

# PALM BEACH COUNTY 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION FINAL REPORT



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# 2026 Legislative Session Overview

The 2026 Regular Session began on January 13 and adjourned March 13, without passing a balanced budget until May 29. Following three Special Sessions, the Legislature adjourned sine die on May 29. During this Session, lawmakers filed 1,926 bills and 1,764 amendments. A total of 237 bills ultimately passed both chambers.

Prolonged negotiations over the state budget and property taxes caused a significant delay in adjournment. The Legislature eventually approved a \$117.6 billion General Appropriations Act for FY 2026-27 and spending was trimmed across every major silo to safeguard Florida's long-term fiscal health.

During the Regular Session, the House passed HJR 203, which would have led to the elimination of all non-school homestead property taxes, while holding funding for law enforcement services, fire fighters and first responders harmless. The Senate failed to take up HJR 203, as the Governor and the Senate preferred to handle property taxes outside of Regular Session in a Special Session. The Governor called a Special Session on May 27 for June 1-3 which led to the passing of a property tax resolution to be placed on the November 2026 ballot, which would increase the non-school homestead property tax exemption to \$150,000 beginning in 2027 and \$250,000 beginning in 2028, exempt school taxes from the increased homestead exemption, cap assessment increases on commercial property at five percent year over year, provide a five-year glidepath before individuals who have not established residency in the state of Florida can qualify for these increased homestead exemption, and establish that local governments would be limited to expending property tax revenues for core services including public safety, education, infrastructure, natural resources, debt service, retirement obligations for local government employees, and to fund the operations of constitutional officials, commissioners, and local governments, except for expenditures specifically prohibited by state law.

There was also much discussion around mid-decade congressional redistricting, and the Governor convened a Special Session on the week of April 20<sup>th</sup>, which was then delayed to the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>. The call of Special Session was expanded from congressional redistricting to also include the artificial intelligence bill of rights and vaccine exemptions "medical freedom" legislation, two initiatives that were supported by the Governor and passed the Senate but were not considered by the House and failed to make it across the finish line during Session. During this Special Session, the Senate passed three pieces of legislation, but the House did not consider either the artificial intelligence bill of rights or the vaccine exemptions "medical freedom" legislation. Ultimately, only the congressional redistricting map passed both Chambers and was signed into law by the Governor.

With a smaller tax package, leaner overall budget, and fewer statewide preemptions, the 2026 Session reflected a cautious pivot toward fiscal restraint even as chamber-to-chamber and inter-branch tensions lengthened the calendar.

The following pages in this report will highlight the priority appropriations and policy issues from the 2026 Legislative Session, emphasizing several that have direct impacts to Palm Beach County.

# FY 2026-2027 Budget Highlights

**TOTAL STATE BUDGET: \$117.6 billion** [\$52.3 billion GR; \$62.2 billion TF; \$3.1 billion BOB]

**TOTAL RESERVES: \$14 billion**

- Unallocated General Revenue: \$8.6 billion
- Budget Stabilization Fund: \$5.7 billion
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund: \$250 million
- Retirement of State Debt: \$150 million

**COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS:**

- Raises the minimum salary for correctional officers from \$22 per hour to \$24 per hour, provides 4% pay increases for state law enforcement officers, firefighters, and park rangers, and includes a \$10,000 pay increase for assistant state attorneys and a \$3,000 pay increase for public defenders.
- One and half cost-of-living adjustment for Special Risk Class Pensions
- State Employees and Retirees Health Insurance Premiums held constant

## Education

Total Budget: \$33 billion [\$25.8 billion GR; \$7.8 billion TF]

**Education Capital Outlay**

Total Budget: \$1,135,200,000

- State University System Projects - \$465.5 million
- Florida College System Projects - \$209.1 million
- Charter School Repairs and Maintenance - \$260.2 million
- Small School District Special Facilities - \$145.5 million
- Developmental Research School Repairs & Maintenance - \$11.6 million

**Early Learning Services**

Total: \$1.65 billion [\$605.7 million GR; \$1 billion TF]

- Partnerships for School Readiness - \$42.3 million
- School Readiness Program - \$1.2 billion
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$431 million
  - Decrease of 221 fewer students (\$426,009)

**Public Schools/K12 FEFP**

Total: \$30 billion [\$16 billion state funds; \$14 billion local funds]

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$735.9 million or 2.51 percent
- FEFP increase in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$150.31, a 1.64 percent increase (from \$9,187.36 to \$9,337.67)

- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$85 or 1.58 percent
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$321.9 million; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.057 mills

**Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP**

Total: \$542.9 million [\$534.6 million GR; \$8.3 million TF]

- Coach Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon, & Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program - \$6.5 million
- School Recognition Program - \$135 million
- Mentoring Programs - \$12.4 million
- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers - \$8.7 million
- Regional Education Consortium Services - \$6.8 million
- Teacher Professional Development - \$13.3 million
- School District Foundation Matching Grants - \$7 million
- Florida Safe Schools Canine Program - \$3.3 million
- District Threat Management Coordinators - \$5 million
- Regional Literacy Teams - \$5 million
- Charity for Change - \$4.7 million
- SEED School of Miami - \$12.8 million
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$68.1 million
- Exceptional Education - \$12.6 million
- Florida School for the Deaf & Blind - \$82.5 million
- Civic Engagement Initiatives - \$13 million
- School Hardening - \$20 million
- Patriotic Displays in Classrooms - \$200,000

**State Board of Education**

Total: \$316.1 million [\$167.7 million GR; \$148.4 million TF]

- Assessment and Evaluation - \$127.8 million
- ACT and SAT Exam Administration - \$8 million

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

Total: \$270.2 million [\$62.7 million GR; \$207.5 million TF]

**Blind Services**

Total: \$84.3 million [\$27.5 million GR; \$56.8 million TF]

**Private Colleges**

Total: \$205.3 million GR

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) - \$34.5 million
- Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) - \$136.9 million

**Student Financial Aid**

Total: \$1.1 billion [\$316.4 million GR; \$808.6 million TF]

- Bright Futures - \$705.2 million
- Benacquisto Scholarship Program - \$35.2 million
- Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans - \$35.5 million
- Florida First Responder Scholarship Program - \$10 million
- Open Door Grant Program - \$25 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship - \$2 million

### **School District Workforce**

Total: \$784.7 million [\$447.2 million GR; \$287.5 million TF; \$50 million tuition/fees]

- Workforce Development - \$473.5 million
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$20 million
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds - \$20 million
- Workforce Capitalization Incentive Grants - \$40 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program - \$2.5 million
- No tuition increase

### **Florida College System**

Total: \$2.6 billion [\$1.6 billion GR; \$239.7 million TF; \$784.1 million tuition/fees]

- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$20 million
- College System Program Fund - \$1.71 billion
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds- \$40 million
- Postsecondary Guardian Program - \$4.2 million
- Student Success Incentive Funds - \$30 million
  - 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds - \$17 million
  - Work Florida Incentive Funds - \$13 million
- No tuition increase

### **State University System**

Total: \$6.7 billion [\$4.0 billion GR; \$617.6 million TF; \$2.1 billion tuition/fees]

- Lastinger Center for Learning at University of Florida - \$44.1 million
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds- \$40 million
- Metric Based Performance Funding - \$350 million
- Postsecondary Guardian Program - \$1.8 million
- Community School Grant Program - \$23.6 million
- Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program for Students with Unique Abilities - \$14.5 million
- Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment at University of Florida - \$12 million
- University of Florida - IFAS - \$215.2 million
- No required tuition increase

### **Health and Human Services**

Total Budget: \$49.2 billion [\$19.2 billion GR; \$30.0 billion TF]

#### **Agency for Health Care Administration**

Total: \$38.0 billion [\$13.5 billion GR; \$24.5 billion TF]

- Fully Fund Florida's Medicaid and KidCare Programs
- Florida Healthy Kids Combined-Risk Model Premium Stabilization - \$27.8 million
- Rural Health Transformation Program - \$209.9 million; 14 positions
- Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - \$205.9 million
- Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Expansion - \$38.4 million
- Graduate Medical Education - \$13.5 million
- Enhanced Provider Network Audits - \$10.8 million
- Medicaid Management Information Systems - \$23.4 million

#### **Agency for Persons with Disabilities**

Total: \$1.3 billion [\$1.2 billion GR; \$0.1 billion TF]

- Pre-Enrollment to Waiver - \$10 million
- iBudget Provider Rate Increase - \$22.8 million
- Developmental Disability Centers - \$27.5 million
- Operating Cost Increases for Resident Services at Forensic Facilities - \$0.7 million
- Room and Board for Developmentally Disabled Category Increase - \$0.5 million
- iConnect System - \$35.1 million

#### **Department of Children and Families**

Total: \$4.8 billion [\$3.0 billion GR; \$1.8 billion TF]

Child Welfare Services - \$69.0 million

- Foster Care Room and Board Rate Increase - \$12.6 million
  - Adoption Assistance Subsidies - \$24.9 million
  - Extended Foster Care - \$10.1 million
  - Grants to Encourage Fatherhood Support and Mentorship of At-Risk Boys - \$5.0 million
  - Foster and Family Support Grant Program - \$5.0 million
  - Step Into Success Program Statewide Expansion - \$3.4 million, 9 positions
  - Foster Parent and Guardian ad Litem Recruitment Campaign - \$1 million
  - Child Welfare Information Systems - \$7.0 million
- State and Community-Based Mental Health/Substance Use Prevention - \$47.9 million
  - State Mental Health Treatment Facilities Forensic Bed Expansion and Patient Safety Improvements - \$19.2 million
  - Community Mental Health Residential Forensic Treatment Beds - \$9.9 million
  - Integrated Residential Treatment Beds for Women - \$4.8 million
  - Central Receiving Facilities - \$7.0 million
  - 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - \$7.0 million
- Economic Self-Sufficiency Supports - \$116.5 million
  - SNAP Food Assistance Program - \$38.0 million
  - Public Benefit Eligibility Determination Improvements - \$27.3 million
  - Florida System (ACCESS) - \$51.2 million
- Domestic Violence Services - \$9.9 million
- Financial Accountability and Compliance - \$5 million
- Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery from Opioid Settlement Funds - \$166.6 million

## **Department of Elder Affairs**

Total: \$513.4 million [\$280.0 million GR; \$233.4 million TF]

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative - Frail Elders Waiting for Services - \$3 million

- Serve Additional Clients in the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) and Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) Programs - \$7.5 million
- Increased Resources for the Office of Public Guardians - \$4.4 million
- Comprehensive Assessment and Review for Long-Term Services Staff Pay Increases - \$0.4 million
- Information Technology - \$6.6 million

## **Department of Health**

Total: \$4.1 billion [\$1.1 billion GR; \$3.0 billion TF]

- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) - \$75 million
- Routine Screening Expansion for HIV, Hepatitis, and Syphilis - \$2.9 million
- Cancer Care and Research - \$20.2 million
- Doula Support for Healthy Births Pilot Program - \$0.7 million
- Neurofibromatosis Disease Grant Program - \$5 million
- Uterine Fibroid Research Database - \$1.0 million
- Swimming Lesson Voucher Program - \$0.7 million
- Food and Product Safety Testing Initiative - \$2 million
- Newborn Screening Additional Testing - \$5.2 million
- Rural Emergency Medical Services System - \$1 million

## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

Total: \$240.8 million [\$59.6 million GR; \$181.2 million TF]

- Veterans Dental Care Grant Program - \$0.5 million
- Florida is for Veterans' Occupational License Reciprocity - \$1.4 million
- State Veterans' Nursing Home Support - \$8.7 million
- Information Technology \$1.5 million

## **Criminal and Civil Justice**

Total Budget: \$8.02 billion [\$6.99 billion GR; \$1.03 billion TF]

## **Department of Corrections (DOC)**

Total: \$4.05 billion [\$3.97 billion GR; \$79.1 million TF]; 23,380 positions

- Health Services Contract - \$60.2 million
- DOC Operational Deficit - \$35.1 million
- Food Service Contract - \$16.1 million
- Technology Restoration Plan - \$10.2 million
- Certified Officers Public Safety Initiative (Communications) - \$3.3 million
- Community Corrections Residential Substance Abuse Programs - \$1.5 million
- FCO - Additional Dorms - \$52.0 million
- FCO - New Prison Hospital - \$50.0 million

**Florida Commission on Offender Review**

Total: \$17.7 million [\$17.7 million GR; \$0 million TF]

- IT Services and Wi-Fi - \$1.8 million

**Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)**

Total: \$813.9 million [\$646.2 million GR; \$167.7 million TF]

- Sustain Contracted Residential Services System - \$14.0 million
- Increased Residential Commitment Capacity - \$8.7 million
- Residential Medical Services Increased Costs - \$5.4 million
- Florida Scholars Academy - \$3.7 million
- Detention Uniforms – Staff and Youth - \$1.3 million
- FCO - Broward Detention Center - \$20.0 million
- FCO Maintenance and Repair - \$5.0 million

**Attorney General/ Legal Affairs**

Total: \$324.5 million [\$112.4 million GR; \$212.1 million TF]

- Groveland Four Relief - \$4.0 million
- Recurring IT Costs - \$1.9 million
- Increased Operating Costs- \$1.0 million
- Criminal Civil Litigation Increased Contract Services - \$675,000

**Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)**

Total: \$569.5 million [\$375.2 million GR; \$194.3 million TF]

- State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (SAFE) in Florida Program - \$15.0 million
- Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program - \$5.0 million
- Fort Myers Regional Operations Center Facility - \$4.4 million
- Alcohol Testing Program Transition to New Breath Test Instrumentation - \$3.3 million
- Drone as a First Responder Grant Program - \$2.5 million
- Office of Wellness Expansion - \$2.6 million; 8 positions
- Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Technology Upgrade - \$2.4 million
- Wastewater Testing Grant Program - \$500,000

**Justice Administration**

Total: \$1.4 billion [\$1.16 billion GR; \$253.0 million TF]

- Jury Management Funding - \$4.8 million
- Reimbursement for Statutorily Required Duties - \$1.8 million
- State Attorneys - Staffing Adjustments for Workload and Increased Judgeships - \$4.4 million; 40 positions
- Public Defenders – Staffing Adjustments for Workload and Increased Judgeships - \$1.8 million; 8 positions
- Increased Due Process Funds for State Attorneys – \$2.5 million

- Increased Due Process Funds for Public Defenders - \$575,000

#### **State Court System**

Total: \$832.8 million [\$705.6 million GR; \$127.2 million TF]

- Trial Court Case Management Technology - \$2.7 million; 4 positions
- Problem Solving Courts Reporting - \$1.1 million; 1 position
- Judicial Security Resources - \$461,682; 2 positions
- FCO - Sixth District Court of Appeal - \$13.0 million
- FCO - Maintenance and Repair - \$1.5 million

### **Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development**

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

#### **Department of Commerce**

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

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

#### **Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles**

Total: \$623.9 million [TF]

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

#### **Department of Military Affairs**

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

#### **Department of State**

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

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

- Local Initiatives - \$26.8 million

### **Department of Transportation**

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

- Transportation Work Program - \$13.5 billion
- Information Technology Storage Area Network Replacement - \$452,000
  - Data Infrastructure Modernization - \$3.2 million
  - Security Risk Management Program - \$607,320
- Increase Operation Costs Department-wide - \$10.0 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay Projects - \$28.5 million
- Equipment Replacement - \$9.2 million

### **Division of Emergency Management**

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

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

## **Agriculture, Environment and General Government**

Total Budget: \$8.9 billion [\$1.9 billion GR; \$1.3 billion LATF; \$5.7 billion Other TF]

### **Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services**

Total: \$2.9 billion [\$678.0 million GR; \$384.2 million LATF; \$1.8 billion TF]

- Farmers Feeding Florida - \$38.0 million GR
- Rural and Family Lands Protection Easements - \$425.0 million [\$225.0 million GR; \$200.0 million LATF]
- Emergency Wildfire Management - \$64.1 million GR
- Fire Suppression Equipment - \$20.0 million
- New State Forest - 4 FTE; \$1.9 million TF
- Reforestation Program - \$4.0 million TF
- Land Management - \$20.0 million GR
- Forestry Road and Bridges - \$11.4 million GR
- Maintenance, Repair, and Construction - \$7.5 million TF
- Code and Life Safety - \$8.3 million GR
- Citrus Research and Support - \$188.9 million [\$180.0 million GR; \$8.9 million TF]
- Food Safety Inspection - 8 FTE; \$1.5 million GR
- Conner Lab Planning and Design - \$11 million GR
- Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab - 8 FTE; \$40.7 million GR
- Immokalee Field Station - \$8.9 million GR
- Fuel Transfer Switch Modernization - \$10.0 million GR

- Oyster Restoration - \$4.0 million GR
- Mollusk Survey Program - 4 FTE; \$1.6 million TF
- Office of Energy Programs - \$22.1 million TF
- Florida State Fair - \$9.5 million GR

#### **Department of Citrus**

Total: \$39.6 million [\$17.7 million GR; \$21.9 million TF]

- Increase Advertising Campaigns - \$5.0 million GR
- Citrus Recovery Program - \$2.0 million GR

#### **Department of Environmental Protection**

Total: \$2.46 billion [\$480.2 million GR; \$2 billion TF]

