

State Legislative Session Weekly Digest

Week 6

February 16-20, 2026

Prepared by the Hillsborough County Government Relations Team

Overview

Week 6 saw further action on the budget from both the House and Senate, setting the stage for the budget conference process. One full week remains for committees to meet before focus turns to floor activity on bills and amendments. This digest touches on legislative actions relevant to local government and residents of Hillsborough County that took place this week.

Major Issues Discussed *(by Committee and Date)*

HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

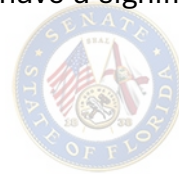
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

CS/HB 543, TRANSPORTATION, BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND (R)

The bill addresses several matters related to state transportation policy, including:

- Yellow light intervals;
- Traffic signal modernization funding;
- Digital driver licenses and identification;
- Use of automated license plate readers by private entities;
- Accessible parking spaces;
- Speed limits in residence districts;
- Use of license plate frames and decorative borders;
- Florida Department of Transportation contracting;
- Motor vehicle exhaust systems and noise limits;
- Definitions and regulation of micromobility devices and electric bicycles;
- Titling and registering golf carts converted to low-speed vehicles; and Seaport uses.

The bill provides an appropriation of \$20 million which will have a significant fiscal impact on the Florida Department of Transportation.



The bill also creates new responsibilities and requirements for the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. However, it is anticipated that any workload or need for increased expenditures will be absorbed within existing operational resources.

AMENDMENT 693235 BY REPRESENTATIVE MCFARLAND

Removes lines 516-588 and revises the bill title to include new takeover agreement requirements, amending ss. 316.455, 403.061, and related provisions.

- Strikes lines 516-588 from the main bill text.
- Removes lines 61-75 in the title and inserts language addressing takeover agreement requirements.
- Updates references in sections 316.455 and 403.061 to align with the new provisions.

CS/CS/HB 543 passed by a vote of 28-0.

CS/CS/HB 657, COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, BY REPRESENTATIVE PORRAS (R)

- Requires new homeowners' associations (HOAs) and condominium associations (COAs) to include "Kaufman" language in their governing documents, which language effectively subjects an HOA or COA, as applicable, to Florida's current community association laws and any future enactments.
- Requires existing HOAs and COAs to vote on whether or not to amend their governing documents to include "Kaufman" language.
- Allows HOAs to be terminated pursuant to a plan of termination that meets certain requirements and specifies that the governing documents of a dissolved HOA are deemed terminated and unenforceable.
- Specifies that HOA directors, officers, and committee members have a duty of loyalty to the HOA and its members and defines what constitutes a conflict of interest for such persons.
- Eliminates pre-suit mediation requirements for community associations.
- Authorizes each circuit court to create a community association court program with jurisdiction over disputes arising under the Condominium Act, Cooperative Act, or Homeowners' Association Act, which programs are to be funded by an appropriation to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- Defines the term "financial statements" within the HOA Act.

The House of Representatives proposed General Appropriations Act authorizes twelve full-time equivalent positions and provides \$1,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund and \$1,210,396 from the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund to implement the provisions of the bill, contingent upon its passage.



AMENDMENT 74567 BY REPRESENTATIVE PORRAS

Increase the number of circuit judges for the newly established community association court program and clarify its funding from appropriated sources.

- Ensure the program is funded through the General Appropriations Act, with leftover funds reverting to the Division trust fund.
- Increase Eleventh Circuit judges from 83 to 85, Thirteenth from 45 to 46, and Seventeenth from 58 to 59.
- Allocate new judges specifically for the community association court program.

CS/CS/CS/HB 657 passed by a vote of 24-0.

CS/HB 1197, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING, BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER (R)

The bill enhances Florida’s information technology (IT) procurement and project oversight framework by increasing the Florida Digital Service’s (FLDS) authority over IT project management and procurement, establishing new oversight structures, imposing additional requirements on state agencies, and enhancing contract standards and vendor performance monitoring. The bill creates the Bureau of Enterprise Project Management and Oversight (Bureau) within the FLDS; requires pre-solicitation certification for state agencies to procure IT projects exceeding \$10 million; transfers the management of state agency independent verification and validation contracts to FLDS once certain conditions are met; enhances vendor performance tracking; enhances contract standards to reduce vendor dependency and safeguard the state’s investments in IT; and increases the threshold for IT competitive solicitations to contract values that exceed \$195,000.

CS/HB 1197 passed by a vote of 26-0.

HB 5001, GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, BY BUDGET COMMITTEE

The bill provides the statutory authority necessary to implement and execute the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The statutory changes are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1, 2027, or revert to the language as existed before the changes made by the bill. This bill also contains funding for four of the five appropriation project priorities approved by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners in its 2026 State Legislative Agenda.

HB 5001 passed by a vote of 26-1.



Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=15168&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11112>

HOUSE STATE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

HB 5207, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, BY STATE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

HB 5207 conforms to the House of Representatives' FY 2026-2027 General Appropriations Act (GAA), as the bill codifies a health insurance assessment on vacant positions, requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to implement formulary management beginning January 1, 2027, and removes an expiration date for a \$3 traffic violation surcharge which funds a portion of the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS).

The bill renames "Office of Supplier Diversity" to "Office of Supplier Development," replacing Minority Business Enterprise duties with assistance for Florida-based small businesses and veteran-owned enterprise certification.

The bill generates savings for the State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund, which faces a \$362.2 million shortfall in FY 2026-2027. The bill provides an estimated cost savings of \$126 million annually to the State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund by requiring DMS to implement formulary management. The bill codifies a health insurance assessment on vacant positions which reduces the current estimated shortfall by \$58.1 million. Removing the expiration date of the \$3 traffic violation surcharge secures approximately \$4 million annually for SLERS.

HB 5207 passed by a vote of 9-3.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=15143&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets>



View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11111>

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, February 16, 2026

HB 5501, DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX DISTRIBUTION, BY TRANSPORTATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

The bill conforms Florida Statutes to the House of Representatives proposed General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Specifically, the bill changes the distribution of documentary stamp tax collections currently deposited in the General Revenue Fund. The bill amends s. 201.15, F.S., redirecting a portion of documentary stamp tax proceeds from the General Revenue Fund and deposits those revenues in the State Transportation Trust Fund for the Florida Rail Enterprise.

While the bill adjusts certain distributions of documentary stamp taxes, there is a net zero impact on state revenues. The bill reinstates a distribution of documentary stamp taxes deposited in the State Transportation Trust Fund, redirecting those proceeds from general revenue.

HB 5501 passed by a vote of 13-0.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/7893>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/5731>



HOUSE JUSTICE BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, February 16, 2026

CS/HB 437, PUBLIC RECORDS, BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDRADE (R)

The bill makes significant revisions to the Public Records Act (Act). The bill establishes a mandatory three-day response timeline for agencies to respond to public record requests and requires written explanations for delays or denials. The bill restricts agencies' ability to charge fees in specified circumstances, authorizes fees waivers for public purposes, and requires written cost estimates upon request. The bill restructures enforcement provisions of the Act by modifying to whom penalties apply and which sanctions are available. The bill broadens the availability of attorney fee awards and requires fees to be assessed against the agency responsible rather than individual employees.

The bill may have a negative fiscal impact on the state and on local governments as it eliminates or limits fees collected for certain public records requests. Additionally, the bill requires a faster response time for records requests, which may increase workload. The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on the private sector by limiting fees collected. The overall fiscal impact is indeterminate.

CS/HB 437 passed by a vote of 13-0.

CS/HB 925, CLERKS OF COURT, BY REPRESENTATIVE TRABULSY (R)

CS/HB 925 would increase funding to the Clerks of the Court by:

- Increasing the per-petition reimbursement amount from \$40 to \$195 for certain filings for which the Legislature prohibits the Clerks from charging filing fees but authorizes the Clerks to seek reimbursement funding, subject to appropriation, and expanding the types of filings eligible for reimbursement.
- Equally dividing between a municipality and the Clerk the remainder of certain penalties for civil traffic violations that occur within the municipality's jurisdiction after initial payouts are made as specified in law, thereby increasing the portion of such fee remainder paid to the Clerk from 5.6 percent to 28.2 percent.

The bill will have a positive indeterminate fiscal impact on revenues of the Clerks and a negative fiscal impact on municipalities.

CS/HB 925 passed by a vote of 13-0.



Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=15164&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11109>

SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

CS/SB 92, EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS, BY SENATOR GAETZ (R)

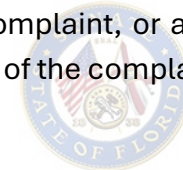
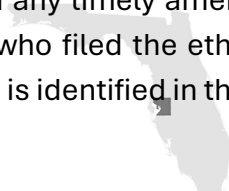
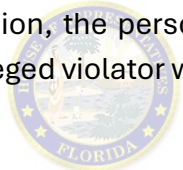
CS/SB 92 addresses retaliatory actions taken against an employee for disclosing to the Commission on Ethics (Commission) violations of:

- The Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees (part III, Ch. 112, F.S.);
- Article II, section 8 of the State Constitution;
- Certain standards of conduct for the Public Service Commission and the Public Service Commission Nominating Council;
- Certain standards of conduct for the Florida Gaming Control Commission;
- Restrictions on use of public funds to retain lobbyists; and
- Requirements for the use of, and procurement for, state means of transportation.

Under the bill, a public officer, public employee, or local government attorney breaches public trust if he or she initiates or uses his or her influence and position to cause another to initiate, an adverse personnel action against an agency employee or independent contractor in retaliation for a disclosure of an ethical violation.

If an employee is discharged, disciplined, or subjected to other adverse personnel action as a result of his or her disclosure, the employee may file a complaint for such retaliatory actions with the Commission. Upon receiving a notice that the Commission terminated its investigation into the alleged retaliatory action, a complainant may pursue an administrative remedy or file a civil action. The bill lists available relief.

The bill provides that, upon a written request, the Commission shall provide a copy of the complaint for ethical violations, and any timely amendments thereto, to Public Employee Relations Commission, the person who filed the ethics complaint, or a current or former employee of the alleged violator who is identified in the text of the complaint or amendment



thereto. The Commission, prior to releasing the complaint, must redact any designations regarding an ongoing ethics investigation, the records of which are protected from public records disclosures.

AMENDMENT 831306 BY SENATOR GAETZ

Clarifies that employees are included in protections against employer retaliation.

- Deletes the existing language at line 278.
- Inserts underlined wording to ensure clarity on employer retaliation protection for employees.

AMENDMENT 925942 BY SENATOR GAETZ

Clarifies remedies for agency employees subjected to adverse personnel action.

- Replaces existing language to explicitly provide remedies for employees facing adverse personnel action.
- Modifies the title to recognize certain employees' right to file claims.

AMENDMENT 602576 BY SENATOR GAETZ

Expands coverage to include employees of an agency and independent contractors.

- Adds language prohibiting adverse personnel action against employees of an agency.
- Revises the title to include employees of an agency or independent contractors.

CS/CS/SB 92 passed by a vote of 23-0.

CS/SB 110, HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS, BY SENATOR ARRINGTON (D)

CS/SB 110 amends s. 196.041, F.S. to provide that lessees owning the leasehold interest in a bona fide lease of 98 years or more in a homesteaded residential parcel or a condominium parcel have legal or beneficial and equitable title to said property for homestead exemption purposes, even if the lease contains a provision that terminates the leasehold interest upon the death of the lessees. The bill states that this change is remedial and clarifying in nature.

CS/SB 110 passed by a vote of 24-0.

CS/CS/SB 260, REMOVAL, STORAGE, AND CLEANUP OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES, BY SENATOR BURGESS (R)

CS/CS/SB 260 requires counties, and authorizes municipalities, to establish a daily administration fee for the proper storage of electric vehicles which have been involved in a crash that results in visible damage to the batteries or battery compartment, or when the batteries or battery compartment have been submerged, for any length of time, in salt water, and until the appropriate local agency has inspected and verifies that the damaged battery



is safe and not in danger of starting a fire. The daily administration fee for the storage of electric vehicles may be up to three times the maximum standard storage rates already established by counties and municipalities. The daily administration fee shall be applied in the event that the electric vehicle owner or operator is incapacitated, is unavailable, or leaves the procurement of wrecker service to the law enforcement officer at the scene or otherwise does not consent to the removal of the electric vehicle. The daily administration fee may not be applied unless the electric vehicle is properly stored as defined.

The bill provides definitions for the terms “daily administration fee” and “proper storage.” The bill also stipulates that the storage requirements relating to electric vehicles do not require a motor vehicle insurer to pay any costs beyond costs covered pursuant to a contract with its insured.

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on owners of electric vehicles and an indeterminate positive fiscal impact on towing-storage operators. The bill is effective July 1, 2026.

AMENDMENT 113620 BY SENATOR BURGESS

Establishes daily storage requirements, fees, and reporting for damaged electric vehicles.

- Mandates up to triple administrative fees for proper storage of wrecked or submerged EVs.
- Defines “proper storage” as 50 feet from combustibles or a protective barrier.
- Requires wrecker operators to collect data and report to the State Fire Marshal through 2028.
- Directs the State Fire Marshal to submit legislative findings by March 1, 2029.
- Clarifies insurers are not obliged to cover costs beyond contractual obligations.
- Amends s. 713.78 to classify daily administrative storage fees as reasonable service charges.

CS/CS/CS/SB 260 passed by a vote of 24-0.

SB 434, ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, BY SENATOR LEEK (R)

SB 434 provides that, in determining the assessed value of real property used for residential purposes, any increase in just value attributable to changes or improvements made to improve the property’s resistance to wind damage may not be considered.

SB 434 passed by a vote of 24-0.



CS/SB 484, DATA CENTERS, BY SENATOR AVILA (R)

CS/SB 484 revises Florida law regarding the regulation of large-scale data centers and certain other large electricity users. Specifically, the bill:

- Specifies that agencies may not enter into non-disclosure agreements, or other contracts restricting the agency from disclosing information about potential data center development to members of the public.
- Maintains the authority of local governments to exercise the powers and responsibilities for comprehensive planning and land development regulation granted by law with respect to large load customers.
- Provides definitions for the terms “controlled by,” “foreign country of concern,” “foreign entity,” “large load customer,” “public utility,” “data center,” and “large-scale data center.”
- Requires the Public Service Commission to develop minimum large load tariff requirements for public electric utilities. The tariff requirements must reasonably ensure that large load customers (such as large data centers) pay for their own cost of service and that the general body of rate payers do not bear the risk of non-payment of such cost and include provisions to prevent a public utility from providing electric service to a foreign entity large load customer.
- Prohibits public electric utilities from knowingly providing service to large load facilities owned or controlled by foreign countries of concern.
- Establishes a distinct large-scale data center consumptive use permit (CUP) permit requirements and application process. The bill also authorizes water management districts or the Department of Environmental Protection to require large-scale data centers to use some portion of reclaimed water as part of a CUP approval.
- Specifies that CUP modifications involving a large-scale data center must be treated as new, initial applications.

AMENDMENT 947912 BY SENATOR AVILA

Establishes separate tariff requirements for large electric load customers, ensuring they bear their own costs.

- Prohibits classifying large load customers as electric substations.
- Defines large load customers as having monthly peak loads of 50 MW or more at a single location.
- Requires the Florida Public Service Commission to develop tariffs ensuring these customers fully cover their own infrastructure, operating, and maintenance costs.
- Mandates financial guarantees to minimize nonpayment risk.
- Includes definitions to address ownership or control by foreign entities of concern.

CS/CS/SB 48 passed by a vote of 22-0.



CS/SB 546, CONSERVATION LANDS, BY SENATOR MAYFIELD (R)

CS/SB 546 requires the Division of State Lands (division) within the Department of Environmental Protection and water management districts to provide 30 days' notice before any meeting to review the proposed sale or exchange of conservation lands. The bill requires the notice to contain certain information, such as the parcels proposed for sale or exchange, the portions of lands which will be preserved in a permanent conservation easement, a statement explaining why the lands are no longer needed for conservation purposes or how the exchange will result in a conservation benefit to the state, and any applicable recommendations. The bill also provides that, for exchanges involving state-owned lands, each parcel proposed for exchange must have at least one appraisal that follows board-approved appraisal criteria, techniques, and methods.

CS/SB 546 passed by a vote of 23-0.

SB 840, LAND USE REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS, BY SENATOR DiCEGLIE (R)

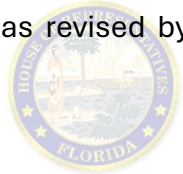
SB 840 amends certain provisions in CS/CS/SB 180 (2025) relating to restrictions on local government power to regulate land use following hurricanes.

Among other things, CS/CS/SB 180 generally prohibited counties and municipalities within a certain distance from a hurricane's track from adopting moratoriums or more restrictive or burdensome amendments or procedures in their land use regulations for 1 year after landfall.

SB 840 narrows the geographic area subject to CS/CS/SB 180's restrictions and revises them to clarify under what circumstances moratoriums and certain other procedural requirements or changes may or may not be enforced. For example, the bill:

- Allows impacted local governments to enforce a moratorium if imposed to address stormwater or floodwater management, potable water supply, or sanitary sewer systems.
- Prohibits impacted local governments from enforcing changes to their development review process that are intended to give them more time to review and take effect after landfall.
- Clarifies that the restrictions on land use regulations in SB 180 do not apply if adopted for an area of critical state concern or to comply with state or federal law.

SB 180 similarly restricted the regulatory powers of local governments listed within the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton. These restrictions, as revised by SB 840, expire on June 30, 2026. Without SB 840, the



restrictions on local governments within the disaster declarations for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton will not expire until June 30, 2028.

SB 840 passed by a vote of 24-0.

CS/SB 848, STORMWATER TREATMENT, BY SENATOR TRUENOW (R)

CS/SB 848 provides that the use of a water quality enhancement area (WQEA) credit transfers the legal responsibility for complying with applicable regulatory water quality treatment requirements from the purchaser and user of such credit to the generator of such credit.

The bill authorizes environmental resource permit (ERP) applicants to use compensating stormwater treatment as a mitigation measure when existing ambient water quality prevents compliance with water quality standards. Such treatment must meet statutory requirements for WQEAs unless the treatment and discharging parcels are commonly owned, operated, and maintained, or the treatment area directly receives and treats stormwater from parcels within the total land area before the discharge leaves the treatment parcel.

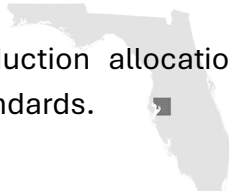
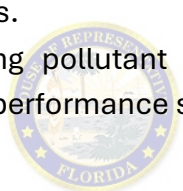
The bill provides that mitigation measures or enhancement credits may be generated by third parties and sold to ERP applicants only as authorized under the section of law related WQEAs. The bill allows entities to apply for provisional WQEA permits pending the Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) adoption of WQEA rules. DEP and water management districts must allow the use of WQEA enhancement credits generated under such provisional permits, provided applicable statutory requirements are met.

The bill also provides that, beginning July 1, 2026, if a public landowner authorizes a private entity to construct, modify, or operate stormwater management systems on public lands for offsite compensatory treatment, the landowner must require the entity to cease such activities if DEP or a water management district determines by final agency action that the use of the land is contrary to the public interest. Operations may resume upon a subsequent determination that compensatory treatment is no longer contrary to the public interest.

AMENDMENT 894554 BY SENATOR TRUENOW

Expands financial, legal, and administrative requirements for establishing regional stormwater management systems and clarifies the use of water quality enhancement credits.

- Defines “regional stormwater management system” and sets financial responsibility requirements.
- Permits using pollutant reduction allocations from regional systems to meet stormwater performance standards.



- Updates definitions for compensating stormwater treatment, enhancement credits, and pollutant reduction allocations.
- Authorizes provisional permits for water quality enhancement areas prior to formal rule adoption.
- Recognizes compensating stormwater treatment to meet net improvement under certain water quality standards.

AMENDMENT 159868 TO THE AMENDMENT BY SENATOR TRUENOW

Prohibits certain seaports from using non-local stormwater or water quality enhancements to offset runoff pollution.

- Maintains onsite or offsite stormwater treatment options for seaports listed in s. 403.021(9)(b).
- Bars seaports not listed in s. 403.021(9)(b) from using regional stormwater management systems or water quality enhancement areas operated by non-local entities to meet stormwater treatment or net improvement requirements.

CS/CS/SB 848 passed by a vote of 23-0.

SB 856, DISCLOSURE OF ESTIMATED AD VALOREM TAXES, BY SENATOR DICEGLE (R)

SB 856 requires online listing platforms to include estimated property taxes on any residential property visible on their platform. The bill also provides that a current owner’s tax information may not be used in calculating estimated property taxes and requires listing platforms to calculate and display estimated property taxes by using one of two prescribed methods. Estimated property taxes must be calculated using either:

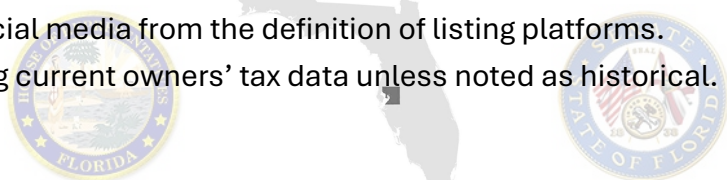
- The listing price of the property and current millage rates using a formula developed by the Department of Revenue (DOR), or
- The listing price of the property and countywide aggregate average millage rates developed by the DOR.

The bill requires the DOR to develop a formula to be used by a listing platform to calculate the estimated property taxes and to develop countywide aggregate average millage rates. County property appraisers must provide the DOR with any information needed to develop the formula and with any information needed to develop countywide aggregate average millage rates. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

AMENDMENT 158618 BY SENATOR DICEGLE

Requires property listing platforms to display estimated ad valorem taxes for all published properties and disclose disclaimers about potential variations.

- Excludes social media from the definition of listing platforms.
- Forbids using current owners’ tax data unless noted as historical.



- Mandates disclaimers on millage rate changes and non-ad valorem assessments.
- Provides immunity for inaccurate tax estimates and instructs the Department of Revenue to publish formula and aggregate rates.
- Takes effect on February 1, 2027.

CS/SB 856 passed by a vote of 24-0.

CS/SB 1118, PUBLIC RECORDS/DATA CENTERS, BY SENATOR AVILA (R)

CS/SB 1118 provides a time-limited public records exemption for information held by a county or municipality that concerns the plans, intentions, or interests of such person to locate a data center within the jurisdiction of the county or municipality. Such records would be confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), F.S., and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution upon request by a person, for a period of 12 months. It also provides that person’s proprietary confidential business information related to a data center and held by an agency is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

SB 484 (2026 Regular Session) by Senator Avila, revises Florida law regarding the regulation of large-scale data centers and certain other large electricity users. In part, the bill prohibits agencies from entering into non-disclosure agreements, or other contracts restricting the agency from disclosing information about potential data center development to members of the public.

CS/SB 1118 passed by a vote of 16-8.

CS/SB 1134, OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, BY SENATOR YARBOROUGH (R)

CS/SB 1134 prohibits counties and municipalities from funding, promoting, or taking official actions such as adopting ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, programs, or policies, related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). It also prohibits a county or municipality from expending any funds, regardless of the source, to establish, support, sustain, or staff a DEI office or officer.

The bill provides that a member of a county or municipal governing body acting in his or her official capacity who violates the prohibitions commits misfeasance or malfeasance in office. It also prohibits counties and municipalities from allowing their funds to be used by employees, contractors, and others to promote DEI initiatives.



An action may be brought by a resident against a county or municipality that violates the bill's provisions. The bill does not prohibit official action required for compliance with general or federal law and includes a series of exceptions.

The bill also requires the potential recipients of a county or municipal contract or grant to certify that they do not and will not use local government funds to require employees, contractors, volunteers, vendors, or agents to ascribe to, study, or be instructed using materials related to DEI.

The statute created by the bill applies to any contract between a county or municipality and a diversity, equity, and inclusion officer which is in existence on January 1, 2027. With respect to all other contracts, the statute applies to contracts executed or renewed after January 1, 2027.

AMENDMENT 619208 BY SENATOR YARBOROUGH

Prohibits local governments from funding or promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, offices, or initiatives.

- Creates sections 125.595 and 166.04971 to ban official DEI actions, voiding any related measures.
- Bars expenditure for DEI offices or officers, labeling violations misfeasance or malfeasance.
- Permits court actions with declaratory, injunctive, and financial remedies against violating local governments.
- Creates s. 287.139 requiring contract recipients to certify nonuse of DEI materials before receiving funds.
- Applies to contracts from January 1, 2027.

CS/CS/SB 1134 passed by a vote of 19-5.

CS/CS/SB 1724, UTILITY SERVICES, BY SENATOR MARTIN (R)

CS/CS/SB 1724 revises requirements for municipal utilities that provide water and wastewater, natural gas, or electric services outside their corporate boundaries. The bill amends s. 180.19, F.S., to require, before the agreement becomes effective, that new service agreements be in writing and subject to public input through meetings held within each municipality and unincorporated areas to be served, as well as annual customer meetings thereafter. The section also limits the use of gross utility revenues from such served areas for general government purposes to 10 percent and requires excess revenues, after recovery of actual costs, to be reinvested in the municipal utility or returned to customers.



The bill also amends s. 180.191, F.S., to eliminate, for such served areas, authorized 25 percent surcharges and reduce the allowable rate differential cap from 50 percent to 25 percent above rates charged within the municipality providing service. The bill also requires rate parity under certain circumstances for municipal water and wastewater services.

For such municipal utilities providing services outside of their municipal boundaries, the bill also adds a reporting requirement to the Public Service Commission (PSC), the results of which must be compiled and provided to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

CS/CS/SB 1724 passed by a vote of 21-3.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/8307>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6205>

HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

HB 593, GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL, BY REPRESENTATIVE ANDRADE (R)

The bill prohibits:

- A state agency or officer from directing funds offered to the state in a litigation settlement to a third party as a condition of the settlement.
- Reimbursement for transportation expenses between an agency head's residence and department headquarters and bars per diem and subsistence allowance when the agency head remains overnight in his or her county of residence.
- Lobbyists or principals lobbying a water management district (WMD) from making, and certain WMD officers and employees from accepting, expenditures.



The bill also expands existing political activity prohibitions to bar state and local officers and employees from using their official authority or influence to solicit political contributions and defines the term “office” for purposes of the dual office-holding prohibition in the State Constitution.

The bill will likely have an insignificant fiscal impact on state expenditures but may result in some cost savings by prohibiting per diem allowances for agency heads under specified conditions. In addition, there could be costs associated with enforcing the expanded list of prohibited political activities, including potential misdemeanor prosecutions that may result in an indeterminate positive prison bed impact.

HB 593 passed by a vote of 21-0.

CS/HB 755, AREAS OF CRITICAL STATE CONCERN, BY REPRESENTATIVE MOONEY (R)

The bill exempts a person who enters into a formal contract with the state or other entities for construction of public buildings from executing the required payment and performance bond if certain conditions are met.

The bill extends the time period during which at least \$5 million of Florida Forever funding must be spent each fiscal year on land acquisition within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern.

CS/HB 755 passed by a vote of 21-0.

CS/CS/HB 905, FOREIGN INFLUENCE, BY REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA (R)

The bill establishes a framework to limit foreign influence by foreign countries of concern (FCOCs) and designated foreign terrorist organizations across government operations by:

- Requiring agents engaged in certain activities on behalf of FCOCs to register and disclose their activities and funding.
- Prohibiting public officers and employees from accepting gifts from FCOCs and restricting government contracting and procurement involving foreign sources of concern.
- Prohibiting sister city agreements and postsecondary linkage institute partnerships with FCOCs and terminating existing agreements.
- Prohibiting charitable organizations from accepting contributions from designated foreign terrorist organizations and establishing new protections for critical infrastructure facilities, including contracting, registration, and transfer requirements.



- Creating new criminal offenses and penalty enhancements related to foreign influence.

The bill will likely have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact on state government expenditures, which is expected to be absorbed within existing resources. To the extent the bill results in additional incarcerations under the new or enhanced criminal penalties, the bill may have an indeterminate, positive prison bed impact.

AMENDMENT 116387 BY REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA

Restricts foreign influence by requiring registrations, prohibiting contracts, and imposing enforcement penalties in Florida.

- Mandates registration of foreign agents and foreign-supported groups with the Division of Elections.
- Prohibits receiving gifts or contracts from foreign countries of concern or terrorist organizations.
- Limits IT and infrastructure deals with foreign sources of concern.
- Expands ethics training on foreign interference tactics.
- Reclassifies offenses benefiting foreign interests and penalizes unauthorized enforcement of foreign laws.
- Allows tax receipt revocations for unlawful business with Cuba.
- Terminates certain cultural agreements with hostile foreign entities.

CS/CS/CS/HB 905 passed by a vote of 24-1.

CS/HB 991, ELECTIONS, BY REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA (R)

The bill makes various revisions to the Florida Election Code, including:

- Revising the voter registration and list maintenance process to elicit additional citizenship information from voters, including documentation required by the Election Assistance Commission or federal law.
- Requiring that the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles include the legal status on any new, replacement, or renewal driver license or identification card.
- Requiring the state to provide voter registration lists to federal courts to aid in their jury selection process, and then requiring those courts to provide to the state information that it receives regarding ineligible voters.
- Creating a pre-certification vote validation process in place of the current audit and recount process.
- Creating a five-year statute of limitations for the prosecution of a felony violation under the Florida Election Code.



- Providing new fines and penalties for those violating the law of involvement of foreign nationals in state elections.
- Providing that the term “racketeering activity” under the Florida Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act includes certain election code violations.
- Revising the list of valid identification required at the polls, for first-time voters of a vote-by-mail ballot, and for submission of certain cure affidavits.

AMENDMENT 314931 BY REPRESENTATIVE PERSONS-MULICKA

Improve voter citizenship checks, restrict foreign interference, refine mail ballot rules, and revise trustee elections for rural electric cooperatives.

- Require verification of citizenship and create unverified status if records conflict.
- Restrict foreign nationals’ donation and spending authority, with penalties for violations.
- Mandate automated independent vote validation instead of traditional manual audits.
- Tighten identification rules for in-person and mail ballots.
- Establish mail ballot elections for rural electric cooperative trustees under updated procedures.

AMENDMENT 505325 TO THE AMENDMENT BY REPRESENTATIVE DUGGAN (R)

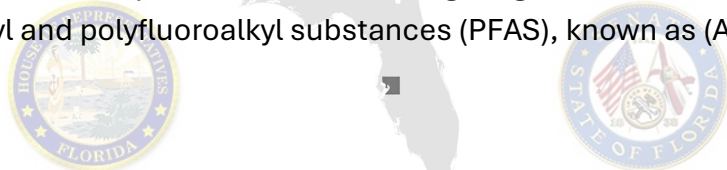
Requires enhanced proof of U.S. citizenship for voter registration, modifies candidate qualification standards, tightens identification rules, sets an automated vote validation process, and imposes new penalties for foreign contributions.

- Mandates documented proof of citizenship at registration.
- Creates “unverified voter” status if citizenship is uncertain.
- Requires “automated independent vote validation” instead of manual audits.
- Restricts acceptable voter ID types.
- Imposes stricter party-affiliation requirements for candidate qualifying.
- Sets a 5-year statute of limitations for election crimes.
- Prohibits certain foreign donations.
- Mandates U.S. citizenship designation on driver license/ID.

CS/CS/HB 991 passed by a vote of 17-6.

CS/HB 1019, PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES, BY REPRESENTATIVE CONERLY (R)

The bill phases out, with exceptions, the use of firefighting foam that contains intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), known as (AFFF). Specifically, the bill:



- Effective July 1, 2026, prohibits the use of AFFF in nonemergency instruction, training, or testing, and requires entities possessing AFFF to submit inventories to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- Effective July 1, 2027, prohibits the sale, purchase, or distribution of AFFF, and requires entities to submit a disposal plan to DEP.
- Effective July 1, 2028, prohibits the possession and use of AFFF, except for certain federal aviation facilities, and certain military applications and emergency firefighting situations.

The bill also requires certain public entities disposing of domestic wastewater biosolids and treated effluent to quarterly sample for PFAS and submit the results to DEP.

AMENDMENT 271721 BY REPRESENTATIVE CONERLY

Establishes phased prohibitions on PFAS firefighting foam, new disposal and reporting requirements, and mandates PFAS sampling for wastewater.

- Prohibits nonemergency use of PFAS foam by July 1, 2026; bans sale, purchase, and distribution by July 1, 2027; and bans possession by July 1, 2029.
- Exempts specified aviation, military, emergency, and retrofit uses.
- Requires inventory reporting, disposal plans, and Department of Environmental Protection rules for containment and disposal.
- Mandates quarterly PFAS sampling of wastewater biosolids for informational purposes until federal standards are adopted.
- Imposes civil penalties up to \$10,000 per day of violation.

CS/CS/HB 1019 passed by a vote of 21-0.

HB 1035, NATURE-BASED COASTAL RESILIENCY, BY REPRESENTATIVE MOONEY (R)

The bill establishes a pilot program to implement callback queues—systems that allow a caller to leave a telephone number at which he or she may be reached at a later time—at two state agencies, the Department of Commerce and the Department of Children and Families. By December 31, 2027, both agencies must submit a report to the Legislature describing the effectiveness of the program, providing suggested changes, if any, and a recommendation as to whether the program should be continued.

AMENDMENT 239619 BY REPRESENTATIVE MOONEY

Promote nature-based solutions for coastal resilience and remove local plan adoption barriers.

- Encourages seagrass planting, wave attenuation, and green-gray stormwater solutions to enhance coastal resilience.



- Bars local governments from prohibiting certain structures solely for not having a marina plan.
- Mandates creation of design guidelines for nature-based coastal protections by 2027.

CS/HB 1035 passed by a vote of 22-0.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=15157&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11116>

SENATE COMMITTEE ON FISCAL POLICY

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

CS/SB 1230, PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES, BY SENATOR HARRELL (R)
CS/SB 1230 provides that, effective July 1, 2026, aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) may not be used for any nonemergency instruction, training, or testing, and all entities in possession of AFFF must report inventories to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Effective July 1, 2027, the bill prohibits the sale, purchase, or distribution of AFFF in Florida and requires all entities with remaining inventories to submit a disposal plan to the DEP.

Effective July 1, 2028, the bill prohibits the possession and use of AFFF in the state. The bill creates exceptions for (1) federal aviation facilities required to comply with applicable federal rules; (2) military applications where alternatives do not exist; and (3) emergency firefighting situations where alternative firefighting foam is not available.

The bill directs the DEP to adopt rules governing the containment, collection, and disposal of AFFF; maintain a registry of firefighting foam alternatives that do not contain PFAS; and provide technical assistance and grants to support the transition to PFAS-free products. The

bill also authorizes the DEP to administer grants or cost-share programs to assist local fire departments and airports with this transition.

A person who violates the bill is subject to civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation per day and additional penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation per day for failure to report inventories or submit disposal plans. The bill authorizes the DEP to seek injunctive relief to enforce compliance.

The bill further requires public entities that dispose of domestic wastewater biosolids and have a designed average daily flow of 25,000 gallons or more to conduct at least one annual biosolids sampling for PFAS and submit the results to the DEP.

The DEP may incur indeterminate costs to adopt rules on AFFF, maintain a registry of alternative firefighting foams, and provide technical assistance and grants for transitioning to PFAS-free AFFF. This cost can be absorbed through existing resources.

AMENDMENT 656868 BY SENATOR HARRELL

Phases out and prohibits the use, sale, and possession of PFAS firefighting foam by certain dates and requires PFAS sampling.

- Prohibits nonemergency use by 2026, sale by 2027, and all possession by 2029, with limited exceptions.
- Mandates reporting inventories, creating disposal plans, and adopting department-approved alternative firefighting foams.
- Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to establish rules, maintain a foam alternatives registry, and offer grants.
- Imposes civil penalties and allows injunctive relief for violations.
- Requires quarterly PFAS sampling in certain domestic wastewater operations for informational purposes until federal standards are adopted.

AMENDMENT 748172 TO THE AMENDMENT BY SENATOR HARRELL

Clarifies that airports are defined under s. 330.27.

- Removes lines 30–31 from the existing text.
- Inserts new language specifying airports as defined in s. 330.27.

CS/CS/SB 1230 passed by a vote of 19-0.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/8303>



View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6217>

HOUSE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

CS/HB 803, BUILDING PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS, BY REPRESENTATIVE TRABULSY (R)

CS/HB 803 revises provisions relating to the issuance of building permits. It revises provisions relating to building code inspection services provided by private providers and private provider firms, including but not limited to permit fees, administrative fees, and responsibilities of such private providers. It also revises the authority of local building officials and mandates the adoption of a uniform permitting system.

AMENDMENT 44805 BY REPRESENTATIVE TRABULSY

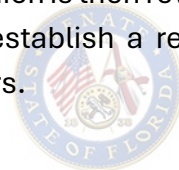
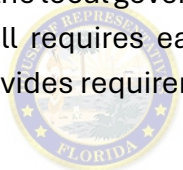
Streamlines building permit and inspection processes for residential projects, expands exemptions, and strengthens private providers' role.

- Sets single-family dwelling permit expiration to 1 year or new code.
- Exempts minor repairs and certain temporary barriers or walls from permits.
- Limits local inspection fees; disallows punitive fees for private providers.
- Requires fee reductions when private providers perform plan reviews or inspections.
- Mandates uniform building permit applications by July 1, 2027.
- Bars associations from requiring permits before architectural reviews.
- Expedites permitting for small-scale residential energy and backup power systems.

CS/CS/HB 803 passed by a vote of 22-0.

CS/HB 927, LOCAL LAND PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, BY REPRESENTATIVE SAPP (R)

CS/HB 927 requires each county and municipality to create a program to conduct pre-application reviews of plans, permits, or plats submitted as part of compliance with a local government's land development regulations. After completing a pre-application review on work in their respective field, a qualified contractor completes an affidavit that the work is in compliance with the local government's requirements, which is then reviewed by the local government. The bill requires each local government to establish a registry of qualified contractors and provides requirements for those contractors.



The bill also revises the process for the expedited approval of residential building permits prior to plat approval by expanding its applicability to planned unit developments and one or more phases of a community or subdivision and establishing procedures for when a local government has failed to establish an expedited permitting process.

AMENDMENT 491751 BY REPRESENTATIVE SAPP

Streamlines local permitting by requiring local governments to allow qualified contractors for preapplication reviews and accelerating approvals for subdivisions.

- Creates section 163.3169, requiring a program by 2027 for qualified contractor reviews, including registries and payment rules.
- Bars extra local requirements, ensures standard financial assurances for final plats, and prevents duplicative reviews.
- Revises section 177.073 to expedite residential building permits for multi-phased developments, allowing up to 75% permits if local deadlines are missed.
- Authorizes applicants to use private providers or contractors, limiting local interference and ensuring faster approvals.

CS/CS/HB 927 passed by a vote of 17-3.

CS/HB 979, INFILL REDEVELOPMENT, BY REPRESENTATIVE SAPP (R)

CS/HB 979 creates the "Infill Redevelopment Act," which preempts certain local land development regulations and requires the administrative approval of certain proposed infill developments on environmentally impacted land in certain counties. The bill allows qualifying parcels to be developed for residential uses up to the average density allowed in any adjacent residential zoning district within the same jurisdiction. The bill requires a development that is adjacent to single-family homes and townhouses to include an open space buffer between existing residences and the new development.

The bill requires development projects that meet the requirements of the bill to be approved administratively and preempts local laws, ordinance, or regulations that apply, or have the effect of applying, a more restrictive or burdensome requirement or procedure for the development of a qualifying parcel. Local governments can continue to apply local architectural design regulations if those regulations are generally applicable to comparable residential development. The bill requires developers to comply with concurrency requirements before the issuance of any building permit for any project authorized under the bill.

CS/HB 979 passed by a vote of 17-3.



Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=15145&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11121>

HOUSE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SUBCOMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

CS/HB 1389, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, BY REPRESENTATIVE REDONDO (R)

The bill amends the Live Local Act (Act) to:

- Authorize multifamily and mixed-use residential as allowable uses on property owned by a county, municipality, or school district, if the property is located within the geographic boundaries of the respective county, municipality, or district, and require the county, municipality, or school district, as applicable, to be a party to the application for the proposed development.
- Prohibit local governments from restricting the height of a proposed development through the use of setbacks or step-backs and prohibit local governments from requiring setbacks or step-backs for a proposed development that are more restrictive than the minimum setbacks or step-backs of the underlying zoning applicable to the proposed development.
- Specify that farms and farm operations are not considered “commercial uses” or “industrial uses” for purposes of the Act; and
- Authorize developments near airports (which are otherwise exempt from the Act) if the application for a proposed development is approved by the governing body of the airport.

The bill waives sovereign immunity for the state and any governmental entity if prohibited discrimination in a land use decision or the permitting of a development occurs and clarifies that discrimination based on the source of financing for an affordable housing development is prohibited.

CS/HB 1389 passed by a vote of 13-2.



Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?MeetingId=15175&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11131>

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT – FY 2026-2027 BUDGET

Chair Brodeur (R) provided a high-level overview of the proposed budget highlights.

Florida Forever

- Over \$350 million for Florida Forever programs
 - Rural and Family Lands Protection
 - DEP land acquisition
 - Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront Program

Everglades Restoration

- \$738 million for Everglades restoration projects
- Water Quality (Outside the Everglades)
 - Over \$500 million for water quality improvement initiatives

Farmers Feeding Florida

- \$60 million for the Farmers Feeding Florida program

Citrus Recovery

- Over \$250 million for citrus recovery programs

School Lunch Program

- Over \$1.7 billion available (included in the back of the bill)

State Parks

- \$25 million for state park facility improvements (operations and capital outlay)

Environmentally Endangered Lands

- \$35 million for acquisition of environmentally endangered and unique lands

Gaming Control Commission



- Funding for new law enforcement squads in Jacksonville and Sarasota
- Includes personnel, salary authority, and infrastructure support

CS/SB 576, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYBERSECURITY, BY SENATOR HARRELL (R)

CS/SB 576 creates the Local Government Cybersecurity Protection Program, which will be administered by the Florida Digital Service (FLDS), to provide information technology (IT) commodities and services to local government participants to develop and enhance their cybersecurity risk management programs consistent with s. 282.3185, F.S., and to assist local governments with mitigation and defense against cybersecurity threats, including ransomware incidents. The FLDS may use federal grants to further the program. The program will be administered based on objective eligibility and evaluation criteria and will prioritize fiscally constrained counties.

The bill requires the FLDS to enter into data-sharing agreements with local governments as necessary to facilitate the collection, analysis, and exchange of security-related information to support the detection, prevention, and response to cybersecurity incidents.

CS/SB 576 passed by a vote of 11-0.

CS/SB 1614, FLORIDA BUILDING CODE, BY SENATOR LEEK (R)

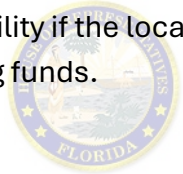
CS/SB 1614 provides that a local government is not eligible to receive state funds through a local funding initiative request if the local government has been subject to a legislative committee's audit within one year after such request, or if the local government does not submit an affirmation with its local funding initiative request to its legislative delegation stating that it is no longer the subject of a state audit. Each appropriate legislative committee must report a list of all local governments that have been subject to an audit, or which have not submitted an affirmation to the presiding officers of both chambers and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees.

The bill also removes a current provision of law that authorizes a local government to use excess funds received from enforcing the Florida Building Code for the construction of a building or structure that houses a local government's building code enforcement agency.

AMENDMENT 314064 BY SENATOR LEEK

Establishes new eligibility restrictions on local governments seeking state funding after an audit and revises how building code enforcement fee balances may be used.

- Prohibits a local government from receiving state funds if it was audited by the Legislative Auditing Committee within the previous year.
- Allows eligibility if the local government affirms it is no longer under audit at the time of requesting funds.



- Requires the Legislative Auditing Committee to notify legislative appropriations chairs upon voting to direct an audit.
- Removes the option to use excess building code enforcement fees for constructing code enforcement facilities, limiting usage to fee reduction, system upgrades, or training.

CS/CS/SB 1614 passed by a vote of 11-0.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/8289>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6212>

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

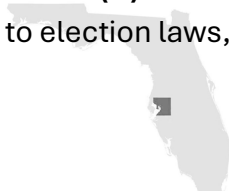
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

TRANSPORTATION, TOURISM, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – FY 2026-2027 BUDGET

- Department of Commerce - \$1,625,613,418
- Department of Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety - \$678,272,561
- Department of Military Affairs - \$127,705,897
- Department of State - \$164,506,437
- Department of Transportation - \$14,077,831,329
- Division of Emergency Management - \$112,116,449
- Total Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Funding - \$16,786,046,091

CS/SB 1334, ELECTIONS, BY SENATOR GRALL (R)

CS/SB 1334 makes various revisions to election laws, including:

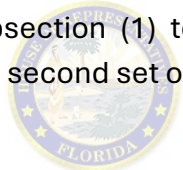


- Revising voter registration processes to elicit additional citizenship information from voters, require documentation of citizenship status, and require the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to verify a voter registration applicant’s status as a U.S. citizen.
- Expanding voter list maintenance requirements to prescribe additional actions governmental entities must take to identify registered voters who may not be U.S. citizens, and to require supervisors of elections to conduct notice and voter registration removal proceedings for such persons.
- Revising definitions related to ballots and voting systems, authorizing the use of ballot-on-demand technology for production of early voting ballots, and specifying that voting must be done by paper ballot unless a voter requests to use a voter interface device.
- Authorizing an office of the supervisor to close for other federal, state, or local-approved holidays, in addition to legal holidays, if the supervisor’s duties do not otherwise require the office to remain open.
- Providing a substantive prohibition against qualifying for nomination as a candidate for a political party if the person has not been a member of the party for the 365 days preceding the qualifying period, as well as a substantive prohibition against qualifying as a candidate with no party affiliation if the person has not been registered without party affiliation for the 365 days preceding the qualifying period.
- Providing that a person may not qualify as a candidate if he or she has, in the 365 days preceding the qualifying period, changed his or her name via the general statutory petition process.
- Revising the time at which the Elections Canvassing Commission shall meet and clarifying existing election returns reporting requirements.
- Prescribing a five-year statute of limitations for a prosecution for a felony violation of the Florida Election Code.
- By July 1, 2027, a Florida driver’s license or Florida identification card issued to a U.S. citizen must include the person’s legal citizenship status.
- The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must, at no charge, issue a renewal or replacement Florida driver’s license or Florida identification card if a licensee or cardholder timely updates his or her legal status upon becoming a U.S. citizen.

AMENDMENT 221298 BY SENATOR GRALL

Delete lines 986-990 and modify subsection (1) of s. 102.166, F.S., to clarify conditions for manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.

- Removes the existing text covering lines 986-990 from the statute.
- Amends subsection (1) to specify when a candidate triggers a manual recount following the second set of unofficial returns.



AMENDMENT 638692 BY SENATOR GRALL

Expand verification of citizenship, clarify ballot definitions, and tighten candidate qualifications.

- Redefines ballot to include printed or voter-verifiable paper records.
- Creates a list of acceptable documents to prove United States citizenship.
- Requires supervisors to verify applicants' citizenship, record proof, and update rolls.
- Introduces felony penalties for false statements on registration applications.
- Mandates 365-day party affiliation or non-affiliation before candidate qualifying.
- Allows supervisor offices to close on certain holidays.

CS/CS/SB 1334 passed by a vote of 9-5.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/8291>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6210>

SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

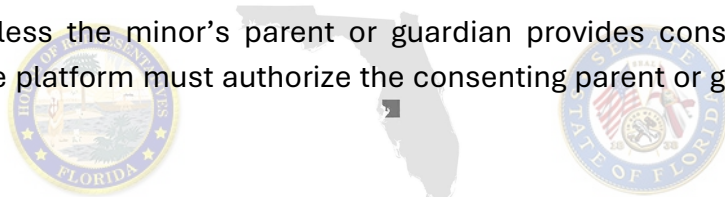
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

SB 482, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE BILL OF RIGHTS, BY SENATOR LEEK (R)

SB 482 creates the “Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights” to provide that Floridians are entitled to certain rights with respect to the use of artificial intelligence. The bill provides definitions and defines “artificial intelligence” to mean an engineered or machine-based system that varies in its level of autonomy and that can, for explicit or implicit objectives, infer from the input it receives how to generate outputs that influence physical or virtual environments.

The “Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights” includes the following consumer protections:

- A companion chatbot platform must prohibit a minor from entering into a contract with the platform to become an account holder or from maintaining an existing account, unless the minor’s parent or guardian provides consent. If consent is provided, the platform must authorize the consenting parent or guardian to receive



certain controls over the minor's account. Upon request, the platform must permanently delete all personal information held by the platform relating to the terminated account.

- A companion chatbot platform must provide certain disclosures to an account holder, as well as remind the account holder to take a break and that the companion chatbot is artificially generated and not human. The platform is also required to institute reasonable measures to prevent its companion chatbot from producing or sharing materials harmful to minors.
- At the beginning of an interaction between a user and a bot, and at least once every hour during the interaction, an operator is required to display a pop-up message notifying users that they are not engaging in dialogue with a human counterpart.
- An artificial intelligence technology company is prohibited from selling or disclosing personal information of users unless such information is de-identified data.
- The Department of Legal Affairs is given rulemaking and enforcement authority.

The bill places limitations on government contracting with entities for artificial intelligence technology, software, or products if such entities have certain ties to a government of a foreign country of concern.

The bill amends the section of law regulating the unauthorized publication of name or likeness to prohibit a person from publishing, printing, displaying, or otherwise publicly using for trade or for any commercial or advertising purpose the name, portrait, photograph, image, or other likeness of an individual created through generative artificial intelligence without the express written or oral consent to such use.

AMENDMENT 119286 BY SENATOR LEEK

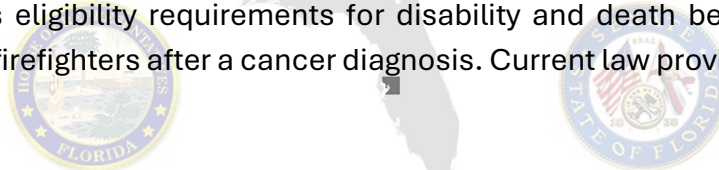
Establish additional restrictions on artificial intelligence use, require parental safeguards, and mandate data privacy protections.

- Bars certain government AI contracts with foreign adversaries.
- Creates an AI Bill of Rights for Florida residents.
- Requires consent and child-safety features for companion chatbots.
- Mandates disclosure of bot interactions and prevents unauthorized data sales.
- Protects personal likenesses from AI-generated commercial use.
- Requires parental notice and opt-out for AI educational tools.

CS/SB 482 passed by a vote of 18-0.

CS/SB 984, FIREFIGHTER CANCER BENEFITS AND PREVENTION, BY SENATOR DICEGLIE (R)

CS/SB 984 amends eligibility requirements for disability and death benefits available to current and former firefighters after a cancer diagnosis. Current law provides, as a disability



benefit resulting from a cancer diagnosis, a \$25,000 one-time payout. The bill expands the eligibility for this payout to include a former firefighter for up to 10 years after terminating employment, regardless of whether the firefighter elects to continue coverage in an employer-sponsored health plan or group health insurance trust fund. Additionally, the payout will no longer expressly be limited to a current or former firefighter's "initial" diagnosis.

The bill also requires that the payment of the \$75,000 firefighter cancer death benefit to a firefighter's beneficiary be made available for one year after employment, provided the former firefighter otherwise met the criteria at the time of termination of employment and was not subsequently employed as a firefighter.

The bill removes a duplicative grant of rulemaking authority to the Division of State Fire Marshal within the Department of Financial Services.

The bill includes a legislative determination that the bill fulfills an important state interest. The bill may increase costs to state and local governments; the impact is indeterminate at this time. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

AMENDMENT 229782 BY SENATOR DICEGLIE

Clarifies that firefighters' cancer diagnosis must occur after employment begins to qualify for the benefit.

- Requires the cancer diagnosis to occur after the individual is employed as a firefighter.
- Mandates that the benefit be provided following such a diagnosis.

CS/CS/SB 984 passed by a vote of 18-0.

SB 2500, APPROPRIATIONS, BY APPROPRIATIONS

Appropriations; Providing money for the annual period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and supplemental appropriations for the period ending June 30, 2026, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$115,025,780,033

SB 2500 passed by a vote of 18-0.

SB 2504, STATE EMPLOYEES, BY APPROPRIATIONS



SB 2504 directs the resolution of the collective bargaining issues at impasse for the 2026-2027 fiscal year regarding state employees. These issues will be resolved based on the spending decisions included in the General Appropriations Act for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

SB 2504 passed by a vote of 18-0.

SB 2506, FUEL TAXES, BY APPROPRIATIONS

SB 2506 revises the distribution of “fuel sales tax” proceeds and revises the transfer of funds received and collected into the Inland Protection Trust Fund.

The bill increases the revenues of the following trust funds:

- Agricultural Emergency Eradication Trust Fund by \$8.6 million.
- Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund by \$10.7 million.
- State Game Trust Fund by \$1.7 million.
- Invasive Plant Trust Fund by \$4.2 million.

The bill increases recurring general revenue receipts by an estimated \$123 million. The bill will result in a \$25.2 million decrease to the State Transportation Trust Fund and a \$123 million decrease to the Inland Protection Trust Fund. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

SB 2506 passed by a vote of 17-1.

Read the Committee Packet:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/DownloadMeetingDocument/8296>

View the Committee Meeting:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6216>

HOUSE FLOOR: WEEK 6 OF SESSION

HB 191, VERIFICATION OF REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE BENEFIT ELIGIBILITY, BY REPRESENTATIVE ABBOTT (R)

Revises circumstances under which COM disqualifies claimants from reemployment assistance benefits; requires department to verify claimants' identities before paying



benefits & to cross-check certain information to verify claimants' eligibility; requires department to maintain web page for specified purpose & to notify employers each year of web page.

AMENDMENT 621513 BY REPRESENTATIVE HARRIS (D)

Require the department to follow new procedures before disqualifying claimants from benefits.

- Provide a written warning to affected claimants.
- Offer an opportunity to explain or appeal.
- Demonstrate that claimants acted without good cause.

HB 191 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 81-31.

CS/HB 103, LOCAL BUSINESS TAXES, BY REPRESENTATIVE BOTANA (R)

Repeals provisions related to local business taxes & authorizes certain local governments to continue to impose business taxes under specified conditions.

CS/HB 103 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 82-26.

CS/CS/HJR 203, PHASED OUT ELIMINATION OF NON-SCHOOL PROPERTY FOR HOMESTEADS, BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER (R)

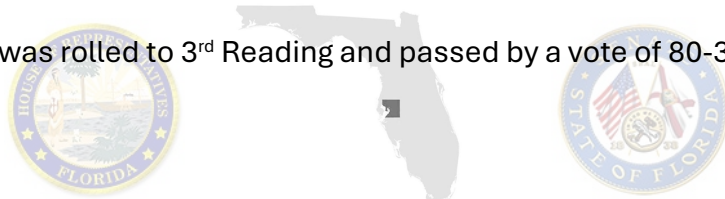
Proposes an amendment to State Constitution to increase exemption for homestead property from all ad valorem taxation other than school district levies annually for 10 years by a certain amount, to make homestead property exempt from all ad valorem taxation other than school district levies beginning in a specified year, to prohibit local governments from reducing total funding for services provided by law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders, and provide an effective date.

AMENDMENT 357969 BY REPRESENTATIVE MILLER (R)

Exempts homestead property from all non-school property taxes beginning January 1, 2027.

- Removes provisions granting local governments authority for extra homestead exemptions targeting seniors.
- Eliminates inflation adjustments for past exemptions.
- Preserves disabled veterans' tax discounts and carries them over for surviving spouses.
- References a new first responder funding requirement in Article VIII.

CS/CS/CS/HJR 203 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 80-30.



HB 5001, GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, BY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Provides money for annual period beginning July 1, 2026, & ending June 30, 2027, & supplemental appropriations for period ending June 30, 2026, to pay salaries & other expenses, capital outlay—buildings & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of state government.

HB 5001 passed by a vote of 101-4.

HB 5207, DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES, BY STATE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Revises, creates, and repeals provisions relating to administrative health insurance assessments of state agencies; permanent tenants of Capitol Complex; Capitol Center projects, long-range planning, & parking spaces; certification of & state contracting for minority business enterprises; the Office of Supplier Development; participation of Florida-based small business enterprises in state procurement system; Florida Advisory Council on Small & Minority Business Development; Florida Minority Business Loan Mobilization Program; & disposition of specified proceeds used for law enforcement communication systems.

HB 5207 passed by a vote of 90-17.

View the House in Session:

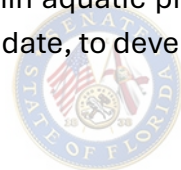
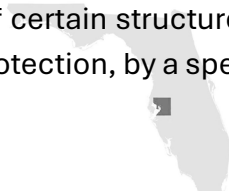
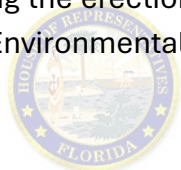
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<https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventID=11142>

SENATE FLOOR: WEEK 6 OF SESSION

CS/CS/SB 302, NATURE-BASED COASTAL RESILIENCY, BY SENATOR GARCIA (R)

Nature-based Coastal Resiliency; Authorizing certain dredging and filling of submerged lands and placement of certain shorelines and seawalls within the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve; authorizing the erection of certain structures within aquatic preserves; requiring the Department of Environmental Protection, by a specified date, to develop guidelines and



standards for nature-based methods to address coastal resiliency and to adopt rules, subject to legislative ratification, for a statewide permitting process for such coastal resiliency, etc.

AMENDMENT 117522 BY SENATOR BOYD (R)

Restricts dredging and filling in the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve in Manatee County to specific public-interest exceptions.

- Prohibits new dredging or filling unless authorized for minimal or necessary public navigation and utility projects.
- Permits limited alterations, including riprap placement, to enhance environmental conditions.
- Allows dredging to remove hazards and stagnant waters in the public interest.
- Approves creation and maintenance of marinas, ramps, piers, and docks if water quality remains unaffected.
- Requires public notice before approval of specified dredging and filling activities.

CS/CS/SB 302 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 38-0.

CS/CS/SB 330, DISABILITY PROVISIONS FOR FIREFIGHTERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS, BY SENATOR BRADLEY (R)

Defining the terms “employing agency” and “heart disease”; providing that a certain previously conducted physical examination satisfies a requirement for a presumption; authorizing law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and correctional probation officers, under a specified condition, to use a physical examination from a former employer for the purpose of claiming a specified presumption, etc.

CS/CS/SB 330 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 38-0.

SB 434, ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY USED FOR RESIDENTIAL PURPOSES, BY SENATOR LEEK (R)

Defining the term “changes or improvements made to improve the property’s resistance to wind damage,” prohibiting the consideration of the increase in just value of a property which is attributable to changes or improvements made to improve the property’s resistance to wind damage in determinations of the assessed value of certain property, etc.

SB 434 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 38-0.



SB 488, DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES, BY SENATOR MASSULLO (R)

Requiring licensure in lieu of registration of motor carriers operating certain qualified motor vehicles; revising due dates for motor fuel use tax returns submitted by licensed motor carriers; authorizing the department to inspect records necessary to verify the tax returns of motor carriers, motor fuel retail dealers, and motor fuel wholesale distributors; revising the apparent amount of property damage which requires the driver of a vehicle involved in a crash to notify law enforcement of the crash, etc.

AMENDMENT 458674 BY SENATOR MASSULLO

Prohibits attaching materials that obscure the license plate's key features and allows frames if the issuing state remains identifiable.

- Bars applying or attaching substances or devices that interfere with the legibility, visibility, or detectability of the plate's number or sticker.
- Allows license plate frames that cover the top or bottom edges, as long as law enforcement can identify the issuing state.

SB 488 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 38-0.

CS/CS/CS/SB 290, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, BY SENATOR TRUENOW (R)

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Prohibiting counties from enacting or enforcing any law that restricts or prohibits the use of gasoline-powered farm equipment or gasoline-powered landscape equipment or that distinguishes such equipment from any other equipment under certain circumstances; prohibiting an application for a development on an ecologically significant parcel in a low-density municipality from being administratively approved without an attestation provided by the developer; establishing the Florida Food Animal Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program; revising the Florida Forest Service's powers, authority, and duties, etc.

AMENDMENT 906600 BY SENATOR HARRELL (R)

Prohibits surplusing designated state forest lands, state park lands, wildlife management areas, or lands within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

- Removes prior allowances for surplusing these lands.
- Protects forests, parks, and wildlife areas from being declared surplus.
- Extends protection to lands covered by the authorized and approved Everglades Restoration Plan.

AMENDMENT 753210 BY SENATOR TRUENOW

Clarifies that surplusing specifically applies to state-owned conservation lands.



- Replaces line 541 with a reference to surplusing only state-owned conservation lands.

CS/CS/CS/SB 290 was rolled to 3rd Reading passed by a vote of 38-0.

SB 840, LAND USE REGULATIONS AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS, BY SENATOR DICEGLIE (R)

Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters; Prohibiting impacted local governments from enforcing certain moratoriums, requiring the repair or reconstruction of certain improvements to meet certain requirements, or enforcing changes to specified procedures; revising circumstances under which impacted local governments may enforce certain amendments, site plans, development permits, or development orders; deleting provisions related to filing suit against an impacted local government for injunctive relief, etc.

SB 840 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 38-0.

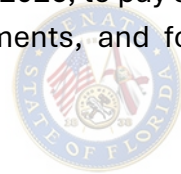
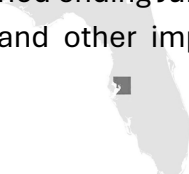
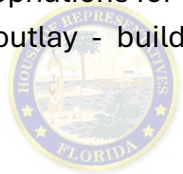
SB 1120, WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS, BY SENATOR BRODEUR (R)

Water Management Districts; Requiring the Commission on Ethics to investigate a lobbyist or principal who has made a prohibited expenditure and to provide the Governor with a report of its findings and recommendations regarding such investigation; requiring the South Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, to provide a detailed report that includes the total estimated remaining cost of implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the status of applicable performance indicators for all project components; authorizing water management districts to levy certain ad valorem taxes on specified property for certain purposes; requiring that the preliminary budget for each water management district include a section that contains the district's capital improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year, etc.

SB 1120 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 37-0.

SB 2500, APPROPRIATIONS, BY APPROPRIATIONS

Providing money for the annual period beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, and supplemental appropriations for the period ending June 30, 2026, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified



purposes of the various agencies of state government, etc. APPROPRIATION:
\$115,025,780,033

HB 5001 IS SUBSTITUTED FOR SB 2500

HB 5001, GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, BY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Provides money for annual period beginning July 1, 2026, & ending June 30, 2027, & supplemental appropriations for period ending June 30, 2026, to pay salaries & other expenses, capital outlay—buildings & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of state government.

HB 5001 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 36-0.

SB 2504, STATE EMPLOYEES, BY APPROPRIATIONS

Providing for the resolution of collective bargaining issues at impasse between the state and certified bargaining units for state employees, etc.

HB 5201 IS SUBSTITUTED FOR SB 2504

HB 5201, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, BY STATE ADMINISTRATION BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE

Provides for resolution pursuant to specified instructions of collective bargaining issues at impasse between state & certified representatives of bargaining units for state employees.

HB 5201 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 36-0.

SB 2506, FUEL TAXES, BY APPROPRIATIONS

Revising the distribution of the proceeds of the fuel sales tax; revising the transfer of funds received and collected into the Fuel Tax Collection Trust Fund, etc.

SB 2506 was rolled to 3rd Reading and passed by a vote of 36-0.

Watch the Senate in Session:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6222>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/media/VideoPlayer/6225>



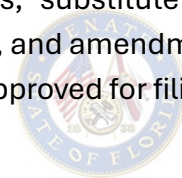
Key Information and Dates

The [Week 7: February 23 – 27](#) calendar for the House and Senate combined as it is currently available is hyperlinked for your information. Please note that committee meeting agendas for Wednesday and beyond are not yet available and will be populated soon.

Here are other important session dates:

- February 27, 2026 Committee or Subcommittee Notice Deadlines During Session: After the 45th day (February 26) of regular session, notice shall be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on the day (including Saturdays, Sundays, and official state holidays) before the committee or subcommittee meeting
- February 28, 2026 Immediate Certification of Bills: Unless otherwise directed by the Speaker, during the last 14 days of a regular session, all measures acted on by the House shall be transmitted to the Senate without delay
- March 3, 2026 50th day – Last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings
- March 9, 2026 After the 55th day (March 8) of a regular session, the Special Order Calendar shall be published in one Calendar of the House and may be taken up on the day the Calendar is published

After the 55th day (March 8) of a regular session: Main floor amendments must be submitted to the House Bill Drafting Service no later than 1 hour before the applicable filing deadline and approved with the Clerk not later than the earlier of the following deadlines: 8:00 a.m. on the day session is scheduled to convene on the day the bill appears on the Special Order Calendar in the Calendar of the House, or 2 hours before session is scheduled to convene on the day the bill appears on the Special Order Calendar of the House. Amendments to main floor amendments, substitute amendments for main floor amendments, and amendments to substitute amendments must be approved for filing not later than 1



hour after the applicable main floor amendment deadline."

After the 55th day (March 8) of a regular session, no House bills on second reading may be taken up and considered by the House.

- March 12, 2026 After the 58th day (March 11) of a regular session, the House may consider only: Returning Messages, Conference Reports, and Concurrent Resolutions
- March 13, 2026 60th day – Last day of Regular Session

Contact Information

For more information, or if we can be of assistance, please contact Brandon Wagner at WagnerB@hcf.gov, and (813) 276-2640 or (813) 777-7232.

