obligation to protect the environment for future generations. This session, the House did just that. From keeping our state parks pristine, to increasing freedom and safety on the water, to protecting public access to our beaches, we answered the call.

Environmental Protection

Florida is globally recognized for its stunning natural environments. However, with that beauty comes the responsibility to preserve it. As our population grows and housing demand increases, the Florida House remains committed to protecting our environment while responsibly balancing urban development with wildlife conservation.

- ✓ Created the State Park Preservation Act which prohibits the construction of sporting facilities within state parks and requires state parks and preserves to be managed in a manner that provides the greatest combination of benefits to the public and the land's natural resources (HB 209).
- ✓ Created additional permitting standards for when oil and gas drilling may occur within one mile of the coast or inland waters by requiring a new environmental risk-balancing test before the approval of a permit for oil or gas drilling or exploration activities (HB 1143).
- ✓ Renamed the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America throughout Florida law, mirroring President Trump's Executive Order (HB 575).

“We put real plans in place to make sure that, for generations to come, our state parks will be preserved, they will be protected, and they will be here for millions of Floridians and visitors from around the world to come and enjoy.”

—REP. SNYDER (R-86)



Legislative Achievements Harnessing Florida's Natural Beauty

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



CONTINUED...

Recreation

Outdoor recreation plays a crucial role in our health and lifestyle, but just as importantly it expands our environmental awareness. By passing legislation that encourages outdoor experiences, we build public support for protecting natural areas and preserving them for future generations.

- ✓ Defended the rights of boaters by prohibiting Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers from stopping or boarding a vessel for inspections without probable cause and ensuring boaters may purchase and use any watercraft of their choosing, without restrictions related to energy source (SB 1388).
- ✓ Restored the traditional right to customary recreational use, ensuring all Floridians can enjoy our beaches freely without fear of being blocked from access (SB 1622).
- ✓ Expanded the Clean Marina Program to include marine manufacturers further encouraging environmental best management practices at marinas and providing additional grants for the Florida Boating Improvement Program that will help address access limitations and support the use of marinas (HB 735).

“We value our boaters, we want to ensure they’re held accountable. We also want to make [sure we] provide the freedoms that we have in the free state of Florida.”

—REP. GRIFFITTS (R-6)

Boater Safety

Boating is a way of life in Florida, and we wouldn’t have it any other way. However, with 1,350 miles of coastline and the most registered boats in the country come unique challenges—the most important being ensuring the safety of those on the water. This Session, the Florida House addressed the vital issue of water safety in a variety of ways.

- ✓ Increased boater accountability by enforcing stronger penalties for reckless boating behavior that endangers others (HB 289).
- ✓ Ensured vessel owners are held accountable for leaving at-risk or derelict vessels in the State’s waterways and implemented new long-term anchoring permits to further reduce the number of derelict vessels (SB 164).
- ✓ Reduced environmental and navigational hazards by authorizing certain local governments to further restrict anchoring in congested areas (HB 481).

“Everyone...worked together to improve boater safety—not just for the Fernandez family and to honor their beautiful daughter, whose loss is felt so much—but this is going to actually save lives. We are going to deter people from acting recklessly in the water. We are going to save lives.”

—REP. OLIVER (R-76)



Legislative Achievements

Public Safety & Justice

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

Florida is committed to protecting families, strengthening communities, and ensuring justice is served. This Session, we advanced bold, citizen-focused reforms to promote safety and the dignity of our citizens, and accountability throughout our state. From cracking down on crime to modernizing our courts and protecting the vulnerable, Florida continues to lead with forward-thinking solutions that prioritize justice and law-abiding citizens.

Law Enforcement

Safe communities are the foundation of a thriving state. This Session, Florida prioritized the protection of citizens and law enforcement officers through stronger penalties and targeted reforms that deter violence and crime.

- ✓ Enhanced officer safety and public protection by increasing penalties for fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement, helping to deter dangerous high-speed chases (HB 113).
- ✓ Protected public leaders by expanding capital offense criteria to include political assassinations—a sad need arising from the attempted assassinations on President Trump (HB 653).
- ✓ Expanded capital offense criteria to include murders at schools, churches, or public meetings, reinforcing security in sacred and public spaces (HB 693).
- ✓ Enhanced rider safety by making it a crime to impersonate a prearranged transportation service driver, such as an Uber or Lyft driver (HB 1525).

“Last year, we bowed our heads in a moment of silence for State Trooper Zachary Fink, who was killed in a high-speed pursuit...this is unacceptable. With this bill, we hope to save lives.”

—REP. CHAMBERLIN (R-24)

Judicial Reform

A fair and modern justice system is essential to upholding the rule of law and protecting the rights of every Floridian. In this historical session, the Florida House advanced reforms that streamline the courts, uphold civil liberties, and expand access to justice for victims and families.

- ✓ Modernized Florida's courts by requiring electronic transmittal of certain court orders within 6 hours, reducing delays and increasing efficiency (HB 513).
- ✓ Would have enabled families of adult medical malpractice wrongful death victims to seek noneconomic damages and hold negligent health care providers accountable (HB 6017).
- ✓ Protected homeowners by closing legal loopholes that previously allowed squatters to occupy private property without consequence (SB 322).
- ✓ Safeguarded Second Amendment rights by eliminating unjustified restrictions on firearms and ammunition during declared emergencies (HB 6025).

“It's about time we put the courts back in the hands of Floridians.”

—REP. TRABULSY (R-84)



Legislative Achievements Public Safety & Justice

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



CONTINUED...

Online Protection/Sexual Offenses

In an increasingly digital world, Florida is defending children, families, and personal dignity by cracking down on digital exploitation and repeat sexual predators. These reforms send a clear message: predators will be held accountable.

- ✓ Protected minors and families from exploitation by outlawing the creation and spread of deepfake sexual content (HB 757).
- ✓ Required online platforms to promptly remove altered, nonconsensual sexual images, helping to protect victims. (HB 1161).
- ✓ Ensured justice for online abuse victims by expanding protections against sexual cyberharassment (HB 1451).
- ✓ Toughened sentencing guidelines for repeat sexual offenders (HB 1455).
- ✓ Made child sex traffickers eligible for the death penalty, delivering the strongest possible consequences for those who exploit Florida's most vulnerable (SB 1804).

“Between 2022 and 2023, there was a 464% increase in deepfake videos. This problem is only going to increase exponentially unless we give the tools to require websites to take this content down.”

—REP. DUGGAN (R-12)

Four Legged Friends

Far too often, animals suffer at the hands of careless or malicious individuals, whether they're left behind in life-threatening situations, subjected to brutal abuse, or allowed to become a danger to others due to negligent handling. The Florida House has responded with proactive legislation to hold careless dog owners accountable and keep our furry friends safe.

- ✓ Penalized human neglect by establishing a felony offense for abandoning a restrained dog during a declared natural disaster (SB 150).
- ✓ Condemned animal abusers by strengthening penalties against those who intentionally mutilate or torture animals (HB 255).
- ✓ Promoted responsible ownership by requiring dangerous dog owners to carry liability insurance, microchip their animals, and comply with animal control authorities. (HB 593).

“Animal cruelty isn't only heartbreaking, but it's a serious public safety issue... Florida takes violence against animals seriously. When our animals are safe, our communities are even safer.”

—REP. CHANEY (R-61)



Legislative Achievements Honoring Our Heroes

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

Hollywood misconstrues the depiction of heroes. Movies show humans with supernatural abilities and fancy costumes. In reality, our heroes are the ones who lay their lives on the line to save others. In Florida, we firmly stand by the principle that we protect those who protect us. We passed common-sense legislation that backs the blue, expands health benefits for first responders, and ensures care for our veterans.

Backing the Blue

Florida's law enforcement is our first line of defense as public guardians. It's necessary to provide these heroes the resources and protections that will help them execute their duties. This session, we moved legislation that allows law enforcement to prepare for a first responder situation at any time, safeguards their physical and mental well-being, and honors their legacies.

- ✓ Created safer communities by allowing trained law enforcement and military personnel to easily obtain a concealed carry firearm (HB 383).
- ✓ Expanded mental health tools available by broadening the scope of individuals eligible for group peer support to include law enforcement support staffers (HB 421).
- ✓ Ensured the well-being of law enforcement officers by extending health insurance coverage to officers and their families after the officer is catastrophically injured in the line of duty (HB 751).
- ✓ Updated critical FDLE public safety programs and raised support for Florida's retired K-9s (HB 1053).
- ✓ Increased penalties for crimes against law enforcement, created new medals of honor, and provided stronger protections (HB 1371).

“We will send a clear message that Florida stands with its first responders, values truth and transparency, public safety, and is serious in ensuring that our laws evolve to meet today's challenges.”

—REP. NIX (R-75)

Fighting for Firefighters

Firefighters fight imminent danger and keep individuals out of harm's way. It's important that we fight for them in their fight against danger. Legislation this session included enhanced safety gear for firefighters, and expanded health coverage.

- ✓ Improved firefighters' long-term health and safety by requiring safe, non-hazardous gear; expanding mental health support; and encouraging sustainable work schedules (HB 929).
- ✓ Supported firefighters and their families by expanding health insurance coverage to those that become permanently disabled during official training exercises (SB 1202).

“The message has to be loud and clear: when it comes to the people in this country that stand for us when we run the other way, you can be unequivocal. There can be no space between us and them.”

—REP. ALVAREZ, D. (R-69)



Legislative Achievements **Honoring Our Heroes**

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONTINUED...

Serving our Veterans

Our armed forces lay their life on the line so we can sleep in peace. We must provide them the same level of peace when they return home. There is a reason why over 1.4 million veterans call Florida home. This session, legislation was targeted to safeguard veterans' benefits, protect armed force integrity, and enhance veteran housing security.

- ✓ Emphasized educating our veterans on benefits provided to them, invested in their mental health, and protected their benefits from scammers (SB 116 & SB 910).
- ✓ Maintained armed force integrity by punishing politicians who use stolen valor for their own gain (SB 348).
- ✓ Expanded and reserved beds in nursing homes exclusively for veterans and their spouses (HB 797).
- ✓ Urged the United States Congress to authorize an increase in the size of Florida's national guard (SM 314).

“By casting your vote today, we are not only honoring their legacy, but also paying tribute to the 1.4 million men and women living in Florida who have served our great nation.”

—REP. PLAKON (R-36)



Legislative Achievements Job Training & Career Opportunities

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

Florida's economic future depends on a well-trained, effective workforce. From rebuilding after hurricanes to caring for the sick and educating the next generation, skilled workers are essential. This session, we strengthened our workforce by passing legislation that expands apprenticeship and training programs. We also advanced measures to improve education, ensuring all Floridians are better prepared to seize opportunities after completing their training.

Expanding Opportunities

Florida's future depends on a skilled, adaptable workforce. That's why we passed key legislation to expand access to high-quality training, ensure funding transparency, and create clear pathways to economic growth and career development.

- ✓ Enhanced transparency, fairness, and accountability in apprenticeship and preapprenticeship funding by establishing standardized contracts between educational agencies and apprenticeship programs, as well as establishing a clear division of funding responsibilities (HB 681).
- ✓ Expanded access to workforce training by making charter schools eligible for career education grants and by requiring school districts and colleges to offer more tuition-guaranteed programs (HB 1145).
- ✓ Fortified student access to the best education by opening opportunities for charter schools to assist struggling traditional public schools (HB 1105).

“This is a solid step towards helping Florida's students achieve great, meaningful careers.”

—REP. SHOAF (R-7)

Training Instruction

A strong workforce begins with strong instruction. This session, we passed laws to support training at every level, so Floridians are prepared to meet the state's growing demand for skilled workers.

- ✓ Ensured our teachers are better prepared to educate their students by revising educator preparation programs, bolstering educator certifications, and modernizing teacher trainings (HB 875).
- ✓ Would have promoted job readiness and quality instruction in nursing education programs by raising licensing standards and holding educators and institutions accountable for low performance and licensure passage rates (HB 1427).

“Teacher training and professional courses should be used to further train and educate our educators to be effective educators, facilitators, and instructors—not indoctrinators.”

—REP. TRAMONT (R-30)



Legislative Achievements

Strong Communities, Strong Economy

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Overview

Integral to Florida's success is our commitment to policies that strengthen both our communities and our economy. These two pillars reinforce one another; when we invest in one, we lift up the other. This session, we passed legislation that reflects this truth. By addressing the housing crisis, empowering personal financial independence, and modernizing our infrastructure, we're equipping Floridians with the tools they need to achieve their American Dream.

Condo Reform

Floridians vocalized their concerns with the housing crisis, especially in the condominium market. The Florida House listened and responded by crafting meaningful proposals that provide relief to condominium owners while still emphasizing building integrity and resident security.

- ✓ Improved recent reforms to condominium building safety with new tools and more flexibility to meet reserve requirements, improve transparency and accountability, and expand compliance reporting (HB 913).
- ✓ Expanded the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program to provide grants to mitigate water intrusion and roofing damage by hurricanes (HB 393).
- ✓ Enhanced local governments' ability to develop affordable housing options, such as multi-residential housing (SB 1730).

“We have strived to reach that delicate balance between the safety of our constituents that live in condominiums as well as understanding the incredible financial impact that sometimes these particular bills we pass have.”

—REP. SHOAF (R-7)

Cutting Red Tape

More and more people are moving to and staying in Florida. It's imperative to ensure construction and property rights are not burdened by arbitrary local regulation.

- ✓ Assisted homebuilders by requiring expediting building permit reviews and adopting uniform state standards to protect the right of homeowners to install turf in their yards (HB 683).
- ✓ Lessened the burden on homeowners and builders by preventing excessive impact fee spikes, clarifying minimum information required for zoning applications, and requiring local governments to meet development permit review deadlines (SB 1080).

“[This bill] is about finding a balance between appropriate governance of the construction industry and stepping in when the same governance results in an intentional or accidental interference with the ability of the private sector to do their job.”

—REP. GRIFFITTS (R-6)



Legislative Achievements **Strong Communities, Strong Economy**

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONTINUED...

Financial Freedom

Citizens are in charge of how they spend their hard-earned money, not the government.

- ✓ Protected economic freedom by recognizing gold coin and silver coin as real money, strengthening the value of real assets (HB 999).
- ✓ Defended Floridians' energy freedom by blocking local bans on gas stoves and appliances, expanding energy options for Floridians (HB 1137).
- ✓ Backed Florida farmers with a local ad valorem tax break on equipment and tools, subject to voter approval at the 2026 general election (HJR 1215).

“We have the opportunity to make Florida the gold standard of financial opportunity and freedom.”

—REP. BANKSON (R-39)

Infrastructure Investment

Florida's booming economy is driven by a rapidly growing population. To sustain and support this momentum, the Florida House advanced legislation that improves and modernizes infrastructure.

- ✓ Passed a transportation package that makes significant improvements to how the state plans and develops infrastructure as well as how Floridians use it (SB 462).
- ✓ Modernized infrastructure by establishing the Florida Transportation Research Institute, promoting the growth of seaports, and investing in roads so Florida keeps moving, growing, and thriving (SB 1662).
- ✓ Established the International Aerospace Innovation Fund, continuing investments towards Florida's lead in space innovation (SB 1516).

“Building a road takes a really, really long time—more than the eight years in which we serve up here. But with investments like this, and policies such as this, we can solve the problem one step at a time.”

—REP. MCFARLAND (R-73)



Overview

With Florida's population rapidly growing and business investment constantly expanding, the Florida House made major reforms to combat fraud, hold predatory businesses accountable, and rein in local government overreach in critical sectors of our economy. These changes not only demonstrate our commitment to lifting up small businesses, but also our determination to prioritize consumer protection. A stronger economy starts with trust, and Floridians deserve transparency, fairness, and freedom from exploitation.

Small Business Protection

The Florida House recognizes that small businesses are the backbone of a strong economy.

- ✓ Shielded local restaurants from fraud by blocking third-party sites from listing restaurant reservations without a contract (SB 940).
- ✓ Established safeguards for confidential business information and client relationships through enforceable garden leave and noncompete agreements (HB 1219).
- ✓ Reduced local overreach by classifying plants and plant products as "farm products" that local governments cannot restrict (HB 211).

“As a result of [restaurant reservation piracy], the restaurant loses revenue, servers miss out on voluntary tips, and potential customers lose their opportunity to dine at that restaurant”

—REP. OLIVER (R-76)

Consumer Protection

No Floridian deserves to suffer financial or emotional harm from scams, predatory practices, or industry negligence. The Florida House remains committed to strengthening consumer protections, holding bad actors accountable, and ensuring hardworking Floridians keep what they've earned.

- ✓ Deterred fraud by criminalizing the misuse of gift cards and penalizing those who steal from Floridians through deceptive schemes (SB 1198).
- ✓ Held health care providers accountable by requiring patient overpayments to be refunded within 30 days or face disciplinary actions or fines (SB 1808).

“[We] aim to protect Floridians from financial exploitation and give our police and prosecutors the tools they need to hold bad actors accountable”

—REP. GRECO (R-19)



Legislative Achievements Improving Health Care

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Overview

With Florida's population surging and health care needs evolving, we passed reforms to strengthen public health, expand personal freedom, and ensure Floridians can access the care they need—without government interference. From investing in cutting-edge research to protecting individual rights, these actions reflect our commitment to both innovation and personal liberty in health care.

Public Health

Better outcomes begin with better policy. The Florida House prioritized prevention, access, and community well-being by investing in research, strengthening behavioral health systems, and promoting smarter public health policies.

- ✓ Established a new, dedicated research initiative, the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research, to help us better understand, prevent, and treat Parkinson's disease (HB 1545).
- ✓ Improved prevention, screening, and treatment of blood clots by establishing a statewide registry to track prevalence, expanding training for medical professionals, and promoting public awareness efforts (HB 1421).
- ✓ Improved mental health care and diversion throughout the state by expanding grant and diversion programs and establishing a centralized behavioral health data system (SB 168).

“This will lead the nation in collecting meaningful [blood clot] data that will shape research and policy for many decades to come, and it will save lives in Florida and across the world.”

—REP. BLACK (R-15)

Health Care Freedom

Medical decisions belong to individuals, not the government. We defended the right of every Floridian to make personal medical decisions without government pressure, while removing barriers for qualified professionals to serve patients across the state.

- ✓ Allowed individuals to seek new and emerging treatments by authorizing stem cell therapy in Florida above what is authorized at the federal level (SB 1768).
- ✓ Extended Florida's ban on mask mandates and mRNA vaccine requirements in schools and government and the prohibition on discrimination based on vaccination status (HB 1299).
- ✓ Expanded licensure by endorsement for health care providers, making it easier for qualified professionals from other states to serve Floridians without unnecessary red tape (HB 1299).
- ✓ Banned local governments from adding fluoride to drinking water (SB 700).

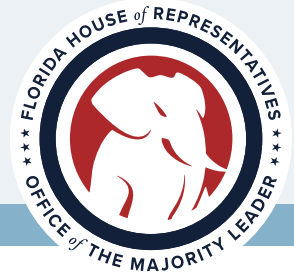
“We are adding protections to Florida's Patient Bill of Rights”

—REP. YARKOSKY (R-25)

Commerce

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES





Major Messages

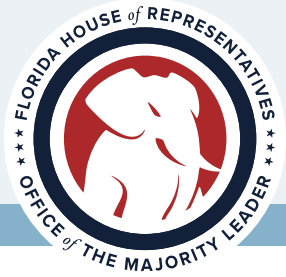
- **Reduces possible overreach by local governments into farm operations by amending the definition of “farm products” to clarify that operations involving nonedible plants and plant products may not be impeded by local governments.**
- **Extends commonsense protections to our farmers so that they can focus on what matters most.**

Bill Basics

- Amends the definition of “farm product” to include plants and plant products, regardless of whether the plants and plant products are edible or nonedible.
- Revises the prohibition on governmental entities adopting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, regulation, rule, or policy that prohibits, restricts, regulates, or otherwise limits an activity of a bona fide farm operation to include the collection, storage, processing, and distribution of farm products on agricultural land.

★ Crucial Context

- » As of 2024, Florida had 44,400 farm operations covering 9.7 million acres of farmland.
- » In 2023, Florida ranked first in the United States in the value of production for floriculture, Valencia oranges, sugarcane, watermelons and sweet corn.



Major Messages

- **Enacts meaningful reforms to the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program (Program) to help protect condo owners from future hurricane damage, while ensuring taxpayer dollars are targeted toward the most at-risk properties.**
- **Rewards good behavior by only allowing associations that have complied with milestone inspection requirements and structural integrity reserve requirements to apply to participate in the Program.**
- **Provides fairness and flexibility by reducing overly burdensome approval requirements and allowing greater discretion in how associations invest grant funds.**

Bill Basics

- Limits participation to structures or buildings on the condominium property which are three or more stories in height, and that each structure or building that is subject to grant funding must contain at least two single-family dwellings.
- Prohibits a condominium association from applying for an inspection or grant under the Program unless it has completed the required milestone inspection and structural integrity reserve study to verify the building's safety and long-term maintenance planning.
- Eliminates per-unit funding caps for roof and window projects, requires that improvements qualify for insurance discounts or mitigation credits, and maintains a \$175,000 total grant cap per association.
- Provides that only 75 percent of unit owners, rather than 100 percent of unit owners, must approve applying for the grant.
- Clarifies the required 2-to-1 state funding match and updates the types of roof upgrades eligible for grants.
- Makes various other changes related to inspection requirements, grant eligibility criteria, application procedures, and contractor verification.

★ Crucial Context

- » Created by the Legislature in 2024 and administered by the Department of Financial Services, the Program provides free inspections and grant funding for wind mitigation improvements, which may also have the added benefit of reducing wind insurance premiums.
- » The Program is limited to condominiums located within 15 miles inward of a coastline.
- » The FY 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act provided \$30 million in nonrecurring general revenue for the Program. Presently, \$29.6 million remains unspent due to Program requirements; this unexpended balance of the appropriation would be used to fund FY 2025-2026 Program operations.

Major Messages

- **Invests in Florida's transportation system by updating transportation laws to promote public safety, support infrastructure modernization, and improve overall mobility across the state.**
- **Improves safety and protects communities by strengthening traffic laws, enhancing protections for schoolchildren and expectant mothers, and giving local governments more tools to regulate electric bikes and scooters.**

Bill Basics

- Modernizes infrastructure by requiring the adoption of next-generation traffic signal technologies, supporting I-4 expansion planning, ensuring that elevated roadways are considered as an alternative in studies for improving highway capacity, and streamlining processes for state highway projects.
- Prohibits operation of a motor vehicle, vessel, or any other conveyance at a speed that creates an excessive wake on a flooded or inundated street or highway.
- Improves overall mobility by prioritizing projects that eliminate gaps in the state's strategic intermodal system, increasing access to funding for improvements at certain public-use airports, and enhancing coordination between the state and MPOs.
- Shifts school bus stop-arm violation enforcement from the court system to local administrative hearings, giving vehicle owners 60 days to request a hearing with the school district or county and ensuring civil penalties are returned directly to the school district.
- Updates regulations for electric bicycles, scooters, and micromobility devices by redefining micromobility devices, clarifying local government authority to regulate their use, and allowing local ordinances on age limits, ID requirements, and safety training.
- Directs Florida Department of Transportation to develop a detailed report on widening I-4 between U.S. 27 and I-75, including cost estimates, timelines, and funding strategies, due by December 31, 2025.
- Makes various other changes to enhance transportation safety, streamline infrastructure development, and improve transportation planning coordination.

★ Crucial Context

- » Storm surge from Hurricane Helene flooded several areas, including Pinellas County beaches and Shore Acres, highlighting the need to prohibit wake that worsens damage to homes, businesses vehicles, and infrastructure.
- » Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are regional transportation planning bodies for urban areas with populations of over 50,000 people and are made up of local government and transportation authority representatives. Florida has 27 MPOs, each with its own boundaries and voting board.

Major Messages

- **Fixes outdated occupancy definitions that allowed bad actors to abuse the current system and “squat” at hotels and motels, forcing those establishments to go through the landlord-tenant process.**
- **Removes the mandatory arrest and criminal penalty for individuals who are removed from a public lodging establishment or public food service establishments, giving law enforcement more discretion in deciding whether to arrest a noncompliant guest.**
- **Protects consumers from unexpected fees and strengthens public trust in Florida’s hospitality industry by requiring clear and transparent disclosure of restaurant charges.**

Bill Basics

- Clarifies the definition of transient occupancy and non-transient occupancy, removing the one calendar month language from public lodging establishment definitions: transient occupancy is defined as a stay of less than 30 days, while non-transient is defined as a stay longer than 30 days.
- Removes the requirement for a law enforcement officer to “arrest” a guest who refuses to leave an establishment and instead requires the officer to “remove” the guest from the establishment.
- Provides that an operator of a public lodging establishment may remove a guest for failing to make payment or check out before the time “specified by the establishment” instead of the “time agreed upon by both parties.”
- Requires public food service establishments to provide specific notices with specific information when imposing operations charges like automatic gratuity or other automatic charges.

★ Crucial Context

- » The term “public lodging establishment” includes transient and non-transient public lodging establishments.

Major Messages

- **Pets play a vital role in society by offering companionship, protection, and are often considered members of the family. Pet ownership also comes with significant financial costs and having a functioning pet insurance system benefits pets, pet owners, and the greater community.**
- **Pet insurance is a relatively new and rapidly growing industry. Proper rules and regulations help protect pets and their owners by increasing transparency and accountability, ensuring quality coverage, and shielding consumers from unfair or predatory practices.**

Bill Basics

- Formally recognizes coverage for pet accidents, illnesses, or diseases under Florida law.
- Establishes a regulatory framework for pet insurance policies sold in Florida, including detailed definitions (e.g., chronic condition, preexisting condition, wellness program), required disclosures, and consumer protections.
- Mandates transparency in policy exclusions, waiting periods, and claims processes, and allows a 30-day free-look period for consumers. Pet insurers must use standardized definitions when referenced and make those definitions available to policyholders.
- Regulates the marketing and sale of pet wellness programs to prevent their misrepresentation as insurance. If sold alongside pet insurance, wellness programs must be optional, clearly distinguished, and separately priced.

★ Crucial Context

- » Pet insurance coverage in the U.S. has seen consistent annual growth rates of 15-20 % over the past five years.
- » In 2017, a survey by the American Pet Products Association revealed that approximately 68 percent of U.S. households, totaling around 85 million families, had at least one pet, including dogs, cats, or other animals.