- Everglades Restoration - \$638.6 million [\$143.3 million GR; \$495.3 million LATF]
  - Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP) EAA - \$424.7 million
  - CEPP North - \$10.7 million
  - CEPP South - \$15 million
  - Western Everglades Restoration Project - \$20 million
  - Northern Everglades Restoration - \$74.6 million
  - Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Area - \$38.6 million
  - Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project - \$50 million
  - Dispersed Water Storage - \$5 million
- Land Management - \$33.2 million
  - WMD Land Management - \$14.2 million LATF
  - DEP Land Management - \$19 million [\$10.0 million LATF; \$9 million TF]
- Water Quality Improvements - \$584.4 million
  - Areas of Critical State Concern - \$25 million GR
  - Alternative Water Supply - \$50 million GR
  - Innovative Technologies - \$10 million GR
  - C-51 Reservoir - \$60 million TF
  - Biscayne Bay WQI - \$20 million GR
  - Indian River Lagoon WQI - \$25 million GR
  - Total Maximum Daily Loads - \$20 million GR
  - SJRWMD Taylor Creek Reservoir Water Supply Project - \$25 million GR
  - NFWFMD Doctors Lake - \$5 million GR
  - Water Projects - \$379.9 million [\$350.0 million TF; \$79.9 million GR]
  - Non-Point Source Planning Grants - \$14.5 million [\$5 million GR; \$9.5 million TF]
- Working Waterfronts Program - \$2.5 million TF
- Red Tide Management - \$3 million GR
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program - \$167 million
- Hazardous Waste and Dry Clean Site Cleanup - \$26.0 million TF
- Wastewater and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program - \$569.2 million [\$53.2 million GR; \$516 million TF]
- Small County Solid Waste Management Grants - \$3 million TF

- Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants - \$10.7 million [\$2.7 million GR; \$8 million TF]
- Reef Protection Tire Abatement - \$7 million TF
- Land and Water Conservation Grants - \$15 million TF
- Recreational Trails Program - \$3 million TF
- Deepwater Horizon Grants - \$22.4 million TF
- State Parks Maintenance and Repairs - \$46.5 million TF
- Beach Projects - \$64.1 million [\$50 million LATF; \$14.1 million GR]
- Resilient Florida Planning Grants and Projects - \$170 million TF
- Federal Drinking Water Emerging Contaminant Funding - \$28.4 million TF
- Federal Wastewater Emerging Contaminant Funding - \$7.6 million TF

#### **Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission**

Total: \$587.9 million [\$177.4 million GR; \$410.5 million TF]

- Law Enforcement - \$11 million GR
  - Vehicles and Vessels - \$3 million GR
  - Equipment and Expenses - \$4 million GR
  - Overtime - \$4 million GR
- Derelict Vessel Removal - \$4.9 million [\$2.6 million GR; \$2.3 million TF]
- Nuisance Wildlife Control - \$4 million GR
- Boating Infrastructure Improvements - \$8 million TF
- Enhanced Marine Fish Management - \$2 million TF
- Blackwater Hatchery Renovation - \$1.5 million LATF
- Land Management, Invasive Plant Control and Habitat Restoration - \$25 million [\$20 million GR; \$5 million TF]
- Wildlife Restoration Grant Projects - \$5 million TF
- Shooting Sports Facilities - \$8.0 million FGTF
- Oyster Restoration and Monitoring - \$10.9 million GR

#### **Department of Business & Professional Regulation**

Total: \$306.7 million [\$7 million GR; \$299.7 million TF]

- Customer Experience Modernization System - \$3.3 million TF
- Florida PALM Readiness - \$0.5 million TF

#### **Florida Gaming Control Commission**

Total: \$35.9 million TF

- Gaming Enforcement Staffing - \$3.3 million TF

#### **Department of Financial Services**

Total: \$666.0 million [\$98.2 million GR; \$567.8 million TF]

- PALM (FLAIR Replacement) - 8 FTE; \$43.1 million TF
- Information Technology Upgrades, Systems and Contract Increases - \$9.7 million TF

- Law Enforcement, Fire Marshal and Disaster Response Training, Vehicles and, Technology Upgrades and Equipment - \$.3 million TF
- State Fire College Repair and Maintenance - \$3.1 million TF
- Additional Staffing to Protect Consumers and Promote Market Stability - \$1.4 million TF
- Implementation of HB 999 – Legal Tender - 5 FTE; \$.7 million TF
- Veteran / First Responder Electroencephalogram Pilot Program - \$10 million GR
- Workload Issues within Securities Industry Registration and Examination - 5 FTEs; \$.7 million TF
- Local Government Fire & Firefighter Services - \$54.4 million [\$53.9 million GR; \$32.5 million TF]

#### **Department of the Lottery**

Total: \$240.2 million TF

- Increase in Technology, Contracted Services, Special Categories and Expenses \$.8 million TF
- Increase to Instant Ticket Purchase - \$1.4 million TF
- Increase to Gaming System Contract - \$2.3 million TF

#### **Department of Management Services**

Total Budget: \$801.0 million [\$139.7 million GR; \$661.3 million TF]

- Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) Issues - \$0.5 million TF
- FFP Fixed Capital Outlay - \$41.0 million [\$30.9 million GR; \$10.2 million TF]
- FFP Specific Maintenance and Repairs Issues - \$3 million GR
- Non-FRS Pension Benefits (Florida National Guard) - \$1.9 million GR
- Florida PALM Readiness - \$3.4 million [\$2.6 million GR; \$0.8 million TF]
- People First Resources for College System Integration - \$1.5 million GR
- Emergency 911 Public Safety Answering Points Upgrade - \$2.8 million GR
- SUNCOM Services Increase - \$17.4 million TF
- E-Rate State Match Program - \$1.0 million GR
- Local Government Cybersecurity Technical Assistance Grants - \$15.0 million GR
- Public Employee Relations Commission Resources - \$0.7 million TF

#### **Division of Administrative Hearings**

Total Budget: \$40.3 million TF

#### **Public Service Commission**

Total: \$32.2 million TF

#### **Department of Revenue**

Total: \$845.1 million [\$341.4 million GR; \$503.7 million TF]

- Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$75.2 million GR
- SUNTAX Transition to SAP S/4 - \$3.8 million TF
- Child Support Program Increases 0.4 million in Rate

# Palm Beach County Appropriations

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

## Education

### FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

FAU Autism Program	\$1,386,508
FAU Health Professions Training & Research Facility	\$20,000,000
FAU Lab Schools - Center for Educational Strategy and Innovation	\$1,500,000
FAU Lottery Fund	\$46,809,121
FAU Max Planck Florida Scientific Fellows Program	\$2,000,000
FAU Medical School	\$21,747,039
FAU Seatech Dania Beach Campus Seawall Repair	\$1,500,000
FAU Student Financial Assistance	\$399,658
FAU University Grants & Aid	\$136,895,632
FAU University Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$2,786,646
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$235,024,604</b>

### PALM BEACH STATE COLLEGE

<del>PBSC Boca Raton Administration Building Remodel</del>	<del>\$4,800,000</del>
PBSC Florida College System Grants & Aid for Nursing Education	\$2,131,701
PBSC Florida College System Lottery Fund	\$12,221,593
PBSC Florida College System Program Fund	\$72,521,516
PBSC Florida College System Student Success Initiatives	\$1,386,337
PBSC Transportation Technology Expansion Project	\$1,100,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$94,161,147</b>

### PALM BEACH COUNTY SCHOOLS K-12

Boca Raton High School Robotics Lab & Teams Expansion	\$350,000
Glades Workforce Expansion	\$372,867
Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds	\$22,181,585
Public Schools District Adjustment Funds	\$2,936,051
Roosevelt Elementary School Program Enhancements	\$440,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,280,503</b>

### PRIVATE COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Palm Beach Atlantic University LeMieux Center for Public Policy	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>

### OTHER EDUCATION

Achievement Centers: Safe and Secure Learning Environments	\$121,116
Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program	\$450,000
Behavioral Challenges Therapeutic Inclusion Program - Creating Pathways to Possibilities	\$250,000
Boca School for Autism - Bridge to Success Vocational Job Training Program	\$200,000
Boys & Girls Club & Teen Workforce Readiness Center of West Palm Beach	\$1,500,000

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary Environmental Education Program	\$500,000
<del>Community Partners of South Florida CentsBuilder Youth Financial Literacy Program</del>	<del>\$125,000</del>
Els Center for Autism Specialized Workforce Training Program	\$400,000
HabCenter Boca Raton - Employment & Empowerment Program	\$212,500
Hate Ends Now Traveling Holocaust Cattle Car Exhibit	\$206,855
inSIGHT Through Education Traveling Holocaust Exhibit	\$82,500
Love Serving Autism Therapeutic Wellness Program	\$450,000
School Readiness Services	\$84,078,156
University of Florida: Biomedical Innovation and Technology – Scripps	\$6,286,607
Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program	\$31,604,665
Wonder Works - Florida Youth Innovation & Workforce Skills Initiative	\$881,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$127,348,399</b>

## Health and Human Services

### **CHILD & FAMILY WELFARE**

ChildNet - Foster Care Family Visitation Center Expansion	\$625,000
Exchange Club Parent Aide - Palm Beach & Broward County	\$400,000
Foster Care Family Visitation Center Expansion	\$625,000
Jewish Family Services - Keep Families Working Summer Camp Scholarship	\$250,000
Place of Hope Child Welfare Services	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,900,000</b>

### **HEALTH**

ALICE Population Food Security & Care Management Program	\$250,000
H.O.W. Angel Fund: Assistance for Women with Ovarian Cancer	\$650,000
Promise Fund	\$300,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center (Butterfly House)	\$282,039
<del>Stop Food Insecurity</del>	<del>\$300,000</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,732,039</b>

### **ELDER AFFAIRS**

Aging in Place with Grace by Rales Jewish Family Services	\$247,050
Alzheimer's Community Care Association	\$1,500,000
Alzheimer's Community Care Critical Support Initiative	\$1,000,000
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation	\$92,946
<del>Rales Jewish Family Services Immediate Need Triage Line for Individuals and Families</del>	<del>\$149,420</del>
<del>South Bay Senior Center Modernization Project</del>	<del>\$200,000</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,189,416</b>

### **SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH**

Alpert Jewish Family Service Community Access Life Line Service	\$300,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health First Aid	\$500,000
Alpert Jewish Family Service Mental Health Services for Persons with Disabilities	\$375,000
Behavioral Challenges Therapeutic Inclusion Program	\$250,000

Faulk Center for Counseling Mental Health Services for Low Income Families	\$235,500
<del>Gulfstream Goodwill Industries – Behavioral Health Services</del>	<del>\$438,992</del>
Hanley Foundation – Program for Peripartum Women and Children	\$800,000
Hookin Veterans	\$250,000
Veterans Suicide Prevention	\$400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,549,492</b>

#### **FACILITIES**

Arc of Palm Beach County - Completion of Special Needs Shelter	\$1,500,000
CityHouse – Home and Hope Project	\$100,000
Els for Autism Specialized Autism Recreation Complex	\$3,000,000
Habitat for Humanity - Strengthening Homes for Those Who Served	\$250,000
IDDeal Place - Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled Permanent Housing	\$900,000
JARC Community Works Program	\$495,000
YMCA of the Palm Beaches Community Center	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 7,745,000</b>

#### **WORKFORCE/VOCATIONAL**

<del>Autism Theater Project - The Voice Inside</del>	<del>\$450,000</del>
Boca Helping Hands Job Training Program	\$427,700
<del>Connections Autism School &amp; Vocational Center Expansion</del>	<del>\$1,000,000</del>
Els for Autism Foundation - Specialized Workforce Training Program	\$400,000
<del>Goodwill Works Vocational Training for the Unemployed</del>	<del>\$500,000</del>
Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$225,000
<del>Path to College Workforce Development &amp; Career Readiness</del>	<del>\$500,000</del>
The Lord's Place - Youth Center at The Lord's Place Family Campus	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,002,700</b>

### **Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

#### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

<b>Palm Beach County RESTORE Re-entry Program</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Forensic Genetic Testing	\$625,000
Sago Palm Facility	\$142,900
<del>South Bay Correctional Facility</del>	<del>\$275,560</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,543,460</b>

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

<del>Boca Raton Public Safety Dock Rehabilitation</del>	<del>\$500,000</del>
<del>Delray Beach Fire Rescue – Beach Rescue Drone Program</del>	<del>\$338,000</del>
<del>Greenacres Fire Rescue Protective Gear &amp; Safety Equipment</del>	<del>\$340,000</del>
Highland Beach First Responder Marine Support	\$250,000
<del>Lantana Police Department Emergency Operations Renovation</del>	<del>\$210,000</del>
<del>Multi-Mission Aircraft – Emergency Response Expansion for Palm Beach County</del>	<del>\$3,000,000</del>
<del>North Palm Beach Police Department – Real Time Crime Center</del>	<del>\$100,000</del>

Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Water Vessels for Hazard Mitigation	\$200,000
<del>Palm Beach Gardens Public Safety Aerial Drone Support Project</del>	<del>\$62,500</del>
<del>Riviera Beach Law Enforcement Training Facility</del>	<del>\$500,000</del>
<del>Sherman Williams American Legion Hall Post 188c Renovation and Operations Support</del>	<del>\$200,000</del>
Wandering Rescue and Prevention Project	\$250,000
West Palm Beach Fire Department Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Package	\$163,275
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,113,775</b>

## **Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development**

### **LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS**

Delray Beach - Swinton Ave & Atlantic Ave Intersection Improvements	\$1,000,000
<b>Downtown West Palm Beach Signalization Upgrades - Phase III</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>
Highland Beach - Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Improvement Project	\$375,000
Jupiter - High Speed Rail Safety Fencing	\$50,000
<del>Jupiter - Indiantown Road Traffic Signal Preemption</del>	<del>\$90,816</del>
Jupiter - Toney Penna & Central Boulevard Intersection Improvements	\$350,000
<del>Lake Park Traffic Safety Upgrade</del>	<del>\$800,000</del>
<b>Lantana Airport Southside Roadway &amp; Drainage Improvements</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<del>Mangonia Park Mill and Repaving Program</del>	<del>\$500,000</del>
North Palm Beach Pavement Preservation	\$100,000
<b>Palm Beach County Airport Renaming</b>	<b>\$2,750,000</b>
<b>Palm Beach County Australian Avenue Drainage Improvements</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
Palm Springs Dolan Road Safety Improvements	\$750,000
<del>South Bay Palm Beach Road Improvements and Beautification Project</del>	<del>\$900,000</del>
Westlake - GoWest Public Transportation	\$202,997
West Palm Beach - Old Okeechobee Rail Safety Intersection Improvements	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 17,868,813</b>

### **HIGHWAY SAFETY INITIATIVES**

<del>Teen Safe Driving Education Programs</del>	<del>\$50,000</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

### **TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM**

Arterial Highway Construction	\$28,107,498
Aviation Development Grants	\$14,000,000
Construction Inspection Consultants	\$26,558,231
Highway Maintenance Contracts	\$16,658,428
Highway Safety Construction Grants	\$3,981,089
Intrastate Highway Construction	\$345,459,370
Preliminary Engineering Consultants	\$20,854,300
Public Transit Development Grants	\$11,703,229
Rail Development Grants	\$25,955,332
Resurfacing	\$16,889,278
Right-of-Way Land Acquisition	\$3,061,725

Seaport Grants	\$2,000,000
Toll Operation Contracts	\$54,546,207
Traffic Engineering Consultants	\$6,363,626
Transportation Planning Consultants	\$1,400,000
Transportation Planning Grants	\$4,307,605
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$581,845,918</b>

#### **TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park Cross County Complex	\$850,000
Central County Sports Field House	\$900,000
<del>Circles Palm Beach County - Expanding Economic Mobility &amp; Entrepreneurial Success</del>	<del>\$110,400</del>
Peanut Island Historic Restoration	\$650,000
Palm Beach Gardens Economic Development Infrastructure	\$300,000
South Bay Rail Regional Commerce Park Development Epicenter	\$875,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,685,400</b>

#### **CULTURAL & MUSEUM GRANTS**

Busch Wildlife Sanctuary	\$150,000
Center for Creative Education, Inc.	\$150,000
Cox Science Center & Aquarium	\$150,000
District Board of Trustees of Palm Beach State College	\$150,000
Lynn Conservatory of Music	\$150,000
Norton Museum of Art, Inc	\$150,000
Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.	\$150,000
Palm Beach State College District Board of Trustees	\$150,000
Seven Hillz Productions Foundation	\$20,250
The Masterworks Chorus of the Palm Beaches, Inc	\$22,940
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,243,190</b>

#### **CULTURE BUILDS**

<del>Elizabeth Smith - Regeneration</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Etheard Joseph - ArtlSts Connecting South Florida Project</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Fiesta De Pueblo, Inc.</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Garrett Art Foundation, Inc.</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Karon Bowman - Community Wellness Mosaic: A Florida Tribute for America250</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Kingsley Okonkwo - AIRBUS Reimagined Culture Builds Florida Palm Beach</del>	<del>\$19,000</del>
<del>KR8TIV Justice Arts Organization Culture Builds Florida Palm Beach</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation, Inc.</del>	<del>\$24,400</del>
<del>Milagro Foundation, Inc.</del>	<del>\$24,455</del>
<del>Ron Garrett - Florida the Beautiful Portfolios</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church</del>	<del>\$14,500</del>
<del>The Unbreakable Organization</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<del>Veterans Memorial &amp; Multicultural Histories, Inc.</del>	<del>\$25,000</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$307,355</b>

## MUSEUMS

<del>Morikami Museum &amp; Japanese Gardens "Bridge to Heaven" Design</del>	<del>\$500,000</del>
Cox Science Center & Aquarium Expansion	\$3,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,500,000</b>

## PARKS

<del>Jupiter Athletic Field Repairs and Restoration</del>	<del>\$700,000</del>
<del>Mangonia Park Addie Greene Regional Park Improvements</del>	<del>\$220,000</del>
<del>Pahokee Restoration Project: Demucking and Backfilling for a Sustainable Park Design</del>	<del>\$950,000</del>
<del>Ocean Inlet Park Pedestrian Safety Improvements</del>	<del>\$125,000</del>
<del>Resilient Hardening of Lake Shore Multi-Use Resource Center</del>	<del>\$1,000,000</del>
<del>West Lake Phase 1 Park Improvements</del>	<del>\$600,000</del>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,595,000</b>

