



Florida House *of* Representatives



2024

Session Summary



Paul Renner, Speaker

March 2024

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2024 SESSION SUMMARY



Paul Renner, SPEAKER

MARCH 2024



2024 Legislative Session

End of Session Summary

This report was compiled by the staff of the Florida House of Representatives upon completion of the 2024 Legislative Session. The information is intended to provide Florida legislators and their constituents with a summary of the bills that passed both legislative chambers. This document is not an in-depth description of the bills. For your convenience, an "Index of Passed Legislation" is included in the back of this report. The index is presented in bill number order. This index also serves as a cross-reference index, which identifies bills passed as components of other bills. As you review this index, it will become evident that a House bill number may be listed under a Senate bill number or vice versa, indicating that each bill contains all or a portion of another bill.

The complete text of the bills included in this report and a section-by-section analysis of each bill can be found at [MyFloridaHouse.gov](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov). Both the current version of a bill or analysis and all earlier versions are included. The enrolled version of a bill is the one that passed both chambers and is presented to the Governor—this is the version of the bill that has, or will, become law unless vetoed. Earlier versions of the bill do not reflect the exact language as passed by both chambers.

It should be noted that this report was compiled with information provided prior to March 27, so some acts had not been presented to the Governor and the time allotted for the Governor to approve or veto an act had not expired. Therefore, some acts identified as passed by both chambers may not have become law at the time of publication. To verify the current status of acts passed by the Legislature, visit the [Legislature's website](https://www.flhouse.gov) or call the Office of the Clerk, Bill Information at 1-850-717-5400.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Appropriations Committee
Representative Thomas J. Leek, Chair
Representative Lawrence McClure, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Thad Altman, Chair
Representative Melony M. Bell, Vice Chair

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Sam Garrison, Chair
Representative Berny Jacques, Vice Chair

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Jason Shoaf, Chair
Representative Susan Plasencia, Vice Chair

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Robert Alexander Andrade, Chair
Representative Linda Chaney, Vice Chair

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Robert Charles Brannan III, Chair

Representative David Smith, Vice Chair

PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Josie Tomkow, Chair

Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman, Vice Chair

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera, Chair

Representative James Vernon Mooney, Jr., Vice Chair

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SB 2518 - Health and Human Services

By: Appropriations

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Health; Health Financing; Health Services

The bill conforms statutes to the funding decisions related to Healthcare and Human Services in the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The bill:

- Allows the Department of Health (department) to deposit funds from returned Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education (FRAME) and the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program loan payments into the Grants and Donations Trust Fund and provides for the department to use the funds to make payments on behalf of awardees
- Authorizes an Area Agency on Aging to carry forward documented unexpended state funds from one fiscal year to the next. However, the cumulative amount carried forward may not exceed 10 percent of the area agency's planning and service area allocation for the community care for the elderly program
- Revises the cap on the grant award levels for continuum of care lead agencies designated by the State Office on Homelessness
- Amends ch. 2023-277, L.O.F., relating to Florida Kidcare program eligibility, to specify that implementation of the act is contingent on federal approval.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024, except as otherwise provided.

HB 5001 - General Appropriations Act

By: Appropriations Committee; Leek and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 2500

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Budget; Public Employees

The following is a summary of HB 5001 as it passed the Legislature prior to the vetoes of any specific appropriations. The abbreviation GR is used to mean funds from the General Revenue Fund, the abbreviation FTE is used to mean full-time equivalent positions, and TF is used to mean funds from a trust fund. The abbreviation B means the associated number is shown in billions of dollars, the abbreviation M means the associated number is shown in millions of dollars, and the abbreviation K means the associated number is shown in thousands of dollars.

Overview

The budget totals \$117.5 billion (\$49.4 billion General Revenue, \$30.2 billion State Trust Funds, and \$37.9 billion Federal Trust Funds). This includes funding for 113,630 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **The budget maintains planned reserves totaling \$10 B.**
 - General Revenue Fund Unallocated = \$5.1 B.
 - Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) = \$4.4 B including a transfer of \$300 M from the General Revenue Fund.
 - Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund = \$500 M.

- **The budget provides \$500 M to the State Board of Administration to retire state debt early.**

- **The budget provides \$450 M for the Toll Relief Program.**

- **The budget repurposes a portion of previously appropriated federal American Rescue Plan State Fiscal Recovery Funds to ensure funds will be obligated by the federal deadline of December 31, 2024. The repurposed funds are appropriated for the following:**
 - \$100 million for the Hometown Hero Program (SB 328).
 - \$77.8 million to sustain and expand mental health forensic bed capacity.
 - \$41.8 million for construction cost increases for Special Facility Construction projects for Calhoun, Jackson, and Okeechobee school districts.
 - \$20 million to purchase generators for eligible fiscally constrained counties to ensure they can provide air-conditioned emergency sheltering for their citizens.

Administered Funds

- **Salary Increases \$272.4 M (\$143.5 M GR)**
 - Increases salaries for all state employees by 3% or at least \$1,000 (\$261 M).
 - Increases salaries to assist with recruitment and retention for the Agency for Health Care Administration (\$6.7 M); Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (\$3 M); and the Department of Law Enforcement (\$1.5 M).
 - Increases salaries for Florida National Guard members on full-time military duty (\$0.2 M).
- **Florida Retirement System Benefits \$5.3 M (\$3.2 M GR)**
 - Allows FRS members who retire or complete DROP to return to work after six months, without any penalty.
 - Closes the Preservation of Benefits Plan to new members after July 1, 2026. The Plan provides additional benefits to retirees whose maximum benefit exceeds federal IRS limitations.
- **State Employees' Health Insurance \$539.6 M (\$485.4 M GR)**
 - Increases employer-paid premiums by approximately 10% (\$109.6 M). Employee and retiree premiums are not increased.
 - Allows Florida College System institutions to participate in the State Group Health Insurance program (\$80 M).
 - Transfers \$350 M nonrecurring from General Revenue to the State Employees' Health Insurance Trust Fund to maintain a positive balance in the trust fund.
 - Continues the administrative health assessment that agencies pay for vacant positions and again directs reverted agency salaries and benefits funds from the General Revenue Fund to the State Employees' Health Insurance Trust Fund at the end of the fiscal year.
- **State Matching Funds for FEMA Disaster Grants \$376.4 M GR** – Provides state matching funds based on the most recent quarterly report from the Division of Emergency Management.
- **Domestic Security Projects \$55.2 M TF** – Provides budget authority for federal grants.

Education Fixed Capital Outlay

- **PECO Maintenance and Projects Funding \$1.2 B (\$268 M GR)** – Funds are provided from the PECO Trust Fund and General Revenue. No new bonds are authorized.
 - **Charter School Capital Outlay \$230.8 M TF** – Provides state funds for charter school capital outlay.
 - **Special Facilities Construction \$193.2 M TF** – Continues funding for projects in Gadsden, Glades, and Putnam counties, including construction cost increases, and starts new projects in Gilchrist, Hendry, and Wakulla counties.
 - **State University Projects \$616.2 M (\$186.2 M GR)** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 11 state universities.
 - **Florida College Projects \$133.6 M (\$61.4 M GR)** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 19 Florida colleges.
 - **Public Schools and Workforce Projects \$28.4 M (\$19.2 M GR)** – Provides funds for capital outlay projects in 13 school districts.

- **Other Projects \$29.7 M TF** – Funds capital outlay projects for the Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools and FCS/SUS Charter Schools millage equivalent (\$9.2 M); Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (\$13.5 M); Public Broadcasting Stations (\$6.3 M); and Division of Blind Services (\$0.6 M).
- **State University Capital Improvement Fee Projects \$50.5 M TF** – Authorizes fixed capital outlay projects from student capital improvement fee revenues.
- **Capital Outlay and Debt Service Projects \$6 M** – Increases authority for fixed capital outlay projects from revenues received from motor vehicle license tax revenues by school districts and Florida colleges.
- **Reduced Debt Service Payment Requirements \$186.7 M TF** – Associated with the retirement of previous bond issues.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$7 billion (\$1.5 billion General Revenue and \$5.5 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 9,113.25 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **Everglades Restoration and Protection of Florida’s Water Resources over \$1.7 B (\$885.9 M GR)**
 - **Everglades Restoration \$845.5 M (\$210 M GR)** – Provides \$550 M for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), \$64 M for the EAA reservoir, \$76.5 M for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), \$100 M for the C-51 Reservoir, \$50 M for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project and \$5 M for agricultural nutrient reduction and water retention projects in Lake Okeechobee.
 - **Water Quality Improvement Grant Program \$135 M TF** – Provides grant funding to assist communities across Florida with reducing the amount of nutrients entering a waterway by connecting onsite septic disposal systems to central sewer facilities, upgrading wastewater treatment facilities, and repairing, upgrading, expanding or constructing stormwater treatment facilities.
 - **Water Projects \$410.4 M GR** – Provides funds for stormwater treatment, wastewater treatment, and water supply projects in local communities.
 - **Indian River Lagoon Protection Program \$75 M GR** – Provides funding to address excess nutrients entering the Indian River Lagoon and adversely impacting the water quality.
 - **Springs Restoration \$55 M (\$5 M GR)** – Provides funding for springs restoration, protection, and preservation.
 - **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) \$25 M GR** – Provides funds for grants to local governments for stormwater quality restoration projects and nonpoint source best management practices as part of the plans set forth in adopted Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs).
 - **Alternative Water Supply \$55 M GR** – Provides funds for the alternative water supply grant program which helps communities plan for and implement water conservation, reuse and other water supply and water resource development projects.
 - **Caloosahatchee River Water Quality Improvements \$25 M GR** - Provides funding to address major sources of nutrient pollution in the Caloosahatchee River Watershed.

- **Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements \$20 M GR** – Provides funds for water quality improvements and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.
- **Innovative Technologies for Harmful Algal Blooms \$25 M GR** – Provides funds for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to mitigate and address harmful algal blooms and nutrient pollution of Florida waters.
- **Water Quality Enhancement and Accountability \$10.8 M GR** – Provides funds for water quality improvements, increased water quality monitoring, maintenance of a water quality public information portal, and support for the Blue Green Algae Task Force.
- **Red Tide Research \$9.6 M (\$7.2 M GR)** – Provides continuation funding for the Center for Red Tide Research in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- **Coral Reef Protection and Restoration \$21 M (\$17.5 M GR)** – Provides funds to help protect, restore and monitor coral reefs which provide food and habitat for other marine life as well as shoreline protection.
- **Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan programs \$1.3 B (\$29.7 M GR)** – Provides low-interest loans for the construction of drinking water systems, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management systems.
- **Grove Land Reservoir \$400 M GR** – Provides funding for the St. Johns River Water Management District to acquire lands within the Grove Land Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area.
- **Florida Forever Programs \$229.3 M (\$17 M GR)** – Provides \$200 M in recurring funds for Florida’s premier conservation and recreation lands acquisition programs which includes an additional \$100 M in recurring funds for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program, \$15 M for Florida Communities Trust (FCT), and \$14.3 M for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) with a continued goal to acquire critical lands within the wildlife corridor.
- **Resilient Florida Program \$145 M TF** – Provides \$125 M in funding for resiliency projects (years 1 and 2) included in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan submitted Dec. 1, 2023 and \$20 M in Resilient Florida planning grants.
- **Waste Cleanup Programs \$237 M TF** – Provides \$220 M for the cleanup of contaminated petroleum sites, \$10 M for dry cleaning site cleanup, \$4 M for hazardous waste site cleanup, and \$3 M for the Solid Waste Management Program.
- **Beach Restoration Projects \$50 M TF** – Provides continuation funds for financial assistance to local governments for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management.
- **State Park and Aquatic Preserve Improvements \$20.9 M TF** – Provides \$15 M for maintenance and repair projects in state parks and \$5.9 M for projects located in coastal and aquatic managed areas.
- **Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern \$20 M GR** – Provides funds for local governments in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern or the City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern to finance or refinance the cost of wastewater, stormwater, or water quality improvement projects, or for land acquisition.
- **Wetlands Restoration and Protection \$20 M (\$10 M GR)** – Provides funding for a matching grant program to support public-private partnerships for wetlands restoration and protection projects.
- **Citrus Greening Response \$29.8 M (\$14 M GR)** – Provides \$7.8 M to continue funding for the Citrus Health Response Program; \$18 M to fund citrus research and field trials; and \$4 M for citrus crop decline supplemental funding.
- **Conner Complex \$80 M GR** – Provides funding for the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to begin construction of the consolidated headquarters facility at the Conner Complex located in Tallahassee.
- **Wildfire Suppression Equipment \$12.4 M TF** – Provides funding to replace critical wildfire suppression equipment.

- **Forestry Land Management \$9.4 M TF** – Provides funds for maintenance and repair of roads, bridges, culverts, low water crossings, state forest facilities and the relocation of the Orlando district office.
- **Protection of Critical Wildlife Habitat \$9.8 M (\$9.3 M GR)** – Provides funding for restoration and enhancement of lakes, rivers, springs, removal of hydrilla, upland invasive plant management and support for wildlife management areas.
- **Boating Improvement Projects \$7 M TF** – Provides funds to support programs that help improve state and local boating access including maintenance, repair and construction projects.
- **Lake Apopka \$5 M TF** – Provides funding to address water quality in Lake Apopka.
- **Reforestation \$4 M TF** – Provides funds for Florida’s Future Forest Program to aid private landowners, nonprofit entities and local governments with targeted tree planting on understocked forestland to keep Florida’s forests healthy.

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$46.5 billion (\$16.2 billion General Revenue and \$30.3 billion Trust Funds). Includes funding for 31,130 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **Medicaid Price Level and Workload Adjustment \$804.6 M (\$465.7 M GR)** – Funding for Medicaid caseloads and price level adjustments for the 2024-25 fiscal year as agreed upon by the January 2024 Social Service Estimating Conference for an anticipated 4,793,628 Medicaid beneficiaries.
- **Florida Kidcare Enrollment \$223.8 M (\$81.5 M GR)** – Funds the Kidcare program for the 2024-25 fiscal year as agreed upon at the December 2023 Social Services Estimating Conference to serve an anticipated 242,382 children.
- **Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates \$247.8 M (\$105.6 M GR)** – Provides funding for an 8 percent Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for nursing homes.
- **Pediatric Physician Rate Increase \$43.1 M (\$18.4 M GR)** – Provides funds to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for pediatric physicians to amounts at or above Medicare rates.
- **Integrated Plan for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program \$38.4 M (16.4 M GR)** – Provides funding to support capitation payments for individuals enrolled in the pilot program for individuals with developmental disabilities pursuant to s. 409.9855, F.S.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers & Rural Health Clinic Rate Increase \$19 M (\$8.1 M GR)** – Provides funding to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rates for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Clinics, that are currently reimbursed at a rate below the 2023 State Prospective Payment System rate average.
- **Graduate Medical Education Program \$10.5 M TF** – Additional funding for hospitals participating in the Graduate Medical Education Program to train physicians to ensure an adequate and appropriate supply of well-trained physicians to meet Florida’s future health needs.
- **Collaborative Care for Behavioral Health \$8.3 M (\$3.5 M GR)** – Provides funding to implement a tiered reimbursement model for the Statewide Inpatient Psychiatric Program to incentivize in-state providers to expand capacity by increasing reimbursement for the more difficult to treat individuals; and to reimburse providers who provide collaborative care between primary care and behavioral health care.
- **Medicaid Enrollee Health Outcomes and Spending Data Study \$3.1 M TF** – Provides funding for AHCA to competitively procure a private sector provider to review Medicaid enrollment data to

identify opportunities to improve enrollee health care outcomes and reduce health care costs in the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program.

- **Assistive Care Services Rate Increase \$1.3 M (\$0.5 M GR)** – Provides a 10 percent Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for Assistive Care Service providers.
- **PACE Expansion \$29.7 M (\$12.6 M GR)** – Provides funding for an additional 800 PACE slots: Broward County (50 slots); Citrus County (100 slots); Charlotte County (100 slots); Hillsborough County (100 slots); Marion County (50 slots); Miami-Dade County (50 slots); Palm Beach County (100 slots); Pinellas County (100 slots); Polk County (50 slots); Flagler, Seminole and Volusia counties (50 slots); and Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties (50 slots).
- **Serve Additional Clients from the Pre-enrollment to Waiver List \$64.8 M (\$27.6 M GR)** – Additional funds to support services to individuals on the pre-enrollment waitlist and to bring additional clients off the pre-enrollment waitlist.
- **Serve Sibling Groups from the Pre-enrollment to Waiver List \$16.9 M (\$7.2 M GR)** – Provides funds to enroll the siblings of a client in category 6 who have a sibling in categories 3, 4, 5, or 6.
- **Dually Diagnosed Program \$6.5 M (\$3.3 M GR)** – Nonrecurring funds to continue a pilot program that utilizes a mobile response team model providing services to individuals with co-occurring mental health and developmentally disabled issues when experiencing a behavioral crisis.
- **State Mental Health Treatment Facilities \$5.8 M GR** – Funds anti-ligature improvements as required by federal regulations (\$1.5 M); safety and security system upgrades (\$3.2 M); and upgraded medical equipment (\$1.2 M).
- **Mental Health Treatment Beds \$77.8 M GR** – Continues funding to support additional forensic beds to mitigate the waitlists for admission at the State Mental Health Treatment Facilities.
- **Human Trafficking \$6 M GR, 9 FTE** – Funds to increase emergency bed capacity of 48 beds for adult safe homes serving survivors of human trafficking and resources to expand the department’s operational anti-trafficking efforts.
- **Domestic Violence \$18.5 M (\$10.5 M GR)** – Provides funding to address the waitlist for domestic violence services by providing additional resources to the Domestic Violence centers for transitional and long-term housing needs and grant funding to develop and strengthen the criminal justice system’s response to violence against women.
- **Services for Mental Health Disorders \$45.4 M (\$17.7 M GR)** – Supports various prevention and treatment services for individuals in a community-based environment due to an increase to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant (\$17.9 M); grant funding to expand and enhance the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline (\$13.1 M); funding to continue implementing integrated behavioral health care for individuals and families with behavioral health conditions (\$7 M); expand Central Receiving Facilities (\$4.3 M); and funds Qualified Behavioral Residential treatment programs (\$5.7 M).
- **Resources to Combat the Opioid Epidemic \$120.5 M** – Funding for an array of prevention and treatment services that address the opioid epidemic, including an additional installment of the State Opioid Response grant (\$3.6 M) and Opioid Settlement funding for research, medication assisted treatment, naloxone, treatment and recovery services, and other supports (\$116.9 M).
- **Child and Family Welfare Services \$57.9 M (\$27.3 GR M)** – Funding for the Local Prevention Grant program to award grants to local communities to prevent high-risk families from entering the child welfare system (\$6.7 M); foster parent cost of living adjustment (\$2.3 M); continues funding Hope Line call agents (\$1.4 M); continues funding for behavioral health consultants to advise in child protective investigations (\$1.6 M); expands eligibility for the Independent Living Program (\$8.1 M); expands adoption incentive award eligibility and amounts (\$9.8 M); provides an increase of Maintenance Adoption Subsidies for an anticipated growth of new adoptions (\$13.5 M); funding

growth in the Guardianship Assistance Program (\$10.1 M); resources for the Healthy Families program (\$2 M).

- **Resources to Support Public Benefits and Address Homelessness \$50.4 M (\$32.1 M GR)** – Additional funding to support Call Center operations (\$12.3 M); to cover the costs to enhance client notifications during case processing (\$1.5 M); increase of the Personal Needs Allowance (\$6.7 M); automated employment and income verification (\$9.7 M); and expands the Challenge Grant program to address homelessness (\$10 M).
- **Older Americans Act Grants \$52.8 M TF** – Provides budget authority to align with grant award totals for the Older Americans Act (OAA) grants.
- **Alzheimer’s Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives \$17 M GR** – Provides funding to reduce the waitlist by 418 individuals for Alzheimer’s respite services, to reduce the waitlist by 898 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 540 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program.
- **State Veterans Nursing Home Collier County \$10 M GR** – To support the development and construction of a new State Veterans Nursing Home and Adult Day Health Care Center.
- **Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Florida Is for Veterans, Inc. \$2 M GR** – Provides funding to support a network of universities to offer job training, mentorship, and entrepreneurship opportunities to service members, veterans and their spouses.
- **Veterans Dental Care Grant Program \$1 M GR** – Expands access to dental care for veterans through a network of nonprofit organizations.

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$9.1 Billion (\$6.9 billion General Revenue; \$1.8 billion Lottery; \$0.4 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 1,242.75 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **State University Performance Based Funding \$350 M GR** – Restores the performance-based incentive funding to State University System institutions to award excellence and incentivize continuous improvement.
- **State University Performance Based Recruitment and Retention Incentive \$100 M GR** – Restores the performance-based recruitment and retention funding to State University System Institutions.
- **Preeminent State Research Universities Funding \$100 M GR** – Provides funds to reward performance on key metrics for national excellence.
- **Prepping Institutions, Programs, Employers, and Learners Through Incentives for Nursing Education (PIPELINE) Fund \$100 M GR** – Maintains performance-based incentive funding to school district, Florida College System, and State University System institutions to award and

incentivize continuous improvement of nursing program completion and licensure rates, as specified in s. 1009.897, F.S.

- **University of Florida Lastinger Center for Learning \$58.2 M GR** – Provides recurring funding to the Lastinger Center for Learning to support the development and implementation of statewide initiatives to improve student achievement in reading and mathematics.
- **University of South Florida Cybersecurity Initiative \$25 M GR** – Provides funds to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity established in s. 1004.444, F.S.
- **Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund \$25 M GR** – Maintains funds to incentivize collaboration between nursing education programs and healthcare partners to expand nursing education and faculty recruitment at school district career centers, charter technical career centers, Florida College System institutions, state universities, and private colleges and universities.
- **Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program \$100 M GR** – Restores nonrecurring funding for the grant program for school districts and Florida College System institutions to fund costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education workforce development programs.
- **Workforce Development Workload Funding \$24.6 M GR** – Provides a \$22.8 M increase in recurring funding and \$1.8 M in nonrecurring funding for school district career and technical centers.
- **Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program \$12 M GR** – Provides recurring funding to support public postsecondary institutions in providing the new GATE program that allows certain individuals who have discontinued enrollment in traditional high school programs to concurrently earn a high school diploma or equivalent and a workforce credential.
- **EASE Plus \$9.6 M GR** – Provides an increased award amount for students enrolled in specified programs at the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF) institutions.
- **Student Financial Aid Increases \$35.3 M** – Fully funds the Bright Futures Scholarship Program for an anticipated 126,562 students, Benacquisto Scholarship Program for an anticipated 2,043 students, and Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans for an anticipated 5,034 students.
- **Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Hardening Grants \$20 M (\$15 M GR; \$5 M TF)** – Provides funds to each HBCU for facility hardening grants.
- **No** tuition increases.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee’s overall budget totals \$20.4 billion (\$930 million General Revenue and \$19.4 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 12,975 positions.

Highlights

- **Transportation Work Program \$14.2 B** – Provides full funding for the department’s 5-year Transportation Work Program.
- **Federally Declared Disaster Funding \$1.2 B** – Provides federal budget authority for the Division of Emergency Management to manage and continue public assistance and mitigation programs for the state and communities for disasters throughout the state.

- **Affordable Housing \$408 M** – Provides \$174 M for SHIP, the State Housing Initiatives Partnership program; and \$234 M for SAIL, the State Apartment Incentive Loan program.
- **Moving Florida Forward \$370 M** – Provides funding to supplement the Work Program and accelerate the completion of selected road projects to provide traffic congestion relief in the State of Florida.
- **Economic Development \$277.7 M (\$152.2 M GR and \$105.4 M TF)**
 - Provides \$24 M (\$7.3 M GR, \$16.8 M TF) for audited performance payments under the economic incentive programs (Brownfield Redevelopment, Qualified Target Industry, High Impact Business Performance Incentives, e.g.). Payments are based on the state’s contractual obligations under existing agreements.
 - Provides \$130.4 M (\$97 M GR, \$33.4 M TF) for economic development activities (Job Growth Grant Fund, Quick Response Training, Defense Support Task Force, Hispanic Business Initiative Outreach Program, Black Business Loan Program, Military Base Protection, Defense/Rural Infrastructure, Select Florida, Sports Foundation).
 - Provides \$103.5 M TF for economic development partnerships.
 - Provides \$80 M for Visit Florida to promote the state’s tourism industry.
 - Provides \$23.5 M for aerospace industry development funding through Space Florida.
- **State Small Business Credit Initiative \$175.2 M** – Provides federal budget authority to allow expanded access to capital and credit to small businesses in the state, specifically minority, women, and/or veteran-owned businesses.
- **Emergency Management Warehouse Storage Facility \$116 M** – Provides funding to build out a state-owned warehouse hub facility for the storage and movement of supplies during emergency response activities.
- **Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program \$100 M** – Provides federal budget authority to allow the state to expand high speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs.
- **Department of State Cultural and Historic Grant Lists \$47.3 M** – Provides \$32 M for cultural and museum grants. Historic preservation grants are funded at \$9.9 M.
- **Camp Blanding Fixed Capital Enhancements \$40.5 M** – Provides funding to support construction projects at the Camp Blanding Readiness Center needed to retain Level II National Guard Facility status.
- **Florida State Guard \$19.9 M GR** – Provides funding to continue the State Guard to protect and defend Floridians and augment state and local agencies with a force of up to 1,500 volunteers. Unspent funding from last year is additionally reappropriated for training and recruitment, travel, compensation, personnel equipment, maritime and aviation equipment, and fixed capital outlay for equipment storage and operational requirements.
- **Libraries \$19.3 M** – Maintains full funding for state aid to libraries at \$17.3 M and \$2 M for library cooperatives.
- **State Emergency Operations Center Technology Infrastructure \$17.8 M** – Provides funding to procure, design, configure, and install the information technology footprint supporting the new State EOC facility.
- **Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program \$17 M** – Provides funding to recruit new law enforcement officers in the state.
- **Motorist Modernization Phase II \$13.2 M** – Provides continued authority for a multi-year information technology initiative to modernize the DHSMV motor vehicle issuance systems.

Phase II focuses on consolidating driver license and motor vehicle information into a single database and enhancing on-line options for customers utilizing the MyDMV portal.

- **Non-profit Security Grant Program \$10 M** – Provides funding to support nonprofit organizations, including houses of worship and community centers, that are at high risk for violent attacks or hate crimes.
- **Historic Preservation Fixed Capital \$7.1 M** – Provides funding for lead-based paint abatement on historic properties.
- **National Guard Tuition Assistance \$5.2 M** – Provides financial assistance for postsecondary educational opportunities to qualifying Florida National Guard service members.

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The Justice Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$7.3 billion (\$6.3 billion General Revenue and \$1 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 45,507 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **FDC Correctional Fixed Capital Outlay \$102.5 M (\$100 M GR, \$2.5 M NR TF)** – Provides recurring funding to construct additional dormitories to increase inmate capacity at eligible facilities, provide for standard repair and maintenance, renovate inmate wellness and program space, correct environmental deficiencies, and make Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) updates at state-operated correctional facilities.
- **Agency-wide Information Technology Improvements \$38.7 M (\$21.8 M NR)** – Provides funding for various IT improvements across multiple agencies to include:
 - **FDC** – Enhancement and expansion of network infrastructure, updates to legacy applications, and continued replacement of the Offender Based Information System (OBIS);
 - **FDLE** – Increased bandwidth, upgrades to the statewide emergency alert application, expansion of the Florida Fusion Center network, and maintenance of the statewide sexual assault-kit tracking system;
 - **DLA** – Modernization of IT applications within the Attorney Generals’ office; and,
 - **PALM** – Integration of agency IT applications with the Florida Palm system within FDC, FDLE, DJJ, DLA, and JAC.
- **DJJ Expansion of Capacity \$32.4 M (\$27.2 M NR GR)** – Provides funding to replace the Hillsborough County detention facility and increase the capacity of non-secure residential facilities.
- **FDLE Local Law Enforcement Support Grants \$20.5 M (\$16 M GR, \$4.5 M TF)** – Provides pass-through funding and local support grants for local law enforcement agencies to:
 - Support drug trafficking prevention and investigations through the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida program;
 - Conduct site security assessments of private schools, contingent on the passage of HB 1473, or similar legislation;
 - Award grants to local law enforcement agencies in support of increased online sting operations targeting online predators; and
 - Purchase replacement body armor for local law enforcement officers.

- **FDC Private Prison Operations \$20.7 M GR** – Provides funding for pay parity increases similar to funding provided to FDC correctional officers in Fiscal Year 2023-24 and for facility contract renewals.
- **DJJ Florida Scholars Academy \$12.8 M GR** – Provides funding for the remaining operational costs relating to the Florida Scholars Academy, as codified in s. 985.619, F.S.
- **FDC Education Program Expansion and Career Readiness Assessments \$11.7 M (\$8.4 M GR; \$3.3 M TF)** – Provides funding and positions to expand traditional education, career, and technical education programs within FDC.
- **FDC Operation New Hope Re-Entry Initiatives \$11 M GR (\$2.8 M NR)** – Provides funding for pre- and post-release reentry services provided to inmates by Operation New Hope.
- **DLA Statewide Prosecution Workload \$10.9 M GR** – Provides funding and positions to create three regional specialized units tasked with handling complex cases focused on gang activity, violent crime, drug activity, and human trafficking.
- **Courts Case Processing, Court Reporting and Due Process Resources \$8.6 M GR** – Provides funding and positions for additional case managers to address workload associated with increased filings, additional trial court reporting resources, and due process resources including court interpreter services, expert witness fees, and senior judge days.
- **Community Outreach and Engagement Initiatives \$8.5 M NR GR** – Provides funding to combat and prevent crime through various outlets, including:
 - A Duval county local engagement and outreach initiative to address economic development growth, affordable housing assistance, and food insecurity issues within the community;
 - An Ybor City crime prevention initiative through community engagement and outreach; and
 - A Community Violence and Intervention grant program that will work through cooperation agreements with local law enforcement agencies, state attorneys, public defenders, and community partners to serve communities disproportionately impacted by violence.
- **DLA Children’s Advocacy Centers \$5.3 M GR (\$4.9 M NR)** – Provides funding to the statewide network of children’s advocacy centers to offset projected decreases in federal grant awards.
- **Certification of Additional Judgeships \$3.7 M GR** – Provides funding and positions associated with the certification of two new circuit court judges and seven new county court judges.

PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$21 billion (\$15.7 billion General Revenue and \$5.3 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 1,046 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) - \$28.4 B (\$15.5 B State Funds and \$12.9 B Local Funds)** – Provides an increase in total FEFP funds of \$1.8 B (6.73% increase) over current year. Provides an increase of \$240.01 (2.75%) for a total funds per student of \$8,958.59.
 - **Base FEFP Funding \$1.3 B** – Provides an increase in the Base FEFP to help offset the additional operating costs associated with items such as payroll and retirement changes.

- **Classroom Teachers and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increases \$201.8 M** – Increases the base FEP funding for school districts and charter schools to provide salary increases.
- **Required Local Effort (RLE)** – Maintains the Fiscal Year 2023-24 statewide average millage rate of 3.189 and increases the aggregate RLE by \$483.4 M.
- **Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK)** – Provides a 3 percent increase in the base student allocation (BSA) for the VPK program; \$88 increase for the regular school year and \$75 increase for the summer program.
- **School Readiness Program Allocation** – Provides \$46.4 M in additional School Readiness Program funds to implement the statutorily-established provider reimbursement rates for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- **School Readiness Hold Harmless Funds** – Provides \$60 M to assist early learning coalitions in the transition to the new allocation methodology for the School Readiness Program fund for Fiscal Year 2024-25.
- **Gold Seal Quality Care Program Allocation \$70 M** – Restores funds for the Gold Seal Quality Care Allocation for school readiness providers.
- **School Hardening Grants (\$42 M)** – Provides funds for school hardening grants for school districts to address security risk issues.
- **Security for Jewish Day Schools** – Provides a total of \$20 M to fund operational costs associated with school security and fixed capital outlay costs associated with school hardening to improve school security.
- **New World Scholarship Accounts** – Provides \$20 M to fund the increase in the amount of the reading and math scholarship award to \$1,200 and to fund VPK students who are determined eligible for the scholarship.
- **Florida Civics Seal of Excellence** – Provides \$10 M to fund a \$3,000 stipend to classroom teachers who earn a civics certificate or endorsement.
- **Transportation Stipend** – Provides \$14 M to fund the new transportation stipend for parents of kindergarten through grade 8 students who choose a Florida nonvirtual public school for their child/children to attend instead of the assigned public school.
- **VPK Summer Bridge Program** – Provides \$4.1 M for the new VPK Summer Bridge Program for VPK students who score below the 10th percentile on the final administration of the coordinated progress monitoring system.
- **SAT and ACT Exam Administration** – Provides \$8 M to the Department of Education to provide free college entrance exams to approximately 200,000 grade 11 public school students.
- **Menstrual Hygiene Products Grant Program** – Provides \$6.4 M for a grant program for school districts providing menstrual hygiene products pursuant to current law.
- **School Safety Inspection Bonus Program** – Provides \$3.8 M to provide a \$1,000 bonus to each public school principal and charter school director who complies with all school safety requirements established in law or rule.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee

Overview

The State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$2.9 billion (\$678.4 million General Revenue and \$2.2 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 11,327.50 authorized positions.

Highlights

- **My Safe Florida Home Program \$200 M NR GR** – Funding for grants to harden Floridian’s homes that qualify under My Safe Florida Home (s. 215.5586 F.S.) (Funding included in SB 7028).
- **My Safe Florida Home Condominium Pilot Program \$30 M NR GR** – Funding for grants to harden Floridian’s condominiums that qualify under HB 1029, or similar legislation.
- **Fixed Capital Outlay \$91.2 M NR** – Provides Fixed Capital Outlay and repair and maintenance of state buildings, security, and code compliance. Additionally, provides funding for the following:
 - \$7.1 M for the State Fire College
 - \$2.1 M for Life, Safety, and ADA Code Compliance
 - \$1.5 M for FDLE office space renovation
 - \$0.8 for Capitol Complex Memorials
 - \$400 K - Memorial for the 241-Armed Forces Members killed in Beirut in 1983
 - \$400 K - Florida Space Exploration Memorial
- **Fiscally Constrained Counties \$72.4 M GR** – Provides for distributions to fiscally constrained counties.
- **FLAIR Replacement/PALM \$66.4 M** – Funding for replacement of the state’s accounting and treasury systems.
- **Law Enforcement Radio System \$15.4 M (\$6.6 M Recurring GR, \$7 M NR GR, \$1.8 M TF)** – Provides funding for tower construction/relocation, tower maintenance and insurance, tower mitigation, and IV&V services.
- **E-911 - Revenue Distribution to Counties \$25.2 M TF** – Provides a funding increase for distribution of grants to counties for E911 operations. Also, begins implementing the upgrade of all 911 public safety answering points to allow emergency call transfers statewide pursuant to ch. 2023-55, L.O.F.
- **Department of Revenue – Cybersecurity and Information Technology \$62.4 M** – Provides funding for the Child Support Automated Management System (CAMS) transition to SAP S/4, SUNTAX upgrades, and other Information Technology (IT) and cybersecurity initiatives.
- **Electroencephalogram combined Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Treatment \$10 M NR GR** – Provides funding for a pilot program for veteran/first responders to receive treatment that administers transcranial magnetic stimulation frequency pulses.
- **Local Fire Stations and Equipment \$81.6 M NR** – Provides funding for local fire station buildings and equipment.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is except as otherwise provided herein, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024, or upon becoming law, whichever occurs later; however, if this act becomes law after July 1, 2024, then it shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2024.

HB 5003 - Implementing the 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act

By: Appropriations Committee; Leek and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 2502

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Budget

This bill is commonly referred to as the budget “implementing bill.” The bill provides the statutory authority necessary to implement and execute the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The statutory changes are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1, 2025, or revert to the language as it existed before the changes made by the bill.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024, or, if this act fails to become a law until after that date, it shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2024.

HB 5005 - Collective Bargaining

By: Appropriations Committee; Leek

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 2504

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Public Employees

The bill resolves the collective bargaining issues remaining at impasse between the State of Florida and the bargaining representatives for state employees for the 2024-2025 fiscal year that were not resolved in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or other legislation.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 7080 - Trust Funds/Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund/Department of Financial Services

By: Appropriations

Tied Bills: CS/SB 1638

Companion Bills: HB 7083

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Budget; Environmental Protection; Gaming; Natural Resources; Resiliency

The bill creates the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services to serve as a depository for certain revenue-sharing payments received by the state under the 2021 Gaming Compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The bill provides that:

- Funds will be credited to and disbursed from the Trust Fund as provided in SB 1638
- Such funds are exempt from the 8 percent service charges imposed pursuant to s. 215.20, F.S.
- The Trust Fund is exempt from certain termination provisions of the Florida Constitution

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is on the same date that SB 1638 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

The Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee was not first reference on any bill that passed both houses of the Legislature.

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee was not first reference on any bill that passed both houses of the Legislature.

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

CS/HB 707 - State University Unexpended Funds

By: Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Silvers and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1128

Committee(s) of Reference: Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee

Category: Budget; Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill allows a state university to carry forward unexpended funds in excess of the 7 percent minimum of its state operating budget as an annual reserve balance. Any reserve funds must be included in a spend plan submitted to the university's board of trustees and the Board of Governors and may be used for authorized expenses in subsequent years.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

The Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee was not first reference on any bill that passed both houses of the Legislature.

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 83 (ch. 2024-26, L.O.F.) - Trust Funds/Re-creation/State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund/DOC

By: Lopez, V. and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 520

Committee(s) of Reference: Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee

Category: Corrections; Budget; Public Safety

The bill re-creates the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund in the Florida Department of Corrections without modification.

Article III, section 19(f) of the Florida Constitution requires that all newly created trust funds terminate not more than four years after the initial creation, unless re-created by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for the sole purpose of creating or recreating a trust fund. The State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund was created within the Florida Department of Corrections, effective July 1, 2020, and is scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2024.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-26, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

HB 5401 - Judges

By: Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Brannan and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 2514

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee

Category: Court Administration; Courts

The bill establishes seven new county court judgeships, one in Santa Rosa County, one in Columbia County, two in Hillsborough County and three in Orange County. The bill also establishes two new circuit court judgeships, one in the First Judicial Circuit and one in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 5101 - Education

By: PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Tomkow

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee

Category: Early Learning; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill conforms applicable statutes to appropriations provided in the conference report on the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for education for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Specifically, the bill:

- Authorizes the Florida College System (FCS) institutions to participate in the State Group Health Insurance Program and requires the coverage period to begin in the 2025 plan year, by July 31, 2025, and be for at least 3 years.
- Establishes a transportation stipend that a public school student enrolled in kindergarten through grade 8 may receive from an eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organization for transportation to a Florida nonvirtual public school that is not the student's assigned public school or to a developmental research (lab) school.
 - Deletes transportation as an eligible use of the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Educational Options and the Florida Tax Credit scholarships and deletes the funding amount of the transportation scholarship.
 - Repeals the Driving Choice Grant Program.
- Clarifies the lab schools that are established in statute.
- Requires that students enrolled at a charter school sponsored by a FCS institution or state university are funded in the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP); establishes the FEFP calculation methodology for such charter school students; and establishes the funding source and calculation methodology for capital outlay funds for such charter schools.
- Establishes the Bridge to Speech Program to fund auditory-oral education programs.
- Extends the timeline for calculating each Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program provider's performance metrics; establishes the VPK summer bridge program; and increases the VPK administrative cost fee from 4 percent to 5 percent.
- Revises the school readiness cost data that the Department of Education (DOE) is required to annually collect; modifies the methodology for calculating each early learning coalition's (ELC) school readiness allocation and establishes provider reimbursement rates by county, by care level, and by provider type; modifies the methodology for how ELCs distribute school readiness funds to eligible providers; and requires each ELC to implement a co-parent sliding fee scale that increases in relation to family income.
- Creates the Charity for Change program to implement the character education standards required by statute.
- Creates the AMIkids, Inc., program to provide alternatives to institutionalization or commitment for young men and women.

- Requires each school district to have a threat management coordinator.
- Requires the DOE to develop and maintain a system to compile all school bond referenda and debt incurred by school districts as a result of a referendum for capital outlay or operational purposes and prescribes the minimum components of the system.
- Modifies the Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program to require an annual appropriation in an amount necessary to maintain a projected minimum balance of \$250 million at the beginning of the upcoming fiscal year and to allow unexpended funds at the end of the fiscal year to be carried forward for up to 10 years after the effective date of the original appropriation.
- Renames the Florida Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program to the Florida First Responder Scholarship Program; expands the scholarship's eligibility to also include emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters; and prescribes scholarship requirements.
- Clarifies that the Florida Virtual School's education foundation is eligible to participate in the matching grant program funded by the Florida Academic Improvement Trust Fund.
- Deletes the completion of subject area content and demonstration of mastery of subject area knowledge as requirements for being issued a temporary apprenticeship certificate.
- Clarifies the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 school taxable value for the Wakulla County School District for purposes of calculating the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 FEFP and the Prior Period Funding Adjustment Millage calculation.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly stated in the bill.

State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 5201 (ch. 2024-37, L.O.F.) - Trust Funds/Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund/FGCC

By: State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Busatta Cabrera

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 2506

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee

Category: Gaming; Government Operations; Law Enforcement

The bill creates a Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund within the Florida Gaming Control Commission (Commission). The bill states that the Commission may deposit into the trust fund receipts and revenues received as a result of federal criminal, administrative, or civil forfeiture proceedings and receipts and revenues received from federal asset-sharing programs.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-37, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

HB 5203 - Property Seized by the Florida Gaming Control Commission

By: State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Busatta Cabrera

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 2508

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee

Category: Gaming; Government Operations; Law Enforcement

The bill specifies that the property rights in gaming machines and money and other things of value therein confiscated by the Florida Gaming Control Commission (Commission) are forfeited to the Commission and deposited into the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund. The bill further specifies sums received from a sale or other disposition of property that is seized by the Commission shall be deposited into the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund. The bill provides an exemption from the requirement that the Commission pay excess proceeds from forfeiture proceedings to the General Revenue Fund. The bill specifies that proceeds accrued pursuant to the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act are to be deposited into the Pari-Mutuel Wagering Trust Fund or into the Commission's Federal Law Enforcement Trust Fund. The bill authorizes such proceeds to be used for the operation of the Commission.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Commerce Committee

Representative Bob Rommel, Chair

Representative Patt Maney, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee

Representative Mike Giallombardo, Chair

Representative Chip LaMarca, Vice Chair

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

Representative Wyman Duggan, Chair

Representative Shane G. Abbott, Vice Chair

Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

Representative Tyler I. Sirois, Chair

Representative Bradford Troy Yeager, Vice Chair

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CS/CS/HB 473 - Cybersecurity Incident Liability

By: Judiciary Committee; Commerce Committee; Giallombardo; Steele and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 658

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology

Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Cybersecurity

The bill provides that a county or municipality that substantially complies with the cybersecurity training, standards, and notification protocols under current law or any other political subdivision of the state that complies with these standards and protocols on a voluntary basis, is not liable in connection with a cybersecurity incident.

The bill also provides that a covered entity or third-party agent, that acquires, maintains, stores, processes, or uses personal information is not liable in connection with a cybersecurity incident if the covered entity or third-party agent substantially complies with notice protocols as provided within current law, as applicable, and has also adopted a cybersecurity program that substantially aligns with the current version of any standards, guidelines, or regulations that implement any of the standards specified in the bill or with applicable state and federal laws and regulations. The bill provides certain requirements for a covered entity or third-party agent to retain its liability protection.

The bill does not establish a private cause of action. The bill further provides that its provisions apply to any suit filed on or after the effective date of the bill and to any putative class action not certified on or before the effective date of the bill.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/SB 1680 - Advanced Technology

By: Rules; Judiciary; Bradley

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1459

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules

Category: Criminal Justice; Cybersecurity; Government Operations; Technology

The bill creates s. 282.802, F.S., to establish an advisory council called the Government Technology Modernization Council to study and monitor the development and deployment of new technologies and artificial intelligence and provide an annual report including recommendations on procuring and regulating such systems to the Governor and the Legislature.

The bill creates s. 827.072, F.S., to prohibit a person from:

- Knowingly possessing, controlling, or intentionally viewing a photograph, motion picture, representation, image, data file, computer depiction, or any other presentation which, in whole or in part, he or she knows includes generated child pornography, as a third-degree felony.
- Intentionally creating generated child pornography, as a third-degree felony.

The bill amends s. 92.561, F.S., to require any property or material that constitutes generated child pornography to be maintained in a specified manner; and to prohibit a defendant from acquiring copies of generated child pornography images as part of discovery.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee

SB 364 - Public Service Commission Rules

By: Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 229

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Rules

Category: Administrative Procedure; Utilities and Communications

The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) is funded through a trust fund, primarily deriving revenues from regulatory assessment fees (RAFs), which are fees imposed by the PSC on the entities which it regulates. The RAFs applicable to each regulated industry are capped by statute and may be adjusted by the PSC under that cap. Since the PSC must establish the rate of each RAF by rule, the PSC must go through the rulemaking process required under Florida law. This process provides that if the projected impact of a proposed rule will exceed \$1 million in the aggregate for the five-year period after the rule is implemented, the rule cannot go into effect until ratified by the Legislature.

The bill exempts rules adopted by the PSC to implement statutes that include its authority to administer and set the rates for RAFs from the legislative ratification requirement. This exemption expires on July 1, 2028.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 366 - Civil Penalties Under the Gas Safety Law of 1967

By: Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Yarborough

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 81

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Energy; Public Safety; Utilities and Communications

The Gas Safety Law of 1967 (Gas Safety Law) authorizes the Public Service Commission (PSC) to regulate the safe transmission and distribution of natural gas in Florida. The PSC has the power to perform any and all acts necessary or appropriate to enforce compliance with the Gas Safety Law, which includes imposing maximum civil penalties.

The federal counterpart to Florida's Gas Safety Law, the Pipeline Safety Act, authorizes the U.S. Department of Transportation/Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to implement federal pipeline safety standards for interstate and intrastate gas pipelines. PHMSA's current maximum civil penalty amounts are \$266,015 for each pipeline safety violation and \$2,660,015 for any related series of violations. The PSC is currently certified by PHMSA to oversee intrastate gas pipelines, but its certification is at risk due to Florida's lower civil penalties compared to PHMSA.

The bill increases the maximum monetary penalties for violations of the Gas Safety Law to mirror those currently used by PHMSA. Until June 30, 2025, the maximum daily penalty is increased from \$25,000 to \$266,015, and the maximum aggregate penalty cap is increased from \$500,000 to \$2,660,135 for any related series of violations. The bill authorizes the PSC to establish maximum civil penalty amounts to become effective July 1, 2025, based upon consideration of the consumer price index, penalties established in federal law for pipeline safety violations, and maintaining certification with PHMSA. The bill requires the PSC to revise these penalties annually based upon these considerations and authorizes the PSC to adopt implementing rules.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 478 - Designation of Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

By: Regulated Industries; Rodriguez

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 551

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Utilities and Communications

The federal Lifeline program (Lifeline) provides telecommunications service discounts for qualifying low-income consumers. Consumers may qualify to participate in Lifeline either through program-based or income-based eligibility standards. Qualifying households can receive a discount on their monthly phone or broadband Internet bills from providers which have been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs).

The bill authorizes the Florida Public Service Commission to designate wireless providers as ETCs for the limited purpose of providing Lifeline service.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/SB 770 - Improvements to Real Property

By: Fiscal Policy; Community Affairs; Martin

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 927

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Fiscal Policy

Category: Consumer Protection; Energy; Financial Services; Local Government; Real Property; Resiliency

Current law provides specific authority for local governments to create programs, commonly referred to as Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs, under which real property owners may finance certain qualifying improvements to their property, including energy conservation and efficiency improvements, renewable energy improvements, and wind resistance improvements to existing facilities.

The bill makes several changes to the law governing these programs. Specifically, the bill:

- Modifies eligible “qualifying improvements”
 - For residential properties: Adds certain wastewater improvements, flood and water damage resiliency improvements, and permanent generators, and removes some energy conservation and efficiency improvements.
 - For commercial properties: Adds wastewater improvements, flood and water damage resiliency improvements, improvements to achieve a sustainable building rating or compliance with a national model resiliency standard, improvements to achieve wind or flood insurance rate reductions, and water conservation improvements.
- Requires the holder or servicer of a mortgage that encumbers an applicant’s commercial property to provide consent for the applicant to finance any qualifying improvement through the program.
- Provides additional new terms and requirements for residential and commercial properties.
- Establishes requirements relating to program contractors and third-party administrators, including annual performance reviews; regulates program marketing and information sharing and prohibits kickbacks from program administrators to contractors; specifies terms under which financing agreements are unenforceable; and requires an annual report from each local government that has authorized a qualifying improvement program.
- Requires the Auditor General to conduct an operational audit of residential and commercial programs every three years.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 1147 - Broadband

By: Tomkow and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1218

Committee(s) of Reference: Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Ways & Means Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Local Government; Utilities and Communications

In 2021, the Legislature implemented a promotional rate for the attachment of broadband facilities to poles owned by municipal electric utilities to help communities that lack broadband access attract new capital investment. The promotional rate requires municipal electrical utilities to offer broadband Internet service providers a discounted rate of \$1 per attachment per year for any new pole attachment necessary to make broadband service available to an unserved or underserved consumer within the utility's territory. The promotional rate was set to expire on July 1, 2024.

The bill extends the expiration date of the \$1 wireline attachment promotional rate from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028. The bill also extends the \$1 wireline attachment promotional rate for any currently existing wireline attachments made under the promotional rate program from July 1, 2024, to December 31, 2028.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is June 30, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1555 - Cybersecurity

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Giallombardo and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Cybersecurity; Higher Education and Employment; Technology

The bill provides that the Florida Center for Cybersecurity at the University of South Florida may be referred to as “Cyber Florida” and revises its mission and goals. The bill adds the following new mission: conduct, fund, and facilitate research and applied science that leads to the creation of new technologies and software packages that have military and civilian applications and which can be transferred for military and homeland defense purposes or for sale or use in the private sector.

Additionally, the bill provides that if Cyber Florida receives a request for assistance from DMS, FLDS, or another state agency, Cyber Florida is authorized, but may not be compelled by the agency, to conduct, consult on, or otherwise assist any state-funded initiatives related to:

- Cybersecurity training, professional development, and education for state and local government employees, including school districts and the judicial branch.
- Increasing the cybersecurity effectiveness of the state’s and local governments’ technology platforms and infrastructure, including school districts and the judicial branch.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1645 - Energy Resources

By: Commerce Committee; Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Payne and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1624

Committee(s) of Reference: Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Energy; Government Operations; Resiliency; Transportation; Utilities and Communications

The bill updates Florida's energy policies and amends specific energy-related laws. Specifically, the bill:

- Provides an updated statement of legislative intent concerning the state's energy policy and establishes a list of specific, fundamental policy goals to guide the state's energy policy.
- Updates energy policy statements in current law and the duties of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to be consistent with the state's energy policy goals.
- Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to determine, upon notice by a public utility, whether an off-schedule power plant retirement is prudent and consistent with the state's energy policy goals.
- Requires rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities to have at least one mutual aid agreement with another electric utility to aid in restoring power after a natural disaster.
- Increases the minimum length of an intrastate natural gas pipeline that requires certification under the Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline Siting Act from 15 miles to 100 miles.
- Defines the term "gross capacity" for purposes of the Florida Electrical Power Plant Siting Act.
- Provides that certain "resiliency facilities" owned and operated by a public utility that deploy natural gas reserves for temporary use during a system outage or natural disaster are a permitted use in certain land use categories and districts.
- Provides for the recovery of certain facility relocation costs incurred by a natural gas utility through a charge separate from the utility's base rates.
- Prohibits the construction or expansion of offshore wind energy facilities and certain wind turbines located on real property within a mile of the state's coastline or intracoastal waterways or on waters of the state.
- Requires the PSC to develop a plan to conduct an assessment of the security and resiliency of the state's electric grid and natural gas facilities against both physical threats and cyber threats.
- Allows the PSC to approve utility programs for electric vehicle charging under certain conditions.
- Repeals the Renewable Energy and Energy-Efficient Technologies Grant Program, Florida Green Government Grants, the Energy Economic Zone Pilot Program, and Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds provisions.
- Prohibits community development districts and homeowners' associations from prohibiting certain types or fuel sources of energy production and appliances that use such fuels.

- Requires the PSC to study and evaluate the technical and economic feasibility of using advanced nuclear power technologies and to submit a report of its findings and recommendations.
- Requires the Department of Transportation to study and evaluate the potential development of hydrogen fueling infrastructure, including fueling stations, to support hydrogen-powered vehicles that use the state highway system.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Insurance & Banking Subcommittee

CS/HB 85 - Pub. Rec./New State Banks and New State Trust Companies

By: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Barnaby and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1014

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Commerce; Financial Services; Government in the Sunshine

The Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) regulates banks, credit unions, finance companies, and the securities industry. Directors seeking to establish a new state-chartered bank or trust company must submit a comprehensive application to OFR. This application includes detailed personal and financial information for proposed directors, along with the proposed corporate name, location details, initial capital, business plan, and financial statements. While federal law provides some exemptions, Florida currently lacks specific public record exemptions for these application records, leaving most information subject to public inspection and copying.

The bill creates a public record exemption for certain information received by OFR in an application for authority to organize a new state bank or new trust company. This information includes:

- Personal financial information;
- A driver license number, passport number, military identification number, or any other number or code issued on a government document used to verify identity;
- Books and records of a current or proposed financial institution;
- The proposed state bank's or proposed state trust company's proposed business plan; and

The personal identifying information of a prospective officer or director, currently affiliated with another financial institution, obtained through an application for a new state bank or state trust company, is exempt from public record requirements until the application is approved and the charter is issued. This includes names, addresses, emails, phone numbers, relatives' names, work history, professional licenses, education, and photographs.

The bill provides for repeal of the exemption on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. It also provides a public necessity statement as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 215 - Risk Retention Groups

By: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Truenow

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 846

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Insurance

A risk retention group (RRG) is a type of liability insurance company owned by its members. RRGs allow businesses with similar insurance needs to pool risks and form their own insurance companies under a combination of state and federal laws. Members of an RRG must be engaged in similar businesses or activities that have similar exposures due to the type of business, trade, product, service, premises, or operations. RRGs may only provide liability insurance; the law defines liability insurance as coverage for liability for damages to persons or property arising out of any business, trade, product, professional service, premises, operation, or activity of a state or local government. RRGs may operate in Florida if they obtain a certificate of authority as a liability insurer, or are licensed in another state and provide a copy of their business plan and annual financial statement to the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) and designate the Chief Financial Officer as their agent for service of process.

Florida law contains financial responsibility requirements for owners or operators of motor vehicles, whether they are used for personal or commercial purposes. In general, the owner or operator of a motor vehicle must insure against losses from liability for bodily injury, death, and property damage by either purchasing auto insurance from an insurance carrier authorized by OIR to do business in Florida, or by obtaining a certificate of self-insurance from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles after demonstrating the ability to cover potential losses arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of a motor vehicle.

The bill establishes that motor vehicle insurance coverage issued by RRGs operating under federal law, and registered to do business in the state, satisfies the financial responsibility requirements of state motor vehicle law.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 362 - Medical Treatment Under the Workers' Compensation Law

By: Fiscal Policy; Bradley

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 161

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Health Policy; Fiscal Policy

Category: Insurance

Florida's Workers' Compensation Law (WC Law) mandates employers to furnish injured workers with necessary medical care for the duration required by the injury or recovery process. The Department of Financial Services (DFS), Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC), oversees the state's workers' compensation system, ensuring employers provide requisite treatment.

A three-member panel, including the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) or a designee and two Governor's appointees, establishes maximum reimbursement allowances (MRAs). DWC integrates these allowances into reimbursement manuals. The manuals, developed by the panel, set MRAs for different medical services. Physician reimbursement is capped at 110 percent of Medicare rates, while surgical procedures are limited to 140 percent of Medicare.

Additionally, the WC Law imposes restrictions on health care provider payments for expert testimony during depositions related to workers' compensation claims. Providers are typically capped at \$200 per hour as expert medical witnesses, except when offering opinions post medical record review or providing unrelated personal services, where the daily cap is also \$200.

The bill increases the maximum hourly amount allowed expert witnesses from \$200, per hour, to \$300, per hour. For those expert witnesses' subject to the daily rate, the maximum amount allowed is increased from \$200, per day, to \$300, per day.

Also, the bill increases the maximum reimbursement for physician licensed under ch. 458 or ch. 459, from 110 percent, to 175 percent of the reimbursement allowed by Medicare. Additionally, the bill increases the maximum reimbursement for surgical procedures from 140 percent, to 210 percent of the reimbursement allowed by Medicare.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/CS/SB 532 - Securities

By: Fiscal Policy; Banking and Insurance; Brodeur

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 311

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Financial Services

In Florida, the Securities and Investor Protection Act (the Act) regulates securities issued, offered, and sold in the state of Florida. The Act currently prohibits dealers, associated persons, and issuers from offering or selling securities in this state unless registered with the OFR or specifically exempted. Additionally, all securities in Florida must be registered with the OFR unless they meet a statutory exemption or are federally covered.

Revisions to the Act include:

- Amending the limited offering exemption and crowdfunding exemption;
- Adding an accredited investor exemption and a micro-offering exemption;
- Allowing for demo-day presentations in the pre-offering stage;
- Adding control person liability provisions;
- Expanding the current civil liability for aiders and abettors of a securities law violation;
- Eliminating the requirement for 5 years of annual reports and audited financial statements applicable to simplified securities offerings that use the Small Company Offering Registration;
- Reducing the number of clients of an investment adviser that triggers registration from 15 to 6 clients;
- Increasing the maximum civil and administrative penalties that can be assessed against a natural person in an action by the Attorney General from \$10,000 to \$20,000;
- Doubling maximum fines assessed in civil and administrative actions by the Attorney General for securities violations targeting seniors and vulnerable adults;
- Eliminating the requirement that an investor make searches and inquiries to ascertain the assets of a judgement debtor before the investor recovers from the Securities Guaranty Fund (Fund), and applies the changes to acts for which recovery is sought which occur on or after October 1, 2024. The prior law continues to apply to Fund claims for judgments entered prior to October 1, 2024;
- Increasing the amount an eligible person may recover from the Fund from \$10,000 to \$15,000, adding an exception allowing recovery of up to \$25,000 if the person is a specified adult, and increasing the aggregate limit on claims from \$100,000 to \$250,000;
- Rewriting certain portions of the Act for clarification purposes; and
- Generally modernizing Florida's securities laws in accordance with recent developments in federal securities laws and securities laws in other states.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 556 - Protection of Specified Adults

By: Rules; Banking and Insurance; Rouson and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 515

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Rules

Category: Commerce; Consumer Protection; Financial Services

Florida has the second highest percentage of senior residents in the nation. In 2022, Florida had an estimated 4.7 million people age 65 and older, approximately 21 percent of the state's population. By 2030, this number is projected to increase to 5.9 million, meaning the elderly will make up approximately one quarter of the state's population and will account for most of the state's growth.

Elder populations are particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation due to risk factors associated with aging, such as physical and mental infirmities and social isolation. Up to 5 million older Americans are abused every year, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion.

The Adult Protective Services Act, ch. 415, F.S. (Act), codifies Florida's laws relating to the protection of vulnerable adults. The bill amends the Act to increase consumer financial transaction protections.

The bill authorizes a financial institution which reports suspected financial exploitation of a specified adult to then delay a disbursement or transaction from an account of the specified adult or an account for which the specified adult is a beneficiary or beneficial owner, provided certain conditions are met. When the financial institution takes this action, it must create and maintain for at least five years after the date of the delayed disbursement or transaction a written or electronic record of the delayed disbursement or transaction that includes certain information.

The bill also:

- Requires financial institutions to develop certain trainings and policies to educate employees on issues pertaining to financial exploitation of specified adults before placing a delay on any disbursement or transaction; and
- Provides immunity from administrative and civil liability to a financial institution that acts in good faith and exercises reasonable care to comply with the bill's provisions.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/CS/HB 623 - Builder Warranties

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Steele; Anderson and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 966

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Consumer Protection; Insurance

A warranty agreement is a contract that may be given to a home purchaser by a builder or purchased for them from a home warranty association. In Florida, home warranty associations are regulated by the Office of Insurance Regulations (OIR) and must maintain certain minimum financial standards to do business. The home warranty agreement often covers home systems and common appliances, whereas a builder warranty covers structural components of a home and may also cover materials and workmanship, too. A home warranty agreement is tied to the owner selling the home and does not transfer to the person buying the home unless the home seller transfers it to the new owner.

The bill:

- Defines newly constructed homes.
- Requires a one-year warranty against construction defects from either the date of title conveyance or initial occupancy.
- Obligates the warranty to cover defects resulting in material violations of the Florida Building Code, excluding certain circumstances like normal wear and tear or damage from natural disasters.
- Allows builders to purchase warranty coverage from home warranty associations instead of directly providing the statutory warranty.

The bill requires the warranty to cover the newly constructed home for a minimum full one-year period, even if the home is sold or transferred. An express written warranty provided by the builder to the initial homeowner, may satisfy the statutory warranty requirement under certain conditions. These conditions include:

- Scope, coverage, and duration that matches or exceeds statutory requirements for the full one-year period.
- Transferability of the warranty to new owners during the initial year.
- Clarity on the warranty's duration and transferability terms beyond the initial year.

The bill makes enforcement of the builder warranty limited to private civil actions by purchasers against non-compliant builders. The otherwise applicable time limit to make a claim is not changed by the bill.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 808 - Treatment by a Medical Specialist

By: Appropriations; Criminal Justice; DiCeglie and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 637

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations

Category: Insurance

Florida's Workers' Compensation Law requires employers to provide injured employees all medically necessary remedial treatment, care, and attendance for such period as the nature of the injury or the process of recovery may require. The Department of Financial Services, Division of Workers' Compensation, provides regulatory oversight of Florida's workers' compensation system, including the Workers' Compensation health care delivery system. The law specifies certain reimbursement formulas and methodologies to compensate Workers' Compensation health care providers that provide medical services to injured employees.

If a firefighter, law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer becomes disabled by tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension, Florida law presumes that the disease has been contracted in the line of duty, subject to certain limitations, and is therefore compensable under workers compensation law, unless the contrary can be shown by competent evidence.

To be eligible for this legal presumption, the officer or firefighter must have taken a pre-employment physical exam that failed to reveal any evidence of tuberculosis, heart disease, or hypertension.

The bill permits firefighters, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, or correctional probation officers in need of medical treatment for a compensable, presumptive condition to file a written notice with their employer/carrier to obtain authorization of treatment from the selected medical specialist. The employer/carrier may approve the selected medical specialist or authorize an alternative specialist with equal or greater qualifications. The authorization must be resolved within 5 business days and the appointment date must be within 30 business days of the written notice. If the authorization is not timely, the firefighter's or officer's selected medical specialist is automatically authorized.

Also, the bill increases the maximum reimbursement to the selected medical specialists to 200 percent of the reimbursement allowed by Medicare, rather than 110 percent (non-surgeons) and 140 percent (surgeons).

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/SB 892 - Dental Insurance Claims

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Banking and Insurance; Harrell

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1219

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Insurance

Health insurance serves a vital role in protecting individuals from financial hardships caused by accidents, illnesses, or disabilities. Before providing care, healthcare providers often verify a patient's insurance coverage. Dental insurance is regulated by the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR), the Department of Financial Services, and the Agency for Health Care Administration for compliance with insurance laws, fair practices, and care quality.

Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, consumers purchasing qualified health plans with federal premium tax credits receive extended grace periods for premium non-payment, with federal regulations mandating coverage during a portion of this grace period.

If patients seek services for which they lack coverage, claims may be denied—such as before coverage starts, after it ends, or during the grace period before premium payment. A provider may have already received payment based on coverage verification, leading to financial responsibility for retroactive denials by either the provider or patient.

The bill regulates dental services claims payment contract terms for insurers, including prepaid limited health service organizations, preferred provider organizations, exclusive provider organizations, and health maintenance organizations. The bill:

- Prohibits mandating credit card payments as the sole means of reimbursement for dental services.
- Requires notice by insurers to dental providers of the initiation or change in payment methods or fees for electronic fund transfers.
- Allows the insurer to deny claims if the services were provided during the premium non-payment grace period and the insurer informed the provider of such in response to an eligibility inquiry.
- Establishes criteria for other claims denial under prior authorizations under specific circumstances.
- Mandates OIR enforcement of claims payment provisions.
- Establishes an application date for all contractual changes required by the bill as the date of the next issuance, delivery, or renewal date of the impacted contract.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/CS/SB 902 - Motor Vehicle Retail Financial Agreements

By: Commerce and Tourism; Banking and Insurance; Boyd

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 605

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Commerce and Tourism; Fiscal Policy

Category: Commerce; Financial Services

Under the Motor Vehicle Sales Finance Act, individuals, except authorized financial institutions, must obtain a license from the Office of Financial Regulations to conduct motor vehicle retail installment transactions. Once an entity receives its license it is authorized to offer a retail installment contract. A retail installment contract refers to an agreement where a seller retains or acquires a title or lien on a motor vehicle as security, wholly or partially, for the buyer's obligations. Sellers can also offer optional guaranteed asset protection products for a fee. Guaranteed asset protection products exempt customers from excess liability on the vehicle's value. Vehicle value protection agreements (VVPA) and excess wear agreements are currently unregulated by statute.

The bill:

- **Guaranteed Asset Protection Products:** Limits coverage to cases of total damage or theft. Permits benefits such as waiving a part of the purchase price or providing credit for a replacement vehicle, with the option to offer these benefits at no additional cost. Changes to future retail installment contracts include refunding buyers for terminated products, subject to a 90-day notification period and administrative fees. The bill also allows cancellation or noncancellation of products after a 30-day free look period, with refunds paid directly to the vehicle holder in specific circumstances.
- **VVPA:** Establishes a statutory framework for VVPAs, defining them as agreements offering benefits to reduce finance agreement deficiency balances or facilitate the acquisition of replacement motor vehicles or services following adverse events. VVPAs are not considered insurance under the Florida Insurance Code and have specific financial security requirements. The bill imposes requirements for offering VVPAs, ensuring transparent pricing and non-contingent terms on credit extensions or motor vehicle transactions. Providers must adhere to insurance and financial reserve standards. Disclosure requirements include identifying information, agreement terms, cancellation details, and the non-conditionality of credit or vehicle sale/lease terms on VVPA purchase. The bill mandates specific terms in VVPAs, including cancellation conditions and refund details, with penalties for intentional violations.
- **Excess Wear and Use Waiver:** Establishes that an excess wear and use waiver is a contractual agreement within a motor vehicle lease where the lessor, with or without an extra charge, agrees to cancel or waive amounts due under the lease for excessive wear, use, or mileage. Disclosure requirements include total charge, limitations, and cancellation terms with a possible administrative fee capped at \$75.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 939 - Consumer Protection

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Griffiths and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1066

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Financial Services; Insurance

The bill makes changes related to consumer protection, including:

- Requires third-party settlement organizations, like PayPal or Apple Pay, that conduct transactions involving a payee with a Florida address to create a method for senders to identify transactions for goods and services and report that information to the Florida Department of Revenue;
- Requires that a contractor that enters into a contract to replace or repair the roof of a residential property during a declared state of emergency by the Governor include specific language in the contract that allows the property owner to cancel the contract by the earlier of ten days following execution or the official start date that the work on the roof will commence; the property owner must send notice of cancellation by certified mail or another form that provides proof of mailing;
- Expands the definition of depository institution in commercial financing disclosure law;
- Requires that the certified public accountant (CPA) that prepares the audit that an insurer submits to the Office of Insurance Regulation as part of its annual report must have completed at least four hours of insurance-related continuing education during each two-year continuing education cycle;
- Requires that public adjusters' contracts for property and casualty claims contain the license numbers of the public adjusting firms by which they are employed;
- Requires that the renewal notice sent to the named insured containing changes in policy terms must be presented in bold type face of not less than 14 points;
- Updates the disclosures that must be provided to a purchaser of a short-term health plan; also requires that purchasers of short-term health plans receive the required disclosures in writing or electronically, and sign them;
- Establishes that a notice of a claim for loss assessment coverage may not occur later than 3 years after the date of loss and must be provided to the insurer no later than certain dates specified in the bill; and
- Updates the state standards for outdoor display of fireworks to the current edition of the National Fire Protection Association 1123, Code for Fireworks Displays and removes an offensive term for a firework from law.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 988 - Public Records/My Safe Florida Home Program

By: Rules; Banking and Insurance; Martin

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 943

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Rules

Category: Consumer Protection; Government in the Sunshine

In 2006, the Legislature created the My Safe Florida Home Program (MSFH Program) within the Department of Financial Services (DFS), with the intent that the MSFH Program provide licensed inspectors to perform inspections for owners of site-built, single-family, residential properties and grants to eligible applicants, subject to the availability of funds.

The bill creates a public record exemption for information contained in applications and inspection reports submitted under the MSFH Program. The exemption applies retroactively to such reports submitted before, on, or after the effective date of the bill.

The bill provides for repeal of the exemption on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. It also provides a public necessity statement as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/CS/HB 989 - Chief Financial Officer

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; LaMarca

Tied Bills: CS/HB 991

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1098

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Financial Services; Insurance

The bill makes changes to various laws related to financial services, including the Department of Financial Services (DFS), that include:

- Renaming the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services to the Division of Criminal Investigations.
- Establishing a tax liaison appointed by the Chief Financial Officer to assist Florida's taxpayers with federal tax issues.
- Allowing complaints to be filed with the Office of Financial Regulation for certain account access restrictions, and providing for investigation of financial institutions who acted in bad faith, including penalties and prosecution. It also allows suspension or disqualification for Qualified Public Depositories in certain circumstances.
- Authorizing credit unions to become Qualified Public Depositories under certain circumstances.
- Providing a Workers' Compensation reimbursement methodology for emergency services and care when a maximum reimbursement allowance is unavailable.
- Mandating DFS approval of certain contracts by select governmental or quasi-governmental entities.
- Making select changes related to the Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services; granting DFS authority to disclose certain confidential and exempt public record information; enhancing DFS oversight and administrative authority over Board licensees; and establishing disbursement protocols upon fulfillment of preneed contracts.
- Amending service of process related provisions; adjusting certain notice requirements for administrative complaints and citations.
- Requiring timely responses from surplus lines insurers to the Division of Consumer Services.
- Allowing voluntary submission of information that permits two-factor authentication in agent licensing.
- Allowing disclosure of confidential investigative information in certain circumstances.
- Requiring licensed adjusters to identify themselves in advertisements by their appointment type.
- Allowing general lines agents with a surplus lines license to appoint licenses with a single surplus license agent appointment.
- Revising certain State Fire Marshal-related provisions on fireworks usage, the Florida Fire Prevention Code, and safety standards for mobile food dispensing vehicles and energy storage systems.
- Modifying warranty association and motor vehicle service agreement company financial requirements.
- Exempting municipal/county government employees from certain licensing/appointment requirements.
- Clarifying that bail bond agents are not exclusively required to be employed with a bail bond agency.
- Substantially revising the Florida Disposition of Unclaimed Property Act.
- Clarifying a benefit type for firefighters undergoing cancer treatment.
- Requiring a report from the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA) and modifying the reserve estimate calculation related to limitations on ongoing enrollment.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1029 - My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Lopez, V.; Hunschofsky and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1366

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Consumer Protection; Insurance; Resiliency

The My Safe Florida Home (MSFH) Program was created in 2006 within the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to perform mitigation inspections of site-built, single-family, residential properties (inspections), and provide mitigation grants (grants) to eligible applicants to make their homes less vulnerable to hurricane damage. The MSFH Program received \$250 million in appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007, but was not funded again until 2022. Since then, the Legislature has provided approximately \$433 million in subsequent additional funding to the MSFH Program.

Mitigation inspections are limited to homesteaded properties. Funds may be used to inspect townhouses to determine if opening protection mitigation would help decrease the risk of hurricane damage and grant funds may be used to pay for such opening protection mitigation if warranted. The maximum home value of the mitigation grant-eligible homes is currently \$700,000. While initially limited to homes within the wind-borne debris region, the MSFH Program is currently a statewide program. Condominium homes are not eligible for the MSFH Program.

The bill establishes within DFS the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program (MSFCP Program), with the intent that the Program provide licensed inspectors to perform inspections for and grants to eligible associations, as funding allows. Under the MSFCP Program, DFS must provide fiscal accountability, contract management, and strategic leadership for the MSFCP Program, consistent with the bill's provisions. The grants are matched on the basis of \$1 provided by the association for every \$2 provided by the MSFCP Program. Grant awards are limited to 50 percent of the cost of a project and a maximum of \$175,000 per association. The MSFCP Program must be implemented pursuant to appropriations, and is subject to annual legislative appropriations thereafter.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1031 - Debt Relief Services

By: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Buchanan

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1074

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Financial Services

Individuals seeking to manage their debts often engage credit counseling organizations who provide debt management services and credit counseling services. Any person engaging in debt management services or credit counseling services must comply with Part IV of ch. 817, F.S. As an alternative to debt management services, individuals can turn to debt relief service providers, which are for-profit businesses that work with credit card companies to renegotiate the amount of principal owed on an individual's debt.

Florida law does not currently regulate providers of debt relief services. However, debt relief companies that use telemarketing to contact potential customers or hire people on their behalf to do so are regulated by the federal Telemarketing and Consumer Fraud and Abuse Prevention Act (Telemarketing Act), 15 U.S.C. ss. 6101-6108, and the federal regulation under the Telemarketing Act, known as the Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR), 16 C.F.R. s. 310.2.

Florida's Attorney General has sufficient authority to enforce a violation of the Telemarketing Act or the TSR as an unfair or deceptive trade practice under part II of ch. 501, F.S.

The bill:

- Expands the list of exceptions to Part IV of ch. 817, F.S., relating to credit counseling services, to also exempt a telemarketer or seller who provides any debt relief services; and
- Provides that certain relevant terms have the same meanings as provided in the TSR.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 1078 - Public Records/Cellular Telephone Numbers Held by the Department of Financial Services

By: DiCeglie

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 991

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Insurance

The Department of Financial Services (DFS) has broad duties, including licensure and regulation of insurance agents, agencies, and adjusters; insurance consumer assistance and protection; and holding and attempting to return unclaimed property to its rightful owner. DFS has a number of regulatory responsibilities over the Florida insurance market. DFS regulates insurance adjusters, which includes public adjusters, independent adjusters, and company employee adjusters.

The bill creates a public record exemption within s. 626.171, F.S., for cellular telephone numbers held by the DFS, associated with a person's application for licensure for insurance agents, customer representatives, adjusters, service representatives, and reinsurance intermediaries. The exemption applies to cellular telephone numbers held by the DFS before, on, or after the effective date of the bill.

The bill provides that the exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, and will be repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. The bill also provides a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 1305 - Residential Tenancies

By: Commerce Committee; Maggard and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1466

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Commerce; Financial Services

The Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (Act), codified in part II of ch. 93, F.S., governs the rental of a dwelling unit in Florida. The Act provides that whenever money is deposited or advanced by a tenant on a rental agreement as security for performance of the rental agreement or as advance rent for other than the next immediate rental period, the landlord has the option of holding such money in a separate account in a "Florida banking institution" for the benefit of the tenant. The Act, however, does not define what constitutes a "Florida banking institution."

The bill amends the Act to define "Florida financial institution" as any bank, credit union, trust company, savings bank, or savings or thrift association doing business under the authority of a charter issued by the United States, this state, or any other state which is authorized to transact business in this state and whose deposits or share accounts are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 1347 - Consumer Finance Loans

By: Commerce Committee; Brackett

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1436

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Financial Services

The Florida Consumer Finance Act, ch. 516, F.S. (Act), prohibits businesses from making consumer finance loans unless first authorized to do so under the Act. Under the Act, licensed lenders are allowed to make secured or unsecured loans up to \$25,000 with a tiered interest rate structure, such that the maximum annual interest rate allowed on each tier decreases as principal amount increases, as follows:

- 30% per annum, computed on the first \$3,000 of the principal amount;
- 24% per annum on that part of the principal amount exceeding \$3,000 and up to \$4,000; and
- 18% per annum on that part of the principal amount exceeding \$4,000 and up to \$25,000.

The bill:

- Provides a definition for the term “branch;”
- Prohibits the operation of a branch that makes consumer finance loans without first obtaining a license;
- Requires an application fee of \$625 to be paid to OFR for each branch application filed;
- Increases the maximum interest rate and the amount of principal for the tiered interest rate structure, such that the tiered structure will be as follows:
 - 36% per annum, computed on the first \$10,000 of the principal amount
 - 30% per annum on that part of the principal amount exceeding \$10,000 and up to \$20,000
 - 24% per annum on that part of the principal amount exceeding \$20,000 and up to \$25,000;

This yields an allowable maximum interest rate for the following loan amounts:

Loan Amount	Approximate Maximum Interest Rate	
	Current	Proposed
\$5,000	26.4%	36.0%
\$10,000	22.2%	36.0%
\$15,000	20.8%	34.0%
\$25,000	19.2%	31.2%

- Changes the 10-day rule for a licensee applying delinquency charges to 12 days;
- Requires licensees that provide assistance programs during a disaster to report to OFR details of such assistance programs;
- Requires licensees to offer a credit education program to borrowers at the time a loan is made; and
- Requires licensees to annually submit to OFR reports of certain information, which OFR may publish in a report after anonymizing and consolidating the data for all licensees.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1503 - Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Esposito and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1716

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Insurance

The bill makes various changes to Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens), including:

- Permitting surplus lines insurers that meet certain financial requirements to take out policies from Citizens issued on dwellings that are not primary residences or homesteaded properties; provides definitions to accomplish these take outs.
- Effective upon becoming law, requiring Citizens' policyholders who must purchase flood insurance as a condition of eligibility for Citizens' coverage to purchase only dwelling coverage for a flood loss rather than dwelling and contents coverage.
- Eliminating a significant amount of statutory language that is no longer needed because Citizens has combined the Personal Lines Account, the Commercial Lines Account, and the Coastal Account, into one Citizens Account, as of January 1, 2024.
- Allowing Citizens' executive director to appoint a designee to act as its agency head; allows Citizens to share information with NICB to assist in efforts to fight insurance fraud; allows Citizens to obtain patents, copyrights, and trademarks, and to enforce related rights.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, and except as otherwise provided, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1569 - Exemption from Regulation for Bona Fide Nonprofit Organizations

By: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Grant and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 514

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Financial Services

In response to the 2008 financial crisis, Congress enacted the Secure and Fair Enforcement for Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (SAFE Act). The SAFE Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder set forth the minimum standards for the state licensing and registration of residential mortgage loan originators (MLOs).

Florida adopted its registration requirements for MLOs in 2009. Florida has also adopted similar requirements for the licensure and registration of mortgage brokers and mortgage lenders, exceeding the federal requirements.

States are permitted to provide an exemption from the SAFE Act registration requirements to a bona fide nonprofit organization and its employees if the state determines that the organization meets certain criteria. Florida law does not currently provide an exemption from regulation for bona fide nonprofit organizations, but does provide exemptions for certain other entities consistent with federal law.

The bill:

- Creates an exemption from loan originator and mortgage broker regulation for bona fide nonprofit organizations and their employees, provided certain conditions are met; this exemption is parallel to the exemption provided in the SAFE Act for bona fide nonprofit organizations;
- Provides that the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) must determine whether an organization is a bona fide nonprofit organization based on specified factors;
- Requires OFR to periodically examine the books and activities of an organization and revoke an organization's exemption if it does not continue to meet the requirements; and
- Provides the Financial Services Commission with rule-making authority to prescribe criteria and processes required for OFR to make determinations regarding bona fide nonprofit organizations.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1611 - Insurance

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Stevenson and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1622

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Insurance

The bill makes the following changes regarding insurance:

- Requires that the information that property insurers were reporting to the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) on a quarterly basis be reported on a monthly basis; and, that the data must be reported based on zip code rather than county;
- Provides the Financial Services Commission with express rulemaking authority to adopt rules and forms to regulate how, and in what format, insurers will provide notice to OIR of nonrenewal of more than 10,000 residential property insurance policies within a 12-month period;
- Revises the maximum per-loss occurrence amount that a Public Housing Authority self-insurance fund may retain from \$350,000 to an amount that the fund can withstand, as long as it maintains a continuing program of excess insurance coverage and reinsurance to protect the stability of the fund, and meets certain additional criteria;
- Restricts the ability for surplus lines insurers to cancel or nonrenew personal and commercial lines residential insurance policies due to unrepaired damage after a hurricane;
- Specifies that if an insurer uses the average of two or more models in its rate filing, the same average model must be used throughout the state. However, if the insurer uses a weighted average, it must provide OIR with a justification for using the weighted average, which shows that it results in a rate that is reasonable, adequate, and fair;
- Eliminates the statutory provision that allows Citizens to charge up to 50 percent above the established Citizens rate for policyholders whose coverage was last provided by an insurer determined to be unsound or placed into receivership;
- Adds roofing contractor to the list of authorized inspectors that an insurer may approve to conduct the inspection of a roof for determining its remaining useful life;
- Updates the statutory chapter regarding reciprocal insurers to align it with OIR's existing authority to license and regulate other types of insurers, including significant changes to the application and acquisition processes; and
- Creates reporting requirements for the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA) and modifying the calculation of reserve estimates related to limitations on ongoing enrollment.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7028 - My Safe Florida Home Program

By: Fiscal Policy; Banking and Insurance

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1263

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Consumer Protection; Insurance; Resiliency

The My Safe Florida Home (MSFH) Program was created in 2006 within the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to perform mitigation inspections of site-built, single-family, residential properties (inspections), and provide mitigation grants (grants) to eligible applicants to make their homes less vulnerable to hurricane damage. The MSFH Program received \$250 million in appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007, but was not funded again until 2022. Since then, the Legislature has provided approximately \$433 million in subsequent additional funding to the MSFH Program.

The bill makes additional changes to the MSFH Program. Homeowners may submit subsequent mitigation inspection and grant applications for the same home if certain criteria are met. DFS may request that an applicant provide additional information if the application contains errors or omissions. An application is considered withdrawn if an applicant does not respond to a request for additional information within 60 days. The bill requires that, for the first 60 days DFS accepts inspection and grant applications following any legislative appropriation, DFS must prioritize the review and approval of applications by low- and moderate-income persons and those applicants who are at least 60 years old.

The bill eliminates the requirement that DFS maintain a list of participating contractors for the grant portion of the MSFH Program. Participants in the program may choose any properly licensed contractor to perform the improvements and must include the name and state license number of that contractor on their grant applications.

In order to receive grant funds, homeowners must agree to provide DFS with information from their homeowners' insurers that identifies premium discounts received as a result of improvements made with grant funds. Grant-funded projects must be completed within 1 year after grant approval, subject to a one-time six-month extension, or the grant is deemed abandoned and the grant funds revert to DFS. The bill specifies that grant-funded opening protection improvements include exterior doors, garage doors, windows, and skylights. Current law allows DFS to require that improvements be made to all openings, including exterior doors, and garage doors as a condition of reimbursing a homeowner approved for a grant. The bill adds windows and skylights to the list of openings that must be improved in their entirety for a homeowner to be reimbursed.

The bill includes a nonrecurring appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 of \$200 million from the General Revenue Fund to the MSFH Program for grants, inspections, and outreach and administrative costs.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

CS/HB 1 - Online Protections for Minors

By: Judiciary Committee; Sirois; McFarland; Rayner and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 1377

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1788

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Cybersecurity; Government Operations; Technology

Related to social media, the bill requires that a social media platform that uses certain addictive features on its daily active users who are younger than 16 years of age and that has had 10 percent or more of such daily active users spend, on average, at least 2 hours per day on the social media platform to do all of the following:

- Prohibit a minor who is younger than 16 years of age from entering into a contract with a social media platform to become an account holder.
- Verify the age of each account holder on the social media platform at the time a new account is created.
 - If an account holder fails to verify age, the account must be denied.
- Terminate any existing account that the social media platform knows or has reason to believe is held by an account holder younger than 16 years of age.
- Allow an account holder younger than 16 years of age or a confirmed parent or guardian of such an account holder to request to terminate the account.
- Permanently delete all personal information held by the social media platform relating to a terminated account, unless there are legal requirements to maintain such information.

Related to harmful material, the bill requires a commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on a website or application, if the website or application contains a substantial portion of material harmful to minors, to verify that the age of a person attempting to access the material is 18 years of age or older and prevent access to the material by a person younger than 18 years of age.

The bill requires social media platforms and commercial entities to use one of the following methods to verify age:

- An anonymous method performed by a third party, or
- A standard method chosen by the platform or entity.

The bill provides that, if a social media platform violates the requirements for minor users under 16 years of age, or if a commercial entity violates requirements for minor users, it is actionable under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practice Act, solely by the Department of Legal Affairs. The bill also provides a limited private cause of action against a social media platform and a commercial entity.

The bill was vetoed by the Governor on March 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 3 (ch. 2024-42, L.O.F.) - Online Protections for Minors

By: Judiciary Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Tramont; Overdorf; Sirois; McFarland; Rayner and others

Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 1491

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1792

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Cybersecurity; Government Operations; Technology

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

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

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

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

The bill became law on March 25, 2024, chapter 2024-42, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on January 1, 2025.

CS/CS/HB 49 (ch. 2024-25, L.O.F.) - Employment

By: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Chaney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1596

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Pre-K through 12 Education

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

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

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-25, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

HB 59 - Provision Of Homeowners' Association Rules and Covenants

By: Arrington

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 50

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Commerce; Consumer Protection; Real Property

A homeowners' association (HOA) is a community association in which voting membership is made up of parcel owners, membership is a mandatory condition of parcel ownership, and the association is authorized to impose assessments that, if unpaid, may become a lien on the parcel. The HOA's declaration of covenants establishes the community's basic covenants and restrictions.

An HOA must maintain certain records which constitute the official records of the HOA, including a copy of the HOA's declaration of covenants, amendments thereto, and current HOA rules. The official records must be maintained within the state for at least 7 years and must be made available to a parcel owner for inspection or photocopying. An HOA may comply with these requirements by having a copy of the official records available for inspection or copying in the community or, at the option of the HOA, by making the records available to a parcel owner electronically or by allowing the records to be viewed in electronic format on a computer screen and printed upon request.

The bill requires an HOA to provide the following:

- Before October 1, 2024, a physical or digital copy of the HOA's rules and covenants to every member of the HOA.
- A physical or digital copy of the HOA's rules and covenants to every new member of the HOA.
- An updated copy of the amended rules or covenants, when an HOA's rules or covenants are amended, to every member of the association.

The bill also allows HOAs to adopt rules establishing standards for the manner of distribution and timeframe for providing copies of updated rules or covenants.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 92 - Yacht and Ship Brokers' Act

By: Hooper

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 95

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes (division), regulates yacht and ship brokers and salespersons.

The bill expands the definition of "yacht" by:

- Increasing the number of vessels included by removing the vessel weight limit, and
- Requiring that the vessel be:
 - Manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure; or
 - Leased, rented, or chartered to someone other than the owner for the other person's pleasure.

The bill provides that a license is not required for a person who regularly conducts business as a yacht or ship broker or salesperson in another state who engages in the purchase or sale of a yacht in Florida, if the transaction is executed with a Florida broker or salesperson.

The bill amends the requirements to become a broker by:

- Removing the requirement that the applicant be licensed as a salesperson for two years, and
- Requiring that the applicant has been a salesperson and can either:
 - Demonstrate direct involvement in at least four transactions that resulted in the sale of a yacht, or
 - Certify that he or she has obtained at least 20 education credits.

The bill provides circumstances where the division must, instead of may, deny a license to an applicant.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 133 - Criminal History of Licensees and Employees

By: Commerce Committee; Chambliss; Plakon and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 42

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

In 2019, the Legislature created a time-limited review process for considering the criminal history of applicants for licensure as a barber or cosmetologist, which only allows the Barbers' Board and Board of Cosmetology (boards) to deny an application on the basis of an applicant's criminal history for:

- A conviction for a crime that occurred within five years of the application for licensure, or
- A criminal history record that includes a forcible felony or crime that would require a person, upon conviction, to register as a sexual predator, if such crime relates to the practice of the applicable profession.

The bill:

- Reduces the time frame to look back at and use a criminal conviction as grounds to deny an application for licensure as a barber or cosmetologist to three years, from five years. The boards may continue to consider forcible felonies and crimes that require a person to register as a sexual predator regardless of when they occurred.
- Requires the boards to approve educational program credits received from vocational training programs or industry certification programs offered to inmates in any correctional institution or facility to satisfy training requirements for licensure as a barber or cosmetologist.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 141 - Economic Development

By: Ways & Means Committee; Abbott and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 196

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Ways & Means Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Economic Development; Local Government; Natural Disasters; Resiliency

The Regional Rural Development Grants Program provides funding through matching grants to build the professional capacity of regionally based economic development organizations located in rural communities. An organization may receive up to \$50,000 a year or \$250,000 if located in a rural area of opportunity (RAO). A RAO is a rural community, or region comprised of rural communities, designated by the Governor, that has been adversely affected by an extraordinary economic event, severe or chronic distress, or a natural disaster. An area may also be designated as a RAO if it presents a unique economic development opportunity of regional impact.

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., was created in 2013 by the Legislature to manage, distribute, and assess the use of certain funds related to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc., is required to administer the Recovery Fund and all programs created under the Gulf Coast Economic Corridor Act in a transparent manner and in accordance with all applicable laws, bylaws, or contractual requirements.

The bill eliminates several requirements related to the Regional Rural Development Grants Program:

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

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

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 267 - Building Regulations

By: Commerce Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Esposito and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 684

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Local Government; Public Safety; Real Property

The bill requires a local government to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a complete and sufficient permit application within the following timeframes:

- 30 business days for applicants using local government review for certain structures less than 7,500 square feet;
- 60 days for the following applicants using local government review:
 - Certain residential structures more than 7,500 square feet,
 - Nonresidential buildings that are less than 25,000 square feet;
 - Multifamily residential, not exceeding 50 units;
 - Site-plan approvals and subdivision plats not requiring public hearing or notice; and
 - Lot grading and site alteration.
- 12 business days for applicants for a permit under an already-approved master plan permit;
- 10 business days for applicants for a single-family residential dwelling for a property owner who participates in a Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery program; and
- 10 business days for applicants using an engineer or architect private provider who affixes his or her professional seal.

The bill also:

- Requires a local government to determine if a building permit application is complete within 5 business days of receiving the application.
- Provides an exception to the fee reduction provision when a delay is caused by the applicant, by a force majeure, or other extraordinary circumstance.
- Requires local governments to create auditing standards for private providers before performing an audit of a private provider.
- Requires the Florida Building Commission (Commission) to provide an exception relating to sealed drawings for replacement windows, doors, and garages for one-family and two-family homes.
- Provides that completing an internship program for residential building inspectors is a pathway for licensure as a residential building inspector.
- Provides that the Commission must review certain standards for unvented attics before December 31, 2024, and that certain standards will be effective for such attics on July 1, 2025.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/SB 280 - Vacation Rentals

By: Fiscal Policy; DiCeglie and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1537

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Local Government; Tourism

The bill:

- Adds to the scope of the state preemption of public lodging establishments and public food service establishments by preempting “licensing” regulations, and revises the scope of the express state preemption on vacation rentals to allow local jurisdictions to amend local regulations to:
 - Be less restrictive; or
 - Comply with local registration requirements.
- Allows local governments to implement a local vacation rental registration program.
- Provides that the statutory provisions governing the local registration of vacation rentals do not apply to any county law, ordinance, or regulation initially adopted on or before January 1, 2016, that established county registration requirements for rental of vacation rentals, and any amendments thereto adopted before January 1, 2024.
- Provides that such county law, ordinance, or regulation may not be amended or altered except to be less restrictive or to adopt registration requirements as provided in such provisions.
- Authorizes local governments to charge a reasonable fee per unit for processing an individual registration application.
- Authorizes local governments to charge a reasonable fee for certain inspections.
- Allows local governments to fine vacation rental operators up to \$500, file and foreclose on a lien based on the fine, suspend registrations, and revoke or refuse to renew a registration, for violations of the local registration requirements.
- Preempts to the state the regulation of advertising platforms, requires users of advertising platforms to provide license and registration information in a vacation rental listing, requires advertising platforms to collect and remit certain taxes and adopt an antidiscrimination policy.
- Grants the Division certain enforcement mechanisms relating to unlicensed activities.
- Requires the Division to create and maintain a vacation rental license information system to allow local governments and advertising platforms to verify the license and local registration status of a vacation rental, and registered users to subscribe to receive notification of changes to the license or registration of a vacation rental.
- Specifically, does not supersede the authority of condominiums, cooperatives, or homeowners’ associations to restrict the use of their properties.
- Requires vacation rental operators to display license and registration information.
- Provides an appropriation to DBPR for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, and except as otherwise expressly provided, the effective date of the bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 293 - Hurricane Protections for Homeowners' Associations

By: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Sirois; Daniels and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 600

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Natural Disasters; Real Property; Resiliency; Safety

A homeowners' association (HOA) is an association of residential property owners in which voting membership is made up of parcel owners and membership is a mandatory condition of parcel ownership. If the HOA's governing documents allow, an HOA or its architectural, construction improvement, or other similar committee (ARC) may:

- Require a review and approval of plans and specifications for the location, size, type, or appearance of any structure or other improvement on a parcel before a parcel owner makes such improvement.
- Enforce standards for the external appearance of any structure or improvement located on a parcel.

Hurricane hardening involves improvements to a home or other structure to make it less susceptible to damage from extreme wind, flooding, or flying debris. Hardening improves the durability and stability of a structure, making it better able to withstand the impacts of hurricanes without sustaining major damage.

The bill:

- Requires an HOA or ARC to adopt **hurricane protection** specifications for each structure or other improvement on a parcel governed by the HOA. The specifications may include the color and style of hurricane protection products and must comply with the applicable building code.
- Prohibits an HOA or ARC from denying an application for installation, enhancement, or replacement of hurricane protection by a parcel owner which conforms to specifications adopted by the HOA or ARC.
- Allows the HOA or ARC to require a parcel owner to adhere to an existing unified building scheme regarding the external appearance of the structure or other improvement on the parcel.
- Provides that "hurricane protection" includes, but is not limited to:
 - Roof systems recognized by the Florida Building Code which meet ASCE 7-22 standards,
 - Permanent fixed or roll-down track storm shutters,
 - Impact-resistant windows and doors,
 - Polycarbonate panels,
 - Reinforced garage doors,
 - Erosion controls,
 - Exterior fixed generators, and
 - Fuel storage tanks.
- Applies to all HOAs in the state, regardless of when the community was created.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 303 - Rabies Vaccinations

By: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Killebrew and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 334; includes parts of HB 849

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Health; Local Government; Public Safety

The bill allows an employee, an agent, or a contractor of a county or municipal animal control authority, or sheriff, acting under the indirect supervision of a veterinarian, to administer rabies vaccinations to impounded dogs, cats, and ferrets that will be transferred, rescued, fostered, adopted, or reclaimed by the owner.

The bill defines “indirect supervision,” to mean the supervising veterinarian is required to be available for consultation through telecommunications but is not required to be physically present during such consultation.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 304 - Household Moving Services

By: Hooper

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 367

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection

In order for an intrastate mover to operate in Florida, the mover must register with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) and comply with the provisions of ch. 507, F.S., which applies to the operations of any mover or moving broker engaged in the intrastate transportation or shipment of household goods originating in this state and terminating in this state. Movers and brokers engaged in the interstate transportation of household goods are regulated by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration within the United States Department of Transportation.

The bill:

- Revises requirements related to estimates and contracts for moving services prepared by a registered mover.
- Provides certain requirements for moving broker advertisements.
- Requires each moving broker to provide the DACs a list of registered movers that the broker is associated with in some capacity.
- Requires DACs to publish and maintain on its website a list of all moving brokers and registered movers each moving broker is contracted with.
- Revises alternative coverages for movers and moving brokers.
- Provides that DACs must immediately suspend the registration of a moving broker or registered mover that does not maintain a performance bond, certificate of deposit, or liability insurance.
- Requires the shipper, mover, and moving broker, if applicable, to sign or electronically acknowledge, and date an estimate or contract, and provide other detailed information.
- Provides that a broker may only arrange a move with a registered mover and cannot give estimates or provide a consumer with a contract for services; only a registered mover may provide those documents.
- Amends s. 507.11(1), F.S., relating to criminal penalties, for movers who refuse to relinquish a shipper's household goods under certain circumstances.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 377 (ch. 2024-28, L.O.F.) - License or Permit to Operate a Vehicle for Hire

By: Borrero

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 648

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Commerce; Local Government; Transportation

Motor vehicles used for transporting persons or goods for compensation are called “vehicles for-hire” or “transportation for-hire.” The transport of goods and other personal property in a motor vehicle by a corporation or association for its stockholders, shareholders, and members, cooperative or otherwise, is also considered transportation “for hire.”

Some counties and municipalities require persons to obtain a permit or license to operate a vehicle for-hire within its jurisdiction. Counties are authorized by general law to license and regulate taxis, jitneys, limousines, rental cars, and other passenger vehicles for-hire that operate in the unincorporated areas of the county. Some municipalities currently license and regulate vehicles for-hire under their broad general powers because they are not currently prohibited from doing so in general law.

The bill allows a person who holds a valid license or permit issued by a county or municipality to operate as a vehicle for hire in other counties and municipalities without being subject to additional licensing requirements or fees. The bill provides that such reciprocity for vehicles for hire operators does not apply to:

- A public use airport or seaport that licenses or certifies persons who operate a vehicle for hire; and
- A vehicle for hire that provides transportation of persons while on stretchers or wheelchairs or those whose handicap, illness, or other incapacitation makes it impractical to be transported by a regular common carrier.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-28, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/SB 382 - Continuing Education Requirements

By: Rules; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Regulated Industries; Hooper

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 497

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation

The bill requires that certain professional boards, or the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) in the absence of a board, must allow distance learning as an alternative to classroom courses for satisfying continuing education requirements.

Additionally, the bill requires certain professional boards, or DBPR if there is no board, to exempt an individual from completing the continuing education required for renewal of a license for a renewal period if:

- The individual holds an active license issued by the board or DBPR to practice the profession;
- The individual has continuously held the license for at least 10 years; and
- No disciplinary action is imposed on the individual's license.

The exemption from continuing education requirements in the bill does not apply to engineers regulated under ch. 471, certified public accountants regulated under ch. 473, brokers, broker associates, and sales associates regulated under part I of ch. 475, appraisers regulated under part II of ch. 475, architects or interior designers regulated under part I of ch. 481, and contractors regulated under ch. 489, F.S.

The bill requires DBPR and relevant boards to adopt rules to implement these provisions. The bill grants DBPR authority to enact emergency rules to streamline procedures for exempting eligible individuals from continuing education, with these rules effective for 6 months and renewable as needed during the process of adopting permanent rules. This emergency rule provision expires on January 1, 2026.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 429 - Real Property

By: Commerce Committee; Robinson, W.

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 756

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Real Property

The bill requires the Secretary of State, rather than the Governor, to appoint commissioners of deeds who authenticate acknowledgements in certain real estate transactions outside of Florida but within the United States, and outside of the United States or within foreign countries.

The bill allows the board of administration of any other form of timeshare to make material alterations or substantial additions to the timeshare's accommodations or facilities without the owners' association's approval.

The bill authorizes the board of administration for any timeshare plan to "delete" facilities without the approval of the members owners' association, provided such deletions are approved by a two-thirds vote of the board of administration, and consistent with the fiduciary duties of a managing entity to purchasers of a timeshare plan.

The bill gives the managing entity or manager of a timeshare project the same rights and remedies of an operator of any public lodging establishment or public food service establishment regarding the right to remove and the right to refuse to accommodate. The bill also entitles such persons to have a law enforcement officer take any action, including arrest or removal from the timeshare property, against any purchaser, including a deeded owner, or a guest or invitee thereof, who engages in conduct described in those sections or conduct that violates the timeshare instrument.

The bill requires the managing entity of a timeshare condominium or timeshare cooperative to provide the assessment certificate required under the Florida Vacation Plan and Timesharing Act in lieu of the estoppel certificate relating to condominium and cooperative associations.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 433 - Employment Regulations

By: Commerce Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Esposito and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1492

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Local Government

Regarding heat exposure protections, the bill prohibits political subdivisions from:

- Requiring an employer, including an employer contracting with the political subdivision, to meet or provide heat exposure requirements not otherwise required under state or federal law.
- Giving preference, or considering or seeking information, in a competitive solicitation to an employer based on the employer's heat exposure requirements.

Regarding Florida's wage and employment benefits law, effective September 30, 2026, the bill prohibits political subdivisions from:

- Seeking to control or affect the wages or employment benefits provided by its vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with the political subdivision through its purchasing or contracting procedures.
- Using evaluation factors, qualification of bidders, or otherwise awarding preferences on the basis of wages or employment benefits provided by its vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with the political subdivision.

The bill removes the ability of local governments to require a minimum wage for certain employees under the terms of a contract, and provides that the bill's revisions to Florida's wage and employment benefits law do not impair any contract entered into before September 30, 2026.

The bill prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, order, rule, policy, or contract requirement regulating scheduling, including predictive scheduling, by a private employer except as expressly authorized or required by state or federal law, rule, or regulation; or pursuant to federal grant requirements.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, and except as otherwise provided, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 535 - Low-voltage Alarm System Projects

By: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Snyder

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 496

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Local Government

Florida law sets out a streamlined process for permitting low-voltage electric fence projects. Requirements for the permit include that the fence must be completely enclosed by a nonelectric fence and may not be installed in an area zoned exclusively for single-family or multifamily residential use. Also, a local government may not adopt or maintain any ordinance regarding a low-voltage electric fence project that is inconsistent with Florida Statutes.

The bill clarifies that a nonelectric fence or wall must only be completely enclosed on the outside perimeter of the low-voltage electric fence, and requires the low-voltage electric fence to be 2 feet higher than the perimeter nonelectric fence or wall.

The bill provides that a local government must allow low-voltage electric fences in areas not exclusively zoned for single-family or multifamily residential use, and therefore may not prohibit such fences in areas zoned in multiple zoning categories.

The bill clarifies that any local ordinance or rule with additional requirements beyond those set out in, or otherwise inconsistent with, Florida Statutes, related to the installation or maintenance of a low-voltage alarm system project may not be adopted by a local government.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 583 - Individual Wine Containers

By: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; LaMarca and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1134

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

Current law addressing limitations on the size of individual wine containers provides the following:

- The sale of wine in an individual container that holds more than one gallon of wine is prohibited.
- Wine may be sold in a reusable container of 5.16 gallons.
- Distributors and manufacturers are allowed to sell wine to other distributors and manufacturers in containers of any size.
- Except for restaurants in certain situations, wine sold or offered for sale by a licensed vendor to be consumed off the premises must be in the unopened original container.
- Violations are a second-degree misdemeanor.

The bill provides an exception to the limitations on the size of individual wine containers by allowing the sale of wine in a glass container holding 4.5 liters, 6 liters, 9 liters, 12 liters, or 15 liters.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 613 - Mobile Home Park Lot Tenancies

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Stark and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1140

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Commerce; Real Property

The “Florida Mobile Home Act” regulates the relationship between a mobile home owner and a mobile home park owner, and includes a mediation program run by the Division of Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes (CTMH) under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The bill provides that, after the last meeting to resolve a dispute regarding a rent increase, the mobile home park owner and home owners may immediately enter into an agreement to initiate mediation and select their own mediator.

The bill requires home owners to provide certain procedural documents related to the park owner upon filing a petition with CTMH. Within 10 days after receipt of the petition from the homeowners, the park owner may file objections to the petition with CTMH, and if a mediator has not already been selected by the parties, CTMH must assign a mediator within 10 days after receipt of the park owner’s objections.

The bill provides that a live-in health care aide or the aide’s assistant:

- Must have ingress and egress to and from the mobile home owner’s site without additional rent, fee, or any charge whatsoever, except the cost of a background check if one is required.
- Does not have any rights of tenancy in the mobile home park.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 676 - Food Delivery Platforms

By: Regulated Industries; Bradley

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1099

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

The Division of Hotels and Restaurants (Division), housed within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), is responsible for enforcing laws relating to the inspection and regulation of public food service establishments for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety and welfare. The regulation of public food service establishments in Florida is preempted to the state.

Third-party food delivery platforms are third-party apps that consumers can use to order delivery from public food service establishments for a fee. Once an order is placed, the food delivery platform sends an individual to pick up the food from the food establishment and deliver it to the consumer. These types of platforms are becoming increasingly popular, but are not currently regulated by the state.

The bill:

- Creates definitions for the terms “food delivery platform,” “food service establishment,” and “purchase price” for purposes of the bill’s provisions;
- Prohibits a food delivery platform from taking and arranging for the delivery or pickup of orders from a food service establishment without the express consent of that food service establishment;
- Requires a food delivery platform to:
 - Itemize and clearly disclose the cost breakdown of each transaction and provide certain other specified information to a consumer,
 - By July 1, 2025, provide a food service establishment with a method of contacting the consumer while preparing the order and a method to respond to reviews, and
 - Remove a food service establishment’s listing on the food delivery platform within 10 days of receiving the food service establishment’s request for removal;
- Provides requirements for an agreement between a food delivery platform and a food service establishment;
- Prohibits a food delivery platform from engaging in certain activities;
- Authorizes the Division to:
 - Issue a notice to cease and desist to a food delivery platform for violations,
 - Enforce a cease and desist notice or issue an administrative fine if the food delivery platform does not cure a violation within 7 days, and
 - Receive and investigate complaints of a food delivery platform’s violation;
- Expressly preempts regulation of food delivery platforms to the state; and
- Provides appropriations to DPBR and three full-time positions for the purpose of implementing the bill.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 709 - In-store Servicing of Alcoholic Beverages

By: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Rizo

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 574

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

In Florida, the Beverage Law regulates the manufacture, distribution, and sale of wine, beer, and liquor by manufacturers, distributors, and vendors. The Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation administers and enforces the Beverage Law.

Currently, distributors of wine and beer may provide certain quality control services, or “in-store servicing,” for the products they sell to a vendor, as an exception to the three-tier system, without violating the Beverage Law. However, distributors of liquor may not provide such in-store servicing.

The bill allows distributors of liquor products to perform in-store servicing for the products they sell to a vendor.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 804 - Gaming Licenses and Permits

By: Rules; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Hutson
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 907; CS/HB 909

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Gaming

The bill revises provisions related to pari-mutuel wagering license, permit and application procedures, as follows:

- Authorizes the Commission to penalize a licensee when a person falsely swears on an application.
- Establishes email as the primary service of legal filings for the Commission, including final agency action.
- Extends the filing timeframe for pari-mutuel operating license, and thoroughbred racing, applications for licensure from December 15 - January 4, to January 15 - February 4, the issuance date from March 15 to April 15, and the application amendment date from February 28 to March 28.
- Authorizes the Commission to approve minor changes in performance dates for pari-mutuel wagering permitholders, removes the standards related to permitholders objecting to such changes, and makes it permissive, instead of mandatory, for the Commission to consider the impact of such changes to state revenues.
- Authorizes the Commission to take action against a racetrack occupational licensee who has been subject to certain federal horseracing penalties, including for a finding of a prohibited substance in an animal.
- Establishes a single audit and reporting requirement for pari-mutuel and slot machine permitholders.
- Revises the application and issuance fiscal year, submission, and issuance dates of nonwagering licenses to line up with the pari-mutuel operating license timeframes.
- Removes the authority of the Commission to conduct an eligibility investigation relating to new ownership or management interest in a nonwagering permit.
- Authorizes the Commission to waive the disqualifying offenses for slot machine occupational license applicants in certain circumstances.
- Effective upon becoming law, clarifies that certain horse racetracks in the state may continue to receive broadcasts of horseraces conducted at horse racetracks outside of Florida.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided.

CS/CS/CS/SB 812 - Expedited Approval of Residential Building Permits

By: Rules; Regulated Industries; Community Affairs; Ingoglia

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 665

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Regulated Industries; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Government Operations; Local Government

The bill:

- Requires certain local governments to create a process to expedite the issuance of building permits based on a preliminary plat and to issue the number or percentage of building permits requested by an applicant, if:
 - The governing body has approved a preliminary plat for each residential building or structure.
 - The applicant provides proof to the governing body that the applicant has provided a copy of the approved preliminary plat, along with the approved plans, to the relevant electric, gas, water, and wastewater utilities.
 - The applicant holds a valid performance bond for up to 130 percent of the necessary improvements that have not been completed upon submission of the application.
- Provides that vested rights may be formed in a preliminary plat, under certain circumstances.
- Requires certain local governments to establish a registry of at least three qualified contractors who the governing body may use to supplement staff resources, as determined by the governing body, for processing and expediting the review of an application for a preliminary plat or any related plans.
- Allows such applicant to contract to sell, but not transfer ownership of, a residential structure or building located in the subdivision where the preliminary plat was approved before the final plat is approved.
- Requires all local governments to create a master building permit process for residential subdivisions and planned communities.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 813 - Certified Public Accountants

By: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Caruso and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 954

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Financial Services

The Board of Accountancy under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) licenses certified public accountants (CPA). CPAs are allowed to request their license be placed on inactive status, or the licensee may be placed on inactive status for failing to meet the continuing professional education (CPE) requirements of 80 CPE hours every two years for license renewal. However, Florida law does not currently provide CPAs the option of placing licenses into a retired status as an alternative to an inactive status.

The bill:

- Allows a Florida-licensed CPA that is at least 65 years of age to submit an application to the DBPR to place a CPA license in a retired status if certain conditions are met.
- Provides that if a licensee with a retired status license reenters the workforce in a position that has an association with accounting or any of the CPA services, the licensee automatically loses the retired status.
- Provides a retired licensee may serve without compensation on a board of directors or board of trustees, provide volunteer tax preparation services, participate in government-sponsored business mentoring programs, or participate in an advisory role for a similar charitable, civic, or nonprofit organization.
- Provides that a retired licensee may reactivate a license in a conditional manner determined by the Florida Board of Accountancy.

Requires that a retired licensee to complete approximately 120 hours of CPE per two years as a retired licensee before becoming active.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 849 - Veterinary Practices

By: Killebrew; Buchanan and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1040

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Controlled Substances

The bill creates the Providing Equity in Telehealth Services (PETS) Act, which authorizes the practice of veterinary telehealth, as follows:

- Authorizes veterinarians practicing telehealth to perform an initial patient evaluation to establish the “veterinarian/client/patient relationship” (VCPR) if the evaluation is conducted using synchronous, audiovisual communication.
- Specifies that if a veterinarian practicing telehealth conducts a patient evaluation sufficient to diagnose and treat the patient, the veterinarian is not required to research a patient’s medical history or conduct a physical examination of the patient before using veterinary telehealth.
- Specifies that if the initial patient evaluation is performed using veterinary telehealth, the veterinarian is required to provide the client with a statement containing certain contact and follow-up care information.
- Authorizes telehealth based prescription timeframes of up to 1 month for flea and tick control drugs and 14 days for other animal drugs.
- Requires prescriptions based solely on a telehealth evaluation to be renewed with an in-person examination.
- Prohibits prescribing certain drugs and controlled substances unless the veterinarian has conducted an in-person physical examination, or made medically appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal is kept.
- Prohibits veterinarians practicing veterinary telehealth from prescribing drugs or other medications for use on horses under certain circumstances.
- Prohibits veterinarians from using veterinary telehealth to issue certain certificates of veterinary inspection.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 968 - Spaceport Territory

By: Rules; Calatayud and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 577

Committee(s) of Reference: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security;

Transportation; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Real Property; Transportation

The bill expands the definition of “spaceport discretionary capacity improvement projects” to include capacity improvements that enhance space transportation capacity on “spaceport territory.” The bill removes the requirement that a spaceport must “have had one orbital or suborbital flight during the previous calendar year or have an agreement in writing for installation of one or more regularly scheduled orbital or suborbital flights upon the commitment of funds for stipulated spaceport capital improvements” in order to be eligible to receive state funding for projects in accordance with the joint participation agreement and Space Florida’s spaceport master plan.

The bill expands the scope of strategic space infrastructure investment funding eligibility, by authorizing the Florida Department of Transportation, in consultation with Space Florida, to fund spaceport discretionary capacity improvement projects instead of limiting eligibility to strategic spaceport launch facilities investment projects.

In order for Space Florida to fund the cost of such projects up to 100 percent, on-spaceport-territory space transportation capacity improvements must be provided, instead of on-spaceport and commercial launch facility capacity improvements.

The bill designates certain real property in the following areas, as spaceport territory:

- Miami-Dade County, which was formerly included within the boundaries of Homestead Air Force Base and is included within the boundaries of Homestead Air Reserve Base or deeded to Miami-Dade County or the City of Homestead.
- Bay County, which is included within the boundaries of Tyndall Air Force Base.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1007 - Nicotine Products and Dispensing Devices

By: Commerce Committee; Appropriations Committee; Overdorf and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1006

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice

The bill:

- Grants authority to the Attorney General (AG) to create a directory of all nicotine manufacturers that sell nicotine dispensing devices which the AG has deemed attractive to minors.
- Provides that such nicotine dispensing devices may include single-use or disposable, or a device that uses sealed, prefilled, and disposable cartridge of nicotine in a solution.
- Requires the Department of Legal Affairs in the Attorney General's Office (Department) to make the directory publicly available on its website by January 1, 2025.
- Sets standards for the AG and reviewing courts to determine whom to include in the directory and how to evaluate whether the device should be in the directory.
- States that the AG's determination that a device is deemed attractive to minors and should be included in the directory is subject to review under the Florida Administrative Procedure Act.
- Provides that the AG directory does not apply to a nicotine dispensing device that has received a Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) granted marketing order.
- Provides a certain timeline for retailers and wholesalers holding a nicotine dispensing device which is on the AG directory before it is considered contraband.
- Allows a nicotine product manufacturer to be fined per day that it offers to sell a nicotine dispensing device on the AG directory beginning on March 1, 2025, or on the date that the Department first makes the directory publicly available on its website, whichever is later.
- Provides a first-degree misdemeanor for a retailer, a wholesaler, or a distributor who sells, ships, or otherwise distributes a nicotine dispensing device under certain circumstances, and provides that a violation of such is deemed an unfair and deceptive trade practice.
- Considers nicotine dispensing devices that are on the AG directory:
 - To be contraband,
 - Subject to seizure and destruction by court order under certain circumstances, and
 - Requires certain information regarding such destruction.
- Requires the Department to maintain the following information on a seized nicotine dispensing device:
 - The kinds, quantities, and forms of such devices;
 - The persons from whom such devices were seized and to whom they were delivered;
 - By whose authority such devices were seized, delivered, and destroyed; and
 - The dates of the seizure, disposal, or destruction of such devices.
- Provides agent of service procedures for a nonresident manufacturer of nicotine dispensing devices.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1021 - Community Associations

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Lopez, V. and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1178

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Ethics; Real Property

The bill:

- Requires a community association manager (CAM) to return all community association records in its possession within 20 days of the termination of a services agreement or a written request whichever occurs first.
- Provides conflict of interest disclosure requirements and a process for associations to follow when approving contracts with a CAM with a possible conflict of interest.
- Provides that on January 1, 2026, condominium associations with 25 units or more will be required to maintain specified records available for download on the association's website or by an application on a mobile device.
- Requires condominium associations to maintain additional accounting records (e.g., invoices and other documentation that substantiates any receipt or expenditure).
- Provides that a condominium association may satisfy a request for access to records by making the records available for download on the association website or through an application on a mobile device.
- Provides criminal penalties related to official records.
- Provides criminal penalties related to accepting a kickback or for fraudulent voting activities.
- Requires directors to annually complete continuing education on recent changes to the condominium laws and rules.
- Requires a residential condominium association of 10 or more units to meet at least once each quarter, and to include an opportunity for members to ask questions at least four times each year in the meeting agenda.
- Allows the condominium board with regard to the structural integrity reserve study to recommend a temporary pause in the reserve funding or reduced funding in certain circumstances.
- Clarifies and expands the jurisdiction of the Division of Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes (Division) after turnover occurs.
- Requires Division employees to refer suspected criminal activity to law enforcement agencies.
- Requires the Division to create a database on its website of the condominium and cooperative associations that have completed their structural integrity reserve study by January 1, 2025.
- Requires every contract for sale of a unit that is located within a condominium that is within a portion of a building or within a building other than a building consisting entirely of a single condominium, to include a certain disclosure.
- Requires a condominium and cooperative unit owner to electronically consent to electronic voting, in addition to doing so by written consent.
- Requires the Florida Building Commission to study standards to prevent water intrusion.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers and except as otherwise provided, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1049 - Flood Disclosure in the Sale of Real Property

By: Judiciary Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Hunschofsky and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 484

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Consumer Protection; Natural Disasters; Real Property

Under Florida law, a seller of residential real property must make certain disclosures to a buyer. Currently, Florida courts are split as to whether a property owner must disclose a tendency to flood to a buyer, and current law does not require a flood disclosure statement in a real property transaction. This may leave buyers who are not familiar with the area at a disadvantage.

The bill requires a seller of residential real property to complete and provide a disclosure form relating to flooding to a purchaser at or before the time the sales contract is executed. The bill requires the flood disclosure to be made in the following form:

- The title of the form must be labeled "FLOOD DISCLOSURE."
- A flood insurance disclaimer must be provided which states as follows: "Flood Insurance: Homeowners' insurance policies do not include coverage for damage resulting from floods. Buyer is encouraged to discuss the need to purchase separate flood insurance coverage with Buyer's insurance agent."
- The seller must state whether he or she has filed a claim with an insurance provider relating to flood damage on the property, including, but not limited to, a claim with the National Flood Insurance Program.
- The seller must state whether he or she has received federal assistance for flood damage to the property, including, but not limited to, assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For the purposes of the disclosure, the bill defines flooding as a general or temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of the property caused by any of the following:

- The overflow of inland or tidal waters.
- The unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff or surface waters from any established water source, such as a river, stream, or drainage ditch.
- Sustained periods of standing water resulting from rainfall.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1084 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1071

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Agriculture; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Local Government; Public Safety

The bill provides modifications to several agricultural, consumer services, and licensure activities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), as follows:

- Preempts the regulation of electric vehicle charging stations to the state.
- Allows pest control certificateholders flexibility in the chemicals and equipment they can use.
- Reduces continuing education requirements for certain pest control certificateholders.
- Requires certain pest control certificateholders to provide written documentation to the property owner after each inspection or treatment for the presence or absence of wood-destroying organisms.
- Prohibits certain pest control certificates from operating past the expiration date.
- Makes it a violation, and authorizes DACS to take administrative action, for providing false information or cheating on pest control or pesticide licensure examinations.
- Allows a Class "G" statewide firearm licensee to qualify for up to two calibers of firearms in one 4-hour firearm requalification class.
- Allows DACS to appoint tax collectors to accept private security, private investigative, and recovery services licenses, and to collect certain fees and provide certain services for concealed weapon or firearm licenses.
- Revises the information that charitable organizations are required to provide to DACS.
- Prohibits and creates criminal and civil penalties for the manufacture for sale, sale, or distribution of cultivated meat in the state.
- Prohibits movers from placing a shipper's goods in a self-service storage unit owned by anyone other than the mover.
- Revises the information that must be provided to DACS on a motor vehicle repair shop registration application, requires the registration fee to be calculated for each location, and raises the threshold value of repair work which requires such shops to provide a customer with a written repair estimate.
- Increases the authorized amount that DACS may spend to repair or build a structure.
- Criminalizes the destroying, harvesting, or selling of saw palmetto berries.
- Includes poultry in the definition of "livestock" as governed by the DACS Division of Animal Industry.
- Reduces the number of trespassing signs required for lands classified as commercial agricultural property, and increases criminal penalties for trespassing on such property with intent to commit a crime.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided.

CS/SB 1090 - Unauthorized Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

By: Rules; Martin

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1123

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Criminal Justice; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Criminal Justice; Local Government; Public Safety; Sentencing

Any person who wishes to sell alcohol must file an application for a license with the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (Division) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) prior to selling alcohol within the state. It is unlawful for any person to sell alcoholic beverages without a license from the Division, or to sell in a manner not permitted by his or her license.

Local governments can establish nuisance abatement boards to hear public nuisance complaints. The board may impose administrative fines and other noncriminal penalties to abate such nuisance.

The bill adjusts the penalty scheme for the unauthorized sale of alcoholic beverages in the state. If any person sells alcohol without a license, or sells alcohol not permitted by such license, the penalty remains a second-degree misdemeanor.

The bill heightens the criminal penalty from a second-degree misdemeanor to a third-degree felony for keeping and maintaining a place where alcoholic beverages are sold or intended to be sold unlawfully. The bill also creates a criminal penalty punishable by a third-degree felony for the unlicensed or unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages at a commercial establishment when committed by any person, including a licensee. A person convicted of such offenses must pay a fine of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000.

Under the bill, a person committing a second or subsequent violation of an unlawful or unlicensed sale of alcoholic beverages, keeping or maintaining a place where alcoholic beverages are sold or intended to be sold unlawfully, or unlawfully selling alcoholic beverages at a commercial establishment, commits a second-degree felony and must pay a fine of not less than \$15,000 and not more than \$20,000.

The bill also provides that a local administrative board may declare a place or premises a public nuisance if it is used on more than two occasions within a twelve-month period as the site where an unlicensed or unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages occurred, a site that kept and maintained a place where alcoholic beverages were sold or were intended to be sold unlawfully, or a site where unlawful sales of alcoholic beverages at a commercial establishment occurred.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1142 - Occupational Licensing

By: Fiscal Policy; Hooper

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1579

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Fiscal Policy

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Local Government

Construction contractors are either certified for statewide practice or registered as a locally licensed contractor by the Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB), housed within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

In 2021, HB 735 was enacted, and specifically preempted local licensing that is outside the scope of state contractor licensing provisions. In 2023, HB 1383 was enacted, which extended the expiration date for local licensing and established new specialty license categories.

The bill extends the expiration date for local licensing and establishment date for new specialty license categories to July 1, 2025.

The bill requires the CILB to issue a registration to an eligible applicant to engage in the business of contracting in a specified local jurisdiction, provided each of the following conditions are satisfied:

- The applicant held, in any local jurisdiction in Florida during 2021, 2022, or 2023, a certificate of registration issued by the state or a local license issued by a local jurisdiction to perform work in a statutory category of contractor licensed by the CILB.
- The applicant submits all of the following to the CILB:
 - Evidence of the certificate of registration or local license held by the applicant.
 - Evidence that the specified local jurisdiction does not require a license for the category of work for which the applicant was issued a certification of registration or local license.
 - Evidence that the applicant has submitted the required fee.
 - Evidence of compliance with certain insurance and financial responsibility requirements.

The bill provides that an examination is not required for an applicant seeking such a registration.

The bill provides that the CILB is responsible for disciplining licensees issued such a registration. The CILB must make such licensure and disciplinary information available through the automated information system.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1198 - Corporate Actions

By: Rules; Commerce and Tourism; Martin

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1189

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

Corporations and other business entities that do business in Florida are generally governed by the requirements in the Florida Business Corporation Act. The Department of State (DOS) is the state's central location responsible for receiving and maintaining a number of corporate records. Florida law requires certain documents to be filed with the Division of Corporations (division) of the DOS in order for a business to be organized as a business/commercial entity in Florida.

The bill provides a statutory ratification procedure for corporate actions that may not have been properly authorized and for shares that may have been improperly issued. These improperly authorized corporate actions, that would otherwise be proper, are called "defective corporate actions."

The statutory ratification process provided by the bill is intended to supplement common law ratification. Subsequent ratified defective corporate actions, under these proposed provisions, would remain subject to equitable review. The ratification procedure is intended to be available only where there is objective evidence that a corporate action was defectively implemented. The bill gives specified affected parties the ability to file motions in the circuit court of the applicable county.

The bill also provides a statutory mechanism for a registered agent to resign from more than one business entity at a time, if the specified entity has been dissolved for ten continuous years or longer, by filing a consolidated resignation statement with DOS. This mechanism applies to the following business entity types:

- Domestic and foreign LLCs;
- Domestic corporations; and
- Domestic corporations not for profit.

The bill keeps the fee to file the registered agent resignation the same for the above listed business entity types, even if filing to resign from more than one entity at a time using the consolidated resignation statement.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1203 - Homeowners' Associations

By: Commerce Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Esposito; Anderson; Porras and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7044

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Real Property

A homeowners' association (HOA) is an association of residential property owners in which voting membership is made up of parcel owners, membership is a mandatory condition of parcel ownership, and the association is authorized to impose assessments that, if unpaid, may become a lien on the parcel. HOAs may levy fines against or suspend certain access rights of a parcel owner for failing to comply with the HOA's governing documents.

The bill:

- Provides educational requirements for community association managers (CAMs) and HOA directors.
- Provides that an HOA with 100 or more parcels is required to post certain official records on the HOA's website or application, by January 1, 2025.
- Allows a parcel owner to make a written request for a detailed accounting of any amounts owed to the HOA, and the HOA must provide such information or else the board forfeits any outstanding fine under certain circumstances.
- Prohibits an HOA or its architectural, construction improvement, or other similar committee (ARC) from limiting or placing requirements on the interior of a structure that cannot be viewed from the frontage of the property, adjacent property, the adjacent common area, or community golf course.
- Prohibits an HOA or ARC from requiring the review and approval of plans and specifications for a central air-conditioning, refrigeration, heating, or ventilating system by the HOA or any ARC, or other such similar committee of an HOA, if such system is not visible from the property's frontage, adjacent property, adjacent common area, or a community golf course, and is substantially similar to a system that is approved or recommended by the HOA or a committee.
- Provides criminal penalties if an HOA officer, director, or manager accepts a kickback.
- Prohibits an HOA from preventing a homeowner from installing or displaying vegetable gardens and clotheslines in areas not visible from the frontage or adjacent properties, adjacent common area, or a community golf course.
- Makes certain voting activities relating to HOA elections a first-degree misdemeanor.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1335 - Department of Business and Professional Regulation

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Maggard and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1544

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Government Operations

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) is responsible for licensing and regulating various businesses and professions throughout the state.

The bill:

- Requires applicants and licensees for the following to create and maintain an online account for communication with DBPR:
 - Tobacco and nicotine product industry,
 - Alcohol industry,
 - CPAs and firms, and
 - Elevator industry.
- Increases the amount of the required surety bond that a tobacco product distributor must maintain with DBPR to \$25,000, from \$1,000.
- Allows DBPR to determine additional surety amounts or reduce surety amounts for tobacco products distributors based on certain factors.
- Reduces the lookback period relating to a conviction for a felony that may be used to disqualify an applicant for a license under the Beverage Law, to 10 years, from 15 years.
- Allows DBPR to perform the powers and duties of the Board of Employee Leasing Companies when a sufficient number of appointed board members do not exist to constitute a quorum.
- Increases caps on claims and lifetime limits for the Florida Homeowners' Construction Recovery Fund.
- Removes obsolete provisions from the barber and cosmetology practice acts.
- Removes certain mentorship and eligibility requirements for pilots.
- Removes certain financial responsibility proof requirements for asbestos abatement professionals.
- Allows local construction contractor licensing agencies to recommend restitution as a disciplinary action.
- Allows applicants to be a designated representative for certain pharmaceutical wholesalers to prove experience in two new ways.
- Clarifies that an exclusion from engineering licensing requirements applies to all business organizations, not just corporations.
- Allows specialty electrical contractors to perform maintenance on nonelectrical signs.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1377 - Pub. Rec./Investigations by the Department of Legal Affairs

By: State Affairs Committee; Sirois; McFarland

Tied Bills: CS/HB 1

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1491, SB 1790

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine; Technology

HB 1, to which this bill is linked, requires social media platforms to:

- Verify the age of a person wishing to open a new account, and
- Prohibit minors under 16 years of age from creating a new account.

HB 1 also requires a commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes a substantial portion of material harmful to minors on a website or application to:

- Prohibit access to such material by any person younger than 18 years of age, and
- Use certain age verification methods to verify that the age of a person attempting to access the material is 18 years of age or older.

The Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), upon belief that any social media platform or commercial entity is in violation of the provisions of HB 1, may bring an action under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. A private cause of action is permitted in certain limited circumstances.

This bill creates a public record exemption for all information held by DLA pursuant to a notification or an investigation of a violation. The bill provides that the confidential and exempt information may be released by DLA during an active investigation only in the furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities; for print, publication, or broadcast in certain instances; or to another governmental entity in the furtherance of the receiving entity's official duties and responsibilities.

Once an investigation is completed, the following information remains confidential and exempt:

- Information that is otherwise confidential or exempt;
- Personal identifying information;
- A computer forensic report;
- Information that would otherwise reveal weaknesses in data security; and
- Information that would otherwise disclose proprietary information.

The bill provides that the public record exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will repeal on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. It also includes a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

The bill was vetoed by the Governor on March 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1420 - Department of Commerce

By: Rules; Commerce and Tourism; Burgess

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1419

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Rules

Category: Commerce; Economic Development; Local Government; Military; Real Property; Transportation

The bill provides for the following changes that impact the Department of Commerce (Commerce):

- Requires Commerce to establish a Florida defense support direct-support organization (DSO) to replace the Florida Defense Support Task Force, providing for organizational composition of the DSO, revising its mission, requiring the DSO to contract with Commerce, and providing a repeal date of October 1, 2029.
- Provides that if a local government does not meet specified deadlines within the comprehensive plan amendment process, the amendment is deemed withdrawn.
- Provides that a citizen-led county charter amendment that is not required to be approved by the board of county commissioners preempting and development order, land development regulation, comprehensive plan, or voluntary annexation is prohibited unless expressly authorized in a county charter in effect before January 1, 2024.
- Removes a requirement that the Florida Sports Foundation must continue amateur sports programs previously conducted by an entity that no longer exists in statute.
- Extends the repayment period of the Local Government Emergency Revolving Bridge Loan Program to 10 years and authorizes Commerce to amend existing loans executed before February 1, 2024, to increase the loan term to 10 years from the original date of execution.
- Creates a Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program within Commerce, and requires Commerce to jointly select grants with the Florida Department of Transportation.
- Revises the term “businesses” to include healthcare facilities and allied health care opportunities, and revises the funding priority purposes to provide that certain nonprofit or local government health care facilities are eligible for funding under the Incumbent Worker Training Program.
- Specifies that board members required by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are voting members of the state workforce development board.
- Specifies that a homeowner’s association’s proposed revived governing documents must be submitted to Commerce within 60 days after obtaining certain consent or approval from certain parcel owners.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, this act shall take effect July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided.

CS/CS/HB 1491 - Pub. Rec./Investigations by the Department of Legal Affairs

By: State Affairs Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Tramont; Overdorf

Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 3

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1377, SB 1794

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine; Technology

HB 3, to which this bill is linked, requires social media platforms to:

- Prohibit minors under 14 years of age from contracting to become an account holder; and
- Prohibit minors 14 or 15 years of age from contracting to become an account holder, unless there is parental consent.

HB 3 also requires a commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes a substantial portion of material harmful to minors on a website or application to:

- Prohibit access to such material by any person younger than 18 years of age, and
- Use certain age verification methods to verify that a person attempting to access the material is 18 years of age or older.

The Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), upon belief that any social media platform or commercial entity is in violation of the provisions of HB 3, may bring an action under the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. A private cause of action is permitted in certain limited circumstances.

This bill creates a public record exemption for all information held by DLA pursuant to a notification or an investigation of a violation. The bill provides that the confidential and exempt information may be released by DLA during an active investigation only in the furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities; for print, publication, or broadcast in certain instances; or to another governmental entity in the furtherance of the receiving entity's official duties and responsibilities.

Once an investigation is completed, the following information remains confidential and exempt:

- Information that is otherwise confidential or exempt;
- Personal identifying information;
- A computer forensic report;
- Information that would otherwise reveal weaknesses in data security; and
- Information that would otherwise disclose proprietary information.

The bill provides that the public record exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will repeal on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. It also includes a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is on the same date that HB 3 or similar legislation takes effect.

CS/SB 1526 (ch. 2024-21, L.O.F.) - Local Regulation of Nonconforming and Unsafe Structures

By: Environment and Natural Resources; Avila

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1647

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Environment and Natural Resources; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Government Operations; Local Government

The bill creates the “Resiliency and Safe Structures Act,” which allows demolition of certain buildings under certain conditions, and provides that:

- A local government may not prohibit, restrict, or prevent, for any reason other than public safety, the demolition of any structure seaward of the coastal construction control line and is also a:
 - Nonconforming structure, which is a structure that does not conform to the base flood elevation requirements for new construction issued by the National Flood Insurance Program for the applicable flood zone;
 - Structure determined to be unsafe by the local building official; or
 - Structure ordered to be demolished by the local government.
- A local government may only administratively review an application for a demolition permit for such a structure for compliance with the Building Code, the Fire Prevention Code, and any regulation applicable to a similarly situated parcel, and may not impose additional local land development regulations or public hearings on an applicant for such a demolition permit.
- A local government must authorize replacement structures to be developed to the maximum height and overall building size authorized by local development regulations.
- A local government may not do any of the following:
 - Limit the development potential of replacement structures below the maximum development potential allowed by local development regulations.
 - Require replication or preservation of elements of a demolished structure.
 - Impose additional regulatory or building requirements on replacement structures or development applications not otherwise applicable to a similarly situated parcel in the same zoning district.
- A local government may not adopt or enforce a law that in any way limits application of the bill’s provisions.
- The provisions do not apply to any structure that is:
 - A single-family home,
 - Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places,
 - A contributing structure or building within a historic district which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places before January 1, 2000, or
 - On a barrier island in a municipality with a population of less than 10,000 with at least six city blocks not located in zones V, VE, AO, or AE, as identified in the Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- The provisions may be applied retroactively.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-21 Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Education & Employment Committee
Representative Ralph E. Massullo, MD, Chair
Representative Melony M. Bell, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

Representative Alex Rizo, Chair
Representative Kiyon Michael, Vice Chair

Education Quality Subcommittee

Representative Dana Trabulsky, Chair
Representative John Paul Temple, Vice Chair

Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

Representative Lauren Melo, Chair
Representative Mike Beltran, Vice Chair

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The Education & Employment Committee was not first reference on any bill that passed both houses of the Legislature.

Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

HB 523 - Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program

By: Canady; Black and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 694

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill establishes the Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program to recognize high school graduates who have met exemplary benchmarks in fine arts coursework. The bill specifies that beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the Seal of Fine Arts must be awarded to a high school student who has earned a standard high school diploma and successfully completed at least three year-long courses or earned three sequential course credits in dance, music, theatre, or the visual arts with a grade of "A" or higher in each course and meets at least two of the five additional requirements established in the law that demonstrate achievement in the fine arts.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the program and specifies requirements for the Commissioner of Education and school districts to implement the program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 883 - Short-acting Bronchodilator Use in Public and Private Schools

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Koster and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 962

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill authorizes public and private schools to acquire and stock a supply of short-acting bronchodilators and components from wholesale distributors or manufacturers at fair-market, free, or reduced prices, with specified storage and maintenance requirements. The bill also authorizes public and private schools to accept donations or transfers of these items, if the items meet the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and are in a new, unexpired, manufactured-sealed condition.

The bill authorizes specified healthcare practitioners to prescribe, and licensed pharmacists to dispense, short-acting bronchodilators and components in the name of the public or private school. The bill outlines criteria for individuals authorized to administer short-acting bronchodilators and components to students at public and private schools, and requires participating schools to inform parents of the school's adopted protocol and obtain parental permission before administering a short-acting bronchodilator or components to a student in respiratory distress emergencies.

The bill authorizes a private school asthmatic student, similar to a public school student, to carry a short-acting bronchodilator and components while in school, if a parent and physician provided approval to the principal.

The bill establishes immunity from civil and criminal liability for schools, trained school personnel, and health care practitioners who act in accordance with the provisions of the bill.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 917 - Career and Technical Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Snyder and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 460

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Commerce; Local Government; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education; Safety

The bill authorizes a minor aged 16 or 17 years to work on any residential building construction, if the minor has earned an Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) 10 certification, does not perform any work in violation of federal law or OSHA rules, does not work on any scaffolding, roof, superstructure or ladder above 6 feet, and is being supervised by an individual meeting specified criterion.

The bill revises the definition of journeyworker to include passing a state-approved industry test, if required, and modifies the criteria by which local governments must issue a journeyworker license in specified trades, and requires license reciprocity.

The bill expands the duties of the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH Office) to coordinate with relevant agencies in publishing a user-friendly statewide career and technical education asset map by March 1, 2025. The bill repeals the Florida Talent Development Council and transfers reporting duties on state nursing supply data to the REACH Office.

The bill authorizes a school district and Florida College System institution to exempt a student with a high school diploma from an eligible private school, or, for a home education or personalized education program a signed affidavit, from the basic skills requirements for specified postsecondary career education programs.

The bill authorizes district school boards, as an alternative to the required annual career fair, to consult with specified workforce groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking and exposure opportunities for elementary and secondary students.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1264 - History of Communism

By: Appropriations Committee on Education; Education Pre-K -12; Collins and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1349

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K -12; Appropriations Committee on Education; Fiscal Policy

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, that the History of Communism be included in required instruction to public school students in an age- and developmentally-appropriate manner.

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to prepare and offer standards for the instruction and authorizes the DOE to seek input from any individuals who were victims of Communism or any state or nationally recognized organizations dedicated to the victims of Communism. Additionally, the Department of State is required to collaborate with the DOE, and consult with key stakeholders, to provide a recommendation to the Legislature regarding the creation of a museum of the history of Communism.

The bill establishes the Institute for Freedom in the Americas (Institute) at Miami Dade College and requires the Institute to partner with the renamed Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom (Center), to provide networking opportunities for regional leaders to advance the understanding of democratic values. The bill requires the Institute to be supported by a direct-support organization with a five-member board.

The bill expands the goals of the Center to include educational freedom with the study and effect of government and free market economics.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1285 - Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Canady and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 996

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill makes a number of changes to Florida's K-12 public schools. Regarding school improvement and accountability, the bill requires any changes made by the State Board of Education (SBE) to components in the school grades model or school grading scale must go into effect, at the earliest, in the following school year. The bill specifies the responsibilities of a school district implementing a turnaround plan for a public school which is reopening as a charter school. The bill expands Florida's support of military families by creating the Purple Star School District Program and requires school districts and charter schools to offer students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and consult with a military recruiter.

The bill authorizes school districts to assign disruptive students to a disciplinary program or alternative school setting, but prohibits assigning students based solely on having a disability. The bill clarifies the process for students enrolled in a virtual instruction program or virtual charter school to participate in statewide, standardized assessments. The bill also revises the process to object to school district materials by limiting objections by a resident of the county who is not the parent or guardian of a student with access to school district materials to no more than one material per month.

The bill allows a classical charter school to provide an enrollment preference to students who transfer from another classical school and authorizes a charter school to provide enrollment preference to the children of specified working parents. The bill exempts an owner or lessee of a property used to house a charter school from having to make an annual ad valorem tax exemption application and authorizes a private school to use certain facilities under the facility's preexisting zoning and land use designations.

The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Education to appoint and remove the executive director for the Education Practices Commission and requires the SBE to adopt rules for the issuance of a classical education teaching certificate. The bill makes adopted instructional materials available to teacher preparation program students. The bill also appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds to provide bonuses to International Baccalaureate teachers.

The bill specifies that members of Florida College System (FCS) and State University System (SUS) boards of trustees may not do business or have any business affiliation with any institution under his or her purview and repeals the FCS Institution Employment Equity Accountability Program. The bill creates the Office of Ocean Economy at Florida Atlantic University and authorizes an Associate in Arts specialized transfer degree. The bill also prohibits a public postsecondary institution from prohibiting applicants or currently enrolled students from being employed, either full time or part time, as a condition of admission or enrollment and allows a single-document to establish residency for tuition purposes. Finally, the bill allows certain FCS institutions to reduce out of state tuition for distance learning.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1317 - Patriotic Organizations

By: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Duggan and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1016

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill defines the term “patriotic organization” as a youth membership organization serving young people under the age of 21 that is listed in specified sections of Title 36, U.S.C., with an educational purpose that promotes patriotism and civic involvement. The bill authorizes, but does not require, a school district to allow a representative of a patriotic organization the opportunity to speak with and distribute informational materials in a classroom setting to students or allow a patriotic organization to have displays at schools within the district. The bill requires a school district that authorizes access by a patriotic organization to provide a specific day and time for the patriotic organization to speak to students as well as providing notice to parents of such presentation that permits any parent to withhold consent for his or her child to participate.

The bill prohibits a school district from discriminating against patriotic organizations related to the use of any school building or property outside of the school day. However, the bill provides that a school district that allows access by a patriotic organization is not required to provide equal access to an organization that is not designated as a patriotic organization.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1403 - School Choice

By: Education & Employment Committee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Tomkow and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7048

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations

Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill expands eligibility for the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship (FTC) programs to the dependent children of an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces who has received permanent change of station orders to Florida or whose home of record or state of residence, at the time of renewal, is Florida. The bill provides that enrollment at a private school at least 2 days a week under a Personalized Education Program student learning plan does not constitute full-time enrollment for eligibility purposes. Additionally, the bill increases the growth rate of the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities (FES-UA) scholarship program cap from 3 percent to 5 percent, while providing an automatic increase of 1 percent based on demand.

The bill establishes scholarship application and renewal deadlines for Scholarship Funding Organizations (SFO) and parents. The deadlines prioritize disbursing scholarship funds to renewal students prior to new students, and authorizes FTC funds to be used for full-time private school scholarships year-round, as long as funds remain. The bill codifies deadlines for the disbursement of funds for the FES scholarship program and requires a SFO to make payment for tuition and fees for full-time enrollment within seven business days after approval by the parent and school.

The bill updates the quarterly reporting requirements for SFOs to include information on applications received, application review timeframes, reimbursements received, and reimbursement processing timeframes. Additionally, the bill requires a SFO to establish a process to collect input and feedback from parents, private schools, and providers before implementing substantial modifications or enhancements to the reimbursement process.

The bill requires a SFO to develop a purchasing handbook, specifying prohibited items and items requiring preauthorization, for submission to the DOE and authorizes DOE to fine a SFO for noncompliance. The bill requires the Center for Students with Unique Abilities to develop appropriate purchasing guidelines for recipients of the FES-UA scholarship. The bill also clarifies several authorized uses of scholarship funds, including, transition services for the FES-UA.

The bill repeals the scholarship portion of the Hope Scholarship Program, but maintains requirements for parental notification of the opportunity to enroll at another public school and scholarship eligibility to attend an eligible private school under the FES and FTC scholarship programs for students subjected to a specified incident, such as bullying or harassment, and shifts the tax credits to the FTC scholarship program. The bill clarifies that public school students receiving the New Worlds Scholarship remain eligible for transportation scholarships under the FES and FTC scholarship programs.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 1688 - Career-themed Courses

By: Osgood and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 553

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K -12; Commerce and Tourism; Rules

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires school districts to inform students and parents during course selection for middle school of the career and professional academy or career-themed course available within the district. Additionally, a school districts' Career and Professional Education Act strategic 3-year plan must include strategies to inform and promote the career and technical education (CTE) opportunities available in the district to students, parents, the community, and stakeholders.

The bill requires the Department of Education to include data collected on student achievement and performance in industry-certified career education programs and career-themed courses in the Commissioner of Education's annual CTE program review.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7002 - Deregulation of Public Schools

By: Fiscal Policy; Education Pre-K -12; and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7039

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Early Learning; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill allows district school boards to satisfy their statutory duties to provide public notices related to meetings, levying millage, and the adoption of budgets by authorizing the publication of such notices to their websites and requiring publication at least 2 days prior to the noticed meeting.

The bill repeals several obsolete or overly-burdensome reporting requirements. The bill reduces the submission of school district financial audits based on financial condition of the school district and authorizes the district school board to delegate certain authority to the superintendent.

The bill supports school districts' efforts to recruit and retain teachers by requiring the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop strategies to address critical teacher shortages areas, the Commissioner of Education to make recommendations for the retention of Exceptional Student Education (ESE) teachers, and authorizes school districts to develop and adopt their own policies relating to mentors and support for first-time teachers. The bill requires the SBE to waive initial subject area exam and certification fees for educators with, or seeking, ESE certification. The bill updates the Teacher Apprenticeship Program by expanding eligibility for applicants and mentor teachers. The bill authorizes a newly-hired Voluntary Prekindergarten Education Program instructor, 45 days after hire to complete required emergent literacy training.

The bill clarifies that certain topics may not be precluded by collective bargaining, including but not limited to, the provision of incentives to effective and highly effective teachers, incentives to teachers assigned to low-performing schools, implementation of student intervention and support strategies, and the implementation of school safety plans and requirements.

The bill clarifies the authority of a district school board to adopt exceptions to the State Requirements for Educational Facilities, extends the waiver for the cost per student station, increases the caps on day labor contractors and provides flexibility for the purchase of transportation supplies. The bill also broadens the scope of properties a district can lease or lease-purchase to include educational plants, ancillary plants, and auxiliary facilities instead of only educational facilities.

The bill authorizes, subject to SBE rule, certified educators to request that their certification be placed in inactive status and the use of a passing score on the SAT, ACT, or Classical Learning Test to satisfy the mastery of general knowledge requirement for certification.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Education Quality Subcommittee

SB 46 - Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence Program

By: Stewart

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 315

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K -12; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Rules

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill authorizes school districts participating in the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence tutoring program to also offer the program after-school and to provide a stipend to instructional personnel and high school students serving as tutors during after-school hours.

The bill specifies that unpaid hours of tutoring continue to count towards meeting community service requirements for high school graduation and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 537 - Student Achievement

By: Education & Employment Committee; Education Quality Subcommittee; Valdés and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 590

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Quality Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill establishes a two-year Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement and Success (mSCALES) Pilot Program within the Department of Education (DOE). The pilot program assists school districts in adopting music-based supplemental materials that support STEM courses for middle school students. The bill provides that the DOE is responsible for the implementation of the mSCALES pilot program, subject to an appropriation by the Legislature.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 931 - School Chaplains

By: McClain; Daniels and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1044

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Quality Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill authorizes each school district or charter school to adopt a policy to allow volunteer school chaplains to provide support, services, and programs, as assigned by the district school board or charter school governing board, to students. The bill requires each volunteer school chaplain to meet statutory background screening requirements for individuals who will have direct contact with students.

The bill requires that the volunteer school chaplain policy adopted by a school district or charter school must, at a minimum, describe the supports, services, or programs that volunteer school chaplains may be assigned; require that principals of schools with a volunteer school chaplain inform all parents of the availability of such supports, services, and programs; and require written parental consent before a student participates in or receives supports, services, and programs provided by a volunteer school chaplain. The bill requires that parents must be permitted to select a volunteer school chaplain from the list provided by the school district, which must include the chaplain's religious affiliation, if any. Any school district or charter school that adopts such a policy must publish the list of volunteer school chaplains, including any religious affiliation, on the school district's website.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1361 - Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Temple and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7038

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Quality Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill expands the eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship to include students enrolled in a Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Program, who exhibit substantial deficiencies in early literacy or mathematics skills. The bill requires school districts and VPK program providers to notify parents of eligible students of the process to request and receive a scholarship, when providing results from the administration of each progress monitoring assessment. In addition, the bill expands the credentials for eligible part-time tutors.

The bill designates the University of Florida Lastinger Center (Center) for Learning as the administrator for the New Worlds Reading Initiative, codifies the Center into law, and establishes duties for the Center.

The bill establishes the New Worlds Tutoring Program, administered by the Center, to support school districts and schools in improving kindergarten through grade 5 student achievement in reading and mathematics. In addition, the Center may award grants to provide stipends for in-person tutoring during the school day, before and after school, or during a summer program.

To expand the use of artificial intelligence the bill allows the Center to collaborate with school districts and award grants to eligible school districts. These funds may be used for subscription fees and professional learning to support and accelerate learning for students in grades 6 through 12. The bill appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds from the General Revenue Funds to the Center for the grant program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7004 - Education

By: Fiscal Policy; Education Pre-K -12; and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7025

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Early Learning; Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill provides district school boards flexibility to determine the adequate number of instructional materials in each classroom and additional time to review state-adopted instructional materials. The bill also provides superintendents with flexibility on instructional materials reporting timeframes and authorizes principals to determine whether funds for lost or damaged instructional materials should be collected.

The bill eliminates unnecessary testing by reducing the administration of the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system in the summer Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) program from 3 times per year to 2 times per year and removing the requirement for administration of the common assessment for students in Department of Juvenile Justice prevention, residential, or day treatment programs. The bill allows school districts to satisfy the requirement to offer a summer VPK program by contracting with a private provider. The bill also requires that certain VPK students who demonstrate a substantial deficiency in reading or mathematics be referred to the local school district to receive additional instruction prior to entering kindergarten.

The bill strengthens the role of the parent in retention and remediation decisions for students in kindergarten through grade 2 and students who have been promoted to 4th grade with a good cause exemption.

The bill allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to provide a school implementing a turnaround plan additional time to implement a community school model if the school has received a community school planning grant. The bill removes a requirement for school districts to offer virtual instruction. The bill provides that a student who has reached the age of 16 and who has filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment may take the GED assessment without an extraordinary exemption.

The bill removes obsolete SBE requirements including establishing certain tuition and out-of-state fees, identifying performance metrics for the Florida College System (FCS), and developing a plan that specifies goals and objectives for each FCS institution.

Finally, the bill repeals the Competency-Based Pilot Program and the single-gender programs requirements, and repeals reporting relating to fine arts, charter technical career centers, middle grades career courses, academically high-performing school districts, Committee of Practitioners under the No Child Left Behind Act, and duplicative community assessment feedback reports.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

CS/SB 62 - Resident Status for Tuition Purposes

By: Education Postsecondary; Osgood and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 767

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Appropriations Committee on Education; Fiscal Policy

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill provides that an individual classified as a resident for tuition purposes may not lose his or her resident status for tuition purposes solely by reason of incarceration in a state or federal correctional facility in this state.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 217 - College Campus Facilities in Areas of Critical State Concern

By: Appropriations Committee; Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee; Mooney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 222

Committee(s) of Reference: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill expands the categories of non-students that may be housed at a College of Florida Keys (CFK) dormitory to include healthcare workers. Additionally, the bill increases the cap on non-student beds at such dormitories from 25 to 50.

The bill also clarifies which revenues may be used for construction, debt service payments, maintenance, or operation of such dormitories and authorizes the CFK to use grants and donations for capital outlay, as well as revenues from the capital improvement fee, for such purposes. The bill does not authorize a new fee.

Lastly, the bill requires the Division of Bond Finance to analyze financing for dormitories prior to the issuance of any bonds.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 494 - Graduate Program Admissions

By: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Education Postsecondary; Avila and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 511

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Rules

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Military; Post-Secondary Education

The bill requires an institution of higher education to waive the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for servicemembers who apply for admission to a graduate program that requires such examination.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 522 (ch. 2024-43, L.O.F.) - Tallahassee Community College

By: Simon

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 501

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Rules

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill changes the name of 'Tallahassee Community College' to 'Tallahassee State College.' Tallahassee Community College has met the criteria for seeking a name change from the Legislature.

The bill became law on March 27, 2024, chapter 2024-43, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

SB 832 - Employment of Individuals with Disabilities

By: Calatayud

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 1137

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K -12; Commerce and Tourism; Rules

Category: Commerce; Economic Development; Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education; Social Services

The bill requires the designated agencies in the Employment First Act (act) to collaborate on the collection and sharing of data. The bill requires that accountability measures identified under the act must include systemwide measures to increase the number of individuals working in competitive integrated employment, decrease the number of individuals working in subminimum wage employment, and decrease the number of individuals working in nonintegrated employment settings.

The bill requires the Office of Reimagining Education and Career Help to issue an annual statewide report, by December 1 each year, on the implementation of the act and progress of the identified accountability measures.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1291 - Educator Preparation Programs

By: Education & Employment Committee; Snyder; Jacques and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1372

Committee(s) of Reference: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill prohibits teacher preparation programs, Educator Preparation Institutes (EPI), and Professional Learning Certification Programs, and Level I and Level II school leader preparation programs from distorting significant historical events or including a curriculum or instruction that teaches identity politics, violates the Florida Educational Equity Act, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.

The bill requires all teacher preparation programs, EPIs, and Professional Learning Certification Programs to afford candidates the opportunity to think critically, achieve mastery of academic program content, learn instructional strategies, and demonstrate competence. The bill requires Level I and Level II school leader preparation programs to afford candidates the opportunity to demonstrate mastery of program content, including instructional leadership strategies, coaching development, school safety, and continuous improvement efforts.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7032 - Education

By: Appropriations; Education Postsecondary

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 7051

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill creates the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program, GATE Scholarship Program, GATE Startup Grant Program, and GATE Program Performance Fund, to provide individuals aged 16 to 21 who have withdrawn from high school the opportunity to earn, at no cost, a standard high school diploma, or equivalent, and a workforce credential. The bill provides eligibility criteria and defines the programs and certificates that may be offered.

The GATE Scholarship Program will, subject to appropriation, reimburse participating institutions for costs incurred from waiving tuition & fees for students participating in the GATE program during their first semester. After a student's first semester, a participating institution must prioritize state aid provided by the Open Door Grant Program, to pay student tuition & fees prior to waiving such costs and seeking reimbursement.

Subject to appropriation, the GATE Startup Grant Program will provide funds to start GATE programs and increase access to adult and career education in rural areas.

The GATE Program Performance Fund will reward participating institutions \$1000, or \$500 each if there are two participating institutions, for successful student outcomes. In order to receive performance funding, a student must complete the GATE program by earning a standard high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma and a credential on the Master Credential List within 3 years. If funds are insufficient to fully fund the calculated total award, the bill requires such performance funds to be prorated among the institutions.

Finally, the bill expands Open Door Grant Program eligibility by including adult secondary education programs.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Health & Human Services Committee
Representative Randy Fine, Chair
Representative David Borrero, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

Representative Traci Koster, Chair
Representative Patt Maney, Vice Chair

Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee

Representative Michelle Salzman, Chair
Representative Kimberly Berfield, Vice Chair

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SB 322 (ch. 2024-13, L.O.F.) - Public Records and Meetings

By: Burton

Tied Bills: CS/SB 7016

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7041

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services

CS/SB 7016 authorizes Florida to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact. Each of these compacts require compact member states to share certain licensure and personal identifying information concerning physicians, speech-language pathologists, audiologists, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants authorized to practice under their respective compact. The compacts further require that certain meetings be closed to the public.

The bill creates a public record exemption for certain licensure and personal identifying information, other than the name, licensure information, or licensure number, for providers authorized to practice under each compact, obtained from the data system and held by the Department of Health or the applicable board from public record requirements, unless the laws of the state that originally reported the information authorizes disclosure.

The bill creates a public meeting exemption for commission meetings of each compact, or portions of such meetings, at which matters exempt from public disclosure by federal or state law are discussed. The bill provides that any recordings, minutes, and records generated from such a meeting, or portions of such meeting, are also exempt from public record requirements.

The bill repeals the public record and public meeting exemptions October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. It also provides a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

The bill became law on March 21, 2024, chapter 2024-13, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/SB 330 (ch. 2024-12, L.O.F.) - Behavioral Health Teaching Hospitals

By: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Boyd and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1617

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations

Category: Budget; Economic Development; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners;

Health Services; Mental Health; Post-Secondary Education; Social Services; Substance Abuse

The bill establishes a behavioral health teaching hospital program. It:

- Establishes standards for behavioral health teaching hospitals;
- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to designate four specific hospitals as behavioral health teaching hospitals within 30 days after the act becomes law;
- Authorizes AHCA to designate other eligible hospitals as behavioral health teaching hospitals, starting July 1, 2025;
- Requires AHCA to award each designated behavioral health teaching hospital funds for up to 10 new residency slots and for workforce development programs; and
- Establishes a competitive grant program for the first four designated behavioral health teaching hospitals starting November 1, 2024, and for all designated behavioral health teaching hospitals beginning on October 1, 2025.

The bill establishes the Florida Center for Behavioral Health Workforce (Center) at the Louis de la Parte Florida Institute for Mental Health at the University of South Florida. The bill authorizes the Center to perform original research, policy analysis, and to develop and share best practices that advance the behavioral health professions.

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to perform a comprehensive, systematic study of the behavioral health supply-and-demand relationship in Florida. DCF must complete the study by January 31, 2025.

The bill appropriates:

- \$300 million in nonrecurring funds for the grant program, for use in \$100 million increments over the next three fiscal years;
- \$6 million in recurring funds for residencies through the Slots for Doctors Program and \$2 million in recurring funds for workforce development programs through the Training, Education and Clinicals in Health Funding Program, for the first four designated behavioral health teaching hospitals; and
- \$5 million in recurring funds to operate the Center.

The bill became law on March 21, 2024, chapter 2024-12, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2025; except for provisions related to the DCF study which are effective upon the act becoming law.

CS/SB 1600 - Interstate Mobility

By: Fiscal Policy; Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1273

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Regulated Industries; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Economic Development; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Repeals of Existing Laws; Safety

The bill revises or creates licensure by endorsement for numerous businesses and professionals regulated by the Department of Health (DOH) or the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR).

The bill authorizes licensure by endorsement for 17 professions regulated by DOH. The bill repeals existing licensure by endorsement statutes for all other health care professions regulated by DOH, excluding radiation technicians and respiratory therapists, and establishes a standardized process for licensure by endorsement for all health care professions. The bill requires DOH and the boards to issue a license to a qualified applicant within seven days after receipt of all required documentation. The bill allows DOH to continue to process applications for licensure by endorsement under existing law until the earlier of the board or DOH adopting rules to implement the provisions of this bill or six months.

The bill requires DOH to submit an annual report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives related to the approval and denial of applications for licensure by endorsement, and disciplinary actions taken against such licensees.

The bill authorizes DBPR to issue a license by endorsement to an applicant who meets certain criteria if licensure by endorsement based on years of licensure or certain examination or experience requirement is not otherwise provided for in the practice act, excluding harbor pilots. The bill requires that a board, or DBPR, to make a determination that the applicant's license in another jurisdiction is not substantially equivalent to or is otherwise insufficient for a license in Florida before denying an application. The bill grants such an applicant seven days to appeal the denial to the Secretary of DBPR.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7016 (ch. 2024-15, L.O.F.) - Health Care

By: Fiscal Policy; Health Policy

Tied Bills: SB 322

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1549

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Budget; Controlled Substances; Federal Government; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Higher Education and Employment; Insurance; Mental Health; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education; Repeals of Existing Laws; Safety; Social Services; Substance Abuse; Technology

The bill revises or creates numerous provisions of Florida law relating to the state's health care workforce, health care services, health care practitioner licensure and regulation, health care facility licensure and regulation, the Medicaid program, health-care-related education programs and health care services programs. Specifically, the bill revises:

- The Dental Student Loan Repayment Program;
- The Florida Reimbursement Assistance for Medical Education Program;
- The Telehealth Minority Maternity Care Program;
- The Statewide Medicaid Residency Program; and
- The Access to Health Care Act.

The bill amends statutes relating to:

- Mobile response team standards;
- Licensure for foreign-trained physicians;
- Certification of foreign medical schools;
- Medical faculty certificates;
- Autonomous-practice nurse midwives;
- Developmental research laboratory schools; and
- The Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund.

The bill creates:

- The Health Care Screening and Services Grant Program;
- An advanced birth center designation;
- The Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health Funding Program;
- Emergency department diversion requirements for hospitals and Medicaid managed care plans;
- A requirement for an annual report on potentially preventable health care events in the Medicaid program by the Agency for Health Care Administration;
- Limited licenses for graduate assistant physicians; and
- Temporary certificates for physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to practice in areas of critical need.

The bill adopts the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact, and the Physical Therapy Licensure Compact.

The bill appropriates \$717,105,294 (\$327,389,679 recurring general revenue (GR), \$3,014,032 nonrecurring GR, \$384,536,016 recurring Trust Fund (TF) and \$2,166,567 nonrecurring TF to implement the bill's provisions.

The bill became law on March 21, 2024, chapter 2024-15, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date; except for various appropriations which become effective July 1, 2024, or October 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7072 - Cancer Funding

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

Tied Bills: SB 7078

Companion Bills: HB 7087

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Budget; Ethics; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Research Integrity

The bill revises the purpose of the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program (program) to include promoting the provision of high-quality, innovative health care for persons undergoing cancer treatment in Florida.

The bill creates the Cancer Connect Collaborative council (collaborative) to advise the Department of Health (DOH) and the Legislature on developing a holistic approach to the state's efforts to fund cancer research, cancer facilities, and treatments for cancer patients. The bill requires the collaborative to develop a long-range comprehensive plan for the program and submit the plan to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2024. The bill also tasks the collaborative with administering the Cancer Innovation Fund: the collaborative will review grant applications and make recommendations to DOH for grant awards to support innovative cancer research and treatment models.

The bill increases the membership of the Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council (council) from 15 to 16 people, adding a representative of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, and adjusts the quorum.

The bill requires DOH, in conjunction with participating cancer centers, to submit an annual report to the council and the collaborative on metrics relating to cancer mortality and external funding for cancer-related research in Florida. DOH must submit this report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by September 15 of each year.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 7078 - Public Records and Meetings/Cancer Research Grant Applications

By: Fiscal Policy and others

Tied Bills: CS/SB 7072

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Research Integrity

CS/SB 7072 establishes the Cancer Connect Collaborative (collaborative) to advise the Department of Health (DOH) and the legislature on developing a holistic approach to the state's efforts to fund cancer research, cancer facilities, and treatments for cancer patients.

The bill creates a public records exemption for proprietary business information contained in grant applications and in collaborative records. The records may be released with certain consent, or by a court for good cause. The bill also creates a public meeting exemption for portions of the collaborative's meetings at which proprietary business information contained in grant applications is discussed. Recordings of the meetings may be released with certain consent, or by a court for good cause.

The bill repeals the public record and public meeting exemptions October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is on the same date that CS/SB 7072 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

HB 7085 - Sickle Cell Disease

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Skidmore; Driskell and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services

The bill creates the Sickle Cell Disease Research and Treatment Grant Program (grant program) within the Department of Health (DOH) to fund projects that improve the quality and accessibility of health care that is available to people living with sickle cell disease (SCD) in Florida.

Under the grant program, the Office of Minority Health and Health Equity, within DOH, will award grants to community-based SCD treatment and research centers to fund the development and operation of SCD Centers of Excellence, as well as the cultivation of a health care workforce that is prepared to address the unique needs of patients with SCD.

The bill also revises the SCD registry that exists under current law. The bill clarifies the role of screening providers, DOH, and primary care physicians in the administrative processes related to the registry. The bill expands the sickle cell registry to allow adults with sickle cell disease to voluntarily enter the registry.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming law.

HB 7089 - Health Care Expenses

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Grant

Tied Bills:

Companion Bills: SB 1502, CS/SB 1640

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Budget; Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Ethics; Federal Government; Financial Services; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance; Real Property; Repeals of Existing Laws; Safety; Social Services

The bill establishes standards for medical billing and health care price transparency, and regulates contractual relationships between the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and community-based child welfare lead agencies (CBCs).

The bill requires hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) to publish the costs of at least 300 shoppable services or provide an internet-based tool which meets federal standards. The bill defers compliance for ASCs to January 1, 2026 for this provision. The bill requires hospitals and ASCs to establish an internal grievance process for patient billing disputes. Hospitals and ASCs must disclose when an insured patient's cost-sharing amount exceeds a non-insured person's cash price or pay a maximum fine of \$500 per incident. The bill requires hospitals and ASCs provide each patient with an estimate and health plans to develop an advanced explanation of benefits within certain time standards. The bill requires health plans to count shared savings incentives as medical expenses for rate development and filing purposes.

The bill prohibits hospitals and ASCs from filing an extraordinary collection action for medical debt. The bill implements a three-year statute of limitation period beginning on the date the hospital or ASC refers the medical debt to a third party. The bill exempts up to \$10,000 of a debtor's property from attachment, garnishment, or other legal action by a hospital or ASC to recover a medical debt.

The bill reforms the contractual rights and obligations between DCF and CBCs. It establishes related party requirements to screen conflicts of interests before a CBC subcontracts or transacts with related parties, and subjects a CBC to a systematic approval process before DCF authorizes a CBC to exceed the direct services threshold limitation. The bill creates penalties and contractual remedies to address violations of procurement law, breach of contract, or deficient performance of contract.

The bill charges DCF to establish a new CBC funding methodology for the allocation of core service funds in collaboration with the CBCs and other child welfare service providers. DCF must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by December 1, 2024, documenting the proposed funding methodology. In addition, the bill establishes a DCF working group to study, evaluate, and offer recommendations relating to contractual and funding matters in the privatized child welfare system.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of the bill is July 1, 2024; except for the provisions related to good faith estimates and advanced explanations of benefits which are effective and contingent upon certain federal action.

Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

HB 73 - Supported Decisionmaking Authority

By: Tant; Koster and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 446

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Court Administration; Courts; Health; Health Services; Pre-K through 12 Education; Real Property; Safety; Social Services

The bill establishes a supportive decisionmaking agreement for individuals with disabilities as a type of power of attorney. The agreement authorizes a supporter to help the individual with disabilities with communication and decisionmaking but cannot bind the individual with disabilities to any action. The bill also adds the agreement to the list of authorized documents which may be used for parental involvement in educational decisionmaking.

The bill requires a circuit court to consider the specific needs and abilities of an individual with disabilities when determining whether to approve a request for a guardian advocate. When issuing a guardian advocate order, the court must identify the alternatives considered and articulate why those other alternatives were deemed not sufficient.

For a petition for incapacity, the bill requires the court to address whether an alleged incapacitated individual needs assistance to exercise rights, and what level of assistance. An examining committee on incapacity must also allow another person to help an alleged incapacitated individual communicate when requested by that individual's court-appointed counsel.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 564 - Young Adult Aftercare Services

By: Fiscal Policy; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Garcia and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 631

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Budget; Economic Development; Federal Government; Health; Health Services; Higher Education and Employment; Mental Health; Post-Secondary Education; Social Services

The bill expands access to aftercare services for certain young adults who were formerly in the child welfare system. Subject to available funding, the bill makes aftercare services available to young adults who are between the ages of 18 and 22, were previously adjudicated dependent during their childhood, lived in out-of-home care for at least 6 months after turning age 14, and did not achieve reunification with their parents or guardians.

The bill also authorizes Department of Children and Families to distribute emergency federal funding to all young adults deemed eligible by the federal funding source in the event of a state or national emergency.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 591 - Hot Car Death Prevention

By: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Brannan; Smith and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 554

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services; Transportation

The bill creates "Ariya's Act". The bill designates April as "Hot Car Death Prevention Month" to raise public awareness of the dangers of leaving children unattended in motor vehicles and to educate the public on how to prevent children from dying of vehicular heatstroke. The bill encourages certain state agencies and other entities to sponsor events that promote awareness of the dangers of leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle and methods to prevent hot car deaths of children.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1065 - Substance Abuse Treatment

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Caruso and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1180

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Ways & Means Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Controlled Substances; Health; Health Care Facilities; Local Government; Social Services; Substance Abuse

The bill revises regulation of certified recovery residences and substance abuse providers.

The bill requires certified recovery residences to be classified in one of four levels of care. It also prohibits a recovery residence from denying an individual access to the residence solely on the basis that the individual has been prescribed federally approved medication for the treatment of substance use disorders. The bill prohibits a local ordinance or regulation from regulating the duration or frequency of a resident's stay in a certified recovery residence located within a multifamily zoning district.

The bill extends the timeframe in which a certified recovery residence must replace a certified recovery residence administrator (CRRRA) from 30 days to 90 days, and revises the requirements for CRRRA background screening and the number of residents a CRRRA may actively oversee.

The bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families to issue one license for all eligible service components operated by a substance abuse service provider, rather than issuing a separate license for each service component.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1083 - Permanency for Children

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Appropriations Committee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Trabulsy; Abbott and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1486

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Budget; Civil Justice; Courts; Criminal Justice; Federal Government; Government Operations; Health Care Practitioners; Law Enforcement; Public Employees; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services; Technology

The bill revises certain dependency court procedures, child welfare services, and adoption protocols.

The bill revises dependency proceedings by deeming an individual's personal appearance at an advisory hearing on the termination of parental rights to be a waiver of service of process and by creating an emergency process to modify a child's court-approved placement. The bill creates a legal process for orphaned children to properly adjudicate them dependent. The bill designates the Department of Children and Families (DCF) as the state agency responsible for conducting criminal background checks of both out-of-home care household members and certain visitors when DCF arranges an emergency placement in out-of-home care for a child.

The bill expands eligibility for certain child welfare independent living programs by lowering the eligibility age from 16 to 14.

The bill modifies the child welfare adoption process by shifting judicial review of DCF's decision on a child welfare adoption application from a ch. 120 administrative process to the dependency court. The bill requires DCF to adopt rules to streamline adoptions for active duty service members. The bill restricts public access to the DCF statewide adoption exchange for child welfare adoptions. The bill expands the DCF adoption incentive award program by making certain healthcare practitioners and tax collectors eligible for the one-time, lump-sum payment, and by increasing incentive amounts to \$10,000 per child and \$25,000 per difficult-to-place child.

The bill changes procedures for both child welfare system and private adoption fees. The bill:

- Requires a court order to authorize an adoption entity to charge or pay for certain adoption fees, costs, and expenses that exceed certain statutory threshold amounts, including an explanation of why the payments are reasonable; and
- Requires adoption entities to file quarterly reports with DCF, beginning January 1, 2025, which document both certain demographic information and adoption fees for each finalized adoption.

The bill prohibits adoption-related advertisements by non-adoption entities through certain media, applicable to both child welfare system and private adoptions.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024; except for the provision relating to the quarterly finalized adoption reports which is effective January 1, 2025.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1224 - Protection of Children and Victims of Crime

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Burton and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 185

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Health; Health Services; Law Enforcement; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services

The bill addresses guardians ad litem (GAL) and attorneys ad litem (AAL) in the child welfare system, and lethality assessments in domestic violence cases.

The bill requires the court to appoint a GAL for a child in the dependency system to represent that child throughout dependency proceedings, including appeals. The GAL may also represent the child outside the dependency system to secure services and benefits for the care, safety, and protection of the child.

The bill requires the Statewide GAL Office to:

- Update the GAL training program unilaterally and regularly;
- Develop an AAL training program and recruit and mentor AALs;
- Assist chief judges who maintain AAL registries; and
- Help dependent children establish a mentorship with at least one supportive adult.

The bill also establishes the Fostering Prosperity grant program, subject to legislative appropriation, to help youth transition from foster care to independent adult living, and requires increased GAL involvement in, and court attention to, ensuring a youth aging out of care has a permanent connection to a caring adult.

Related to domestic violence cases, the bill requires a law enforcement officer who investigates an alleged incident of domestic violence to administer a lethality assessment and record the score on the police report, or, if the victim cannot provide sufficient information for the officer to administer the lethality assessment, to refer the victim to the nearest certified domestic violence center.

The bill requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to develop policies, procedures, and training for a statewide, evidence-based, domestic violence lethality assessment no later than January 1, 2025, and to submit several reports about lethality assessments to the Legislature. The bill requires each law enforcement agency to ensure its officers complete lethality assessment training and certify to FDLE by November 1, 2026, that the agency complies with the lethality assessment training requirements for the sworn personnel.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1267 - Economic Self-sufficiency

By: Appropriations Committee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Anderson and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7052

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Budget; Early Learning; Economic Development; Federal Government; Pre-K through 12 Education; Social Services

The bill revises various components of several public benefits programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) program, and the School Readiness (SR) program.

The bill allows TCA recipients who do not possess a high school completion credential or the equivalent to satisfy their work requirements by participating in adult basic education or high school equivalency examination preparation for at least 20 hours per week.

The bill requires Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) to provide case management services as a transitional benefit for families exiting TCA. The bill directs the Department of Commerce (Commerce) to develop training for the LWDBs relating to case management methods and welfare transition services generally. The bill requires CareerSource Florida, in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Commerce, to develop standardized intake and exit surveys to be administered to TCA recipients by the Local Workforce Development Boards.

The bill requires Commerce to integrate a financial forecasting tool into the workforce service delivery system, and make it available to TCA recipients, individuals transitioning off of TCA, and families participating in the SR Plus program.

The bill creates the SR Plus program within the Department of Education (DOE), which maintains child care benefits on a first-come, first-served, basis for families who become ineligible for the traditional SR program due to earned income, while still being unable to afford child care at the market rate. For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the bill provides \$23 million in nonrecurring funds to DOE to implement the SR Plus program.

The bill also requires DCF to expand mandatory SNAP E&T participation to include adults ages 50-59, who have no children in the home and do not qualify for an exemption.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1758 (ch. 2024-14, L.O.F.) - Individuals with Disabilities

By: Fiscal Policy; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Brodeur and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1271

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Fiscal Policy

Category: Budget; Federal Government; Government Operations; Health; Health Services; Social Services; Technology

The bill makes changes to the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services waiver (HCBS) program administered by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). The bill changes pre-enrollment category 4 by expanding it to those with caregivers age 60 or older, instead of age 70 and older. The bill directs APD to enroll all individuals in pre-enrollment categories 3, 4, and 5, an estimated 600 people, and appropriates \$38.85 million in recurring funds for this purpose.

The bill requires APD to offer waiver applicants care navigation services at the time of application and renewal in the iBudget system, including assessment and identification of the client's needs, plans, goals, and available community resources. The bill requires public schools to integrate these care plans for students with individual education plans. When developing or reviewing a client's care plan, the support coordinator must include information about the consumer-directed care program option.

The bill requires APD to implement an online application process, maintain a paper application process, and permit applicants to also fax or mail applications. The bill establishes timeframes for confirmation of receipt of an application, and requires the online application system allow clients to review their application status. The bill requires APD to process applications within 15 days of receipt for an applicant in crisis and 60 days for all other applicants.

The bill transfers the Florida Unique Abilities Partner Program (Program) from the Department of Commerce to APD, requires APD to report on the number of businesses designated as Program Partners, targeted marketing campaigns, partner postings of employment opportunities, and partner use of the Program.

The bill requires APD and AHCA to jointly develop a plan for a comprehensive HCBS waiver focused on Medicaid clients transitioning into adulthood. The bill authorizes AHCA to contract with necessary experts, consult with stakeholders, and work with APD to develop the plan which includes specific minimum components. APD must submit a report to the Legislature and the Governor by December 1, 2024.

The bill became law on March 21, 2024, chapter 2024-14, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 7021 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Maney and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 7023

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1784

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Budget; Controlled Substances; Courts; Criminal Justice; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Law Enforcement; Mental Health; Public Safety; Repeals of Existing Laws; Safety; Social Services; Substance Abuse

The bill modifies the Baker and Marchman Acts to improve the processes for obtaining mental health and substance abuse examinations and treatment. For the Baker Act, the bill:

- Grants law enforcement officers discretion in initiating voluntary exams;
- Requires the 72-hour examination period to begin when a patient arrives at the facility;
- Permits a county transportation plan to allow for other jurisdictions to pay for alternate transportation;
- Combines processes for court orders to streamline the process for obtaining involuntary services; expand courts authority to commit a person to involuntary services; and authorize courts to order a person to a combination of involuntary outpatient services and involuntary inpatient placement, based on the needs of the individual;
- Authorizes remote appearances for the state attorney and witnesses for hearing proceedings;
- Allows individuals under age 18 to obtain involuntary outpatient services;
- Allows a service provider to petition for involuntary services;
- Removes the 30-bed cap for crisis stabilization units;
- Extends the maximum period a person may be ordered to involuntary outpatient services from 90 days to 6 months;
- Revises practitioner responsibilities within receiving and treatment facilities; and
- Exempts certain licensed physicians and nurses from background screening requirement for employment for mental health and substance abuse programs if certain criteria are met.

For the Marchman Act, the bill:

- Streamlines petition and hearing procedures to allow longer-term treatment;
- Combines the two-petition process—for assessment and stabilization, and for treatment—into one process;
- Requires the court to inform a respondent of the right to request an independent assessment;
- Reduces the court's timeframe to schedule a hearing from 15 days to 10 days;
- Allows the person who filed a petition for an initial treatment order to petition to extend such treatment if the petition includes supporting documentation from the service provider;
- Allows service providers to exceed licensed bed capacity on a limited basis under certain circumstances;
- Authorizes remote appearances for witnesses for hearing proceedings; and
- Requires the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute to publish an annual Marchman Act report.

The bill aligns elements of the Baker and Marchman Acts, such as requiring courts to allow relevant testimony from family members, medical professionals and other specified individuals regarding the patient's prior history, and requiring the assessment of an adult respondent within 72 hours and a minor within 12 hours after arrival at a licensed service provider. The bill also requires providers to engage in a more comprehensive and personalized discharge planning process under both the Baker and Marchman Acts to improve well-being post discharge.

The bill revises provisions regarding the process of moving a criminal defendant adjudicated incompetent to proceed from forensic commitment to civil commitment. The bill allows courts to proceed directly to proceedings for longer-term civil commitment for such persons.

The bill appropriates \$50 million in recurring funds to DCF to implement the provisions of the bill.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee

CS/CS/SB 66 - Revive Awareness Day

By: Rules; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Brodeur and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 89

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Controlled Substances; Health; Health Services; Public Safety; Safety; Substance Abuse

The bill creates “Victoria’s Law,” and designates June 6 of each year as “Revive Awareness Day.” The bill authorizes the Governor to issue an annual proclamation designating June 6 as “Revive Awareness Day” and encourages the Department of Health to hold events to raise awareness of the dangers of opioid overdose and the availability and safe use of opioid antagonists.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/HB 159 - HIV Infection Prevention Drugs

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Franklin; Trabulsy and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1320

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Safety

The bill allows licensed pharmacists to screen adults for exposure to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and provide the results of such screening. A pharmacist who has screened a patient for HIV must advise the patient to seek further medical consultation or treatment from a physician.

The bill also authorizes a pharmacist to become certified to order and dispense HIV infection prevention drugs, specifically HIV postexposure prophylaxis, under a collaborative practice agreement with a physician. The bill establishes minimum requirements for the certification and the content of the collaborative practice agreement. The bill requires pharmacies in which a pharmacist provides services under such an agreement to submit an access-to-care plan to the Board of Pharmacy and Department of Health.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 168 - Congenital Cytomegalovirus Screenings

By: Health Policy; Polsky

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 499

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Social Services

The bill requires hospitals to screen certain newborns for congenital cytomegalovirus (CCMV) within 21 days of birth. This applies to newborns admitted to a neonatal intensive care unit for cardiac care, for medical or surgical treatment with an anticipated hospital stay of greater than three weeks, or due to premature birth prior to 35 weeks gestation. If a newborn is transferred to a hospital for a higher level of care, the receiving hospital must initiate the screening, unless screening has been initiated by the birthing hospital.

The bill requires the Department of Health to refer children diagnosed with CCMV to the Children's Medical Services Early Intervention Program and deem them eligible for a baseline evaluation and any medically necessary follow-up reevaluations and monitoring.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 186 - Progressive Supranuclear Palsy and Other Neurodegenerative Diseases Policy Committee

By: Health Policy; Brodeur and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 115

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services

The bill creates the Justo R. Cortes Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Act to require the State Surgeon General to establish a policy committee on progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) and other neurodegenerative diseases. The bill tasks the committee with identifying PSP incidence and other data, identifying the standard of care for PSP, and developing a risk surveillance system and various policy recommendations, among other tasks.

The bill requires the State Surgeon General to submit a progress report detailing committee activities, as well as findings and recommendations, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 4, 2025. The bill also requires the State Surgeon General to submit a final report to the Governor and the Legislature by January 4, 2026.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 197 - Health Care Practitioners and Massage Therapy

By: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Lopez, V. and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 896

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Criminal Justice; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Safety; Safety

The bill establishes new requirements for massage therapists and establishments. The bill expressly prohibits any sexual activity in a massage establishment and prohibits the use of an establishment to arrange for sexual activity in another location, and requires all employees to be fully clothed while in the establishment. The bill prohibits massage therapists, massage establishments, and massage establishment employees from advertising in any medium that expressly or implicitly advertises prostitution, escort, or other sexual services. The bill imposes requirements related to massage establishment office space, recordkeeping, and advertising, and expands the circumstances in which a massage establishment may be declared a public nuisance. The bill also requires the Department of Health (DOH) to issue an emergency suspension of the license of a massage therapist and massage establishment upon an arrest for certain crimes, rather than only upon conviction. The bill changes the quorum of Board of Massage Therapy from four members to a majority of the membership.

The bill requires DOH to issue an emergency order suspending the license of any licensed health care professional upon a finding that probable cause exists to believe that the licensee has committed sexual misconduct and that such act constitutes an immediate danger to the public.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 201 - Emergency Refills of Insulin and Insulin-related Supplies or Equipment

By: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Bell and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 516

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Safety

The bill expands pharmacist authorization to provide emergency insulin prescription refills. It authorizes a pharmacist to dispense an emergency refill of insulin and insulin-related supplies or equipment to treat diabetes up to three nonconsecutive times per calendar year, if the pharmacist is unable to readily obtain refill authorization from a prescriber.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 415 - Pregnancy and Parenting Resources Website

By: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Jacques and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 436

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Social Services

The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH), in partnership with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), to contract with a third-party to create a comprehensive website that provides information and links to public and private pregnancy and parenting resources. The bill requires DOH, DCF, and AHCA to include a clear and conspicuous link to the website on their respective websites.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 544 - Swimming Lesson Voucher Program

By: Health Policy; Hutson and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 581

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Health; Safety; Social Services

The bill creates the Swimming Lesson Voucher Program within the Department of Health (DOH). The program will offer vouchers for swimming lessons to families with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level that have one or more children age four and under. The bill requires DOH to establish eligibility criteria for the voucher program, contract with a network of swimming lesson vendors, and establish methods for members of the public to apply for vouchers.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 775 - Surrendered Infants

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Canady; Beltran and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 790

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services

The bill increases the age limit for a parent to surrender an infant from 7 days old to 30 days old. The bill authorizes a parent, after delivery of an infant in a hospital, to leave the infant with medical staff or a licensed health care professional if the parent notifies them that the parent is voluntarily surrendering the infant and does not intend to return. The bill also authorizes a parent to surrender an infant by calling 911 and requesting an emergency medical services provider to meet the surrendering parent at a specified location.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 855 - Dental Services

By: Health & Human Services Committee; McClure; Berfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 302

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Safety; Technology

The bill requires dentists to provide each patient with the dentist's name, contact telephone number, after-hours contact information for emergencies, and license information; failure to do so constitutes grounds for discipline. Any partnership, corporation, or other business entity that advertises dental services must designate a dentist of record with the Board of Dentistry, and must provide each patient with the name, contact phone number, after-hours emergency contact information, and, upon patient request, license information of the dentist of record.

The bill requires a dentist to perform an in-person examination on a patient, or review records from an in-person examination of the patient from the last 12 months, before the dentist makes an initial diagnosis and correction of a malposition of teeth, or the initial use of an orthodontic appliance. Failure to adhere to this requirement constitutes grounds for discipline. The bill also requires advertisements for certain telehealth dental services to include a disclaimer recommending an in-person examination with a Florida-licensed dentist before beginning telehealth treatment.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 865 (ch. 2024-33, L.O.F.) - Youth Athletic Activities

By: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Yeager and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 830

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Health; Health Services; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires all athletic coaches employed by public schools to hold and maintain certification in CPR, first aid, and the use of an automated external defibrillator. The certification must be consistent with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-33, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

SB 938 - Dentistry

By: Yarborough

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 547

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Fiscal Policy; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Higher Education and Employment; Repeals of Existing Laws

The bill significantly revises dental licensure examination requirements. The bill deletes obsolete provisions in current law relating to the administration of the dental licensure examination by the Department of Health. The bill also eliminates an obsolete pathway to full licensure for dentists who have not completed the National Board Dental Examination (NBDE), but have an active health access dental license.

The bill revises the requirements for out-of-state licensure applicants who passed the ADEX in a state other than Florida more than one year before applying for licensure. Under the bill, such applicants must prove their full-time practice history by submitting their annual income tax returns for the preceding five years to the Board of Dentistry (BOD). The bill allows the BOD to excuse these applicants from the required practice history in the event of hardship, and removes the requirement that they engage in full-time dental practice in Florida within one year of being licensed.

The bill deletes provisions in current law that make all American Dental License Examination (ADEX) scores invalid 365 days after the scores were published. The bill also revises the continuing education requirements for dentists to allow the BOD to authorize up to three hours of credit biennially for a practice management course.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 975 - Background Screenings and Certifications

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Trabulsy; Bell; Campbell and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 558; CS/SB 1008

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services

The bill makes various revisions to background screening requirements. The bill adds new disqualifying offenses to the Level 2 background screening standards. The bill also revises the criteria a person must meet to be eligible for exemption from disqualification due to criminal history.

The bill requires the majority of health care professionals licensed by the Department of Health to undergo Level 2 background screening as a requirement for initial licensure beginning July 1, 2025. Health care professionals licensed before July 1, 2025, must comply with the background screening requirement upon their next licensure renewal. The bill extends the deadline for independent youth athletic team coaches to undergo a Level 2 background screening from July 1, 2024, to January 1, 2025.

The bill also establishes a pathway for a person who has lived experience with homelessness to qualify for a modified background screening process in order to be employed by certain homeless service providers.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is except as otherwise expressly provided herein this act and except for this section, which shall take effect July 1, 2024, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

CS/CS/HB 1063 - Practice of Chiropractic Medicine

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Hunschofsky and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1474

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education; Safety

This bill requires the Board of Chiropractic Medicine (Board) to establish minimum practice standards and education requirements by which a chiropractic physician may perform dry needling, including 40 hours of coursework (or 24 hours for chiropractic physicians certified in chiropractic acupuncture) and an examination. The bill authorizes the Board to waive some or all of the hours or educational requirements if a chiropractor presents satisfactory proof of having completed coursework that constitutes adequate training for dry needling.

The bill authorizes the Board to recognize chiropractic physician applicants for licensure if they provide a credential evaluation report from a board-approved organization that the Board deems is equivalent to a bachelor's degree.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 1561 - Office Surgeries

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Busatta Cabrera and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Financial Services; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance; Safety

This bill requires physician offices in which gluteal fat grafting procedures are performed to establish financial responsibility by obtaining and maintaining an unexpired, irrevocable letter of credit or professional liability coverage of at least \$250,000 per claim, with a minimum aggregate of at least \$750,000.

The bill authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to impose a fine of \$5,000 per incident on a physician who performs certain procedures or surgeries in an office that is not registered with DOH. The bill also requires physicians to register their offices with the DOH if they perform liposuction procedures in which more than 1,000 cubic centimeters of supernatant fat is temporarily or permanently removed.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1582 - Department of Health

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Health Policy; Rodriguez
Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 1441

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services;
Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Controlled
Substances; Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health
Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Repeals of Existing Laws; Research Integrity;
Safety; Social Services

The bill makes changes to programs administered under the Department of Health (DOH).

The bill creates a certification for environmental health technicians to conduct septic tank inspections under the supervision of a certified environmental health professional.

The bill creates the Andrew John Anderson Pediatric Rare Disease Grant Program within DOH with the purpose of advancing the progress of research and cures for rare pediatric diseases through the award of grants by a competitive, peer-reviewed process.

The bill makes revisions to the sickle cell disease (SCD) registry. The bill allows adults with SCD to opt into the registry, and creates a process through which parents may proactively opt their child out of the registry, rather than retroactively removing the child from the registry upon parental request.

The bill revises the Florida Newborn Screening Program to specify the responsibilities of relevant health care practitioners, repeal obsolete provisions, and restructure the environmental risk screening process. The bill standardizes hearing screening practices for newborns born in licensed birth facilities and requires screening results for children up to 36 months of age be reported to DOH.

The bill grants class members of *Pigford v. Glickman* and *In re. Black Farmers Litg.* an additional 90-day window to cure any deficiencies in their applications for a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center (MMTC) license. The bill requires DOH to grant the license if the applicant's sole remaining deficiency is either not meeting the 5-year Florida business requirement, or the applicant's death after March 25, 2022.

The bill increases the membership of the Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council from 15 to 16 people, adding a representative of the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, and adjusts the quorum.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024; except for the provision related to MMTC license applications which is effective upon the act becoming law.

SB 7018 (ch. 2024-16, L.O.F.) - Health Care Innovation

By: Health Policy and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1501

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Budget; Commerce; Economic Development; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Social Services; Technology

The bill creates a revolving loan program within the Department of Health (DOH) to provide low-interest loans to applicants to implement one or more health care innovative technologies, workforce pathways, or service delivery models in order to improve health care quality and delivery in ways that will reduce consumer costs. Loans are available for proposals that:

- Fill a demonstrated need;
- Obtain or upgrade necessary equipment, hardware, and materials; or
- Adopt new technologies or systems.

The bill creates the 15-member Health Care Innovation Council (Council) within the DOH to facilitate public meetings across the state to lead discussions with innovators, developers, and implementers of technologies, workforce pathways, service delivery models, or other solutions. The Council will review loan applications and submit to the DOH a prioritized list of proposals recommended for funding.

The bill appropriates \$50 million in recurring funds to fund the loan program, and sunsets the program on July 1, 2043.

The bill became law on March 21, 2024, chapter 2024-16, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Infrastructure Strategies Committee
Representative Bobby Payne, Chair
Representative Jennifer Canady, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee

Representative James Buchanan, Chair
Representative Rick Roth, Vice Chair

Transportation & Modals Subcommittee

Representative Fiona McFarland, Chair
Representative Jessica Baker, Vice Chair

Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee

Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Chair
Representative Randall Scott Maggard, Vice Chair

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CS/SB 1638 - Funding for Environmental Resource Management

By: Fiscal Policy; Hutson

Tied Bills: SB 7080

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1417

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Environmental Protection; Gaming; Local Government; Natural Resources; Resiliency; Tourism

The bill requires the Department of Revenue to, upon receipt, deposit 96 percent of any revenue share payment received under the 2021 Seminole Gaming Compact into the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services. The funds must be distributed each fiscal year in the following manner: the lesser of 26.042 percent or \$100 million to support the Florida Wildlife Corridor (Corridor); the lesser of 26.042 percent or \$100 million for the management of uplands and removal of invasive species, divided between the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS); the lesser of 26.042 percent or \$100 million to DEP for the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan; and the remainder to DEP for the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program.

The bill also creates the Local Trail Management Grant Program within DEP; authorizes FWC to enter into voluntary agreements with private landowners for environmental services within the Corridor; revises the criteria for prioritizing projects within the Water Quality Improvement Grant Program; and requires the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council to recommend the most efficient and effective use of the funds available to state agencies for land management activities.

Additionally, the bill provides the following nonrecurring appropriations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025: \$32 million to FWC for control of invasive species and upland management; \$32 million to DACS for land management activities; \$100 million for land acquisition; \$150 million to the South Florida Water Management District for operations and maintenance; and \$220 million to DEP for various programs and a study.

The bill also provides a \$2 million recurring appropriation beginning in FY 2024-25 to the University of Florida to continually update the Corridor.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law if SB 7080 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee

CS/HB 87 - Taking of Bears

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Shoaf and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 632

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Natural Resources; Public Safety

The bill creates the “Self Defense Act,” which specifies that a person who uses lethal force to take a bear is not subject to any administrative, civil, or criminal penalties if certain requirements are met. The bill specifies that a person may not possess, sell, or dispose of the taken bear or its parts. A bear taken under the act must be disposed of by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 321 - Release of Balloons

By: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Chaney; Mooney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 602

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Environmental Protection

The bill revises the penalties for intentionally releasing balloons by specifying that a person commits littering if they intentionally release, organize the release of, or intentionally cause to be released balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. Thus, the person is subject to the Florida Litter Law penalties. However, the bill specifies that a person who is six years of age or younger is not subject to these penalties.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 437 - Anchoring Limitation Areas

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Porras and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 192

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Natural Resources; Transportation

The bill expands the sections of Biscayne Bay in Miami-Dade County that are designated as anchoring limitation areas. Specifically, the bill designates the sections of Biscayne Bay lying between Palm Island and State Road A1A and between San Marino Island and Di Lido Island as anchoring limitation areas.

The bill revises the types of evidence a vessel owner or operator may provide to a law enforcement officer or an agency upon inquiry.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SM 800 - Foreign Polluters

By: Rodriguez

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HM 517

Committee(s) of Reference: Environment and Natural Resources; Rules

Category: Environmental Protection; Federal Government

The memorial urges the United States Congress to support solutions that examine the pollution differential between U.S. production and other countries and that hold foreign polluters accountable for their pollution.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State and is not subject to the Governor's veto powers.

CS/SB 998 - Sale of Liquefied Petroleum Gas

By: Fiscal Policy; Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 815

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Environment and Natural Resources; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection

The bill revises various requirements related to the sale of liquefied petroleum (LP) gas. The bill specifies that a category I LP gas dealer license must include one licensed location and may include up to two remote bulk storage locations. In addition, the bill requires a remote bulk storage location to be documented, located within a 75-mile radius of the licensed location, and included in the license application.

The bill revises requirements related to licensed qualifiers and specifies that a qualifier may only oversee one location where category I, II, or V LP gas activities are performed.

The bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to condemn unsafe equipment and order the immediate removal of LP gas from storage under certain circumstances.

The bill specifies the information that must be included in certain documents when a person services, repairs, maintains, or installs LP gas equipment and systems. Additionally, the bill prohibits an unauthorized person from adding gas to or removing gas from certain LP gas containers.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1082 - Housing for Legally Verified Agricultural Workers

By: Rules; Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1051

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Agriculture; Rules

Category: Agriculture; Local Government

The bill prohibits a governmental entity from adopting or enforcing any legislation to inhibit the construction or installation of housing for legally verified agricultural workers on land classified as agricultural which is operated as a bona fide farm. The bill establishes criteria for the construction or installation of such housing.

The bill requires any local ordinance adopted pursuant to the bill's requirements for agricultural worker housing to comply with all state and federal regulations and authorizes a governmental entity to adopt land use regulations that are less restrictive than the bill.

Additionally, the bill requires a property owner to maintain certain records, specifies the circumstances under which a housing site may not continue to be used, and specifies that housing sites in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern and the City of Key West Area of Critical State Concern are subject to the applicable permit allocations.

The bill specifies that a housing site that was constructed and in use before July 1, 2024, may continue to be used, and the property owner may not be required by a governmental entity to make changes to meet the requirements of the bill, with certain exceptions.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1698 - Food and Hemp Products

By: Agriculture; Burton

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1613

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture; Fiscal Policy

Category: Agriculture; Consumer Protection

The bill revises regulations related to the sale of hemp products in the state. Specifically, the bill revises the definition of “hemp” to specify that hemp extract may not exceed 0.3 percent total delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration on a wet-weight basis or may not exceed 5 milligrams per serving and 50 milligrams per container on a wet-weight basis, whichever is less. Additionally, the bill revises the definition of “hemp extract” to specify that it may not contain controlled substances listed in statute; any quantity of synthetic cannabinoids; or other specified cannabinoids such as delta-8 THC. As such, products containing these substances could no longer be legally sold as hemp. The bill also revises the definition of “attractive to children” to expand the types of hemp products that are considered attractive to children and are therefore prohibited.

The bill expands the laboratory testing and packaging requirements that are currently applicable to hemp extract that is distributed or sold in the state to also apply such requirements to hemp extract that is manufactured, delivered, held, or offered for sale in the state.

The bill prohibits an event organizer from promoting, advertising, or facilitating an event where hemp extract products that do not comply with general law are sold or marketed or where hemp extract products are sold or marketed by businesses that are not properly permitted.

The bill appropriates \$2 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Law Enforcement for the purchase of testing equipment necessary to implement the bill.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

SB 7026 - Public Records/Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

By: Agriculture

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Agriculture; Government in the Sunshine; Natural Disasters

The bill creates a public record exemption for certain Agriculture and Aquaculture Producers Natural Disaster Recovery Loan Program (program) information held by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). The bill specifies that the exemption does not prohibit the disclosure of information held by DACS pursuant to its administration of the program in an aggregated and anonymized format. Additionally, the bill provides for future review and repeal of the public record exemption and provides a public necessity statement as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

Transportation & Modals Subcommittee

HB 91 - Transportation Facility Designations

By: Clemons; Mooney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 84

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Transportation

The bill designates the "Jimmy Buffett Memorial Highway" in Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, Brevard, Volusia, Flagler, St. Johns, Duval, and Nassau Counties. The bill also directs the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers for the designation by August 30, 2024.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/HB 179 (ch. 2024-27, L.O.F.) - Towing and Storage

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Bell; Andrade and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 774

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Court Administration; Highway Safety; Insurance; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Safety; Transportation

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

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

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-27, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 287 - Transportation

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Esposito

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 266

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Controlled Substances; Federal Government; Highway Safety; Insurance; Public Safety; Real Property; Safety; Transportation

The bill addresses matters related to transportation. Specifically, the bill:

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

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 317 - Interstate Safety

By: Persons-Mulicka; Bell and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 258

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Transportation

The bill provides that on a road, street, or highway having two or more lanes allowing movement in the same direction with a posted speed limit of at least 65 miles per hour, a driver may not operate a motor vehicle in the furthestmost left-hand lane, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; when preparing to exit the road, street, or highway; or when otherwise directed by an official traffic control device. This does not apply to authorized emergency vehicles and vehicles engaged in highway maintenance or construction operations. The bill also defines the phrase "furthestmost left-hand lane" so as to exclude from that phrase high-occupancy-vehicle lanes and designated left-hand turn lanes. A violation is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punishable as a moving violation. The statutory base fine is \$60, but with additional fees and surcharges, the total penalty may be up to \$158.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/CS/HB 341 - Designation of a Diagnosis on Motor Vehicle Registrations

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Salzman; Tant and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 288

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Health; Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Mental Health; Safety; Transportation

The bill provides legislative intent and provides that the act may be cited as the “Safeguarding American Families Everywhere (SAFE) Act.” The bill requires the application form for motor vehicle registration to include language allowing an applicant to voluntarily indicate that the applicant has been diagnosed with, or is the parent or legal guardian of a child or ward who has been diagnosed with, any of the following disabilities or disorders by a physician licensed under chapter 458, F.S., or chapter 459, F.S.: autism; attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; down syndrome; Alzheimer’s disease; traumatic brain injury; posttraumatic stress disorder; diabetes; an autoimmune disorder; deafness; blindness; and any other mentally or physically limiting disorder.

The bill provides that if the applicant indicates one of the diagnoses listed above on the application, then the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) must include the designation “SAFE” in the motor vehicle record. For purposes of this designation, DHSMV may not include in the motor vehicle record personal identifying information of, or any diagnosis of, a person for whom a diagnosis is indicated. DHSMV must allow a motor vehicle owner or co-owner to update a motor vehicle registration to include or remove the “SAFE” designation at any time.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

SM 370 - Spaceports

By: Wright

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HM 143

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Rules

Category: Commerce; Economic Development; Federal Government; Transportation

The memorial urges the United States Congress to add spaceports as a qualified tax-exempt category of private activity bonds.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State and is not subject to the Governor’s veto powers.

CS/HB 379 - Pub. Rec./Financial Information Regarding Competitive Bidding

By: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Truenow and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Transportation

The bill expands a public records exemption. Specifically, the bill provides that any other financial information necessary to verify the financial adequacy of a prospective bidder which an agency requires a prospective bidder to submit in order to prequalify for bidding or for responding to a solicitation for a road or any other public works project is exempt from public disclosure.

The bill provides that the public record exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. It also provides a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 389 - Transportation Facility Designations

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Roach and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 868

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Transportation

The bill creates 17 designations for various transportation facilities across the state and directs the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers for each designation.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 403 - Specialty License Plates

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Chaney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 434

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Highway Safety

The bill amends provisions related to certain specialty license plates. Specifically, the bill:

- Exempts Florida collegiate license plates from the presale voucher requirement and the annual discontinuation process for specialty license plates;
- Allows discontinued collegiate license plates to be reauthorized by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles;
- Revises the distribution of proceeds from the Live the Dream License Plate;
- Replaces the phrase “In God We Trust” with “Protect the Eagle” on the bottom of the American Eagle License Plate design;
- Expands eligibility for issuance of the Divine Nine license plates; and
- Renames the Give Kids The World License Plate to establish the Universal Orlando Resort License Plate.

The bill also creates the following new specialty license plates:

- Margaritaville
- Clearwater Marine Aquarium
- General Aviation
- The Villages: May All Your Dreams Come True
- Cure Diabetes
- Recycle Florida
- Boating Capital of the World
- Project Addiction: Reversing the Stigma
- United Service Organizations (USO)

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 405 - Regulation of Commercial Motor Vehicles

By: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Melo

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 754

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Administrative Procedure; Commerce; Highway Safety; Public Safety; Safety; Substance Abuse; Transportation

On October 7, 2021, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) published a final rule establishing requirements for a state driver licensing agency's access to and use of driver-specific drug and alcohol program violation information contained in the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). States have until November 18, 2024, to comply with these requirements. Therefore, the bill makes the statutory changes necessary for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to enforce and administer the Clearinghouse provisions of the federal rule.

