

PALM BEACH COUNTY 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT



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2025 Legislative Session Overview

The 2025 Regular Session began on March 4 and, following two extensions, finally adjourned sine die on June 16. This concluded a 105-day session, well beyond the constitutionally allotted 60 days the Legislature is given to pass a balanced budget. During this period lawmakers filed 1,989 bills and 1,920 amendments. A total of 269 bills ultimately passed both chambers.

Prolonged negotiations over tax relief drove the significant delay in adjournment. House Speaker Daniel Perez promoted an across-the-board cut to the six percent state sales tax, Governor Ron DeSantis advocated for one-time property tax rebates, and Senate President Ben Albritton favored targeted, non-recurring breaks. In early May, the Governor signaled opposition to the House plan, the Senate reassessed its position, and the impasse halted budget talks until a compromise emerged.

There was also much discussion around property taxes, though no major decisions were made on this subject. Both the Governor and Senate President endorsed crafting a constitutional amendment, to be voted on by Floridians during the 2026 general election, that would reduce or eliminate property taxes. Meanwhile, the Speaker created the House Select Committee on Property Taxes, composed of over 30 members from diverse backgrounds representing various parts of the state. The Select Committee is tasked with evaluating five specific proposals to provide property tax relief and has been given the authority to explore other related ideas as well.

The Legislature eventually approved a \$115.1 billion General Appropriations Act for FY 2025-26, about \$2 billion below last year's pre-veto total and well under the Governor's plan. Spending was trimmed across every major silo to safeguard Florida's long-term fiscal health. The accompanying implementing bill authorizes the Governor's Office of Policy & Budget to review local government financial management and assess compliance with state prohibitions on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, a provision counties will be watching closely.

President Albritton's marquee "Rural Renaissance" proposal (SB 110) aimed to channel historic funding toward rural health care, education, infrastructure, and economic development. The bill also made multiple policy changes in these areas to facilitate rural communities access to much needed resources. The Senate approved it unanimously, but the House folded its pieces into several omnibus measures that did not pass. The Senate President has already pledged to revive the initiative in 2026.

Breaking with precedent, Speaker Perez did not champion priority legislation this session. Instead, he emphasized reducing what he characterized as bloated government spending and aimed to reassert the Legislature's role as an independent, co-equal branch of state government. These efforts included a deep review and assessment of the spending and fiscal management of many executive agencies by House budget committees.

With a smaller tax package, leaner overall budget, and fewer statewide preemptions, the 2025 Session reflected a cautious pivot toward fiscal restraint even as chamber-to-chamber and inter-branch tensions lengthened the calendar. Property tax relief is already poised to dominate the 2026 policy agenda as legislators pursue long-term strategies to reduce or potentially replace ad valorem levies.

The following pages in this report will highlight the priority appropriations and policy issues from the 2025 Legislative Session, emphasizing several that have direct impacts to Palm Beach County.

FY 2025-2026 Budget Highlights

TOTAL STATE BUDGET: \$115.1 billion [\$50.58 billion GR; \$64.55 billion TF]

TOTAL RESERVES: \$12.4 billion

- Unallocated General Revenue: \$7 billion
- Budget Stabilization Fund: \$4.9 billion (\$430 million added)
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund: \$500 million
- Retirement of State Debt: \$830 million

Major Issues

Compensation and Benefits

- Two percent pay increase for all state employees.
- State Employees and Retirees Health Insurance Premiums held constant
- Additional pay increases for state law enforcement officers, state firefighters, assistant state attorneys and public defenders, and the Department of Transportation

Education

Total Budget: \$29.8 billion [\$22.8 billion GR; \$7 billion TF]

Education Capital Outlay

Total Budget: \$977.4 million

- State University System Projects - \$427.7 million
- Florida College System Projects - \$113.9 million
- Charter School Repairs and Maintenance - \$248.6 million
- Small School District Special Facilities - \$144.7 million
- Developmental Research School Repairs & Maintenance - \$10 million

Early Learning Services

Total: \$1.6 billion [\$605.1 million GR; \$1 billion TF]

- Partnerships for School Readiness - \$34.2 million
- School Readiness Program - \$42 million increase
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$431.4 million
 - Decrease of 1,1396 fewer students (\$2.6 million)

Public Schools/K12 FEFP

Total: \$29.6 billion [\$15.9 billion state funds; \$13.7 billion local funds]

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$945.2 million or 3.31 percent

- FEFP increase in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$142.74, a 1.59 percent increase (from \$8,987.67 to \$9,130.41)
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$41.62 or 0.78 percent
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$529.7 million; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.087 mills

Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP

Total: \$500.8 million [\$492.6 million GR; \$8.2 million TF]

- Coach Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program - \$6.5 million
- School Recognition Program - \$135 million
- Mentoring Programs - \$13.6 million
- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers - \$8.7 million
- Teacher Professional Development - \$13.7 million
- School District Foundation Matching Grants - \$7 million
- Florida Safe Schools Canine Program - \$3.3 million
- District Threat Management Coordinators - \$5 million
- Regional Literacy Teams - \$5 million
- Charity for Change - \$4.7 million
- SEED School of Miami - \$12.2 million
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$47.1 million
- Exceptional Education - \$12.4 million
- Florida School for the Deaf & Blind - \$80.3 million
- Capital Outlay Funding - \$30.4 million
- Jewish Day School Security - \$20 million
- School Hardening - \$20 million

State Board of Education

Total: \$322.5 million [\$169.5 million GR; \$153 million TF]

- Assessment and Evaluation - \$132.2 million
- ACT and SAT Exam Administration - \$8 million

Vocational Rehabilitation

Total: \$265.6 million [\$60.2 million GR; \$205.4 million TF]

Blind Services

Total: \$79.8 million [\$25.5 million GR; \$54.4 million TF]

Private Colleges

Total: \$193.4 million GR

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) - \$31.9 million
- Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) - \$135.9 million

Student Financial Aid

Total: \$1.08 billion [\$326.9 million GR; \$748.5 million TF]

- Bright Futures - \$637.7 million
- Benacquisto Scholarship Program - \$38.1 million
- Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans - \$29.1 million
- Florida First Responder Scholarship Program - \$10 million
- Open Door Grant Program - \$35 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship - \$7 million

School District Workforce

Total: \$771.5 million [\$433.2 million GR; \$295.6 million TF; \$42.7 million tuition/fees]

- Workforce Development - \$467.4 million
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$20 million
 - Increase for “Grow Your Own Teacher” Apprenticeship Program - \$5 million
- Nursing Education Initiatives - \$20 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program - \$5 million

Florida College System

Total: \$2.5 billion [\$1.6 billion GR; \$254.8 million TF; \$704.6 million tuition/fees]

- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$20 million
- College System Program Fund - \$1.7 billion
- Nursing Education Initiatives - \$40 million
- Student Success Incentive Funds - \$30 million
 - 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds - \$17 million
 - Work Florida Incentive Funds - \$13 million
- No tuition increase

State University System

Total: \$6.8 billion [\$4.1 billion GR; \$656 million TF; \$2 billion tuition/fees]

- Lastinger Center for Learning at University of Florida - \$50.2 million
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds - \$40 million
- Community School Grant Program - \$20.1 million
- Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program for Students with Unique Abilities - \$12.5 million
- Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment at University of Florida - \$10 million; funding to support the implementation of SB 112
- University of Florida - IFAS - \$207 million
- No tuition increase

Board of Governors

Total: \$12.2 million [\$10.6 million GR; \$1.5 million TF]

Health and Human Services

Total Budget: \$47.6 billion [\$17.7 billion GR; \$29.8 billion TF]

Agency for Health Care Administration

Total: \$36.5 billion [\$12.3 billion GR; \$24.2 billion TF]

- Fully Fund Florida's Medicaid and KidCare Programs - \$35.6 billion
- Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - \$279.6 million
- Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics - \$15.4 million
- Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers - \$12.6 million
- Nursing Home Quality Incentive Program - \$246.7 million
- Targeted Case Management - \$5 million
- Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program - \$44.2 million
- Graduate Medical Education - \$38.1 million
- Program for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) - \$16.8 million
- Audits for Nursing Homes and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) - \$1 million
- Federal Reporting for Adult Behavioral Health and Child Core Set - \$0.9 million
- Florida Health Care Connections (FX) - \$143.2 million

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Total: \$1.3 billion [\$1.2 billion GR; \$.01 billion TF]

- Enhanced Funding and Services for Developmental Disability Centers - \$13.7 million
- Information Technology - \$6 million
- iBudget Waiver Algorithm Study - \$1 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for People with Developmental Disabilities - \$1.2 million

Department of Children and Families

Total: \$4.8 billion [\$2.9 billion GR; \$1.9 billion TF]

- Support Core Child Welfare Programs - \$40.3 million
 - Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Subsidies - \$27.4 million
 - Extended Foster Care - \$5.3 million
 - Therapeutic Safe Foster Home Pilot - \$3 million
 - Foster Care Board Rate Cost of Living Adjustment - \$1.6 million
 - Free Online Child Care Provider Coursework & Licensing Exam - \$3 million
- Transfer Children's Advocacy Centers from Department of Legal Affairs - \$5 million
- Funding for Quality Care and Facility Management in Florida's State Mental Health Treatment Facilities - \$92.2 million
- Community-Based Mental Health/Substance Use Prevention Initiatives - \$36 million
 - Integrated Behavioral Health Residential Treatment Beds - \$10 million
 - Central Receiving Facilities - \$6.2 million
 - Criminal Justice Mental Health/Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant - \$6 million
 - Managing Entity Financial System Upgrade and Audits - \$11.1 million
 - 988 Behavioral Health and Veterans Crisis Support Lines - \$2.7 million

Department of Elder Affairs

Total: \$507.2 million [\$268.7 million GR; \$238.4 million TF]

- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative - Frail Elders Waiting for Services - \$3 million
- Serve Additional Clients in the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) and Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) Programs - \$10.5 million
- Increased Resources for Aging and Disability Resource Centers - \$1.0 million
- Information Technology Projects - \$3.1 million

Department of Health

Total: \$4.1 billion [\$1 billion GR; \$3.1 billion TF]

- Pediatric Cancer Research - Cancer Connect Collaborative Incubator - \$30 million
- Statewide Healthcare Screening Marketing Campaign - \$1 million
- School Health Services - \$8.1 million
- Swimming Lesson Voucher Program - \$1 million
- Funding for Intestinal Transplant Support - \$15 million
- Increased Funding for the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program - \$1.8 million
- Increased Funding for Healthy Start Coalitions - \$3.4 million
- Early Steps Program Quality Improvement and Enhancement - \$8.9 million
- Information Technology - \$21.9 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for County Health Department Facilities - \$4 million

Department of Veterans Affairs

Total: \$239.9 million [\$52.4 million GR; \$187.5 million TF]

- Enhanced Operational Support and equipment for State Veterans' Nursing Homes - \$6.9 million
- Increased Bureau of Field Services staffing - \$0.5 million; 5 positions
- Florida is for Veterans Vets Program - \$2.1 million
- Veterans Dental Care Grant Program - \$1 million
- Information Technology - \$1.4 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for State Veterans' Nursing Homes - \$20.8 million

Criminal and Civil Justice

Total Budget: \$7.6 billion [\$6.6 billion GR; \$1 billion TF]

Department of Corrections

Total: \$3.8 billion [\$3.7 billion GR; \$73.1 million TF]

- Operational Deficit - \$57.2 million
- Criminal Justice Estimating Conference Prison Population Increase - \$43.4 million
- Technology Restoration Plan - \$6.8 million
- Food Service Contract - \$10.5 million
- Contracted Inmate Health Services - \$23.3 million

- Health Services Operations for New Dorms- \$11 million
- Certified Officers Public Safety Initiative (Communications) - \$2 million

Attorney General/ Legal Affairs

Total: \$353.8 million [\$114.5 million GR; \$239.3 million TF]

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Total: \$539.0 million [\$363.4 million GR; \$175.6 million TF]

- Fort Myers Regional Operations Center Facility - \$5 million
- Salary Increases for Law Enforcement Officers in Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$5 million
- Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program - \$2.5 million
- Aviation Operations and Maintenance - \$3.6 million
- Office of Wellness Expansion - \$0.5 million
- Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Technology Upgrade - \$1.9 million

Department of Juvenile Justice

Total: \$756.5 million [\$582.7 million GR; \$173.8 million TF]

- Increase Residential Commitment Bed Capacity - \$15.5 million
- Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS) - \$1.2 million
- Crossover Youth Behavioral Health Services Pilot Program - \$2.7 million
- Florida Scholars Academy - \$2.4 million
- Pace Center for Girls - \$2.4 million
- Medical and Food Contract Increases - \$4.1 million
- Broward Detention Facility - \$2.4 million

Justice Administration

Total: \$1.3 billion [\$1.1 billion GR; \$242.5 million TF]

- Due Process Costs for Public Defenders - \$2.3 million
- GAL - Increase Staff to Represent All Children - \$0.5 million
- Increase Title IV-E Trust Fund Authority - \$2.6 million
- Guardianship Database - \$0.4 million
- Condominium / HOA Criminal Fraud Task Force - \$0.6 million

State Court System

Total: \$795.2 million [\$669.1 million GR; \$126.1 million TF]

- Certification of Additional Judgeships - \$18.8 million
- Due Process Resources - \$2.5 million
- Court Reporting Resources - \$2.5 million
- Appellate Technology Resources - \$1.2 million
- 5th District Court of Appeal Security Upgrades - \$2.3 million
- 6th District Court of Appeal Courthouse - \$2.0 million

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Total Budget: \$17.9 billion [\$652 million GR; \$17.2 billion TF]

Department of Commerce

Total: \$1.5 billion [\$282.5 million GR; \$1.3 billion TF]

- Hometown Heroes Housing Program - \$50 million
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program - \$163.8 million
- Affordable Housing (SAIL) Program - \$71.2 million
- Economic Development Toolkit - \$3.4 million & \$19.1 million
- Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Grant Funding (CDBG-DR) - \$150 million
- Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program - \$20 million
- Florida Job Growth Grant Funding - \$50 million

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Total: \$623.9 million [TF]

- Additional Equipment for the Florida Highway Patrol - \$4.3 million
- Security and Fraud Prevention - \$3.5 million
- Replace Pursuit Vehicles - \$3.3 million
- Increase OPS to Address Driver License Services Backlog - \$3.1 million
- Increased Funding for Additional License Plate Purchases - \$2.4 million
- Increase Funding for Operation of Motor Vehicles - \$6.2 million

Department of Military Affairs

Total: \$130.7 million [\$85.4 million GR; \$45.2 million TF]

Department of State

Total: \$144.2 million [\$120.9 million GR; \$23.3 million TF]

- Cultural and Museum Program Support Grants - \$20.8 million
- Department Wide Litigation Expenses - \$2 million
- Florida African-American Heritage Preservation Network - \$800,000
- Division of Corporations Call Center Services - \$2.7 million
- Reimbursements to Counties for Special Elections - \$2.5 million
- Local Initiatives - \$26.8 million

Department of Transportation

Total: \$15.1 billion [\$110.4 million GR; \$15.0 billion TF]

- Transportation Work Program - \$13.5 billion
- Information Technology Storage Area Network Replacement - \$452,000
 - Data Infrastructure Modernization - \$3.2 million
 - Security Risk Management Program - \$607,320

- Increase Operation Costs Department-wide - \$10.0 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay Projects - \$28.5 million
- Equipment Replacement - \$9.2 million

Division of Emergency Management

Total: \$343.5 million [\$52.7 million GR; \$290.8 million TF]

- Open Federally Declared Disasters
 - State Operations - \$203.7 million
- Information Technology
 - Statewide Emergency Alert and Notification System - \$3.2 million
 - Cybersecurity Grant Program - \$12 million
 - Technology Infrastructure at Emergency Operations Center - \$5 million

Agriculture, Environment and General Government

Total Budget: \$9.7 billion [\$2.3 billion GR; \$7.4 billion TF]

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Total: \$3.4 billion [\$743.6 million GR; 2.7 billion TF]

- Rural and Family Lands Protection Program - \$250 million
- Agriculture and Aquaculture Natural Disaster Loan Program - \$40 million
- Feeding Programs - \$53.7 million
- Forestry - \$41.4 million
- Statewide Water Restoration Agricultural Projects - \$20.0 million
 - Citrus Protection and Research - \$124.5 million
 - Citrus Health Response Program - \$6 million
 - Citrus Packing Equipment - \$10 million
 - Citrus Research and Field Trials - \$104.5 million
- Agriculture Education and Promotion Facilities - \$15.7 million
- Conner Complex Construction - \$172 million
- State Farmers Markets - \$20 million
- Florida State Fair - \$13.7 million

Department of Citrus

Total: \$35.2 million [\$13.4 million GR; \$21.8 million TF]

- Citrus Marketing - \$5 million
- Citrus Recovery Program - \$2 million

Department of Environmental Protection

Total: \$2.6 billion [\$666.7 million GR; \$1.9 billion TF]

- Everglades Restoration - \$691.5 million

- Water Quality Improvements - \$675.2 million
 - Indian River Lagoon WQI - \$25 million
 - Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements - \$20 million
 - Water Projects - \$436 million
 - C-51 Reservoir - \$65 million
 - Non-Point Source Planning Grants - \$13.6 million
 - Alternative Water Supply - \$50 million
 - Water Quality Improvements - Blue Green Algae Task Force - \$10.8 million
 - Innovative Technology Grants for Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10 million
 - Harmful Algal Bloom Management - \$5 million
 - Springs Restoration - \$50 million
- Flood and Sea-Level Rise and Planning Grant Programs - \$170 million
- Land Acquisition - \$84 million
 - Division of State Lands - \$18 million
 - Federal Grants - \$15 million
 - Local Acquisitions - \$51 million
- Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern - \$20 million
- Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern - \$5 million
- Coral Reef Restoration - \$17.5 million
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program - \$195 million
- Hazardous Waste and Dry Clean Site Cleanup - \$14 million
- Beach Management Funding Assistance - \$53 million
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs - \$2.4 billion
- Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants - \$8 million
- State and Local Parks - \$28.2 million

Department of Financial Services

Total: \$731.7 million [\$177.3 million GR; \$554.4 million TF]

- My Safe Florida Home Program - \$280.0 million
- PALM (FLAIR Replacement) - \$43.2 million
- PALM Readiness - \$9.8 million and 15.0 positions
- Information Technology Upgrades, Systems and Contract Increases - \$10.9 million
- Law Enforcement, Fire Marshal and Disaster Response Training, Vehicles and Technology Upgrades and Equipment - \$8.1 million
- Local Government Fire and Firefighter Services - \$66.3 million
- University of Miami - Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center / Firefighter Cancer Initiative - \$3.5 million
- Other Local Government Grants - \$4.6 million

Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Total: \$569 million [\$165.6 million GR; \$403.5 million TF]

- Motor Vehicle \ Vessel Replacement - \$3.6 million
- Nuisance Wildlife Control - \$6.8 million
- Land Management - \$19 million

- Derelict Vessel Removal - \$4.5 million
- Florida Boating Improvement Program - \$3.0 million
- Artificial Reef Program - \$0.6 million

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Total: \$299.5 million [\$8.9 million GR; \$290.6 million TF]

Florida Gaming Control Commission

Total: \$31.9 million [TF]

Department of the Lottery

Total: \$234.3 million [TF]

Department of Management Services

Total Budget: \$832.6 million [\$156.3 million GR; \$676.3 million TF]

- Florida Facilities Pool (FFP) Fixed Capital Outlay - \$104.5 million
- Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) Issues - \$3.5 million
- E-Rate Telecommunications - \$1.3 million
- Emergency 911 Public Safety Answering Points Upgrade - \$1.8 million

Division of Administrative Hearings

Total Budget: \$39.6 million [TF]

Public Service Commission

Total: \$31.6 million [TF]

Department of Revenue

Total: \$857.7 million [\$333.3 million GR; \$524.4 million TF]

- Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$76.5 million

Palm Beach County Appropriations

*Projects in red represent PBC priorities. All funding is subject to gubernatorial veto. Projects that were vetoed are struck through.

Education

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

FAU Autism Program	\$1,386,508	
FAU College of Medicine Continued Enrollment Expansion	\$450,000	
FAU Cultural & Museum Grants	\$60,500	
FAU Health Professions Training & Research Facility	\$10,000,000	
FAU Lab Schools Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation	\$2,000,000	
FAU Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program	\$2,000,000	
FAU Medical School	\$21,747,039	
FAU University Grants & Aid	\$137,050,240	
FAU University Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$3,462,652	
FAU University Lottery Funds	\$49,940,241	
TOTAL	\$228,097,180	

PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

PBSC Emergency Response Training Center	\$2,050,000	
PBSC Florida College System Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$1,483,454	
PBSC Florida College System Lottery Funds	\$12,987,656	
PBSC Florida College System Program Fund	\$69,861,501	
PBSC Florida College System Student Success Initiatives	\$1,404,828	
PBSC Vocational Village Construction Services Technology	\$500,000	
TOTAL	\$88,287,439	

PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS K-12

Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds	\$20,680,710	
Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements	\$895,999	874,999
TOTAL	\$21,576,709	

PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Palm Beach Atlantic University LeMieux Center for Public Policy	\$2,000,000	
TOTAL	\$2,000,000	

OTHER EDUCATION

Alpert Jewish Family Service, Rales JFS & insight Traveling Holocaust Classroom	\$165,000	
Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program	\$450,000	
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Environmental Education Center	\$500,000	
Cox Science Center & Aquarium	\$1,000,000	
Center for Creative Education: Ending the Cycle of Elementary Illiteracy	\$1,000,000	

HHBC of Belle Glade Enrichment Center Generational Project	\$350,000
Florida Caregiving Youth – At Risk Student Services	\$250,000
Holocaust Learning Experience Education Platform Expansion	\$1,114,000
School Readiness Services	\$75,369,121
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$31,583,884
Workforce Development and Career Readiness Through Stem Education	\$500,000
Youth Center Gold-Seal Programming	\$450,000
TOTAL	\$112,732,005

Health and Human Services

CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE

ChildNet – Foster Care Family Visitation Center Expansion	\$400,000
Exchange Club Parent Aide – Palm Beach & Broward County	\$400,000
Jewish Family Services – Keep Families Working Summer Camp Scholarship	\$250,000
Place of Hope Child Welfare Services	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,550,000

HEALTH

Let's Move 365 Initiative	\$500,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center (Butterfly House)	\$282,039
TOTAL	\$782,039

ELDER AFFAIRS

Aging in Place with Grace by Rales Jewish Family Services	\$494,100
Alzheimer's Community Care Association	\$1,500,000
Alzheimer's Community Care Critical Support Initiative	\$2,250,000
Belle Glade Senior Home Rehabilitation Grant Program	\$375,000
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program – Boca Raton Jewish Federation	\$92,946
TOTAL	\$4,712,046

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH

Alpert Jewish Family Service Community Access Life Line Service	\$600,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health First Aid	\$500,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health Services for Persons with Disabilities	\$375,000
Faulk Center for Counseling Mental Health Services for Low Income Families	\$235,500
Furry Friends Humane	\$24,000
Gulfstream Goodwill Industries – Behavioral Health Services	\$400,000
Hanley Foundation – Program for Peripartum Women and Children	\$1,500,000
Hookin Veterans	\$250,000
Veterans Suicide Prevention	\$667,200
TOTAL	\$4,551,700

FACILITIES

CityHouse - Home and Hope Project	\$75,000
Els for Autism Foundation - Specialized Autism Recreation and Hurricane Shelter	\$2,500,000
JARC Florida Backup Generators	\$475,000
Palm Beach County Housing Units for the Homeless	\$1,000,000
Resilient Housing for Veterans and Essential Employees	\$250,000
South Bay Resiliency Hub & Community Center	\$1,000,000
The IDDeal Place - Intellectually & Developmentally Disabled Permanent Housing	\$500,000
YMCA of the Palm Beaches Community Center	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$6,400,000

WORKFORCE/VOCATIONAL

Boca Helping Hands Job Training Program	\$427,700
BOOST Program - Building Occupational Opportunities and Skills Training	\$70,000
JARC Community Works	\$123,750
Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$225,000
Unique Abilities Competitive Integrated Employment for Individuals with Disabilities	\$400,000
TOTAL	\$1,246,450

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Palm Beach County RESTORE Re-entry Program	\$500,000
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Forensic Genetic Testing	\$375,000
Sago Palm Facility	\$142,900
South Bay Correctional Facility	\$275,560
TOTAL	\$1,293,460

PUBLIC SAFETY

Boynton Beach High Flood Swift Water Rescue Response Program	\$500,000
Delray Beach Police Department Real Time Crime Center Phase 2	\$525,000
Digital Twin for Public Safety in Currie Park	\$700,000
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Water Vessels for Hazard Mitigation	\$200,000
Riviera Beach Law Enforcement Training Facility	\$500,000
Town of Highland Beach First Responder Marine Support	\$250,000
Wandering Rescue and Prevention Project	\$250,000
West Palm Beach Fire Department Technical Equipment	\$254,766
TOTAL	\$3,179,766

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

City of Boca Raton Spanish River Boulevard Grade Separation of El Rio Trail	\$1,000,000
Downtown West Palm Beach Signalization Upgrades - Phase II	\$3,000,000
Fern Street Crossing Project	\$3,000,000

Lake Park Traffic Safety Upgrade	\$400,000
Mangonia Park Mill and Repaving Program	\$100,000
Palm Beach County Australian Avenue Drainage Improvements	\$742,614
Palm Tran Patriot Passes Pilot Program	\$150,000
Seacrest Estates Roadway Safety Rehabilitation Project	\$550,000
South Bay SW 11 th Avenue Improvements	\$1,860,705
TOTAL	\$10,803,319

TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM

Arterial Highway Construction	\$21,478,614
Aviation Development Grants	\$8,000,000
Bridge Construction	\$29,343,827
Construction Inspection Consultants	\$27,710,830
County Transportation Programs	\$1,717,670
Highway Maintenance Contracts	\$12,772,359
Highway Safety Construction Grants	\$5,400,368
Intrastate Highway Construction	\$262,801,625
Preliminary Engineering Consultants	\$24,550,099
Public Transit Development Grants	\$12,263,803
Rail Development Grants	\$2,915,287
Resurfacing	\$45,310,133
Right-of-Way Land Acquisition	\$26,514,644
Toll Operation Contracts	\$54,546,207
Traffic Engineering Consultants	\$6,424,074
Transportation Planning Consultants	\$1,450,000
Transportation Planning Grants	\$4,577,365
Turnpike System Equipment & Development	\$7,300,000
TOTAL	\$55,076,905

TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Peanut Island Historic Restoration	\$500,000
South Bay Rail Regional Commerce Park Development Epicenter	\$875,000
TOTAL	\$1,375,000

CULTURAL & MUSEUM GRANTS

Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Inc.	\$90,000
Busch Wildlife Sanctuary	\$150,000
Cox Science Center & Aquarium	\$150,000
Glades Initiative - Arts in Autism	\$200,000
Lighthouse ArtCenter, Inc.	\$150,000
Lynn Conservatory of Music	\$150,000
Palm Beach Opera	\$150,000
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.	\$150,000
Resource Depot	\$25,000
School of the Arts Foundation, Inc.	\$149,532

The Morikami, Inc.	\$150,000
The Palm Beach Symphony Society	\$150,000
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches	\$114,000
TOTAL	\$1,778,532

CULTURAL FACILITIES

Morikami Museum & Japanese Gardens "Bridge to Heaven" Design	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$500,000

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS & HISTORIC PROPERTIES RESTORATION

Historical Society of Palm Beach County - Traveling Pop-Up Exhibits	\$50,000
Historic Woman's Club Improvements	\$175,000
TOTAL	\$225,000

PARKS

Westlake Park Improvements Phase 1	\$600,000
TOTAL	\$600,000

Agriculture & Natural Resources

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

South Florida AgriCenter and Emergency Shelter at South Florida Fairgrounds	\$1,738,699
TOTAL	\$1,738,699

FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Loggerhead Marine Life Center Improving Water Quality & Coastline Cleanliness	\$250,000
Loggerhead Marine Life Center Water Treatment System for Sick or Injured Sea Turtles	\$250,000
Zoological Society of Palm Beach Habitat & Security Enhancements	\$950,000
TOTAL	\$1,450,000

BEACH PROJECTS

Delray Beach Shore Protection Project	\$9,731,972
Jupiter-Carlin Shore Protection Project (Segment 1)	\$3,162,500
Mid-Town Shore Protection Project	\$1,293,570
Ocean Ridge Shore Protection Project	\$3,267,237
TOTAL	\$17,455,279

INLET MANAGEMENT

Boca Raton IMP Implementation	\$78,300
Jupiter IMP Implementation	\$1,999,043
TOTAL	\$2,077,343

WATER PROJECTS

Belle Glade Hardening of Lake Shore Multi-Use Resource Center	\$2,000,000
Boca Raton Golden Harbor Drinking Water & Transmission Distribution Improvements	\$750,000

Boynton Beach Enhancing Water Infrastructure Resilience	\$150,000
Boynton Beach Sanitary Sewer Collection System Improvement Project	\$500,000
Boynton Beach Water Distribution System	\$375,000
Delray Beach - Gulfstream Blvd/SE 36 th Ave Streetscape Improvements	\$1,000,000
Greenacres Swain Boulevard Sewer Extension Phase 3	\$550,000
Indian Trail Improvement District M1 Drainage Basin Impoundment Expansion	\$450,000
Jupiter Daniels Way Water Quality Improvements	\$127,926
Lake Worth Beach 10 th Avenue South & Dixie Hwy Stormwater Improvements	\$750,000
Lake Worth Beach 9 th Avenue South Outfall Restoration	\$371,250
Lake Worth Beach Dual Zone Monitoring Well	\$750,000
Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative	\$525,000
Lantana Lift Station No. 3, 4, 8, and 9 Rehabilitation	\$500,000
Lantana Water Main Improvements Phase 2	\$1,300,000
Loxahatchee Groves Stormwater System Rehabilitation Phase III	\$750,000
Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative	\$358,500
Ocean Ridge Water Main Replacement Program	\$600,000
Palm Springs 2nd Avenue North Stormwater Improvements	\$750,000
Riviera Beach Utility Special District New Water Treatment Plant Construction	\$750,000
Royal Palm Beach Drainage System Choke Point Replacements	\$414,000
Royal Palm Beach Stormwater Pipe Audit and Replacement	\$450,000
SIRWCD Loxahatchee River Headwaters Easement Mapping	\$37,500
Wellington Pump Station Improvements	\$650,000
TOTAL	\$14,859,176

2025 Legislative Issues

*All bills are subject to approval by the Governor before becoming law, bills in red are PBC priorities

Finance & Tax

HB 7031 – Taxation

This year’s Florida tax package, outlined in HB 7031, delivers \$1.3 billion in new tax relief measures for families and businesses. One of the most significant changes is the complete repeal of the remaining portion of sales taxes levied on commercial leases (2% + local option taxes), effective October 1, 2025.

The legislation also expands and adds several sales tax holidays. It creates a permanent Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday each August, covering clothing, shoes, backpacks, school supplies, and personal computers or accessories, subject to specified price limits. A new Florida Hunting, Fishing, and Camping Sales Tax Holiday will run from September 8 through December 31, 2025, allowing tax-free purchases of gear and supplies related to these outdoor activities. Additionally, the bill permanently exempts certain items from sales tax, including disaster preparedness supplies such as batteries, fuel tanks, generators, tarps, and tie-down kits; health and safety items like fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, sunscreen, insect repellent, life jackets, and bicycle helmets; and admission to Florida State Parks.

The package also directs the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to study ways to reduce or eliminate property taxes on homesteaded properties, with a report due by fall 2025 to inform a potential constitutional amendment for voter consideration in the 2026 general election. The Governor later vetoed the funding for this study in the budget.

Additionally, the current freeze on local communication services tax rates, covering phone and TV services, will be extended through 2031. Lastly, the bill establishes the “Home Away From Home” Tax Credit, providing businesses with tax credits when they contribute to organizations that house families of critically ill children receiving care far from home.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HJR 1215 – Ad Valorem Taxation

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property that is habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural; used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities; and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land. The proposed amendment will be submitted to Florida’s voters for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2026.

Effective Date: Upon approval by 60% of voters

SB 1906 – Debt Reduction

The legislation establishes a recurring Debt Reduction Program within the State Board of Administration to help reduce Florida’s state debt through early repayment of state bonds. It provides for an annual transfer of \$250 million to the program, which the Division of Bond Finance (Division) may use to retire state bonds, excluding those issued by the Department of Transportation and the Florida Turnpike Enterprise. The Division is also required to report annually on bonds retired under the program and recommend whether the program should continue. In addition to this recurring effort, the state budget includes \$580 million for the Division to eliminate outstanding state bonds and reduce debt service costs, including up to \$230 million specifically allocated to retire bonds issued by the Department of Environmental Protection and for the Save Our Everglades and Florida Forever programs.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 2502 – Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act

The Florida Legislature’s annual implementing bill serves as a companion to the state’s General Appropriations Act by enacting the temporary legal and statutory changes needed to carry out the budget. It authorizes one-year modifications to state law, such as adjusting funding formulas, granting agencies flexibility to realign budgets, and incorporating specific metrics for programs like education and healthcare. These provisions typically expire at the end of the fiscal year, at which point the underlying laws revert to their original form. In essence, the implementing bill provides the legal framework necessary to ensure the state can execute the budget as intended.

This year's implementing bill contains a provision that authorizes the Governor’s Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) to review any local government that received state funding during the current or previous fiscal year. The review can examine spending and operations for fiscal years ending September 30, 2024, and 2025, focusing on identifying illegal diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) activities, waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, and duplicative functions. OPB can access records, data systems, personnel, financial documents, and physical premises. Local governments must comply within 7 business days or face fines of \$1,000 per day, enforced through the Administration Commission. An initial report summarizing findings and recommending improvements must be submitted by OPB to state leadership by January 13, 2026.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HJR 5019 – Budget Stabilization Fund

This House Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections, require the Legislature to transfer the lesser of \$750 million or the amount required to reach 25% of the general revenue collections each year unless certain conditions are met, and allow the Legislature to withdraw funds for critical state needs. The amendment will be submitted to the Florida’s voters for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2026.

Effective Date: Upon approval by 60% of voters

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 503/SB 1196 – Local Business Taxes

HB 503 and SB 1196 created a limitation on the amount of revenue a local government may receive from local business taxes based on the revenue the local government received in local Fiscal Year (FY) ending September 30, 2024, or September 30, 2025, whichever is greater. The bills provided for rate reductions, refunds, and reporting requirements to implement the revenue limitation. The House bill died in its final committee of reference and the Senate bill was never considered.

HB 1221 – Local Option Taxes

The bill provided that local governments could reduce or repeal any local discretionary sales surtax by a two-thirds vote of the levying body beginning four years after the tax is levied. The bill also changed tourist development taxes from limited use revenue to general revenue, of which 75% of revenues would have to be used to offset county property taxes beginning in 2026. It dissolved tourist development councils and dissolved tourism promotion agencies unless the agency was affirmatively approved by resolution of the board of county commissioners. This bill narrowly passed the House floor, 62-45, and was not considered by the Senate.

HB 7033 – Taxation

Representing the House's tax relief proposal, HB 7033 included a variety of provisions that would have reduced taxes for families and businesses in Florida. Of most interest to local governments and the most fiercely debated language of the bill, centered around changes proposed to the tourist development tax (TDT). The bill provided that beginning July 1, 2025, all TDT revenues would be available to counties for any public purpose, rather than being limited to the current authorized uses of the tax. Counties would then be required, beginning 2026, to provide a credit against county ad valorem taxes to be applied to property tax bills that, in total, equaled the prior year's TDT collections less any revenue needed for debt service or to continue any contract in effect on July 1, 2025. The bill passed the House floor and was not considered by the Senate.

Preemptions & Mandates

SB 118 – Regulation of Presidential Libraries

Presidential libraries are archives and museums that bring together the documents, historical materials, and artifacts of a United States President during his administration for public use including preservation, research, and visitation. The bill preempts to the state all regulation of the establishment, maintenance, activities, and operations of any presidential library within its jurisdiction and defers regulation of these institutions to the federal government. A local government may not enact or enforce any ordinance, resolution, rule, or other measure governing a presidential library or impose any requirement or restriction upon these libraries, except as authorized by federal law.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

HB 683 – Construction Regulations

Under the bill, the Department of Environmental Protection is required to adopt standards for installing synthetic turf in residential areas and local governments are prohibited from adopting regulations on synthetic turf that are inconsistent with these state standards. Regarding prompt payment, local governments are now required to approve or deny a price change quote for a change order from a contractor within 35 days on all construction contracts entered into after July 1, 2025. Additionally, state and local governments are prohibited from penalizing a bidder for performing a larger volume of construction work for the state or political subdivision and from rewarding a bidder for performing a smaller volume of construction work. The private provider statute is amended to authorize single-trade plans to require expedited permit processing; allow single-trade inspections to be conducted virtually and authorize single-trade inspections and plans review for solar energy and energy storage installations or alterations. Lastly, this legislation prohibits local building departments from mandating a copy of a contract between a builder and an owner, or any associated documents, be provided to apply for or receive a building permit.



Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 700 – Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Encompassing the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services legislative package, SB 700 makes a number of changes to the agency and its associated entities. Of interest to local governments, the bill prohibits cities and counties from adopting or enforcing any regulation that inhibits the construction of housing for legally verified agricultural workers and provides requirements for such housing. It also prohibits local governments from restricting any activities of public educational facilities and auxiliary facilities constructed by a board for agricultural education, for Future Farmers of America, or 4-H activities. One of the most discussed provisions in the bill is a prohibition on the use of any additive to a public water supply that is not for the explicit purpose of improving water quality, like fluoride. This legislation also makes it unlawful to transport, import, sell, or give away spores or mycelium capable of producing mushrooms that could contain psilocybin, a controlled substance in the United States.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 913 – Condominium and Cooperative Associations

HB 913 makes many key changes to condominium and cooperative association laws that are especially relevant to local governments. One of the most significant updates relates to building safety. The bill clarifies that milestone inspections and structural integrity reserve study (SIRS) requirements now apply to buildings with three or more habitable stories, refining the scope from prior law. Local enforcement agencies are required to report specific information to the state by October 1, 2025, including the number of buildings inspected and any structures deemed unsafe or uninhabitable. Additionally, county commissions must adopt ordinances requiring associations or other responsible property owners to begin necessary repairs within 365 days after receiving a Phase 2 inspection report.

The bill also includes important changes to insurance requirements. Condominium associations must provide adequate property insurance, with coverage amounts based on updated replacement cost estimates conducted at least every three years. For master associations covering multiple communities, insurance must be sufficient to cover losses from a 250-year windstorm event, reflecting a higher bar for disaster resilience.

In cases where a building is declared uninhabitable by a local building official, condominium boards may pause required reserve funding without needing unit owner approval. This provision aims to help associations prioritize urgent safety repairs.

Finally, the bill expands official recordkeeping and online reporting requirements for associations. Associations must now maintain and update records such as meeting recordings and financial affidavits, and ensure their websites reflect changes within 30 days. By October 1, 2025, associations must create an online account with the Division of Condominiums and submit annual information including building age, number of units, and assessment data. These requirements are intended to improve transparency and assist with oversight of building safety and financial health.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 75/SB 100 – Display of Flags by Governmental Entities

Bills prohibiting governmental entities from displaying a flag that represents a political viewpoint were again unsuccessful in passing this year. The bills would have banned the display of any flags by a governmental entity representing a politically partisan, racial, sexual orientation, gender, or political ideology viewpoint. These bills were never considered in committee in either chamber.

Local Government

SB 1080 – Local Government Land Regulation

This comprehensive legislation addresses several statutes regarding local government land regulation. The bill requires a local government to specify in writing the minimum information that must be submitted in an application for a zoning approval, rezoning approval, subdivision approval, certification, special exception, or variance. Such information must be available for inspection and copying, posted on the local government's website, and provided to an applicant at a pre-application meeting. The bill also provides that comprehensive plan amendments not approved at the second public hearing in the plan amendment adoption process must be approved within 180 days thereafter to avoid being deemed withdrawn.

SB 1080 establishes that within five business days after receiving an application for the approval of a development permit or order, the local government must confirm receipt of the application to the applicant. Within 30 days of receiving an application, the local government must either notify the applicant in writing that the application is complete or specify any areas that are deficient. The local government must approve, approve with conditions, or deny the application within 120 days of deeming the application complete, or

180 days if the application requires a quasi-judicial or public hearing. Additionally, the bill requires the local government to issue specified refund amounts to applicants for failing to meet prescribed timeframes.

Current law provides limitations on impact fee increases imposed by local governments, requiring an increase to be phased-in over specified time periods depending on the rate of the increase. However, the phase-in limitations do not apply if the local government completes a study justifying the increase and demonstrating extraordinary circumstances necessitating the need to exceed the limitations, holds two public hearings, and receives approval by at least a two-thirds vote of the governing body. The bill prohibits a local government from increasing impact fees using extraordinary circumstances methodology if the local government has not increased the impact fee within the past 5 years. The bill also raises the vote threshold to a unanimous vote of the governing body and requires the increase be implemented in at least two but no more than four equal annual increments.

Previous language that would have changed laws regarding agricultural enclaves were amended out of the bill after advocacy by local governments against it resulted in the bill failing on the Senate floor. Ultimately, a motion to reconsider was made and the bill then passed the Senate.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 4011 – Palm Beach County

This local bill, requested by Palm Beach County, revises the definition of “building official” in the Building Code Advisory Board (BCAB) of Palm Beach County’s Special Act. Presently, only full-time government employees qualify to serve on the BCAB, excluding part-time contracted staff and private providers which are increasingly relied upon by local governments. This restriction has led to longstanding vacancies on the Board, undermining its effectiveness and ability to meet quorum requirements. Expanding the definition enables the Board of County Commissioners to appoint qualified professionals more efficiently, ensuring the BCAB operates at full capacity.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

SB 56 – Geoengineering and Weather Modification

Geoengineering and weather modification, also known as cloud seeding, involves the intentional alteration of weather patterns through the introduction of substances into clouds to influence precipitation or other atmospheric conditions. This legislation prohibits these activities and provides criminal penalties for those engaging in them. The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to establish a dedicated e-mail address and online form to allow people to report suspected geoengineering and weather modification activities. DEP must investigate reports warranting further review and must refer reports to the Department of Health or the Division of Emergency Management when appropriate.

Regarding airports, beginning October 1, 2025, publicly owned airports must report monthly to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) any aircraft equipped for geoengineering or weather modification activities. FDOT may not expend state funds to support public airports that do not comply.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 268 – Public Records/Congressional Members and Public Officers

Introduced in response to a rise in threats and acts of violence against elected officials and their families, the bill exempts the personal information of certain public officers, including county commissioners, as well as that of their spouses and children from public records requirements. The information exempted includes partial home addresses and telephone numbers, as well as the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and name and location of school or daycare facilities of their minor children. The exemption repeals on October 2, 2030, unless reviewed and saved by the Legislature.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 582 – Unlawful Demolition of Historical Buildings and Structures

Relating to the unlawful demolition of historical buildings and structures, this legislation authorizes a code enforcement board or special magistrate to impose fines above the limits specified in statute for the demolition of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or that is a contributing resource to a National Register-listed district. To impose the fine, the entity must find that the demolition of the historic structure was knowing and willful, not permitted, and not the result of a natural disaster. The bill limits fines to no more than 20 percent of the just market valuation of the property before demolition.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 669 – Israeli Bonds

This bill prohibits a local government's investment policy from requiring a minimum bond rating for investing in bonds issued by the Israeli government.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 784 – Platting

The bill requires that plat or replat submittals that comply with statutory criteria be administratively approved without further action by the governing body. Under SB 784, the local government must provide written notice in response to a submittal within seven days acknowledging receipt, identifying any missing documents or information required, and providing information regarding the approval process including requirements and timeframes. Unless the applicant requests an extension, the authority must approve, approve with conditions, or deny the submittal within the timeframe identified in the initial written notice. A denial must be accompanied by an explanation of why the submittal was denied, specifically citing unmet requirements.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025



HB 929 – Firefighter Health & Safety

Revising the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act, the bill adds occupational diseases and suicide to the health and safety risks the Division of State Fire Marshal (Division) within the Department of Financial Services must monitor and develop rules, policies, procedures, and work schedules to address. The bill also requires the Division to adopt rules related to mental health best practices, educating on chemical hazards, purchasing gear that does not contain hazardous or toxic substances, notifying firefighters if gear does contain hazardous or toxic substances, and encouraging firefighter employers to limit normally scheduled shifts to no more than 42 hours per week. The bill authorizes the

Division to consider suicide when identifying high-risk employers and to issue penalties for violations related to injuries and fatalities.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1121 – Unmanned Aircraft and Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Many changes are made by HB 1121 to the current law regarding drones and other unmanned aircraft systems. The legislation increases the criminal penalty if a person operates a drone over or near a critical infrastructure facility or if a person operates or possess an unmanned aircraft with an attached weapon. Under the bill, a person is prohibited from altering these aircraft to purposefully frustrate certain remote identification requirements established by the FAA. A person is prohibited from possessing or operating an unmanned aircraft system with a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) or hoax WMD. Law enforcement is authorized by HB 1121 to use a drone to maintain public safety of a crowd of 50 or more people and to provide security to elected officials. Lastly, if a person unlawfully uses a drone to conduct surveillance of a person or private property, a criminal penalty is provided and the penalty is enhanced if this surveillance is then intentionally distributed.

Effective Date: October 1, 2025

SB 1202 – Benefits for Firefighters Injured During Training Exercises

The bill expands employer-paid health insurance benefits to a firefighter injured during an official training exercise in which the firefighter became totally and permanently disabled. The coverage includes the injured firefighter and his or her spouse and dependent children. Current law extends this benefit only when an injury is sustained during an on-duty response and does not include injuries sustained during official training exercises.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 301/SB 1570 – Suits Against the Government

Similar to previous years' legislation, these bills sought to increase the existing sovereign immunity caps in suits against a governmental entity. For a claim that accrues between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2030, the bills increased the cap to \$1,000,000 per person from \$200,000 and increased the cap for multiple claims or judgments arising out of the same incident to \$3,000,000 from \$300,000. They also provided for an automatic, one time increase to the caps set in the bill on October 1, 2030. One of the most problematic provisions for local governments was the permission of a government to settle a claim in excess of the caps without requiring the approval of the legislature through the claims bill process. SB 1570 was never heard in committee, while HB 301 passed all committees it was assigned and was ready to be considered by the full House but wasn't heard.

HB 507/SB 856 – Public Records/Sexual Assault Counselors

These bills created a public records exemption for certain personal identifying and location information for sexual assault counselors, also known as victim advocates, employed by entities subject to Florida's broad public records laws.

HB 623/SB 842 – Public Records/County Administrators and City Managers

This legislation created a public records exemption for certain personal identifying and location information for county administrators and city managers, including deputy and assistant county administrators and city managers, and for the spouses and children of these officials. The bills were not considered this session.

SB 852 – Study on the Elimination of Property Taxes

This bill directed the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to study how Florida could eliminate property taxes and replace the lost revenue through budget cuts and sales-based or locally authorized consumption taxes. The study would have analyzed the impact on public services like education and emergency response, assessed effects on the housing market, evaluated Florida's business competitiveness under a consumption tax model, and examined the broader economic implications of such a shift. There was no House companion measure filed and the bill was never heard. Despite much discourse, no major action was taken this legislative session regarding property tax reform.

HB 1609/SB 1822 – Waste Incineration

HB 1609 and SB 1822 both prohibited the Department of Environmental Protection and local governments from issuing a construction permit for certain types of waste disposal facilities with proposed locations located within a certain vicinity of residential properties or schools.

The Senate version of the legislation also provided that the regulation of auxiliary containers is expressly preempted to the state. “Auxiliary containers” were defined as a reusable or single-use bag, cup, bottle, can, or other packaging that meets certain requirements. HB 1609 bounced between the House and Senate chamber floors before ultimately running out of time to reach an agreement on certain language regarding this preemption.

HJR 679/SJR 802 – Term Limits for Members of Boards of County Commissioners and District School Boards

Proposing an amendment to appear on the ballot of the 2026 General Election, these joint resolutions provided term limits for county commissioners and school district board members of eight consecutive years. The HJR 679 passed the House but was not taken up by the Senate. SJR 802 was heard in one of three of its assigned committees.

HB 991/SB 1242 – Community Redevelopment Agencies

The bills mandated the termination of existing community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) by 2045 or the date provided in their charter. They also eliminated the ability of counties and municipalities to approve the continued existence of CRAs and prohibited the creation of new ones. During the committee process, the House bill had language of several other pieces of legislation tacked on via an amendment creating significant differences with the Senate companion measure. Both HB 991 and SB 1242 died after passing all committee references.

HB 1571/SB 420 – Official Actions of Local Governments on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

These bills prohibited counties and municipalities from funding, promoting, or taking official actions related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), including adopting policies or staffing DEI offices. Violations by local officials would be considered misfeasance or malfeasance in office, and lawsuits could be brought against local governments, with courts authorized to award damages and attorney fees to prevailing plaintiffs. The bills required contractors and grant recipients to certify they would not use local funds for DEI-related training or materials. The Senate bill received one hearing in committee, while the House bill was not considered.

Health & Human Services

SB 106 – Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults

This legislation aims to protect vulnerable adults from fraud and abuse. If someone tries to trick a vulnerable adult into giving away money or property, but their identity is unknown, the bill allows a judge to step in and temporarily block the transfer for 30 days.

To do this, the person asking the court to intervene must explain in a sworn statement why they believe the imposter or scammer can't be identified, what they know about them, what means they contacted the vulnerable adult, and what steps have been taken to find the person attempting to scam the vulnerable adult.

The court can then allow substitute service, meaning the person can notify the imposter using the same method they used to contact the adult.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 584 – Young Adult Housing Support

The bill requires each Florida College System (FCS) institution and state university, in consultation with the State Office on Homelessness within the Department of Children and Families (DCF), to develop plans for prioritizing the placement of students who are or were formerly in foster care and those experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness into residence halls and dormitory residences owned by the institution or university. The bill requires DCF, community-based care lead agencies, and housing authorities to support the federal Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) initiative. This includes providing supportive services, verifying youth eligibility, and identifying eligible youth within their caseloads.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 954 – Certified Recovery Residences

SB 954 requires local governments to adopt an ordinance by January 1, 2026 to formalize and streamline the process for applicants seeking reasonable accommodations from land use regulations in order to open a certified recovery residence. The ordinance must contain a procedure which results in approval or denial within 60 days after receipt of an application, without public hearings beyond the minimum required to grant the requested accommodation. For certain Level IV certified recovery residences, the bill also eliminates staffing requirements when patients are not present and increases the number of residents that a recovery residence administrator can oversee to 300 if the operator maintains certain personnel-to-resident ratios.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1091 – Substance Use and Mental Health Care

The bill strengthens Florida’s mental health crisis system by integrating the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline into the state’s response network and placing it under the oversight of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). It eliminates the “needs assessment” requirement for licensing medication-assisted treatment programs for opioid addiction, making it easier for MAT clinics to begin operations and assist patients. The bill also sets stricter training and continuing education standards for mental health professionals conducting forensic evaluations, requiring court-appointed experts to complete DCF-approved training. Additionally, it clarifies that designated receiving facilities are not obligated to release patients transferred under involuntary examination if a physician deems them a continued threat, regardless of transfer or notification delays.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1195 – Fentanyl Testing

This legislation requires hospitals and hospital-based off-campus emergency departments who conduct urine drug tests to diagnose possible drug overdoses or poisonings to also test for fentanyl. If the urine test is positive

for fentanyl, the bill requires the entities to perform a confirmation test. The legislation further requires these entities retain the results of the tests in the patient’s clinical record for the period of time required by the entities’ current practices.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

HB 405/SB 464 – Certified Recovery Residences

Representing the Palm Beach County State Attorney Addiction Recovery Task Force’s priority legislation for this session, both bills made changes to statutes related to recovery residences credentialing, staffing requirements, and other associated regulations. Neither bill was heard in committee.

Housing, Transportation & Economic Development

SB 462 – Transportation

One of two major packages passed this session, SB 462 addresses various transportation statutes. Notably, the bill authorizes local governments to adopt ordinances regarding age and identification requirements to operate an electric bicycle, motorized scooter, or micromobility device and provide training on the safe operation of these modes of transportation. It also requires counties to annually submit information regarding their use of the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax revenues to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research, prohibits the designation of new metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) in areas contiguous to an existing MPO, and requires FDOT to implement a Next-generation Traffic Signal Modernization Program to increase the interconnectivity of traffic signals. Regarding airports, the legislation prohibits airports from charging new landing fees for aircraft related to flight training operations conducted by certain academic institutions and authorizes public-use airports to participate in the federal Airport Investment Partnership Program, making such airports eligible to receive state funds appropriated from aviation fuel tax revenues.



Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 703 – Utility Relocation

As originally filed, this bill would have mandated that all local governments that require a cable or internet service provider to relocate lines in the local government’s right of way pay for the costs of that relocation. After much work and input from various stakeholders, the bill was amended to remove this provision. Instead, HB 703 now creates the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program within the Department

of Commerce to reimburse providers of communications services that are subject to the state's communications services tax, for relocation expenses directly attributable to the physical relocation of facilities required by a county or municipal authority. The grant program is funded by a transfer of \$50 million from the tax remitted under the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax program. Reimbursement from the grant program is subject to availability of funds. If the grant program lacks the funds to pay for such relocation, the county or municipal authority requiring the relocation remains not responsible for paying the expense of such relocation work.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 1662 – Transportation

SB 1662 makes multiple changes to statutes governing the Florida Department of Transportation's operations and processes. Of interest to local governments is language included in the bill regarding airports and air mobility. Airports are prohibited from imposing new landing fees on flight training operations conducted by certain academic institutions.

Additionally, during declared emergencies such as natural disasters, airports are required to allow FDOT to use designated airport property as a staging area for up to 60 days at no cost to the state.

Under the bill, every commercial service airport must establish and maintain a comprehensive airport infrastructure program and annually certify its existence and maintenance to FDOT. The bill expands the types of projects eligible for priority airport funding from FDOT. These include terminal and parking expansions, safety and efficiency improvements, technology enhancements, intermodal connectivity initiatives, and workforce development programs carried out by postsecondary institutions.

Commercial service airports, including nonhub airports, are now subject to enhanced transparency and accountability requirements. They must notify FDOT within 48 hours after receiving specific communications or directives from the federal government, or in the event of cybersecurity breaches, operational disruptions, or incidents on airport property.

Finally, the bill formally incorporates advanced air mobility into Florida law. FDOT is tasked with addressing regulatory and operational issues related to emerging aviation technologies and must work with the Department of Commerce to develop a statewide system plan to guide the integration of advanced air mobility across the state. As originally filed, the bill included language that mandated at least \$50 million annually from the State Transportation Trust Fund go toward the Small County Outreach Program. County Road 880 in Palm Beach County would have been eligible for funding for reconstruction under this provision, however this portion of the bill was ultimately removed due to the new rural road program being proposed under SB 110 and championed by the Senate President.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 867 – Indemnification and Insurance Obligations of Commuter Rail Transportation Providers

This legislation establishes the Coastal Link Commuter Rail Service Act. Under the bill, the state or local government that has entered into an agreement with Brightline to operate commuter rail service on the Coastal Link corridor may assume indemnification and insurance obligations in certain circumstances. The

bill provides a legal framework for suits involving incidents which arise from commuter rail services along the Coastal Link Corridor.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 987 – Transportation Facility Designations

The Legislature may designate a transportation facility, such as a bridge or a portion of a road, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Legislative designations do not officially change the existing names of facilities and do not require local governments or private parties to change street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings.

The bill directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers along several of the state’s transportation facilities, designating them with an honorary name. In Palm Beach County, the bill impacts the following transportation facilities:

- The portion of Southern Boulevard between 18000 Southern Boulevard/Lion Country Safari Road and Royal Palm Beach Boulevard to be designated as “PBSO Motorman Highway.”
- The portion of Southern Boulevard between Kirk Road and S. Ocean Boulevard to be designated as “President Donald J. Trump Boulevard.”

Following a legislative designation, FDOT is required to place markers at the termini or intersections specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and may place other markers it deems as appropriate. Before markers may be erected, the appropriate city or county commission must pass a resolution in support of the honorary designation.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 1730 – Affordable Housing

The bill amends various provisions of the Live Local Act, passed during the 2023 Regular Session, related to the preemption of certain zoning and land use regulations to authorize affordable housing developments.

It clarifies how the Act’s zoning preemption applies by defining key terms such as “commercial,” “industrial,” and “mixed-use,” and confirms that the preemption extends to areas like planned unit developments with multiple zoning types. Local governments are prohibited from requiring the transfer of development or density units, or amendments to developments of regional impact, as a condition for allowing new development. They also cannot mandate a specific percentage of residential use within mixed-use projects.

Administrative processes are streamlined, including a requirement for local governments to administratively approve both affordable housing developments and the demolition of existing structures tied to new proposals. Parking requirements must now be reduced by 15 percent, moving from a discretionary to a mandatory standard. The bill enhances legal protections for developers by granting priority docketing and awarding attorneys’ fees and costs up to \$250,000 for prevailing parties in lawsuits under the Live Local Act. It also allows local governments to expand Live Local Act projects to include adjacent parcels.

Additionally, local governments are prohibited from enforcing building moratoria that would delay permitting or construction of affordable housing, except in specific cases, and may face civil penalties and

liability for attorneys' fees if they violate this prohibition. Starting in 2026, local governments must submit annual reports on litigation and project activity under the Live Local Act. Outside of the Act, the legislation gives local governments the authority to approve affordable housing on land owned by religious institutions, even if the underlying zoning does not permit residential development.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

SB 110 – Rural Communities

SB 110, known as the “Rural Renaissance” bill, was a major legislative priority for the Senate President during the 2025 Legislative Session. The bill aimed to boost rural communities across the state through a broad package providing significant funding to address rural healthcare, education, infrastructure, and economic development. After passing the Senate unanimously, the bill was sent to the Florida House. However, rather than passing SB 110 as a standalone measure, the House chose to break the bill up by issue area. Provisions relating to rural healthcare, rural education, and rural infrastructure and economic development were placed into separate, existing bills moving through the process, including HB 1267 and HB 991. Among the provisions in SB 110 was a key measure that would have given counties located in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), like Palm Beach County, priority when applying for funds under the County Incentive Grant Program, allowing them to receive up to \$15 million per year for up to six years to support farm-to-market road infrastructure improvements. While SB 110 ultimately did not pass this session, the Senate President expressed his continued commitment to the legislation and indicated his intent to revisit the bill in the next legislative session.

HB 365/SB 382 – Rent of Affordable Housing Dwelling Units

These bills prohibited a landlord from increasing the rent of a unit during the term of a rental agreement if the unit is affordable housing and receives federal, state, or local funding or tax incentives. However, the bills did not prohibit landlords from increasing the rent when the tenant is renewing the rental agreement or if increases were required for compliance with federal laws, rules, and regulations. The House bill received two committee hearings, and the Senate bill was heard in its first committee of reference.

Criminal & Civil Justice

SB 1386 – Assault or Battery on a Utility Worker

This legislation enhances penalties for the assault or battery of a utility worker while the utility worker is engaged in work on critical infrastructure. A "utility worker" is defined as someone clearly identified by visible markings or identification as working for or contracted by a utility company involved in providing electricity, gas, water, wastewater, telephone, or communications services to the public.

Effective Date: October 1, 2025



SB 2508 – Judges

This legislation establishes 22 new circuit court judgeships across the state of Florida, including two in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit serving Palm Beach County. The bill also establishes 15 new county judgeships, with one of those being in Palm Beach County.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 279 – False Reporting

The bill strengthens penalties for misusing the 911 system and aims to deter false emergency reporting. It prohibits individuals from accessing or causing others to access 911 to make false alarms, complaints, or reports that could trigger an emergency response. Making a false report that leads to serious injury becomes a third-degree felony, while false reports that result in death are classified as second-degree felonies. The threshold for enhanced penalties for repeated misuse of the system is lowered from four prior convictions to two. Additionally, courts must require offenders to pay prosecution and investigation costs, along with restitution to any victims harmed because of the emergency response.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 1804 – Capital Human Trafficking of Vulnerable Persons for Sexual Exploitation

The bill creates a new crime of “capital human trafficking of vulnerable persons for sexual exploitation”. A person 18 years or older who knowingly initiates, organizes, plans, finances, directs, manages, or supervises a venture that subjects a child less than 12 years of age, or a person who is mentally incapacitated, to sexual exploitation commits a capital felony. A person convicted of capital human trafficking must register as a sexual predator. The bill requires a court to conduct a separate sentencing proceeding to determine whether a defendant convicted of capital human trafficking should be sentenced to death or life imprisonment. The bill stipulates that a person commits a life felony if he or she commits a kidnapping or false imprisonment on a person under the age of 13, and in the course of such crime commits capital human trafficking.

Effective Date: October 1, 2025

Public Safety

SB 180 – Emergencies

SB 180 introduces several important changes that local governments need to be aware of to enhance emergency preparedness, streamline recovery, and ensure regulatory compliance. Counties and municipalities are now required to post specific emergency information on their websites. This includes frequently asked questions related to disaster response, lists of shelters and disaster supplies, flood zone resources, checklists for post-storm recovery, and guidance for residents with disabilities. Additionally, each local government must

designate an emergency contact person and an alternate and report this information annually to the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) by May 1.

To support faster recovery after storms, local governments must develop a post-storm permitting plan to manage increased permitting and inspection demands and must publish a guide outlining procedures for post-disaster rebuilding. Each jurisdiction is also directed to apply for authorization of at least one debris management site and is encouraged to amend existing solid waste contracts to include provisions for storm debris collection.

Notably, the bill prohibits increasing building permit or inspection fees for 180 days following the declaration of a hurricane or tropical storm emergency. It also bars the use of “lookback ordinances” by local governments participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, and restricts the imposition of impact fees for replacement structures if the land use remains the same and does not increase demand on public facilities.

Further, counties and municipalities in disaster-affected areas are prohibited from enacting moratoriums on construction or implementing more restrictive development regulations for one year after a hurricane makes landfall. This provision applies retroactively to Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton and remains effective until October 1, 2027. If local governments violate these provisions, affected individuals can file suit and may be awarded attorney fees and costs.

Sheltering requirements have been updated to allow caregivers of individuals with special needs and those under their care to shelter together in designated facilities. Relevant agencies, including the Department of Veterans Affairs, must now help disseminate special needs shelter information to at-risk populations.

Finally, beginning January 1, 2026, all state and local contracts related to emergency response must include language requiring contractors to pay actual, consequential, and liquidated damages, as well as a \$5,000 penalty, if they breach the contract during the one-year emergency recovery period following a declared state of emergency.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 593 – Dangerous Dogs

Named the “Pam Rock Act,” in honor of a Florida mail carrier who died after being mauled by dogs in Putnam County in 2022, the bill strengthens existing regulations related to dangerous dogs. It requires dog owners who are aware of their dog’s dangerous tendencies to confine the animal securely, as if it had already been officially classified as dangerous. Animal control authorities are given the authority to humanely euthanize dangerous dogs under certain circumstances and to hold dogs during investigations in specific cases. Additionally, dogs declared dangerous must be microchipped, spayed or neutered, and their owners must carry at least \$100,000 in liability insurance. The intentional removal of a microchip from a dangerous dog is classified as a third-degree felony, while resisting or obstructing an animal control investigation is a first-degree misdemeanor. Palm Beach County successfully worked with the bill sponsor to include the language specifically prohibiting resisting or obstructing animal control officers in the enforcement of parts of the act. Criminal penalties are increased for owners whose dogs severely injure or kill someone if the dog was previously declared dangerous or the owner knew of the dog’s dangerous behavior. The bill also raises the maximum fine for violations of the dangerous dog statute.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 7006 – Public Records and Meetings/NG911 Systems

In the interest of protecting the security of critical emergency communication systems, SB 7006 saves from repeal the current public records exemptions for any building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams that depict the structural elements of 911, E911, or public safety radio communication system infrastructure. It also preserves an existing public meeting exemption in Florida law that allows portions of meetings to be closed to the public if they would reveal sensitive information about 911, E911, or public safety radio communication infrastructure. Additionally, the bill expands both the public records and public meeting exemptions to include information related to Next Generation 911 (NG911) systems, further protecting the confidentiality of emerging emergency communication technologies.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

HB 393 – My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program

The bill prohibits a condominium association from applying for an inspection or grant under the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program unless the association has complied with the milestone inspection and structural integrity reserve requirements outlined in Florida law. The bill also provides that only 75 percent of unit owners must approve applying for the grant, clarifies that all grants must be matched at \$1 per every \$2 provided by the state towards the cost of the project, and that grants may only be awarded for a mitigation improvement that will result in a mitigation credit, discount, or rate differential.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

HB 519 – Administration of Controlled Substances by Paramedics

Currently, Florida law does not expressly authorize or prohibit paramedics from administering controlled substances. The Federal Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 amended the Controlled Substances Act of 1970 to authorize emergency medical services professionals to administer controlled substances outside the physical presence of a medical director or other authorizing professional under certain circumstances. HB 519 aligns state statute with federal law and allows certain health care practitioners to authorize a certified paramedic, under their direction and supervision, to administer a controlled substance while providing emergency services.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

HB 551 – Fire Prevention

This bill expands the types of fire alarm system projects eligible for the simplified building permit process. The bill requires local governments to:

- Issue simplified building permits within two business days of the completed application being submitted;
- Perform an inspection within three business days if they receive a request to do so;
- Establish a simplified permitting process by October 1, 2025; and
- Refund 10 percent of the permit fees for each business day that they fail to meet statutory deadlines.

HB 551 repeals the requirement for local governments to perform at least one inspection for a simplified building permit application. It also requires that if a local government needs additional documentation for recording purposes, the contractor must provide the requested documentation within four business days after the inspection or request, whichever is later. Lastly, the bill amends the items that are required to be included in an inspection report for a fire hydrant or fire protection system.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 948 – Flood Disclosures

To ensure tenants are properly informed, the bill requires a landlord of residential rental property or a mobile home park owner to disclose certain information regarding flood risks and past flooding of the property to prospective tenants. Similarly, the bill requires the developer of a condominium or cooperative to disclose information relating to flood risks and past flooding of the property in a contract for the sale or long-term rental of a condominium or cooperative unit. Lastly, the bill expands the flood-related disclosures required under current law that must be provided to a prospective purchaser of residential real property. The seller is now required to disclose whether he or she is aware of any flood damage that occurred during his or her ownership and whether he or she has received assistance from any source for flood damage to the property, as opposed to just federal sources.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1487 – Emergency Services

The bill revises the criteria required for a faith-based, nonprofit, volunteer ambulance service to obtain an exemption from the certificate of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) requirement, by increasing the minimum requirements for years of experience and number of volunteer emergency medical technicians and paramedics. The bill also requires these volunteers to be operating in at least three counties. The bill expands eligibility for a COPCN exemption to make exemptions available in 15 counties, rather than four counties; and allows a volunteer ambulance service that receives government funding to qualify for an exemption from the COPCN requirement. A volunteer ambulance service is prohibited from receiving funds from any grant program designed exclusively for publicly operated fire departments or emergency medical service agencies. Lastly, this legislation requires an applicant for exemption to submit an affidavit attesting that they meet the requirements for exemption to the Department of Health, and provides criminal penalties for submitting a fraudulent affidavit.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS

SB 188 – Possession or Use of a Firearm in a Sensitive Location

SB 188 prohibited firearm possession and use in newly defined “sensitive locations,” including healthcare facilities, government buildings, parks, places of worship, public transportation, schools, and venues serving

alcohol or cannabis. It also provided criminal penalties for violations of the prohibition. The bill did not have a House companion and did not receive a hearing in any of its assigned committees.

Education

SB 296 – Middle School and High School Start Times

In 2023, legislation was passed that required school districts set specified start times for middle and high schools, with implementation required by July 1, 2026. After that date, middle schools cannot begin the instructional day before 8 a.m., and high schools cannot start before 8:30 a.m. As districts prepared to comply with the change in law, multiple barriers arose creating practical challenges with implementation. In response to these challenges, SB 296 was passed to provide an exemption for districts that logistically cannot bring themselves into compliance. To obtain an exemption, the district school board or charter school governing board must submit a report to the Department of Education by June 1, 2026 including current school start time information, documentation of strategies considered to implement the prescribed start times, and the impacts and unintended consequences of implementing those start times.



Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Agriculture & Natural Resources

SB 164 – Vessel Accountability

This legislation addresses vessels at risk of becoming derelict by allowing law enforcement to test a vessel's propulsion if the owner or operator is present. A vessel may be declared a public nuisance if it is at risk of becoming derelict three times within a 24-month period. It introduces a free long-term anchoring permit for vessels anchoring near the same spot for extended periods.

The bill also adds expired registration and long-term anchoring violations to the list of noncriminal boating citations, establishes penalties for long-term anchoring violations, and increases penalties for repeated derelict vessel violations. Additionally, residing or dwelling on a derelict vessel is now made a criminal offense.

Finally, the bill expands the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's existing local government grant program to support derelict vessel prevention and voluntary vessel turn-in efforts.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 209 – State Land Management

Introduced in response to plans released by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that would have allowed hotels and certain sporting facilities in state parks, HB 209 requires these parks be managed for conservation-based recreational uses only and in a manner that provides the greatest combination of benefits to the public and the land’s natural resources. The bill prohibits the construction of sporting facilities within state parks. It authorizes the installation of campsites and cabins within certain guidelines. Additionally, the bill revises notice requirements for land management plan public meetings to provide time for public input.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 211 – Farm Products

The bill amends the definition of “farm product” to include plants and plant products, regardless of whether the plants and plant products are edible or nonedible. It 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.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 481 – Anchoring Limitation Areas

The bill creates a new exception from the general prohibition against local governments enacting or enforcing regulations related to the anchoring of vessels outside the marked boundaries of mooring fields. Specifically, in counties with populations of 1.5 million or greater, the bill allows the regulation of any vessel that is anchored for a period of at least one hour any time between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise within the jurisdiction of the county for more than 30 days in a six-month period. Lastly, the bill increases the distance from 100 feet to 300 feet from a public mooring field that a vessel is authorized to anchor.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law

HB 1313 – Trust Funds/Re-creation/Resilient Florida Trust Fund/DEP

This bill re-creates the Resilient Florida Trust Fund in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and repeals the scheduled termination of the trust fund. This acts as a funding source for several grant programs that local governments can apply to for projects that improve resiliency in their communities.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Elections

HB 1205 – Amendments to the State Constitution

In response to actions surrounding ballot initiatives proposed during the 2024 General Election, the Florida Legislature passed a heavily debated bill that significantly overhauls the state’s constitutional amendment petition process. The legislation imposes stricter regulations on petition circulators, mandating that all, whether paid or volunteer, be registered with the Division of Elections starting July 1, 2025. The bill limits the number of signed petitions unregistered individuals may possess and invalidates any forms submitted by unregistered or ineligible circulators. It also requires more detailed voter information on petition forms and changes the deadline for submission to supervisors of elections.

Starting October 1, 2025, supervisors must notify voters when their signatures are verified and provide a mechanism to revoke a signature. The legislation also mandates that a financial impact statement be completed and included on the petition form before any signatures are collected. Any substantial changes to a petition would require refiling and would render previously collected signatures invalid. Additionally, the bill increases fines and establishes new criminal penalties for certain petition-related violations.

Effective Date: Upon becoming law