## Agriculture & Natural Resources

### AGRICULTRE & CONSUMER SERVICES

American Humane Society Sanctuary	\$500,000
Big Dog Ranch Rescue - Animal Abuse Hotline Pilot Program	\$500,000
<del>Furry Friends Ranch Relief Hub</del>	<del>\$300,000</del>
Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida Camp Welaka Revitalization	\$750,000
UF/IFAS Everglades Research and Education Center Outdoor Educational Pavilion	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,050,000</b>

### FISH & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Loggerhead Marine Life Center Water Treatment System for Sick or Injured Sea Turtles	\$1,500,000
Zoological Society of Palm Beach Habitat & Security Enhancements	\$450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,950,000</b>

### WASTE

Municipal Waste Reduction and Research Using Cerawave Microwave Plasma	\$4,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,000,000</b>

### BEACH PROJECTS

Mid-Town Coastal Storm Risk Management Project	\$3,164,935
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,164,935</b>

### INLET MANAGEMENT

Boca Raton IMP Implementation	\$531,000
Jupiter IMP Implementation	\$1,596,709
Lake Worth IMP Implementation	\$1,034,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,161,709</b>

### WATER PROJECTS

Belle Glade - H1 Basin Stormwater Improvements	\$2,259,427
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Boca Raton Drinking Water Transmission and Distribution Improvements - Boca Riviera	\$375,000
<del>Boynton Beach Water Distribution System Improvement - Bent Tree and Lime Tree</del>	<del>\$250,000</del>
<b>Greenacres Septic-to-Sewer Conversion</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
Indian Trail Improvement District M-0 Canal West Levee Mitigation and Re-enforcement	\$350,000
Jupiter Alma's Place Drainage and Water Quality Improvements	\$169,100
Jupiter Alternate A1A (SR 811) - Sawfish Bay Outfall Improvements	\$125,000
Jupiter Beach Front Drainage Improvements	\$100,000
Jupiter Narrows - Andrew "Red" Harris Mangrove Islands Restoration	\$260,000
<b>Jupiter Seminole Basin Water Quality Improvements</b>	<b>\$241,794</b>
Loxahatchee Groves Stormwater System Rehabilitation Phase III	\$375,000
<b>Loxahatchee River Headwaters Invasive Exotic Plant Removal</b>	<b>\$113,000</b>
Ocean Ridge Water Main Replacement Program	\$300,000
<del>Palm Beach North Lake Way Living Shoreline</del>	<del>\$262,500</del>
Palm Beach Gardens Thompson River Dredging	\$250,000
Palm Springs Canal 9 Sewer Force Main Replacement	\$250,000
<del>Palm Springs Critical Facility Emergency Generators - Sewer Vacuum Stations #2 and #3</del>	<del>\$250,000</del>
<b>Peanut Island and Lake Worth Lagoon Habitat Restoration</b>	<b>\$330,000</b>
Riviera Beach Utility Special District - New Water Treatment Plant Construction	\$1,500,000
Royal Palm Beach Storm Drain Outfall Replacement and Reinforcement	\$112,500
<del>Water Treatment Plant No. 2 Membrane Expansion</del>	<del>\$1,000,000</del>
<del>Water Treatment Plant No. 8 Membrane Expansion</del>	<del>\$2,000,000</del>
<del>Wellington Pump Station Improvements</del>	<del>\$650,000</del>
Wellington Water and Sewer Extension	\$4,600,000
West Palm Beach Membrane Pilot Testing for Use of Alternative Water Supply	\$375,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,748,321</b>

# 2026 Legislative Issues

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

## Housing and Economic Development

### **HB 273 – Special District Funding**

The bill requires agency agreements that provide state or federal financial assistance to special districts located in a rural community or rural area of opportunity, or that provide water and wastewater services in such areas, to include a provision allowing the agency to provide for the payment of invoices for verified and eligible performance that has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement in the same manner as current law authorizes for counties and municipalities in those areas. The bill also revises the definition of “rural community” for the purposes of the Rural Economic Development Initiative to include special districts located in rural counties.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 594 – Local Housing Assistance Plans**

SB 594 provides that a county’s or municipality’s local housing assistance plan under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program must include a strategy for providing program funds to mobile homeowners, including lot rental assistance. The bill specifies that lot rental assistance is considered home ownership activity for purposes of allocating program funds, while rehabilitation and emergency repairs for mobile homes is considered construction, rehabilitation, or emergency repair of affordable, eligible housing. The bill allows local governments to expend funds from their local housing distribution on lot rental assistance for mobile homeowners not to exceed 6 months’ rent.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 962 – Affordable Housing**

SB 962 clarifies agricultural use by specifying farms and farm operations are not commercial or industrial uses under Live Local.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1180 – Community Development Districts**

SB 1180 revises regulations affecting community development districts (CDDs) by establishing a recall process for members of the board of supervisors, clarifying local authority over synthetic turf, and redefining “compact, urban, mixed-use districts.” The bill creates a recall election process for a member of a CDD’s board of supervisors that largely mirrors existing procedures for municipalities and charter counties. It sets

requirements for initiating a recall petition, specifies ballot language, addresses filling vacancies created by a recall, and establishes penalties for offenses related to the petition process. Additionally, the bill clarifies that the prohibition on local government regulation of synthetic turf does not limit a CDD's ability to enforce deed restrictions. It also expands the types of developments that can qualify as a "compact, urban, mixed-use district," promoting higher density, mixed-use projects, including affordable housing, in targeted urban areas.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1389 – Affordable Housing**

HB 1389 passed the Florida Legislature modifying the Live Local Act (LLA) adopted during the 2023 legislative session. HB 1389 expands the LLA by allowing developments to be constructed on school districts, government owned land, and on land owned by religious institutions. Specifically, the bill:

- Expands Live Local to land owned by school districts, counties, or municipalities, requiring local government approval of projects, if Live Local requirements are met. Proposed projects must be within (school district or local government) geographic boundaries, and that entity must be a party to the application.
- Allows Live Local on religious land that is owned by a religious institution, exceeds 3 acres, has housed a place of worship for at least 10 years, and is applied for jointly by the applicant and the institution.
- Clarifies agricultural use by specifying farms and farm operations are not commercial or industrial uses under Live Local.
- Exempts from Live Local: open space and open use districts, areas of critical state concern, and portions of property under a recorded conservation easement.
- Modifies the missing middle tax exemption (s. 196.1978) by clarifying the definition of "multifamily project," requiring 3 years of surplus affordable housing data for local governments to opt out, and protecting owners with building permits issued within 4 years from an opt-out ordinance.
- Amends the Fair Housing Act (FHA) to expand the definition of "person" to include government entities, prohibiting discrimination
- based on affordable funding sources in land use decisions, and waives sovereign immunity for local governments that violate the FHA.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

#### **SB 250 – Rural Communities**

SB 250, known as the "Rural Renaissance" bill, was a major legislative priority for the Senate President during the 2026 Legislative Session. The bill aimed to boost rural communities across the state through a broad package providing significant funding to address rural healthcare, education, infrastructure, and economic development. After passing the Senate unanimously, the bill was sent to the Florida House. However, rather than passing SB 250, the House did not hear the bill in any of its committees of reference. Among the provisions in SB 250 was a key measure that would have given counties located in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA), like Palm Beach County, priority when applying for funds under the County Incentive Grant Program, allowing them to receive up to \$15 million per year for up to six years to support farm-to-market

road infrastructure improvements. While SB 250 ultimately did not pass this session, the Florida Department of Transportation has agreed to take jurisdiction and ownership of County Road 880 as a state road and will be responsible for the reconstruction of the farm to market road.

### **HB 313/SB 48 – Housing**

Former Senate President Don Gaetz’s Affordable Dwelling Units (ADU) bill failed to reach across the finish line for the second Session in a row as a standalone bill. The ADU bill passed the Senate unanimously but was only heard in its first committee of reference in the House. All the provisions except for the ADU related provisions were included in HB 1389, the fourth iteration of the Live Local Act. The House and Senate were unable to agree on the ADU portion of the bill due to a dispute over vacation rentals, as the Senate allowed local governments to require the rental of the ADU units be for affordable housing and for a contract term of at least 30 days.

Under SB 48:

- The bill requires each county and municipality to enact an ordinance, by December 1, 2026, to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in all single-family residential areas. Under current law, local governments are authorized, but not required, to enact such ordinance. The bill expressly allows local governments to regulate the permitting, construction, and use of ADUs, with specified exceptions.
- The bill also allows certain land donated to a local government for affordable housing to be used to provide affordable housing to military families receiving the basic allowance for housing, and directs the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to evaluate the efficacy of using mezzanine finance, or second position short-term debt, to stimulate the construction of owner-occupied affordable housing, and evaluate potential for tiny homes to meet affordable housing needs.

### **SB 664 – Rent of Affordable Housing Dwelling Units**

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

### **HB 1497/SB 1706 – My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program**

The bill expands the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program (Program) to association properties and condominium properties across the state, removing the provisions that limited participation in the Program to associations located 15 miles inward of a coastline. The bill adds an additional limitation on which types of condominium associations may participate in the Program to those associations in which at least 80 percent of the occupied units within the condominium are owned or occupied by a person or family whose annual

income is at or below 80 percent of the area median income. The bill requires the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to adopt rules establishing acceptable methods for verifying household income, including, but not limited to, owner self-certification, tax returns, income statements, or other documentation deemed sufficient by DFS. The bill allows a condominium with mixed-income occupancies to participate in the Program if the income threshold specified by the bill is otherwise satisfied. The bill's changes to the Program only apply to applications submitted to DFS on or after July 1, 2026.

## **Health & Human Services**

### **HB 253 – Veterans Dental Care Grant Program**

HB 253 expands eligibility for the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program by providing explicit statutory authorization for the program to provide services to veterans with incomes of up to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 340 – Human Trafficking Education for Nurse Licensure**

SB 340 requires new nurse licensure applicants to complete a 2-hour human trafficking course aligned with existing continuing education requirements.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 428 – Drowning Prevention**

SB 428 amends the Swimming Lesson Voucher Program to revise the eligibility requirements for the program from children 4 years of age or younger to children between 1 and 7 years of age.

The bill also requires the Department of Health to develop educational materials on drowning prevention safety measures and safe bathing practices. Hospitals, birth centers, and home birth providers are required to include these materials in postpartum education for new parents. Additionally, the bill requires childbirth educators to distribute the same drowning prevention and safe bathing materials to parents or caregivers receiving childbirth education.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 355 – Health Care Patient Protection**

HB 355 requires new pediatric emergency care protocols in hospital emergency departments and require public disclosure of readiness assessments. The bill also requires hospital emergency departments to develop and implement evidence-based pediatric policies and procedures, including triage, weighing children in kilograms, and calculating medication dosages.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 697 – Drug Prices and Coverage**

HB 697 was amended to provide \$30.9 million to the Florida Department of Health for the Ryan White Part B AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), ensuring the program continues operating through June 30, the end of the current fiscal year. The funding addresses unexpected disruptions that threatened access to HIV/AIDS medications for low-income Floridians. In response to the sudden funding gap, the DOH issued an emergency rule to maintain program operations and eligibility while the legislative solution was finalized. ADAP serves individuals with household incomes at or below 400% of the federal poverty level, providing medications that suppress the virus, prevent disease progression, and reduce the risk of HIV transmission. The amendment also requires the DOH to submit monthly reports starting April 1, detailing program finances, enrollment, prescription usage, trend analyses, and projected funding or enrollment pressures. This measure ensures continuous access to life-saving medications, mitigates potential public health risks, and provides short-term program stability while lawmakers work on the 2026–27 state budget for long-term funding for the ADAP program.

*Effective Date: Effective upon becoming law*

### **HB 809 – Temporary Certificates for Practice in Areas of Critical Need**

HB 809 authorizes a health care practitioner who holds a temporary certificate for practice in an area of critical need to continue providing primary care services in an area that has lost its critical need designation, if the certificate holder maintains active primary care treatment of at least one patient and the applicable board determines that the certificate holder meets all other requirements.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1030 – Recovery Residences**

SB 1030 narrows the term “transfer,” for purposes of licensure of substance abuse service providers regulated by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), to mean the transfer of a majority ownership interest in a licensed entity or the transfer of responsibilities under the license to another entity by contractual arrangement.

The bill requires that for transfers involving five percent or more of the licensed entity's controlling ownership, the DCF shall require a Level 2 background screening of the officers, directors, managing members, and any individuals exercising operational control on behalf of the new owner.

Additionally, the bill prohibits the DCF from requiring an existing licensed service provider with no outstanding violations or licensure enforcement actions within the previous 12 months to admit individuals for services during a probationary licensing period when the provider is seeking to add levels of care at an existing licensed location or offer the same level of care at additional locations.

The bill does not strike Subsection (13) of section 397.487 of Florida Statutes that was in the House version, HB 923, which would have removed the prohibition against a certified recovery residence denying an individual housing solely on the basis that the individual receives medication-assisted treatment.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1121 – Aging and Disability Services**

CS/HB 1121 revises aging and disability services provided by the Department of Elder Affairs. The bill adds food and nutritional supplements as allowable uses of subsidy payments under the Home Care for the Elderly program. The bill establishes competitive procurement requirements and salary limits for the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director of an Area Agency on Aging (AAA). The bill authorizes AAAs to provide core services to seniors in certain circumstances, and clarifies when a AAA’s designation must be rescinded. The bill expands the regulatory and enforcement powers of the Office of Public and Professional Guardians’ (OPPG) over professional guardians, providing subpoena power, access to confidential clerk records for investigations, and authority to fine guardians. The bill adds a continuing education requirement for professional guardians regarding Alzheimer’s disease. Additionally, the bill eliminates the requirement that OPPG’s executive director be an attorney.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 4033 – Palm Beach County**

The bill revises definitions concerning the licensure of family day care homes and large family child care homes in Palm Beach County to allow those facilities to provide services to the same number of children as allowed under general law and by the Department of Children and Families’ administrative rules.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

#### **HB 21/SB 258 – Public Records/Medical Examiners**

The bill creates a new public records exemption to protect the personal information of medical examiners and their families. The bill passed the House, but was not heard in the Senate and died in Messages. It defines “medical examiner” to include district medical examiners as well as their employees, deputies, and agents. The exemption applies to sensitive identifying information such as home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current and former medical examiners, and also extends to certain personal and location information of their spouses and children. Additionally, the exemption is subject to legislative review and is scheduled for repeal on October 2, 2031, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

#### **HB 555/SB 580 Local Licensing of Home Caregivers**

The bill would have authorized counties and municipalities to license home caregivers in their jurisdictions. The intent was require a Level II background check for home caregivers in Palm beach County to protect our vulnerable senior populations from elder and financial abuse by unlicensed home caregivers.

### **HB 693 – Health and Human Services**

HB 693 addresses a host of federal requirements and policy priorities articulated in the federal “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” by codifying the federal requirements for the Medicaid program, Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The bill also adopts a broad set of health care policies. The bill passed the House but was not heard in the Senate and was referred to Rules. Specifically, the bill:

- Joins the interstate licensure compacts for physician assistants, social workers, and emergency medical service providers.
- Authorizes autonomous practice for all advanced practice registered nurse specialties.
- Eliminates the cap on the number of physicians assistants a physician can supervise.
- Authorizes dentists to delegate additional tasks to dental hygienists.
- Requires practitioners to inform patients when a referral is to an out-of-network provider and requires insurers to credit out-of-network costs to cost-sharing requirements, in certain circumstances.
- Requires insurers to credit patient payments for out-of-network providers toward their deductibles if certain conditions are met.

### **HB 819/SB 188 – Medical Examiner’s Duties**

The bill requires medical examiners to document and report specific findings from infant and child autopsies to a national registry, with penalties for noncompliance. It establishes new definitions for sudden, unexpected deaths in infants and individuals under 20 years of age and mandates additional autopsy procedures in cases involving SIDS, SUID, SDY, and suspected SADS, including microscopic and toxicology analyses and a review of immunization records. The bill also requires that any immunizations or emergency countermeasures administered within 90 days prior to death be documented in the autopsy report. Medical examiners must report qualifying cases to the Sudden Unexpected Infant Death and Sudden Death in the Young Case Registry. The Florida Department of Health is authorized to impose escalating fines and potential disciplinary actions for failure to report within required timeframes. Additionally, the bill clarifies that such reporting is compliant with applicable state and federal medical privacy laws.

### **HB 821/SB 1124 – Public Records/Autopsy Reports of Certain Sudden and Unexpected deaths**

This bill creates a public records exemption for certain autopsy reports and establishes limited conditions for their disclosure or use. The exemption applies to autopsy reports of infants or children who die suddenly and unexpectedly, as well as to any individual whose death is suspected to result from Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome. Surviving parents and adult siblings are permitted to view and copy these exempt reports. The bill allows the Department of Health to request the exempt reports for epidemiological research and tracking, provided the reports remain confidential. It also permits the submission of personal health information to public health authorities under HIPAA rules and the release of deidentified data to national research institutions. The exemption is subject to repeal under the Open Government Sunset Review Act unless reenacted by the Legislature.

## **Budget & Taxation**

### **HJR 1F – Save our Homes from Excessive Property Taxes**

The proposed constitutional amendment would significantly expand Florida's homestead property tax exemption. Beginning January 1, 2027, homestead properties would receive an exemption on the first

\$150,000 of assessed value for non-school taxes. Beginning January 1, 2028, the exemption would increase to the first \$250,000 of assessed value and would be adjusted annually for inflation beginning in 2029. The expanded exemption would apply only to non-school ad valorem taxes. In addition, special districts would be authorized to increase exemption amounts through referendum and index those exemptions to inflation as provided by general law.

The proposal creates a separate homestead exemption structure for individuals who are not permanent Florida residents as of December 31, 2026. These property owners would receive a five-year exemption on the first \$50,000 of assessed value, including a \$25,000 exemption for school taxes and a \$50,000 exemption for non-school taxes. After maintaining Florida residency for five years, they would become eligible for the full homestead exemption available to permanent Florida residents.

The amendment would also reduce the annual assessment increase limitation for non-homestead property from 10 percent to 5 percent for county, municipal, and special district taxes. This limitation would not apply to school district levies.

Additionally, the amendment would restrict the use of county and municipal property tax revenues to specified core governmental purposes, including public safety, education, infrastructure, stormwater and flood control projects, debt service, retirement obligations, and the operations and administration of constitutional officers, county commissioners, municipalities, and other expenditures authorized by law.

If approved by at least 60 percent of voters at the November 2026 General Election, the constitutional amendment would take effect January 1, 2027.

*Effective Date: January 1, 2027*

#### **SB 4F – Property Tax Administration**

CS/SB 4-F revises the method used to determine the maximum millage rate that may be levied by counties, municipalities, dependent and independent special districts, and municipal service taxing units. Rather than using the existing statutory formula based on prior-year maximum millage rates and growth in per capita Florida personal income, the bill requires local governments to use the rolled-back rate already calculated under Florida's Truth in Millage (TRIM) process as the baseline for determining whether a supermajority vote is required to adopt a higher tax rate.

Under the bill, a taxing authority may adopt a millage rate of up to 110 percent of the rolled-back rate with a two-thirds vote of its governing body. A rate exceeding 110 percent of the rolled-back rate, up to the applicable constitutional or statutory limit, may be adopted only by a unanimous vote, a three-fourths vote for governing bodies with nine or more members, or voter approval through referendum.

The bill also makes conforming statutory changes to align existing property tax administration provisions with the revised maximum millage rate calculation methodology. In addition, it repeals a provision allowing certain county hospital funding revenues to be excluded from the maximum millage rate calculation.

Finally, the bill authorizes a ballot summary to exceed the statutory 75-word limit for a proposed constitutional amendment or revision to Article VII, sections 4, 6, and 9 of the Florida Constitution that will appear on the November 3, 2026 General Election ballot.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming law*

### **SB 118 – Assessments Levied on Recreational Vehicle Parks**

SB 118 revises the way special assessments may be levied against recreational vehicle parks (RV) by prohibiting counties, municipalities, and special districts from levying special assessments against an area greater than 400 square feet for each recreational vehicle parking space or campsite.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 967 – Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Governments**

The bill requires local governments to accept payment by means of credit cards, charge cards, bank debit cards, and electronic funds transfers, except when another form of payment is required by law, and to have a method for accepting such payments online.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1329 – Local Government Finances**

HB 1329 enhances transparency and accountability in local government finances through expanded budget posting requirements, mandatory reduction exercises, and stricter impact fee regulations.

Regarding local government budgets, HB 1329 does the following:

- The bill requires all counties and municipalities to post their budget development calendar for the next fiscal year and extend how long their budgets must be publicly posted. Proposed budgets must be posted for 5 days, up from the current 2, before a public hearing to adopt the budget. Final budgets must remain publicly listed for at least 5 years, up from 2. Additionally, all budget amendments must be posted 5 days prior to a hearing for adoption.
- The bill also requires that all publicly posted budgets be posted in a portable document format that is downloadable, and must include a budget overview and summary, including a narrative analysis that utilizes graphical illustrations to highlight major points of emphasis and trends.
- To further encourage smart fiscal decisions from local governments, the bill requires that at least 14 days before the final budget is adopted, the county and municipal budget officers must publicly identify specific cuts totaling 10% of the tentative budget that can be made without impacting essential services, such as law enforcement or fire services.
- The bill also requires that each local government prepare and post to their website a quarterly summary of compensation for all employees of the county.

Regarding impact fees, HB 1329 does the following:

- The bill implements new requirements for local governments seeking to increase impact fee rates beyond the ordinary phase-in limitations due to extraordinary circumstances. Under the bill, the demonstrated-need study required to show extraordinary circumstances justifying an impact fee rate

increase must specify the standards used to support the existence of such extraordinary circumstances and be accompanied by a declaration of the method and timeframe by which the impact fee increase will increase capacity.

- The bill also prohibits a local government, including a school or special district, from increasing an impact fee rate utilizing the extraordinary circumstances provisions by more than 100 percent in a 4-year period.
- The bill also provides for the expiry of certain interlocal agreements, and amends the requirements of the interlocal cooperation element of a comprehensive plan.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1134 – Official Actions of Local Governments**

SB 1134 prohibits counties and municipalities from funding, promoting, or taking official actions such as adopting ordinances, resolutions, rules, regulations, programs, or policies, related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The bill also does the following:

- The bill prohibits a county or municipality from expending any funds, regardless of the source, to establish, support, sustain, or staff a DEI office or officer.
- The bill provides that a member of a county or municipal governing body acting in his or her official capacity who violates the prohibitions commits misfeasance or malfeasance in office. It also prohibits counties and municipalities from allowing their funds to be used by employees, contractors, and others to promote DEI initiatives.
- An action may be brought by a resident against a county or municipality that violates the bill's provisions. The bill does not prohibit official action required for compliance with general or federal law and includes a series of exceptions.
- The bill also requires the potential recipients of a county or municipal contract or grant to certify that they do not and will not use local government funds to require employees, contractors, volunteers, vendors, or agents to ascribe to, study, or be instructed using materials related to DEI.
- The statute created by the bill applies to any contract between a county or municipality and a diversity, equity, and inclusion officer which is in existence on January 1, 2027. With respect to all other contracts, the statute applies to contracts executed or renewed after January 1, 2027.

*Effective Date: January 1, 2027*

### **HB 7031 – Internal Revenue Code**

The bill updates the Florida corporate income tax code by adopting the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) as amended and in effect on January 1, 2026, while excluding certain sections modified or created under Public Law 119-21.

The bill retains current law treatment for several provisions by continuing to adopt the IRC as of January 1, 2025, for the following areas:

- Bonus depreciation of assets,
- Amortization of certain research and experimental expenditures,

- Deduction for interest paid by businesses,
- Deductions for certain business meals, and
- Deductions available to certain small businesses.

The bill also specifically does not adopt newly created federal provisions regarding:

- Deduction for qualified production property, and
- Deduction for domestic research and experimental expenditures.

By decoupling from these new federal provisions, the bill preserves the current corporate income tax framework for Florida taxpayers and is not expected to affect state revenue.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

#### **HB 103/SB 122 – Local Business Taxes**

The bill repealed Chapter 205, F.S., removing the authority for local governments to levy a local business tax and makes conforming changes. The bill allows municipalities that impose a business tax on merchants measured by gross receipts to continue to impose the tax and counties that levy an additional county business tax under current law to continue to levy such tax. The legislation would have had a recurring negative impact of \$184.2 million on local government revenues beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-27, \$28.3 million for counties and \$155.9 million for municipalities. The bill passed the House and was only heard in one committee of reference in the Senate.

#### **HB 145 – Suits Against the Government**

HB 145 increases existing sovereign immunity liability limits for tort claims, shortens notice requirements against a governmental entity, revises statute of limitations provisions, and updates references regarding claims against the government. The bill:

- Raises the maximum per-claim liability cap from \$200,000 to \$350,000 and the total per-incident cap from \$300,000 to \$500,000.
- Shortens the time to present a claim in writing from 3 years to 18 months and reduces the period for final denial of claims from 6 months to 4 months.
- Revises the statute of limitations for negligence to 2 years.
- Provides no limitations period for certain child sexual battery claims.

The Governor vetoed HB 145.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **HJR 203 – Elimination of Non-school Property for Homesteads**

The Legislature did not agree to pass property tax reform during the Regular Session. While the House did pass HJR 203, the Senate, with the Governor's support, felt it better to address the issue in a Special Session later this year.

HJR 203 passed the House and proposed the following changes:

- Exempts homestead property from non-school property taxes and prohibits local governments from reducing funding for first responders below specified prior-year levels.
- Eliminates most of the current partial non-school ad valorem exemptions and provides a full exemption for homestead property from non-school property taxes. Removes provisions for annual inflation adjustments and optional local exemptions for certain senior homeowners previously allowed under existing law.
- Prohibits counties and municipalities from lowering total funding for law enforcement, firefighters, and other first responders below the highest amount budgeted in either the 2025-2026 or 2026-2027 fiscal year.

HJR 203 would have the following fiscal impact to the County if enacted and passed by 60 percent of the voters on the November 2026 ballot:

- General Fund \$607,525,672 = 90% of BCC Depts and Capital
- Libraries \$43,911,415 = 44% of Property Taxes

#### **SB 446/454/456/458 Tourist Development Taxes**

These four Tourist Development Tax (TDT) bills sponsored by Senator Carlos Smith were not heard in the House or the Senate on any of its committees of reference.

#### **SB 446 - Large-Scale County Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs)**

- Defines large-scale DMOs as those with an annual operating budget of \$5 million or more.
- Requires registration with the Department of State, which maintains a directory.
- Imposes a one-to-one private-to-public funding match requirement, specifying acceptable private contribution sources.
- Excludes certain contributions from legalized entities with over 50% public funding.
- Unmatched public contributions must revert to the respective counties or municipalities by June 30 annually.

#### **SB 454 Tourist Development Tax**

- Deletes the mandate that 40% of tourist development tax revenue be used for tourism promotion and advertising.
- Allows counties greater flexibility in allocating revenues.
- Authorizes use of funds for public safety improvements and affordable/workforce housing development.

#### **SB 456 Tourist Development Tax**

- Explicitly adds public safety improvements as an authorized use of tourist development tax revenue.
- Extends authorized use to include affordable housing projects, covering land acquisition, design, and construction.
- Supports workforce housing development using the same revenue sources.

### **SB 458 Tourist Development Tax**

- Lowers the required portion of tourist development tax revenue for tourism promotion and advertising from 40% to 20%.
- Allows remaining funds to be spent on public facilities and other authorized uses once the 20% threshold is met.

### **HB 605 – Prohibited Uses of Public Funds by Political Subdivisions**

HB 605 would have created a new section of Florida law, s. 112.3662, F.S., to prohibit a “political subdivision” from using public funds to fund any Florida not-for-profit entity or organization. The bill defines a not-for-profit entity or organization as a Florida not-for-profit corporation incorporated under chapter 617 and approved by the Secretary of State. It defines “political subdivision” by cross-reference to the meaning already used in s. 112.3121, F.S. The bill includes one express exception: the prohibition would not apply to rural hospitals as defined in s. 395.602(2), F.S. As currently filed, the bill is short and broad; it does not distinguish between grants, service contracts, sponsorships, operating support, or other funding arrangements.

### **HB 1251 - Expenditure of Public Funds by Local Governments**

HB 1251 would have prohibited local governments from expending public funds to hire a lobbyist for representation before the legislative or executive branch. The bill requires the Commission on Ethics (Commission) to investigate complaints related to the provisions in the bill and report its findings

## **Growth Management, Transportation & Infrastructure**

### **HB 399 – Land Use & Development Regulations**

HB 399 is a comprehensive land use reform bill that limits local governments’ ability to set development permit fees by requiring them to be reasonably related to the actual cost of reviewing and processing applications and prohibiting fees based on a percentage of project costs. The bill streamlines approvals for large destination resorts, protects compost facility permits from certain local conditions, and restricts denials of residential projects based on vague “community character” grounds. It also requires zoning parity for off-site constructed (manufactured) homes, mandating they be permitted as of right wherever single-family detached homes are allowed. In addition, HB 399 requires local governments to incorporate clear compatibility criteria for residential uses into their comprehensive plans and land development regulations, and to evaluate development applications based on those defined compatibility standards.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **SB 484 – Data Centers**

SB 484 establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for large-scale data centers, focusing on utility cost fairness, national security, environmental safeguards, and local oversight. The bill requires public utilities to create cost-based tariffs for customers with peak loads of 50 megawatts or more, ensuring that the full cost of infrastructure and service is borne by those users rather than shifted to other ratepayers. It also authorizes financial protections such as take-or-pay provisions and early termination fees, and restricts utilities from serving large-load customers tied to foreign countries of concern.

The bill requires local governments to address large load customers in their comprehensive plans and clarifies that data centers cannot be treated as electric substations. It defines data centers in statute and limits certain confidentiality exemptions related to economic development disclosures.

The measure imposes stricter water use permitting requirements, including mandating the use of reclaimed water where feasible, and expands oversight of water consumption for large-scale facilities. It preserves local land use authority while directing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct an independent study on the economic, environmental, and public health impacts of data centers, with recommendations due by 2027.

*Effective Date: Effective upon becoming law*

## **SB 488 – Transportation**

SB 488 amends various provisions related to transportation, including the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), motor vehicle registration, licensing, fuel tax administration, and additional regulatory areas. Specifically, the bill:

- Specifies requirements for calculating and reporting the motor fuel use tax and updates related definitions and provisions.
- Creates penalties for counterfeiting or illegally altering fuel tax licenses and permits.
- Updates procedures for due dates, electronic submissions, and communication methods related to motor carriers and fuel taxes.
- Revises penalties and interest calculations for delinquent tax payments and updates provisions related to inspection and discontinuation of motor carrier operations.
- Establishes penalties for misuse of motor fuel tax documents and enhances recordkeeping requirements for motor carriers.
- Increases the crash damage reporting threshold from \$500 to \$2,000.
- Amends requirements related to the application process for motor vehicle registrations.
- Expands DHSMV authority to use email instead of U.S. mail for customer communications.
- Updates the definition of a “tank vehicle” to align with federal regulations.
- Clarifies license plate display requirements, allowing frames or decorative borders so long as they do not obscure the plate number or validation sticker.
- Provides additional provisions for disabled veteran (DV) license plates, including retention of alphanumeric designations, immediate issuance by tax collectors, and allowing eligible applicants to choose a DV plate or wheelchair symbol plate in lieu of a disabled parking permit.

- Establishes limits on vehicle distribution, prohibiting certain manufacturers or distributors from allocating more than 33.33% of a line-make to a single dealer or commonly owned group, with specified exemptions.
- Limits local government authority over right-of-way permits for communications service providers placing or relocating facilities.
- Incorporates additional conforming and cross-reference changes related to the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA) and departmental operations.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 589 – Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permits**

HB 589 provides that if a building or plumbing permit is issued for a single-family residence that requires the use of an onsite sewage treatment and disposal system (septic system), a municipality or political subdivision of the state may not require an owner or builder to obtain a construction permit for the septic system as a condition of issuing the building or plumbing permit. The bill requires the owner or builder to provide proof that they submitted an application for the septic system when applying for the building or plumbing permit.

The bill requires a property owner or applicant for a septic system permit to assume all legal, financial, and safety liabilities arising from the construction of a septic system if the construction commences before the issuance of the septic system permit.

The bill also provides that any new rules relating to the use and installation of a septic system that are adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will not apply to permit applications submitted within 90 days after the date the rules are adopted.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 628 – Transportation Facility Designations**

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

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

- The bill replaces and expands “the President Donald J. Trump Highway” designated in 2025, to include the entirety S.R. 80 from S.R. A1A/S. Ocean Blvd., in Palm Beach County, through Hendry County, to U.S. 41/Cleveland Avenue in Lee County.

Following a legislative designation, FDOT is required to place markers at the termini or intersections specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and may place other markers it deems as appropriate. Before

markers may be erected, the appropriate city or county commission must pass a resolution in support of the honorary designation.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2025*

### **HB 803 – Building Permits and Inspections**

HB 803 substantially revises Florida’s building permit, inspection, and private provider frameworks, with a focus on streamlining permitting processes, expanding private provider use, and establishing uniform standards for both residential and commercial construction. It addresses the issuance of building permits, building code inspections, and the authority of local building officials while mandating the adoption of a uniform permitting system. Additionally, the bill creates specific procedures for residential distributed energy generation systems and backup power systems.

#### Key Permitting Revisions:

- Building permits issued by counties or other local governments now expire either one year after issuance or upon the effective date of the next edition of the Florida Building Code, whichever is later, with local governments retaining the authority to extend expiration dates.
- Local governments cannot require permits for work valued under \$7,500 on single-family homes, except for electrical, plumbing, mechanical, gas, or structural work. Contractors performing exempted work must file a notice of permit exemption within 30 days; property owners performing the work themselves are not required to submit a notice.
- Temporary residential hurricane and flood protection walls, as well as retaining walls for single-family and two-family dwellings or townhouses, are exempt from permitting if they meet specified non-habitable, non-load-bearing, and licensed-contractor requirements.
- Inspection fees may no longer be based on total project costs; fees must reflect only the actual cost of performing and approving required inspections.

#### Private Provider and Alternative Plan Review Changes:

- Local officials may inspect construction reviewed by a private provider only if they have knowledge of incomplete or incorrect inspection forms and must notify the provider in writing before conducting a site visit.
- Definitions for “deliver” and “delivery” are expanded to include email and electronic submission systems.
- The bill establishes a registration system for private providers to verify licensure and insurance, removing prior requirements for written contracts or submission of agreements with permit applications.
- Permit fees must reflect actual costs incurred when private providers are used, with commercial project fees reduced by 25% when a private provider handles plans review or inspections and by 50% when both services are handled.
- Local governments cannot request additional provider information beyond registration, nor can they charge administrative fees for registration or updates.
- Officials are prohibited from reviewing documents determined compliant by private providers beyond completeness, and private providers may perform virtual inspections without restriction.

- Private provider inspections must be recorded on Commission-provided forms and submitted within four days; failure to post at the job site does not invalidate inspections.

#### Streamlined Residential Permitting:

- For single-family dwellings with work under \$15,000, local governments must approve, approve with conditions, or deny applications within 5 business days after completeness is determined.
- The Florida Building Commission is required to develop a uniform residential and commercial building permit application for use by all local governments.