Additionally, the bill makes the following changes relating to the regulation of Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs):

- Adopts updated FMCSA regulations for CMVs engaged in intrastate commerce as such regulations existed on December 31, 2023;
- Updates language to appropriately reference provisions of federal regulations that apply to a CMV not transporting hazardous materials but which is operating intrastate within a 150 air-mile radius of the location where the CMV is based; and
- Deletes an expired, and therefore obsolete, exemption for CMV operators related to the requirements of electronic logging devices and hours of service supporting documents.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 463 (ch. 2024-29, L.O.F.) - Lights Displayed on Fire Department Vehicles

By: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Bartleman; Melo and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1158

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Government Operations; Highway Safety; Public Safety; Safety; Transportation

The bill allows government-owned fire department vehicles, except vehicles of the fire patrol or volunteer fire departments, to show or display blue lights, in addition to red or red and white lights, if such vehicles:

- Have a gross vehicle rating of more than 24,000 pounds;
- Are authorized in writing by the fire chief of the government agency; and
- Show or display the blue lights only on the rear.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-29, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 736 - Services Provided by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or Its Agents

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Trumbull

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 247

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy

Category: Financial Services; Highway Safety; Insurance; Local Government; Military; Transportation

The bill addresses matters related to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) or its agents. The bill:

- Revises the application and affidavit requirements for the transfer of ownership of a motor vehicle or mobile home if the previous owner died testate.
- Provides that no additional fee can be charged by DHSMV or a tax collector for the reissuance of a certificate of title that is lost in transit and not delivered.
- Requires tax collectors in certain counties to appoint a general lines insurance agency that writes motor vehicle insurance as its agent, upon petition by the agent in charge of the general lines agency, for the purposes of issuing registration certificates, registration license plates, validation stickers, and mobile home stickers to applicants, excluding issuance of registration or trip permits.
- Allows permanent motor vehicle registration decals for rental trucks that weigh under 15,000 pounds.
- Authorizes trailers, at DHSMV's discretion, to be issued a license plate with reduced dimensions.
- Provides that a disabled veteran who qualifies for a "DV" license plate may, in lieu of the free "DV" license plate, be issued one of certain military license plates or a specialty license plate and receive a cost savings on the plate of their choosing.
- Adds the following two cases wherein DHSMV may design, issue, and regulate the use of temporary tags:
 - The existing owner of a vehicle has submitted an application to transfer a valid out-of-state title that is subject to a lien; and
 - An active-duty military servicemember who has a valid Florida driver license provides evidence satisfactory to the department that he or she is deployed outside this state.
- Repeals the requirement that requests for purchase of temporary tags to DHSMV or its agents must be made, where applicable, on letterhead stationery and notarized.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024, except as otherwise provided.

CS/CS/SB 994 - Student Transportation Safety

By: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Transportation; Burgess

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1045

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy

Category: Courts; Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Public Safety; Safety; Transportation

Florida law authorizes school districts to install and operate a school bus infraction detection system on a school bus to enforce school bus passing infractions. The bill makes the following changes to laws relating to the use of school bus infraction detection systems:

- Authorizes a private vendor or manufacturer of a school bus infraction detection system to receive a fixed amount of collected proceeds for service rendered in relation to the installation, operation, and maintenance of school bus infraction detection systems;
- Revises requirements for signage posted on the rear of a school bus indicating the use of a school bus infraction detection system by no longer requiring the signage to be high-visibility reflective signage;
- Requires a court that has jurisdiction over traffic violations to determine whether to uphold a notice of violation;
- Revises the permissible uses of civil penalties assessed and collected for a violation enforced by a school bus infraction detection system;
- Clarifies the application of a certain fee for a notice of violation;
- Amends provisions relating to use of camera footage; and
- Amends reporting requirements for school districts.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/CS/HB 1113 (ch. 2024-34, L.O.F.) - Use of Lights and Sirens on Emergency Vehicles

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Killebrew and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1164

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Emergency Management; Health; Highway Safety; Safety; Transportation

The bill:

- Amends the definition of “authorized emergency vehicles” to include organ transport vehicles, emergency management vehicles, emergency vehicles of county departments, and vehicles operated by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services;
- Defines organ transport vehicle as any dedicated and marked vehicle operated by an organ procurement organization, transplant center, or its contracted service provider to transport organs or surgical teams for organ recovery and transplant;
- Requires that an operator of an organ transplant vehicle must have completed a 16-hour emergency vehicle operator course;
- Provides that an authorized emergency vehicle when transporting organs or surgical teams for organ donation or transplant while en route to a hospital, an airport, or other designated location may exercise the current law privileges available to authorized emergency vehicles to bypass certain uniform traffic safety laws; and
- Provides that organ transport vehicles may show or display red lights and may display or use red warning signals while transporting organs or surgical teams for organ donation or transplant while in route to a hospital, an airport, or other designated location.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-34, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1301 - Department of Transportation

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Abbott; Berfield and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Budget; Civil Justice; Economic Development; Environmental Protection; Federal Government; Financial Services; Government in the Sunshine; Government Operations; Highway Safety; Local Government; Safety; Transportation; Utilities and Communications

The bill addresses matters related to transportation. Specifically, the bill:

- Revises the means of selecting the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and revises FDOT's areas of program responsibility as well as its overall mission.
- Removes obsolete language regarding appointment of FDOT's inspector general.
- Provides that an appropriation of \$15 million will be made available for five fiscal years to support FDOT's Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support Program.
- Revises airport land use compatibility zoning regulations.
- Provides requirements for a governmental entity proposing to repurpose existing traffic lanes.
- Increases from three years to 10 years the time period that a prepaid toll account can remain dormant before it is presumed unclaimed.
- Amends provisions relating to funding the fire station at mile marker 63 on the Alligator Alley toll road.
- Provides a circumstance wherein FDOT may not expend any state funds to support a project or program of a public transit provider, authority, public-use airport, or a port.
- Provides for certain prioritization of funding for arterial highway projects.
- Allows FDOT to enter into a service contract to finance projects authorized in the Moving Florida Forward Plan and authorizes FDOT to retain interest earnings on such projects.
- Allows certain local governments to compete for additional project funding under the Small County Outreach Program.
- Provides voting and public meeting requirements for lane elimination or lane repurposing relating to public transit projects and provides public meeting requirements for any action of eminent domain for acquisition of public transit facilities carried out by a public transit provider.
- Redirects remaining funds in the New Starts Transit Program for the Strategic Intermodal System.
- Provides requirements for marketing and advertising by a public transit provider.
- Requires public transit providers to disclose certain information and documentation relating to its budgeted and general administrative costs.
- Revises the powers of the Florida Rail Enterprise.
- Modifies the definition of "streetlight provider" in s. 768.1382, F.S.
- Amends laws relating to railroad-crossing offenses, increasing penalties for such offenses, and conforms cross-references.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1350 - Salvage

By: Transportation; DiCeglie

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1517

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Environment and Natural Resources; Fiscal Policy

Category: Highway Safety; Insurance; Natural Disasters; Transportation

Under Florida law, when the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) conducts a rebuilt inspection for a salvage vehicle to receive a certificate of title, DHSMV must physically examine all major component parts, as that term is defined in statute in relation to various types of vehicles, that have been repaired or replaced. The bill adds definitions for major component parts of electric, hybrid, or plug-in hybrid motor vehicles and trucks.

Additionally, the bill creates a process for DHSMV to issue a salvage certificate of title or certificate of destruction directly to the owner of a motor vehicle or mobile home rather than issuing it to the insurance company or its agent, in the event that a total loss motor vehicle or mobile home is retained by the owner.

Further, the bill revises the process wherein 30 days after a claim for compensation for a total loss of a motor vehicle or mobile home the insurance company may receive a salvage certificate of title or certificate of destruction from DHSMV if the insurance company is unable to obtain a certificate of title from the owner or lienholder.

Lastly, Florida law currently provides a process by which an insurance company may notify certain entities that are in possession of damaged or dismantled motor vehicles to release such vehicles to their owners. Upon receiving notification to release a motor vehicle, the entity must notify the owner that the vehicle is available for pickup. If the vehicle is not claimed within 30 days, the entity may apply for a certificate of destruction or a certificate of title. The bill expands the current process for damaged or dismantled motor vehicles which are in the possession of an independent entity to include vessels such that there is a process for these entities to make attempts to contact a vessel owner and, ultimately, obtain a certificate of title or certificate of destruction for an unclaimed vessel.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1363 - Traffic Enforcement

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Busatta Cabrera and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1464

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Safety; Transportation

Similar to current law authorizing school zone speed detection systems, the bill adds certain requirements to the law that authorizes red light cameras. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires a county or municipality to enact an ordinance in order to authorize the placement or installation of, or to authorize contracting with a vendor for the placement or installation of, one or more traffic infraction detectors if the traffic infraction detectors are placed or installed on or after July 1, 2025, in an area where no traffic infraction detectors are currently placed or installed.
- Requires a county or municipality that operates traffic infraction detectors to annually report the results of all traffic infraction detectors within the county's or municipality's jurisdiction at a public meeting. The bill provides requirements for the report.
- Requires that, before a county or municipality contracts or renews a contract to place or install traffic infraction detectors, the county or municipality must approve the contract or contract renewal at a regular or special meeting of the county's or municipality's governing body.
- Provides requirements for the public meeting held for the proposed ordinance, annual report, contract, or contract renewal.
- Provides that a county or municipality that does not comply with the foregoing requirements is suspended from operating traffic infraction detectors until such noncompliance is corrected.

The bill specifies contents of reports required under current law which each county and municipality must submit to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) in order for DHSMV to compile its summary report on red light cameras. The bill also requires DHSMV to publish each report submitted by a county or municipality on its website.

The bill also prohibits the procurement of camera system contracts through a contract awarded to a governmental entity outside this state and prohibits contracting for traffic enforcement camera systems with vendors of foreign countries of concern.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1380 - Transportation Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Transportation Disadvantaged

By: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Transportation; Hutson

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Federal Government; Health; Highway Safety; Local Government; Safety; Technology; Transportation

The bill makes the following changes to laws relating to transportation services for persons with disabilities and the transportation disadvantaged:

- Amends the membership of the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged (Commission) by increasing the number of members from seven to 11.
- Amends requirements and qualifications for Commission members.
- Requires the Commission to establish model procedures for transportation service providers to receive and investigate reports related to adverse incidents during the provision of services to persons with disabilities.
- Requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to ensure that all grants and agreements between FDOT and entities providing paratransit service include certain provisions relating to performance requirements, penalties for repeated violations, minimum liability insurance, and complaint processes.
- Provides requirements that a transportation service provider must agree to for contracts entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2024, and provides that such contracts must be competitively procured.
- Requires the following reports by January 1, 2025:
 - The Center for Urban Transportation Research must deliver a report to FDOT on model policies and procedures or best practices for paratransit providers to complete timely trips.
 - Implementing Solutions from Transportation Research and Evaluating Emerging Technologies Living Lab must deliver a comprehensive report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and FDOT on technology and training improvements to better support persons with disabilities using paratransit services.
 - FDOT must provide a comprehensive report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on transportation disadvantaged services offered in the state and on the Commission.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee

CS/CS/HB 165 - Sampling of Beach Waters and Public Bathing Spaces

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Gossett-Seidman; Cross and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 338

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Environmental Protection; Health

The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt certain rules, issue health advisories when the water quality of beach waters or a public bathing place fails to meet DOH standards, require the closure of those areas when necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, and notify certain entities when it issues health advisories against swimming in beach waters or a public bathing space.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1136 - Regulation of Water Resources

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Trumbull

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1163

Committee(s) of Reference: Environment and Natural Resources; Community Affairs; Rules

Category: Environmental Protection; Natural Resources

The bill revises requirements relating to licensing of water well contractors to require an individual to demonstrate two years of experience in water well construction in Florida. The bill prohibits a business entity from advertising water well drilling or construction services if the business entity is not owned by a licensed water well contractor or does not employ a full-time water well contractor and subjects a business entity to criminal penalties for engaging in unlawful activities. The bill clarifies that the Variance Review and Advisory Committee (VRAC) within the Department of Environmental Protection is not responsible for water well permitting and requires the VRAC to consider all requirements of law when making recommendations on variance requests related to onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1532 - Mitigation

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Environment and Natural Resources; Brodeur

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1073

Committee(s) of Reference: Environment and Natural Resources; Community Affairs; Rules

Category: Environmental Protection; Natural Resources

The bill creates a process for the establishment and operation of a private mitigation bank using local government-owned land, including lands acquired for conservation, in specific habitat credit-deficient basins. The bill requires the local government and the private applicant to execute a use agreement for the establishment of a private mitigation bank and specifies that the use agreement must meet certain requirements. When determining the number of mitigation bank credits to award to a private mitigation bank, the bill prohibits increasing the location factor assessment and scoring value in the uniform mitigation assessment method when the proposed private mitigation bank is located in or adjacent to the local government's conservation lands.

The bill authorizes private sector entities to apply to purchase water quality enhancement credits and authorizes the use of a Water Quality Enhancement Area for certain lands where environmental resource permit performance standards are not being met.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1557 - Department of Environmental Protection

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Chaney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1386

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Environmental Protection

The bill designates the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as an aquatic preserve; requires the development of rules that promote the reuse of reclaimed water; expands the Resilient Florida Grant Program; requires the Chief Science Officer, the Chief Resilience Officer, and the Florida Flood Hub to coordinate when developing statewide sea level rise projections; requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to adopt rules that establish a program of general permits for certain onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDSs); requires DEP to establish an enhanced nutrient-reducing OSTDS approval program; and requires DEP to create a water quality dashboard.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1565 - Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Grant and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1360

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Environmental Protection

The bill requires the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative to develop and submit to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommendations for field trial deployment of certain technologies, and requires DEP to review the recommendations, identify existing state permits that may be used to deploy and test the technologies in state waters, submit its evaluation within 60 days after receipt of the recommendations, and expedite regulatory reviews for the recurring use of such technologies in state waters.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7040 - Ratification of the Department of Environmental Protection's Rules Relating to Stormwater

By: Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Environment and Natural Resources

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7053

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Rules

Category: Environmental Protection; Natural Resources

The bill ratifies rules of the Department of Environmental Protection. Specifically, the bill ratifies rules 62-330.050, 62-330.055, 62-330.301, 62-330.310, 62-330.311, 62-330.350, and 62-330.405, F.A.C, which incorporate more stringent design and performance standards for stormwater treatment and management systems. The bill also ratifies, with modifications, rule 62-330.010, F.A.C., which incorporates certain changes, including additional grandfathered activities and alternative treatment performance standards, to the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) Applicant's Handbook, Vol. I.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Judiciary Committee

Representative Tommy Gregory, Chair

Representative Tobin Rogers Overdorf, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Civil Justice Subcommittee

Representative William Cloud Robinson, Chair

Representative John Snyder, Vice Chair

Criminal Justice Subcommittee

Representative Keith L. Truenow, Chair

Representative Webster Barnaby, Vice Chair

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CS/HB 21 - Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program

By: Judiciary Committee; Salzman; Michael and others

Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 23

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 24

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee; Appropriations Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Juvenile Justice

The bill creates the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program (“Program”) within the Department of Legal Affairs (“DLA”) to compensate living persons who were confined to the Dozier School or the Okeechobee School at any time between 1940 and 1975 and who were subjected to mental, physical, or sexual abuse perpetrated by school personnel while they were confined. The bill also:

- Appropriates \$20 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the DLA for the Program.

Allows the Commissioner of Education to award a standard high school diploma to a person compensated through the Program who has not completed high school graduation requirements.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 23 - Pub. Rec./Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program

By: State Affairs Committee; Judiciary Committee; Salzman, Michael and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 21

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 26

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Juvenile Justice

The bill creates a public record exemption to protect the personal identifying information in an application submitted to the Department of Legal Affairs by a person seeking compensation through the Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program, created by CS/HB 21. Under the bill, such information would be confidential and exempt from public inspection, with two exceptions. In accordance with the Open Government Sunset Review Act, the bill specifies that the exemption shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is on the same date that CS/HB 21 or similar legislation takes effect.

SM 1020 - Designation of Drug Cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations

By: Ingoglia

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HM 7065

Committee(s) of Reference: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Rules

Category: Criminal Justice; Federal Government; Public Safety

The memorial asserts that drug cartels are responsible for the export and distribution to the United States of wholesale amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and other illicit substances, which has caused tens of thousands of drug-related overdoses and deaths in this country.

The memorial further declares that drug cartels meet the criteria to be designated as foreign terrorist organizations and urges the United States Secretary of State to designate drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations, so that appropriate means may be initiated to mitigate and, eventually, eliminate their operations.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State.

HB 1109 - Security for Jewish Day Schools and Preschools

By: Fine and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1396

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee; Appropriations Committee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Early Learning; Pre-K through 12 Education; Safety

The bill requires the Department of Education, subject to appropriation in the General Appropriations Act, to establish a program to provide funds to secure full-time Jewish day schools and preschools in the state through professional security hardening, as needed.

Based on a risk assessment by law enforcement or a private security company, the bill requires funds to be used for the purchase and installation of security cameras, perimeter lighting, perimeter fencing, and shatter-resistant glass for windows; the hiring of or contracting with security personnel who are licensed and regulated by the state and insured; expenses relating to transportation to minimize security exposure of staff, parents, and students; or other nonhardening security measures, including, but not limited to providing professional detection, prevention, and security services to such schools and preschools.

The bill authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement the provisions of the bill.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1473 - School Safety

By: Education & Employment Committee; Judiciary Committee; Trabulsy and others

Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 1509

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1356

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee; Appropriations Committee; Education & Employment Committee

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety; Safety

The bill makes several changes to the school guardian program, including:

- Clarifying that a private school participating in the guardian program is responsible for costs associated with background screening and guardian training.
- Authorizing a sheriff to waive costs related to guardian training and background screening for a private school participating in the guardian program.
- Providing that an individual certified by, and in good standing with, the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission is exempt from the required school guardian training.
- Requiring specified information related to individuals certified as school guardians and serving as school guardians in school districts, charter schools, and private schools to be reported to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

The bill establishes new perimeter and door safety requirements that school districts and charter school governing boards must comply with by August 1, 2024. Such requirements include keeping routes of ingress and egress securely closed and locked when students are on campus and requiring that such routes be actively staffed when open or unlocked, unless a specific exception applies. Each school district must develop a progressive discipline policy for instructional and administrative personnel who knowingly violate school safety requirements.

The bill requires the Office of Safe Schools (OSS), by August 1, 2024, to develop and adopt a Florida school safety compliance inspection report to document compliance with Florida school safety requirements during triennial unannounced inspections of all public schools. The bill requires the OSS, by December 1, 2024, to evaluate the distribution methodology for the Safe Schools Allocation and, if necessary, make recommendations for an alternate methodology to distribute the remaining balance of the Safe Schools Allocation.

The bill requires a superintendent to inform the postsecondary institution where a student takes dual enrollment courses of any alleged delinquent acts by the student within one business day of receiving the initial notification from law enforcement.

The bill prohibits a person from operating a drone over a public or private school serving students in any grade from voluntary prekindergarten through grade 12, unless the person was granted permission by school personnel or the drone is operated by a law enforcement agency.

The bill creates, subject to appropriation, a grant program to support private schools' school safety efforts. Under the program, FDLE is responsible for providing grants to law enforcement agencies to conduct physical site security assessments for and provide reports to private schools with recommendations on improving such schools' infrastructure safety and security.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1509 - Pub. Rec./School Guardians

By: State Affairs Committee; Judiciary Committee; Trabulsy and others

Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 1473

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7056

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety; Safety

The bill creates a public record exemption for any information held by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), a law enforcement agency, a school district, or a charter school that would identify whether an individual has been certified to serve as a school guardian. The bill is linked to CS/CS/HB 1473 (2024) which requires a sheriff's office that certifies individuals to serve as school guardians, and school districts, charter schools, and private schools that appoint school guardians, to report specified information related to the certification and appointment of school guardians to FDLE.

The bill provides a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution. The bill provides that the exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is the same date that CS/CS/HB 1473 or similar legislation takes effect.

HB 7063 - Anti-human Trafficking

By: Judiciary Committee; Overdorf and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 796; includes parts of CS/HB 1379

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill extends the statutory authorization for Florida's Statewide Council on Human Trafficking direct-support organization until October 1, 2029.

The bill modifies the requirements for human trafficking reporting procedures and awareness signs from requiring the National Human Trafficking Hotline number to be utilized to requiring that the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline number be utilized. The bill requires the update to human trafficking awareness signs to be completed and updated signage to be posted by January 1, 2025.

The bill requires a nongovernmental entity to provide an affidavit, signed by an officer or a representative of the nongovernmental entity under penalty of perjury, attesting that the nongovernmental entity does not use coercion for labor or services, when executing, renewing, or extending a contract with a governmental entity.

The bill prohibits an owner, manager, employee, or contractor of an adult entertainment establishment from knowingly employing, contracting with, contracting with another person to employ, or otherwise permitting a person under the age of 21 years to perform or work in any capacity in an adult entertainment establishment, as a first-degree misdemeanor; or to perform or work while nude in an adult entertainment establishment, as a second-degree felony. The bill provides that a person's ignorance of another person's age or a person's misrepresentation of his or her age may not be raised as a defense in a prosecution for a violation of such prohibitions.

The bill also prohibits a minor who may otherwise meet an exception to work for an alcohol vendor from performing as a professional entertainer if such employment involves nudity on the part of the minor and such nudity is intended as a form of adult entertainment and from being employed by an adult entertainment establishment.

The bill requires an owner, manager, employee, or contractor of an adult entertainment establishment who employs a person to perform as an entertainer or work in any capacity in an adult entertainment establishment to carefully check specified identification presented by the person and to act in good faith and reliance upon such a representation and the appearance of the person in determining that he or she is 21 years of age or older.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 7067 - Pretrial Detention Hearings**By: Judiciary Committee; Jacques and others****Tied Bills: None****Companion Bills: SB 7068****Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee****Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Public Safety**

The bill authorizes a court to base an order of pretrial detention solely on hearsay if a defendant was arrested for a dangerous crime that is a capital felony, life felony, or first degree felony and a pretrial detention hearing is mandatory under s. 907.041(5)(d), F.S. As such, the bill aligns the evidentiary standard in mandatory pretrial detention hearings with the evidentiary standard for pretrial detention under the Florida Constitution and Rule 3.131 of the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure, and ensures that victims and other witnesses are not required to appear in person at such mandatory pretrial detention hearings.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

Civil Justice Subcommittee

CS/CS/CS/SB 86 - Hope Cards for Persons Issued Orders of Protection**By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Judiciary; Book and others****Tied Bills: None****Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 45****Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy****Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts; Criminal Justice**

The bill establishes the Hope Card Program to provide a free digital or wallet-sized "Hope Card" to a person issued a final injunction for protection against domestic violence, stalking, repeat violence, sexual violence, dating violence, or abuse or exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult. The bill provides specifications for the form and content of the card and imposes time limitations on when the card must be provided to the applicant. A Hope Card is valid for two years after its issuance or until the injunction expires, whichever occurs first, but may be renewed if the injunction remains in effect. The bill provides a criminal penalty for the intentional misuse of a Hope Card and provides an appropriation of \$176,000 in nonrecurring funds for the implementation of the program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 103 - Pub. Rec./County and City Attorneys

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Arrington and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 712

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Public Employees

The bill creates a public record exemption for specified identifying and location information of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys and the spouses and children of such attorneys. However, the exemption does not apply to an attorney who qualifies as a candidate for election to public office.

Pursuant to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, this exemption will be automatically repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 158 - Value of Motor Vehicles Exempt from Legal Process

By: Polsky

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 29

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Community Affairs; Rules

Category: Civil Justice; Transportation

In addition to a constitutional exemption of homestead property and other personal property, Florida law protects certain assets from legal process so that they also remain beyond a creditor's reach, including a debtor's interest in a single motor vehicle, not to exceed \$1,000 in value.

The bill increases the maximum value of an exempt motor vehicle from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 285 - Pub. Rec./Recording Notification Service

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Hunschofsky; Daniels and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1000

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Real Property

The bill creates a public record exemption for all electronic mail addresses, telephone numbers, personal and business names, and parcel identification numbers submitted to the clerks or property appraisers for the purpose of registering for a specified property recording notification service or a related service. Under the bill, such information would be confidential and exempt from public inspection except upon court order, and the exemption applies to information held by the clerks or property appraisers before, on, and after the bill's effective date.

In accordance with the Open Government Sunset Review Act, the bill specifies that the exemption is repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment. The bill also provides a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

HB 353 - Alternative Headquarters for District Court Judges

By: Maney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 570

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts

A District Court of Appeal (DCA) judge who lives more than 50 miles from his or her DCA courthouse or designated branch DCA location is eligible to have an alternate headquarters within his or her county of residence and to be reimbursed for trips between such alternate headquarters and the DCA location.

The bill authorizes a DCA judge that would otherwise be eligible to establish an alternate headquarters to choose a location in a county adjacent to his or her county of residence, within the DCA district, as an alternate headquarters and be eligible for reimbursement for travel costs to such alternate headquarters.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 385 - Safe Exchange of Minor Children

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Rudman; Cassel and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 580

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Law Enforcement

The bill requires each sheriff to designate at least one parking lot as a neutral safe exchange location for use by parents of a common child and also identifies minimum requirements that each designated safe exchange location must satisfy, including having a purple light or signage in the parking lot and a camera surveillance system. The bill provides that a county, sheriff, law enforcement officer, or employee of the safe exchange location is not liable for civil damages for any act or omission relating to an incident arising out of a meeting at the safe exchange location. The bill also:

- Authorizes or requires a court to order the exchange of a child pursuant to a parenting plan to be conducted at a safe exchange location in certain situations; and
- Revises the standard form of the petition for protection against domestic violence to allow the petitioner to request that the court require the use of a safe exchange location.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 461 - Excusal from Jury Service

By: Judiciary Committee; Amesty and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 462

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts

The bill requires that a woman who has given birth within six months before the reporting date on a summons for jury service must be excused from jury service upon request. The bill specifies that such excusal applies only to the specific summons for which the excusal is requested.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 481 - Building Construction Regulations and System Warranties

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Maggard

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 612

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Commerce Committee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection

The bill:

- Expands the scope of work for specified heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (“HVAC”) system contractors to include specified line-side repairs or replacements and the repair or replacement of specified components for dedicated HVAC circuits under specified conditions.
- Prohibits the conditioning of an HVAC system warranty on product registration and specifies that the full length of such a warranty’s coverage term begins on the date a licensed contractor installs the system.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 521 - Equitable Distribution of Marital Assets and Liabilities

By: Koster and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 534

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice

The bill:

- Clarifies the circumstances justifying an interim partial distribution in a dissolution of marriage proceeding and provides a list of factors for the court to use in determining whether good cause exists to make an interim partial distribution.
- Requires any interspousal gift of real property to be made in writing, similar to any other transfer of real property made outside of a marriage.
- Amends the list of marital assets to recognize that enterprise goodwill in a closely held business is a marital asset which should be distributed between the parties.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 619 - Sovereign Immunity for Professional Firms

By: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Tuck

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1534

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Transportation

Current law specifies that, for purposes of sovereign immunity, a professional firm that provides specified monitoring and inspection services, or any of the firm's employees performing such services, is an agent of the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") while acting within the scope of the firm's contract.

The bill expands the scope of the sovereign immunity protections granted to a professional firm and its employees to provide that sovereign immunity applies to both a professional firm that is in direct contract with FDOT and to a professional firm providing monitoring and inspection services as a consultant to the professional firm that is in direct contract with FDOT.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 621 (ch. 2024-44, L.O.F.) - Property Rights

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Steele and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 888

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Real Property

The bill creates a remedy by which a real property owner may file a complaint with the sheriff to immediately remove a person who is unlawfully occupying residential real property if certain conditions are met. Upon verification that the person submitting the complaint is the record owner of the property and appears entitled to relief, the sheriff must serve notice to immediately vacate the property upon all unlawful occupants and restore possession of the property to the owner.

The bill also creates criminal penalties for a person who:

- Trespasses and intentionally causes \$1,000 or more in damages to a dwelling.
- Presents false or fraudulent documentation purporting to be a lease or deed.
- Engages in the fraudulent sale or lease of a residential property that the person does not own.

The bill became law on March 27, 2024, chapter 2024-44, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

SB 702 - Attorney Fees and Costs

By: Martin

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1167

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules

Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Real Property

The bill provides that, in a civil action brought against the owner of a parcel of real property to resolve a property rights dispute, the court must award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing defendant if the improvements made to the property by the defendant were made in substantial compliance with, or in reliance on, environmental or regulatory approvals or permits issued by a political subdivision of the state or a state agency.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 761 - Interpersonal Violence Injunction Petitions

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Garcia, Daniels and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 852

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts; Criminal Justice

The bill eliminates the requirement that a petition for protection against domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, repeat violence, or stalking be sworn to and witnessed by a notary. The bill requires that such petitions for protection must instead be "verified," meaning that the petitioner must acknowledge that the statements made in the petition are true and sign the petition under penalties of perjury.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 799 - Easements Affecting Real Property Owned by Same Owner

By: Robinson, W. and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 814

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Real Property

Recent Florida case law has called into question the validity of easements contained in a written instrument, if such easements were created at a time when all of the affected property was held in common ownership. This case law development has the potential to upend decades of land planning and to frustrate the long-term goals of Florida property owners.

The bill provides that a real property owner may create an easement, servitude, or other interest in the owner's real property even where the owner owns all of the affected real property. Under the bill, an easement, servitude, or other interest in real property created by an owner in the owner's real property before the bill's effective date is valid unless invalidated by a court on grounds other than unity of title.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 923 - Wills and Estates

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Fabricio, Robinson, W. and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1064

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice

Though Florida is a common law property jurisdiction, Florida courts have long recognized that married couples relocating to Florida from community property jurisdictions maintain their community property rights in property that was community property before their relocation. Florida has adopted the Florida Uniform Disposition of Community Property Rights at Death Act ("Act") to provide guidance for preserving the rights of a surviving spouse in any such community property upon a spouse's death where probate is opened in Florida.

The bill:

- