

GRAYROBINSON

MARION COUNTY

2024 Legislative Session Final Report

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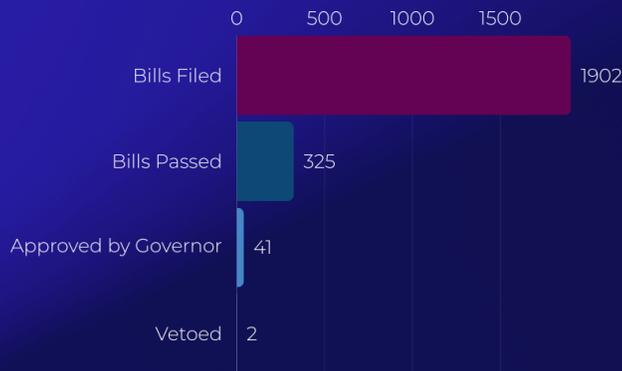
**Please Note: The General Appropriations Act, HB 5001, has not been signed by Governor DeSantis, and individual projects can be vetoed. We will continue to work with the Governor's office to ensure final approval of the projects.*

BUDGET

HB 5001, General Appropriations Act

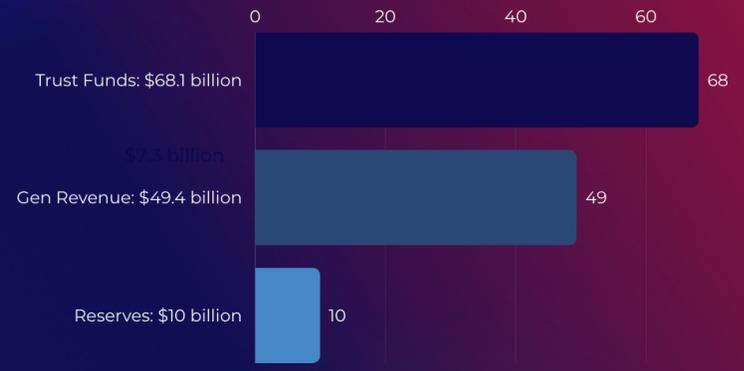
2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION *By the Numbers*

BILL ACTIONS*



*As of March 25, 2024

TOTAL BUDGET: \$117.46 BILLION

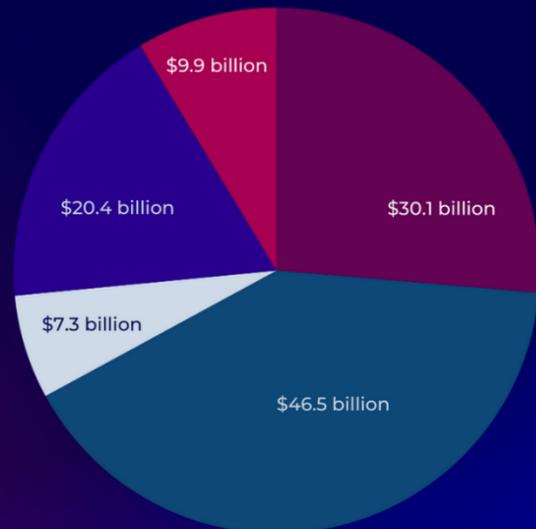


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2024 BUDGET *Breakdown*

TOTAL BUDGET \$117.46 BILLION

- 41% Health and Human Services
- 26% Education
- 18% Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development
- 9% Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
- 6% Criminal and Civil Justice



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THE HIGHLIGHTS

\$46.5 BILLION

*Health and
Human Services*

SB 7016 - LIVE HEALTHY INITIATIVE \$717.1 MILLION

- Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - **\$245.7 million**
- Increasing Graduate Medical Education Residence Slots - **\$150 million**
- Statewide Expansion of the Telehealth Minority Maternity Care Program - **\$23.4 million**
- Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical and Dental Education - **\$38 million**



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THE HIGHLIGHTS



*Criminal and
Civil Justice*

\$7.3 BILLION

- Correctional Facilities Capital Improvement - **\$100 million**
- Forensic Backlog Reduction - **\$1.3 million**
- Purchase of Body Armor for Local Law Enforcement - **\$2 million**

\$30.1 BILLION

- State University System **\$6.8 billion**
- Florida College System **\$2.4 billion**
- Public Schools/K12 FEFP **\$28.4 billion**
- Early Learning Services **\$1.7 billion**

Education



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THE HIGHLIGHTS

\$20.4 BILLION

SB 328 - FLORIDA HOMETOWN HERO PROGRAM - \$100 MILLION

Department of Commerce

- Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program - **\$17 million**
- Florida Job Growth Grant Funding - **\$75 million**
- Fully funds Live Local
 - State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program - **\$174 million**
 - Affordable Housing (SAIL) Program - **\$84 million**
- VISIT FLORIDA - **\$80 million**

Department of Transportation

- Transportation Work Program - **\$13.98 billion**
- Transportation Disadvantaged - **\$3 million**

*Transportation,
Tourism & Economic
Development*



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THE HIGHLIGHTS

*Agriculture,
Environment &
General Government*

\$9.9 BILLION

SB 1638 - ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Land Acquisition - **\$100 million**
- Land Management - **\$100 million**
- Resilient Florida Grant Program - **\$100 million**
- Water Quality Grant Program - **\$79 million**

- Rural and Family Lands Protection Program - **\$100 million**
- Wastewater Grant Program - **\$135 million**
- Indian River Lagoon WQI - **\$75 million**
- Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern - **\$20 million**
- Florida Communities Trust (FCT) - **\$15 million**
- Water projects - **\$410.4 million**

FLORIDA FOREVER PROGRAMS AND LAND ACQUISITION - \$528.6 MILLION

- Division of State Lands - **\$100 million**
- Florida Recreational Development Assistance Grants - **\$14.3 million**



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MARION COUNTY PROJECTS

LOWELL AREA MUNICIPAL DRINKING WATER PROJECT

HB 5001, specific appropriation 1732A

Funded at \$3,500,000

Sponsored by Representative Payne and Senator Perry

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS- NW 49TH STREET

HB 5001, specific appropriation 2069A

Funded at \$1,500,000

Sponsored by Representative Chamberlin and Senator Perry

LEGISLATION

General Government/Taxation: PASSED



ONLINE ACCESS TO MATERIALS HARMFUL TO MINORS - HB 3 (TRAMONT)

Passed the legislature with concurred amendments; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Related to social media platforms that use certain addictive features that have a certain number of daily active users younger than 16 years of age who spend 2 hours or more on the platform a day, the bill requires such platforms to:

- For minors under 14 years of age:
 - Prohibit such a minor from entering into a contract with the platform to become an account holder.
 - Terminate any existing account that the platform knows or has reason to believe is held by an account holder younger than 14 years of age.
- For minors 14 or 15 years of age:
 - Prohibit such a minor from entering into a contract with a platform to become an account holder unless there is parental consent.
 - Terminate any existing account that the platform knows or has reason to believe is held by an account holder 14 or 15 years of age unless there is parental consent.
 - However, if a court enjoins the provisions requiring parental consent for accounts for minors 14 or 15 years of age, the bill severs such provisions and instead requires a prohibition on such accounts and termination of any such existing account, regardless of parental consent.
- Allow an account holder younger than 16 years of age or a confirmed parent or guardian of such an account holder to request to terminate the account.
- Permanently delete all personal information held by the social media platform relating to a terminated account unless there are legal requirements to maintain such information.

The bill requires a commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on a website or application if the website or application contains a substantial portion of material harmful to minors, to verify that the age of a person attempting to access the material is 18 years of age or older and prevent access to the material by a person younger than 18 years of age. Commercial entities must use either an anonymous method performed by a third party or a standard method chosen by the entity to verify age.

The bill provides that if a social media platform or a commercial entity violates the applicable requirements for certain minor users, it is actionable under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practice Act solely by the Department of Legal Affairs. The bill also provides a private cause of action against a social media platform and a commercial entity.



EMPLOYMENT AND CURFEW OF MINORS - HB 49 (CHANEY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill makes the following changes to hours and timeframes relating to the employment of minors:

- Clarifies that minors 15 years old or younger may not work more than 15 hours in any one week when school is in session.

- Provides that minors 16 and 17 years old:
 - May only work between 6:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. when school is scheduled the following day.
 - May not work for more than 8 hours on any one day when school is scheduled the following day, except when the day of work is on a holiday or Sunday.
 - May work for more than 30 hours per week when the minor's parent or custodian, the school superintendent, or his or her designee waives the limitation on a form prescribed by DBPR and provided to the minor's employer.
- Provides that minors 15 years of age or younger, instead of 17 years of age or younger, may not work more than:
 - 6 consecutive days in any one week.
 - 4 hours continuously without an interval of at least 30 minutes for a meal period.
- Provides that minors 16 and 17 years of age who work for 8 hours or more in any one day may not work for more than 4 hours continuously without an interval of at least 30 minutes for a meal period.
- Provides that the work restrictions do not apply to:
 - Minors enrolled in an educational institution who qualify on a hardship basis.
 - Minors 16 and 17 years old who are in a home education program or are enrolled in an approved virtual instruction program in which the minor is separated from the teacher by time only.
 - Minors in domestic service in private homes or employed by their parents.
- Clarifies that the DBPR is authorized to grant a waiver of these restrictions.
- Clarifies that an employer who requires, schedules, or otherwise causes a minor to be employed, permitted, or suffered to work in violation of these provisions commits a violation of the law, punishable as provided in s. 450.141, F.S.



IMPEDING, THREATENING, OR HARASSING FIRST RESPONDERS – SB 184 (AVILA)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill creates a new statute that criminalizes approaching first responders with specified intent after being warned not to.

- Defines "first responder" to include law enforcement officers, correctional probation officers, firefighters, and emergency medical care providers.
- Defines "harass" as intentionally causing substantial emotional distress to a first responder without a legitimate purpose.
- Prohibits individuals from knowingly and willfully approaching or remaining within 25 feet of a first responder after a verbal warning with the intent to impede, threaten physical harm, or harass.
- Establishes violations of this prohibition as a misdemeanor of the second degree, subject to applicable penalties.



PUBLIC RECORDS/COUNTY AND CITY ATTORNEYS - HB 103 (ARRINGTON)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Provides an exemption from public records requirements for the personal identifying and location information of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys. As well as the names, personal identity, and location information of spouses

and children of such attorneys. Provides for future legislative review and repeal. Includes a provision detailing that this exemption does not apply to individuals who qualify as candidates for election to public office.



TAX COLLECTIONS AND SALES - HB 113 (MONEY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill revises tax collections and sales processes, focusing on processing fees, report content changes, and tax deed application interest calculations. It eliminates a \$10 processing fee for each partial payment of current year taxes; updates requirements for the Errors and Insolvencies report to include federal bankruptcies, properties with taxes below the minimum tax bill, and properties available for taxes, while specifying the report may be electronic, and adjusts the interest calculation for canceled tax deed applications to reflect the original bid rate of the tax certificate, including all tax years paid and associated costs.



CONTINUING CONTRACTS - HB 149 (ALVAREZ)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Raises the maximum estimated construction cost for projects under a continuing contract covered by the CCNA from \$4 million to \$7.5 million. Requires the Department of Management Services to adjust this maximum amount annually starting July 1, 2025, based on the change in the June-to-June Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. Amends the definition of "continuing contract" to include the updated maximum dollar value and the requirement for annual adjustments and publication.



FLORIDA RETIREMENT SYSTEM - HB 151 (CABRERA)

Passed the legislature by Conference; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Authorizes certain retirees to be reemployed while still receiving retirement benefits, with restrictions.

- Allows retirees of the Florida Retirement System to be employed by non-participating employers without affecting their retirement benefits.
- Requires a 6 or 12-month waiting period before retirees can receive both a salary and retirement benefits from participating employers, depending on the retirement or termination date.
- Stipulates that reemployed retirees cannot renew membership in the Florida Retirement System but must instead pay into it as if they were employers.
- Exempts retirees reemployed as school resource officers from the waiting period to receive both a salary and retirement benefits.
- Prohibits new participants in the Florida Retirement System Preservation of Benefits Plan from July 1, 2026.
- Adjusts employer contribution rates to the Florida Retirement System to address unfunded actuarial liabilities.
- Aligns provisions with changes by conforming cross-references and adjusting reemployment policies.



TOWING AND STORAGE – HB 179 (BELL)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill makes the following changes to the laws relating to towing-storage operators:

- Requires counties, cities, and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to post their respective maximum towing and storage rates online and to establish a process for investigating and resolving complaints regarding fees charged in excess of such rates.

- Specifies the existing fees that a towing-storage operator may charge for specified services.
- Clarifies when the process provided in current law for law enforcement’s search for information on a towed vehicle or vessel may be utilized.
- Modifies timelines relating to the sending of a notice of lien by a towing-storage operator.
- Increases the minimum number of days that must pass before an unclaimed newer model vehicle or vessel may be sold.
- Lowers the number of days over which a towing-storage operator may not charge a person for storage if the towing-storage operator failed to provide notice to a lender or other lienholder on a vehicle or vessel.
- Specifies documents that may be presented as evidence of a person’s interest in a vehicle or vessel.
- Amends provisions relating to inspection or release of a vehicle, vessel, or personal property.
- Amends provisions relating to challenging a wrongful taking or withholding of a vehicle or vessel and relating to posting a bond for the release of the vehicle or vessel.
- Increases the minimum number of days that must pass from the notice of the public sale to the date of the public sale.
- Replaces the requirement that notice of the public sale be made in a newspaper of general circulation with the requirement that notice of the public sale be made on the publicly available website maintained by an approved third-party service.
- Requires a towing-storage operator to accept specified forms of payment methods.
- Provides requirements for a towing-storage operator’s record retention, rate sheet, and itemized invoice.
- Authorizes a towing-storage operator to enter a vehicle or vessel for purposes of recovering, removing, or storing such vehicle or vessel.
- Prohibits FHP from excluding a wrecker operator from the wrecker operator system based solely on a prior felony conviction unless such conviction is for a forcible felony, for theft of a motor vehicle, or is related to operating a chop shop.
- Requires an investigating agency or other specified persons to take possession within 30 days of a vehicle stored at a wrecker operator’s facility.



BUILDING REGULATIONS - HB 267 (ESPOSITO)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

A bill relating to easing regulations and timelines for building permit applications and inspections and revises requirements for certification as a building code inspector or plans examiner:

- Requires a local government to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a complete and sufficient permit application within the following timeframes:
 - 30 business days for applicants using local government review for certain structures less than 7,500 square feet, previously set at 120 days.
 - 60 days for the following applicants using local government review, previously set at 120 days:
 - Certain structures more than 7,500 square feet
 - Signs
 - Nonresidential buildings that are less than 25,000 square feet
 - Multifamily residential, not exceeding 50 units
 - Site-plan approvals and subdivision plats not requiring public hearing or notice
 - Lot grading and site alteration

- 12 business days for applicants for a permit under an already-approved master plan permit, currently dependent on the local program, or 30 days for single-family residential dwellings.
- 10 business days for applicants for a single-family residential dwelling for a property owner who participates in a Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery program, previously set at 15 days.
- 10 business days for applicants using an engineer or architect private provider who affixes his or her professional seal, previously set at 120 days.
- Requires a local government to determine if a building permit application is complete within 5 business days of receiving the application, previously set at 10 days.
- Provides an exception to the fee reduction provision when a delay is caused by the applicant, by a force majeure, or other extraordinary circumstance.
- Requires local governments to create auditing standards for private providers before performing an audit of a private provider.
- Requires the Florida Building Commission (Commission) to provide an exception relating to sealed drawings for replacement windows, doors, and garages for one-family and two-family homes.
- Provides that completing an internship program for residential building inspectors is a pathway to licensure as a residential building inspector.
- Provides that the Commission must review certain standards for unvented attics before December 31, 2024, and that certain standards will be effectively related to such attics on July 1, 2025.



INTENTIONAL DAMAGE TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE – HB 275 (CANADY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Introduces penalties for tampering with, trespassing on, and unauthorized electronic access to critical infrastructure. Defines "critical infrastructure" as various significant assets and facilities, including energy, manufacturing, communications, and transportation infrastructures, among others. Establishes a second-degree felony charge for knowingly and intentionally tampering with critical infrastructure resulting in damage or functional impairment that incurs a repair cost of \$200 or more. Holds individuals civilly liable for thrice the damage caused by improper tampering with critical infrastructure upon conviction of the specified violation. Institutes a third-degree felony charge for trespassing on critical infrastructure after being given notice against entering or remaining. Criminalizes unauthorized electronic access or tampering with computers, systems, or networks of critical infrastructure entities, categorizing unauthorized access as a third-degree felony and tampering as a second-degree felony.



VACATION RENTALS – SB 280 (DICEGLIE)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Implements new regulations for vacation rentals, including tax collection by advertising platforms and local licensing requirements. Requires advertising platforms or operators listing vacation rentals to collect and remit specified taxes for certain transactions. Defines "advertising platform" and sets mandates for displaying license and registration numbers in advertisements. Preempts the regulation of advertising platforms to the state, authorizes local governments to adopt registration programs for vacation rentals, and outlines registration processes and requirements. Establishes criteria for local governments to fine, suspend, or revoke vacation rental registrations for non-compliance. Mandates visibility of vacation rental licenses and unique identifiers within the rental properties. Stipulates that the division must create and maintain a vacation rental information system to facilitate compliance and provide a mechanism for local governments and platforms to verify vacation rental statuses.



RELEASE OF BALLOONS – HB 321 (CHANEY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill revises the penalties for intentionally releasing balloons by specifying that a person commits littering if they intentionally release, organize the release of, or intentionally cause to be released balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. Thus, the person is subject to the Florida Litter Law penalties. The bill specifies that a person who is six years of age or younger and who intentionally releases, organizes the release of, or intentionally causes the release of a balloon does not commit a noncriminal littering infraction and is not subject to penalties. The bill removes the exemption for balloons that have been determined by FWC rules to be biodegradable or photodegradable. The bill also removes the ability of a citizen of a county to petition a circuit court to enjoin the release of 10 or more balloons.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING – SB 328 (CALATAYUD)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor

- Streamlines affordable housing development by amending various Florida statutes to provide more flexibility regarding zoning, density, and parking requirements for affordable housing projects.
- Authorizes multifamily and mixed-use residential developments in areas zoned for commercial, industrial, or mixed-use if at least 40 percent of units are affordable.
- Prohibits counties and municipalities from requiring zoning changes or land use amendments for such developments and from restricting the density, floor area ratio, or height of these developments below certain thresholds.
- Allows for administrative approval of developments meeting affordability and zoning criteria, except when located near military installations.
- Requires counties and municipalities to maintain a policy for administrative approvals on their websites and to consider reducing or eliminating parking requirements for developments near major transportation hubs or within transit-oriented developments.
- Mandates mixed-use residential developments within designated transit-oriented areas to comply with specific requirements, except for use, height, density, floor area ratio, and parking.
- Provides applicants with an opportunity to submit revised applications or notices to account for changes made by the act.
- Updates the definition of "newly constructed" for affordable housing property exemptions and revises criteria for multifamily projects to receive ad valorem property tax exemptions.
- Specifies conditions under which developments can be treated as conforming or nonconforming uses.
- Excludes certain airport-impacted areas from these provisions and revises the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's powers to preclude applicants from programs under certain conditions.
- Appropriates \$100 million to the State Housing Trust Fund for the Florida Hometown Hero Program.



EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS – HB 433 (ESPOSITO)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Prohibits political subdivisions from enacting wage or employment benefit requirements beyond state or federal mandates.

- Specifically, the bill prohibits political subdivisions from:

- Requiring an employer, including an employer contracting with the political subdivision, to meet or provide heat exposure requirements not otherwise required under state or federal law.
 - Giving preference, or considering or seeking information, in a competitive solicitation to an employer based on the employer's heat exposure requirements.
 - Seeking to control or affect the wages or employment benefits provided by its vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with it through its purchasing or contracting procedures.
 - Using evaluation factors, qualification of bidders, or otherwise awarding preferences on the basis of wages or employment benefits provided by its vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with the political subdivision.
- The bill removes the ability of local governments to require a minimum wage for certain employees under the terms of a contract and provides that the bill's revisions to Florida's wage and employment benefits law do not impair any contract entered into before September 30, 2026.
 - The bill prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, order, rule, policy, or contract requirement regulating scheduling, including predictive scheduling, by a private employer except as expressly authorized or required by state or federal law, rule, or regulation, or pursuant to federal grant requirements.

**ALTERNATIVE MOBILITY FUNDING SYSTEM – HB 479 (ROBINSON)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

- Amends Florida statutes to revise transportation and development funding systems, including impact fee calculations and requirements for alternative transportation systems.
- Adds definitions for "mobility fee" and "mobility plan" to emphasize a localized and plan-based approach for transportation system improvements.
- Requires local governments to allow developments to proceed after contributing or constructing their share of required improvements, considering the project's transportation impacts fully mitigated.
- Mandates local governments adopting alternative transportation systems to ensure new developments are not responsible for funding existing transportation deficiencies.
- Stipulates that counties and municipalities charging fees for transportation impacts on new developments must create and execute interlocal agreements detailing coordination and revenue distribution methods.
- Outlines requirements for impact fee calculations, ensuring they are based on the most recent and localized data, and mandates credits for prior contributions toward public facilities.
- Guarantees holders of impact fee credits full benefit of prepaid balances when local governments transition to alternative transportation systems.

**COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS – HB 601 (DUGGAN)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill amends s. 112.533, F.S., to provide that it is the intent of the Legislature to make the process for receiving, processing, and investigating complaints against law enforcement officers and correctional officers, and the rights and privileges provided to such officers while under investigation, apply uniformly throughout the state and its political subdivisions. The bill prohibits a political subdivision from adopting or attempting to enforce any ordinance related to:

- The receipt, processing, or investigation of complaints of misconduct by law enforcement officers or correctional officers, except as expressly provided in s. 112.533, F.S.; or
- Civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies' investigations of complaints of misconduct by law enforcement officers or correctional officers.

Under the bill, any COA that is currently performing such oversight functions related to the investigation of complaints of misconduct is prohibited from continuing to do so after July 1, 2024. The bill amends ss. 30.61 and 166.0486, F.S., to authorize a sheriff or a chief of a municipal police department, respectively, to establish a civilian oversight board to review the policies and procedures of his or her office or department and its subdivisions. The bill requires such a civilian oversight board to be composed of at least three and up to seven members appointed by the sheriff or chief of police, one of which must be a retired law enforcement officer. The bill amends s. 145.071, F.S., to increase the base salary for each county sheriff by \$5,000.



PROPERTY RIGHTS - HB 621 (STEELE)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill creates s. 82.036, F.S., to create a limited process for the removal of unauthorized persons from residential real property. Under this new process, a property owner or his or her authorized agent may file a verified complaint with the sheriff in the county in which the property is located for the immediate removal of such unauthorized persons. Upon verification of the identity of the person filing the complaint and verification of the person's right to possess the real property, the sheriff must serve notice to the unlawful occupants to immediately vacate the property. The bill allows the sheriff to charge a fee for this service as well as a reasonable hourly rate if the property owner requests the sheriff's assistance in keeping the peace while changing the locks and removing the unlawful occupant's personal property from the residence.

The bill provides immunity from liability to the sheriff for any loss, destruction, or damage to property. Further, the bill provides the lawful property owner immunity from liability for any loss, destruction, or damage to personal property unless the removal was wrongful. The bill creates a civil cause of action for wrongful removal and authorizes a wrongfully removed party to collect damages, court costs, and attorney fees, where appropriate. The bill also creates the following crimes:

- Unlawfully detaining or trespassing upon a residential dwelling and intentionally causing at least \$1,000 in damage to such dwelling is a second-degree felony.
- Using a false document purporting to be a valid lease or deed is a first-degree misdemeanor.
- Fraudulently listing for sale, renting, or leasing residential property without possessing an ownership right to or leasehold interest in the property is a first-degree felony.



UNITED STATES PRODUCED IRON AND STEEL – SB 674 (BOYD)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Mandates the inclusion of United States-produced iron and steel in public works projects with specific exceptions.

- Defines key terms including "governmental entity," "iron or steel product," "manufacturing process," "produced in the United States," and "public works project."
- Requires contracts for public works projects to ensure any iron or steel products used are produced in the United States.

- Allows exemptions if U.S.-produced iron or steel is not sufficiently available, would increase project costs by over 20%, or if adherence to this requirement is against the public interest.
- Authorizes minimal use of foreign steel and iron materials under certain conditions where the cost does not exceed one-tenth of 1 percent of the total contract cost or \$2,500, whichever is greater.
- Exempts electrical components and related equipment from the U.S.-produced iron and steel requirement.
- Ensures compatibility with international agreements.
- Charges the Department of Management Services with developing implementation rules.
- Specifies non-applicability to Department of Transportation contracts subject to Buy America requirements.



EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS – SB 812 (INGOGLIA)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Streamlines the process for issuing residential building permits in Florida, aiming to expedite building permit approvals before a final plat is recorded.

- Mandates local governing bodies to implement a program to accelerate residential building permit issuance, with a requirement to issue up to 50% of requested permits by October 1, 2024, and up to 75% by December 31, 2027.
- Specifies that the accelerated process should include a two-step application for preliminary plat adoption and a master building permit process valid for up to three years.
- Allows applicants to employ private providers to hasten the building permit application process upon preliminary plat approval.
- Instructs local governments to create a registry of at least three qualified contractors for application review, ensuring contractors do not have conflicts of interest with applicants.
- Permits local governments to issue addresses and temporary parcel IDs based on application plat metes and bounds.
- Clarifies conditions under which building permits must be issued and establishes an applicant's right to sell residential structures before final plat approval and recording.
- Protects applicants' vested rights to an approved preliminary plat, prohibiting substantive changes without consent.
- Requires applicants to indemnify local governments, their bodies, employees, and agents from liabilities relating to the construction within the residential subdivision or community.



PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS – HB 705 (SHOAF)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Expands the definition of "public works project" and revises the applicability of prohibitions on restrictive bidding practices by the state or its political subdivisions.

- Defines "public works project" as an activity paid for with local or state funds involving construction, maintenance, or improvement of various facilities owned by any political subdivision.
- Excludes services incidental to the public works project, such as security, janitorial, landscaping, maintenance, transportation services, and others that do not require a construction contracting license from the definition of "public works project."

- Prohibits the state or political subdivisions from preventing a contractor from participating in the bidding process based on geographic location, with an exception for projects solely funded by a county or municipality.



UNSOLICITED PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS – HB 781 (CLEMONS)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill authorizes a responsible public entity (RPE) to proceed with an unsolicited proposal for a qualifying project without engaging in a public bidding process. To do so, an RPE must hold an initial duly noticed public meeting at which the proposal is presented and affected public entities and members of the public are able to provide comment. The RPE then must hold a second duly noticed public meeting at which the RPE determines that the proposal is in the public's interest based on specified factors.

The bill provides that an RPE is authorized, but no longer required, to publish notice in the Florida Administrative Register (FAR) and a newspaper of general circulation and mail a copy to each affected local government in the affected area if the RPE intends to execute a comprehensive agreement for a project arising from an unsolicited proposal. If the RPE decides to proceed with an unsolicited proposal without engaging in the public bidding process, the RPE must publish a report that provides the public interest determination and specifically detailed information in the FAR for at least seven days.

The bill no longer requires the RPE to determine that an unsolicited proposed project will be owned by the RPE. The RPE will only be required to determine whether the proposed project is in the public's best interest or will be conveyed to the RPE upon completion and payment if the proposal is solicited.



HOUSING FOR AGRICULTURAL WORKERS - SB 1082 (COLLINS)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Amends Florida Statutes, defining "housing site" and "legally verified agricultural worker," and setting rules for agricultural worker housing construction on bona fide farm agricultural land.

- Defines "housing site" to include living quarters, parking, common areas, and related structures.
- Defines "legally verified agricultural worker" based on lawful presence in the U.S., verified work authorization, agricultural employment, and continued lawful presence.
- Prohibits governmental entities from inhibiting the construction of housing for legally verified agricultural workers on agricultural land while allowing local governments to adopt less restrictive land regulations.
- Requires housing units to meet various criteria, including building standards, safety, and maintenance standards, spacing, size limitations, and landscaping or screening requirements.
- Mandates local ordinances comply with state and federal regulations for migrant farmworker housing.
- Requires property owners to maintain permit records for at least three years and specifies conditions under which housing units must be suspended or removed.
- Exempts existing housing sites in use before July 1, 2024, from new requirements unless they are enlarged or renovated but require regular maintenance and health, safety, and habitability standards compliance.



INACTIVE SPECIAL DISTRICTS – HB 7011 (LOCAL ADMIN., FEDERAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL DISTRICTS SUBCOMMITTEE)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Dissolves certain inactive special districts in Florida and repeals their enabling laws, including the Sunny Isles Reclamation and Water Control Board.

- Dissolves the Calhoun County Transportation Authority and repeals Chapter 76-341, Laws of Florida.
- Dissolves the Dead Lakes Water Management District and repeals Chapter 57-1115, Laws of Florida.
- Dissolves the Highland View Water and Sewer District and repeals Chapters 61-2212 and 85-417, Laws of Florida.
- Dissolves the West Orange Airport Authority and repeals Chapters 99-482 and 2007-305, Laws of Florida.
- Repeals Decree 66C-7402, dissolving the Sunny Isles Reclamation and Water Control Board, notwithstanding section 189.072(3), Florida Statutes.



SPECIAL DISTRICTS – HB 7013 (LOCAL ADMIN., FEDERAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL DISTRICTS SUBCOMMITTEE)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Restricts the formation of new neighborhood improvement districts and sets term limits for members of independent special district governing bodies.

- Prohibits the creation of new safe neighborhood improvement districts after July 1, 2024, allowing existing ones to continue operating.
- Limits the term of office for elected members of independent special district governing bodies to no more than 12 consecutive years, exempting community development districts established under chapter 190 or districts created by a special act granting additional powers.
- Mandates that independent special districts' boundaries can only be changed by general law or special act, with an exception for those established under chapter 190.
- Introduces additional criteria for declaring a special district inactive, including lack of financial activity for five years and mandates providing notice and a 30-day objection period before declaring a district inactive.
- Requires special districts to establish and publish annual performance measures and mandates the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct performance reviews.
- Mandates independent special fire control districts to annually report firefighter training and certification to the Division of State Fire Marshal.
- Specifies that mosquito control district boundaries can only be altered by a special act and lowers the maximum millage rate for such districts with an option for an increase upon voter approval.
- Obliges special districts to file tentative work plans and budgets, with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reporting failures to submit required information to the Department of Commerce.



MITIGATION - SB 1532 (BRODEUR)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill revises the framework for water quality enhancement and mitigation banking in Florida by updating definitions, requirements, and processes.

- Redefines "applicant" to include both governmental and private entities purchasing water quality enhancement credits

- expands the purposes for which water quality enhancement credits can be sold and used to include not only meeting state water quality standards but also environmental resource permit performance standards
- clarifies that water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection must authorize the sale and use of water quality enhancement credits
- establishes conditions under which basins are considered credit-deficient and outlines measures for establishing mitigation banks on lands owned by local governments in such basins
- prohibits the use of public funds for certain financial assurances related to the establishment and long-term management of mitigation banks.

It also sets requirements for determining the amount of credits awarded to these mitigation banks, ensuring they don't receive undue advantages based on location; confirms credit deficiency at the time a use agreement for a mitigation bank is executed, allowing applications to proceed even if the deficiency is later relieved; and authorizes the department to coordinate with water management districts to adopt rules for the implementation of these provisions.



CLERKS OF COURT – HB 1077 (BOTANA)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill amends a number of statutes that increase revenue for clerks through the redistribution of specified service charges and fees. Specifically, the bill:

- Revises the remittance of money recovered by state attorneys into specific trust funds.
- Updates the fund into which certain payments received by public defenders or regional counsels must be deposited.
- Revises the entity funding the capital collateral regional counsel.
- Updates the list of court-related functions that clerks may fund from filing fees, service charges, court costs, and fines.
- Changes the fund into which certain filing fees are deposited.
- Removes the requirement for state attorneys to publish an annual report on their affirmative action program.
- Authorizes clerks of the circuit court to invest specified funds in an interest-bearing account and dictates the use of earned interest.
- Changes the definition of "state agency" for specific purposes.
- Revises the distribution of certain administrative fees.
- Creates a pilot program for driver license reinstatement in Miami-Dade County.
- Revises the funds into which certain money received by state attorneys must be deposited.



FOOD DELIVERY PLATFORMS – SB 676 (BRADLEY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Summarizes new requirements and prohibitions for food delivery platforms regarding their operations and interactions with food service establishments and consumers.

- Prohibits food delivery platforms from using food service establishment menus or arranging delivery or pickup without express consent.
- Requires platforms to disclose transaction costs to consumers, including the food purchase price, fees, and taxes.

- Mandates platforms to provide consumers with the delivery date, address, order delivery confirmation, and a way to express concerns.
- Requires platforms to offer food service establishments a method to contact consumers and respond to reviews by July 1, 2025.
- Stipulates that food delivery platforms remove a food service listing within 10 days upon request unless an agreement states otherwise.
- Forbids platforms from altering a food service establishment's pricing without an agreement.
- Dictates requirements for agreements between platforms and food service establishments, including fee disclosure and dispute resolution policies.
- Prohibits agreements that require food service establishments to indemnify the platform for damages caused by the platform's actions.
- Authorizes the Division of Hotels and Restaurants to issue cease and desist notices for violations and impose civil penalties of up to \$1,000 per offense.
- Preempts the regulation of food delivery platforms to the state, prohibiting local jurisdictions from imposing their own regulations.



OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING - SB 1142 (HOOPER)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Extends the deadlines for certain occupational licensing requirements and introduces provisions for the registration and regulation of specialty contractors.

- Extends the expiration date of local government licensing of occupations to July 1, 2025.
- Requires the Construction Industry Licensing Board to establish certified specialty contractor categories for voluntary licensure by July 1, 2025.
- Mandates the board issue registrations to eligible applicants engaging as contractors within specified local jurisdictions without requiring an examination.
- Specifies the conditions under which applicants are eligible for these registrations, including holding a certificate of registration or local license in a defined contractor category during 2021, 2022, or 2023.
- Holds the board responsible for disciplining licensees issued a registration and requires it to make licensure and disciplinary information available through an automated information system.
- Sets the same fees for applications, registration, renewal, and record-keeping for applicants seeking registration under this provision as established by the board, with the department to provide license, renewal, and cancellation notices.



LOCAL REGULATION OF NONCONFORMING AND UNSAFE STRUCTURES – SB 1526 (AVILA)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill establishes the "Resiliency and Safe Structures Act" aimed at regulating the demolition and redevelopment of certain nonconforming or unsafe structures. It defines key terms including "coastal construction control line," "local government," "nonconforming structure," and "replacement structure;" specifies that the Act applies to structures on properties within certain coastal zones, excluding historic places, single-family homes, certain historic district structures or buildings, and structures on barrier islands in small municipalities; prohibits local governments from restricting the demolition of qualifying structures and buildings unless needed for public safety. Allows local governments to review demolition permit applications only for compliance with the Florida Building

Code, Florida Fire Prevention Code, and Life Safety Code, or their local amendments; and bars local governments from imposing additional local land development regulations or public hearings on demolition permit applicants.

The bill also mandates local governments to authorize the development of replacement structures to the maximum height and size permitted by local regulations for a similarly situated parcel within the same zoning district. It prevents local governments from limiting the development potential of replacement structures or imposing additional regulations, building requirements, and public hearings not applicable to similarly situated vacant parcels. Requires development applications for replacement structures to be processed in accordance with local regulations without imposing additional hearings or processes not applicable to similar vacant parcels. Preempts local government laws that limit demolition or development of replacement structures in contradiction to the Act's provisions.

 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS – SB 1628 (COLLINS)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill mandates that bond referenda above \$500 million by counties, districts, or municipalities must occur during general elections and updates provisions for the enactment of county and municipal ordinances.

- Requires bond referenda involving issues greater than \$500 million by counties, districts, or municipalities to be held at general elections.
- If a bond referendum coincides with a regularly scheduled election, the concerned body pays only its pro rata share of directly related election costs.
- Specifies exceptions to certain procedures for the enactment or adoption of county and municipal ordinances, including those needed for compliance with laws, relating to debt, budgets, implementing agreements, emergency situations, procurement, and development orders or permits.
- Enumerates specific ordinances not subject to general enactment procedures, including those for development orders and permits as defined, comprehensive plan amendments, and other regulations initiated by private applications, plus sections related to the Florida Building and Fire Prevention Codes.

 **CYBERSECURITY – HB 1555 (GIALLOMBARDO)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The act amends the Florida Statutes to redefine the structure, mission, and goals of the Florida Center for Cybersecurity, now also referred to as "Cyber Florida," under the University of South Florida's leadership.

- Allows "Cyber Florida" to advance education, research, and development initiatives in cybersecurity, with a secondary focus on community engagement and awareness.
- Aims to position Florida as a leader in cybersecurity, facilitating job creation in the state's industry through partnerships with the private and military sectors.
- Encourages collaboration with state businesses and higher education entities for sharing cybersecurity resources and training.
- Seeks research and development agreements with military installations and contractors to support homeland cybersecurity defense.
- Aims to attract cybersecurity companies to Florida, focusing on sectors like defense, finance, health care, transportation, and utilities.

- Authorizes conducting research and creating new technologies for military and civilian uses, with potential for transfer to the private sector.
- Authorizes, upon request, assistance to state agencies on cybersecurity training and improving the cybersecurity of state and local government technology platforms.

 **ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT TO HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION VALUE – HB 7017 (WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been heard by the Governor.

Proposes an amendment requiring annual inflation adjustments to the value of certain homestead exemptions. Exempts from taxation the first \$25,000 in assessed value of real estate used as the owner's permanent residence, with an added exemption for values greater than \$50,000 and up to \$75,000 for non-school district levies. Mandates that the \$25,000 exemption value for non-school district levies be annually adjusted based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers starting January 1 of each year, if the CPI change is positive. Specifies that any homestead exemption added to the constitution after January 1, 2025, for non-school district levies, will also be subject to annual CPI adjustments. Allows a discount on ad valorem taxes for veterans aged 65 or older with combat-related, service-connected disabilities, transferable to a surviving spouse under certain conditions. Offers provisions for the Legislature to grant additional homestead tax exemptions and ad valorem tax relief under specified conditions to renters, certain senior citizens, the surviving spouse of a veteran or first responder who died in the line of duty, and permanently disabled first responders.

 **EXEMPTION OF HOMESTEADS – HB 7019 (WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Requires an annual adjustment to the \$25,000 additional homestead exemption value for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

- Mandates the Legislature to allocate funds starting in fiscal year 2025-2026 to compensate fiscally constrained counties for ad valorem tax revenue reductions due to constitutional amendments approved in the November 2024 election.
- Specifies that these funds are to be distributed in January of each fiscal year according to each county's share of the total reduction in ad valorem tax revenue.
- Requires fiscally constrained counties to apply to the Department of Revenue for fund distribution by November 15 of each year, providing documentation of estimated revenue reduction.
- Details that a county's reduction in ad valorem tax revenue will be calculated as 95 percent of the estimated reduction in taxable value multiplied by the lesser of the 2024 millage rate or the current year's applicable millage rate.
- Notes that unclaimed funds due to failure to apply will revert to the originating fund.
- Authorizes the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules for administering this act.
- Clarifies that the amendments and the creation of this act apply first to the 2025 tax roll and that its effect is contingent on the approval of a related constitutional amendment.

**CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT LIABILITY – HB 473 (GIALLOMBARDO)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill provides that a county or municipality that substantially complies with the cybersecurity training, standards, and notification protocols under current law or any other political subdivision of the state that complies with these standards and protocols on a voluntary basis, is not liable in connection with a cybersecurity incident. The bill also provides that a covered entity or third-party agent that acquires, maintains, stores, processes, or uses personal information is not liable in connection with a cybersecurity incident if the covered entity or third-party agent substantially complies with notice protocols as provided in current law as applicable, and has also adopted a cybersecurity program that substantially aligns with the current version of any standards, guidelines, or regulations that implement any of the standards specified in the bill or with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The bill provides certain requirements for a covered entity or third-party agent to retain its liability protection. It also clarifies that the act does not establish a private cause of action, and failure to comply is not considered evidence of negligence or negligence per se. Specifies the burden of proof lies with the defendant to demonstrate substantial compliance in cybersecurity-related actions.

**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE USE IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING – HB 919 (RIZO)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill requires a political advertisement, electioneering communication, or other miscellaneous advertisements of a political nature that contains an image, a video, audio, graphic, or other digital content created in whole or in part, with the use of generative AI that appears to depict a real person performing an action that did not occur in reality and was created with intent to injure a candidate or to deceive regarding a ballot issue, to include a certain disclaimer, in addition to all other applicable disclaimers. The bill creates specific requirements for the disclaimer that are dependent upon the media used. The bill defines “generative artificial intelligence” as a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined objectives, emulate the structure and characteristics of input data in order to generate derived synthetic content, including images, videos, audio, text, and other digital content.

The bill provides that in addition to any civil penalties provided by law, a person identified pursuant to another disclaimer required for campaign finance purposes as paying for, sponsoring, or approving an advertisement or electioneering communication of a political nature that is required to include the AI disclaimer and fails to do so commits a first-degree misdemeanor.

The bill permits a complaint to be filed with the Commission if such a disclaimer is not included in the advertisement or communication. The bill subjects a person who fails to include the required disclaimer to civil penalties. Lastly, the bill requires the Commission to adopt rules to provide for expedited hearings of such complaints.

**ETHICS – SB 7014 (ETHICS AND ELECTIONS)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Increases the maximum fine for violations of specified lobbying provisions and modifies ethics disclosure requirements for attorneys.

- Increases the maximum civil penalty for violations of the constitutional prohibition against lobbying by a public officer from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

- Allows attorneys to indicate that they have a legal client meeting disclosure criterion without providing further client information, designating such clients as "Legal Client" on full and public disclosures of financial interests.
- Similar provisions apply for attorneys filing statements of financial interests, allowing them to indicate a legal client meets disclosure criteria without additional information, labeling them as "Legal Client."
- Prohibits a member of the Commission on Ethics from serving more than two full terms.
- Specifies that a complainant is liable for costs plus reasonable attorney fees for filing complaints with malicious intent against public office candidates.
- Requires allegations in complaints to the commission to be based on personal knowledge or information other than hearsay.
- Adds requirements for noncriminal complaint procedures if a political subdivision or agency adopts more stringent standards, voiding conflicting existing or future ordinances or rules.

General Government/Taxation: FAILED

ONLINE PROTECTIONS FOR MINORS – HB 1

Passed the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor on March 1.

This act aims to protect minors online by regulating social media and online content distribution, defining various terms, and establishing verification methods to prevent minors' access to harmful materials. This bill requires social media platforms to prevent minors under the age of 16 from creating new accounts and to verify the age of new account holders using either anonymous or standard age verification methods. Mandates social media platforms to terminate accounts belonging to minors under the age of 16 if identified and to delete all personal information related to terminated accounts. Authorizes the Department of Legal Affairs to enforce violations under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, with penalties up to \$50,000 per violation and provisions for punitive damages. Specifies that age verification must be done by a third party that cannot retain, share, or use personal identifying information for any purpose other than age verification. Provides exemptions for internet service providers and news-gathering organizations from certain requirements.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER TERM LIMITS - HB 19 (SALZMAN)

Withdrawn Prior to Introduction.

The bill proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the terms of county commissioners, preventing those who have served 8 consecutive years from appearing on the ballot for reelection. It introduces term limits specifically for county commissioners to enhance governance dynamism and fairness; ensures these limitations solely apply to terms starting on or after November 5, 2024, to maintain current governance stability; excludes service in terms commenced before November 5, 2024, from counting toward the new term limitation, ensuring a fair transition; mandates voter approval for the amendment to take effect, emphasizing the importance of electorate consent in constitutional changes.

REVIEW OF EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS – SB 40 (STEWART)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill requires employers to provide current employees with a copy of their employment contract upon request.

X PUBLIC RESTROOM REQUIREMENTS – SB 44 (STEWART)

Died in its second committee of reference.

Requires the Florida Building Commission to adopt certain requirements in the Florida Building Code for certain public restroom facilities newly constructed or renovated after September 30, 1992. Public restroom facilities that include a wheelchair-accessible toilet compartment or a single-user toilet room newly constructed or renovated after July 1, 2024, mandate the installation of a hook within reach range while seated on the toilet and compliance with Florida Accessibility Code for Building Construction.

X MUNICIPAL WATER AND SEWER UTILITY RATES – HB 47 (ROBINSON)

HB 47 passed its committees but died on the calendar.

Requires a municipality to charge customers receiving its utility services in another municipality the same rates, fees, and charges as it charges consumers within its own municipal boundaries under certain circumstances. Maintains that municipalities can adjust rates, fees, and charges after a public hearing, allowing all affected parties the opportunity to be heard, except when adjustments are uniformly applied across all service classes. Explicitly states that rate, fee, and charge changes for services to consumers outside the municipality shall not exceed 50% more than what is charged to their own consumers for similar services, ensuring fairness in billing practices.

X AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF QUADRIPLÉGICS - HB 53 (TANT)

Died on the House Calendar.

The bill proposes an amendment to authorize homestead property tax exemptions for surviving spouses of certain quadriplegics. It expands ad valorem tax relief to include the surviving spouse of a quadriplegic previously granted a property tax exemption for their homestead; defines parameters for granting the tax exemption, reliant on conditions such as the quadriplegic receiving the exemption at the time of death; establishes that the proposed amendment, if approved, would be self-executing without the need for further legislative action; stipulates that detailed definitions and eligibility criteria will be outlined in general law, including definitions relevant to first responders and conditions of duty, and instructs that the amendment and its provisions regarding homestead property tax exemption for surviving spouses of quadriplegics be placed on the ballot for a public vote. This bill was reported favorably by the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Local Administration, Federal Affairs, and Special Districts Subcommittee, and the House State Affairs Committee.

X TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF QUADRIPLÉGICS - HB 55 (TANT)

Died on the House Calendar.

The bill amends Florida Statutes to extend tax exemption benefits for surviving spouses of quadriplegics. It states that real estate owned and used as a homestead by any quadriplegic is exempt from taxation; allows the surviving spouse of a deceased quadriplegic, who was granted a tax exemption, to carry over this exemption under certain conditions until the spouse remarries or disposes of the property; makes it so if the surviving spouse moves, the discount from ad valorem tax can be transferred to a new residence, provided it remains the primary residence and the spouse does not remarry; and states that the Department of Revenue can adopt emergency rules to administer this act, with such rules being effective for 6 months after adoption and renewable during the adoption of permanent rules. This bill was voted favorable by the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Local Administration, Federal Affairs, and Special Districts Subcommittee, and the House State Affairs Committee.

X TERM LIMITS – HB 57 (SALZMAN)

Died on the House calendar.

Establishes term limits for county commissioners. A person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to the office of county commissioner if, by the end of his or her current term of office, the person will have served, or but for resignation would have served, in that office for 8 consecutive years. Prohibits the specified person from seeking certain offices until after a specified timeframe of 2 years. Does not supersede more restrictive term limits set by county charters. Requires counties with longer commission terms to hold a referendum election during the 2024 general election to decide on applying these terms limits. Details the referendum election procedure and ballot title and question form.

X HOMESTEAD TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT LEVIES – HB 69 (GARCIA)

Withdrawn Prior to Introduction.

The bill expands the current homestead exemption for real estate to include school district levies for properties with assessed valuations over \$50,000. It establishes that every owner maintaining a permanent residence on their own real estate, or a dependent's, is exempt from taxation up to the assessed valuation of \$25,000; extends the exemption to valuations greater than \$50,000 and up to \$75,000 for all levies, now including school district levies, contingent upon lawful establishment; maintains that no more than one exemption can be granted to any individual, family unit, or residential unit, with limits on exemption values; allows the legislature to enable counties or municipalities to offer additional exemptions to certain homeowners, including seniors with limited incomes and long-term residents over age 65, by ordinance; provides a property tax discount for disabled veterans aged 65 or older with combat-related disabilities, extending benefits to surviving spouses under certain conditions; and outlines potential ad valorem tax relief for the surviving spouses of veterans and first responders who died in service, and for permanently disabled first responders, with specific eligibility criteria.

X COMMUNITY VIOLENCE TASK FORCE – SB 98 (JONES)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill creates the Community Violence Task Force within the Florida Division of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to review system failures and causes of high crime areas and violence in urban core neighborhoods and communities.

X GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS – HB 157 (CARUSO)

Never received a committee hearing.

Authorizes governing bodies of municipalities to convene meetings and conduct official business via teleconferencing or other technological means if certain conditions are met. This bill will also provide limitations on these meetings, providing that if a state of emergency is declared, these limitations will be suspended.

X HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS FOR TOTALLY AND PERMANENTLY DISABLED FIRST RESPONDERS - HB 171 (DANIELS)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill expands homestead exemptions for totally and permanently disabled first responders by eliminating specific eligibility restrictions related to cardiac events and removing obsolete provisions. It redesignates and renumbers certain paragraphs and subsections within the statute for clarity; removes the requirement for disabilities caused by cardiac events to be connected to nonroutine stressful or strenuous physical activity within 24 hours prior to the event for eligibility; specifies documentation needed from the applicant's employer and

physician to establish eligibility for the exemption; requires the physician's certificate to attest to the applicant's total and permanent disability and inability to engage in substantially gainful occupation due to the disability; and emphasizes penal consequences for knowingly providing false information to claim the exemption.



PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF VETERANS - SB 218 (WRIGHT)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill expands property tax exemption eligibility for surviving spouses of veterans by allowing the presentation of a disability letter after the veteran's death. It authorizes surviving spouses of veterans to present a disability letter from the United States Government or Department of Veterans Affairs to the property appraiser, even if the veteran died before the letter was issued; declares such a letter as prima facie evidence of eligibility for the property tax exemption; and applies the amendment to property appraisals beginning with the 2025 tax roll.



AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION FOR NONPROFIT HOMES FOR THE AGED - SB 220 (WRIGHT)

Died in its second committee of reference.

The bill revises eligibility requirements for Florida limited partnerships applying for ad valorem tax exemption for nonprofit homes for the aged. It mandates the applicant be a corporation not for profit under chapter 617 or a Florida limited partnership with a sole general partner that is a corporation not for profit under chapter 617; expands eligibility to include entities not licensed under chapter 429 but wholly owned by a corporation not for profit under chapter 617; and requires the nonprofit corporation to have been exempt from federal income taxation as of January 1 of the year exemption from ad valorem property taxes is requested, having qualified as an exempt charitable organization under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or the corresponding section of a subsequently enacted federal revenue act. This bill was reported favorable by the Senate Community Affairs Committee.



LIMITATION ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS - HB 331 (GARCIA)

Died in the first committee of reference.

Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to remove the exception for school district levies from the restrictions on assessment increases on certain non-homestead real property. Requires agricultural land, land for conservation, and tangible personal property to be assessed for taxation based on character, use, or value, with specific conditions and definitions provided by general law. Caps annual assessment increases on homestead properties at either 3% or the Consumer Price Index change, whichever is lower, post the effective date of the amendment, with exceptions for new ownership or substantial modifications. Allows for the transfer of assessment difference benefits to a new homestead under certain conditions, with limitations on the assessed value benefit. Permits counties and municipalities to assess historic property based on character or use and allows for assessment reductions for modifications providing living quarters for elderly family members. Excludes school district levies from the existing 10% cap on annual assessment increases for residential real properties of nine units or fewer and other nonlimited real properties; all levies including school district will be subject to this cap post-amendment. Enables the legislative prohibition of considering certain property improvements for assessment purposes, aimed at enhancing wind damage resistance or installing renewable energy sources. Specifies that working waterfront properties shall be assessed based on current use, subject to legislative conditions, limitations, and definitions.

X WRECKER OPERATORS – SB 332 (BURGESS)

Died in its second committee of reference.

Requires counties and municipalities to set maximum rates for electric and alternative fuel vehicle storage, potentially higher than for gasoline/diesel vehicles. Mandates entities that order vehicle storage at wrecker facilities for evidence must take possession within 30 days of storage initiation. Allows wrecker operators to charge actual cost plus 10% for cleanup, containment, and disposal of pollution or hazardous materials from electric vehicles.

X SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY – SB 472 (BRODEUR)

Died on the Senate calendar.

Increases statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state, its agencies, and subdivisions. Limits liability for individual claims to \$300,000 and total claims from the same incident to \$500,000. Authorizes state agencies and subdivisions to settle claims exceeding these amounts without further legislative action. Prohibits insurance policies from conditioning payment on the enactment of a claim bill and prevents lobbying against agreed settlements. Specifies that liability limits applicable on the date of the claim incident apply to the claim. Mandates the Department of Financial Services to adjust liability limits every 5 years based on the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed a 3% increase. Reduces the claim presentation period to 18 months and sets specific time frames for filing suit after claim denial or deemed denial. Revises the statute of limitations for filing civil actions related to negligence, contribution, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and other specified actions. Reenacts various sections of Florida Statutes to incorporate these amendments.

X RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS – SB 480 (DICEGLIE)

Passed in the Senate, died in House messages.

Amends the Florida Statutes to authorize the Public Service Commission to establish an experimental mechanism supporting energy infrastructure investment, specifically in gas. Allows the commission to create an experimental mechanism for gas infrastructure investment, including collection, preparation, cleaning, processing, transportation, or injection of gas for pipeline distribution. Grants the commission the discretion to determine if the mechanism is reviewed annually. Defines "gas" according to the definition provided in a specific statute.

X LIMITATION ON LOCAL FEE FOR VIRTUAL OFFICES – HB 503 (FABRICIO)

Died on the House calendar.

Prohibits counties, municipalities, and local governmental entities from imposing fees on the utilization of virtual offices. Bans the adoption or maintenance of any ordinance or rule that imposes taxes, charges, fees, or other impositions on virtual offices. Defines "Tax, charge, fee, or other imposition" as any amount or in-kind payment, including user fees, privilege fees, occupancy fees, or rental fees. Defines "Virtual office" as an office providing communications and address services without dedicated office space.

X CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – SB 506 (WRIGHT)

Never received a committee hearing

Defines the term "code enforcement officer" and requires the reclassification of certain offenses committed against code enforcement officers while engaged in the performance of their duties.

**MOVABLE TINY HOMES - HB 557 (STEVENSON)**

Died in its third committee of reference.

Amends Florida Statutes to update definitions and regulations related to movable tiny homes and their construction compliance requirements. Revises the definition of "park trailer" and introduces a new classification for "movable tiny homes," specifying their size and intended use for permanent living quarters for no more than one household. Establishes requirements for the construction and inspection of movable tiny homes, mandating compliance with the Florida Building Code and certification through a sticker or documentation from a licensed professional engineer, architect, or qualified third-party inspector. Instructs the Florida Building Commission to review updates to various codes, including those pertinent to movable tiny homes, to ensure compliance and maintain eligibility for federal funding and discounts from national insurance and emergency management programs.

**LOCAL BUSINESS TAXES – HB 609 (BOTANA)**

Died on the House calendar.

Amends Florida Statutes to update local business tax regulations, incorporate compliance requirements, and revise revenue constraints. Requires the Auditor General to contact local governments not in compliance with specified statutes, demanding evidence of corrective action within specific timeframes and notifying the Legislative Auditing Committee under certain conditions. Authorizes specified entities to continue levying a business tax, prohibiting the repeal or modification of relevant ordinances after a specified date, with exceptions. Revises conditions on taxing authorities regarding the levy of a specified tax, including requirements for decreasing business taxes beginning October 1, 2024, as outlined in section 205.0535. Defines terms related to business tax reclassification and rate structure revisions, and restricts the total revenue generated from business taxes to not exceed a predefined revenue base. Requires local governments to adjust tax rates if revenue exceeds the specified base, providing mechanisms for refunding excess payments. Exempts certain municipalities and fiscally constrained counties from these provisions. Mandates filing an affidavit with audit submissions to the Auditor General, verifying compliance with section 205.0535 or outlining noncompliance and corrective actions taken. Conforms cross-references and definitions in relation to audit requirements and financial reporting.

**PUBLIC DEPOSITS – HB 611 (BOTANA)**

Died in the Senate.

Amends various provisions of Florida Statutes to include credit unions as eligible institutions for managing public deposits, align definitions, and establish conditions for credit union participation as qualified public depositories. Revises definitions to include credit unions within the scope of financial institutions eligible to manage public deposits. Adds credit unions to the list of institutions that must make financial literacy brochures from the Department of Financial Services available to consumers. Specifies that credit unions are subject to the same qualifying conditions as banks for holding public deposits, including insurance by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. Imposes specific eligibility criteria and limits for credit unions wanting to hold public deposits, including requiring a signed statement from a public depositor and setting a limit on the total amount of public deposits a credit union can hold. Specifies mutual responsibility and contingent liability among credit unions for guaranteeing public depositors against loss due to default or insolvency of other credit unions. Introduces segregation of proceeds, assessments, and administrative penalties between credit unions and other financial institutions for the purpose of protecting public deposits. Directs that credit unions must comply with provisions related to the withdrawal from collateral agreements under certain conditions, including returning all public deposits to the depositor within 10 business days of notification.

**PROHIBITED USE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKED LABOR IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS – SB 628 (SIMON)**

Never received a committee hearing.

Prohibited Use of Human Trafficked Labor in Government Contracts; Requiring certain contractors with governmental entities to provide an affidavit attesting the contractor does not use coercion for labor or services.

**ASSESSMENTS OF HOMESTEAD PROPERTY - SB 654 (GARCIA)**

Never received a committee hearing.

Proposes an amendment to revise the assessment of property with homestead exemption, affecting how such properties' values are determined for taxation, aiming for equity and fairness in property taxes. Classifies land used for agriculture, conservation, or non-commercial recreational purposes for assessment based on use. Allows tangible personal property held for sale or livestock to be valued for taxation under certain conditions or exemptions. Stipulates homestead properties to be assessed at just value as of January 1 following the amendment's effective date, with annual assessment changes not exceeding the lower of 3% or the Consumer Price Index change. Ensures no assessment exceeds just value and details assessment rules after ownership changes, additions, or improvements to homestead property. Provides mechanisms for transferring homestead assessment benefits when establishing a new homestead, with specific calculations for determining assessed value in such cases. Enables counties and municipalities to offer assessment reductions for homesteads that accommodate living quarters for elderly parents or grandparents. Specifies assessment change limits for residential real property containing nine units or fewer and real property not subject to homestead assessment limitations. Excludes from assessed value considerations improvements for wind damage resistance or installation of renewable energy devices.

**UNDERGROUND FACILITIES - SB 708 (BURTON)**

Died in its third committee of reference.

Amends procedures and penalties related to underground facilities and excavation activities. Extends the time frame within which an excavator must provide notice through the Sunshine State One-Call notification system from 2 to 3 full business days for most excavations; for excavations beneath the waters of the state, the notice period remains 10 full business days. Requires member operators who are notified of nearby excavations to mark the horizontal route of underground facilities within the revised 3 business days timeframe and to provide a positive response indicating the status of facility protection measures. Introduces noncriminal infractions for violations of specific provisions, with enhanced civil penalties for infractions involving underground facilities transporting hazardous materials. Reenacts several sections to incorporate these amendments, including definitions, exemptions to notification requirements, and low-impact marking practices, as well as procedures related to high-priority subsurface installations.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS – SB 710 (INGOGLIA)**

Never received a committee hearing.

This bill deletes provisions relating to complaint review boards and authorizes law enforcement officers and correctional officers to pursue appropriate administrative relief or file a civil action if the officer is disciplined for certain violations. Deletes the requirement that certain violations by agencies or investigators be intentional and the requirement for an agency head to initiate an investigation against an investigator.

X GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY – HB 735 (ANDRADE)

Died on third calendar reading in the House.

Implements standards of conduct for public officers and lobbyists; introduces restrictions on certain employment contracts. Defines "foreign country of concern" and prohibits accepting anything of value from such countries by specified individuals. Specifies financial disclosure requirements for mayors and elected local officials based on population thresholds. Requires registration for individuals lobbying counties, municipalities, or special districts and establishes procedures for registration cancellation and public disclosure. Prohibits counties, municipalities, and school boards from renewing or extending employment contracts of certain officials during specified timeframes without unanimous approval. Requires the submission of proposed charter amendments to the electors at the earliest election. Mandates compliance monitoring for lobbyist registration by local entities and outlines investigation procedures for non-compliance. Allows the enforcement of findings and recommendations by local chief executives or governing bodies after investigations.

X MUNICIPAL WATER OR SEWER UTILITY RATES, FEES AND CHARGES – HB 777 (BRACKETT)

Died in its second committee of reference.

The bill removes statutory authorization for municipalities to impose any surcharge for serving customers outside their municipal boundaries. It specifies that rates, fees, and charges for extraterritorial customers must be just and equitable and be based on the same factors used to fix rates, fees, and charges for customers inside the municipality's boundaries. The bill also requires municipal utilities to conduct a rate study by January 1, 2027, and every seven years thereafter.

X DEVELOP PERMITS AND ORDERS - HB 791 (ESPOSITO)

Died on the House calendar.

Requires counties and municipalities to meet specified requirements regarding minimum information necessary for certain zoning applications. Revises timeframes for processing applications for approvals of development permits or development orders and provides refund parameters in situations where county or municipality fails to meet certain timeframes.

X REEMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS – HB 853 (MCCLURE)

Died in its second committee of reference.

Authorizes retired law enforcement officers to be reemployed in specified positions; authorizes such retired law enforcement officers to receive both compensation and retirement benefits; provides that such retired law enforcement officers may not renew membership in FRS.

X TOURIST DEVELOPMENT TAX – SB 872 (STEWART)

Never received a committee hearing.

Authorizes proceeds of the tax to be used toward funding incentives for the production of films and television series by certain production companies

X DISPLAY OF FLAGS BY GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES – HB 901 (BORRERO)

Died in its second committee of reference.

Restricts governmental entities from displaying flags representing political, racial, sexual orientation, gender, or ideological viewpoints and mandates the neutral representation of political viewpoints. Defines a "governmental

entity" to include public schools, colleges, and universities. Prohibits the display of flags that represent partisan, racial, sexual orientation, gender, or political ideology viewpoints. Allows private individuals the First Amendment right to express private speech and for governmental entities to display flags as required or authorized by law. Requires the United States flag to be displayed prominently and superiorly when alongside other flags. Authorizes current or retired members of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard to use reasonable force to protect the U.S. flag from desecration or to ensure its prominent display unless directed otherwise by law enforcement.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT – SB 1072 (AVILA)

Died in its second committee of reference.

This bill provides an exception to the authorized uses of revenues received by counties imposing the tourist development tax. It specifies uses of tax revenues received by certain counties imposing the tourist development tax and requires that charter county convention development money be distributed to the governing boards of municipalities for specified purposes. Revises the purposes for which a county may use charter county convention development money.

SPECIAL RISK CLASS – HB 1089 (SHOAF)

Never received a committee hearing.

Revises criteria for designation as a special risk member within the Florida Retirement System, expanding eligibility and conforming to legislative changes. Defines a "special risk member" as one who fulfills specific role-based criteria, with amendments specifying new roles and responsibilities effective at various dates ranging from 1978 to 2024. Introduces new roles eligible for special risk membership, including certain correctional officers, emergency medical technicians, probation officers, and employees in forensic disciplines.

LAND DEVELOPMENT - HB 1177 (DUGGAN)

Died on the House calendar.

Expands county powers to hear appeals from municipal historic preservation boards, prohibits local governments from requiring permits or fees for tree work on properties used for veterans' health care facilities, revises local government powers regarding transportation concurrency systems, and modifies impact fee legislation. Authorizes counties to hear appeals from municipal historic preservation boards. Prohibits local governments from requiring permits, fees, or replanting for tree pruning, removal, or trimming on properties intended for veterans' health care facilities. Grants local governments exclusive power to assess transportation impacts and apply concurrency, including crediting land dedications toward impact fees. Specifies that changes to previously approved developments of regional impact, such as reductions in density or the substitution of multimodal pathways for internal roadways, are not subject to local government review. Clarifies that contributions toward public facilities must be credited against the collection of impact fees on a dollar-for-dollar basis. Establishes a formal process for appealing decisions made by municipal historic preservation boards to county commissioners.

LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS – SB 1184 (INGOGLIA)

Never received a committee hearing.

Revises mechanisms by which owners of agricultural lands apply for and are granted rezonings. Revises requirements for use by local governments in reviewing applications for agricultural enclaves and types of data that comprehensive plans and plan amendments must be based on. Revises mean by which application of the methodology is used in data collection or whether a particular methodology is professionally accepted and

evaluated, as well as criteria for adopting small-scale development amendment. Revises content requirements for local land development regulations and mechanisms by which applications for infill development must be administratively approved. This bill has not yet been heard in committee.



MILLAGE RATES – HB 1195 (GARRISON)

Died in the Senate.

Amends section 200.065 of the Florida Statutes to restrict increases in the millage rate without a two-thirds majority approval from the governing body. Adds a requirement that any increase in the prior year's adopted millage rate must receive a two-thirds vote of approval from the membership of the governing body of the county, municipality, or independent downtown development authority. Empowers the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules to implement the amendments, with such rules being effective for six months and renewable during the process of adopting permanent rules. Specifies that the authority for the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules expires on July 1, 2026.



LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS – HB 1221 (MCCLAIN)

Died on the House calendar.

Expands and revises land use and development regulations in Florida, including special provisions for self-storage facilities and infill development and adding definitions and criteria to the Community Planning Act. Allows the expansion of a self-storage facility to not be deemed a new facility for the purpose of local minimum distance requirements if it's adjacent to, abutting, and owned by the same entity as an existing facility. Introduces the definition of "infill residential development" and revises definitions of "density," "urban service area," and "urban sprawl" for more clarity and specificity. Specifies that comprehensive plans and amendments must be based on relevant data, allows for public inspection of supporting documents, and mandates the use of professionally accepted data collection methodologies without mandating a specific one. Revises requirements for comprehensive plans, including that they must accommodate at least the minimum land required to accommodate population projections for a 10-year planning period. Amends criteria for adopting a small-scale development amendment to involve the use of 150 acres or fewer. Revises content requirements for local land development regulations, particularly concerning minimum lot sizes and the administrative approval of infill development applications. Establishes a process for appealing decisions of locally established historic preservation boards or commissions to the county board of commissioners and requires a public hearing within 30 days of appeal receipt. Expands powers and duties of county commissions to include hearing appeals of decisions made by historic preservation boards or commissions.



MUNICIPAL UTILITIES – HB 1277 (BUSATTA CABRERA)

Died on the House calendar.

The bill requires municipal utilities to conduct public meetings before new or extended service agreements become effective, among other provisions. It stipulates that agreements for providing utility services must be written and subjected to public meetings for discussing service nature, rates, fees, and the use of revenues; limits municipal utility revenue used for non-utility government functions to 10% and mandates the reinvestment or return of excess revenues to customers outside the municipality's corporate limits; imposes annual reporting requirements on municipalities to the Florida Public Service Commission regarding utility service provision, with subsequent annual compilation and reporting to the Governor and Legislature; and adjusts permissible rates, fees, and charges for municipal water and sewer utilities, removing the ability to add surcharges to customers outside

municipal boundaries, ensuring rates are just, equitable, and do not exceed a set percentage above those for inside customers



PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR AFFORDABLE PROPERTY – HB 1299 (CROSS)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill modifies Florida's property tax exemption for affordable housing to include accessory dwelling units and removes the automatic expiration of tax exemptions. It allows county commissions or municipal governments to exempt from property taxes portions of property used for affordable housing, now including accessory dwelling units alongside multifamily projects; establishes that to qualify for an exemption, property portions must serve individuals or families within specified income brackets, adhere to rent limits, and avoid code violations or unpaid fines; stipulates that qualified property can receive up to a 75% tax exemption if under 100% of units in a multifamily project are used for affordable housing, and up to 100% exemption for entirely affordable projects or accessory dwelling units meeting criteria; and eliminates a previous provision mandating ordinances that adopt these exemptions to expire within a certain timeframe, requiring instead notification to relevant departments upon ordinance adoption or repeal.



PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION – HB 1369 (CHAMBERLIN)

Never received a committee hearing.

This bill proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to create a \$100,000 exemption from the assessed value of real property for all levies and a \$250,000 homestead exemption for residential property owned by someone 65 or older.



PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM STUDY – HB 1371 (CHAMBERLIN)

Died in its second committee of reference.

The bill mandates the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to evaluate the impact of removing property tax in favor of a consumption tax and report findings by February 1, 2025. Directs the study on the potential effects of eliminating all property taxes. Proposes the replacement of lost revenue through the implementation of a consumption tax. Requires submission of the report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS – SB 1440 (CALATAYUD)

Died in its second committee of reference.

The bill authorizes counties and municipalities to provide property tax exemptions for accessory dwelling units used for affordable housing. It broadens the scope of affordable housing property tax exemptions to include accessory dwelling units alongside multifamily projects; specifies eligibility criteria for property tax exemptions, including income limits for residents, rent caps, no recent code violations, and no outstanding fines; establishes varying exemption levels, allowing up to 75% exemption for multifamily units not entirely used for affordable housing and up to 100% for those fully utilized for or accessory dwelling units dedicated to affordable housing.

X PUBLIC RECORDS/PERSONNEL OF THE AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION – SB 1632 (COLLINS)

Died in its second committee of reference.

The bill creates a new public records exemption for specified personally identifying information of current and former personnel of the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) whose duties include the investigation of complaints filed against healthcare facilities or the inspection of healthcare facilities, such personnel’s children and spouses’ specified personally identifying information, and the names and locations of their children’s schools and daycare facilities. The bill provides that the new exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2029, unless saved from repeal by the Legislature. The bill also finds that exempting the specified records from public records requirements is a public necessity to protect the AHCA’s current and former personnel from the potential danger posed by disgruntled individuals who may have contentious reactions to actions carried out by such personnel.

X HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION INCREASE – HB 7015 (WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE)

Died in its second committee of reference

The bill proposes an amendment to increase the homestead property tax exemption from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for properties assessed over \$50,000. Specifically, it:

- Amends Section 6 of Article VII to raise the exemption limit on homestead property for levies other than school district levies.
- Creates a new section in Article XII to implement the increased homestead exemption effective January 1, 2025.
- Specifies that no more than one exemption shall be allowed per individual or family unit for any residential unit.
- Allows for ad valorem tax relief to renters who are permanent residents as established by general law.
- Permits counties or municipalities to grant additional homestead tax exemptions to certain residents based on age, residence duration, and income conditions.
- Provides ad valorem tax relief for surviving spouses of veterans or first responders who died from service-related causes or in the line of duty and for first responders disabled in the line of duty.
- Clarifies the exemptions and relief are subject to conditions and limitations specified in general law.

X TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION – HB 7075 (WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE)

Died in the Senate.

Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to double the ad valorem tax exemption for tangible personal property from \$25,000 to \$50,000. Specifically:

- Increases the ad valorem tax exemption on tangible personal property from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- Applies the increased exemption to the assessed value of property subject to tangible personal property tax.
- Specifies the constitutional amendment to take effect on January 1, 2025.
- Includes provisions that allow for exemptions on various other grounds, such as properties used for educational, literary, scientific, religious, or charitable purposes, and properties dedicated for conservation.
- Allows counties or municipalities to grant tax exemptions for community and economic development, historic preservation, and military deployment outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii.

Agriculture and Environment: PASSED



SAMPLING OF BEACH WATERS AND PUBLIC BATHING SPACES – HB 165 (GOSSETT-SEIDMAN)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill requires, rather than authorizes, DOH to:

- Adopt and enforce rules to protect the health, safety, and welfare of persons using beach waters and public bathing places.
- Issue health advisories if the water quality of beach waters or a public bathing place fails to meet DOH standards.
- Require closure of beach waters and public bathing places that fail to meet water quality standards if it is deemed necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The bill preempts the state's issuance of health advisories related to the results of bacteriological sampling of public bathing places. The bill requires:

- Municipalities and counties to, within 24 hours or the next business day, whichever occurs first, notify DOH of any incident that makes the water quality of beach waters or public bathing places within their respective jurisdictions unsafe.
- Municipalities and counties post and maintain health advisory signs around affected beach waters and public bathing places that they own.
- Owners of public boat docks, marinas, and piers to, within 24 hours or the next business day, whichever occurs first, notify the jurisdictional municipality or county of any incident that makes the water quality of beach waters in which the dock, marina, or pier is located unsafe.
- DEP to post and maintain health advisory signs around affected beach waters and public bathing places owned by the state.
- DOH to coordinate with DEP and the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as necessary to implement the signage requirements of the bill and requires that such signage be posted and maintained in compliance with this subsection until the health advisory is no longer in effect.



ANCHORING OF VESSELS IN ANCHORING LIMITATION AREAS – HB 437 (PORRAS)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Revises anchoring limitation areas in Biscayne Bay, Miami-Dade County, and updates proof requirements for vessels within anchoring limitation areas. Designates specific densely populated sections of Biscayne Bay between State Road A1A and State Road 112 near the City of Miami Beach as new anchoring limitation areas. Prohibits anchoring in these designated areas between half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise, with exceptions in certain cases. Requires vessel owners or operators to provide evidence, such as documentation or electronic evidence from tracking devices affixed to the vessel, proving the vessel was at least 1 nautical mile away from the anchoring limitation area within 45 days prior to an inquiry.



SALE OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS - SB 998 (COLLINS)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Revamps regulations around the sale and storage of liquefied petroleum gas, including licensing, storage location compliance, and safety measures.

- Defines "licensed location" and "remote bulk storage" in relation to liquefied petroleum gas operations.
- Mandates remote bulk storage locations of category I liquefied petroleum gas dealers to meet specific licensing requirements.
- Specifies a 90-day timeframe for completing qualifier examinations and establishes experience requirements for qualifier certification.
- Prohibits individuals from acting as a qualifier or master qualifier for more than one location or license respectively.
- Allows the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to enact disciplinary actions against qualifier or master qualifier registrations for violations, including lack of trustworthiness.
- Grants the department authority to condemn unsafe equipment and demand the immediate removal of non-compliant liquefied petroleum gas storage.
- Revises the applicability of provisions to bulk storage locations based on container capacity exceeding 4,000 gallons.
- Requires service documents to include the name and qualifier number of the person performing liquefied petroleum gas equipment and system work.
- Restricts unauthorized persons from interfering with liquefied petroleum gas containers or receptacles and mandates department rules for exceptions.
- Adjusts the minimum required bulk storage capacity for liquefied petroleum gas licenses to 18,000 gallons, removing certain exemptions and agreements between dealers and wholesalers.

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES - SB 1084 (COLLINS)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill enacts various regulations related to agriculture, pest control, firearm licensing, charity operations, and more, including preempting local regulation of electric vehicle charging stations, setting expiration and renewal requirements for pest control and commercial wildlife management certifications, and authorizing Class "G" licensees for multiple firearm calibers. Key provisions include: preemption of local regulation for electric vehicle charging stations; setting expiration and renewal criteria for pest control certifications and commercial wildlife management personnel; authorizing Class "G" licensees to qualify for multiple firearm calibers under specific conditions; appointing tax collectors to accept license applications and enabling them to collect certain convenience fees; defining "cultivated meat" and prohibiting its sale or distribution within the state; enforcing penalties for false statements on applications, cheating on examinations, or violating examination procedures; requiring saw palmetto berry dealers to maintain and provide certain information, with penalties for violations; designating the Florida Agricultural Legacy Learning Center as the state's agricultural museum; requiring property owners or agents to be provided with reports after certain inspections or treatments; reenacting several state statutes for conformity with amendments made by the bill. This bill is a comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at regulating and managing different sectors, including agriculture, pest control services, firearm licensing, and charitable organization operations within the state.

**REGULATION OF WATER RESOURCES - SB 1136 (TRUMBULL)**

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill revises the process and standards for water well contractor licensure, disciplinary guidelines, and onsite sewage treatment in Florida. It updates the qualifications for taking the water well contractor license examination,

including a requirement for applicants to have at least 2 years of experience with wells permitted in the state and to provide a list of at least 10 wells they have worked on; revises water well contractors' work to align with the Florida Building Code, updating the referenced section to Section 614-Wells for pump and tank installations; authorizes entities with delegated enforcement powers by water management districts to apply disciplinary guidelines and requires delivery of certain notices by certified mail; prohibits advertising water well drilling or construction services unless the business is owned by a licensed contractor or employs a full-time licensed contractor; and removes the Department of Environmental Protection's variance review committee's responsibility for reviewing water well permitting but requires consideration of relevant laws when recommending on variance requests for onsite sewage treatment and disposal system permits.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – HB 1557 (CHANEY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Revises the operation of vessels in aquatic preserves, designates a new aquatic preserve area, mandates rules for the use of reclaimed water, defines "Florida Flood Hub," adjusts regulations for resilience funds, outlines enforcement enhancements for the Department of Environmental Protection, and updates requirements for domestic wastewater facilities. Specifically, the bill:

- Prohibits operating a vessel in a manner that causes seagrass scarring in most aquatic preserves.
- Establishes the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as a new aquatic preserve.
- Requires water management districts to develop rules encouraging the use of reclaimed water by December 31, 2025.
- Defines "Florida Flood Hub" for applied research and innovation.
- Amends the use of Resilient Florida Grant Program funds for counties and municipalities, emphasizing flood and sea level rise preparations.
- Enhances coordination for flood vulnerability and statewide resilience planning, including the incorporation of new data sets and assessments.
- Revises enforcement strategies for the Department of Environmental Protection, including increased penalties for onsite sewage treatment and disposal system violations.
- Requires domestic wastewater facilities to implement reuse when feasible and to meet advanced waste treatment standards under certain conditions.



FUNDING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT – SB 1638 (BUCHANAN)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Allocates gaming compact revenue between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the state for environmental resource management. Specifically, the bill:

- Directs a specified percentage of revenue share payments to the Indian Gaming Revenue Trust Fund for conservation lands, resiliency, and clean water projects.
- Creates the Local Trail Management Grant Program to aid local governments with trail maintenance within the Florida Greenways and Trails System.
- Authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to enter voluntary agreements with private landowners for environmental services within the Florida wildlife corridor.

- Mandates the Department of Environmental Protection to prioritize projects within the water quality improvement grant program that show maximum nutrient load reduction and project readiness, among other criteria.
- Allocates funds for various environmental management activities, including land acquisition, management of uplands, removal of invasive species, and support for the Florida wildlife corridor and local trail management.
- Requires annual reports on grant awards and funded projects to the Governor and Legislature, detailing project descriptions, costs, and outcomes.
- Appropriates funds from the General Revenue Fund, Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund, and other funds for specified fiscal years to support the initiatives.



ENERGY RESOURCES – HB 1645 (PAYNE)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The act revises energy guidelines for public businesses, requiring the elimination of several environmentally focused requirements and authorizing voluntary electric vehicle charging programs. It also defines and amends regulations for noise pollution control, specifically addressing sound equipment and vehicle sound systems. Additionally, the act establishes prerequisites for mutual aid agreements among electric utilities for disaster response, mandates annual attestation of compliance, and outlines the process for recovering natural gas facilities relocation costs. It revises public business energy guidelines, eliminating requirements for climate-friendly products and green lodging for state contracts, and specifies conditions for mutual aid agreements between electric utilities. It requires rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities to enter into mutual aid agreements for power restoration post-disaster and submit annual compliance attestations. Specifies procedures for public utilities to give notice of power plant retirements and for the commission to hold hearings on such retirements. Authorizes public utilities to petition for electric vehicle charging programs, defining the term "gross capacity" for power plants. Mandates annual proceedings for the recovery of natural gas facilities' relocation costs. Amends the legislative intent regarding energy policy moving away from climate change considerations to focus on reliability, safety, and economic growth.



RATIFICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION'S RULES RELATING TO STORMWATER – SB 7040 (ENVIRO. AND NATURAL RESOURCES)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

This bill ratifies rules related to environmental resource permitting for stormwater management, including specific regulatory changes, and requires legislative approval for future amendments. Specifically, it:

- Ratifies rule 62-330 titled "Environmental Resource Permitting" filed for adoption on April 28, 2023.
- Mandates future amendments to specified sections of rule 62-330.010, Florida Administrative Code, to be submitted and approved by the Legislature.
- Implements changes outlining requirements for stormwater management systems, such as reductions in pollutant loadings and inspection protocols.
- Introduces exemptions for certain projects submitted or approved prior to specified dates from the amendments to Chapter 62-330, F.A.C., and corresponding amendments.
- Establishes a framework for stormwater treatment systems to achieve specified pollutant reduction goals, including total phosphorus (TP) and total nitrogen (TN).
- Requires all operation and maintenance entities, other than MS4 Entities, to report inspections in accordance with the updated section and applicable rules and laws.

- Exempts stormwater management and design plans approved before January 1, 2024, from the amendments for a specified duration, with certain conditions for planned unit developments and developments of regional impact.

Agriculture and Environment: FAILED



MANGROVE REPLANTING AND RESTORATION – SB 32 (GARCIA)

Died in its third committee of reference.

This bill requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt rules for mangrove replanting and restoration. The bill requires the rules to:

- Address significant erosion in areas of critical state concern.
- Protect barrier and spoil islands.
- Assist Everglades restoration and Biscayne Bay revitalization efforts.
- Promote public awareness of the value of mangroves.
- Identify vulnerable properties along the coastline and encourage partnerships with local governmental entities to create mangrove protection and restoration zone programs.
- Protect and maintain access to the navigation of the marked channel and the right-of-way of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway.
- Create permitting incentives and encourage the use of new strategies for living shorelines and nature-based features.
- Encourage partnerships with local governmental entities to create projects for coastal protection through the Resilient Florida Grant Program.

The bill also requires the DEP to conduct a statewide feasibility study to determine the value of mangroves and other nature-based solutions for coastal flood risk reduction within coastal communities to reduce insurance premiums and improve local governments' community ratings in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System. The DEP must submit a report of the study's findings to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2025.



COMPREHENSIVE WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN – SB 36 (STEWART)

Died in its second committee of reference.

Mandates the Department of Environmental Protection to formulate a comprehensive waste reduction and recycling plan by July 1, 2025, drawing on prior department recommendations. Stipulates that the plan must set recycling goals aligned with sustainable materials management and waste diversion. Requires a 3-year implementation strategy covering recycling education, assistance to local governments, and the development and promotion of the recycling materials market.



TREES ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY – SB 122 (STEWART)

Never received a committee hearing.

Repeals a statute that relates to tree pruning, trimming, or removal on a residential property. The statute restricts local governments from requiring a property owner to replant a tree that was pruned, trimmed, or removed.

X STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS – SB 144 (BERMAN)

Never received a committee hearing.

Revises the definitions of “biomass” and “renewable energy” as well as prohibits the drilling or exploration for oil, gas, or other petroleum products in certain locations. This will include prohibiting permitting and construction of certain structures intended for the purpose of drilling. Legislation will also be provided that intends to see that all electricity used in the state will be generated by renewable energy by a specified date. The Office of Energy within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, along with other agencies, will work with Florida College System institutions and state universities, public utilities, and other private and public entities to develop a unified statewide plan to generate the state’s electricity from renewable energy and reduce the state’s carbon emissions.

X DREDGING AND BEACH RESTORATION PROJECTS - HB 163 (GOSSETT-SEIDMAN)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill mandates specific conditions for permits related to dredging and beach restoration projects to ensure the unbiased assessment of environmental impacts. It requires the Department of Environmental Protection to mandate that adverse impact analyses for dredging and beach restoration projects are carried out by independent contractors selected by local governments, following prescribed requirements; prohibits contractors who are performing the analysis from being associated with the project or its contractors for a period of 1 year before or after the analysis; obligates local governments intending to conduct such analysis to notify adjacent local governments potentially impacted by the activity; exempts deep-water port maintenance dredging projects currently permitted or maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers from these requirements; and sets a fine for violations at 10 percent of the total project cost or an amount determined by the department or the United States Army Corps of Engineers, whichever is greater.

X TRESPASS ON COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY – SB 188 (BRODEUR)

Died in its second committee of reference.

This bill increases criminal penalties for trespassing with intent to commit a crime on certain commercial agricultural properties. Elevates trespassing under these conditions to a felony of the third degree. Applies when trespassing occurs on commercial agricultural property that is legally posted with signs warning against trespassing, with letters not less than 2 inches in height. Defines "commercial agricultural property" as property cleared or fenced for the purposes of planting, growing, harvesting, processing, or storing plant or animal commodities intended for human consumption.

X STATE RENEWABLE ENERGY GOALS – HB 193 (ESKAMANI)

Never received a committee hearing.

This bill introduces comprehensive amendments and provisions to transition Florida towards 100% renewable energy by 2050 and achieve statewide net zero carbon emissions by 2051. It revises definitions of "biomass" and "renewable energy" to exclude certain materials and sources. Prohibits all new drilling, exploration, and production of oil, gas, or other petroleum products in the state. Requires all electricity in Florida to be generated from renewable energy sources by 2050, with a goal for net zero carbon emissions by 2051. Mandates the development of a unified statewide plan for achieving these renewable energy and carbon emissions goals, with specific interim targets. Establishes the Renewable Energy Workforce Development Advisory Committee to support workforce transition to the renewable energy sector, including training programs and job creation strategies. Directs extensive public agency cooperation and reports progress to the Governor and Legislature.

X LOCAL GOVERNMENT COASTAL PROTECTIONS - SB 298 (POLSKY)

Died in House Messages.

Restricts new coastal construction control measures and amends funding provisions for saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments. Prevents coastal counties and municipalities from establishing new construction zoning and building code exceptions to coastal construction control lines unless previously authorized in writing by the Department of Environmental Protection before December 1, 2023. Restricts the Department of Environmental Protection from delegating permitting authority to coastal counties and municipalities that did not receive approval for coastal construction zoning and building code exceptions by the specified date. Authorizes the Department to provide grants for coastal counties to conduct saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments starting July 1, 2025, analyzing the effects on water supply and preparedness. Specifies that saltwater intrusion vulnerability assessments must include an analysis of the county's primary water utilities, current maps, projections of intrusion over the next decade, and costs to relocate impacted freshwater wellfields. Obligates the Department to use vulnerability assessment information to update the statewide flood vulnerability and sea level rise dataset, make assessment information publicly available, and provide a 50 percent cost-share funding up to \$250,000 for each grant, exempting coastal counties with populations of 50,000 or less from contributing to the cost-share.

X AGRITOURISM – HB 339 (ROTH)

Never received a committee hearing.

Prohibits local governments from adopting ordinances, regulations, rules, or policies that require certifications of use from certain agricultural lands, facilities, and venues or limit certain activities associated with agritourism. Provides the termination, expiration, extension, and renewal of specified local government ordinances, rules, and measures.

X URBAN AGRICULTURE PILOT PROJECTS - HB 397 (CROSS)

Died in its first committee of reference.

Expands the definition of "urban agriculture" in Florida to include both commercial and noncommercial agricultural uses within specified urban areas, amending related statutes on farm equipment and structures.

X STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING RULES – SB 406 (RODRIGUEZ)

Died in its second committee of reference.

This bill requires stormwater management systems to have a minimum side slope design for water quality, erosion control, and maintenance. Mandates that the side slope of a surface water management system pond must have a horizontal-to-vertical ratio of 4:1 or an equivalent alternative to meet onsite conditions. Supersedes all existing side slope rules adopted by the department, water management districts, or delegated local programs as of July 1, 2024, and allows for their repeal through a specified process.

X LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND – HB 451(BELL)

Never received a committee hearing.

This bill provides annual appropriation to DEP to implement the Heartland Headwaters Protection and Sustainability Act and requires funds to be used and distributed for specified purposes.

X PREEMPTION OF RECYCLABLE AND POLYSTYRENE MATERIALS – SB 498 (STEWART)

Never received a committee hearing.

Repeals state preemption of local laws regarding the regulation of recyclable materials and the use or sale of polystyrene products, restoring local government authority in these areas. Removes the provision that precluded local governments from enacting any rules, regulations, or ordinances regarding the use, disposition, sale, prohibition, restriction, or tax of auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags. Eliminates the state's exclusive authority to regulate the use or sale of polystyrene products, allowing local governments to enact laws related to the regulation of these products.

X EXCISE TAX ON WATER EXTRACTED FOR COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL USE - SB 510 (STEWART)

Never received a committee hearing.

Imposes an excise tax on water extracted from waters of the state for commercial or industrial use and details the administration, enforcement, and penalties related to this tax. Sets the excise tax rate at one one-thousandth of a dollar per gallon of water extracted, with proceeds going to the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund for additional specified purposes, including geological surveys and saltwater intrusion management. Requires monthly tax returns from extractors, detailing the amount and source of water extracted, and specifies return filing and payment procedures, including provisions for extensions. Outlines interest and penalties for late tax payments or filings, substantial underpayment, and failure to file returns, and allows the department to settle or compromise taxes or interest for reasonable cause. Provides for the assessment of tax deficiencies, crediting or refunding overpayments, and establishes tax liens on property and assets of extractors for amounts due.

X LAND AND WATER MANAGEMENT - HB 527 (MAGGARD)

Never received a committee hearing.

Requires certain buffer zones for land or water delineations established by county or municipality to be acquired by county or municipality through eminent domain; preempts regulation of specified dredge and fill activities to state; repeals land management review teams. This bill has not yet been heard in committee.

X EVERGLADES PROTECTION AREA - HB 723 (BUSATTA CABRERA)

Died in its second committee reference.

Mandates that proposals within, or within 2 miles of, the Everglades Protection Area follow a state-coordinated review process. Assigns the Department of Environmental Protection the responsibility to assess if these proposals adversely impact the Everglades, requiring a written determination within 30 days of receipt. Requires local governments to include planning strategies or measures to mitigate adverse impacts identified by the Department in their plans before adoption. Stipulates that local governments must transmit adopted plan amendments concerning these sensitive areas to the Department of Environmental Protection within 10 days after the second public hearing. Introduces an additional condition for the adoption of site-specific text changes for small-scale land use map amendments, prohibiting them within or near the Everglades Protection Area. Commands local governments encompassing any part of the Everglades Protection Area to send adopted small-scale development amendments to the state land planning agency for recordkeeping within 10 days post-adoption.

X ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT - SB 738 (BURGESS)

Died in House messages.

Mandates nonindustrial stormwater management systems in accessible residential or urban areas to have side slopes with a horizontal-to-vertical ratio no steeper than 4:1 to enhance water quality, with exceptions permitted under specific conditions, and revises conditions under which individuals can take legal action for property damage due to pollution. Requires stormwater management systems' side slopes to be stabilized with vegetation to prevent erosion and support pollutant removal. Allows steeper slopes if adequate erosion and sediment control practices are implemented. Supersedes all existing side slope rules by July 1, 2024, allowing repeal without further rulemaking. Revises legal provisions to enable actions for damages to real or personal property resulting directly from unauthorized discharges of pollution, highlighting that negligence need not be proved, only the fact of the discharge or pollutive condition.

X MITIGATION AREAS AND ASSESSMENTS – SB 836 (SIMON)

Withdrawn prior to introduction.

Modifies conditions under which mitigation assessments are determined for environmental resource permitting, particularly concerning wetlands and surface water impacts. Mandates the creation of a uniform mitigation assessment method by the department and water management districts for determining mitigation requirements. Specifies that the degree of risk may not be considered in the uniform mitigation assessment method if financial responsibility for mitigation is assured through specified mechanisms. Excludes the requirement of conservation easements or similar property encumbrances for mitigation areas created under permits issued after January 1, 2022, if their mitigation success has not been evaluated by July 1, 2024. It omits mitigation areas from needing conservation easements and allows the determination of mitigation credits without considering these easements or encumbrances.

X ADVANCED WASTEWATER TREATMENT – HB 1153 (CROSS)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill mandates the Department of Environmental Protection to collaborate with water management districts and sewage disposal facilities to enhance wastewater management through advanced treatment. It requires a legislative finding that inadequately treated wastewater from aging facilities harms the environment, affecting water bodies and local economies reliant on these resources. It also stipulates the submission of multiple detailed reports to the Governor and Legislature, starting with an initial report by December 31, 2024, outlining the current status of sewage facilities with a capacity of over 1 million gallons per day. This includes information on construction, upgrades, treatment volumes and levels, pollutant loading, and more. By December 31, 2025, a report must outline a priority ranking for upgrading all such facilities to advanced waste treatment by 2035, incorporating factors like environmental benefits, risk reduction, and cost-effectiveness. A progress report is due by June 30, 2026, detailing the implementation status of these upgrades, including lists of facilities, cost estimates, and timelines for completion.

X ADVANCED WASTEWATER TREATMENT – SB 1304 (BERMAN)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection to submit reports and updates on sewage disposal facilities' upgrade toward advanced wastewater treatment, enhancing environmental quality. It mandates a report by December 31, 2024, detailing construction year, treatment volumes and levels, pollutant loadings, disposal

methods, and impairment status of facilities with capacities over 1 million gallons per day; requires, by December 31, 2025, a report outlining a priority ranking for upgrading all facilities to advanced wastewater treatment by 2035, including environmental benefits, nutrient reduction potential, project necessity, cost-effectiveness, financial assistance availability, and estimated completion dates; and instructs submission of a progress report by June 30, 2026, on the status of upgrades, including lists of facilities required to upgrade, cost estimates, timelines, and operations commencement dates of upgraded facilities.

X OFFICE OF THE BLUE ECONOMY – HB 1311 (LAMARCA)

Died in its third committee of reference.

The bill creates the Office of the Blue Economy within the State University System to promote economic development tied to ocean and coastal resources via sustainable practices. It defines "blue economy" as the economic use of ocean and coastal resources focusing on sustainable practices beneficial in the long term, involving various maritime industries, tourism, and outdoor recreational activities; establishes the Office within a state university, administered by the Board of Governors, aiming to connect state research institutions with financial resources to innovate and market goods and services; directs the Office to support the state's economy by linking ocean and coastal resources to economic strategies, surveying academic research, collaborating with relevant industries, developing research and commercialization pipelines, publishing reports on job numbers and wages within the blue economy, educating state and local entities on blue economy interests, promoting the state on national and international platforms, and maintaining a website with required information; and requires the Office to provide an annual report by December 30, starting in 2025, detailing the economic benefits and development of emerging blue economy industries.

X RESILIENCE DISTRICTS – SB 1330 (CALATAYUD)

Never received a committee hearing.

This bill designates the "Resilience District Act of 2024", declaring that this act constitutes the sole authority for resilience districts. It provides that the establishment of resilience districts is through a petition by certain persons and specifies requirements for the size of resilience districts. It also specifies acceptable uses of resilience districts while authorizing the payment of certain fees for project management of resilience districts.

X MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROGRAM – SB 1606 (TORRES)

Never received a committee hearing.

The bill revises the administration and eligibility requirements for the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program in Florida. It transfers the responsibility of the Municipal Solid Waste-to-Energy Program from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to the Department of Environmental Protection; defines eligible municipal solid waste-to-energy facilities and excludes those primarily burning fuels other than solid waste or certain specified materials; requires municipal solid waste-to-energy facilities to have entered into a power purchase agreement with an electric utility before January 1, 2022, to qualify for annual financial assistance grants; introduces a new requirement for air quality and particulate matter measurement in environmental justice zones within 25 miles of the facility by the Office of Air Monitoring starting July 1, 2024, to be eligible for grant funding; states that beginning July 1, 2024, an environmental justice evaluation must determine negligible impact on low-income and historically marginalized residential areas for a facility to qualify for incentive grants; specifies that appropriated funds must first be used for financial assistance grants, with any remaining funds available for the incentive grant program, and outlines the conditions under which funds may be carried forward for up to 5 years and mandates the department to adopt rules for implementing the program, including establishing application

processes and consulting with the Public Service Commission and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for respective grant programs.

Transportation: PASSED



TRANSPORTATION - HB 287 (ESPOSITO)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Implements various changes to transportation-related regulations and provisions in Florida:

- Limits the amount of fuel tax revenues and motor vehicle license-related fees that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) may spend on public transit projects.
- Increases from five to eight the number of Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV)-approved Basic Driver Improvement course elections that are allowed in a lifetime for a person who does not hold a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit and who is cited for a noncriminal moving violation while driving a noncommercial motor vehicle.
- Requires DHSMV to annually review changes made to major traffic laws of this state and to require course content for certain driving courses to be modified accordingly.
- Amends laws relating to public-private transportation facilities and public-private partnerships to align with industry terms and practices and to improve current processes.
- Revises a provision in current law relating to the use of reclaimed asphalt pavement material.
- Adds phased design-build contracts to the requirements that FDOT receive at least three letters of interest in order to proceed with a request for proposals and that FDOT request proposals from no fewer than three of the firms' submitting letters of interest.
- Amends the surety bond requirement for phased design-build contracts.
- Provides in law, rather than as a requirement in an FDOT contract, that a motor vehicle used for the performance of road or bridge construction or maintenance work on an FDOT project must be registered in compliance with Ch. 320, F.S.
- Shortens the deadline for a claimant to institute an action, except an action for recovery of retainage, against the contractor or surety to within 365 days after performance of the labor or completion of delivery of the materials or supplies, rather than within 365 days after the final acceptance of the contract work by FDOT.
- Amends provisions relating to limitations on the liability of FDOT and its contractors and design engineers.
- Amends provisions relating to the previous property owner's right of first refusal for property that FDOT acquired but subsequently determined is no longer needed for a transportation facility.
- Amends provisions relating to funding the fire station at mile marker 63 on the Alligator Alley toll road.
- Codifies the Local Agency Program (LAP) within FDOT.



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HB 1301 (ABBOTT)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill amends various Florida statutes to revise regulations and requirements relating to transportation, including the Department of Transportation's structure, funding allocations, and specific transportation regulations. Specifically, the bill:

- Removes the requirement for the Florida Transportation Commission to nominate the Secretary of Transportation.
- Revises areas of responsibility within the Department of Transportation and no longer requires the secretary to appoint the inspector general.
- Mandates a specific portion of the State Transportation Trust Fund for the Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support Program, including project inclusion in the tentative work program.
- Updates requirements for airport land use compatibility zoning regulations.
- Revises the Department of Transportation's mission, goals, and objectives to emphasize efficient movement of people and goods, economic competitiveness, and preservation of Florida's quality of life.
- Introduces requirements for traffic studies and public involvement for certain projects proposed by governmental entities.
- Adjusts the timeframe before an inactive prepaid toll account is considered unclaimed property.
- Specifies control and reimbursement details related to Alligator Alley toll road agreements.
- Prohibits the Department of Transportation from funding projects or programs of entities violating specific health regulations.
- Prioritizes certain revenue allocations for arterial highway projects and sets parameters for financing these projects.
- Authorizes local governments within specified areas to compete for additional funding for projects on state or county roads.
- Implements voting and meeting notice requirements for public transit projects and specifies restrictions on marketing and advertising expenditures by public transit providers.
- Establishes terms and annual actions for public transit providers concerning fiscal management and performance measures.
- Amends the powers of the Florida Rail Enterprise.
- Revises definitions and regulations related to streetlights and traffic rules at railroad-highway grade crossings, including penalties for violations.

Transportation: FAILED



LICENSE TAXES – SB 28 (HOOPER)

Died in its second committee of reference.

This bill defines the terms “electric vehicle” and “plug-in hybrid vehicle”. Imposes an additional annual license tax of \$200 on electric vehicles and \$25 for electric motorcycles, increasing to \$250 and \$35, respectively, in 2029. Sets an additional annual license tax of \$50 on plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and \$10 for motorcycles, increasing to \$100 and \$20, respectively, in 2029. Allocates 64% of proceeds from these taxes to the State Transportation Trust Fund and 36% to counties for transportation expenditures.



BOATING SAFETY – SB 30 (GARCIA)

Died in its second committee of reference.

Enhances boating safety and identification requirements in Florida by amending several statutes to include new provisions for boating safety identification and insurance requirements following certain violations. Requires the

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue identification cards and driver licenses with a lifetime boating safety identification card symbol at no extra cost, given the applicant can present evidence of possessing a Florida boating safety identification card. Mandates applications for driver licenses or identification cards to indicate if the applicant possesses a boating safety identification card, and if so, to include a copy of the card. Compels individuals convicted of violations related to boating under the influence to maintain an insurance policy with minimum coverage limits, establishing penalties for noncompliance. Modifies the educational requirements for boating safety, removing the previous age-based restriction and detailing the required components of boating safety education courses. Adjusts the provisions for mandatory education for certain violations, including the imposition of additional fines and more comprehensive education requirements. Reenacts a statute to incorporate amendments made by this act, specifying documentation requirements for renting vessels from liveries.



SALES TAX HOLIDAY FOR ITEMS RELATED TO ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION – SB 58 (STEWART)

Died in its third committee of reference.

This bill exempts from the sales and use tax the retail sale of electric bicycles, electric scooters, and protective clothing and equipment during the 45-day period from August 1, 2024, through September 14, 2024, and the 45-day period from November 1, 2024, through December 15, 2024. The sales price is limited to:

- \$1,750 or less for electric bicycles.
- \$500 or less for electric scooters.
- \$150 or less for helmets.
- \$50 or less for knee or elbow pads.

The exemption does not apply to sales within a theme park or entertainment complex, within a public lodging establishment, or within an airport. The lease or rental of an electric bicycle, electric scooter, or protective clothing and equipment does not qualify as an exempt retail sale under the exemption.



LICENSE TAXES – HB 107 (ESPOSITO)

Died on the House calendar.

This bill defines the terms “electric vehicle” and “plug-in hybrid vehicle”. It also imposes specified additional annual license taxes on electric vehicles, authorizes persons and entities to biennially renew vehicle registrations for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles, and addresses the distribution of proceeds from the additional license taxes and the requirements for how local governments may use those proceeds. The bill would exempt certain vehicles from specified license fees.



ALTERNATIVE FUEL FLEET VEHICLE REBATES – SB 650 (RODRIGUEZ)

Died in its third committee of reference.

Renames the natural gas fuel fleet vehicle rebate program to the alternative fuel fleet vehicle rebate program and expands its scope.

- Expands rebate eligibility from only natural gas-fueled fleet vehicles to those powered by various alternative fuels, including electric and hybrid sources.
- Requires that these fleet vehicles comply with applicable U.S. Environmental Protection Agency emission standards.
- Mandates the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt necessary rules for the program by December 31, 2024.

- Caps rebates at 50% of eligible costs or a maximum of \$25,000 per vehicle and \$250,000 per fiscal year for each applicant, with a partial reservation of funds for governmental applicants.



TRAFFIC INFRACTION DETECTORS – HB 805 (BORRERO)

Never received a committee hearing.

Proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to ban traffic infraction detectors, also known as "red-light cameras."

- Prohibits the use of traffic infraction detectors within the state.
- Defines "traffic infraction detector" or "red-light camera" as any system designed to work with traffic control signals to record images or videos of vehicles not stopping at the stop bar or stop line when facing a steady red traffic light.
- Mandates that this amendment be placed on the ballot for approval or rejection by the electors.



TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED TRUST FUND – SB 874 (STEWART)

Never received a committee hearing.

This bill provides an annual appropriation from the Transportation Disadvantaged Trust Fund to implement a specified grant program beginning in a specified fiscal year. It authorizes an agency to apply annually to the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged for a grant while specifying a maximum amount for the grants. Provides an exception to the maximum specified grant amount and requires a local match for all grants provided. Requires that certain funds be used for a specified purpose.



TRANSPORTATION - SB 1032 (GRUTERS)

Died in its third committee of reference.

The bill revises various aspects of transportation, including compliance and penalties related to railroad-highway grade crossings, the membership of advisory boards, and M.P.O. (metropolitan planning organization) requirements:

- Deleted obsolete language and revised stipulations for stopping at railroad-highway grade crossings, enhancing penalties for violations.
- Expanded circumstances under which driving through a railroad-highway grade crossing is prohibited and adjusted corresponding penalties.
- Updated the membership criteria for the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) and Implementing Solutions from Transportation Research and Evaluating Emerging Technologies (I-STREET) Living Lab advisory boards.
- Amended procedures regarding the designation, composition, and duties of M.P.O.s, emphasizing consolidation, best practices exchange, member training, and performance evaluation.
- Adjusted provisions related to transportation project financing, including public-private partnerships and the integration of advanced transportation technologies in planning.
- Modified the preemption related to airport or seaport fees charged for taxicab pickups, ensuring uniformity of fees for all such pickups.
- Required the Department of Transportation to submit a comprehensive review report by October 31, 2024, examining the need for redrawing district boundaries due to population and urban density changes.

Economic Development: PASSED



REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM - HB 141 (ABBOTT)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Streamlines the process for regional economic development organizations and Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. to receive and utilize grants. The bill eliminates several requirements related to the Regional Rural Development Grants Program:

- Removes the requirements for grant funds received by a regional development organization to be matched each year by nonstate resources in an amount equal to 25 percent of the state contributions.
- Removes the requirement for local governments and private businesses to make financial or in-kind commitments to the regional organization.
- Removes the requirement that the DOC consider the demonstrated need of the applicant for assistance when approving participants for the program.

The bill also allows Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., to retain interest earned on the funds in its trust account rather than having those funds revert to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund. The funds held are required to be used to make awards or for administrative costs.



BROADBAND – HB 1147 (TOMKOW)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill extends the expiration date of a promotional rate for broadband attachments to municipal electric utility poles. It mandates a promotional rate of \$1 per wireline attachment per pole per year for broadband providers, applies the promotional rate for attachments made to expand service to unserved or underserved end users, and extends the promotional rate validity to December 31, 2028, from the original expiration date of July 1, 2024.



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – SB 1420 (BURGESS)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Expands the responsibilities and framework of the Department of Commerce, addressing land development for healthcare facilities, local government regulations, infrastructure funding, workforce development, and military base support. Authorizes the state land planning agency to assist in planning and developing critical healthcare facilities and restricts local government requirements on tree pruning, trimming, or removal for veterans' healthcare facility projects. Prohibits county ordinances from revoking parts of municipal local comprehensive plans or land development regulations with retroactive applicability provisions. Revises requirements for local governments on transportation concurrency systems, emphasizing local government's exclusive power in evaluating transportation impacts and setting fees. Revises the legislative intent regarding the adoption of impact fees by special districts, specifying conditions under which local governments must credit certain contributions toward impact fees. Updates procedures for adopting comprehensive plan amendments, including deadlines and withdrawal conditions if timelines are not met. Increases the authorized loan term under the Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan Program. Revises the duties of the Florida Sports Foundation and renames the Florida Defense Support Task Force to a direct-support organization under the Department of Commerce, detailing its mission, board composition, and operational requirements. Amends the process for local government review of developments of regional impact, especially concerning changes to multimodal pathways. Adjusts the definition of businesses and funding priorities under the Incumbent Worker Training Program. Specifies that certain

members of the state workforce development board are voting members. Requires action for a proposed revived declaration and other governing documents of a homeowners' association, including departmental review and amendment possibilities for existing loan agreements.

Economic Development: FAILED



FLORIDA MAIN STREET PROGRAM AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDITS – SB 1166 (DICEGLIE)

Died in its second committee of reference.

This bill establishes the Main Street Historical Tourism and Revitalization Act, providing tax credits for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures. It defines eligibility criteria for active Main Street programs and various terms related to the rehabilitation of certified historic structures; specifies the process for taxpayers to apply for and receive tax credits, including requirements for documentation and the approval process by the Department of Revenue; sets limits on tax credits, including a maximum of \$200,000 per project, with a higher percentage credit for projects in designated local program areas; allows for the sale or transfer of tax credits between taxpayers, with limits on transactions and requirements for documentation; and grants the Department of Revenue authority to audit and examine claims to ensure compliance, with penalties for fraudulent claims. It also requires the Department of Revenue to submit annual reports detailing the program's impact, including employment during construction, the use of rehabilitated buildings, and changes in property values; authorizes the Department of Revenue to adopt emergency rules for program implementation, with these provisions expiring on July 1, 2025; and specifies that the act applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, with permanent provisions taking effect on July 1, 2024.

Health and Human Services: PASSED



RURAL EMERGENCY HOSPITALS – SB 644 (SIMON)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

The bill creates a new hospital designation type, "rural emergency hospital" (REH), and defines requirements for a rural or critical access hospital to apply to the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) for that designation. The bill clarifies that an REH is subject to the requirements to provide emergency services and care for any emergency medical condition in accordance with current law. Additionally, the bill extends the licensure expiration date for rural hospitals licensed in fiscal years 2010-2011 or 2011-2012 from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2031.



MEDICAL TREATMENT UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW – SB 362 (BRADLEY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

Increases witness fee limits and reimbursement allowances for physicians and surgical procedures under Workers' Compensation Law.

- Allows healthcare providers giving a deposition to charge a witness fee of up to \$300 per hour, an increase from \$200.
- Limits expert witness fees, who have not provided direct services related to the case but reviewed records, to \$300 per day, up from \$200.
- Raises maximum reimbursement for physicians under chapters 458 or 459 to 175% of Medicare's reimbursement rate from the previous 110%.

- Increases the maximum reimbursement for surgical procedures to 210% of Medicare’s rate or the level adopted by the three-member panel as of January 1, 2003, whichever is higher.
- Obligates the department to provide data, including utilization trends, to the panel and furnish an annual report on medical reimbursement dispute resolutions.

Health and Human Services: FAILED

HEALTH INSURANCE COST SHARING – HB 363 (CROSS)

Never received a committee hearing.

Requires health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers to apply payments for certain prescription drugs toward insureds' cost-sharing requirements.

- Defines "cost-sharing requirement" as any out-of-pocket expense imposed on an insured, including deductibles and copayments.
- Mandates that payments made by or on behalf of an insured for prescription drugs without a generic equivalent or with a generic equivalent but authorized through specific processes must be applied toward the insured's cost-sharing requirements.
- Includes any form of financial assistance, manufacturer copay cards, or any reduction in out-of-pocket expenses toward the insured's cost-sharing contributions.
- Requires health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers to disclose on their websites and in policy documents that payments made by or on behalf of insureds must be applied toward cost-sharing requirements.
- Applicable to policies issued, delivered, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025.

DECLARATIONS OF A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY – HB 459 (RUDMAN)

Never received a committee hearing.

Revises terms and procedures related to public health emergencies in Florida, particularly regarding vaccines, renewals of emergency declarations, individual rights, and election protocol alterations.

- Excludes the administration of vaccines from the definitions of "treat," "treated," or "treatment."
- Limits a public health emergency declaration to 60 days, with possible extensions by the Governor for 30 days; subsequent renewals require a two-thirds legislative majority vote.
- Authorizes individuals to refuse examination, testing, or treatment during a public health emergency by submitting a written refusal without being subjected to these measures.
- Removes the State Health Officer's authority to use any means necessary to treat unwilling or unable individuals.
- Prohibits closures of churches, businesses, government buildings, schools, and public domains during a public health emergency, as well as alterations to election procedures, mandating case-by-case authorization with due process rights.

ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE MEDICATIONS FOR SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS – HB 491 (GONZALEZ PITTMAN)

Never received a committee hearing.

Defines "serious mental illness" for Medicaid purposes, listing conditions such as bipolar disorder, major depressive disorders, and schizophrenia. Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to approve Medicaid

drug products for the treatment of serious mental illness without step-therapy prior authorization under certain conditions. Amends various sections to ensure consistency with the new definition of serious mental illness and to facilitate the efficient implementation of this policy. Directs the Agency for Health Care Administration to consider the financial impact of the act in specific Medicaid program rates.



HEALTH CARE SERVICES – SB 584 (HARRELL)

Never received a committee hearing.

Prohibits a health plan from declining to participate in a certain process. Requires a health plan to pay a claimant the amount provided in the Agency for Health Care Administration’s final order within a specified timeframe. Provides a financial penalty for failure to comply and requires the agency to notify the appropriate licensure or certification entity under certain circumstances.

Education: PASSED



EDUCATION – HB 1285 (CANADY)

Passed the legislature; has not yet been sent to the Governor.

A robust bill that Amends various Florida statutes to enhance education. More specifically, the bill:

- Eliminates the need for annual exemption applications on property used for charter schools, mandating notification to the property appraiser under certain conditions, with specified penalties for non-compliance.
- Introduces the Office of Ocean Economy within the State University System, outlining its duties and reporting requirements.
- Prohibits Florida College System institution and state university board members from engaging in business dealings with entities under their purview.
- Allows for enrollment preference at charter schools for students transferring from classical schools.
- Authorizes private schools to use certain facilities without specific zoning or land use requirements, provided they meet health, safety, and welfare laws.
- Specifies assessment responsibilities for virtual instruction providers and requires school districts to accommodate testing for virtual students.
- Establishes the Purple Star School District Program with requirements for support and coordination of services for military students and families.
- Mandate’s school districts and charter schools to offer the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test to certain students.
- Revises dropout prevention programs, including requirements for academic intervention plans.
- Prevents public postsecondary institutions from prohibiting student employment, with exceptions.
- Limits objections to school district instructional materials and requires publishers to provide materials electronically for educational purposes.
- Creates associate in arts specialized transfer degrees with a process for approval and reporting.
- Requires school districts to attempt entering agreements for online dual enrollment courses with Florida College System institutions.
- Adjusts provisions for school improvement measures, including requirements for schools failing to improve grades.
- Modifies tuition differentiation policy for advance payment contracts pre-2024.

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules for issuing classical education teaching certificates, valid only in classical schools.
- Allows the Commissioner of Education to appoint an executive director for the Education Practices Commission.
- Repeals the Florida College System institution employment equity accountability program.
- Appropriates funds for bonuses to International Baccalaureate teachers based on student performance.

Education: FAILED



CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING PROVIDERS – HB 635 (MCFARLAND)

Died on the House calendar.

Provides tax credits to taxpayers for operating eligible childcare facilities, offering childcare benefits to employees, and making payments to childcare facilities.

- Exempts public and private preschools from certain special assessments levied by municipalities.
- Defines "preschool" as a licensed childcare facility serving children under 5 years of age.
- Authorizes tax credits against various state taxes for actions supporting childcare, with limitations on the credit amount.
- Requires electronic filing for tax returns and payments related to these credits.
- Modifies licensing standards for childcare facilities, including training requirements for personnel and safety standards.
- Expands types of providers considered in plans to eliminate duplicative inspections and revises requirements for abbreviated inspection plans.
- Specifies that certain childcare facilities are exempt from some requirements.
- Defines "large family childcare home" and applies specific insurance provisions to them.