#### Distributed Energy Generation Systems and Backup Power Systems:

- The bill defines these systems and limits capacity to 50 kilowatts (or 100 kilowatt-hours for storage).
- Permits must be issued within one business day for licensed contractors or public utilities, with work permitted to begin immediately.
- Local governments cannot enact additional ordinances beyond the Florida Building Code and Fire Prevention Code.
- Inspections may be conducted virtually or in-person, with private providers allowed; noncompliance is addressed via written correction notices rather than blanket stop-work orders, except in cases of immediate danger.
- Local agencies cannot withhold or revoke certificates of occupancy solely based on failed inspections of these systems, though they may delay energization until corrections are made.
- Utilities must be notified by installers, and the bill preserves the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission and interconnection or net metering requirements.

#### Additional Provisions:

- Homeowners' associations cannot require building permits as a condition of reviewing construction on private property.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 919 – Commercial Service Airports**

HB 919 preempts to the state the authority to name major commercial service airports in Florida. Under the bill, Palm Beach International Airport, located at 1000 James L. Turnage Boulevard in West Palm Beach, is renamed the “President Donald J. Trump International Airport,” contingent upon Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval and the execution of an agreement granting Palm Beach County the perpetual and unrestricted right to use the name at no cost for all airport-related purposes.

The bill maintains the current names of all other major commercial service airports in the state, including Orlando International Airport, Miami International Airport, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Tampa International Airport, Southwest Florida International Airport, and Jacksonville International Airport. It also requires an annual review to determine if any airports should be added or removed from this list based on changes in their status as major commercial service airports.

HB 919 clarifies that airport names are branding designations only and do not create new legal entities. Political subdivisions are not required to amend existing agreements solely to update references to airport

names, nor must they contract under the airport name provided by the bill. Additionally, the use of the new airport name by a political subdivision does not constitute a violation of state law. Compliance with the bill is achieved if a political subdivision diligently pursues all necessary approvals and agreements and begins signage and branding changes promptly after receiving such approvals.

The cost to rename Palm Beach International Airport as the “President Donald J. Trump International Airport is \$5.5 million and was funded in the state budget at \$2.75 million, and the project includes funding for the following:

- Signage updates and replacement across roadways, terminals, parking areas, airfield locations, vehicles, and equipment.
- Branding and identity changes, including logos, design standards, uniforms, promotional materials, and consumables.
- Digital platform updates, including the airport website, mobile applications, and social media channels.
- Technology and system modifications, such as overhead and emergency messaging systems and passenger processing systems.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 927 – Local Land Planning and Development**

HB 927 requires certain counties (populations of 75,000 or more) and municipalities (populations of 10,000 or more) to create a registry of qualified contractors or contractor firms to conduct preapplication reviews of plans, permits, or plats submitted for compliance with a local government’s land development regulations. Qualified contractors may include engineers, surveyors, architects, landscape architects, certified planners, or employees of other local governments, and must not have a conflict of interest as defined by public duty standards and licensing rules. After completing a pre-application review in their field, a qualified contractor provides an affidavit confirming that the work complies with local requirements, which the local government then reviews. The bill also requires local governments to provide timely written notifications of deficiencies within five business days, mandates final action on completed applications within 45 days, and provides for deemed approvals and partial or full application fee refunds if deadlines are not met.

Additionally, the bill revises the process for expedited approval of residential building permits prior to plat approval by expanding its applicability to one or more phases of a multi-phased community or subdivision. If a local government has not implemented an expedited permitting program by the statutory deadline, applicants have the unconditional right to use a qualified contractor to obtain up to 75% of building permits prior to final plat recording. Local governments are prohibited from conditioning, delaying, or denying use of a qualified contractor, requiring additional local procedures, or tying permit issuance to the completion of infrastructure or environmental conditions not mandated by law. The bill also allows local governments to waive performance bond requirements on a case-by-case or programmatic basis and grants applicants a five-year vested right in a preliminary plat under the program.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 929 – Regulation of Chickees**

The bill prohibits a county or municipality from enacting an ordinance that prevents a member of the Miccosukee or Seminole Tribes from constructing a chickee under certain conditions

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1093 – Vertiports**

The bill amends Florida law to specifically include vertiports and charging systems as qualifying projects for funding under public-private partnerships between state and private entities.

The bill authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to fund all of the project costs of a public vertiport if federal funds are not available. If federal funds are available, FDOT may fund up to 80 percent of the nonfederal share of the project costs.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1434 – Infill Redevelopment**

SB 1434 creates the “Infill Redevelopment Act,” which preempts certain local land development regulations and oversight for “qualifying parcels” to promote infill redevelopment in urban areas.

Qualifying parcels are plots of land at least 5 acres in size located adjacent to other parcels zoned for residential uses in certain counties. They must also be environmentally impacted, which for purposes of the bill means contaminants or pollutants have been detected on the land above certain thresholds or the land has been designated a brownfield area under state law.

Under the bill, local governments must allow, using an administrative approval process, a qualifying parcel to be developed with residential uses up to either the average density of all applicable zoning districts within the same jurisdiction, or 25 dwelling units per acre, whichever is lower.

The bill includes additional requirements for qualifying parcels that have recreational facilities on them (such as golf courses or recreational areas adjacent to single family homes on all sides) and provides a framework for the sale of such properties to adjacent property owners if they wish to preserve their recreational use.

The bill applies to development applications submitted pursuant to the bill’s provisions on or after its effective date. A local government may not adopt or enforce a local law, an ordinance, or a regulation that restricts, prohibits, or otherwise limits the development of a qualifying parcel in accordance with the bill.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming law*

### **HB 1451 – Utility Services**

HB 1451 regulates municipal utility services provided outside a municipality's boundaries in Florida. The bill amends Section 180.19, Florida Statutes, to require that any new agreement—or extension, renewal, or

material amendment of an existing agreement—to provide electric, natural gas, water, or sewer utility service at retail outside municipal limits must be in writing. Before such an agreement can take effect, an appointed representative of the serving municipality must participate in a public meeting within each municipality and unincorporated area to be served, soliciting input on the nature of services, rates, the use of revenues for nonutility purposes, and other relevant matters. The bill also requires annual public customer meetings in each area served. Additionally, the bill amends Section 180.191 to reduce the maximum permissible surcharge on water and sewer rates for consumers outside municipal boundaries from 50 percent to 25 percent in excess of the rates charged to consumers inside the municipality. A new provision prohibits a municipality from charging consumers in a separate municipality more than its own in boundary rates when the serving municipality uses a treatment plant located within that separate municipality.

The bill also creates Section 180.192, establishing annual reporting requirements for municipalities that provide utility services outside their boundaries. By January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, such municipalities must report to the Florida Public Service Commission data including the number and percentage of outside-boundary customers, sales volumes, rate differentials, and the extent to which utility revenues fund nonutility government functions, with penalties for failure to file. The Commission must compile this information and submit a report to the Governor and Legislature by March 31, 2027, identifying reporting issues and making recommendations. Finally, the bill expressly preempts to the state the subject of any regional utilities' authority created by the Legislature through charter amendment after January 1, 2023, and declares that the act fulfills an important state interest.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **SB 1614 – Enforcement of the Florida Building Code**

SB 1614 removes a current provision of law that authorizes local governments to use excess funds received from enforcing the Florida Building Code for the construction of a building or structure that houses a local government's building code enforcement agency.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

##### **HB 105/SB 588 – Local Government Enforcement Actions**

HB 105 establishes a new, exclusive mechanism for challenging “enforcement actions,” as the bill defines that term, taken by counties and municipalities. To accomplish its purpose, the bill:

- Prohibits counties and municipalities from “initiating or threatening to initiate any enforcement action that is determined by a court...to be arbitrary or unreasonable and not authorized by an ordinance.”
- Authorizes a person subject to an enforcement action to submit a request for review of such action, and specifies procedures and timelines pertaining thereto.
- Authorizes a person subject to an enforcement action to challenge such action in court in specified circumstances.

- Provides protection under the Whistle-blower’s Act to certain persons who disclose information in connection with proceedings established by the bill.
- Provides that the sections of law created by the bill “are the sole authority for challenges to arbitrary or unreasonable enforcement actions.”
- Provides that a local ordinance, rule, regulation, or other local policy that prohibits or restricts a county or municipality from complying with the bill’s requirements, or any rules adopted thereunder, is void to the extent of the conflict.

### **HB 299/SB 354 – Blue Ribbon Projects**

These bills create a framework for a new type of planned community referred to as a “blue ribbon project” (BRP) that is intended to balance environmental stewardship with the need for development to provide for future growth. The DOT package passed all of its committee of reference in the House and Senate but died on the Special Order Calendar. The bill:

- Establishes requirements for proposed development to qualify as a BRP.
- Provides criteria for the types of development that must be contained within each BRP.
- Requires each BRP to be developed in accordance with a blue-ribbon plan that adopts a longer planning period than local government comprehensive plans.

Each application for a proposed BRP is submitted to the applicable local government for review. BRPs may be in any future land use designation and zoning designation without the need for a comprehensive plan amendment or rezoning.

The bill provides an appeal procedure for applicants who are denied approval of a BRP or for persons who are impacted by the approval of a BRP.

### **HB 405/SB 546 – Commercial Construction**

The bill makes provisions in public construction contracts which waive, release, or extinguish certain rights of the contractor void if the delay is due to the acts or omissions of the awarding body; directs the Florida Building Commission, by December 31, 2027, to adopt a uniform commercial building permit application to be used throughout the state; directs local enforcement agencies to reduce permit fees for plans review or building inspection services when an owner or contractor retains a private provider for those purposes; specifies how permit fees must be limited to actual and reasonable costs; and limits local government requirements for glazing on new or restoration commercial projects.

### **HB 543/SB 1080 – Transportation**

These bills address a wide range of transportation issues, with particular focus on automated traffic enforcement and state transportation policy. The transportation package passed the House and Senate in different versions but died in Returning Messages.

The bill clarifies the enforcement of traffic infractions through automated (camera) systems by defining the term “careful and prudent manner” for right turns on red, requiring flashing beacons to enforce school zone speed limits, and providing until January 1, 2028, for the installation of new beacons. After that date, photographic evidence of school zone speed violations must include the beacon status. Speed detection systems may be placed outside school zones if they only capture violations within the zone. The bill authorizes withholding motor vehicle registrations for unpaid camera-enforced violations and allows the statute of

limitations to restart if an affidavit identifies a different driver. It also requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and local governments to increase yellow light times at intersections with traffic infraction detectors.

The legislation further authorizes private entities to use automated license plate recognition systems on private property under strict data use and security requirements, allows counties and municipalities to reduce residential speed limits, and clarifies that license plate frames are permissible if the plate number, validation sticker, and issuing state remain visible. Expectant mothers meeting the criteria for a disabled parking permit may obtain such permits, while the statutory authorization for expectant mother permits is repealed. Driver license photos may be used for identity verification by state agencies, but their sale or sharing is prohibited. The FDOT is authorized to fund up to 100 percent of certain rural airport projects and directly pay first-tier subcontractors under specified conditions, while takeover contracts with sureties must include payment procedures for subcontractors.

Additionally, the bill establishes the Next Generation Traffic Signal Modernization Grant Program with a \$20 million annual appropriation and requires FDOT to study advanced detection and monitoring systems at railroad crossings. It addresses broader transportation policy matters including yellow light intervals, digital driver licenses, accessible parking spaces, motor vehicle exhaust and noise limits, titling and registering golf carts converted to low-speed vehicles, and seaport uses, consolidating multiple reforms aimed at improving traffic safety, enforcement, and infrastructure modernization across the state.

### **SB 840 – Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters**

SB 840 amends certain provisions in SB 180 (2025) relating to restrictions on local government power to regulate land use following hurricanes. Among other things, SB 180 generally prohibited counties and municipalities within a certain distance from a hurricane’s track from adopting moratoriums or more restrictive or burdensome amendments or procedures in their land use regulations for 1 year after landfall. SB 840 narrows the geographic area subject to SB 180’s restrictions and revises them to clarify under what circumstances moratoriums and certain other procedural requirements or changes may or may not be enforced. For example, the bill:

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

SB 180 similarly restricted the regulatory powers of local governments listed within the federal disaster declaration for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton. These restrictions, as revised by SB 840, expire on June 30, 2026. Without SB 840, the restrictions on local governments within the disaster declarations for Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton will not expire until June 30, 2028.

### **HB 1143/SB 948 – Local Government Land Development Regulations and Orders**

These bills create the Florida Starter Homes Act, which limits the ability of local governments to restrict the development of dwellings containing four or fewer dwelling units. The bill was only heard in one committee of reference in the House and Senate. Specifically, the bill:

- Restricts the development regulations a local government may adopt for residential property that is connected to a public water or sewer system.
- Prohibits local governments from requiring more than one parking space per dwelling unit for residential lots under a certain size or any parking requirements for lots located near a public transit stop.
- Requires local governments to allow the placement of off-site constructed residential dwelling according to the same standards that apply to site-built homes.
- Requires local governments to adopt a process for lot splits.
- Provides an expedited timeline for the review of development applications, including development permits, orders, and plats.

The bill also revises requirements concerning the placement of manufactured homes to provide that such homes placed on a lot in a recreational vehicle park are not subject to taxation as mobile homes or required to make payments to the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Fund.

### **HB 1233/SB 1220 – Transportation**

The bill addresses a wide range of transportation, mobility, and infrastructure issues in Florida. The DOT package passed the House and Senate in different versions but died in Returning Messages.

The bill requires the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to update its prioritization of regionally significant trails following FDOT’s triennial SUN Trail report, allows additional surface materials for SUN Trail facilities, and permits sponsorship agreements in project prioritization. Strategic plans for seaports and commercial service airports must include strategies for maintaining critical infrastructure, and FDOT is directed to identify and prioritize key maritime components to strengthen the state’s maritime industrial base. Personal delivery devices (PDDs) are authorized on bike lanes, paths, and road shoulders, but their operation is restricted in “prohibited zones” such as state parks, forests, wildlife management areas, theme parks, and certain special districts, and local governments cannot impose fees on PDDs.

The bill authorizes FDOT to coordinate with local governments on federal funding requests, invest in aviation system efficiency, and lead research, LiDAR mapping procurement, and economic development initiatives related to transportation and advanced air mobility. Automated license plate recognition systems are permitted on private property with data security and usage limitations. Motor vehicle regulations include speed limit increases on certain highways, restrictions on excessive vehicle noise, rules for low-speed vehicle registration, and dealer sales limits. Golf carts may cross signalized intersections meeting specific requirements. The bill also updates provisions for communications facility permitting, turnpike toll allocations, paratransit contracts, and autonomous vehicle protections, and standardizes terminology for PDD operations. Space Florida’s governance and seaport coordination with strategic spaceport hubs are addressed, including board membership and the creation of a business development director role.

Finally, the bill contains technical and conforming changes throughout to align definitions, regulatory authority, and operational procedures across FDOT, Space Florida, and other transportation entities in the

state.

## **Public Safety, Criminal Justice, and Consumer Protection**

### **HB 35 – Habitual Traffic Offender Designation**

HB 35, designated as 'Isaiah's Law', broadens the definition of a habitual traffic offender to include driving without a valid license. The bill revises s. 322.264(1), F.S., to add driving a motor vehicle without a valid license as an offense that counts toward establishing habitual traffic offender status.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 52 – Security Services at Places of Worship**

SB 52 exempts volunteers who provide armed security services at places of worship from licensure requirements. The bill adds an exemption in s. 493.6102, F.S., allowing certain volunteers to provide armed security services at places of worship without a security license.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 156 – Criminal Offenses Against Law Enforcement Officers and Other Personnel**

SB 156, designated as the Officer Jason Raynor Act, enhances penalties for crimes committed against law enforcement officers and clarifies conditions for resisting arrest or detention. The bill includes the following:

- Defines “acting in good faith” for officers, specifying that no force may be used to resist arrest or detention under those conditions.
- Broadens the prohibition to include resisting detention and removes references to an officer’s knowledge of unlawful arrest.
- Adds manslaughter of a law enforcement officer to offenses requiring mandatory life imprisonment without eligibility for release.
- Revises the definition of “law enforcement officer” and replaces 'lawful performance of duty' with 'performance of official duties.'
- Upgrades battery on a law enforcement officer from Level 4 to Level 5 on the offense severity ranking chart, increasing penalties.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 199 –Veteran Affairs**

The bill:

- Repeals the existing requirement for a defendant to apply to and be approved by the state attorney for the defendant to be eligible for admission into a veterans treatment court (VTC) program, and instead authorizes the court, in consultation with a multidisciplinary team, to make such a determination if certain requirements are met.
- Requires the court to consider any recommendation of the state attorney when making an eligibility determination for VTC placement.
- Authorizes a sentencing court to place a defendant into a post adjudicatory VTC program if the defendant's offense is a specified nonviolent felony and the defendant is a servicemember or veteran who is otherwise qualified to participate in a VTC program.
- Grants jurisdiction to the post adjudicatory VTC to adjudicate any violation of probation or community control committed by such a defendant.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 212 – Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators**

SB 212 expands residency and contact restrictions for certain sexual offenders and predators, clarifies definitions, and requires additional safeguards related to public swimming pools and places where children congregate.