Major Messages

- **Florida's construction industry is growing fast and trying to keep up with demand, but outdated regulations and inconsistent local rules often create expensive and unnecessary delays punishing builders and homeowners alike.**
- **Improves and modernizes the construction process by streamlining reviews, limiting unnecessary government interference, and giving homeowners and builders more flexibility and control.**

Bill Basics

- Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt standards for installing synthetic turf on residential areas and prohibits local governments from adopting rules inconsistent with such standards.
- Requires local governments to approve or deny change orders from their contractors within 35 days and reduces the time period for a building department to review certain permit applications.
- Prohibits state and political subdivisions from penalizing or rewarding certain construction bidders.
- Exempts any system or equipment located on the property of a spaceport which is used for space launch vehicles, payloads, or spacecraft from the Florida Building Code.
- Prohibits local building departments from requiring copies of contracts and associated documents in order to apply for or receive a building permit.

★ Crucial Context

- » The use of synthetic turf in the United States has increased by approximately 15 % since 2017 in residential landscaping. The bill defines "synthetic turf" to mean "a manufactured product that resembles natural grass and is used as a surface for landscaping and recreational areas."
- » According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of 2024, Florida's construction industry supports more than 630,000 jobs statewide, making efficient permitting and project approval critical to sustaining economic growth.

Major Messages

- **Makes comprehensive changes designed to promote personal liberty, enhance consumer transparency, support Florida's agricultural economy, and modernize regulatory functions across a range of industries related to agriculture and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).**
- **Strengthens consumer rights and transparency by banning additives like fluoride in public water systems and restricting misleading labels on plant-based food products.**
- **Supports our agricultural economy by streamlining emergency loan programs for disaster-impacted producers, expanding workforce housing options for legally verified agricultural workers, and protecting agricultural lands from unauthorized drone activity that interferes with production.**

Bill Basics

- Defines "water quality additive" as any substance used in public water systems to meet drinking water standards, reduce contaminants, or improve quality, and prohibits the use of additives that do not meet this definition.
- Requires DACS to adopt rules enforcing FDA standards to prohibit the sale of plant-based products labeled as milk, meat, poultry, or eggs in Florida, contingent upon similar labeling laws being enacted by at least 11 of 14 specified states.
- Prohibits local governments from restricting the construction of housing for legally verified agricultural workers on bona fide agricultural land, establishes clear safety and spacing standards for such housing, and directs DACS to oversee compliance through rulemaking, reporting, inspections, and enforcement.
- Streamlines the Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Emergency Recovery Loan Program by expanding eligibility to Commissioner-declared emergencies, allowing aquaculture restocking, and enabling loan renewals and payment deferrals during hardships.
- Expands restrictions on drone use by prohibiting drone activity that interferes with agricultural production, contacts people or objects on private property, or harasses users of wildlife lands and shooting ranges, with escalating penalties for repeat violations and unauthorized surveillance.
- Makes various related changes to reduce regulatory burdens, enhance consumer transparency, and strengthen protections for agricultural lands, private property, and public resources.

★ Crucial Context

- » The availability and popularity of plant-based milk alternatives has steadily increased, with one-fifth of U.S. households purchasing or consuming such alternatives in 2010, over one-third by 2016, and retail sales reaching approximately \$2.4 billion by 2020.
- » Current Florida law prohibits drone activity over schools and critical infrastructure but does not extend the same protections to agricultural lands.

Major Messages

- **With our growing population, new developments, and upcoming road projects, it's essential that utility relocations are handled fairly and efficiently to keep our infrastructure on track.**
- **Addresses the issue by streamlining utility relocation timelines, reducing the burden on communications service providers when state or local governments require them to move lines, and helping to advance critical transportation projects.**

Bill Basics

- Modifies the process and cost responsibilities related to the required relocation of facilities that are used by communications services providers to provide service and are located in a public right-of-way.
- Requires these providers to submit an estimated schedule and project cost for the relocation of their facilities located within the right-of-way owned by the DOT and other specified state entities.
- Requires DOT to participate in the costs of such relocation work.
- Creates the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program within the Department of Commerce for such providers to seek reimbursement for relocation work done at the request of county and municipal authorities.
- Redistributes certain proceeds from the state communications services tax to the grant program to contribute to costs related to such relocation work.

★ Crucial Context

- » "Right-of-way" in Florida statute is defined as land in which the state, a county, or a municipality owns the fee or has an easement devoted to or required for use as a transportation facility.
- » The Department of Transportation (DOT) and each local government that has jurisdiction and control of public roads or publicly owned rail corridors is authorized to prescribe and enforce reasonable rules or regulations related to placing and maintaining utility facilities across, on, or within the right-of-way limits of any road or publicly owned rail corridor under their respective jurisdictions.

Major Messages

- **Following the tragic collapse of the Champlain Towers in 2021, which claimed 98 lives, Florida remains committed to protecting residents and preserving housing stability by maintaining critical safety requirements, while providing condominium associations with flexible options to fund necessary repairs and ensure required standards are met.**
- **Empowers condominium and cooperative communities with expanded tools such as pooled reserves, delayed funding deadlines, and the ability to use loans or credit lines (with owner approval) to meet reserve obligations without requiring immediate out-of-pocket costs.**
- **Increases transparency and accountability through stronger ethics standards for property managers and inspectors, enhanced board governance requirements, and new reporting requirements to help state and local officials track statewide safety compliance.**

Bill Basics

- Extends the deadline for condominium associations existing on or before July 1, 2022, which are controlled by unit owners rather than the developer, to have a SIRS completed by December 31, 2024 to December 31, 2025.
- Allows SIRS items to be funded through regular assessments, special assessments, lines of credit, or loans, with the latter three requiring approval by a majority of the total voting interests of the association.
- Strengthens licensure requirements and creates stricter conflict-of-interest rules for community association managers and management firms.
- Requires disclosure of any financial or ownership interests by contractors and design professionals performing milestone inspections or reserve studies.
- Makes additional clarifying and procedural changes to improve flexibility and accountability for condominium associations while maintaining safety compliance.

★ Crucial Context

- » In response to the 2021 collapse of the Champlain Towers condominium in Surfside that killed 98 people, the Legislature passed SB 4-D (2022) and SB 154 (2023) that required certain condominium associations with older buildings to conduct milestone structural integrity inspections and all multi-story condominium associations to complete a Structural Integrity Reserve Study (SIRS), while implementing a budget that builds a reserve sufficient to pay for necessary structural renovations and upgrades.
- » Florida is home to 1.5 million condominium units, with 912,000 units being at least 30 years old.
- » Current law does not explicitly authorize condominium associations to use lines of credit or loans to meet structural reserve obligations, creating steep and immediate out-of-pocket costs for residents.

Major Messages

- **Protects restaurants from black-market reservations that cause restaurants to lose profits and servers to lose tips.**
- **Prevents abuses by bots and others that leave seats empty at popular venues, ensuring that real customers can enjoy dining and restaurants can rely on genuine reservations.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits third-party restaurant reservation platforms in the state.
- Defines a “third-party reservation platform” as any website, mobile application, or internet service that offers reservations at public food service establishments without a contractual relationship with the establishment.
- Prohibits these platforms from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling reservations for on-premises service at public food service establishments.
- Authorizes the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Hotels and Restaurants to impose civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per violation, that may accrue daily.

★ Crucial Context

- » Reselling restaurant reservations (i.e. “Black-market Reservations”) has been an ongoing problem in the restaurant industry, and with bots and new technologies the problem is getting worse.
- » A “third-party reservation platform” is a service offered via the Internet or a mobile application through which a public food service establishment, e.g., a restaurant, or other establishment that accepts reservations, may allow patrons to schedule reservations.

Major Messages

- **Updates Florida law categorizing Gold and Silver coin as legal tender.**
- **Recognizing gold and silver coin as legal tender enhances individual financial sovereignty and serves as a hedge against inflation. It allows precious metals to function as currency, rather than solely as an investment.**

Bill Basics

- Establishes a legal framework recognizing certain gold coin and silver coin as legal tender in Florida for payments of debts incurred on or after July 1, 2026.
- Exempts qualifying gold coin and silver coin from sales tax.
- Allows but does not require government entities to accept such coin electronically.
- Prohibits anyone from being compelled to use or accept such coin.
- Regulates custodians of gold and silver coin, setting standards for security, insurance, audits, and fiduciary duties. Additionally, financial institutions and money services businesses cannot be forced to provide coin-related services.

★ Crucial Context

- » Gold coin and silver coin are precious metals in solid form, typically in the shape of rounds, bars, ingots, or bullion coins, which are valued for their metal content and stamped or imprinted with their weight.
- » Several states have adopted laws to recognize gold and silver as legal tender or to remove various tax barriers to facilitate their use in commerce. These laws vary in scope and effect, ranging from simple tax exemptions to the establishment of state-run bullion depositories.

Major Messages

- **Florida's population growth makes it critical to remove local government inefficiencies and red tape that slow down housing and the development of critical infrastructure. Currently, unclear local rules, inconsistent fees, and delays in permitting drive up costs and create frustration for builders and homeowners alike.**
- **Includes commonsense changes that will help protect property rights and housing affordability, and encourage smart growth across the state.**

Bill Basics

- Requires local governments to specify the minimum information required for certain zoning applications; process an application for a development permit or order within certain timeframes; and issue a refund to an applicant if the local government fails to meet those timeframes, unless an exception applies.
- Prohibits school districts from imposing any fee in lieu of certain impact fees, unless an exception applies.
- Specifies that certain fees may be used by local governments to process or enforce building permits.
- Modifies the threshold vote required to approve an impact fee increase from two-thirds vote to unanimous vote of the local governing body, and requires local governments to implement an increase in impact fees in at least two but not more than four equal annual increments.
- Prohibits a local government from increasing an impact fee beyond the phase-in limitations if the local government has not increased the fee within the past 5 years.
- Specifies that if certain comprehensive plan amendments are not adopted at a second public hearing, the amendments must be formally adopted within 180 days of the second public hearing, or the amendments are deemed withdrawn.
- Requires local governments to transmit to the Department of Commerce all adopted plan amendments within 30 days, rather than 10 days, of a final adoption hearing.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Community Planning Act governs how local governments create and adopt their local comprehensive plans.
- » All development, both public and private, must be consistent with the local government's comprehensive plan.

Major Messages

- **Energy freedom is a core tenet of our personal and economic freedom. Florida has always supported traditional and alternative fuel sources and the right of consumers to use the fuel sources of their choice.**
- **Protects Floridians' choice of fuel source, and ensures governmental entities don't infringe on that freedom.**

Bill Basics

- Adds "board, agency, commission, or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision" to the list of entities that are expressly preempted from prohibiting certain types or fuel sources of energy production or the use of appliances that use these specified types or fuel sources of energy production.
- Provides that rural electric cooperatives may not take certain actions that restrict or prohibit certain types or fuel sources of energy production or the use of appliances that use these types or fuel sources of energy production.
- Mandates that the Florida Building Commission and the State Fire Marshal may not adopt any provision into the Florida Building Code or Florida Fire Prevention Code, respectively, that prohibits or requires the installation of materials to facilitate the use of more than one type or fuel source of energy production used, delivered, converted, or supplied by specified utilities and other entities, except to the extent required for the proper operation of an appliance, as specified by the appliance manufacturer.

★ Crucial Context

- » An electric utility is an entity which owns, maintains, or operates an electric generation, transmission, or distribution system.
- » A natural gas utility is a utility that supplies natural or manufactured gas, or liquefied gas with air admixture, or a similar gaseous substance by pipeline to or for the public. A natural gas utility can be an investor-owned utility, gas district, or municipal gas utility.

Major Messages

- **The rise of deep fake and AI technology has brought new and unique challenges to our society. Advancements in technology have empowered perpetrators to manipulate content, with Deep fake pornography in particular, posing significant dangers. Deep fake pornography disproportionately targets and victimizes women, leading to harassment, blackmail, and reputational harm.**
- **“Brooke’s Law” revises provisions of a 2022 law by requiring internet platforms to remove altered sexual depictions and copies of such depictions from their platform upon request of the victim.**

Bill Basics

- Revises provisions of Florida’s deep fake law to require covered platforms, such as websites and online services, to remove altered sexual depictions and copies of such depictions from their platform upon request of the victim.
- Requires such platforms to establish a process for persons to notify them of deep fake depictions and request their removal.
- Requires the platforms to remove such content within 48 hours of receiving a request, provides liability protections for platforms that act in good faith, establishes penalties for failure to comply, and makes such failures a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.
- Provides an exception for certain information or telecommunications services and certain online services that do not primarily consist of user-generated content.

★ Crucial Context

- » The legislation was inspired by Jacksonville’s Brooke Curry. Brooke was a victim of deep fake content and testified in a House Committee detailing her ordeal.
- » Defines “covered platform” as a website, online service, online application, or mobile application that serves the public and:
 - Primarily provides a forum for user-generated content, including messages, videos, images, games, and audio files; or
 - For which it is in the regular course of trade or business of the website, online service, online application, or mobile application to publish, curate, host, or make available content of nonconsensual altered sexual depictions.

Major Messages

- **In today's highly competitive business landscape, companies must frequently safeguard their innovations, trade secrets, and intellectual property.**
- **Supports Florida business by reinforcing non-compete and confidentiality agreements with high earning employees by providing a structured framework to protect proprietary trade secrets.**

Bill Basics

- Creates the Contracts Honoring Opportunity, Investment, Confidentiality, and Economic Growth (CHOICE) Act to protect confidential information and client relationships by creating two types of agreements: covered garden leave agreements and covered noncompete agreements.
- The agreements protect the confidentiality of information and client relationships for up to 4 years, either while the covered employee remains employed (covered garden leave agreement) or after the covered employee has left employment (covered noncompete agreement).
- Creates a framework for such agreements and provides that such agreements do not violate public policy or antitrust laws when used under certain narrow conditions.

★ Crucial Context

- » The term "garden leave" generally refers to agreements in which the worker remains employed and receives the same total annual compensation and benefits, but their access to co-workers and company facilities is restricted.
- » Generally, a contract in restraint of trade or commerce in Florida is unlawful. However, non-competition restrictive covenants contained in employment agreements that are reasonable in time, area, and line of business, are not prohibited.

Major Messages

- **Establishing a sovereign wealth fund would allow the United States to harness its surplus resources to safeguard economic freedom, invest in the future of American families, and protect the nation's financial security for generations to come.**
- **As other nations and several U.S. states have already proven, sovereign wealth funds are powerful tools for building strength and stability. Creating a federal framework ensures America stays competitive, self-reliant, and committed to securing a stronger future for its citizens.**

Bill Basics

- Urges the Congress of the United States to establish a framework for a sovereign wealth fund by enacting legislation necessary for establishing such a framework.

★ Crucial Context

- » Sovereign wealth funds have doubled in size over the past decade, growing from \$6.7 trillion in 2014 to \$12.7trillion in 2023; combined, they would form the third-largest economy in the world, behind only the United States and China.
- » 11 U.S. states already operate their own sovereign wealth funds to support state services.

Major Messages

- **Florida's rapid economic and population growth has led to a significant rise in energy demand, with the state currently consuming much more energy than it produces and relying heavily on external sources to fill the energy gap.**
- **Would have promoted investment in a homegrown energy solution, which in time could help expand our energy portfolio, enhancing Florida's ability to ensure a more diverse, secure, and reliable energy supply.**

Bill Basics

- Would have required the Public Service Commission to create an experimental cost recovery mechanism to facilitate investment in certain gas infrastructure projects that collect, prepare, clean, process, transport, or inject gas as a transportation fuel or for pipeline distribution.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Public Service Commission (PSC) has broad jurisdiction over the rates and service of public (investor-owned) electric and natural gas utilities in Florida.
- » For purposes of the experimental mechanism created by the bill, the bill defines "gas" as anaerobically generated biogas, landfill gas, or wastewater treatment gas produced and collected in Florida and refined to a methane content of 90 percent or greater – commonly referred to as renewable natural gas – which may be used as a transportation fuel or for pipeline distribution.

Major Messages

- **Florida is growing fast and it's important for our economic success that our infrastructure maintains pace. Florida's transportation systems are vital to all things we do, from running everyday errands to being the backbone of our strong, thriving economy.**
- **By air, land, and sea, this bill helps ensure that this essential infrastructure is in place to meet today's demands and foster tomorrow's growth. By investing in infrastructure now, we're making it easier for people to live, work, and enjoy life right here in the Sunshine State.**

Bill Basics

The bill addresses several matters related to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and state transportation policy, including:

- Organization, duties, and powers of FDOT and the Florida Transportation Commission.
- Seaport project funding, planning, and reporting.
- Development of advanced air mobility.
- Spaceport and airport project funding.
- Commercial airport requirements and state use of airport property during a state of emergency.
- Intermodal logistics centers.
- Transportation workforce development and contracting for transportation projects.
- Transportation project landscaping requirements.
- Disabled veteran license plates.
- Geospatial data collection.
- Governance of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Florida Transportation Commission was created in 1987 to serve as an oversight board for FDOT. This oversight also includes Florida's expressway authorities and regional transportation authorities
- » Section 311.07, F.S, creates the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) Program within FDOT to finance port transportation or port facilities projects that will improve the movement and intermodal transportation of cargo or passengers in commerce and trade
- » FDOT is authorized, in consultation with Space Florida, to fund spaceport discretionary capacity improvement projects at up to 100 percent of project costs under certain conditions.

Major Messages

- **Florida is experiencing significant challenges in managing rapid population growth while maintaining affordable housing. Essential workers, young professionals, and the middle class are increasingly priced out of the housing market. This lack of attainable housing threatens the state's long-term economic vitality, and undermines workforce supply in key areas such as teaching, law enforcement, and healthcare.**
- **Removes unnecessary barriers to affordable housing development, streamlines approval processes, and modernizes land use policies to tackle the issue of affordable housing.**
- **By streamlining development and providing commonsense solutions, ensures Florida's growth is smart, sustainable, and reasonable.**

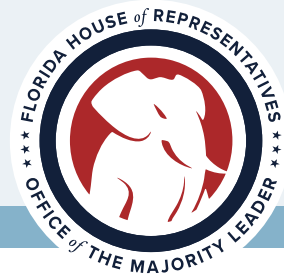
Bill Basics

Amends various provisions in the Live Local Act to:

- Allow local governments to approve the development of affordable housing on parcels owned by religious institutions, and allow an adjacent parcel of land to be included within a proposed development.
- Prohibit local governments from requiring a proposed multifamily development to obtain a transfer of density or development units, or an amendment to a development of regional impact.
- Provide that if a proposed development is on certain parcels within a historic district listed in the Register, a local government may restrict the height of the proposed development, and require the proposed development to comply with local regulations relating to architectural design, provided it does not affect the height, floor area ratio, or density of the proposed development.
- Require local governments, upon request of an applicant, to reduce parking requirements for a proposed development by 15 percent if the development meets certain criteria.
- Require courts to prioritize any civil action filed against a local government for a violation of certain affordable housing development laws
- Prohibit local governments from imposing a building moratorium that delays the permitting or construction of a multifamily or mixed-use residential development.
- Create annual reporting requirements for local governments relating to litigation under Florida's affordable housing development laws.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Live Local Act, which became law in 2023, preempts certain county and municipal zoning and land use decisions to encourage development of affordable multifamily rental housing in targeted land use areas.
- » The National Register of Historic Places (Register) is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. It is a part of a national program that coordinates and supports public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological treasures.



Major Messages

- **Florida is not merely an economic zone to be exploited; it is imperative to ensure Florida jobs go to hard-working Floridians who do not violate our immigration and labor laws.**
- **Would have protected the integrity of Florida's workforce and ensured fair competition for law-abiding businesses by expanding E-Verify requirements to all private employers.**

Bill Basics

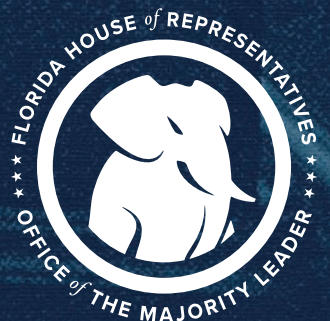
- Would have expanded the requirement to use the E-Verify system to verify employee employment eligibility to all private employers.
- Would have made this requirement effective on July 1, 2025.

★ Crucial Context

- » E-Verify is an internet-based system through which an employer can verify that a newly hired employee is authorized to work in the United States. The system is free for employers to use and provides an automated link to government records to help employers confirm the employment eligibility of new hires.
- » Currently, only public employers and private employers with 25 or more employees are required to use the E-Verify system to confirm a new employee's work eligibility.

Education & Employment

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



Major Messages

- Ensures children aren't forced to navigate dangerous highway ramps, construction zones, or active accident scenes just to reach school, by expanding access to state-funded transportation for students facing high-risk walking conditions.

Bill Basics

- Expands criteria for identifying a "hazardous walking condition" for public school elementary children to include walkways parallel to a limited access facility.
- Provides eligibility for state-funded transportation to students who live within 2-miles from their school, but walk along 'limited access facilities'.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2024, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles identified 10,486 accidents involving pedestrians, with 691 of those accidents involving pedestrian fatalities.
- » Florida ranked third in the nation for child pedestrian deaths in 2021.
- » Florida law defines "limited access facility" as roads or highways specially designed for through traffic in which abutted land owners have no right of easement.

Major Messages

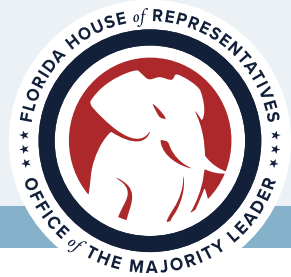
- **Empowers Florida's autistic children and families by expanding services and grants for early intervention, school readiness, academic opportunities, and workforce training.**
- **Promotes best management practices for autism by collaborating with professionals at the University of Florida to research, develop, and oversee crucial autism-related services.**
- **Enables and encourages nonprofit entities to provide no-cost health care for children with autism by expanding grant programs.**

Bill Basics

- Expands the Dr. and Mrs. Alfonse and Kathleen Cinotti Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program to provide autism-related health services at no-cost through nonprofit entities.
- Expands the Early Step Program by establishing an extended option for children with developmental disabilities to continue enrollment up to the beginning of the school year following their fourth birthday.
- Provides start-up grants for the creation of charter schools designed to serve students with autism, as well as funds for autism-specialized summer school programs.
- Requires the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to collaborate with government agencies and other entities to research and provide services for autism.
- Provides for an autism micro-credential for instructional and child care personnel at no-cost and specifies training related to ASD in requirements for renewal of a professional certificate.
- Requires the Commissioner of Education to review autism-related training curricula and report findings to the Legislature.

★ Quick Facts

- » There were 66,152 students with diagnosed autism enrolled in Florida schools.
- » From 2002 to 2018, autism diagnoses rose from 1 in 150 children to 1 in 44 children.
- » The Florida Early Steps Program provides free therapies and services to enhance the growth and development of families with autism up until age three.
- » There are currently no charter schools specifically for students with autism in rural counties, but there are locations in Palm Beach and Hillsborough counties.



Major Messages

- Ensures fairness for all Florida students by adding the option to play the sport they want even when their school does not provide it.
- Ensures home-school students are treated equitably by expanding their ability to participate in FHSAA public school sport programs.

Bill Basics

- Authorizes home-schooled students to participate on athletic teams at any public school within the school district they reside in.
- Allows private school students to participate in sports programs at FHSAA member private or public schools if their private school does not offer their sport of interest.
- Broadens the option to play a sport at another school to more private school students by opening eligibility, namely removing a restriction based on the size of the student's private school.

★ Crucial Context

- » The FHSAA is a nonprofit that governs athletics in Florida public schools.
- » Current law only allows home-schooled children to participate in FHSAA interscholastic activities at certain public schools.
- » Current law allows private school students to participate in FHSAA programs at another public school only if their school does not offer the program, the student provides their own transportation, and attends a private school of 200 or less students.

Major Messages

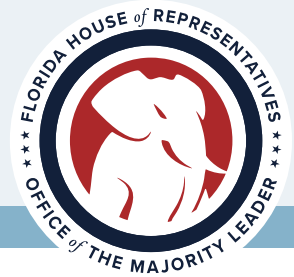
- **Benefits students and parents by providing flexibility to school boards when implementing later school start times to avoid unintended consequences associated with uniform, state-mandated start times.**
- **Ensures accountability by requiring school boards to report efforts made to maximize student sleep and minimize local impact when implementing later school start times.**

Bill Basics

- Retains requirement for school districts to implement 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. start times for middle and high schools, unless the school board sends a report to the Department of Education outlining:
 - School start times of schools in the district.
 - Strategies considered to implement later school start times.
 - The impacts of implementing later start times, including financial impacts.
 - The unintended consequences to the school district, students, and community if 8 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. start times were implemented.
- Retains requirement for school boards to inform all stakeholders on the academic impacts of sleep deprivation, the benefits of later school start times, and to discuss local strategies to implement later start times.

★ Crucial Context

- » 2023 legislation required school boards to implement 8 a.m. start times for middle schools and 8:30 a.m. start times for high schools by the 2026 school year.
- » School districts have reported unintended consequences with the legislation, including issues with transportation, conflict with parents' working hours, and impediments on after-school activities, such as sports and work.



Major Messages

- **Promotes practical and research driven education by allowing lab schools more discretion over funding necessary school resources.**
- **Raises academic standards by allowing high-performing, competitive charters to assume underperforming charters and offer virtual courses.**
- **Encourages competitive education quality by expanding charters' abilities to adopt codes of conduct, student welfare procedures, and parental rights.**

Bill Basics

- States for purposes of concurrency, a charter school is considered a public facility.
- Authorizes a charter school to adopt its own code of conduct and give enrollment preference to prekindergarten program completers, providing specified requirements are met.
- Prohibits sponsors from imposing certain deadlines and enrollment limitations on charter schools, requires sponsors to share student data with charter schools, and allow high-performing charter schools to assume underperforming charter schools in the same district.
- Authorizes charter lab schools to use discretionary capital improvement funds for certain purchases, leases, and lease-purchases.
- Authorizes eligible virtual students to participate in interscholastic athletics at any public school in the district where the student resides or at agreed private schools.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Florida Approved Courses and Tests (FACT) Initiative was implemented in 2013 and requires the Department of Education (DOE) to annually publish a list of approved providers to offer approved courses that must be included in the online course catalog.
- » Charter schools are nonsectarian, public schools that operate under a performance contract with a sponsor. This performance contract is known as a "charter."

Major Messages

- **Prioritizes reliable campus housing for Florida's homeless-threatened students by prioritizing their placement eligibility and removing unnecessary bureaucratic requirements.**
- **Promotes opportunities for impoverished postsecondary students to prepare for the workforce and participate in work-study programs.**
- **Enforces a collaborative approach between state agencies and federal programs to assist young adults exiting the foster care system to attain housing.**

Bill Basics

- Requires state universities and colleges to prioritize students who were formerly in foster care or are experiencing homelessness to be prioritized for campus housing, into current priority framework.
- Prioritizes students for work-study programs if the student is eligible for a fee exemption due to their involvement in the child welfare system or is classified as homeless, into current priority framework.
- Requires state agencies and housing authorities to administer the federal Foster Youth to Independence initiative, offering federal vouchers for young adults transitioning from the foster care system.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2023-24, the Foster Youth to Independence concluded that 879 young adults received Postsecondary Education Support Services stipends and 609 young adults received aftercare services.
- » Currently, only 11 counties in Florida accept Foster Youth to Independence housing vouchers.

Major Messages

- **Proactively offers resources for Florida's diabetic students by authorizing life-saving glucagon reserves at schools.**
- **Ensures proper care and administration of student diabetes treatment by outlining best management practices.**

Bill Basics

- Authorizes school districts to maintain a supply of glucagon for treating a student with diabetes experiencing a hyperglycemic episode, stored in a location immediately accessible by the school nurse or other trained personnel.
- Authorizes health care practitioners to prescribe glucagon in the name of a public school or school district.
- Requires school nurses to be trained in glucagon administration, immediately contact emergency services after administration, notify the student's parent and receive protection from civil and criminal liability when acting in good faith.

★ Crucial Context

- » In the 2020-21 school year, 7,923 Florida students reported having diabetes. Of this number, 3,588 required glucose monitoring, 3,060 required carbohydrate counting, and 3,304 required insulin administration while at school.

Major Messages

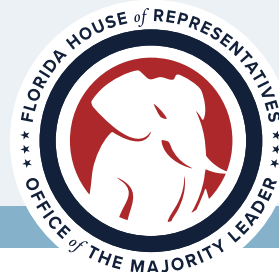
- **Bolsters and strengthens apprenticeship programs, which play a pivotal role in preparing Florida's students for reliable career routes.**
- **Streamlines administrative procedure governing workforce training programs to reduce bureaucracy and prevent valuable resources from being drained.**
- **Specifies responsibilities bestowed to both local educational agencies and apprenticeship programs to hold both parties accountable for proper education and executing effective programs.**

Bill Basics

- Establishes uniform minimum statewide standards governing apprenticeship or preapprenticeship programs partnering with local educational agencies to determine an equitable split of apprenticeship funding and responsibilities.
- Requires DOE to develop a model contract template to be used by local educational agencies and apprenticeship programs to specify responsibilities of both parties to execute the program effectively and efficiently.
- Requires DOE to develop a funding transparency tool to publicly display historical funding amounts provided to apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2023-2024, the Department of Education (DOE) registered 32 new apprenticeship programs, for a total of 329, and 6,043 new apprentices for a total of 19,214. For preapprenticeship programs, the DOE reported a total of 68 registered programs.



Major Messages

- Upholds the integrity of our education system by establishing a uniform set of teaching principles, using a highly skilled, evidence-based curriculum.
- Fosters high-quality teaching by establishing a workgroup to revise the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices, as well as establishing the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence.
- Updates and simplifies the requirements for school counselors and fine arts teachers to address staffing needs while maintaining high performance standards.

Bill Basics

- Requires Department of Education to establish a workgroup to update and revise the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.
- Eases the certification of school counselors by reducing the minimum internship hour requirements.
- Establishes a statewide set of teacher preparation principles and standards for effective teaching.
- Creates the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College for the purpose of preparing high-quality teachers through rigorous, evidence-based programs grounded in cognitive science, high-impact teaching strategies, and implementation of knowledge-rich curricula.

★ Crucial Context

- » Teacher preparation programs are accountable for producing individuals with the competencies and skills necessary to achieve the state education goals.
- » All candidates in teacher preparation programs must be taught and evaluated on the standardized core curriculum relevant to their area of concentration through both coursework and field experiences.

Major Messages

- **Spearheads the battle against rare child diseases by codifying the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases at Florida State University (FSU) College of Medicine.**
- **Develops a comprehensive approach to gathering data and information on rare diseases by launching the Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program.**
- **Promotes collaboration among medical professionals to assist the institute's mission by establishing the Sunshine Genetics Consortium.**

Bill Basics

- Codifies the Florida Institute for Pediatric Rare Diseases within FSU as a statewide resource to conduct research on pediatric rare diseases, develop diagnostic and genetic screening tools, provide multidisciplinary clinical services and care, educate and train healthcare professionals, and collaborate with other institutions and organizations.
- Establishes the Sunshine Genetics Pilot Program, offering opt-in newborn genetic screenings with parental consent. Any clinical findings from the screening must be released to the parents and the newborn's healthcare practitioner, as well as maintain a secure database of pilot program data and provide deidentified data for research.
- Establishes the Sunshine Genetics Consortium to foster collaboration among researchers, geneticists, and physicians from Florida's state universities and children's hospitals, advancing research and the development of cutting-edge genetic and precision medicine across the state.

★ Crucial Context

- » It is predicted that there may be as many as 10,000 rare diseases affecting up to 30 million Americans and their families.
- » Rare diseases are any condition that affects fewer than 200,000 people.

Major Messages

- The “Second Chance Act” protects Florida’s student athletes from unseen threats by requiring electrocardiogram (EKG) screenings before participation in sports competitions.
- Proactively identifies underlying conditions that may not have been previously noticed.

Bill Basics

- Beginning in the 2028-29 school year, FHSAA must adopt bylaws requiring all students participating in school sports for the first time to pass an EKG screening.
- Requires an evaluation and history form, including information on the practitioner performing the EKG, referrals based on the EKG, advisements on concerning results, and a section to record medical clearance and recommendations for follow-up treatment if needed.
- Offers an exemption for students based on religious tenets or practices, or a medical exception.

★ Crucial Context

- » The “Second Chance Act” is named after Chance Gainer, a Port St. Joe student athlete who tragically passed during a high school football game.
- » An EKG screening represents a recording of the heart’s electrical activity and is an integral part of the initial evaluation of a patient suspected of having a cardiac-related problem.

Major Messages

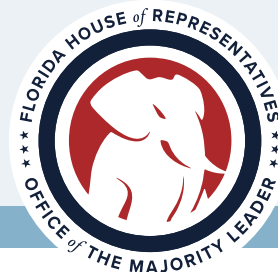
- **Reaffirms the core belief that each child deserves a strong start at school and should not be left behind simply because their needs are different and unique.**
- **Ensures the neediest receive services first by revising the criteria for the School Readiness Program.**

Bill Basics

- Revises eligibility criteria for the School Readiness Program for students with special needs.
- Expands school readiness training to accommodate students of all ages beyond what is mandated in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Permits additional forms of documentation for Program eligibility, including a current individualized family support plan, a written special needs diagnosis, or a written determination from a licensed healthcare professional, mental health professional, or educational psychologist.
- Establishes new accountability and training requirements for School Readiness Program providers to be eligible for the special needs differential funding.

★ Crucial Context

- » The School Readiness Program received approximately \$1.2 billion in funding for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
- » \$951.7 million of the Program's funding comes from the federal Child Care and Development Fund.



Major Messages

- **Promotes academic achievement for Florida students by expanding scholarship eligibility and increasing access to dual enrollment options.**
- **Enhances school choice by opening funds for eligible charter schools and giving power to parents for charter conversions.**
- **Broadens workforce training opportunities by developing a workforce credential program for students with autism and offering alternative educational routes for students who fail to earn a diploma.**
- **Upholds the integrity of our public-school system by eliminating certificates of completion and the use of cell phones during school hours.**

Bill Basics

- Expands eligibility for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for children of military parents and Advanced Placement students, as well as using the Florida Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act to promote Gold Seal Scholarships.
- Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop additional equivalent, applied, or integrated courses that allow students to earn dual credit.
- Develops a workforce credential program for students with autism spectrum disorder or students on modified curriculum, as well as eliminates the certificate of completion and requires notification of alternative education options for students who fail to earn a high school diploma.
- Prohibits use of cell phones during the school day in grades K-8, except in certain circumstances, and requires a pilot study in six school districts on prohibiting student cell phone use during the entire school day in district high schools.
- Requires a school district to share revenues it may receive from a local government infrastructure surtax with eligible charter schools, authorizes a municipality to establish a job engine charter school, and revises the votes necessary for a public school to convert to a charter school.
- Requires the DOE to establish competencies for a math endorsement aligned with evidence-based mathematics strategies.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2007, Florida passed the CAPE Act to facilitate a statewide planning partnership between businesses and education communities to attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry to sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.
- » The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is a lottery-funded scholarship program for Florida high school graduates who demonstrate high academic achievement and enroll in a degree, certificate, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution. Since the 1997-1998 academic year, the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has disbursed approximately \$9.2 billion for over 3.3 million students to attend an eligible postsecondary institution in this state.

Major Messages

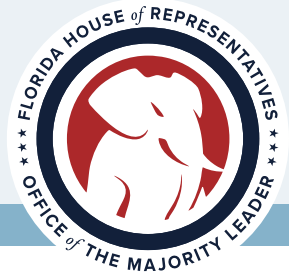
- **Promotes a more prosperous and competitive workforce by affording Florida's students the ability to access workforce education.**
- **Removes unnecessary restrictions on workforce training funding based on school type.**
- **Creates affordable workforce training by authorizing additional programs under the Money-back Guarantee Program.**

Bill Basics

- Explicitly authorizes charter schools to receive workforce education funding under the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program.
- Revises the Money-back Guarantee Program to cover tuition for six workforce education training programs, raised from the current three programs.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program provides grants to school districts and Florida College System (FCS) institutions to fund some or all of the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education programs that lead to industry certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.
- » The Money-back Guarantee Program requires each school district and FCS institution to refund the cost of tuition to students who are not able to find a job in the field in which the student was trained within 6 months of successful completion of workforce education programs selected by the institutions.



Major Messages

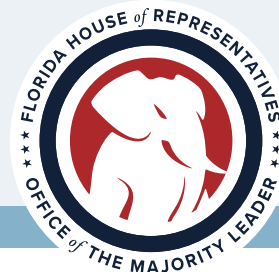
- **School teachers play a pivotal role in protecting Florida's children from human trafficking.**
- **Trains Florida's teachers to notice the signs of child trafficking before the threat becomes reality.**
- **Cracks down on trafficking by establishing protocols between school personnel and government agencies to investigate suspected human trafficking.**

Bill Basics

- Requires human trafficking awareness training for all school personnel and staff who have contact with students.
- Curriculum provided to school staff on human trafficking awareness includes:
 - The definition of human trafficking and the difference between sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
 - How to identify students who may be victims of human trafficking.
 - The role of employees in reporting and responding to suspected human trafficking.
 - A protocol for reporting human trafficking in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families or the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline.
- Each employee must submit an acknowledgment of having received the training.

★ Crucial Context

- » According to a report from the Florida Department of Education, the average age a child is trafficked is between 11 and 13 years old.
- » Currently, Florida law requires instruction on human trafficking for students in grades K-12, but there is no mandatory training for school personnel.



Major Messages

- Ensures no student is left behind by enhancing reading programs, updating the School Readiness Program, and revising prekindergarten enrollment eligibility.
- Secures the safety of students increasing access to emergency opioid antagonists and revising student discipline guidelines.
- Invests in student literacy programs by enhancing reading instruction plans and requiring students to be taught postsecondary financial literacy.

Bill Basics

- Revises the definition of “economically disadvantaged” by replacing references to “federal poverty level” with “state median income” for families seeking School Readiness services, as well as updating waitlists based on income.
- Enhances school district reading instruction plans by utilizing the New Worlds Reading Initiative and the Just Read, Florida! Office, as well as requiring instructions on postsecondary expenses.
- Aligns screening requirements for private schools with that of public schools.
- Saves the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military from repeal and provides additional support for military student scholarship eligibility.
- Updates provisions related to the purchase of emergency opioid antagonists and the definition of opioid antagonist while providing liability protection for public school employees administering the opioid antagonists.
- Removes restrictions on withdrawal and reenrollment in the Voluntary Prekindergarten program.
- Requires additional interventions for student discipline, revises expulsion periods, and requires parental consent for corporal punishment.
- Updates provisions governing charter school facilities and private school facilities and how local governing agencies manage the approval of such facilities.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida law requires that public school students in grades K-12 receive instruction on specific subjects including, among other items, historical time periods, comprehensive health education, and government.
- » Florida’s School Readiness Program offers low-income families access to childcare and early education while parents are at work.
- » Each school district is required to implement a system of comprehensive reading instruction for students enrolled in prekindergarten through grade 12 and certain students who exhibit a substantial deficiency in early literacy.

Major Messages

- **Protects student welfare by requiring teachers to be removed from the classroom within 24 hours of arrest for a dangerous crime, including sexual and child endangerment crimes.**
- **Holds the school system accountable for safety by mandating that school personnel self-report themselves within 48 hours if they are arrested for specific dangerous crimes.**

Bill Basics

- Requires school districts to adopt policies that temporarily remove instructional personnel from the classroom within 24 hours of being notified of their arrest for an offense listed in s. 435.04(2).
- Requires school staff to self-report to school district authorities after 48 hours of being arrested for any crime in s. 435.04(2), as well as any action in the case.
- Specifies that staff self-reports do not automatically assume guilt and cannot be used as evidence.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Department of Education maintains a disqualification list of individuals permanently prohibited from certain education positions, including those with revoked certificates, disqualifications related to private schools, or employment terminations due to misconduct endangering the health, safety, or welfare of a student.
- » S. 435.04(2) entails Level 2 employment screening standards, which probes crimes such as child abuse, kidnapping, homicide, sexual misconduct, battery, burglary, arson, gang activity, drug offenses, and other crimes.

Major Messages

- **Provides the same physical protections offered to school students by expanding the Guardian Program to child day care facilities.**
- **Increases compliance with school safety measures by clarifying how to secure building access points and creating a workgroup to establish the Florida Institute of School Safety.**

Bill Basics

- Expands access to the the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program by opening the program to child day care facilities.
- Clarifies that school perimeter and door security measures must be exercised 30 minutes before and after the school day, as well as aligning requirements for locking school access points with current law for campus access points.
- Streamlines law enforcement response to alarms by requiring the Department of Education, subject to an appropriation, to identify a centralized system that can receive alerts from all panic alert systems, as well as integrate digital maps used by education institutions.
- Convenes a workgroup, including law enforcement and school district personnel, to make recommendations for establishing a Florida Institute of School Safety, including programs and functions to enhance school safety.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program was founded in response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting to ensure immediate response to school shootings.
- » An individual must satisfy the background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug testing requirements prior to participating in the guardianship program.
- » Florida's child-care laws define "child care facility" to mean any child care center or child care arrangement which provides child care for more than five children unrelated to the operator and which receives a payment, fee, or grant for any of the children receiving care, wherever operated, and whether or not operated for profit.

Major Messages

- **Students sometimes get exposed to substances at school that give them an allergic reaction, causing anaphylaxis and risking a student's life.**
- **Enhances safety precautions around anaphylaxis by requiring schools to provide training in how to prevent and respond to anaphylaxis.**
- **Furtheres anaphylaxis protections by requiring emergency action plans to be accessible at all times the student is under the school's purview.**

Bill Basics

- Requires schools that serve K-8 students to provide training to school personnel in preventing and responding to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis.
- Provides that the training must include recognizing the signs of anaphylaxis and how to administer epinephrine.
- Requires that a student's an emergency action plan for anaphylaxis must be accessible while in school or participating in school sponsored events.

★ Crucial Context

- » According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, anaphylaxis affects 1 in 20 people at some point in their lives, and is usually triggered by food allergens, insect stings, and medications.

Major Messages

- Provides school personnel with the training and resources needed to respond effectively to students experiencing sudden cardiac emergencies.
- Enacts a proactive approach to sudden cardiac emergencies by requiring each school to adopt a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies, including access to functional AEDs (Automated External Defibrillator).

Bill Basics

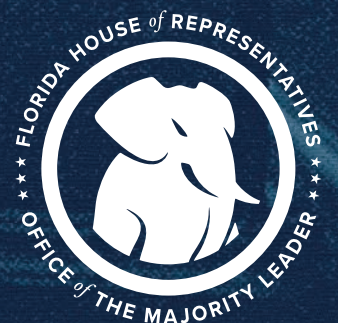
- Requires students to be trained in first aid, including CPR and the use of AEDs, at least once in middle school and once in high school.
- Mandates each public school to develop a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) that, with recommendations from the American Heart Association, guides school personnel in responding to sudden cardiac emergencies on school grounds.
- Requires each public school to have at least one functional AED at a clearly marked and public location at all times.

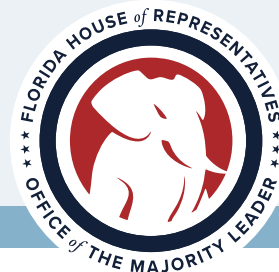
★ Crucial Context

- » Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death for student athletes.
- » More than 356,000 cardiac arrests occur outside a hospital in the United States each year, more than 23,000 of those who suffer cardiac arrests are children.
- » An AED is a portable electronic device that helps restore a regular heart rhythm in someone experiencing cardiac arrest.

Health & Human Services

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES





Major Messages

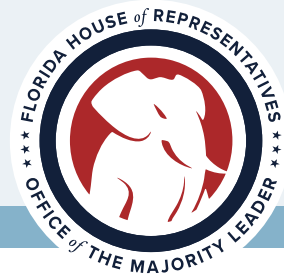
- **Protects the health and safety of abandoned newborns by modernizing Florida's safe haven laws and authorizing the use of infant safety devices, or "baby boxes," at designated surrender locations.**

Bill Basics

- Authorizes hospitals, emergency medical service stations, and fire stations that are staffed 24 hours per day to use infant safety devices to accept surrendered infants.
- The infant safety device must be:
 - Installed in a supporting wall of the hospital, EMS station, or fire station.
 - Temperature controlled and ventilated for the safety of the infant.
 - Equipped with a dual alarm system connected to the physical location of the device which automatically triggers an alarm inside the building when an infant is placed in the device.
 - Equipped with a surveillance system to monitor the device 24 hours per day.
 - Located in an area where the interior point of access is conspicuous and visible to the employees of the hospital, EMS station, or fire station.
- Requires a specific procedure to monitor the infant safety device.

★ Crucial Context

- » Since 2000, approximately 414 newborns have been surrendered at a safe haven in Florida.



Major Messages

- Tackles newborn disorders before symptoms become severe by expanding Florida's list of diseases on the newborn screening panel.
- Secures the health of Florida's children by immediately identifying a common form of muscular dystrophy.

Bill Basics

- Requires the Department of Health to add Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the state's newborn screening panel.

★ Crucial Context

- » Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy affects about 1 in 3,300-5,000 live male births, making it one of the most common pediatric-onset forms of muscular dystrophy.

Major Messages

- **Improves mental health services for Floridians by requiring minimum training for clinical psychologists and court-appointed forensic evaluators.**
- **Makes sure patients who still meet the criteria for involuntary examination aren't released from facilities without receiving a proper medical evaluation and the treatment they need to stay safe.**
- **Updates outdated licensing requirements for medication-assisted treatment so Floridians struggling with addiction can access timely, effective care.**

Bill Basics

- Codifies the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline as a function of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), allowing oversight and minimum training requirements of call centers.
- Authorizes a designated receiving facility to retain a patient, who was transferred to the facility after being medically cleared of an emergency medical condition, for the remainder of the 72-hour involuntary examination period if the patient continues to meet the criteria for involuntary examination, regardless of whether the transferring facility complied with certain transfer timing and notification requirements.
- Establishes clear roles for the courts and administrative law judges regarding continued involuntary services proceedings.
- Expands the training requirements for court-appointed forensic evaluators, requiring annual training and coverage of specified topics.
- Requires clinical psychologists to have three years of clinical experience to perform certain duties.
- Authorizes DCF to issue licenses to medication-assisted treatment providers without conducting an annual needs assessment.

★ Crucial Context

- » The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline connects callers who are in suicidal or emotional crisis to free and confidential support.
- » Involuntary examinations are initiated if there is reason to believe that a person of concern has a mental illness, and because of that illness, their refusal to voluntary examination can result in great harm to themselves and others.
- » Forensic examinations are initiated for criminal defendants by court order when there is concern that the defendant's mental illness may prevent him or her from being competent enough to participate in their own defense.
- » Old certificate of need-style licensure laws have been a barrier to access, preventing new, needed, licensees for medication-assisted substance abuse treatment.

Major Messages

- **Broadens access to crucial services for people with intellectual disabilities by expanding the Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Pilot Program.**
- **Increases accountability by requiring a study of the state's iBudget program individual funding method, ensuring that funds best serve individual needs.**
- **Increases autonomy for persons with developmental disabilities by requiring an affirmative choice, rather than automatic enrollment, for Medicaid managed care and the pilot program.**
- **Increases transparency by requiring the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to publish wait list data and other information online.**

Bill Basics

- Eliminates the 600-member cap and expands the IDD Pilot Program in three phases: (1) To all individuals on the APD waitlist in Regions D or I; (2) To all individuals on the waitlist statewide; and (3) To all individuals with developmental disabilities enrolled in either the iBudget or long-term care waiver program.
- Requires eligible individuals with developmental disabilities to make an affirmative choice to enroll in Medicaid managed care or the IDD Pilot Program, and prohibits automatic enrollment by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA).
- Requires APD to contract for a study of its iBudget allocation algorithm and report findings to the legislature, as well as to publish reconciliation reports.
- Mandates APD participation in transition planning activities with the Department of Children and Families for young adults with developmental disabilities who are also in the child welfare system.
- Establishes the Statewide Family Care Council to coordinate with existing Local Family Care Councils.

★ Crucial Context

- » The IDD Pilot Program is a voluntary, managed care initiative that delivers comprehensive services (acute, long-term care, and home- and community-based services) to individuals on the APD wait list.
- » Florida's iBudget program allocates available funding to clients, providing each one with an established budget with the flexibility to choose from the authorized array of services that best meet their individual needs within their community.

Major Messages

- **Protects families with medically fragile children from losing critical care by pushing for federal approval to exclude income earned in the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program by taking care of the child.**
- **Streamlines required training hours to maximize effective, targeted care for medically fragile children.**
- **Provides relief to families participating in the program by raising the cap on reimbursable hours.**

Bill Basics

- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek federal approval to exclude any income earned by a family under the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children (HHAMFC) Program from being considered in a Medicaid eligibility determination, and establishes a deadline for AHCA to do so.
- Increases the utilization cap of reimbursable hours to 12 hours per day and 40 hours per week, per child.
- Reduces the total hours of required training from 85 to 76 hours, and requires the 76 hours of training to consist of:
 - At least 40 hours of home health aide training.
 - At least 20 hours of nursing skills training tailored to the child's individualized care needs.
 - At least 16 hours of clinical training related to the specific needs of an eligible relative under the direct supervision of a licensed registered nurse.
- Requires home health agencies to report HHAMFC-related adverse incidents to their managed care plans and AHCA, within 48 hours, and requires AHCA to include data on such adverse incidents in the annual assessment report.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program was created by the legislature in 2023 to allow family caregivers to be paid to provide home care for their medically fragile children, relieving health staffing shortages and ensuring more consistent care.

Major Messages

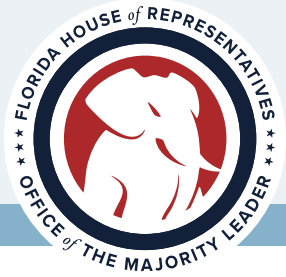
- **Protects parental rights by giving more discretion to families on allowing children to engage in responsible, unsupervised activities.**
- **Promotes healthy childhood development by upholding a child's right to develop responsibility and a sense of self-independence.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits the Department of Children and Families (DCF) from finding "harm" for purposes of a child welfare investigation when a caregiver leaves a child without appropriate supervision, specifically when a child of sufficient maturity and physical condition is engaging in unsupervised activities without risk of endangerment.
- Prohibits a criminal court from finding a caregiver culpably negligent when he or she leaves a child without appropriate supervision, in certain instances.

★ Crucial Context

- » Independent unsupervised activities addressed in this bill by a child of sufficient maturity and physical condition, include but are not limited to, traveling to or from school by bicycle or on foot, traveling to nearby locations by bicycle or foot, playing outdoors, or remaining at home or another location for a reasonable period of time.



Major Messages

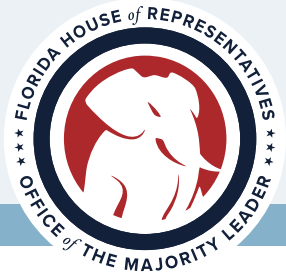
- **Protects Floridians from discrimination based on mRNA vaccination status by extending current protections until 2027, ensuring they cannot be penalized by businesses, schools, or government entities for their personal medical choices.**
- **Enhances public safety and helps prevent diversion by strengthening reporting requirements and background checks for medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs).**
- **Increases access to care in underserved and high-need areas by expanding Florida's health care workforce through reducing barriers for health care practitioners licensed in other states to come practice in Florida.**

Bill Basics

- Delays the scheduled repeal of the definition of mRNA vaccine until June 1, 2027.
- Improves oversight of Florida's medical marijuana program by requiring MMTCs to report all actual or attempted theft, loss, or diversion to both DOH and law enforcement, and by defining key personnel to maintain FBI-compliant Level 2 background screening.
- Expands eligibility for medical faculty certificates by adding three new institutions: Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine, Lincoln Memorial University in Orange Park, and Loma Linda University's AdventHealth campuses in Orlando.
- Revises the MOBILE Act to reduce licensure barriers for out-of-state health care professionals by shortening active practice requirements, allowing Department of Health discretion for applicants flagged in national databases, and exempting certain medical doctors from practice prerequisites.
- Makes various changes related to temporary certificates for practice in areas of critical need, the American Association of Physician Specialists, and the Physical Therapy Compact.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida law protects individuals from being required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination, emergency use vaccines, or mRNA vaccines to access businesses, schools, or government services. Without this bill, the current protections for mRNA vaccines would have expired on June 1, 2025.
- » Current law requires MMTCs to report theft or loss to law enforcement, but not to the Department of Health, and does not cover attempted theft or loss.
- » Medical faculty certificates allow physicians who have accepted a full-time faculty position at a school listed in statute to practice medicine in Florida without the prerequisite of passing a national examination.
- » The MOBILE Act streamlines licensure by endorsement for out-of-state health care professionals, but current law disqualifies some applicants based upon strict experience and disciplinary history requirements.



Major Messages

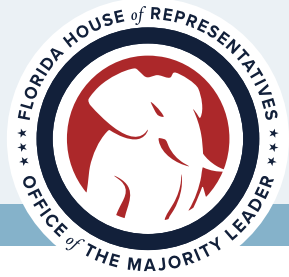
- **Protects Floridians by increasing the likelihood of identifying venous thromboembolism (VTE) and deep vein thrombosis (DVT) before it's too late.**

Bill Basics

- Requires the Department of Health to contract with a qualifying not-for-profit entity to establish and maintain a statewide VTE registry, with mandatory reporting from all hospital emergency departments beginning July 1, 2026.
- Hospitals with emergency departments must develop protocols based on nationally recognized risk tools for assessing and treating VTE or DVT and provide annual training to nonphysician staff involved in patient care.
- Nursing assistants must receive in-service and medication administration training on recognizing and responding to VTE and DVT symptoms as part of their continuing education.
- Creates a statewide blood clot registry and requires hospital data reporting.
- The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) must submit a comprehensive report by June 1, 2026, analyzing state VTE and PE incidence using medical claims data.

★ Crucial Context

- » Referred to as the Emily Adkins Family Protection Act, this bill is named in memory of Emily Elizabeth Adkins, a 23-year-old woman whose sudden passing from a blood clot could have been prevented with proper screening.
- » VTE, which includes DVT and pulmonary embolism (PE), affects up to 900,000 Americans annually and causes an estimated 100,000 deaths, yet no centralized system exists to track related morbidity or mortality nationwide.
- » Current law does not require certified nursing assistants (CNAs) or Assisted Living Facility (ALF) administrators to complete training on recognizing or responding to VTE, nor does it require the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to publish VTE information online or for ALFs to educate residents about VTE risks, symptoms, or prevention.



Major Messages

- **Florida has many highly successful nursing schools. But unfortunately, some failing schools have for many years—taken advantage of students. These schools churn out graduates year after year who cannot pass the licensing exam and are then faced with heavy debt.**
- **It's time to hold these schools accountable for their outcomes, and enforce a strong commitment to student success.**

Bill Basics

- Establishes new requirements for nursing education programs including the adoption of standardized evaluation and admission criteria, a comprehensive exit exam, and a remediation program for students who fail the exit exam or NCLEX.
- Allows the Board of Nursing to address adverse actions taken against an approved nursing education program in another U.S. jurisdiction.
- Revises existing accountability measures by reducing the number of years an approved nursing education program can fail to meet statutory requirements before being placed on probation from two years to one year.
- Reduces the length of time a program can spend on probation from up to three years to two years.
- Removes the Board of Nursing's authority to extend the deadline to obtain accreditation for professional nursing education programs.
- Requires programs with a nurse licensure exam passage rate below 30% to reimburse students who fail the NCLEX for the total cost of tuition and fees paid by the student.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida is currently facing a nursing workforce shortage that is expected to grow to 59,000 nurses by 2035.
- » The NCLEX is a standardized exam that aspiring nurses must pass in order to receive a nursing license.
- » Florida nursing student NCLEX passage rate has been below the national average for over a decade.
- » Most recently, Florida ranked last among the 50 states in NCLEX passage rates and was ranked 52nd out of 54 jurisdictions for practical nurses and 52nd out of 55 jurisdictions for registered nurses.

Major Messages

- **Reduces bureaucratic red tape and administrative inefficiency by consolidating the Children's Medical Services (CMS) managed care plan contracts under the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and codifying many non-Medicaid CMS functions currently performed by DOH.**
- **Plans for possible modernization of Medicaid services for medically fragile children by directing AHCA to develop a proposal for a new tiered service model that helps families keep their children at home or in community-based settings.**

Bill Basics

- Transfers oversight of the CMS Plan from DOH to AHCA, consolidating operational control of contracts, funds, and responsibilities under AHCA beginning FY 2025–2026.
- Requires AHCA to redesign Florida's Medicaid Model Waiver to better serve medically fragile children who receive PDN, by developing a tiered home and community-based care model and issuing a comprehensive redesign report by December 31, 2025.
- Establishes new performance measures for managed care plans serving medically fragile children, and mandates a multi-year independent evaluation of healthcare quality, access, and outcomes for this population.
- Codifies many non-Medicaid CMS functions currently performed by DOH, but not authorized in law.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Department of Health (DOH) currently administers the CMS Managed Care Plan, which serves over 93,000 Medicaid-eligible children with special health care needs, which is one plan option in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care program administered by AHCA.
- » Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program allows medically fragile individuals in the general Medicaid population to receive care at home by supporting daily living activities and offering family-centered options like paid caregiving, respite care, and caregiver training.
- » Florida's Medicaid Model Waiver program also provides HCBS to a category of medically fragile children, with an enrollment cap of just 20 slots.

Major Messages

- **Establishes Florida at the forefront of Parkinson's research and care by creating the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research and the Florida Institute of Parkinson's Disease within the University of South Florida (USF), with statewide coordination led by the Parkinson's Disease Research Board.**

Bill Basics

- Creates the Consortium for Parkinson's Disease Research at USF to unite universities and medical centers in studying the causes, treatments, and prevalence of Parkinson's disease, including its impact on first responders.
- Launches the Florida Institute for Parkinson's Disease at USF to serve as a statewide hub for Parkinson's research, clinical care, education, and patient advocacy.
- Establishes the Parkinson's Disease Research Board to oversee the Consortium's operations, adopt an annual research plan, and coordinate collaboration across institutions.
- Appoints a Consortium Director responsible for setting research priorities, securing grants, and recruiting institutions to participate in statewide Parkinson's research.

★ Crucial Context

- » Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that impacts an individual's nervous system and causes unintended and slow movements, such as tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with balance. Individuals with Parkinson's disease may have trouble walking, talking, and completing day-to-day tasks.
- » The exact cause of Parkinson's disease remains unknown, but research points to a combination of genetic factors, environmental triggers, and abnormal protein buildup in the brain. While there is no cure, treatments like dopamine-based medications and deep brain stimulation can help manage symptoms.
- » Parkinson's disease affects approximately one million Americans, including nearly 80,000 Floridians. With one of the oldest populations in the nation, Florida has the highest percentage of residents living with the disease.
- » Florida is home to three nationally designated Parkinson's disease Centers of Excellence, yet there is no formal coordination or data-sharing among them.

Major Messages

- **Expands access to life-saving care for individuals with developmental disabilities by allowing trained relatives and direct-support professionals to safely administer insulin in group homes.**
- **Sensibly authorizes safe self-administration of insulin and epinephrine by those in a group home setting with support from trained staff.**

Bill Basics

- Authorizes trained relatives and direct-support professionals to administer sliding scale insulin therapy to individuals with developmental disabilities in group homes, using insulin pens or syringes under physician-prescribed dosages.
- Requires group homes to provide training from licensed healthcare professionals and adopt written policies and procedures governing the safe administration of insulin.
- Grants immunity from civil liability and criminal penalties to group homes, relatives, and direct-support professionals who follow the bill's training and procedural requirements when administering insulin.
- Allows unlicensed direct service providers to supervise the self-administration of insulin and epinephrine using auto-injector devices in group home settings.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) licenses group homes and adult day programs serving individuals with developmental disabilities.
- » Direct-support professionals assist individuals with developmental disabilities by providing daily care, promoting independence, supporting community engagement, administering medications, and helping clients access jobs, transportation, and essential services.
- » Insulin is essential for individuals with diabetes to regulate blood sugar and prevent serious complications. Fast access to epinephrine is also crucial for individuals with severe allergies.

Major Messages

- **Provides Floridians more biotherapy options by expanding access to innovative stem cell therapies for orthopedics, wound care, and pain management, under doctor supervision.**
- **Increases patient safety by requiring full disclosure, trusted sourcing, and informed consent for treatments outside traditional Food and Drug Administration (FDA) pathways.**

Bill Basics

- Authorizes licensed physicians in Florida to administer non-FDA approved stem cell therapies for orthopedics, wound care, and pain management using afterbirth placental stem cells or other approved HCT/Ps under strict standards.
- Requires all stem cell products to be sourced from FDA-registered and federally accredited facilities, with contracts mandating disclosure of the facility's credentials, location, and certification status.
- Requires physicians to provide patients with written informed consent and a clear disclosure notice before administering any non-FDA approved stem cell therapy, including language encouraging consultation with a primary care provider.
- Prohibits the use of fetal- or embryo-derived cells from abortion in therapy or research and establishes criminal and licensure penalties for violations.

★ Crucial Context

- » Current Florida law neither authorizes nor prohibits certain stem cell therapies relating to orthopedics, wound care, and pain management.
- » Stem cells, the body's foundational building blocks, transform into more than 200 specialized cells, including blood, bone, and muscle cells, and repair damaged tissue. Stem cells continuously renew and divide to make exact replicas of themselves, and they also have the ability replenish or repair specific cell types.
- » Stem cell therapy is the treatment of a condition or illness with stem cells or cells produced from stem cells, with proven success in treating blood, immune, skin, and corneal disorders, and growing potential in experimental applications.
- » Human cells, tissues, and cellular and tissue-based products (HCT/Ps) are regulated by the FDA when used for diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease, but some minimally manipulated products fall outside FDA premarket approval and are increasingly offered in clinical settings.

Major Messages

- **Strengthens fairness and transparency in health care billing by requiring timely refunds to patients who overpay for services.**
- **Implements enforcement mechanisms for noncompliance.**

Bill Basics

- Requires health care practitioners licensed by the Department of Health (DOH) and facilities licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to refund a patient for any overpayment made by the patient within 30 days of determining that an overpayment was made.
- Empowers AHCA to impose a fine up to \$500 for violations by AHCA licensees.
- Provides express authority for DOH or the applicable board to discipline a practitioner who violates the repayment requirement.
- Expressly states that its provisions do not apply to overpayments made by health insurers and health maintenance organizations.

★ Crucial Context

- » Current Florida law does not regulate health care providers related to patient overpayments.
- » A patient overpayment occurs when an individual patient pays more for a health care service than they are obligated to pay, or when they pay for a service for which the provider later receives full or partial reimbursement from a third-party payer, such as an insurer.
- » Two states, California and Texas, currently require practitioners to refund patients for overpayments.

Major Messages

- **Strengthens Florida's child welfare system by establishing treatment foster homes, expanding workforce recruitment, and improving frontline services.**
- **Reduces bureaucratic red tape and unnecessary regulation on the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to ensure they can more efficiently deliver critical and life-saving services to vulnerable children and families.**

Bill Basics

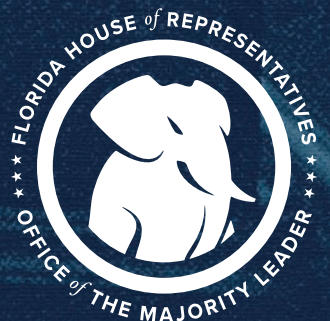
- Creates a pilot program for treatment foster homes, which allows trained foster parents to care for children with significant behavioral or emotional needs in a family-like setting, rather than institutional care.
- Codifies and expands DCF's Continue the Mission recruitment program to include veterans, military spouses, law enforcement, first responders, teachers, health care workers, and emergency managers.
- Eliminates the requirement that a CBC secure a fidelity bond as a prerequisite to entering a contract with DCF to provide child welfare services.
- Exempts the direct providers of foster care and related services subcontracted by the CBCs from liability for the acts or omissions of the CBC, DCF, and their officers, agents, and employees, applicable to contracts entered into or renewed after July 1, 2025.
- Authorizes DCF to provisionally certify a new domestic violence center in regions that experience a sudden loss of services, waiving experience requirements to ensure continuity of care during emergencies.
- Makes various other changes related to workforce exemptions for prospective child care and child welfare employees and improvements to data collection on victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

★ Crucial Context

- » Community-Based Care Lead Agencies (CBCs) are private organizations contracted by DCF to coordinate frontline child welfare services.
- » Foster children with significant behavioral or emotional needs have limited placement options; they are often inappropriate for placement with regular foster parents, and instead must be placed in institutions or group homes.
- » The current child welfare system workforce faces high vacancy rates and burnout among child protective investigators and case managers.

Judiciary

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



Major Messages

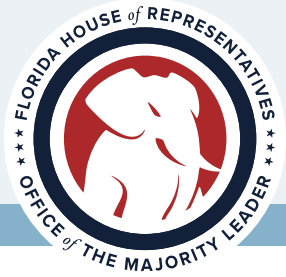
- Shields vulnerable adults from financial predators by giving courts a faster, more effective tool to stop suspicious transfers before exploitation occurs.
- Closes a dangerous loophole in current law by allowing legal action even when the scammer's identity is unknown.
- Modernizes elder protection laws by enabling service of legal notices through communication tools like email and social media when the scammer's identity is unknown.

Bill Basics

- Implements a new legal process for protective injunctions allowing financially exploited adults or caregivers to temporarily block suspicious transfers for 30 days when they believe fraud is involved.
- Creates a mechanism by which a petitioner may file a sworn affidavit with the court alleging that the respondent is an "unascertainable respondent" and providing details on how the respondent communicated with the vulnerable adult, the facts leading the petitioner to believe a transfer of funds is in response to a fraudulent request, and all identifying information known about the respondent.

★ Crucial Context

- » The elderly has been increasingly targeted for financial fraud: In 2023, Americans over 60 years old lost over \$3.4 billion to scams – a nearly 11% increase from the previous year.
- » Florida ranks second in the nation for elderly fraud victims, with over 8,100 reported cases and nearly \$294 million in reported losses in 2023.
- » Current injunction law in Florida (s. 825.1035, F.S.) allows protective action but can be complex when the perpetrator is unknown or hard to identify – this bill fills that gap.



Major Messages

- **Increases penalties for dangerous fleeing offenses, deterring repeat offenders with enhanced sentencing, and clarifying legal standards to support law enforcement officers.**

Bill Basics

- Enhances officer safety and public protection by increasing penalties for fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement, helping to deter dangerous high-speed chases.
- Increases Offense Severity Rankings for fleeing a marked patrol vehicle at high speed or with wanton disregard for safety.
- Creates a sentencing multiplier for individuals with their second or subsequent fleeing or attempting to elude offenses.

★ Crucial Context

- » Currently, repeat fleeing offenders do not face automatic sentencing enhancements, despite the heightened risk and severity of such offense.

Major Messages

- **Justice delayed, but not denied**—eliminates outdated filing deadlines that blocked wrongfully incarcerated individuals from having a path to receive compensation from the state.
- **Ends Florida's harsh "clean hands" rule**, which previously denied compensation to exonerees with prior unrelated convictions.
- **Removes long-overdue disqualifications and expands eligibility** so those wronged by our justice system are able to receive compensation.

Bill Basics

- Extends the deadline to file a petition for compensation from 90 days to 2 years for individuals exonerated on or after July 1, 2025.
- Repeals the "clean hands" provision so prior conviction for unrelated felonies no longer disqualify an exoneree from receiving compensation.

★ Crucial Context

- » Since 2000, 23 individuals in Florida who were convicted of a felony offense have been exonerated, due to post-conviction DNA testing,
- » Florida is the only state in the U.S. to deny compensation for exonerees because of prior unrelated convictions.
- » At least 17 exonerees are currently ineligible for compensation solely because of prior unrelated convictions, even though their wrongful conviction was fully overturned.

Major Messages

- **Animals should never have to suffer at the hands of careless or malicious individuals. Penalizing human neglect and establishing a felony offense for abandoning a restrained dog during a declared natural disaster is the least the Florida House can do to protect our furry friends.**
- **With ownership comes responsibility and if an individual is found not to have the best interest of their dog in mind—they should be held accountable.**

Bill Basics

- Creates a third-degree felony offense for abandoning a dog that has been restrained outside during a natural disaster.
- Makes the offense punishable by up to five years in prison, or by a fine of no more than \$10,000, or both.

★ Crucial Context

- » Known as “Trooper’s Law,” the bill was named after a dog that was rescued by a Florida Highway Patrol office in October 2024 after it had been tied to a fence and abandoned in rising water during Hurricane Milton.

Major Messages

- **The “Tristin Murphy Act” is an investment into how law enforcement effectively and properly interacts with individuals suffering mental health crises.**
- **Supports local efforts to battle mental health crises by creating diversion pilot programs and a centralized system for analyzing behavioral health care.**
- **Assists efforts to end the cycle of mental health battles in the jail system by creating model diversion programs.**

Bill Basics

- Expands use of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program to train 911 telecommunicators to determine the proper response team under certain circumstances and for veteran treatment court programs.
- Exempts fiscally constrained counties from matching certain grant exemptions.
- Provides model processes and grant funding for mental health diversion programs.
- Authorizes the Department of Children and Families to implement a Forensic Hospital Diversion Pilot Program in Hillsborough County, in conjunction with the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.
- Requires the Department of Corrections to evaluate the physical and mental health of each inmate eligible for a work assignment or correctional work program prior to final assignment.
- Authorizes a court to make a mental health evaluation and any resulting recommendations conditions of probation in certain circumstances.
- Establishes the Florida Behavioral Health Care Data Repository within the Northwest Regional Data Center, a centralized system for collecting and analyzing data related to behavioral health care in the state, and requiring reports on its implementation, operation plans, budget requests, and trends to the Legislature and Governor.

★ Crucial Context

- » Tristin Murphy, a Florida inmate who suffered from mental health conditions, committed suicide while incarcerated at a Miami prison.

Major Messages

- **“Dexter’s Law” affirms that abuse is unacceptable and punishable, even when the victim is not a human.**
- **Protects animals from abuse by creating a central database of known animal abusers.**
- **Increases criminal punishments for animal abusers when their cruelty is especially heinous.**

Bill Basics

- Requires FDLE to post a searchable online database listing individual convicted of any offense under “animal cruelty.”
- Applies a 1.25x sentencing multiplier if the primary offense is aggravated animal cruelty and it involved knowingly and intentionally torturing an animal that results in injury, mutilation, or death.
- Protects agriculture and regulated wildlife operations by explicitly excluding animals used for agricultural purposes or captive wildlife from the enhanced sentencing provisions.

★ Crucial Context

- » Several Florida cities and counties have created local animal abuser registries, however, there is currently no statewide system.
- » Florida stands with its farming community and would not want any unintended consequences for those who do so much to keep food on our table. Therefore, to ensure the bad actors are the only ones being targeted, the term “animal” excludes those used for agricultural purposes or permitted as captive wildlife, protecting farming operations and regulated wildlife facilities.

Major Messages

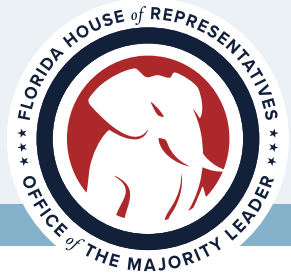
- **False emergency reports, also known as swatting, are not harmless pranks. They are dangerous disruptions that put lives at risk, drain public safety resources, and warrant serious consequences.**
- **Adds accountability by enhancing penalties for false reports that result in bodily injury or death, and requiring offenders to pay associated response and investigation costs.**

Bill Basics

- Reduces the number of prior convictions needed to trigger enhanced penalties for misusing the 911 system from four to two, making a third offense punishable as a third-degree felony.
- Requires courts to order the person convicted of giving false information to a law enforcement officer or misusing 911 communication service to pay the costs of prosecution, investigation, and restitution to any victim who suffers damage or injury.
- Makes it a third-degree felony if the response causes great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, or disability, and a second-degree felony if the response results in death.

★ Crucial Context

- » Under current law, misuse of the 911 system is generally a first-degree misdemeanor. There was previously no statutory penalty enhancement for 911 misuse that led to serious injury or death.
- » Previous law required four prior convictions for someone to face felony-level consequences for 911 misuse. That threshold limited law enforcement's ability to deter repeat abuse of the system.



Major Messages

- **“Lucy’s Law” enhances boating safety by adopting minimum standards for online education, mandating safety courses after violations, and holding boaters accountable for reckless behavior through penalties aligned with driving offenses.**
- **These measures aim to reduce preventable accidents and create more responsible boaters, making Florida’s waterways safer for everyone.**

Bill Basics

- Aligns offenses and penalties for leaving the scene of a boating accident, reckless operation of a vessel, BUI manslaughter, and vessel homicide with the corresponding driving offenses.
- Prohibits a person from knowingly providing false information in a vessel accident report.
- Requires the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to adopt rules to establish minimum standards for online boating safety education courses.
- Requires a person who is convicted of one noncriminal boating infraction to complete a boating safety course.

★ Crucial Context

- » Lucy Fernandez, the teenager behind “Lucy’s Law,” was killed in a boating accident in Biscayne Bay when the intoxicated driver of the boat she was on crashed while speeding
- » In 2023, there were 56 fatal accidents resulting in 59 fatalities.
- » Over 650 boating accidents were reported in Florida in 2023.
- » Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in fatal boating accidents.

Major Messages

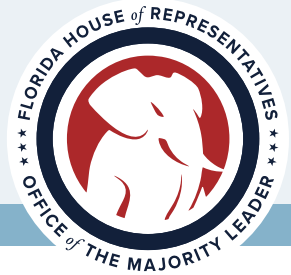
- **Gives law enforcement and landlords the ability to stop nefarious activity by easing accessibility to commercial buildings.**
- **Protects property owners by extending certain rights given to residential owners to commercial owners.**
- **Empowers law enforcement to halt unlawful activity by allowing access to buildings that would have been previously denied.**

Bill Basics

- Authorizes an owner of commercial property or his or her authorized agent may submit a verified complaint to the sheriff in the county where the commercial property is located to request the immediate removal of such unauthorized persons if certain conditions are met.
- Establishes processes and procedures for verification of ownership, removal of certain persons, and fees for the sheriff's services.
- Creates a cause of action for a person wrongfully removed from commercial property under the bill.
- Amends the current limited alternative remedy for removal of certain persons from residential property and requires the affidavit used to report unlawful occupants to include consent for the sheriff to enter the property using reasonably necessary force and search the property; this provision also applies to unlawful occupants on commercial property.
- Expands certain existing criminal offenses related to property to include the commission of such offenses against or upon commercial or other property.

★ Crucial Context

- » This bill mirrors the residential "antisquatter" law passed in 2024, extending similar protections to commercial properties.
- » Criminal mischief involving \$1,000+ in damage to commercial property becomes a second-degree felony.



Major Messages

- **Keeps Florida as the national standard for backing the blue by defending law enforcement officers' Second Amendment rights.**
- **Trained law enforcement and military personnel already undergo extensive background checks and firearm training. They shouldn't be subject to unnecessary delays in obtaining a firearm.**

Bill Basics

- Expands the definition of a "holder of a concealed weapons or firearms license" to include law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and servicemembers, thereby exempting them from the mandatory three-day waiting period.
- Gives correctional probation officers new authority to carry a concealed firearm while off-duty with approval from a superior officer.
- Aligns Florida law with the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) by recognizing correctional probation officers as qualified law enforcement officers.

★ Crucial Context

- » Currently, Florida requires a three-day waiting period for retail handgun purchases unless the buyer holds a conceal weapon license (CWL).

Major Messages

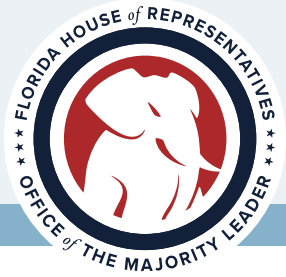
- **First responders facing traumatic events aren't just patrol officers or firefighters, but they include the support staff who work behind the scenes to ensure justice. This bill recognizes their critical role and the mental toll it takes.**
- **Extends legal protections so they can access confidential peer support communications just like other first responders – allowing the much-needed care they deserve.**

Bill Basics

- Expands the definition of "first responder" to include law enforcement support personnel, such as crime scene investigators or evidence handlers.
- Allows support personnel to receive the same peer support programs other law enforcement officers, firefighters, correctional officers, etc., have.

★ Crucial Context

- » A "peer support communication" means an electronic, oral, or written communication, made with a mutual expectation of confidentiality while a first responder peer is providing peer support in his or her official capacity.



Major Messages

- **Requires clerks to send certain documents to law enforcement in a timely and consistent manner.**
- **Without timely information, law enforcement cannot properly act and protect the community.**

Bill Basics

- Requires the clerks of the court to electronically transmit the following court documents within six hours: Involuntary examination orders (Baker Act), Marchman Act-related summons and notices, and risk protection order petitions, hearing notices, and orders.

★ Crucial Context

- » Under current law, clerks of court may send certain legal documents electronically, but it is not mandatory and lacks consistent timeframes.
- » The Marchman Act supports substance abuse prevention and remediation through a system of prevention, detoxification, and treatment services to assist individuals at risk for or affected by substance abuse.

Major Messages

- **With the recent attacks and assassination attempts on our President, this bill makes a statement to the world that Florida will not condone attempts to assassinate our leaders.**
- **By holding individuals accountable who attempt to carry out such horrific crimes, the Florida House will punish those who would harm our nation's leaders.**

Bill Basics

- Adds a new aggravating factor that allows a jury to consider whether a capital felony was committed against the head of a state, such as the President, Vice President, or a Governor, during sentencing deliberations in death penalty cases.
- Also, the bill allows the jury to consider whether a capital felony was committed against another individual during an attempt to commit a capital felony against a head of state.

★ Crucial Context

- » Aggravating factors are considered by a jury in determining whether to recommend a sentence of death or life in prison.
- » If fewer than eight jurors recommend death, a life sentence must be imposed. If at least eight jurors recommend death, the court may still impose either a life sentence or the death penalty.
- » Capital punishment sentencing is subject to automatic review by the Florida Supreme Court, which must issue a disposition within two years of a notice of appeal.

Major Messages

- **Unfortunately, some individuals are unable to learn from their mistakes after committing their first crime – which is why, under Florida law, most crimes carry harsher penalties for repeat violations.**
- **Upgrades repeat DUI, BUI, vehicular, and vessel homicide charges to first-degree felonies to ensure stronger sentencing that keeps habitual criminals off the roads and waterways.**
- **Creates a stronger deterrence for those who would choose to drink and drive by criminalizing any refusal to submit to a breath or alcohol test.**

Bill Basics

- Creates a new criminal offense for refusing DUI testing:
 - First-time refusal to submit to a chemical test after a DUI arrest is no longer just an administrative issue; it is now a criminal offense, punishable by up to 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine.
- Increases penalties for repeat DUI and BUI-related deaths:
 - Converts a second-degree felony to a first-degree felony if the offender has a prior conviction for: DUI manslaughter (s. 316.193), BUI manslaughter (s. 327.35), vehicular homicide (s. 782.071), or vessel homicide (s. 782.072).
- Targets repeat offenders with stronger sentencing classifications:
 - Under the new law, repeat convictions for DUI or BUI manslaughter are classified as Level 9 offenses, while repeat convictions for vehicular or vessel homicide are classified as Level 8 offenses on the Offense Severity Ranking Chart.
- Brings consistency across land and water-related homicide offenses:
 - Treats deaths caused by reckless or impaired operators of both vehicles and vessels equally.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida is the nation's leader in the number of boating accidents occurring each year. With the leading cause of these accidents being attributed to the operators boating under the influence.
- » According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 12,429 people died in alcohol-impaired driving deaths in 2023 in the United States.
- » Current law makes vehicular homicide punishable as a second-degree felony which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years.

Major Messages

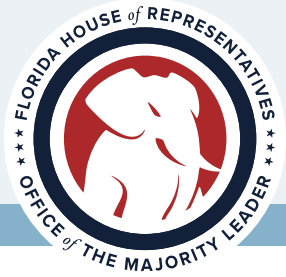
- **Murders committed during school, religious, or government gatherings warrant the harshest penalty allowed under law.**
- **Sends a clear message to those who target vulnerable individuals engaged in education, worship, or civic activities.**
- **By designating these circumstances as an aggravating factor, prosecutors will have the tools to pursue the death penalty in the most egregious cases.**

Bill Basics

- Adds additional aggravating factors for the jury to consider when determining whether to recommend the death penalty when the victim is gathered for a school activity, religious activity, or public government hearing.

★ Crucial Context

- » Aggravating factors are considered by a jury in determining whether to recommend a sentence of death or life in prison.
- » If fewer than eight jurors recommend death, a life sentence must be imposed. If at least eight jurors recommend death, the court may still impose either a life sentence or the death penalty.
- » Capital punishment sentencing is subject to automatic review by the Florida Supreme Court, which must issue a disposition within two years of a notice of appeal.
- » The list of aggravating factors in current law is not comprehensive and when appropriate needs to be expanded to ensure justice for victims.



Major Messages

- **No Floridian should be sexually exploited by the rapidly evolving capabilities of modern technology—it is critical that our laws keep pace with these developments.**
- **Criminalizes the possession with intent to maliciously promote, solicitation, or generation of altered sexual depictions.**
- **Enhances prosecutors' ability to pursue charges in cases involving AI-generated child pornography and altered sexual depictions of identifiable individuals.**
- **Provides clear and specific civil remedies for individuals portrayed in digitally altered sexual depictions.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits a person from doing the following without the consent of the identifiable person depicted:
 - Willfully generating an altered sexual depiction, as a third-degree felony.
 - Soliciting any altered sexual depiction, as a third-degree felony.
 - Possessing any altered sexual depiction with the intent to maliciously promote such visual depiction, as a third-degree felony.
- Makes it a second-degree felony to possess lewd or lascivious images with the intent to promote.
- Makes it a third-degree felony to knowingly solicit, possess, control, or intentionally view such images, with each image and each minor counted as a separate offense.
- Clarifies that child pornography may be determined based on the image's content, including the minor's age, focus on genitals, suggestive setting or pose, inappropriate attire, or intent to elicit a sexual response.
- Authorizes individuals depicted in altered sexual images without consent to file a civil lawsuit against those who created or maliciously promoted the image, allowing for injunctive relief, \$10,000 or actual damages, and attorney fees.

★ Crucial Context

- » Altered sexual depictions, such as nonconsensual deepfakes, can severely damage victims' reputations and mental health, yet previously lacked strong legal definitions.
- » Current law lacks clear statutory criteria for determining when an image qualifies as a lewd exhibition of a minor's genitals for the purpose of determining whether it constitutes child pornography.

Major Messages

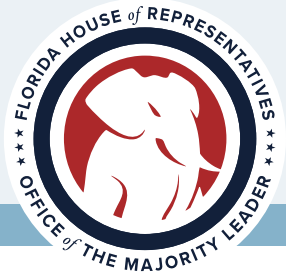
- **Modernizes inmate mental health care by establishing clear procedures for involuntary treatment, requiring individualized treatment plans, and ensuring inmates are informed about their care.**
- **Strengthens correctional authority by expanding the Department of Corrections' (DOC) ability to perform emergency medical interventions and legally use necessary force in such situations.**
- **Provides additional lawful methods for carrying out capital punishment, ensuring the state can enforce death sentences without disruption if existing methods become unavailable, while maintaining constitutional safeguards.**

Bill Basics

- Clarifies the additional methods allowed for the execution of a death sentence by allowing any method not deemed unconstitutional to be implemented – in addition to lethal injection or electrocution.
- Shields correctional officers (COs) and specific staff from liability who are lawfully acting within the scope of their duties; including the installation, placement, or use of tracking devices on an inmate.
- Clarifies that courts must impose consecutive mandatory minimum sentences under the 10-20-Life statute when a defendant is convicted of multiple qualifying crimes involving firearms.
- Updates the DOC mental health treatment plan requirements for inmates by requiring the development of a written individualized treatment plan before carrying out such remedies. Information provided to inmate must include: purpose of treatment; common risks, benefits, and side effects of the treatment; length of treatment and more.
- Expands DOC authority for emergency medical interventions and updates mental health care procedures, including involuntary treatment.
- If there is a reason to believe that an inmate has a mental illness and the inmate needs care and treatment, the inmate's treating clinician can refer the inmate to a mental health treatment facility for an involuntary examination.

★ Crucial Context

- » Prior to this bill, DOC's authority for emergency medical treatment and the ability to address severe mental health crises was limited and without a clear legal pathway for involuntary care.



Major Messages

- In order to maintain an effective and impartial legal system, it is important for court officials to feel safe in executing their duties.
- Strengthens protections for Florida's judicial system and expands criminal penalties for tampering with, harassing, or retaliating against a wide range of court officials.

Bill Basics

- Expands the definition of "court official" to include magistrates, bailiffs, judicial assistants, court deputies, attorneys, administrative assistants and more.
- Creates and amends several crimes relating to tampering with, harassing, or retaliating against court officials and provides graduated penalties depending on the offense level of the official investigation or proceeding affected.

★ Crucial Context

- » Current law primarily addresses tampering and harassment of jurors and witnesses but lacks full protection for other court personnel, including magistrates and administrative staff.

Major Messages

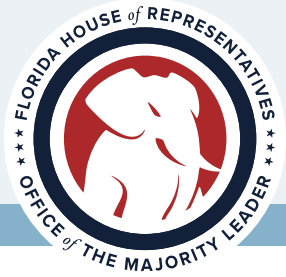
- Gives property owners more protections from bad actors using drones to spy on and invade personal, private spaces.
- Responsibly updates laws to maintain pace with the advancement of technology, preventing new technology from being used to deprive Floridians of privacy and safety.

Bill Basics

- Upgrades penalties from a second-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony for unauthorized drone activity near critical infrastructure.
- Makes it a third-degree felony to possess or operate a drone with a weapon, explosive, or firearm.
- Prohibits using a drone to surveil private property or individuals without written consent, creating a first-degree misdemeanor.
- Allows law enforcement to use drones to monitor crowds of 50+ and for the protection of elected officials under the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) security mandates.

★ Crucial Context

- » “Unmanned aircraft” has the same meaning as the term “drone” in s. 934.50(2), F.S., and means a powered, aerial vehicle that: Does not carry a human operator; Uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift; Can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely; Can be expendable or recoverable; and can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload.



Major Messages

- **Solidifies Florida's reputation as a national leader in supporting first responders by honoring their service, protecting their health and wellness, and enforcing penalties against those who threaten their safety or hinder their duties.**
- **Empowers law enforcement by modifying search warrant procedures when electronic devices are involved to give law enforcement adequate time to investigate.**
- **Heightens and broadens punishments for bad actors who deprive law enforcement officers of their ability to perform their job, or worse, attempt to steal their life.**

Bill Basics

- Authorizes a first responder who has a physical disability resulting from an amputation to continue to serve as a first responder and creates the Florida Medal of Valor and the Florida Blue/Red Heart Medal.
- Requires a mandatory minimum of 25 years imprisonment for committing attempted first-degree murder of specified justice system personnel.
- Prohibits a person from depriving officers of digital recording devices or restraints, prohibits rendering officers' devices useless, and prohibits the use of vehicle kill switches in most circumstances.
- Revises reporting and review requirements in missing persons cases and encourages pro-prosecution policies for false crime reports.
- Creates the Critical Infrastructure Mapping Grant Program.
- Revises provisions related to the blood testing of arrestees and specifying procedures for reporting the results of such blood tests to first responders
- Increases the time frame that a search warrant issued for a computer, computer system, or electronic device that is in the possession of a law enforcement agency must be returned to the court from 10 days to 45 days.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Medal of Valor is awarded to first responders or related personnel who go above and beyond the call of duty to save the life of an individual.
- » The Florida Blue/Red Heart Medal is awarded to a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or probation officer who is injured in the line of duty.

Major Messages

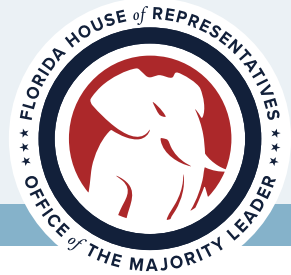
- **Victims of sexual cyberharassment often suffer lasting emotional, financial, and reputational harm, but current laws make it difficult to fully hold offenders accountable.**
- **Strengthens the justice system by updating legal penalties for serious cybercrimes to keep pace with evolving technology.**
- **Provides victims more ability to pursue claims against sexual cyber offenders.**

Bill Basics

- Removes the requirements that offenders must have intended to cause substantial emotion distress and disseminated the image containing personal identifying information (PII) for no legitimate reason.
- Revises the current requirement that the PII of the depicted person be conveyed in the image itself, and alternatively allows the publication or dissemination of a sexually explicit image to constitute a violation of sexual cyberharassment if the depicted person's PII is published image in a manner that a person viewing the PII would reasonably know that information directly relates to the person depicted in the sexually explicit image.
- Creates an enhanced penalty, making a sexual cyberharassment offense punishable as a third-degree felony instead of a first-degree misdemeanor, if a person commits an act of sexual cyberharassment for the purpose of pecuniary gain.
- Extends the statute of limitations for violations of sexual cyberharassment and authorizes a victim to recover punitive damages in a civil action against the offender.
- Includes sexual cyberharassment for pecuniary gain as a "felony sexual offense," a conviction of which precludes a person from having his or her voting rights restored without restoration of his or her civil rights.

★ Crucial Context

- » Sexual cyberharassment is the distribution of sexually explicit images alongside a person's personal identifying information without their consent.
- » Since Florida's sexual cyberharassment law was enacted in 2015, fewer than 800 individuals were criminally charged statewide through 2023, averaging about eight cases per month. This low number of prosecutions is partly due to legal hurdles, including the previous requirement to prove that offenders intended to cause emotional distress.



Major Messages

- **Repeat sexual offenders pose a serious threat to public safety. Florida is committed to enforcing strict punishment for those who commit society's most egregious acts.**
- **Protects citizens from dangerous and repeat sexual predators by empowering Florida's courts to impose stronger penalties that deter offenders from committing future heinous acts.**

Bill Basics

- Creates mandatory minimum sentences for a person who has previously been convicted of a specified sexual offense and is convicted of a subsequent specified sexual offense, ranging from 10-20 years depending on the offense.
- A person sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment under the bill is generally not eligible for gain-time or any form of discretionary early release before serving his or her mandatory minimum sentence.

★ Crucial Context

- » In Florida law, an offender 18 years or older who commits a lewd or lascivious molestation against a victim less than 12 years of age commits a life felony.
- » Knowingly possessing and/or transmitting child pornography in Florida is a third-degree felony.

Major Messages

- **Rideshare drivers play a vital role in our transportation system, and trust between the rider and driver is essential to that system working.**
- **Mitigates and punishes would-be malicious actors from harming victims by establishing misdemeanors and felonies for posing as prearranged transportation drivers.**
- **Provides safe and reliable transportation to people with disabilities by authorizing state funds for transportation providers who serve disabled persons.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits impersonation of a transportation network company driver.
- Specifies that a violation is generally a second-degree misdemeanor, but raises to a third-degree felony if committed in commission of, or to facilitate the commission of, a separate felony offense.
- Clarifies that services purchased from a TNC do not qualify as privately owned or operated bus transit systems and that a TNC is not a transportation service provider, and thus TNCs are not subject to specified regulations.
- Authorizes the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged to expend funds to contract with alternative providers to support transportation services for persons with disabilities.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2017, the Legislature established a regulatory framework for transportation network companies.
- » A “transportation network company” or “TNC” is an entity operating in this state using a digital network to connect a rider to a driver to provide prearranged rides.
- » The Transportation Disadvantaged Program is a coordinated state-wide effort that groups riders together for a shared ride service who have no access to transportation.

Major Messages

- **Florida's world-class beaches are the foundation of our tourism economy and way of life—preserving public access ensures everyone, from lifelong residents to visiting families, can continue to enjoy these shared treasures.**
- **Empowers local governments to preserve public beach access by allowing customary use ordinances above the mean high-water line without requiring a court order.**
- **Protects Florida's coastline and long-term shoreline management by streamlining the process for establishing an erosion control line and continuing beach restoration projects.**

Bill Basics

- Repeals s. 163.035, F.S., thereby allowing (but not requiring) a local government to adopt an ordinance or rule that finds, determines, relies on, or is based upon customary use of any portion of a beach above the mean high-water line without the need to first obtain a judicial declaration affirming a recreational customary use on such beach.
- Clarifies that, for certain Gulf counties, the erosion control line for beach restoration will be based on the mean high-water line, while preserving the rights of private property owners.
- Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to proceed with restoration projects for critically eroded beaches without requiring a public easement.

★ Crucial Context

- » Customary use refers to the long-standing tradition of the public accessing privately owned portions of the beach, particularly above the mean high-water line.
- » In 2018, the Legislature passed HB 631 (section 163.035, F.S.), which required local governments to obtain a judicial declaration before adopting or enforcing any customary use ordinance. This created a burdensome legal process involving public hearings, individual notifications to affected property owners, and the need to prove that public use was ancient, reasonable, continuous, and undisputed.
- » Walton County, where public beach access had long been a contentious issue, was especially affected. The county filed a lawsuit to confirm customary use on 1,194 private beachfront parcels, but after nearly five years of litigation, only 95 parcels were confirmed. The remainder were dismissed or settled, often with limited public access

Major Messages

- Takes a strong stand against criminals by imposing the harshest penalties on human traffickers who prey on the most vulnerable in our society.
- Protects children and mentally disabled people from exploitation by using the justice system to punish would-be predators with capital penalties.
- Equips the court system with the necessary tools to maximize sentencing against especially heinous and cruel predators.

Bill Basics

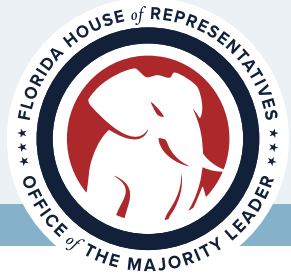
- Creates a capital felony punishment for human trafficking vulnerable persons for sexual exploitation, prohibiting an adult from knowingly human trafficking either: (1) a child younger than 12 years of age, or (2) a person who is mentally defective or mentally incapacitated.
- Establishes the sentencing procedure which must be used to determine if an offender convicted of the offense will be sentenced to death or life imprisonment, and requires the finding of at least two aggravating factors for death sentence eligibility.
- Applies to offenses committed on or after October 1, 2025.
- Authorizes the state to appeal from a sentence in a capital human trafficking of vulnerable persons for sexual exploitation case that resulted from the circuit court's failure to comply with the required sentencing procedures.

★ Crucial Context

- » A defendant's ignorance of the victim's age, the victim's misrepresentation of his or her age, or a defendant's bona fide belief of the victim's age cannot be raised as a defense in a prosecution for a human trafficking offense.
- » The aggravating factors applied under this bill fall under Florida Statute 921.1425(7), including factors such as: if the offender was a registered sex offender, if the crime was especially cruel, and if the crime was committed for pecuniary gain.

Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death

REP. TRABULSY & REP. LOPEZ, J.



Major Messages

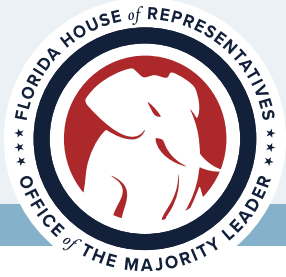
- **Would have provided families and victims of medical negligence with the opportunity for justice and closure by eliminating legal barriers to pursuing claims.**
- **Would have held health care providers accountable for proper and careful service by giving patients more legal protections.**

Bill Basics

- Would have expanded the scope of noneconomic damages available under Florida's Wrongful Death Act by removing provisions prohibiting two specified classes of individuals from recovering noneconomic wrongful death damages with respect to claims related to medical negligence.
- Would have removed the prohibition on recovery of noneconomic wrongful death damages in medical negligence cases by the decedent's children who are 25 years of age or older and parents of a deceased child who was 25 years of age or older at the time of death.

★ Crucial Context

- » A Yale School of Medicine study suggests that there are over 22,000 preventable inpatient deaths a year in the United States.
- » Florida had 1,668 adverse action and medical malpractice payment reports in 2022. Only states with larger populations, California and Texas, had higher numbers of reported medical malpractice payments.



Major Messages

- Ensures Floridians can exercise their Second Amendment rights during public emergencies by removing unnecessary bureaucratic barriers to self-defense and protection of their families and communities.

Bill Basics

- Repeals Florida Statute 870.044, prohibiting the sale and purchase of firearms and ammunition during a declared public emergency.
- Repeals provisions that prohibited possession of firearms in a public place during a declared public emergency.

★ Crucial Context

- » A sheriff or designated city official may declare a local state of emergency if it is determined that: (1) there has been an act of violence or substantial defiance to public authority and (2) there is reason to believe that there is a clear and present danger of a riot or public disorder.

Major Messages

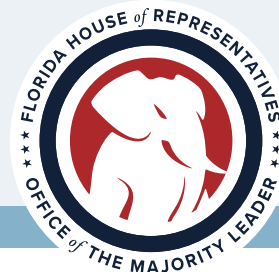
- **Would have protected firearm rights in public spaces by prohibiting governments use of AI with cameras to detect concealed firearms in public.**
- **Would have balanced safety and privacy by allowing AI-based firearm detection in schools and restricted locations, ensuring public safety where it is most needed.**

Bill Basics

- Would have made it illegal for state or local government entities to use AI-equipped surveillance to detect concealed firearms in publicly accessible areas.
- Would have held the government accountable through legal action by allowing any affected individual to file for injunctive relief, helping to enforce the law and check government overreach.
- Would have allowed targeted AI deployment in areas where public safety concerns are greatest, like schools, where carrying concealed firearms is already unlawful.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida law already outlines strict rules on where concealed weapons are and are not allowed. This bill would have clarified how surveillance technologies fit within that legal framework.
- » Several private businesses have already developed technology designed to monitor security cameras and identify when an individual is carrying a firearm.



Major Messages

- **Would have protected the constitutional rights of all Floridian adults by allowing law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms without unnecessary government interference.**
- **Would have restored legal parity for 18- to 20-year-olds by aligning Florida's firearm purchase age with longstanding federal law for long guns and private handgun sales.**

Bill Basics

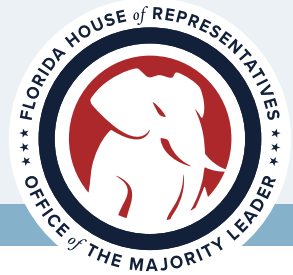
- Would have reduced the minimum age to purchase any firearm in Florida from 21 to 18, affecting both private sales and purchases from federally licensed firearms dealers (FFLs).
- However, since the sale of a handgun by an FFL to a person under 21 years of age remains prohibited under federal law, a person under the age of 21 would have remained ineligible to purchase a handgun from an FFL in Florida.
- Would have allowed 18- to 20-year-olds to purchase long guns (rifles and shotguns) from licensed dealers—something federal law already permits, but Florida currently prohibits.
- Would have clarified that 18- to 20-year-olds may legally purchase both long guns and handguns in private transactions, as currently permitted under federal law.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2018, Florida raised the minimum age to purchase any firearm from 18 to 21 in response to the Parkland shooting, even though federal law still allows 18-year-olds to purchase long guns from licensed dealers.
- » Under Florida law, it is not a crime for a private party to sell or transfer a firearm to a person who is 18 years of age or older but less than 21 years of age.

Carrying of Handguns or Weapons by Law Enforcement Officers Attending Athletic Events

REP. HOLCOMB & REP. SAPP



Major Messages

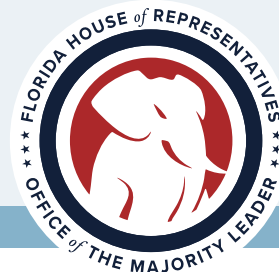
- **Would have clarified legal protections for actively certified law enforcement officers by ensuring their right to carry in high-density sporting event, even when not on duty.**
- **Without this bill, current law leaves a gap where highly trained, off-duty officers are legally disarmed in high-traffic venues – the very places where their presence could deter or stop a potential threat.**

Bill Basics

- Would have restored the concealed carry rights for off-duty law enforcement officers attending athletics events as a private citizen.

★ Crucial Context

- » Under current Florida law, concealed carry is prohibited at school, college, and professional athletic events—even for off-duty law enforcement officers attending as civilians.



Major Messages

- **Without a legal path for parents to seek damages for the wrongful or negligent death of their unborn child, this bill would have affirmed the value of unborn life and provide families a path to seek accountability and healing.**

Bill Basics

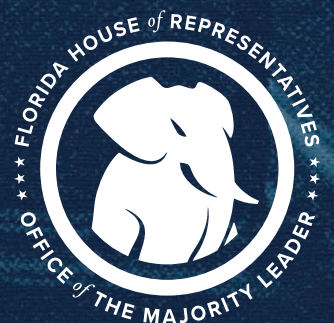
- Would have expanded Florida's Wrongful Death Act to allow parents to recover civil damages for the wrongful death of their unborn child.
- Redefined "survivors" to include parents of an unborn child; they could have recovered damages such as mental pain and suffering, loss of support and services, and medical or funeral expenses.
- Would have defined "unborn child" as a human being at any stage of development who is carried in the womb.
- Included liability protections for the mother and medical providers when lawful care is provided within the applicable standard, including cases involving assisted reproductive technology.
- Prohibited an unborn child's estate from recovering the value it could have reasonably acquired had the child lived.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida's Wrongful Death Act allows a decedent's personal representative to sue for damages caused by another's wrongful act, with certain family members eligible to recover for lost support, services, and emotional harm.
- » Although Florida allows a limited recovery of damages for negligent stillbirth, it does not currently recognize a cause of action for wrongful death based on the death of an unborn child, since courts have held that a fetus is not considered a "person" under the state's Wrongful Death Act.
- » Florida remains one of six states, including California, Iowa, Maine, New Jersey, and New York, that do not currently recognize a cause of action for the wrongful death of an unborn child. Alternatively, forty-three states do currently allow for a cause of action for the wrongful death of an unborn child, depending on the viability of the child in question.

State Affairs

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES



Major Messages

- **We shouldn't allow governments or private actors to manipulate our weather or atmosphere through geoengineering like cloud seeding or solar radiation modification.**

Bill Basics

- Establishes strict penalties for violating the geoengineering ban: individuals face a third-degree felony, up to five years in prison, and a \$100,000 fine; corporate officers or employees face the same penalties; aircraft operators face a third-degree felony, up to five years in prison, and a \$5,000 fine. Each violation counts as a separate offense.
- Defines "geoengineering and weather modification activities" as the intentional injection, release, or dispersion of chemicals, substances, or devices into the atmosphere to affect temperature, weather, climate, or sunlight intensity.
- Implements an e-mail address and online form for the public to report any observed geoengineering or weather modification activity within the state.
- Requires publicly owned airports to make monthly reports on the presence and activity of aircraft that may be equipped for geoengineering or weather modification.

★ Crucial Context

- » Weather modification, such as cloud seeding, involves altering local or regional atmospheric conditions to increase precipitation or reduce hailstorms.
- » Geoengineering, such as solar radiation modification, focuses on larger-scale actions to reduce the amount of sunlight reaching Earth.
- » Tennessee became the first state to ban cloud seeding and weather modification in 2024; similar legislation has been introduced in at least eight other states, including Illinois, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Texas.

Major Messages

- **Without a system to regularly review agency rules, outdated and unauthorized regulations have piled up and created bureaucratic red tape.**
- **Ensures agency regulations stay focused and lawful by requiring each agency to review and eliminate outdated, unnecessary, or duplicative rules.**

Bill Basics

- Rules adopted before July 1, 2025, must be reviewed by July 1, 2030, and rules adopted after July 1, 2025, must be reviewed five years after they are issued.
- Extends the public review window by requiring a seven-day buffer between a notice of rule development (the first stage of rulemaking) and a notice of proposed rule (the second step).
- Requires agencies to include in each Statement of Estimated Regulatory Costs (SERC) specified transactional costs and market impacts likely to result from compliance with the proposed rule.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) reviewed a total of 1,074 rules in 2023—the lowest reviewed in the prior 10 years.

Major Messages

- **We remain committed to supporting veterans and their families by enhancing services and expanding vital programs and outreach.**
- **Enhances the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program to include specialized mental health training for recognizing early warning signs of crisis.**

Bill Basics

- Appropriates \$350,000 in nonrecurring funds to FDVA to implement the Veteran Suicide Prevention Training Pilot Program and conduct a statewide survey on veterans' awareness of available services and the need for adult day health care facilities.
- Surveys Florida veterans and their families to assess awareness of available federal, state, and community services in areas such as healthcare, employment, education, and social support to identify service gaps, evaluate veteran health literacy, and recommend strategies to improve outreach.
- Requires the FDVA to coordinate with the U.S. Department of Defense to directly engage servicemembers returning to or relocating to Florida, helping connect them with Florida Is For Veterans, Inc. and other support resources during their transition to civilian life.
- Makes various other changes related to improving veteran services.

★ Crucial Context

- » Nearly 1 in 4 veterans show symptoms of mental illness, with PTSD occurring at 15 times the rate of the general population, depression at five times the rate, and a high prevalence of traumatic brain injury (TBI).
- » An estimated 30,177 active duty servicemembers and veterans of the post-9/11 wars have died by suicide, significantly more than the 7,057 service members that died in the post-9/11 war operations.

Major Messages

- **Presidential libraries are an important component of our shared American history, playing a vital role in preserving and providing access to the papers, records, and historical materials of U.S. presidents.**
- **By regulating presidential libraries at the state level, we help ensure that the planning, design, and construction processes proceed as smoothly and efficiently as possible.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state from enacting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, rule, or other measure that governs the establishment, maintenance, or operation of a presidential library.
- Allows regulation of presidential libraries only as authorized by the federal Presidential Libraries Act and related federal standards, ensuring national consistency.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Presidential Libraries Act of 1955 created a system of privately built but federally maintained libraries to house presidential records and artifacts.
- » The National Archives and Records Administration operates presidential libraries for all presidents since Herbert Hoover and is responsible for managing these institutions under federal law.
- » Currently, the presidential library system comprises 15 presidential collections and 13 depositories.

Major Messages

- **Hazardous derelict vessels in our State's waters have damaged our marine environments, congested waterways, and led to costly taxpayer-funded removals.**
- **Increases monitoring and prevention mechanisms by establishing a free long-term anchoring permit to track vessels that remain in one location for extended periods and expanding the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) local government grant program to fund derelict vessel removal efforts.**
- **Adds accountability measures by tightening the definition of vessel ownership and increasing civil and criminal penalties for abandoning derelict vessels and anchoring unlawfully.**

Bill Basics

- Closes loopholes in vessel accountability by expanding the legal definition of "vessel owner" to include individuals listed on the title, those who have signed a purchase agreement and paid for the vessel, and those who have taken physical possession.
- Punishes repeated vessel abandonment by elevating a second offense to a third-degree felony and a third or subsequent offense to a second-degree felony.
- Creates a free long-term anchoring permit for vessel owners or operators who intend to anchor a vessel within one linear nautical mile of an anchorage point for 14 days or more within a 30-day period.

★ Crucial Context

- » Right now, there is no proactive system in place to track or regulate vessels that anchor in the same location for extended periods and may be at risk of becoming derelict.
- » In 2024, derelict vessel removal costs totaled nearly \$13 million, a \$6 million increase from the year before.
- » As of January 2025, there were 1,040 derelict vessels in the FWC derelict vessel database.
- » An FWC study found that of 691 unmanaged anchoring areas across Florida, 319 were used primarily for long-term vessel storage, 243 for short-term overnight stays, and 129 for a mix of both.

Major Messages

- **Florida was hit hard during this last hurricane season, and while our recovery was resilient, it revealed clear areas for improvement to strengthen our emergency management system and better prepare, respond, and rebuild for future natural disasters.**
- **Enhances preparation by requiring local governments to post hurricane-related service information online, increasing emergency training, and proactively planning debris removal.**
- **Expedites recovery by banning pre-storm “lookback” rules on rebuilding and blocking stricter development limits for one year after a hurricane.**

Bill Basics

- Requires counties and municipalities to post key emergency preparedness information on their websites, including FAQs, disaster supply lists, shelter locations, flood zone maps, post-disaster recovery checklists, and resources for persons with disabilities.
- Prohibits impact fees for the reconstruction or replacement of previously existing structures if the replacement is for the same land use and does not increase the impact on public facilities beyond the original structure.
- Requires counties and municipalities to annually apply for authorization of at least one debris management site and encourages them to include disaster-specific provisions in solid waste contracts.
- Makes other various improvements to emergency planning, post-disaster permitting, shelter access, and cross-agency coordination.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2024, Florida was hit by three hurricanes, two of which made landfall as a Category 3 or stronger, causing over \$110 billion in damages statewide.
- » There is no standardized requirement for cities or counties to post hurricane-related service information online, leading to confusion, inconsistent access to resources, and delays in recovery.
- » A “lookback period” tallies the cost of multiple repairs or improvements over time to determine if a property must meet stricter building codes, burdening homeowners with costly upgrades after repeated storms.

Major Messages

- **The “State Park Preservation Act” protects state parks by requiring conservation-focused recreation and prohibiting inappropriate development on Florida’s natural lands.**
- **Prevents unnecessary development that could harm natural resources and habitats by establishing clear guidelines on what can and cannot be constructed, protecting our environment for future generations.**
- **Provides greater oversight and transparency of state park management by requiring public notice of land development plans and reporting on current park operations and needs.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits sporting facilities, including, but not limited to, golf courses, tennis courts, pickleball courts, ball fields, or other sporting facilities, from being constructed within the boundaries of state parks.
- Authorizes DEP and DRP to acquire, install, or permit the installation or operation of campsites and cabins at state parks.
- Specifies that the land management agency must hold a public hearing when updating an existing plan or developing a new plan.
- Mandates that DEP reports to the Governor and Legislature include needed infrastructure repairs or additions, budget allocation expenditures from the previous fiscal year, and a plan to address the identified needs.

★ Crucial Context

- » In August 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released the “Great Outdoors Initiative,” which proposed the development of golf courses in state parks, sparking mass outrage.
- » “Conservation-based recreational uses” is defined as public outdoor recreational activities that do not significantly invade, degrade, or displace the natural resources, native habitats, or archaeological or historical sites that are preserved within state parks.
- » The Division of Recreation and Parks (DRP) within DEP is responsible for overseeing Florida’s 175 state parks, spanning more than 800,000 acres and 100 miles of coastline.

Major Messages

- **To effectively counter the uptick in derelict vessels congesting our waterways, local governments, particularly in highly populated areas, need more authority to regulate long-term overnight anchoring and better enforce vessel limits in sensitive or overcrowded areas.**

Bill Basics

- In the sections of Biscayne Bay now designated as anchoring limitation areas, a person may not anchor a vessel at any time during the time period between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
- Increases from 100 feet to 300 feet the distance from the marked boundary of a public mooring field within which a vessel may not anchor or moor.
- Allows local governments in counties with over 1.5 million residents to set time-based anchoring restrictions outside designated mooring fields for vessels anchored overnight for more than 30 days in a six-month period.
- Prohibits overnight anchoring altogether in newly designated sections of Biscayne Bay, including areas between Palm Island, Star Island, Hibiscus Island, Watson Island, and the Sunset Islands.

★ Crucial Context

- » Currently, local governments have no authority to regulate vessels anchored outside of marked mooring fields, even when those vessels remain in place for extended periods of time.
- » Mooring fields are designated areas with spaced moorings where up to 100 vessels can anchor, supported by nearby land-based facilities offering amenities like bathrooms, parking, and showers, while prohibiting major repairs, fueling, or hull maintenance on the water.
- » Derelict vessels harm communities by blocking navigation channels, leaking pollutants into the environment, lowering waterfront property values, and straining local enforcement and cleanup resources.
- » Between 2019 and 2024, 158 derelict and abandoned vessels were removed from Biscayne Bay, with more than half located in the newly designated no-anchoring zones.

Major Messages

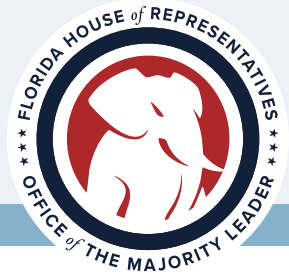
- **With the rapid rise of development pressures and permit backlogs in Florida, it is critical to modernize the mitigation banking process by streamlining credit availability while upholding strong environmental standards and continuing effective conservation efforts.**
- **Reduces delays and uncertainties for developers and regulators by establishing a clear and consistent framework for how mitigation credits are released and used.**
- **Preserves environmental integrity through improved oversight, reporting, and encouraging in-kind, local mitigation first before any alternatives are considered.**

Bill Basics

- DEP or a WMD must release credits in five stages based on permit milestones, such as the recordation of a conservation easement (30%), completion of construction (30%), interim performance (20%), and final success (20%). Preservation-only areas receive 100% credit release upon meeting initial requirements. The bill also allows applicants to propose alternate schedules and prohibits unrelated permit changes when adjusting the credit release timeline.
- Increases transparency by requiring mitigation banks to report available credits to DEP or a WMD, which must verify credit availability in impacted watersheds and compile the data into a statewide report for the Governor and Legislature.
- Adds flexibility by allowing the use of mitigation credits from outside the impacted area when local credits are unavailable, while encouraging in-kind, in-service-area mitigation through required multipliers that prioritize proximity and ecological similarity.

★ Crucial Context

- » Mitigation banking is a practice in which an environmental enhancement and preservation project is conducted by a public agency or private entity ("banker") to provide mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts within a defined region (mitigation service area). The bank is the site itself, and the currency sold by the banker to the impact permittee is a credit, which represents the wetland ecological value equivalent to the complete restoration of one acre.
- » Mitigation banking in Florida is regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or Water Management Districts (WMDs), with federal oversight provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for projects requiring federal permits.
- » Currently, DEP and WMDs determine how and when to release mitigation credits on a case-by-case basis, which creates uncertainty, delays, and inconsistent outcomes for developers and mitigation banks.
- » Mitigation credits can generally only be used within the same mitigation service area. However, exceptions allow credits to be used outside that area for projects that are partially within the service area, for linear infrastructure projects such as roads or pipelines, or for projects with less than one acre of total wetland impact.



Major Messages

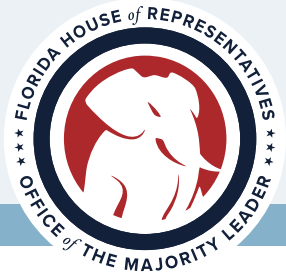
- Florida is fully committed toward putting America first and honoring our nation's greatness, values, and sovereignty by proudly adopting the "Gulf of America" designation.
- These efforts help align state agencies with the federal renaming initiative and ensure uniformity across government references.

Bill Basics

- Formally replaces references to the "Gulf of Mexico" with "Gulf of America" in Florida Statutes.

★ Crucial Context

- » This aligns Florida with President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order 14172—Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness.
- » State agencies like the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have already begun implementing the "Gulf of America" designation across official documents, maps, and resources.



Major Messages

- The “Pam Rock Act” strengthens Florida’s dangerous dog laws by holding owners more accountable and ensuring aggressive dogs are identified, contained, and monitored to better protect public safety.

Bill Basics

- Increases penalties for irresponsible ownership by raising fines for violations of the dangerous dog statute to \$1,000, making obstruction of investigations a first-degree misdemeanor, elevating second offenses involving injury or death to a second-degree felony, and making removal of a dangerous dog’s microchip a third-degree felony.
- Requires owners of dogs deemed “dangerous” to be securely confined, microchipped, spayed or neutered, and covered under at least \$100,000 in liability insurance.
- Allows animal control to humanely euthanize a dangerous dog that kills a person or causes a severe bite injury and increasing penalties against irresponsible owners.

★ Crucial Context

- » Pam Rock was a rural mail carrier who was brutally attacked and killed by a pack of dogs with a known history of aggression.
- » The term “dangerous dog” is defined in Florida law as a dog that has aggressively bitten, attacked, or inflicted severe injury on a person, killed or seriously injured another animal off its owner’s property, or acted in a menacing, unprovoked manner toward people in public.
- » Between 2010 and 2023, there were 47 fatal dog attacks in Florida, the fourth highest of any state.
- » In 2023 alone, there were 1,500 dog-bite related insurance claims in Florida, up from 1,475 claims in 2022.

Major Messages

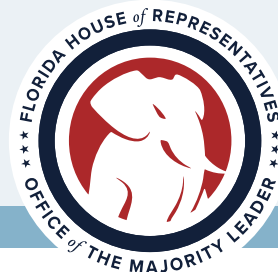
- **Every Floridian deserves the chance to safely and easily enjoy our state's beautiful natural waterways.**
- **Invests in public boating access through the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) by funding the construction and maintenance of publicly owned boat ramps, docks, piers, boater education, and parking for trailers.**

Bill Basics

- Adds parking for boat-hauling vehicles and trailers to the list of eligible projects funded by the FBIP.
- Protects Florida's waterways while supporting marine industries by incentivizing marinas to adopt environmental best practices through the Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Marina Program (CMP).
- Extends eligibility for lease fee discounts under the CMP to marine manufacturers.

★ Crucial Context

- » Sovereign submerged lands include, but are not limited to, tidal lands, islands, sandbars, shallow banks, and lands waterward of the ordinary or mean high water line, beneath navigable freshwater or tidally-influenced waters.
- » The FBIP is a state-funded grant program that supports public boating access by providing competitive grants to local governments for projects like boat ramps, docks, piers, trailer parking, and boater education.
- » The CMP is a voluntary state initiative that encourages marinas, boatyards, and marine retailers to implement environmental best practices, such as proper waste disposal, fuel management, and stormwater control, to reduce pollution and protect Florida's waterways through offering a 10% discount on sovereign submerged land lease fees. Previously, marine manufacturers were not eligible to participate in the program.



Major Messages

- The “Deputy Andy Lahera Act” ensures healthcare coverage for law enforcement officers and their families when officers are catastrophically injured or killed in any line-of-duty situation, including training.

Bill Basics

- Revises the eligibility criteria for insurance coverage by broadening the definition of qualifying injury to include any line-of-duty incident or official training exercise, rather than limiting it to responses involving fresh pursuit, emergencies, or unlawful acts.

★ Crucial Context

- » Deputy Andy Lahera was critically injured while directing traffic at a high school graduation, but faced challenges securing health insurance due to gaps in Florida law.
- » Current law requires employers to cover full health insurance premiums for officers catastrophically injured during fresh pursuit, emergencies, or unlawful acts. In other situations, employers are not required to provide this coverage.

Major Messages

- **Veterans returning from service often require assistance in applying for benefits and returning to normalcy; we must work to ensure they and their families are not manipulated or exploited by bad actors during this process.**
- **Increases oversight and screening of anyone assisting veterans with benefits applications by requiring background checks, mandating clear disclosures, banning deceptive tactics, and imposing enhanced penalties for violations.**
- **Ensures accountability by requiring written agreements, retention of documents, and banning compensation if no benefit increase is achieved or a complaint is filed.**

Bill Basics

- Requires Level 2 background checks (fingerprint-based screenings) for any individual who assists a veteran with a benefits matter for compensation.
- Requires assisting veterans with benefits to enter into a written agreement that clearly outlines the terms of compensation, ensures payment is contingent on securing increased benefits, and limits fees to the lesser of four times the monthly increase or \$12,500.
- Makes violations enforceable under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, with civil penalties of up to \$15,000 per violation if the offense involves a veteran.

★ Crucial Context

- » Currently, Florida lacks a licensing or regulatory framework for individuals assisting veterans with benefits applications.
- » In 2024, the Federal Trade Commission estimated \$419 million in losses from veterans through scams and benefits fraud, a significant increase from the \$292 million reported in 2022.
- » These instances of fraud often come from unaccredited "claim sharks" who charge for free services, make false promises, or take a cut of veterans' benefits through deceptive contracts.

Major Messages

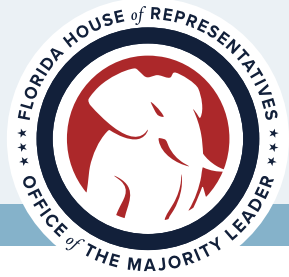
- **Beyond the immediate risks of fighting fires, firefighters also need support in facing long-term health challenges from toxic chemical exposure, increased cancer risks, and built-up mental health impacts developed over years of service.**
- **Addresses mental health challenges by requiring mental health training, increasing access to mental health care, and encouraging sustainable work schedules.**

Bill Basics

- Directs the Division of State Fire Marshal to identify high-risk employers and help implement safety programs.
- Adds suicide to the list of factors used to identify high-risk firefighter employers and mandates workplace safety committees or coordinators to evaluate suicide prevention efforts and conduct safety inspections.
- Encourages employers to adopt work schedules that limit normal shifts to 42 hours per week.
- Requires employers to purchase gear free of hazardous substances when available, and to notify firefighters if gear contains toxic materials.

★ Crucial Context

- » Firefighters are more than nine times more likely to be diagnosed with cancer compared to the general population, largely due to exposure to hazardous materials.
- » Suicide rates among firefighters are significantly higher than the general population, with career firefighters more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.
- » The Division of State Fire Marshal oversees fire prevention and safety in Florida by enforcing fire codes, investigating fires, regulating firefighter training and standards, and promoting workplace safety for fire service personnel.



Major Messages

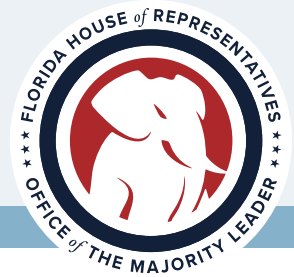
- **Florida's coastal communities are still scarred by the BP oil spill 15 years ago, which devastated local economies, damaged fragile ecosystems, and highlighted the long-term risks of nearshore drilling.**
- **Prohibits oil and gas drilling, exploration, and production within 10 miles of any national estuarine research reserve to safeguard Florida's critical coastal ecosystems.**

Bill Basics

- Prohibits drilling, exploration, or production of oil and gas in counties designated as RAOs if the proposed site is within 10 miles of a NERR.
- Requires DEP to conduct a balancing test when granting a permit for oil and gas activities within one mile of the shoreline or other waters, weighing protections in place against potential harm by considering factors like ecological function, water quality, habitat uniqueness, wildlife use, and restoration costs.
- Enhances oversight by requiring DEP to evaluate potential risks to natural resources before approving any permit.

★ Crucial Context

- » In April 2024, DEP's proposed exploratory drilling along the Apalachicola River faced strong opposition over fears that flooding or hurricanes could release toxic chemicals into nearby waters and the Floridan Aquifer, threatening ecosystems and drinking water.
- » The National Estuarine Research Reserve System is a network of estuaries established across the nation for long-term research, education, and coastal stewardship.
- » There are three National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRs) in Florida: the Apalachicola NERR, the Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR, and the Rookery Bay NERR. Together, they span over 420,000 acres of protected coastal habitat.
- » In 2024, Florida had 10 producer wells in South Florida and 40 in Northwest Florida, yielding roughly 630,000 barrels of oil and 899,000 million cubic feet of gas statewide.
- » A rural area of opportunity (RAO) is a rural community or region designated by the Governor for unique economic development support due to regional impact, chronic distress, or a major event like a natural disaster.



Major Messages

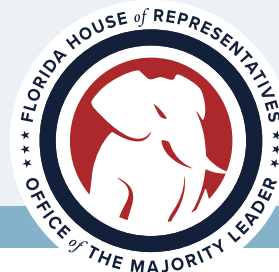
- Firefighters put their lives on the line for us, and it's our responsibility to have their backs.
- Ensures firefighters receive the benefits they deserve when injured during an official training exercise, just as they would if they were responding to an emergency.

Bill Basics

- Expands eligibility for employer-paid health insurance coverage to include catastrophic injuries sustained during official training exercises and not just active emergency calls.
- Covers the full cost of premiums for the injured firefighter's health insurance plan, along with that of their spouse and dependent children.

★ Crucial Context

- » Currently, Florida law does not require insurance coverage to cover injuries sustained during an official firefighter training.
- » To qualify for full premium coverage under current law, the firefighter must have sustained a catastrophic injury that resulted from his or her responding to an emergency that involved life or property protection, or an unlawful act committed by another.



Major Messages

- **Our State's Constitution is the foundation of our democracy, and it must be protected from out-of-state special interests and fraudulent activity that seek to undermine the will of Floridians and rewrite our laws to serve outside agendas.**
- **Strengthens accountability in the petition process by requiring sponsors and paid petition circulators to register, disclose key information, and follow clear rules designed to uphold election integrity.**
- **Adds transparency for Floridians by requiring greater disclosure from petition sponsors and circulators.**

Bill Basics

- Requires all petition circulators (paid or volunteer) to register with the Division of Elections and be Florida residents and U.S. citizens.
- Prohibits unregistered individuals from possessing more than 25 signed petition forms beyond their own or those of immediate family members.
- Clarifies that petition forms submitted by unregistered or ineligible circulators must be invalidated; shortens the deadline for petition sponsors to submit forms to supervisors of elections; and requires previously collected forms to be discarded and refiled if key changes are made to the petition form.
- Strengthens petition form requirements by mandating the inclusion of additional voter information, such as more stringent identification, and requiring that the financial impact statement process be completed before any signatures may be collected and requiring the statement to be included on the form.
- Requires supervisors to notify voters when their signatures are verified; creates a signature revocation process; and increases fines and criminal penalties for certain petition violations.

★ Crucial Context

- » Florida currently lacks comprehensive registration or eligibility requirements for petition circulators, allowing individuals—regardless of citizenship status, criminal history, or residency—to exploit the process and advance out-of-state special interests.
- » With no caps on how many constitutional amendments a political committee can sponsor, well-funded groups can flood our system, confuse voters, and undermine the integrity of Florida's citizen initiative process.
- » Currently, petition forms do not require secure ID requirements, making it easier for bad actors to exploit the process.

Major Messages

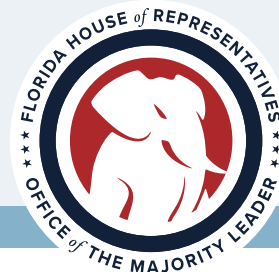
- The “Boater Freedom Act” defends the rights of boaters by prohibiting inspections without probable cause and advancing key policies that protect boating freedom.
- Safeguards Fourth Amendment rights for people enjoying Florida’s beautiful waterways.

Bill Basics

- Prohibits a law enforcement officer from boarding a vessel or performing a vessel stop unless the officer has probable cause, and specifies that “probable cause” does not include any action to make a safety or marine sanitation equipment inspection.
- Creates a “Florida Freedom Boater” safety inspection decal.
- Prohibits a state agency, government entity, county, or municipality from restricting the use or sale of a watercraft based on the energy source used to power the watercraft.
- Revises the circumstances under which the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) may establish springs protection zones.
- Prohibits FWC from issuing a fishing license to a commercial fishing vessel owned by any foreign entity.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Fourth Amendment protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government, requiring a warrant based on probable cause for most searches of personal property, homes, or persons.
- » Florida leads the nation in registered recreation vessels and has passed the mark of 1 million registered recreational vessels across the state.
- » Current law allows law enforcement to board a vessel if the operator is unable to display safety or marine sanitation equipment required by law.



Major Messages

- **Would have protected state interests by requiring certain public officers and employees to be U.S. citizens and Florida residents.**
- **Would have curbed political corruption by prohibiting public officials from using their position to solicit political contributions or accepting expenditures from lobbyists at water management districts.**
- **Would have safeguarded taxpayer funds by banning travel expense reimbursements for local commutes and in-county overnight stays.**

Bill Basics

- Would have required the following individuals to be a U.S. citizen and a Florida resident: agency heads, members of commissions and licensing boards, chairs or CEOs of statewide quasi-public entities, and all other appointees to state office.
- Would have mandated that each member of the Board of Governors must be a U.S. citizen and either a Florida resident or a graduate of a Florida university and each member of university board of trustees must be a U.S. citizen and either a Florida resident or an alumnus of the university he or she serves.
- Would have defined "office" as a position in state or local government that holds independent authority, exercises sovereign power, has a set term, and exists apart from the individual.

★ Crucial Context

- » While residency requirements are currently in place for certain public officers such as the Governor and State legislators, there are no requirements for influential individuals at state agencies, commissions, licensing boards, university board of trustees, or Board of Governors.
- » By clearly defining what qualifies as a public "office" under the state's dual-office holding prohibition, this bill prevents individuals from holding multiple government positions with significant authority at the same time.

Major Messages

- **Florida is committed to standing strong in defending its residents, economy, and trade partners against antisemitic commercial discrimination.**
- **Holds higher education accountable under the same standards and restrictions applied to companies and other entities that boycott Israel.**
- **Responsibly allocates tax dollars by prohibiting arts and cultural grant applicants and recipients from engaging in anti-Semitism.**

Bill Basics

- Expands Florida's public investment and contracting prohibitions on entities that boycott Israel to include educational institutions, nonprofits, government entities, and academic boycotts.
- Requires universities in the State University System to follow the same divestment and investment restrictions as the SBA with respect to companies and other entities that boycott Israel.
- Imposes new compliance requirements for arts and cultural grants, with penalties and prohibitions for applicants who engage in boycotts or antisemitic discrimination.

★ Crucial Context

- » In 2016, the Legislature prohibited the State Board of Administration (SBA) from investing in companies that engage in a boycott against Israel, and in 2023, required the SBA to divest from such companies.
- » The bill expands the prohibition on investing in entities that engage in a boycott against Israel to include "other entities," which are defined as educational institutes, nonprofit organizations, agencies, local governments, and any government-sponsored investment funds.

Major Messages

- **With Florida's government liability caps unchanged for decades despite skyrocketing medical costs, many seriously injured victims cannot be fully compensated without going through a lengthy and uncertain legislative claims process.**
- **Would have ensured fairer outcomes for Floridians harmed by government negligence by raising outdated compensation caps and removing burdensome red tape.**
- **Would have struck a balanced approach by tightening filing deadlines to discourage frivolous or delayed claims, while protecting taxpayer resources through more efficient pre-suit procedures.**

Bill Basics

- Would have increased the statutory caps on judgments against the state or its subdivisions to \$500,000 per person and \$1,000,000 per incident for claims accruing between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2030, with a one-time increase to \$600,000 per person and \$1,100,000 per incident beginning October 1, 2030.
- Subdivisions of the state could have settled claims exceeding the caps without requiring legislative approval or the claim bill process.
- Would have shortened the statute of limitations to two years for negligence, allowed claims for sexual battery of minors under 16 at any time, and kept four years for other claims.
- Would have made other various changes relating to insurance requirements, presuit procedures, and agency liability to streamline claims against government entities.

★ Crucial Context

- » Under current law, section 768.28(5), Florida Statutes, limits damages in tort claims against a government entity to \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident.
- » Victims seeking compensation above the \$200,000 and \$300,000 caps must pursue a legislative claim bill, which is a lengthy and uncertain process involving quasi-judicial hearings and no guaranteed outcome, as payment requires special approval by the Legislature and is granted only as a matter of legislative grace.
- » A statute of limitations is a legal deadline that bars the filing of a lawsuit after a set period; current Florida law provides most claims against the state be filed within four years.
- » Currently, a claimant must provide written notice of a claim within three years or two years for wrongful death, and the government agency has six months to respond.

Major Messages

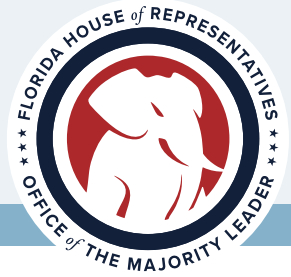
- **Charter schools are held to the same academic standards as traditional public schools but have not received equal treatment in zoning, construction, and development benefits.**
- **Would have ensured charter schools receive equal access to infrastructure planning by classifying them as public facilities under concurrency law.**
- **Would have eliminated redundant local zoning and permitting barriers that delay or discourage charter school construction.**

Bill Basics

- Would have classified charter schools as public facilities for concurrency purposes and prohibits local governments from imposing building or zoning requirements more restrictive than those applied to traditional public schools.
- Would have prevented local governments from requiring special exemptions or conditional use approvals for charter schools to operate under existing land development codes.
- Would have granted dollar-for-dollar education impact fee credits to developers who contribute land, funds, or facilities within three miles of a school site.
- Would have prohibited local governments from using vehicular stacking ordinances in a way that would restrict school enrollment during pick-up and drop-off times.

★ Crucial Context

- » All charter schools in Florida are tuition-free public schools within the state's public education system. One of the guiding principles of charter schools is to "meet high standards of student achievement while providing parents flexibility to choose among diverse educational opportunities within the state's public-school system."
- » Concurrency is a planning requirement that ensures public facilities and services (like roads, water, and schools) are available at the same time as new development to maintain community service standards.
- » A vehicular stacking ordinance is a local regulation that sets minimum space requirements for vehicle lines, such as those at school pick-up and drop-off areas, to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow.
- » Impact fees fund infrastructure needed to expand local services to meet the demands of population growth caused by new development.



Major Messages

- **Would have protected our political process from foreign interference and bad actors who seek to undermine our democracy.**
- **Would have ensured transparency by requiring any foreign principal, agent of a foreign principal, and/or organization partnership with a foreign principal, to disclose pertinent information through a registration process to the Division of Elections.**

Bill Basics

- Would have required individuals and organizations acting as agents of a foreign country of concern to register with the Division of Elections within the Department of State within 10 days after becoming an agent. They would need to disclose their identity, affiliations, financial transactions, and political activities.
- Would have required foreign-supported political organizations to register with the Division of Elections by January 1, 2026, and disclose leadership, funding sources, and political expenditures from the past year.
- Would have mandated that all registrations be updated every 90 days.
- Would have authorized the Florida Elections Commission to impose fines up to \$500 per violation, increasing to \$2,000 for repeated offenses.

★ Crucial Context

- » The Division of Elections, under the Department of State, oversees Florida's electoral process, including voter registration, candidate qualifying, campaign finance, and support for county supervisors of elections.
- » SB 264, passed in 2023, prohibited state and local agencies from contracting with entities tied to foreign countries of concern if such contracts granted access to personal data. This bill would have expanded similar protections to protect political activities in Florida.
- » 'Foreign countries of concern' include China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela (Maduro regime), Qatar, and Syria.

Major Messages

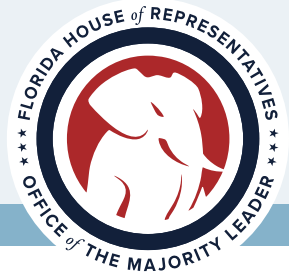
- **With growing demands for term limits, this bill proposed a constitutional amendment to establish 8-year term limits for county commissioners and school district board members.**

Bill Basics

- Would have proposed that the terms for both county commissioners and school district board members be limited to eight consecutive years.
- The eight-year term limit would have applied to district school board members beginning with terms of office on or after November 8, 2022, and to county commissioners beginning with terms of office after November 3, 2026, while permitting a term-limited commissioner to run for a countywide chairperson or mayor position if authorized by the county charter.

★ Crucial Context

- » Currently, over 75% of Floridians live in charter counties who have already voted for term limits and 55% of Floridians live in districts that have already implemented them and 82% of Americans want term limits at every level of government.
- » Florida's Constitution requires the state to be divided into counties, which may adopt a charter government approved by local voters or operate under general law; as of 2025, 20 counties, including Duval and Miami-Dade, have adopted charters.
- » Charter counties have broader self-governing powers, while non-charter counties operate with more limited authority granted by state law.
- » There is no statewide term limit for county commissioners; however, charter counties may impose their own. As of January 1, 2025, 12 counties had enacted such limits.
- » District school boards consist of five or more members and are responsible for overseeing all public schools within the district and setting school tax rates within constitutional limits.



Major Messages

- In an effort to maximize government efficiency and protect taxpayer dollars, would have proposed a constitutional amendment to create the Commissioner of Government Efficiency (COGE) as a Cabinet officer responsible for investigating and reporting on fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Would have eliminated other wasteful and duplicative offices by repealing the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Government Efficiency Task Force, and the requirement for the Legislature to appoint an auditor.

Bill Basics

- The Commissioner of Government Efficiency would have served alongside the Governor and Cabinet as head of the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and would sit on the boards of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, and State Board of Administration.
- The Legislature would have appointed the first Commissioner of Government Efficiency by March 2, 2027, who would serve until the 2028 election; the appointee could not run for the position, which becomes an elected office starting in 2030 with the same term limits as other Cabinet officers, and would be subject to a repeal vote in 2044.
- Instead of the Lieutenant Governor assuming the role of Governor if that office is vacant, the HJR would have left the succession procedure to the Legislature to establish by law.
- Included additional provisions to implement and integrate the new Cabinet position into the state's executive structure.

★ Crucial Context

- » Seven states—Arizona, Maine, New Hampshire, Oregon, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Wyoming—do not have an official Lieutenant Governor. In five of these states, the next in line for the governorship is either the Secretary of State (Arizona, Oregon, and Wyoming) or the President of the Senate (Maine and New Hampshire). In West Virginia, the President of the Senate also holds the title of Lieutenant Governor, while in Tennessee, the Speaker of the Senate serves in both roles as well.
- » State constitutional amendments require a three-fifths vote in the Legislature and at least 60% voter approval for passage.

Ways & Means/ Budget

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES





HB 7031

Taxation

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HISTORIC TAX CUTS

Nearly \$1.3 Billion in tax cuts to make Florida more affordable for families, workers, and small business owners.

Making Florida More Affordable...



By Cutting & Reigning in Local Sales Taxes

Ends the “set-it-and-forget-it” tax approach used by counties by making discretionary sales surtaxes easier to reduce.

- Eliminates bureaucratic obstacles that let local governments avoid action—giving them the clear authority to cut or repeal surtaxes after four years with a two-thirds vote

Keeps tourist development tax (TDT) spending focused on local priorities that serve both visitors and residents, not just tourism promotion.

- Allows TDT dollars to be used by:
 - Fiscally constrained counties to fund needed infrastructure improvements
 - Coastal counties to pay for beach lifeguards



To Prepare for Disasters

Permanently eliminates sales tax on Disaster Preparedness Supplies:

- Batteries
- Portable generators
- Smoke detectors, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers
- Tarps and waterproof sheeting
- Tie-down kits
- Fuel Cans

Reimburses fiscally constrained counties for property tax refunds made to residences damaged last year by hurricanes.



To Raise a Family

Makes the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday permanent and for the entire month of August—ensuring families can count on these savings every school year.

- Clothing items priced \$100 or less
- School supplies priced \$50 or less
- Computers and related accessories priced \$1,500 or less
- Learning aids and puzzles priced \$30 or less



HB 7031

Taxation

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



To Enjoy Life and the Outdoors

Creates a new Hunting, Fishing, and Camping Sales Tax Holiday from Sept. 8 – Dec. 31.

- **Hunting Supplies**

- Ammunition
- Firearms, bows, and crossbows as well as related accessories

- **Camping Supplies**

- Tents priced \$200 or less
- Equipment, like sleeping bags and camping stoves, priced \$50 or less
- Lanterns and flashlights priced \$30 or less

- **Fishing Supplies**

- Rods and reels priced individually at \$75 or less and combined sets at \$150 or less
- Tackle boxes priced \$30 or less
- Bait and fishing tackle priced individually at \$5 or less and combined sets priced \$10 or less

Permanently eliminates sales tax on products to Enjoy Florida's Outdoors.

- Bike helmets
- Life Jackets
- Sunscreen and Insect Repellent
- State Park Admission
- NASCAR Championship Race Tickets

Eliminates the aviation fuel tax to lower air travel costs.



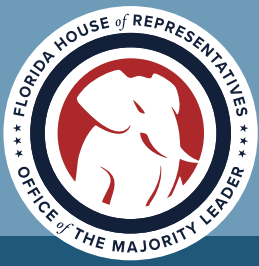
To Own a Home and Find Affordable Housing

Protects homeowners from unjust and unfair tax assessments by:

- Allowing taxpayers to file an appeal on the assessment of their property if the tax roll has been extended
- Requiring property appraisers to provide evidence at least 15 days before a value adjustment board (VAB) hearing and allow such hearings to be held remotely
- Updating the VAB filing fee so boards can handle more cases without backlog

Incentivize affordable housing options by:

- Creating new exemptions for affordable housing on state-owned lands
- Allowing the Missing Middle Exemption—a targeted tax break for affordable housing developments—to be eligible to be retained after a change in ownership



HB 7031

Taxation

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



To Start and Grow Your Business

- Ends the business rent tax—a tax on commercial leases of real property that no other state charges—allowing businesses to invest in jobs and salaries
- Boosts tech investment and high-wage jobs by extending Florida’s data center tax exemption through 2037 and increasing the energy threshold to 100 megawatts
- Extends the tax-free window for natural gas fuel to keep energy and transportation costs low to support shipping fleets and consumers
- Extends certain local enterprise zone incentives through 2035 to support long-term, job-creating projects already in development
- Requires local governments to prioritize the use of local CST revenue for the timely processing of right-of-way permit applications for utilities



To Keep and Invest Your Hard-earned Money

- Empowers diverse investment options for Floridians by making precious metal bullion, like gold and silver, sales tax-free
- Prohibits local governments from raising your phone, cable, and streaming taxes for five more years (communication services tax)



To Help Those in Need

- Creates the Home Away from Home Tax Credit to incentivize donations to help house families of critically ill children near the care they need
- Provides property tax relief for leased spaces used by high-quality, Gold Seal-certified child care facilities
- Doubles funding from beverage tax revenue for Florida’s leading cancer and neurological research centers to boost care and innovation across the state:
 - University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
 - Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center
 - University of Florida Health Shands Cancer Center Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program
 - University of Florida Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases
- Maximizes the impact of charitable trusts by exempting unrelated business income from corporate taxes



HB 7031

Taxation

2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Other Provisions

- Cuts cardroom taxes by 2% to bring parity to Florida's pari-mutuels
- Clarifies eligibility for the reduced intertrack wagering tax rate to ensure consistent treatment of live racing requirements
- Eliminates the slot machine license fee for thoroughbred permitholders to ease costs for Florida's historic racing venues
- Redirects \$5 million in horse industry funds to the tracks themselves: sending \$1M to Tampa Bay Downs and \$4M to Gulfstream Park to support live racing
- Makes several improvements and clarifications to Department of Revenue functions and administration
- Creates a \$35 million tax credit program to spur private capital and job growth in Florida's rural communities
- Protects Florida's citrus industry and supports long-term recovery and replanting



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Make Florida Affordable

Overview

(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Fiscal Year 2025-26 budget totals \$115.1 billion (\$50.6 billion General Revenue, \$28.2 billion State Trust Funds, and \$36.3 billion Federal Trust Funds) and includes funding for 111,885 authorized positions. The budget is composed of 68.5% state funds and 31.5% federal funds.

The budget is a decrease of \$3.8 billion (3.2%) from the current year budget, and includes a net reduction of 1,956 positions (1.7% decrease). General Revenue spending is increased by \$444.2 million compared to the current year, a growth rate of less than 1 percent.

For the General Revenue Fund, the budget provides a recurring increase of \$1.9 billion over the recurring base budget, as well as \$3.5 billion of nonrecurring one-time investments.

The budget maintains significant planned reserves totaling \$12.4 billion including:

- General Revenue Fund Unallocated = \$7 billion.
- Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) = \$4.9 billion including a proposed transfer of \$429.6 million from the General Revenue Fund to maximize the BSF at 10% of revenue collections.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund = \$500 million.

☆⬆ The budget also provides for \$2.9 billion in fiscal prudence measures, including:

- \$1.3 billion to provide tax relief to Florida businesses and families (HB 7031).
- \$830 million to continue decreasing the state's debt (HB 5017 and section 271 of the GAA).
- \$750 million to increase the state's reserves in the BSF (HJR 5019 and section 276 of the GAA).

Statewide Issues

ADMINISTERED FUNDS

• Salary Increases \$275.2 M (\$136.9 M GR)

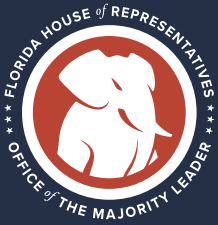
- Provides an increase of 2% (\$1,000 minimum) for all state employees (\$180 M).
- Increases salaries for state law enforcement officers and state firefighters (\$55.6 M).
- Increase salaries for assistant state attorneys and assistant public defenders (\$15 M).
- Authorizes competitive area differentials for state attorney, public defender and public defender appellate offices, as well as circuit and county judges in critical markets (\$14.4 M).
- Authorizes the Department of Transportation to increase salaries for recruitment and retention of critical employees (\$10 M).

• Florida Retirement System Benefits \$50 M (\$32 M GR)

- Funds the actuarial rates for Normal Costs and the Unfunded Actuarial Liability.

• State Employees Health Insurance \$380 M (\$328.1 M GR)

- Transfers \$275 M nonrecurring from General Revenue to the State Employees' Health Insurance Trust Fund to maintain a positive balance in the trust fund.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Make Florida Affordable

- Continues the administrative health assessment that agencies pay for vacant positions and again directs reverted agency salaries and benefits funds from the General Revenue Fund to the State Employees' Health Insurance Trust Fund at the end of the fiscal year.
- Provides a 9% increase to employer-paid premiums, with no increases to premiums paid by employees and retirees.

EDUCATION FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY

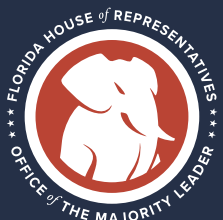
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET for FY 2025-26: \$1.8 B (\$31.1 M GR) – provides an increase of \$1.0 billion above the recurring base budget.

REDUCTION ISSUES

- **Reduced Debt Service Payment Requirements \$29.3 M TF** – associated with the retirement of previous bond issues.

SUMMARY

- **PECO Maintenance and Projects Funding \$977.4 M (\$31.1 M GR)** – PECO funds provided from PECO cash estimates. No new bonding is authorized.
 - **Charter School Capital Outlay \$248.6 M TF** – Provides state funds for charter school capital outlay.
 - **Special Facilities Construction \$144.7 M (\$0.3 M GR)** – Provides funding for 7 projects.
 - **State University Projects \$427.7 M (\$20.3 M GR)** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 12 state universities.
 - **Florida College Projects \$113.9 M (\$10.5 M GR)** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 19 Florida colleges.
 - **Public Schools Projects \$11.5 M TF** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects in 12 school districts.
 - **Vocational/Technical Centers \$5.7 M TF** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 2 technical colleges.
 - **Other PECO Projects \$25.2 M TF** – Funds capital outlay projects for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools and FCS/SUS Charter Schools millage equivalent, and the Division of Blind Services.
- **State University Capital Improvement Fee Projects \$50.4 M TF** – Authorizes fixed capital outlay projects from student capital improvement fee revenues.
- **Capital Outlay and Debt Service Projects \$10 M** – Increases authority for fixed capital outlay projects from revenues received from motor vehicle license tax revenues by school districts and Florida colleges.



Agriculture & Natural Resources

REP. ESPOSITO

Overview

(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$6.6 billion (\$1.6 billion General Revenue and \$5 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 9,132.25 authorized positions. Total funds include Information Technology issues.

There is a 9.6% decrease in the total spending and a 7.2% increase in general revenue funds over the current fiscal year appropriation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Everglades Restoration \$810.5 M (\$339.2 M GR)** – Provides \$550 M additional funding for Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), \$64 M for the EAA reservoir, \$81.5 M for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEP) and Dispersed Water Storage, \$65 M for the C-51 reservoir and \$50 M for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project.
- ⬆ • **Rural and Family Lands Protection Program \$250 M (\$50 GR)** – Provides funds for Rural and Family Lands Protection Program with a continued goal to acquire critical lands within the wildlife corridor.
- ★ • **Water Quality Improvement Grant Program and Local Water Projects - \$461.5 M (\$11.5 M GR)** – Provides grant funding to assist communities across Florida with reducing the amount of nutrients entering a waterway by connecting onsite septic disposal systems to central sewer facilities, upgrading wastewater treatment facilities, and repairing, upgrading, expanding or constructing stormwater treatment facilities. Funds are also provided for stormwater treatment, wastewater treatment and water supply projects in local communities, while also addressing water quality improvement projects in the Indian River Lagoon.
- **Conner Complex Improvements \$183 M GR** – Provides \$172 M to complete the construction of a new Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services headquarters facility and \$11 M for architecture/engineering design and preconstruction services for a new laboratory facility at Connor Complex, located in Tallahassee.
- ★ • **Land Management \$58 M GR** – Provides funds for land management activities for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Environmental Protection, and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- **Springs Restoration \$50 M TF** – Provides funding for springs restoration, protection, and preservation.
- **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) \$25 M TF** – Provides funds for grants to local governments for stormwater quality restoration projects and nonpoint source best management practices as part of the plans set forth in adopted Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs).
- **Alternative Water Supply \$50 M GR** – Provides funds for the alternative water supply grant program which helps communities plan for and implement water conservation, reuse and other water supply and water resource development projects.
- **Agriculture and Aquaculture Disaster Loan Program \$40 M GR** – Provides funds for loans to agriculture and aquaculture producers that have experienced damage or destruction from a declared natural disaster.
- ★ • **Feeding Programs \$35.5 M (\$33 M GR)** – Provides funding to support administrative costs associated with food banks and emergency food bank programs.
- **Citrus Packing Equipment \$10 M GR** – Provides cost-share funding to citrus packinghouses for equipment costs.



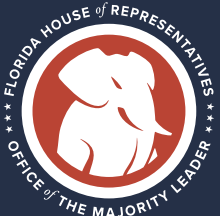
Agriculture & Natural Resources

REP. ESPOSITO

- ⬆ • **Citrus Greening and Research Funding \$118 M (\$107.5 M GR)** – Provides for the following issues:
 - \$104.5 M (\$100 M GR) – funds for citrus research and field trials.
 - \$6 M TF – funds for the Citrus Health Response Program.
 - \$4 M GR – funds for supplemental funding for citrus crop decline.
 - \$3.5 M GR – funds for final judgement, interest, and associated attorney fees resulting from citrus canker, greening, and other exotic diseases.
- **Fuel Transfer Switch \$10 M GR** – Provides funds to provide grants for transfer switch installation for fuel locations.
- **Gainesville Fixed Capital Outlay Projects \$6 M GR** – Provides funds to conduct a planning study for a laboratory facility at the University of Florida and to expand the office space at the Doyle building.
- **Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements \$20 M TF** – Provides funds for water quality improvements and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.
- **Innovative Technologies for Harmful Algal Blooms \$10 M TF** – Provides funds for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to mitigate and address harmful algal blooms and nutrient pollution of Florida waters.
- **Water Quality Enhancement and Accountability \$10.8 M GR** – Provides funds for water quality improvements, increased water quality monitoring, maintenance of a water quality public information portal, and support for the Blue Green Algae Task Force.
- **Coral Reef Protection and Restoration \$22.5 M (\$17.5 M GR)** – Provides funds to help protect, restore and monitor coral reefs which provide food and habitat for other marine life as well as shoreline protection.
- ⬆ • **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan programs \$2.3 B (\$54.1 M GR)** – Provides low-interest loans for the construction of drinking water systems, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management systems.
- **Waste Cleanup Programs \$221 M TF** – Provides \$195 M for the cleanup of contaminated petroleum sites, \$12 M for dry cleaning site cleanup, and \$14 M for hazardous waste site cleanup.
- ☆ • **Resilient Florida Program \$170 M (\$50 M GR)** – Provides funding for projects (years 1 and 2) included in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan submitted Dec. 1, 2024. Also provides \$20 M in Resilient Florida planning grants.
- **Beach Restoration Projects \$52.5 M TF** – Provides continuation funds for financial assistance to local governments for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management.
- **State Park Improvements \$15 M TF** – Provides \$15 M for maintenance and repair projects in state parks.
- **Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern \$20 M GR** – Provides funds for local governments in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern or the City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern to finance or refinance the cost of wastewater, stormwater, or water quality improvement projects, or for land acquisition.

REDUCTIONS

- Proposed reductions for efficiency savings, unfunded and excess budget authority, and vacant FTEs resulted in a total recurring reduction of \$239.7 million (\$0.4 M GR) and the elimination of 115 FTEs across all departments.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Health Care

REP. ANDRADE

Overview

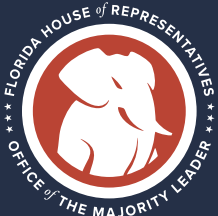
(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Health Care Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$47.6 billion (\$17.7 billion General Revenue and \$29.8 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 30,991 authorized positions. Total funds include Information Technology issues.

There is a 0.4% decrease in the total spending and a 4.9% increase in general revenue funds over the current fiscal year appropriation including a net decrease of 1,191 FTE.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Medicaid Price Level and Workload Adjustment \$769.2 M (\$873.1 M GR)** – Funding for Medicaid caseloads and price level adjustments for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as agreed upon by the February 2025 Social Service Estimating Conference for an anticipated 4,226,200 Medicaid beneficiaries.
- ⬆ • **Nursing Home Reimbursement Rate Increase \$246.7 M (\$105.6 M GR)** – Provides funding for nursing home rate increases tied to quality initiatives.
- **Florida Kidcare Enrollment \$135.8 M (\$40.1 M GR)** – Funds the KidCare program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as agreed upon at the February 2025 Social Services Estimating Conference to serve an anticipated 213,556 children.
- ⬆ • **Integrated Plan for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program \$44.2 M (\$18.9 M GR)** – Funds to support capitation payments for individuals enrolled in the pilot program for individuals with developmental disabilities pursuant to s. 409.9855, F.S.
- ⬆ • **Children's Specialty Hospital Graduate Medical Education \$37.8 M TF** – Provides Graduate Medical Education funding within the Statewide Medicaid Residency Program for specialty hospitals providing comprehensive acute care services to children.
- ⬆ • **PACE Expansion \$16.8 M (\$7.2 M GR)** – Provides for additional 200 PACE slots in Polk County, 50 PACE slots in Lee County, and provides funding for new providers in high demand geographic service areas which have existing long term PACE providers.
- ⬆ • **Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers Rate Increase \$15.4 M (\$6.6 M GR)** – Provides funding for a 4% Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Centers.
- ⬆ • **Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Rate Increase \$12.6 M (\$5.2 M GR)** – Provides funding for an equal reimbursement rate increase for Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) services.
- ★ • **Mental Health Treatment Facilities \$102.2 M GR** – Continues funding to support additional forensic beds to mitigate the waitlists for admission at the State Mental Health Treatment Facilities (\$78.6 M); funds operational cost increases for commodities such as food, medication and medical supplies (\$10.0 M); funds a grant pilot program aimed at serving women with persistent mental health and substance use disorders (\$10.0 M); funds electronic health records at State Mental Health Treatment Facilities (\$3.6 M).
- ★ • **Resources to Combat the Opioid Epidemic \$92.3 M** – Funding for an array of prevention and treatment services that address the opioid epidemic by utilizing Opioid Settlement funding for research, medication assisted treatment, naloxone, treatment and recovery services, and other supports.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Health Care

REP. ANDRADE

- **Child and Family Welfare Services \$35.8 M (\$21.1 M GR)** – Funding for foster parent cost of living adjustment (\$1.6 M); continues funding for behavioral health consultants to advise in child protective investigations (\$1.5 M); Elder Justice Act projects to address elder abuse and neglect (\$1.4 M); funding a marketing campaign for foster parent recruitment (\$1.0 M); providing an increase of Maintenance Adoption Subsidies for an anticipated growth of new adoptions (\$17.3 M); funding growth in the Guardianship Assistance Program (\$10.1 M); and funding a Therapeutic Safe Foster Homes Pilot (\$3.0 M).
- **Services for Mental Health Disorders \$12.4 M (\$4.4 M GR)** – Funding to support expansion and enhancement of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline (\$11.4 M) and Veterans Support Line (\$1.0 M).
- **Domestic Violence and Mental Health Grants \$5.7 M TF** – Funding to support grant awards aimed at developing and strengthening the criminal justice system’s response to violence against women.
- **Older Americans Act Grants \$53.2 M TF** – Provides budget authority to align with grant award totals for the Older Americans Act (OAA) grants.
- ⬆ • **Alzheimer’s Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives \$13.5 M GR** – Provides funding to reduce the waitlist by 288 individuals for Alzheimer’s respite services, to reduce the waitlist by 1,079 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 910 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program.
- **Adult Care Food Program \$5.9 M TF** – Provides budget authority to align with grant award totals for the USDA Adult Food Care Program grant.
- **School Health Services - \$8.0 M TF** – Provides funding for the School Health Services program to provide nursing and health services to students.
- **Early Steps Program \$8.9 M TF** – Provides funding for the Early Steps Program to continue quality improvement initiatives to increase family satisfaction, ensure federal compliance, and meet the needs for increased service delivery for early intervention programs.
- ⬆ • **Targeted Cancer Research - \$30.0 M GR** – Provides funding to distribute to children’s specialty hospitals for conducting research to advance the care and treatment of pediatric cancer.
- **Intestinal Transplant Support – \$15 M GR** – Provides funding for hospitals with intestinal transplant candidates listed on the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network’s system.
- **Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Florida Is for Veterans \$2.1 M GR** – Provides funding to support job training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship opportunities to service members, veterans and their spouses.

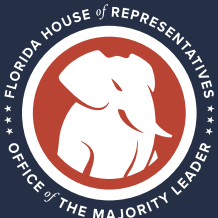


Health Care

REP. ANDRADE

REDUCTIONS

- **Vacant Positions -\$66.9 M (-\$24.3 M GR)** – Eliminates 1,255.7 FTE positions, funding and associated salary rate for long term vacant positions.
- **Disproportionate Share Hospital Program for Children's Hospitals Reduction -\$6.5 M GR** – Eliminates unused base funding for the Disproportionate Share Hospital for Children's Hospitals supplemental payment program.
- **Statewide Dental Services for the Developmentally Disabled -\$7.9 M GR** – Reduces recurring base budget based on historical reversions of unutilized funds – not a reduction in services.
- **Loan Reimbursement Programs -\$19.0 M GR** – Reduction of Health Care Education Reimbursement Program and Dental Student Loan Repayment Program.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Higher Education

REP. BUSATTA

Overview

(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Higher Education Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$8.9 Billion (\$6.7 billion General Revenue; \$1.8 billion Lottery; \$425.7 million Trust Funds). Includes funding for 1,223.75 authorized positions. Total funds include Information Technology issues.

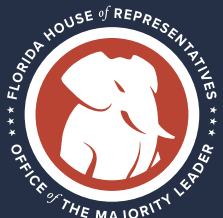
There is a 1.1% decrease in funds from the current fiscal year appropriations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **State University Performance Based Funding \$350 M GR** – Restores the performance-based incentive funding to State University System institutions to award excellence and incentivize continuous improvement.
- ⬆ • **Preeminent State Research Universities Funding \$40 M GR** – Provides funds to reward performance on key metrics for national excellence.
- ★⬆ • **Florida College System Workload Funding \$60 M GR** – Provides a workload funding increase to the Florida College System Program Fund.
- **Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund \$100.0 M GR** – Maintains performance-based incentive funding to school district, Florida College System, and State University System institutions to award and incentivize continuous improvement of nursing program completion and licensure rates, as specified in s. 1009.897, F.S.
- **Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund \$30 M GR** – Maintains funds to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners to expand nursing education and faculty recruitment at school district career centers, charter technical career centers, Florida College System institutions, state universities, independent nonprofit colleges and universities (ICUF), and independent schools, colleges, or universities with an accredited nursing program and are licensed by the Commission for Independent Education.
- **Workforce Development \$18 M GR** – Provides an increase in funding for school district career college and technical center operations.
- **Restores Workforce Development Capitalization Grant Funding \$40 M GR** – Provides funding to continue the Workforce Development Capitalization Grant Program which awards funds to school districts and Florida College institutions for the creation or expansions of career and technical education programs.
- ⬆ • **Student Financial Aid Increases \$28.4 M** – Fully funds the Bright Futures Scholarship Program for an anticipated 131,292 students and the Scholarship for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans Program for an anticipated 6,649 students.
- **No** tuition increases.
- **No** changes to the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant and EASE Plus program.

REDUCTIONS

- Reduction of 19 positions.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Justice

REP. MANEY

Overview

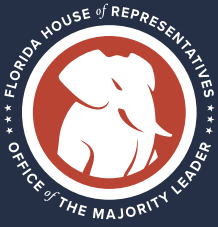
(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Justice Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$7.6 billion (\$6.6 billion General Revenue and \$1.0 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 45,291.5 authorized positions. Total funds include Information Technology issues.

There is a decrease of 1.1% in total funding and a 1.0% decrease in general revenue funds from the current fiscal year appropriation, including a total net decrease of 220.5 FTE.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☆ • **FDC Operational Deficit Funding \$100.6 M GR** – Provides funding, including the reprioritization of existing fixed capital outlay funds, to address projected salary deficits.
- ⬆ • **FDC Inmate Health Services \$37.2 M GR (\$34.3 M NR)** – Provides funding for various health services issues including: contractual obligations and support associated with reopening two institutional units; support for increased costs related to contracted inmate cancer treatment and the specialty care program inter-agency agreement with the Department of Health; and, to expand medical and mental health oversight at contractor-operated correctional facilities.
- NEW • **Courts Certification of Additional Judgeships \$18.8 M GR (\$0.3 M NR)** – Provides funding and positions associated with the establishment of 22 new circuit court, 15 new county court, and two new Sixth district appellate judgeships, contingent upon the passage of SB 2508.
- ⬆ • **DJJ Increase Residential Commitment Capacity \$15.5 M (\$10.5 M GR, \$5.0 M NR TF)** – Provides funding for approximately 100 additional moderate-risk residential commitment beds based on projected need.
- **FDLE Local Law Enforcement Support Grants \$14.4 M GR (\$5.7 M NR)** – Provides pass-through funding and local support grants for local law enforcement agencies relating to:
 - Increasing salaries for sheriff's deputies and county correctional officers in fiscally constrained counties;
 - Grants to recruit, train, and retain sheriff's deputy candidates in need of financial assistance;
 - Grants to local law enforcement relating to investigations of internet crimes against children; and,
 - Funding and positions to address increased workload related to inter-agency training for sexual offender and predator registration enforcement and to expand occupational wellness services for law enforcement employees exposed to traumatic material or incidents.
- **DJJ Fixed Capital Outlay \$7.4 M NR (\$2.4 M GR, \$5 M TF)** – Provides nonrecurring funding to complete architectural and engineering design and site planning for the new Broward juvenile detention center and for routine maintenance and repairs at state-owned facilities.
- **Replacement of Motor Vehicles \$7.1 M NR (\$3 M GR, \$4.1 M TF)** – Provides nonrecurring funding to replace aging, high mileage, and inoperable mission-critical motor vehicles across multiple agencies.
- **Due Process Needs \$5.2 M GR** – Provides funding to address increased costs for services such as court reporting, transcription, translation, and expert witnesses for the Public Defenders, Regional Conflict Counsels, and the State Court System.
- ⬆ • **FDC Critical Security and Safety Equipment \$5 M GR (\$4.7 M NR)** – Provides funding to expand search and analytics technology capabilities, purchase critical security equipment, replace radio towers and systems at five state-operated correctional facilities, and provide portable satellite phones for community corrections officers in rural areas.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

Justice

REP. MANEY

REDUCTIONS

- Reduction of 366 total positions, a majority being vacant in excess of 365 days, and \$12.6 M (\$8.5 M GR, \$4.1 M TF) in associated funding across all Justice agencies.
- Reduction of \$57.6 M in excess budget authority due to historical reversions and declines in revenues and grant awards across several Justice agencies.
- Reduction of \$4.2 M (\$1.1 M GR, \$3.2 M TF) in excess funding and budget authority based on historical reversions across several Justice agencies.



2025-26 General Appropriations Act

PreK-12

REP. PERSONS-MULICKA

Overview

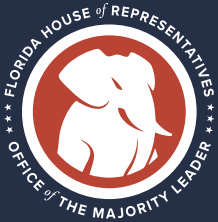
(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$20.9 billion (\$16.1 billion General Revenue and \$4.8 billion Trust Funds) and includes funding for 1,011 authorized positions. Total funds include Information Technology issues.

There is a 0.7% reduction in the total spending and a 2.3% increase in general revenue funds over the current fiscal year appropriation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ • **Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) \$29.5 B (\$15.9 B State Funds and \$13.7 B Local Funds)**
 - Provides an increase in total FEFP funds of \$945.2 M (3.31% increase) over current year. Provides an increase of \$142.74 (1.59%) for a total funds per student of \$9,130.41.
- ★ ⬆ • **Classroom Teachers and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increases \$102 M** – Increases the base FEFP funding for school districts and charter schools to use for increased personnel costs or to provide salary increases to full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP who have at least two years of full-time teaching experience in a Florida public school and other instructional personnel.
 - **Required Local Effort (RLE)** – Maintains the FY 2024-2025 statewide average millage rate of 3.087 and increases the aggregate RLE by \$529.7 M.
- ★ • **Academic Acceleration Options Supplement \$596.8 M** – Transfers from the Base FEFP the funds associated with the add-on weights for academic acceleration options, career-themed courses and courses aligned with certain industry certificates and certifications to a new categorical.
- **Gold Seal Quality Care Program Allocation \$70 M** – Restore funds for the Gold Seal Quality Care Allocation for school readiness providers.
- **Pay Differential Allocation \$40 M** – Restores funds for the Pay Differential Allocation for school readiness providers.
- **School Hardening Grants \$20 M** – Provides funds for school hardening grants for school districts to address security risk issues.
- **Security for Jewish Day Schools \$20 M** – Provides funds for the grant program established in the Department of Education to fund the operational and fixed capital outlay costs associated with school security at full-time Jewish day schools and preschools.
- ⬆ • **Schools of Hope Program \$6 M** – Provides funds for the Schools of Hope grant program that supports certain operational costs of schools of hope.
- ⬆ • **Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind \$9.8 M** – Provides an increase in the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind's operational costs to include increases for staff salaries and preventive maintenance.
- **Transportation Stipend \$3 M** – Provides funds for transportation stipends for parents of kindergarten through grade 8 students who choose a Florida nonvirtual public school for their child/children to attend instead of the assigned public school.



PreK-12

REDUCTIONS

- **Reductions for efficiency savings, unfunded budget authority, and 36 vacant FTE positions for a total reduction of -\$104 M (-\$80.4 M GR, -\$23.6 M TF)** – Reduces recurring budget based on efficiency savings, unfunded budget authority, FTE positions in the State Board of Education that have been vacant 365 days or more, and reductions offered in agency LBRs.



State Administration

REP. LOPEZ, V.

Overview

(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The State Administration Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$3.1 billion (\$675.7 million General Revenue and \$2.4 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding 11,296.50 authorized positions.

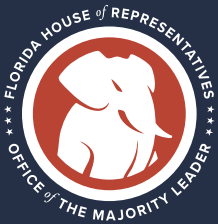
There is a 1.6% decrease in total spending and a 22.1% decrease in General Revenue funds under the current fiscal year appropriation and a net decrease of 99 FTE.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☆ • **My Safe Florida Home Program \$280 M NR GR** – Funding for grants to harden Floridian’s homes that qualify under My Safe Florida Home (s. 215.5586 F.S.).
- **Fixed Capital Outlay \$101.9 M (\$57.3 M NR GR)** – Provides Fixed Capital Outlay and repair and maintenance of state buildings, security, and code compliance. Additionally, provides funding for the following:
 - Fixed Capital Outlay projects including:
 - \$50.1 M – Capitol Building HVAC and window projects
 - \$8.6 M – Life, Safety, and ADA Code Compliance
- ☆ • **Fiscally Constrained Counties \$76.5 M GR** – Provides for distributions to fiscally constrained counties.
- **Budget Transparency: Transfer existing Appropriations for Medical Research Facilities to Operations for Budget Transparency \$98.4 M**
 - \$38 million to the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute;
 - \$20 million to the University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center;
 - \$20 million to the Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center in Jacksonville;
 - \$10 million to the Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program at the University of Florida Health Shands Cancer Center; and
 - \$10 million to the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at the University of Florida.
- ☆ • **Local Fire Stations and Equipment \$72.4 M NR (\$43.1 M GR, \$29.3 M TF)** – Provides funding for local fire station buildings and equipment.
- **Lottery Gaming System Contract Increase \$0.8 M TF** – Provides funding for the gaming system contract to support obligations based on estimated sales.

REDUCTIONS

- **Reductions for Efficiency Savings, Unfunded Budget, and reduction of 142 vacant FTE. A Total reduction of \$63 M in recurring funds (\$38.8 M GR, \$24.2 M TF)** – Reduces recurring budget authority based on efficiency savings, contract savings, unfunded budget, vacant position reductions, and reductions offered in agency LBRs.



Transportation & Economic Development

REP. SHOAF

Overview

(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee's budget totals \$17.9 billion (\$652 million General Revenue and \$17.3 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 12,647 positions. Total funds include Information Technology issues.

There is an 11.5% decrease in total spending under the current fiscal year appropriation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ☆ • **Transportation Work Program \$13.8 B** – Provides full funding for the department's 5-year Transportation Work Program.
- **Federally Declared Disaster Funding \$203.8 M** – Provides federal budget authority for the Division of Emergency Management to manage and continue public assistance and mitigation programs for disasters throughout the state. Based on expected reversions, up to \$646 M is included in the Back of the Bill for a total of approximately \$850M to assist the state and communities.
- **Federal Workforce and Community Development Programs \$657.7 M** – Provides full federal funding to maintain the following programs:
 - Community Development Block Grant Program \$36.5 M
 - Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program \$149.9 M
 - Weatherization Grant Programs \$29.5 M
 - Community Services and Energy Assistance \$165.5 M
 - Local Workforce Development Boards \$261.9 M
 - Incumbent Worker Training \$3.0 M
 - Supplemental Nutrition & Assistance Program \$1.3 M
 - CareerSource Florida \$10.1 M
- ☆ • **Affordable Housing \$435 M** – Provides \$163.8 M for SHIP, the State Housing Initiatives Partnership program; \$221.2 M for SAIL, the State Apartment Incentive Loan program; and \$50 M for the Hometown Heroes program.
- **Economic Development \$234.6 M (\$91.4 M GR and \$143.2 M TF)**
 - Provides \$22.5 M for audited performance payments under the economic incentive programs (Brownfield Redevelopment, Qualified Target Industry, High Impact Business Performance Incentives, e.g.). Payments are based on the state's contractual obligations under existing agreements.
 - Provides \$98.8 M for economic development activities (Job Growth Grant Fund, Quick Response Training, Defense Support Task Force, Military Base Protection, Rural Infrastructure, Select Florida, Sports Foundation).
 - Provides \$100.5 M TF for the economic development partnerships.
 - Provides \$80.0 M for Visit Florida to promote our state's tourism industry.
 - Provides \$20.5 M for aerospace industry development and infrastructure funding through Space Florida.
- **Florida State Guard \$36.3 M GR** – Provides funding to reestablish the State Guard to protect and defend Floridians and augment state and local agencies with a force of up to 1,500 volunteers.
- ☆ • **Department of State Cultural and Historic Grant Lists \$22.7 M** – Provides \$21.2 M for cultural and museum grants and \$1.5 M for historic preservation grants.



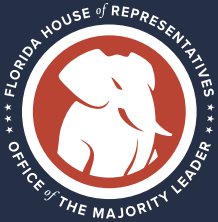
Transportation & Economic Development

REP. SHOAF

- **Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program \$20 M** – Provides funding to recruit new law enforcement officers in the state.
- **Libraries \$19.6 M** – Maintains full funding for state aid to libraries at \$17.3 M and \$2.3 M for library cooperatives.
- **Camp Blanding Fixed Capital Enhancements \$16.5 M** – Provides funding to support construction projects at the Camp Blanding Readiness Center needed to retain the Level II National Guard Facility status.
- **Highway Patrol Equipment Replacement \$10.1 M**
 - Provides \$3.3 M to purchase replacement pursuit vehicles for vehicles with mileage 100,000 miles or more.
 - Provides \$2 M to replace digital in-car video cameras.
 - Provides \$1.8 M to purchase ballistic door panels for the FHP fleet of vehicles.
 - Provides \$0.5 M to provide a forensic robotic tool to map fatal crash scenes.
- **E-Verification \$1.9 M** – Provides funding and positions to establish the Office of Secure Florida to address foreign ownership of properties and illegal immigration.
- **National Guard Tuition Assistance \$5.2 M** – Provides financial assistance for postsecondary educational opportunities to qualifying Florida National Guard service members.
- **State Emergency Operations Center Technology Infrastructure \$5 M** – Provides funding to procure, design, configure, and install the information technology footprint supporting the new State EOC facility.

REDUCTIONS

- Eliminates 334 vacant positions and \$2.9 M in salaries and benefits.
- Eliminates \$21.3 M in budget authority related to security operational support no longer necessary at the Department of Corrections.



Information Technology Budget & Policy

REP. SNYDER

Overview

(These numbers reflect the Conference Committee Report as passed by the Legislature on June 16th, 2025)

The Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee overall budget items total \$527 million (\$108.6 million General Revenue and \$418.4 million Trust Funds). Funding for Information Technology issues is included in each budget subcommittee's totals.

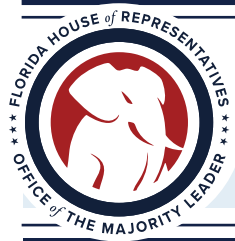
HIGHLIGHTS

- ⬆ • **Florida Health Care Connections (FX) (\$143.2 M)** – Provides funding to continue the FX project to modernize the Florida Medicaid Enterprise system.
- **PALM Readiness (\$61.2 M)** – Provides funding to support the integration of state agency applications with the Florida PALM System.
- **PALM Project (\$43.2 M)** – Provides funding for Year 12 of the Florida PALM Project and Year 8 of the Software and System Integrator (SSI) contract.
- ★ • **Child Support Automated Management System (CAMS) Upgrade (\$31.5 M)** – Provides funding to upgrade CAMS to a new software platform.
- **Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) (\$28 M)** – Provides funding to continue the modernization of the child welfare system known as Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN).
- **Automated Community Connection to Economic Self Sufficiency (ACCESS) Florida System (\$18.3 M)** – Provides funding to continue the modernization of the Florida ACCESS system.
- ★ • **Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program (\$15 M)** – Provides funding to provide cybersecurity technical assistance for Florida counties and municipalities.
- **State and Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program (\$12 M TF)** – Provides funding for the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program authorized in the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- **Medical Quality Assurance Licensure and Enforcement System (\$9 M)** – provides funding to replace and modernize the Division of Medical Quality Assurance licensing and regulatory system.
- ★ • **Offender Based Information System (OBIS) (\$7.6 M)** – Provides funding to implement the Community Corrections and Licensing and Enterprise Data Warehouse Phase of the OBIS system.

Turning Headlines Into Action

FLORIDA HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES





TURNING HEADLINES INTO ACTION

Leading up to this year's Session, Floridians raised concerns about a wide range of issues. There were several issues in particular that made headlines throughout the State, prompting legislative action. The following bills are a reminder of the Florida House's unwavering commitment to working for the citizens that put us here.



Jacksonville teen sparks state action with 'Brooke's Law' to protect victims from deepfake crimes

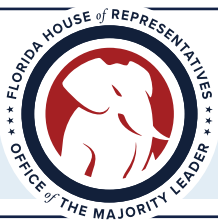
A new bill, 'Brooke's Law', inspired by an ordeal suffered by former Jacksonville mayor's daughter Brooke Curry.

HB 1161

Strengthens Deepfake Law, Requiring Platforms to Remove Altered Sexual Content Within 48 Hours of Victim's Request

New technologies can greatly benefit our society, but in the wrong hands, they have the potential to cause serious harm. Brooke Curry, the teenager behind "Brooke's Law", understands this all too well—she was the victim of a malicious personal attack. A predator used artificial intelligence to alter her Instagram photo, depicting her as nude, and mass-distributed the image on social media. Instead of remaining a victim, she became an advocate. As she testified during an April 7, 2025, House Commerce Committee hearing: "The internet never forgets, and once a photo is out there, it is hard to regain control."

This experience still traumatizes her to this day, and she wants to ensure that nobody endures the same psychological and emotional torment. HB 1161, dubbed "Brooke's Law," requires social media websites to remove non-consensual, altered sexual images within 48 hours upon request. Brooke testified that she felt like she had no control over her life and reputation. This bill gives Brooke—and other victims like her—their power back.



TURNING HEADLINES INTO ACTION



Developer now facing homicide charge in 2022 Boca Chita boat crash that killed teen

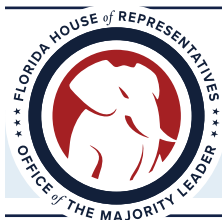
Miami-Dade prosecutors are charging George Pino with vessel homicide/operate in reckless manner,

HB 289

Enhances Boating Safety Laws by Aligning Penalties with Driving Offenses and Expanding Education Requirements

Florida is home to the nation's longest coastline and the highest number of registered boats. Our waters are more than just scenery—they are a way of life. Among those who loved the ocean was 17-year-old Lucy Fernandez, a Miami teen who shared the deep passion so many Floridians have for being on the water. But on September 4, 2022, that joy turned to tragedy. While celebrating with friends on a boat, Lucy's life was cut short when the intoxicated driver of the boat she was on crashed while speeding. Several were injured, and Lucy never made it home.

Lucy's death sent shockwaves through the boating community, and residents outpoured their desire for stronger boating safety laws. The Florida House responded by passing "Lucy's Law" (HB 289), holding reckless boaters accountable for negligent actions. Notably, Lucy's Law was the first bill to pass out of the House and, after a few modifications, ended up being the final bill passed on the last day of the regular 60-day period of Session. The bill enforces stronger consequences for reckless boating behavior by aligning offenses and penalties for leaving the scene of a boating accident, reckless operation of a vessel, BUI manslaughter, and vessel homicide with the corresponding driving offenses. It also mandates that anyone convicted of a noncriminal boating infraction complete a boating safety course. Nothing can bring Lucy back, but passing legislation like this ensures that her spirit lives on by protecting all those who enjoy Florida's waters.



TURNING HEADLINES INTO ACTION



New bill aims to end privatization of local beaches

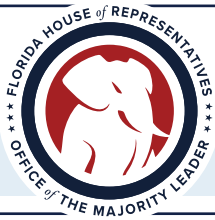
The fight against the privatization of beaches is gaining momentum.

SB 1622

Repeals Customary Use Procedures and Redefines Erosion Control Lines in Certain Gulf Counties

Customary use, the longstanding right of the public to access and respectfully enjoy all beaches for recreation, has been a major point of debate in the Florida panhandle. In 2016, Walton County passed an ordinance allowing the public to use the dry sand areas of all beaches. This was welcomed by beachgoers but upset many beachfront property owners, who felt their rights were being ignored. Two years later, a state law was passed requiring local governments to go through a long and complex legal process before passing any customary use ordinance. This led to years of legal battles, with Walton County filing suit over more than 1,100 parcels—only 95 were ultimately confirmed for public access.

SB 1622 steps in to fix this drawn-out and confusing process by repealing section 163.035, Florida Statutes. In doing so, local governments may pass customary use ordinances without first obtaining a judicial declaration, making it the property owner's responsibility to challenge public access rather than the public's burden to prove it. This shift helps protect every Floridian's ability to enjoy the beach while easing the legal gridlock that has slowed progress for years.



TURNING HEADLINES INTO ACTION



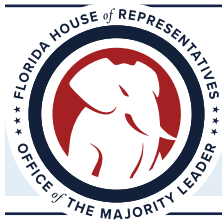
Legal fight gears up over an oil drilling permit in part of Northwest Florida

HB 1143

Requires Environmental Risk Assessment for Coastal Oil and Gas Permits, and Bans Drilling Near Estuarine Reserves in Rural Counties

Every Floridian remembers the devastating impact of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, which polluted coastal ecosystems, decimated tourism, and disrupted the livelihoods of countless families. So, when the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a draft permit in April 2024 for exploratory drilling in Calhoun County—near Florida’s largest river, the Apalachicola River—there was widespread concern. Residents and environmental groups feared that drilling could contaminate nearby rivers, wetlands, and the Florida Aquifer, especially during floods or hurricanes. This region is also known for its prized oyster fisheries, which rely on clean freshwater—any disruption could threaten both the environment and the local economy.

HB 1143 responds to these concerns by requiring DEP to conduct a thorough balancing test before approving oil or gas permits within one mile of coastlines or inland waters. Furthermore, it bans drilling in rural counties designated as areas of opportunity if the proposed site is within 10 miles of a national estuarine research reserve. These safeguards help protect Florida’s water quality, fragile ecosystems, and the coastal communities that depend on them.



TURNING HEADLINES **INTO** ACTION



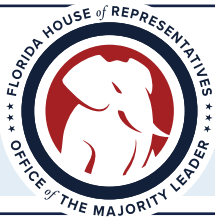
Florida dog 'Trooper' tied to fence during Hurricane Milton finds his forever home — while cruel ex-owner awaits court date

SB 150

Enhances State and Local Emergency Response, Eases Storm Recovery Rules, and Expands Powers for Disaster Relief

On the evening of October 9, 2024, Hurricane Milton swept across western and central Florida, forcing many to evacuate. Amid the chaos, a Florida Highway Patrolman saw a dog tied to a fence in chest-deep water along I-75 — abandoned by its owner. The dog, later named Trooper, was rescued and taken to a loving home, but his story broke hearts across the state. No animal should ever be left to suffer like that again. In response to public outcry for stronger protections during emergencies, Trooper's Law delivers on that call.

SB 150 makes it a felony to abandon an animal by restraining it outside during a hurricane, tropical storm, or other declared emergency. It also imposes tougher penalties on offenders, recognizing that cruelty like this deserves real consequences. This legislation ensures that when disaster strikes, Florida stands for compassion and accountability. Trooper's story inspired action, and this law will help protect animals across our state for years to come.



TURNING HEADLINES INTO ACTION



The Washington Post

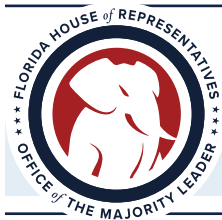
Florida plans Hurricane Milton recovery; 2 million remain without power

HB 180

Strengthens Florida's Emergency Response, Eases Post-Storm Regulations, and Expands Disaster Recovery Support

After a devastating hurricane season in 2024, communities across Florida made one thing clear: recovery cannot wait, and rebuilding should not be delayed by red tape. From flooded farms to damaged beaches, Floridians called for faster, more efficient disaster response, and the Florida Legislature has answered that call.

SB 180 strengthens Florida's emergency preparedness and response by making hurricane information easier to access, speeding up cleanup and rebuilding efforts, and improving coordination between local and state agencies. Florida has weathered the storm, and now this bill gives our communities the tools they need to recover and rebuild stronger than before.



TURNING HEADLINES INTO ACTION



Florida State Parks in Peril

Does science support the development of hotels, golf courses and other facilities within our protected Florida State Parks?

HB 209

Prioritizes Conservation Recreation, Bans Sporting Facilities, and Renames St. Marks River Preserve

In August 2024, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) released the “Great Outdoors Initiative,” which proposed developing golf courses, pickleball courts, and hotels within Florida’s state parks. Once the news spread, citizens demanded that the natural character of these parks be preserved and unnecessary commercial development be halted. Florida’s natural beauty and wildlife are among our greatest treasures—the value we place on our lands today will enrich the lives of future generations.

The Florida House recognizes the importance of protecting our environment. That’s why the State Park Preservation Act was championed to safeguard state lands and prevent inappropriate development. HB 209 prohibits the construction of sporting facilities and new lodging establishments in state parks, while still allowing for responsible camping that respects the land and its purpose.