- Defines “public swimming pool” and prohibits certain offenders from residing within 1,000 feet of such pools.
- Extends loitering and prowling restrictions from 300 to 500 feet of a location where children congregate.
- Prohibits specific offenders from knowingly contacting, communicating with, or approaching minors in parks, playgrounds, and public swimming pools, with limited exceptions for family or household members.
- Requires notice to schools or childcare facilities before an offender is present on the premises.
- Authorizes warrantless arrest if a law enforcement officer has probable cause to believe these location-based or contact restrictions have been violated.
- Obligates state agencies and governmental subdivisions to search for sexual predator/offender registries before employing or appointing individuals to child-facing positions.
- Mandates special conditions for conditional release and probation, including restrictions on living, working, or visiting locations near public swimming pools for designated sexual offenders.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 277 – Domestic Violence and Protective Injunctions**

The bill revises several statutes relating to domestic violence and protective injunctions, including:

- Authorizing a penalty enhancement if a person commits a crime of domestic violence and has a prior conviction for committing such an offense.
- Adding threatening to kill or injure a family pet and the existence of a military protective order to the list of factors that a judge may consider when determining whether to grant a domestic violence injunction.
- Requiring the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to enter injunctions against dating and sexual violence into a statewide database.
- Requiring a law enforcement officer who has probable cause to believe that a person violated a military protective order to report such a violation to the agency that entered the order.
- Increasing the dollar amounts for relocation assistance claims for victims of domestic violence from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for a single claim and increasing the lifetime maximum from \$3,000 to \$5,000.
- Creating a domestic violence and violation of protective injunction electronic monitoring pilot program in Pinellas County and specifying the requirements for the pilot program.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 296 – Victims of Domestic Violence**

SB 296 creates an undesignated section of law to require the Division of Telecommunications within the Department of Management Services to conduct a domestic and dating violence 911 alert system feasibility study. The bill provides terms, requirements, and reporting requirements for such study. The bill defines “dating violence” and allows a victim of dating violence to apply to participate in the Attorney General’s address confidentiality program.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 397 – Violations of Pretrial Release Conditions for Violent Crimes**

The bill creates a new criminal offense for willfully violating an order of no contact imposed by a court as a condition of pretrial release after a person was arrested for committing specified violent offenses, a violation of which is punishable as a first-degree misdemeanor. A second or subsequent violation is punishable as a third-degree felony.

The bill also authorizes a law enforcement officer to make a warrantless arrest of a person if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person committed a violation of the new crime created by the bill for willfully violating an order of no contact, and requires a person to be held in custody until his or her first appearance hearing if he or she is:

- Arrested for violating such orders of no contact; or
- On pretrial release for committing specified violent offenses and is arrested for committing a new law violation.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **SB 418 – Law Enforcement Officer Interactions with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

SB 418 creates s. 320.021, F.S., to create the “Blue Envelope Program” within the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (HSMV) to improve communication between individuals with autism spectrum disorder and law enforcement officers during motor vehicle-related interactions by January 1, 2027. The blue envelope will identify the individual as having Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), the envelopes will include communication guidelines for officers and will be available by request from the HSMV or local tax collector beginning January 1, 2027. The bill amends s. 943.1727, F.S., to create joint training with the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) and an organization that advocates on behalf of, and offers training to law enforcement officers on interactions with, individuals with ASD. The training must include all of the following:

- Recognizing ASD symptoms.
- Interview/interrogation techniques.
- Locating missing individuals with ASD.
- Techniques for recognizing the agency of an individual with ASD while identifying potential abusive or coercive situations.
- De-escalation strategies.
- Differentiating ASD behaviors from belligerence and understanding the law as it related to the use of the Baker Act on an individual with ASD.
- Impact of officer interactions on ASD individuals.
- Information about the blue envelope program and “SAFE” designation.

The bill requires that initial certification includes in-person instruction and online or in-person for continued employment training or education.

The bill requires that each basic skills course required for law enforcement officers to obtain initial certification includes the required training by July 1, 2028. By July 1, 2029, each law enforcement officer must successfully complete such training as part of continued training or education.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **HB 429 – Criteria for Determining Criminal Gang Membership**

The bill amends the criteria used to determine whether a person meets the definition of a “criminal gang member” by revising and adding additional criteria that is used in making such a determination, two of which must be satisfied for a person to fall within the definition. The bill also defines the term “gang-related language.”

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **SB 432 – Intoxicating Substances**

SB 432, designated as Meg’s Law, prohibits certain tobacco and nicotine dealers from handling nitrous oxide and adds new restrictions and penalties for xylazine under Florida’s controlled substance laws. The bill includes the following:

- Makes it unlawful for licensed tobacco or nicotine dealers, or their employees, to possess, sell, or give away nitrous oxide on their premises, with specified exceptions and criminal penalties.
- Specifically exempts grocery stores and allows use of nitrous oxide in finished food products.
- Directs the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to adopt rules to prevent nitrous oxide misuse.
- Amends schedule definitions for xylazine by adding an exception for FDA-approved animal products used for legitimate veterinary purposes.
- Adds criminal and mandatory minimum penalties for selling, manufacturing, delivering, or possessing xylazine with intent to sell or deliver.
- Establishes a new offense of trafficking in xylazine, including mandatory minimum sentences and fines based on the quantity involved.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### ***SB 436 – Felony Battery***

SB 436 expands the list of qualifying prior offenses that allow for the reclassification of misdemeanor battery to a third-degree felony. Specifically, the bill adds “resisting an officer with violence” to the list of prior convictions that may trigger felony reclassification. The bill also adds battery on a law enforcement officer resulting in bodily injury to the list of qualifying offenses for reoffending status for prison release.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 445 – Dangerous Crimes**

HB 445 makes the following changes related to dangerous crimes:

- Adds violations related to specified computer pornography and child exploitation offenses to the list of dangerous crimes under Florida’s pretrial detention statute, so that a person arrested for such an offense may not be granted nonmonetary pretrial release at a first appearance hearing and may be subject to pretrial detention.
- Requires a court to remand a person to custody immediately if the person pleads guilty or no contest to, or is found guilty of, regardless of adjudication, a dangerous crime, and requires such a person to remain in custody pending sentencing.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 477 – Drug Paraphernalia**

HB 477 expands the type of narcotic-drug-testing products excluded from the definition of “drug paraphernalia” to also exclude such products which are used solely to determine whether a controlled

substance contains xylazine. Consistent with current law, the exclusion does not apply to narcotic-drug-testing products that can measure or determine the quantity, weight, or potency of a controlled substance.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 491 – Faith-based Content in Batterers' Intervention Programs**

HB 491 authorizes Batterers' Intervention Programs (BIPs) to offer supplemental faith-based activities as a voluntary service to participants referred to a BIP by court-order or by consent for acts of domestic violence.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 504 – Code Inspector Body Cameras**

SB 504 requires governmental entities that permit code inspectors to wear body cameras to adopt policies, training, data retention, and review requirements for their use, while exempting these recordings from interception laws.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 559 – Animal Welfare**

HB 559 does the following:

- Creates new third degree felony offenses if a person 18 years of age or older causes or entices a minor to commit, or in the presence of a minor commits, aggravated animal cruelty; fighting or baiting animals; or sexual activities involving animals.
- Revises the ranking of fighting and baiting animals and ranks the newly created offenses on the offense severity ranking chart (OSRC).
- Requires a juvenile court to order a minor who commits animal cruelty to undergo a psychological evaluation and, if recommended, receive specified counseling or treatment.
- Increases maximum civil fines related to specified animal control or animal cruelty ordinance violations.
- Updates requirements related to the animal abuser database maintained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to:
  - Specify the information that must appear on the database;
  - Limit how long such information may remain on the database;
  - Provide a process to petition FDLE to remove such information from the database; and
  - Require each clerk of court and county detention facility to provide specified information to FDLE.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 913 – Inmate Services**

HB 913 requires funds in the Contractor-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund to be used exclusively to fund programs to aid inmates' reintegration into society and to provide environmental and health upgrades in contractor-operated institutions, subject to legislative appropriation.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1004 – Domestic Animals**

SB 1004 strengthens consumer protections related to the sale of cats and dogs in Florida. The bill requires pet dealers to terminate pet financing arrangements without penalty if an animal is found unfit for purchase due to illness or disease and the consumer chooses to return it. All financing terms must be fully disclosed to consumers. The bill repeals the previous cap on veterinary cost recovery, which had limited consumers to the original sale price when seeking reimbursement for disease or defects. If a financing agreement is involved, the bill establishes a mandatory three-day waiting period between signing the agreement and taking possession of the animal. CS/SB 1004 removes prior limitations on remedies for congenital or hereditary disorders and requires pet dealers to provide consumers with copies of certain medical records. The bill also updates consumer notice requirements, mandates that notices be provided on a separate form, and obligates pet dealers to maintain records of consumer information for seven years. Violations of s. 828.29, F.S., are now considered violations of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

The bill also relieves a pet dealer from providing a refund or exchange if the consumer signs a notice acknowledging that the animal had a known congenital or hereditary disorder at the time of sale. If a consumer and pet dealer cannot agree on a refund, exchange, or reimbursement, the consumer may pursue action in county court small claims court and may collect punitive damages of at least \$2,500. CS/SB 1004 requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to post specified information on its website about individuals who violate animal cruelty laws, with clerks of court and county detention facilities responsible for providing necessary information. Additionally, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) is directed to develop and post a voluntary list of best management practices for dog breeders, including related information on animal cruelty laws.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1113 – Pub Rec. Crime Victims**

HB 1113 expands a public record exemption for victims of crime to include the name and personal identification number and any other information that could be used to locate, intimidate, harass, or abuse a victim, and creates a public record exemption for specified identifying information of a lawful representative, family member, or next of kin of a person identified as a victim.

The bill creates a two-tiered public record exemption that makes the name of an officer who became a victim in the course and scope of his or her employment or official duties:

- Confidential and exempt, for the first 72 hours immediately following the incident.

- Exempt, for an additional 60 days after the expiration of the 72-hour period, after which the exemption expires.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1153 – Juvenile Justice**

HB 1153 defines “juvenile detention officer” (JDO) and “juvenile probation officer” (JPO) and includes such officers within multiple statutes related to correctional officers (COs) and correctional probation officers (CPOs) and also revises multiple statutes relating to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Specifically, the bill:

- Makes JDOs and JPOs eligible to receive, in the same manner as COs and CPOs:
  - The Medal of Heroism from the Governor;
  - The Medal of Valor, and authorizes specified entities to establish such an award program; o Specified commemorative service awards, upon the retirement or death of the officer; and
  - Specified line of duty death benefits.
- Subjects a person to a first degree felony for aggravated manslaughter if he or she causes the death of a JDO or JPO, who is engaged in the performance of his or her duties, through culpable negligence.
- Clarifies that authorized agents of DJJ are exempt from the criminal prohibition against sheltering a minor without obtaining parental consent or otherwise notifying law enforcement.
- Revises the definition of “family in need of services” to include legal guardians, in addition to parents and custodians.
- Authorizes a child subject to shelter placement proceedings to be placed in a shelter under specified conditions, rather than a child who is adjudicated in need of services.
- Specifies a procedure by which DJJ reviews payment from counties related to juvenile detention costs.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1159 – Sexual Offenses**

HB 1159 creates new criminal offenses, revises the existing elements and criminal penalties related to various sexual offenses, and revises terminology related to child pornography. Specifically, the bill:

- Replaces the term “child pornography” with “child sexual abuse material” throughout Florida statutes;
- Increases criminal penalties for use of a child in a sexual performance, possession and transmission of child sexual abuse material, creation of generated child sexual abuse material, possession of a child-like sex doll, and specified sexual activities involving animals;
- Requires an offender who was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense to be sentenced to a mandatory minimum sentence for specified offenses related to the use or promotion of a child in a sexual performance or transmission of child sexual abuse material, subject to specified exceptions;
- Increases mandatory minimum sentences for specified repeat sexual offenders and revises criteria related to a penalty reclassification for possessing specified images of child sexual abuse material;
- Creates a life felony for aggravated use of a child in a sexual performance when a child is under 12;

- Creates a second degree felony for transmitting generated child sexual abuse material;
- Defines and revises the definition of relevant terms related to transmitting child sexual abuse material; and
- Prohibits a person convicted of specified sexual offenses involving animals from owning or working or volunteering with an animal for at least 5 years.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1293 – Fraudulent Entry of Residential Dwellings**

HB 1293 creates the criminal offense of fraudulent entry of a residential dwelling unit which prohibits a person from entering into and taking possession of a residential dwelling unit by knowingly and willfully:

- Making or causing to be made any materially false statement, in writing, relating to the person’s identity in any rental application for a residential tenancy;
- Presenting forged, fictitious, or counterfeit documents to the landlord of a residential dwelling unit; or
- Impersonating another person in whose name a rental application is submitted to a landlord for the purpose of executing a rental agreement or taking possession of a residential dwelling unit.

A violation is punishable as a third degree felony. Additionally, the bill specifies that an act of fraudulent entry of a residential dwelling unit is an example of noncompliance with a rental agreement for which a tenant is not entitled an opportunity to cure, and as such the bill authorizes a landlord to terminate a rental agreement if the tenant commits such an act, subject to specified conditions and notice

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1471 – Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations**

HB 1471 strengthens restrictions on the application of foreign or religious laws that conflict with constitutional rights and expands regulations and penalties targeting organizations designated as domestic terrorist entities. The bill includes the following:

- Defines and prohibits the enforcement of foreign or religious law provisions that infringe upon rights guaranteed by the United States and state constitutions.
- Authorizes the Department of State to administratively dissolve corporations designated as terrorist organizations.
- Defines “domestic terrorist organization” and extends existing terrorism-related offenses and penalties to such organizations.
- Authorizes the Chief of Domestic Security to designate organizations as domestic or foreign terrorist entities, requires maintaining and publishing a list of such organizations, and establishes procedures for notice, challenge, and removal of a designation.
- Prohibits state agencies, political subdivisions, and public schools from using funds to support, contract with, or accept funds from designated terrorist organizations.

- Requires private schools to avoid affiliations with and acceptance of funds from terrorist organizations or related entities to remain eligible for state scholarship programs.
- Prohibits public schools, state colleges, and universities from using public funds for activities that promote designated terrorist organizations or provide them material support.
- Mandates immediate expulsion of students who promote designated terrorist organizations and requires imposition of out-of-state fees, denial of fee waivers, and forfeiture of state financial aid for such conduct.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1525 – Lewd or Lascivious Acts**

Hb 1525 creates a third degree felony offense, indecent exposure of sexual organs while observing a child, if a person, while observing a child under 16 years of age for the purpose of his or her own sexual arousal or gratification:

- Intentionally exposes his or her sexual organs in a lewd or lascivious manner; or
- Intentionally performs any sexual act that does not involve actual physical or sexual contact with the child, including, but not limited to, sadomasochistic abuse, sexual bestiality, masturbation, or the simulation of any act involving sexual activity.

Under the bill, the term “observing” means intentionally viewing another person under circumstances in which the offender is reasonably capable of being seen by the person being viewed. The bill specifies that it is not a defense that the person being observed was not aware of any specific conduct on the part of the offender or did not see the offender's sexual organs. The bill repeals the second degree misdemeanor offense of committing any unnatural and lascivious act with another person.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 4035 – Palm Beach County**

The bill revises the Palm Beach County Construction Industry Licensing Board’s (Board) process for issuing certificates of competency by requiring applicants to pass the required examination before their application is reviewed by the Board. The bill requires applicants to submit preliminary paperwork to ensure certain requirements are met before the examination is scheduled.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 4063 – West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund – Special Act Amendment**

The bill revises provisions of the West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund to reflect an agreement between the Florida State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, Inc., and the City of West Palm Beach. Specifically, the bill:

- Revises benefit accrual rates;

- Updates actuarial information used to calculate the value of future pension payments to current pensioners;
- Revises procedures for reviewing denials of benefits;
- Increases the maximum amount of lump sum payouts for retirement accounts with small balances;
- Revises procedures for purchasing service credits to reflect changes in federal law; and
- Makes clarifying changes to certain procedures and duties of the Fund's Board of Trustees.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 7000 – OGSR/Persons Provided Public Emergency Shelter**

CS/SB 7000 saves from repeal the current public records exemption that exempts from public records inspections and copying requirements the address and telephone number of a person provided public emergency shelter during a storm or catastrophic event and held by an agency that provided such shelter.

The exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and stands repealed on October 2, 2026, unless reenacted by the Legislature. The bill saves the exemption from repeal by deleting the scheduled repeal date, thereby maintaining the exempt status of the information.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming law*

### **SB 7040 – Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund/Executive Office of the Governor**

SB 7040 re-creates the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund and revises its funding sources, permitted uses, and oversight obligations. The bill includes the following:

- Re-creates the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund within the Executive Office of the Governor, which previously terminated under constitutional provisions.
- Specifies that fund moneys may come from legislative appropriations or the Legislative Budget Commission and may be used for both natural and manmade or technological emergencies.
- Requires federal reimbursements for emergency expenditures to be deposited in a dedicated subaccount and used only to pay prior invoices before any other purpose.
- Prohibits purchasing aircraft, boats, or motor vehicles using moneys in the fund, while allowing short-term leases for emergency responses.
- Extends the fund's termination date to July 1, 2028, and mandates periodic legislative review before termination.
- Requires the Division of Emergency Management to provide quarterly reports on fund balance, reimbursement status, and expenditures for emergency assets and invoices.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming law*

### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

#### **HB 133 – Minimum Age to Purchase a Firearm**

HB 133 reduces the minimum age requirement to purchase a firearm from 21 to 18 for both the retail purchase of a firearm from a federal firearms licensee (FFL) and the purchase of a firearm in a private sale. The bill also reduces the minimum age by which the retail sale of a firearm may be made or facilitated by an FFL from 21 to 18. As such, a person who is 18 years of age or older and who is not otherwise prohibited from purchasing a firearm may purchase a long gun, such as a shotgun or rifle, from an FFL or in a private sale. A person under 21 years of age would still be prohibited under federal law from purchasing a handgun from an FFL, however, under the bill, a person who is 18 years of age or older may purchase a handgun from a private seller. The bill passed the House, but was not heard in its committees of reference in the Senate.

### **HB 321/SB 406 – Carrying Weapons and Firearms**

HB 321 revises Florida law on carrying weapons and firearms by clearly defining and expanding the list of locations where carrying is prohibited. The bill was not heard in none of the committees of reference in the House and Senate.

The bill creates a new statute that bans carrying weapons or firearms in places such as law enforcement facilities, courthouses and courtrooms, polling places, government meetings, schools and school buildings, athletic events not related to firearms, portions of establishments primarily serving alcohol, college and university facilities (with limited exceptions for nonlethal self-defense devices), airport terminals and secure areas, nuisance properties, and any location prohibited under federal law. It also provides that firearms may still be lawfully stored or carried inside a vehicle and allows judges to determine firearm policies within their courtrooms.

The bill establishes that knowingly violating these restrictions is a second-degree misdemeanor. It also updates existing statutes to ensure that the same location-based restrictions apply equally to both licensed concealed carriers and individuals carrying without a license. Additionally, the bill requires individuals carrying a concealed weapon without a license to have valid identification on them and to present it to law enforcement upon request, with failure to do so resulting in a \$25 noncriminal fine. Overall, the bill standardizes firearm restrictions across different types of carriers while maintaining certain existing rights, such as lawful vehicle storage.

### **HB 376 – Public Records/Sexual Assault Counselors**

This bill created a public records exemption for certain personal identifying and location information for sexual assault counselors, also known as victim advocates, employed by entities subject to Florida’s broad public records laws. The bill was not heard in its committees of reference in the Senate.

### **SB 382 – Micromobility Devices**

SB 382 provides that a person operating an electric bicycle on certain shared pathways must adhere to certain protocols. It also provides that a person operating an electric bicycle on a sidewalk or other area designated for pedestrians may not operate the electric bicycle at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour if a pedestrian is within 50 feet of the electric bicycle. The bill creates the Electric Bicycle Safety Task Force, adjunct to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (Department) and provides certain requirements for

membership and administrative requirements related to data collection and reporting. The Governor vetoed SB 382 citing concerns over enhanced surveillance by local law enforcement.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 853/SB 652 – Mobile Homes**

These bills clarified and expanded responsibilities for mobile home park owners and mobile home owners under local codes. The bill was not heard in its committees of reference in the House or the Senate. The bill:

- Required park owners to ensure each mobile home has a current registration sticker and to maintain up-to-date ownership records for code enforcement purposes.
- Required park owners to require owners and occupants to comply with all applicable building, housing, fire, and health codes.
- Removed the blanket provision making mobile home owners automatically responsible for all fines under local codes.
- Authorized local governments to adopt and enforce codes or ordinances to ensure compliance with both park owner and mobile home owner obligations.
- Prevented the imposition of penalties or liens on any party for duties assigned to the other party.

### **HB 945 – Statewide Counterintelligence and Counterterrorism Unit**

HB 945 establishes a dedicated counterintelligence and counterterrorism unit within the Department of Law Enforcement to safeguard the state from domestic and foreign threats. The bill was only heard in two committees of reference in the House and none in the Senate. The bill does the following:

- Creates s. 943.0316, F.S., defining “adversary intelligence entity” and setting legislative intent focused on detecting and neutralizing foreign or domestic threats.
- Requires the Department of Law Enforcement to form a Statewide Counterintelligence and Counterterrorism Unit at its regional operational center, with assigned teams in each regional domestic security task force.
- Mandates the creation of a 10-person leadership team by July 1, 2027, as the foundation of the full unit and a goal of seven regional teams by 2033 through annual funding requests.
- Outlines that each regional team includes a dedicated leadership structure, security officer, intelligence analysts, liaison officers, and agents trained or experienced in counterintelligence or counterterrorism.

### **HB 1129 – First Responders**

HB 1129 renames the law enforcement recruitment bonus program to include firefighters, revise grant procedures, and establish a statewide institute focused on first responder mental health. The bill was only heard in one committee of reference in the House and none in the Senate. The bill includes the following:

- Renames the Florida Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Payment Program to the Florida Law

Enforcement Officer and Firefighter Recruitment Bonus Payment Program.

- Expands eligibility for bonus payments to newly employed firefighters and requires consultation with the Division of State Fire Marshal for verifying firefighter information.
- Extends the expiry date of the bonus payment program from 2026 to 2028.
- Authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to appoint a review panel to help evaluate and recommend certain fire service grants.
- Creates the Institute for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder within the Department of Financial Services to serve as a statewide center for first responder behavioral health research, training, outreach, and program development.

### **HB 1283/SB 1544 – Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers**

The bill revises provisions related to complaints against law enforcement officers (LEO) and correctional officers (CO), and the rights provided to such officers during and after an internal investigation. The bill passed the House but was only heard in one of its three committees of reference in the Senate. The bill does the following:

- Requiring any complaint against a LEO or CO to be made in writing and signed under oath by the person filing the complaint, unless the complaint is accompanied with corroborating evidence.
- Requiring a copy of such signed complaint, in addition to the names of all complainants, to be provided to a LEO or CO who is under investigation by his or her employing agency prior to any interrogation, unless the complaint is accompanied with corroborating evidence.
- Prohibiting an employing agency from taking any punitive action against a LEO or CO unless he or she has been provided a copy of such signed complaint, unless the complaint is accompanied with corroborating evidence.
- Specifying that a person who makes a false written complaint under oath against a LEO or CO commits perjury by false written declaration, which is punishable as a third-degree felony.
- Prohibiting an investigation of a LEO or CO that did not result in disciplinary action from affecting such officer's ability to receive a promotion, raise, or other commendation.

### **HB 1427 – Public Safety**

HB 1457 centralizes 911, emergency call, and dispatch services in each county or region under a unified call center to enhance emergency responsiveness and prohibit call transfers within the same jurisdiction. The bill was not heard in none of the committees of reference in the House and Senate. The bill includes the following:

- Require each county or group of counties to operate or designate a single 911 call center, with oversight from newly formed executive boards (ECC or RECC).
- Redirect state emergency funds only to counties that unify 911 operations and deny such funds to noncompliant counties or regions.
- Authorize the sheriff to operate the 911 call center if a county does not establish a unified 911 system by specified deadlines, with remaining agencies integrated under the sheriff.
- Prohibit transferring emergency calls between 911 centers in the same county unless at least one unit has already been dispatched, and allow transfer only if the emergency is outside local jurisdiction.
- Mandate interoperability with all state emergency communication networks, require compliance with

specific cybersecurity standards, and designate all 911 call centers and systems as critical infrastructure.

- Impose annual reductions of 25% in emergency funding for counties that fail to comply by 2029.

### **HB 1539/SB 1732 – Blood Testing Required Following Civilian-involved Shootings**

The bill requires that any civilian who discharges a firearm resulting in injury or death must undergo blood testing within two hours of the incident.

The bill defines key terms such as “civilian” and “civilian-involved shooting” to clarify who is subject to the requirement. The testing must be conducted by a qualified professional and screen for alcohol and controlled substances; if a person refuses testing, they face penalties and may lose the ability to claim self-defense. The results of these tests must be included as part of the official investigative record, with specific rules governing confidentiality and when the information can be disclosed. Additionally, the Department of Law Enforcement is required to produce an annual report summarizing data on civilian-involved shootings, including testing results, case outcomes, and any recommended policy changes.

## **Fire Rescue**

### **SB 984 – Firefighter Cancer Benefits**

The bill provides that the \$75,000 death benefit for firefighters who die as a result of cancer is available for one year after the firefighter terminates employment.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1452 – Department of Financial Services**

SB 1452 includes several firefighter related provisions, including:

- The bill allows public officials to appoint, employ, promote, and advocate for a relative to be a firefighter as long as it is a part of a competitive process in a collective bargaining agreement.
- The bill revises enforcement provisions relating to fire protection, fire suppression, modification, and demolition of a single family or two-family dwelling to provide that such a dwelling does not have a change of occupancy solely due to the use of dwellings or conversion into a dwelling used by a tax-exempt charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code if certain conditions are met, and for migrant housing, that has a permit from Department of Health.
- The bill provides that a single or two family residence may not be reclassified for purposes of enforcing the Fire Prevention Code solely due to such dwelling use as, or conversion into a dwelling used by a tax-exempt charity under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code if certain conditions are met, and for migrant housing, that has a permit from Department of Health.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 4065 – West Palm Beach Firefighters Pension Fund, Palm Beach County**

The bill revises provisions of the West Palm Beach Firefighters Pension Fund to reflect an agreement between the West Palm Beach Association of Fire Fighters and the City of West Palm Beach. Specifically, the bill:

- Increases the normal retirement benefit calculation;
- Revises procedures for reviewing denials of benefits;
- Provides powers to the Board of Trustees;
- Revises procedures for purchasing service credits to reflect changes in federal law; and
- Make clarifying changes to certain procedures and duties of the Fund’s board.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 4071 – Palm Beach County**

HB 4071 establishes a six-year minimum service requirement for Palm Beach County’s municipal service taxing unit to provide fire rescue and emergency medical services to newly annexed areas and outlines related cost-sharing, service transfers, and conflict resolution procedures. The bill includes the following:

- Requires county fire rescue and emergency medical services to continue for six years in annexed areas after January 1, 2027.
- Prohibits Palm Beach County from levying ad valorem taxes through the service taxing unit on annexed properties during this period, with the annexing municipality instead paying an annual service price.
- Authorizes the county to retain fire rescue impact fee collection authority in annexed properties until services are formally transferred.
- Provides conditions for ending county service jurisdiction, including possible early or extended transitions if data supports the municipal takeover at the same cost and service level.
- Requires good faith negotiations between the county and the annexing municipality regarding service transition timelines and the efficient use of capital and operational expenditures.
- Establishes a conflict resolution process under Chapter 164, Florida Statutes, if an interlocal agreement is not reached.
- Exempt certain small enclaves, 10 acres or less, from the six-year service requirement and mandatory service price payments.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **Local Government Administration**

### **HB 905 – Foreign Influence**

HB 905 passed the Legislature and establishes the “Foreign Influence Restriction and Enforcement Act,” aimed at reducing interference and influence from foreign countries of concern. It strengthens penalties and oversight related to public officials by increasing consequences for violations of gift restrictions when the source is a designated foreign terrorist organization or a foreign country of concern. It also requires

ethics training for certain public officials to include information on these countries and the risks of foreign influence.

In the area of cultural and educational programs, the bill prohibits the state protocol officer from promoting sister city or sister state relationships with foreign countries of concern or their subdivisions. It also requires the Department of State to publish quarterly reports detailing foreign consulate offices in Florida and all sister city and sister state affiliations. Additionally, the bill revises provisions governing Florida linkage institutes by removing the Florida-China Institute from the list of authorized institutes, eliminating certain in-state tuition exemptions, and prohibiting partnerships or activities with foreign countries of concern or related organizations. Regarding interactions with Cuba, the bill expands penalties for individuals or entities conducting business with Cuba in violation of federal law, including potential revocation of business tax receipts. It also allows the governor to temporarily suspend restrictions on interactions with Cuba if the federal government changes the country's diplomatic status.

The bill expands the definition of a "foreign source of concern" to include designated foreign terrorist organizations and their agents. It also broadens existing prohibitions to prevent state agencies, political subdivisions, and certain public entities from entering into agreements with or accepting grants not only from foreign countries of concern but also their subdivisions. Criminal offenses committed to benefit or support such foreign entities are reclassified with stricter penalties. Finally, the bill restricts certain family-related agreements by prohibiting preplanned adoption arrangements and gestational surrogacy contracts if any involved party is a citizen or resident of a foreign country of concern.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **HB 991 – Elections**

HB 991 passed the Legislature and changed state law to implement stricter ID verification for voter registration, adjusts ballot definitions, updates candidate qualification requirements, and enhances election integrity.

Regarding voter eligibility, effective January 1, 2027, it requires voter registration applicants and voters updating their registration to have their citizenship verified against Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) REAL ID data. The bill prescribes actions the Department of State must take when voters are potentially ineligible based on citizenship and requires supervisors of elections to provide notice and remove such voters from the rolls. It also specifies acceptable documents for proving United States citizenship. By July 1, 2027, Florida driver licenses or identification cards issued to U.S. citizens must indicate citizenship status, with the DHSMV providing free renewals or replacements for individuals who acquire U.S. citizenship and update their legal status.

For candidate qualifications, the bill prohibits individuals from qualifying if they do not meet political party affiliation requirements or have legally changed their name through the general petition process within 365 days prior to qualifying, and it establishes a civil cause of action to enforce compliance. Candidates must submit written oaths affirming compliance with statutory and constitutional requirements, disclose any dual citizenship, and, for federal office candidates, provide disclosures regarding stock trading while in office.

To address election law violations, effective July 1, 2026, the bill establishes a five-year statute of limitations for felony violations of the Election Code and updates racketeering definitions to cite specific sections related

to petition fraud. It expands prohibitions on foreign national contributions to include knowingly accepting or soliciting contributions by political parties, committees, electioneering communications organizations, or candidates.

Effective January 1, 2027, the bill requires voter registration applicants to acknowledge that providing false information is a third-degree felony. It updates definitions for ballots and voting systems, clarifies the use of ballot-on-demand technology, and mandates paper ballots unless a voter requests a voter interface device. Certain forms of identification, including student IDs, retirement center IDs, neighborhood association IDs, and public assistance IDs, are no longer acceptable for voting. The bill revises the timing of Elections Canvassing Commission meetings, clarifies election returns reporting, removes outdated language on spoiled ballots, and sets the registration date for valid voter registrations based on the initial application receipt, with specific rules for party affiliation changes.

Finally, upon enactment, supervisors of elections are authorized to close their offices on additional federal, state, or locally approved holidays, provided their duties do not require the office to remain open.

*Effective Date: Upon becoming law*

### **SB 1028 – Citizens Property Insurance Corporation**

SB 1028 requires Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens) to establish a commercial lines clearinghouse to facilitate offers of coverage for commercial residential and commercial nonresidential risks. The bill directs Citizens to implement a clearinghouse for surplus lines insurers by January 1, 2027, and a clearinghouse for authorized insurers by January 1, 2028. Citizens must create and maintain the operational systems and procedures necessary for the clearinghouse and establish criteria for selecting a commercial lines clearinghouse administrator, including expertise in the surplus lines market, financial transparency, and the ability to facilitate participation of all approved insurers. The administrator may set procedural and account clearance requirements and charge reasonable fees to participating insurers and agents. Approved surplus lines clearinghouse insurers must meet financial strength and size standards and be recommended by the administrator and approved by the Office of Insurance Regulation. Offers from approved surplus lines insurers do not affect eligibility for Citizens coverage, but if such an offer is rejected in favor of Citizens, a premium equalization adjustment may apply under certain conditions. The adjustment is limited to one policy term and based on the lowest-cost offer. The bill aims to increase market options, promote competition, and maintain Citizens as an insurer of last resort.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1085 – Local Government Cyber Security**

The bill establishes the Local Government Cybersecurity Protection Program within the University of South Florida (USF), administered by the Florida Center for Cybersecurity (Cyber Florida), to help eligible local governments develop and strengthen cybersecurity risk management programs. Under the House amendment, any local government—regardless of participation in the grant program—may purchase cybersecurity commodities through the Program. Cyber Florida must contract for IT commodities and services for local governments, award annual grants by October 1 with preference for fiscally constrained counties, and enter into data-sharing agreements with local governments and the Florida Digital Service to support cybersecurity incident management consistent with the State Cybersecurity Act. The Program may

seek and accept federal funds or grants to further its objectives. The Florida Digital Service must submit an annual report to the Executive Office of Policy and Budget and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees on the implementation and outcomes of the prior fiscal year's grant program. The Program is set to sunset on July 1, 2031, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **HB 4025 – Martin and Palm Beach Counties**

The bill directs the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund to convey approximately 41.1 acres from the state to the Village of Tequesta in Palm Beach County. The bill requires the Village to use the land for recreational, educational, and conservation activities

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

#### **HJR 27 – Term Limits for Members of Boards of County Commissioners and District School Boards**

- Proposing an amendment to appear on the ballot of the 2026 General Election, these joint resolutions provided term limits for county commissioners and school district board members of twelve consecutive years. The House bill was not heard by any of its assigned committees.

#### **HB 263/SB 830 – Public Records/County Administrators and City Managers**

- This legislation created a public records exemption for certain personal identifying and location information for county administrators and city managers, including deputy and assistant county administrators and city managers, and for the spouses and children of these officials. The bills passed the Senate but was only heard in one committee of reference in the House.

#### **SB 482/HB 1395 – Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights**

The AI Bill of Rights failed to pass the Legislature. SB 482 passed the Senate and made the below proposed changes. HB 1395 was never heard in the House since Speaker Perez stood firm in his stance that setting comprehensive AI policies should be handled by the Federal Government.

The bills proposed the following:

- Create the “Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights” restricting certain state contracts with foreign AI entities, establishing consumer and child safeguards for AI usage, tightening rules on AI-generated likenesses, and requiring parental notice and opt-out for AI instructional tools in education.
- Expand existing contracting restrictions to prohibit Florida governmental entities from contracting with or renewing contracts for AI products and services with entities owned or controlled by foreign countries of concern and require affidavits certifying compliance.
- Create the “Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights” granting residents rights to know when AI is used, protect personal data, and pursue civil remedies against unauthorized AI-driven uses of their name, image, or likeness.
- Establish new regulations for companion chatbot platforms aimed at minors, mandating parental consent, account controls for minor users, content safeguards, and possible civil penalties for violations.

- Require conspicuous notifications that online bots are not human, subjecting operators to deceptive trade practice penalties if disclosures are not provided.
- Prohibit AI technology companies from selling or sharing personal information in non-deidentified forms and impose compliance standards for safeguarding deidentified data.
- Amend prohibitions on the unauthorized commercial use of a person’s name, image, or likeness to include those created with generative AI and specify additional penalties for the unauthorized use of servicemembers’ likenesses.
- Require certain private schools and public educational entities to provide parental notice, the ability to opt out, and parental account access when offering students AI instructional tools.

## **Education**

### **SB 178 – Athletics in Public K-12 Schools**

SB 178 allows coaches to use personal funds to support student athletes up to \$15,000 per year. The bill addresses these issues after they gained attention when NFL quarterback Teddy Bridgewater was fined and suspended by the state last year.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 182 – School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program**

SB 182 establishes the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program and authorizes school districts and charter schools to place experienced classroom teachers in struggling schools to serve as paid teacher mentors. The bill also requires public schools to teach cursive writing in grades 3-5, with proficiency achieved by grade 5. The bill requires every school to hang portraits of former Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in a “conspicuous” place on campus

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 538 – Extracurricular Activities**

SB 538 establishes new criteria allowing any student to participate in extracurricular activities at a school other than the school at which the student is enrolled, including options outside the district.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 561 – Educator Preparation and Certification**

HB 561 removes barriers to reinstatement of expired professional educator certificates, providing educators with a streamlined process for returning to the classroom. The bill corrects a reference relating to the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence and requires the center to offer free professional learning to educators seeking

to renew or reinstate their certificate. The bill also authorizes educator preparation institutes to allow program participants to enroll in and complete coursework while working to obtain an eligible statement of status of eligibility.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 753 – School Counselors**

The bill provides an exemption for individuals seeking employment as a school counselor from the demonstration of mastery of general knowledge and professional preparation and education competence requirements for educator certification. A school district may require such demonstration as a condition of employment. Additionally, the bill requires that school counselors be evaluated based on indicators of the Florida School Counseling Standards adopted by the State Board of Education.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 757 – School Safety**

HB 757 makes several changes related to school safety, including:

- Authorizing employees and faculty members of public postsecondary educational institutions (institutions) to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel School Guardian Program, if appointed by an institution’s president.
- Prohibiting a person from discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity, a violation of which is punishable as a second-degree felony.
- Requiring institutions to promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool, FortifyFL, and to install or bookmark a link to the tool on specified devices issued or maintained by such institutions.
- Requiring specified records related to a student’s behavior, including threat assessment reports, and student psychological evaluations to be transferred from a K-12 school to a Florida College System institution or state university upon his or her enrollment.
- Requiring district school safety specialists to explain the purpose, importance, and proper execution of specified school safety training protocols and procedures.
- Requiring institutions to adopt an active assailant response plan, annually conduct a security risk assessment, train faculty and staff to detect and respond to mental health issues, connect students with mental health services, establish threat management teams, adopt policies relating to support for students, faculty, and staff.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 824 – Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned by School Districts**

SB 824 requires each school district to submit an annual inventory of unimproved real property owned as of June 30 each year, which must include specified criteria. The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to compile the district submissions into a statewide annual report and submit the report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The report must include a district-by-district breakdown and any DOE recommendations related to land utilization and long-range facilities planning. Finally, the bill authorizes the State Board of Education to use existing statutory enforcement authority if a school district fails to comply with the reporting requirements.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **HB 851 – Professional Learning for Instructional and School Administrative Personnel**

The bill requires each school district to provide at least one annual autism-specific professional learning opportunity for instructional personnel and school-based administrators. Professional learning must be developed in consultation with the district’s Center for Autism and Related Disabilities and include evidence-based practices to support students with autism spectrum disorder.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **HB 1073 – School Districts**

The bill creates a District School Board Members’ Bill of Rights, providing school board members with access to school district documents, the ability to request information from the superintendent and his or her staff, as well as consult with a district’s chief financial officer on financial information. The bill requires additional documents associated with school board meetings, including agenda attachments and budget materials, to be maintained as public records with the minutes of each meeting; requires district school boards to adopt a policy prohibiting nondisclosure or confidentiality agreements for district employees; and adds full line-item budget information to the school district’s fiscal transparency requirements.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **HB 1201 – Student Health & Safety**

The bill specifies statutory provisions regarding the care of students with epilepsy or seizure disorders and expands the definition of schools to include charter schools. It requires schools to display a poster identifying the basic steps of responding to an individual having a seizure. The bill also requires the Department of Health to include certain education and training requirements required for schools in its epilepsy education program.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

#### **HB 1279 – Education**

HB 1279 requires service providers working with the Division of Blind Services vocational rehabilitation program to register with the division, maintain an internal quality-assurance system, meet minimum qualifications, and pass a due-diligence review. For low-performing schools (D or F), a school board may offer salary incentives and assign high-quality teachers to struggling schools and these actions are explicitly not subject to collective bargaining requirements. The bill also allows middle schools to offer students the ability to earn two CAPE Digital Tools certificates per school year.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1296 – Public Employees Relations Commission**

SB 1296 imposes strict new standards on teacher’s union elections by creating a new minimum voting threshold requiring at least 50 percent of all members in a bargaining unit to participate in union elections. The bill also lowers the bar for a successful certification, recertification and decertification vote from 60 percent to 50 percent.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 1690 - Child Care and Early Learning Services**

SB 1690 makes several statutory changes relating to early childhood education and child care regulation and directs initiatives to enhance early childhood education.

In childcare regulation, the bill:

- Amends references to “family day care home” to “family childcare home” throughout Florida Statutes.
- Require the Department of Children and Families and local licensing agencies to disseminate electronically certain information regarding all childcare facilities to the community.
- Removes the annual requirements for family day care homes and large family childcare homes to provide parents with information related to flu shots and leaving children in a vehicle unattended.
- Requires childcare facilities that are exempt from licensure to include a specified statement regarding their exemption on their website, promotional materials and facility-created documents, and forms provided to families.
- Adds “large family childcare” as a type of childcare services where the cancellation, denial, or nonrenewal of residential property insurance is prohibited solely on the basis that those services are provided at the residence.

In early childhood education, the bill:

- Authorizes the Florida Education Foundation, Inc., to raise and manage funds and property for the benefit of early learning programs for children ages zero to five.
- Subject to an appropriation, expands the role of the TEACH Scholarship Program administrator to establish and administer the Center for Early Childhood Professional
- Recognition to ensure statewide alignment of training, trainer approval, and competency-based assessments for early learning professionals.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

## **Environment & Natural Resources**

### **HB 167 – Former Phosphate Mining Lands**

HB 167 establishes a defense from strict liability in lawsuits brought by the Department of Environmental Protection or others for a cause of action based on a natural geological substance on the site of a former phosphate mine. For a defendant to be exempt from strict liability under the defense created by the bill, the defendant must prove that:

- A notice identifying the property as a former phosphate mine has been recorded within the county where the property is located.
- The Department of Health has conducted a gamma radiation survey of the land parcel at the request of a landowner.

For any lawsuit based on strict liability, negligence, or similar conduct related to an alleged discharge of hazardous substances or condition of pollution related to phosphate mining, the bill requires the plaintiff to include a radiation survey meeting certain requirements with the complaint.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 290 – Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services**

SB 290 enacts a broad range of changes related to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and other state agencies. Key provisions preempt local governments from restricting gasoline-powered farm or landscape equipment, establish density requirements for small-municipality development, and direct state agencies to evaluate surpluses and conservation lands for agricultural suitability while restricting development rights transfers. The bill phases in a Class AA biosolids land-application requirement by July 1, 2028, increases pest control fumigation insurance and fine requirements, and adds criminal penalties for unauthorized assistance on commercial driver license exams and or misleading use of concealed weapon permit terminology. To support agriculture, the bill establishes the Florida Native Seed Research and Marketing Program, the Food Animal and Equine Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, and the Farmers Feeding Florida Program, replaces the Citrus Research and Development Foundation with the Citrus Research and Field Trial Foundation, and prohibits local permitting requirements for agritourism activities. The bill also repeals the Southern States Energy Compact and the Healthy Food Financing Initiative, removes the Babcock Ranch Advisory Group, introduces penalties for contractors who fail to timely pay subcontractors, prohibits commercial solicitation in violation of "no solicitation" signage, expands Florida Forest Service training authority, authorizes departmental reorganization, and prohibits the possession or distribution of signal jamming devices.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 302 – Coastal Resiliency**

SB 302 requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to initiate rulemaking by January 1, 2027, to establish a statewide permitting process for nature-based coastal resiliency methods. The rules must address implementation criteria, application review procedures, general permits that avoid significant adverse impacts, incentives for new technologies such as 3D printing, and processes for replacing failed coastal infrastructure with nature-based alternatives after storm events. DEP must also develop design guidelines for green and hybrid green-gray infrastructure and, together with local governments, promote public awareness of nature-based coastal resiliency solutions.

The bill authorizes nature-based solutions within aquatic preserves, including living seawalls, shoreline and vegetation planting, seagrass planting, wave attenuation devices, and green or hybrid stormwater infrastructure. It specifically permits living shorelines and seawalls within the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, along with minimum dredging and filling to restore natural systems. Within the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve, the bill prohibits dredging or filling except for public navigation projects, activities to enhance the preserve or address public health hazards, and the construction or maintenance of marinas, public boat ramps, piers, and docks. Certain authorized dredging or fillings must be approved by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund following public notice.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### ***SB 386 – Farm Equipment***

SB 386 creates a process for consumers and manufacturers to remedy defective farm equipment. If farm equipment is defective and does not conform to all applicable express written warranties, the bill permits a consumer to report the defect to the manufacturer or its authorized service agent during the manufacturer's warranty period or during the 1-year period following the original delivery date of the farm equipment to allow the manufacturer or its authorized agent the opportunity to conform the equipment to the warranty.

The bill requires a manufacturer to replace defective farm equipment with comparable farm equipment or accept the return of the defective equipment from the consumer and refund the consumer the purchase price and related fees if the manufacturer or its authorized dealer cannot or otherwise fails to conform the farm equipment to any applicable express written warranty. This does not limit or impair the rights or remedies which are otherwise available to a consumer under chapter 681, F.S.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 441 – Conservation Lands**

HB 441 requires the Division of State Lands and water management districts to publish certain information at least 30 days before any meeting to review the proposed sale or exchange of conservation lands. Such information includes:

- The parcels proposed for sale or exchange;
- The portions of the lands which will be preserved in a permanent conservation easement;
- A statement explaining why the lands are no longer needed for conservation purposes or how the exchange will result in a conservation benefit to the state; and
- Any applicable recommendations.

The bill also provides that, for exchanges involving state-owned lands, each parcel must have at least one appraisal that follows board-approved appraisal criteria, techniques, and methods.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 686 – Agricultural Enclaves**

SB 686 amends s. 163.3162, F.S., which regulates agricultural lands and practices, to replace the existing public hearing process for development within agricultural enclaves with a new process outlined in the bill. Agricultural enclaves are pockets of agricultural land that are mostly surrounded by development. Under the bill, the owner of an agricultural enclave may apply for a certification confirming that the land is an agricultural enclave, subject to a public hearing and approval process. Upon certification, property owners may submit development plans for single-family residential housing consistent with the land use requirements of adjacent parcels. Local governments may not enact or enforce a law or regulation for an agricultural enclave that is more burdensome than for other types of applications for comparable uses or densities.

The bill revises the definition of “agricultural enclave” to clarify that they may include one or more parcels. It also includes additional criteria for determining whether a property may qualify as an agricultural enclave under state law and limits agricultural enclaves to lands within counties having a population of 1.75 million or less. The bill’s provisions relating to agricultural enclaves expire January 1, 2028, at which time the text of those provisions will revert to the text as it existed on June 30, 2026.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 755 – Areas of State Critical Concern**

HB 755 exempts a person who enters into a formal contract with the state or other entities for construction of public buildings from executing the required payment and performance bond if certain conditions are met. The bill extends the time period during which at least \$5 million of Florida Forever funding must be spent each fiscal year on land acquisition within the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern. It also strengthens drilling prohibitions near national estuarine research reserves in rural areas of opportunity, with expanded restrictions if counties also contain an area of critical state concern

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **SB 848 – Stormwater Treatment**

SB 848 amends various provisions governing stormwater treatment through regional stormwater systems and water quality enhancement areas (WQEAs). It requires environmental resource permit (ERP) applicants for regional stormwater systems to demonstrate adequate financial responsibility, updated every five years, and to include a graphic of the drainage area served. ERP applicants within a regional system's drainage area may purchase pollution reduction allocations to meet stormwater treatment criteria, with drainage areas generally based on a HUC 12 subbasin. The bill also allows ERP applicants to use compensating stormwater treatment, including WQEA enhancement credits, as a mitigation measure when ambient water quality prevents

compliance with water quality standards, and transfers legal responsibility for water quality treatment requirements from the credit purchaser to the credit generator.

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt WQEA rules by October 1, 2026, and in the interim, DEP must accept applications for and issue WQEA provisional permits where applicants provide reasonable assurance of meeting statutory criteria. Enhancement credits issued under provisional permits must continue to be recognized even after final rules are adopted. The bill also restricts regional stormwater systems and WQEAs operated by non-local governmental entities from providing stormwater treatment or conveying enhancement credits for proposed port activities that cause or contribute to stormwater pollution at certain seaports.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1019 – Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**

HB 1019 phases out the use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing intentionally added PFAS. Beginning July 1, 2026, the bill prohibits nonemergency use of AFFF and requires all entities in possession of AFFF to report inventories to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). By July 1, 2027, the sale, purchase, and distribution of AFFF are prohibited, and entities must submit disposal plans to DEP. A full ban on possession and use takes effect July 1, 2029, with exceptions for airports, certain military applications, emergency firefighting where alternatives are unavailable, and approved AFFF retrofit projects. Violations carry civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per violation per day, with additional penalties for failure to report inventories or submit disposal plans. DEP is authorized to seek injunctive relief to enforce compliance. The bill directs DEP to adopt rules for containment, collection, and disposal of AFFF; maintain a registry of PFAS-free firefighting foam alternatives; and provide technical assistance and grants to support the transition. DEP may also administer cost-share programs for local fire departments and airports. Finally, the bill requires public wastewater entities with a designed average daily flow of 25,000 gallons or more to conduct quarterly PFAS sampling and report results to DEP, though such reporting is informational only until national PFAS water quality standards are established.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1103 – Local Administration of Vessel Restrictions**

HB 1103 allows counties and municipalities to authorize, by ordinance, code enforcement officers to administer laws relating to vessels at risk of becoming derelict, vessels designated as public nuisances, and vessels with long-term anchoring permits. Such ordinances may take effect only after review and approval of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Code enforcement officers may issue noncriminal infractions pursuant to the uniform boating citation system for violations of the laws relating to long-term anchoring and at risk and public nuisance vessels.

The bill revises an exemption for vessels that are established as a domicile from Monroe County's anchoring limitation area vessel relocation requirements until at least 60, rather than 100, new moorings are available for public use within one mile of the Key West Bight City Dock.

The bill authorizes local governments to adopt ordinances regulating vessel speed and operation within 300 feet of a confluence of water bodies presenting a blind corner, up to a distance of 1,000 feet if necessary to ensure safe navigation and visibility for approaching vessels. The boundary of such boating-restricted areas must be clearly marked.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1217 – Prohibited Governmental Policies Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

HB 1217 provides a legislative finding that net zero policies, carbon taxes and assessments, and emission trading programs are detrimental to the energy security and economic interest of the state and inconsistent with the energy and environmental policies of the state; establishes certain prohibitions on a governmental entity adopting, implementing, using public funds to support, or imposing any charge to advance net zero policies; and defines terms related to such prohibitions.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1219 – Waterbody Designations**

HB 1219 designates SI3, a mangrove island adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway within Jupiter Sound, as the “Andrew ‘Red’ Harris Spoil Island” and directs the Department of Environmental Protection to erect markers with such designation.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1285 – Biosolids Management**

HB 1285 prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from issuing or renewing land application site permits that authorize the disposal or land application of septage as Class B biosolids if there is a permitted wastewater treatment facility within 30 miles of the site that accepts septage for higher levels of treatment and meets certain other requirements.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **HB 1417 – Department of Environmental Protection**

HB 1417 revises several provisions related to the Department of Environmental Protection. The bill, in part:

- Repeals the Environmental Regulation Commission.
- Requires erosion and sediment control plans for the construction of solar facilities to include certain protections, including the implementation of stormwater best management practices.
- Creates provisions allowing public-private partnerships for coastal resiliency projects.

- Extends the due date for annual operating permits for major sources of air pollution.
- Ratifies rules relating to the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs Minimum Flows and Levels and recovery strategies.
- Require commercial and residential properties of 10 acres or less in specified lagoon areas to connect to central sewer or upgrade to a 65% nitrogen-reducing sewage system by July 1, 2030.

*Effective Date: July 1, 2026*

### **BILLS OF NOTE THAT DID NOT PASS**

#### **HB 1245 – Biosolids Management**

HB 1245 creates new regulations for Class AA biosolids. The bill:

- Prohibits land application of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products from exceeding certain agronomic rates.
- Requires land application of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products at or below the agronomic rate to be managed with beneficial reuse as the primary objective, rather than disposal.
- Prohibits bulk land application of biosolids, including Class AA, if it constitutes disposal.
- Requires certain land application site operators to maintain application records for five years.
- Permits Class AA biosolids to be distributed or marketed for agricultural land application only if certain requirements are met.
- Requires the University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) to, on a biennial basis, publish recommended agronomic rates for the beneficial reuse of bulk Class AA biosolids fertilizer and compost products.
- Requires DEP to initiate rulemaking no later than November 1, 2026, to implement certain provisions.

#### **HB 1297/SB 636– Beach Management**

SB 636 provides that, in designating beaches as critically eroded, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) must review data related to beaches that have been preemptively and repeatedly repaired to avoid complete erosion and for which private funding, local government funding, and state and federal grants have been expended to stop or mitigate such erosion. The bill also provides that, if a local government with jurisdiction over a beach has a financial plan that ensures funding for inclusion in the state strategic beach management plan, such beach must be designated as critically eroded if: (1) there is a perpetual easement requiring the local government to maintain shoreline parcels and ensure high value inland developments are protected; and (2) the beach has geological features that result in repeated inland flooding or structural damage. The bill allows the DEP to require coastal local governments to develop local strategic beach management plans and specifies what must be included in such plans. In addition, the bill expands the types of areas that may be designated as an area of critical state concern to include low elevation sections immediately inland of the dune and beach which have been repeatedly breached or overtopped by seawater flowing into an interconnected stormwater system or which have been designated in a local emergency declaration for a prolonged period.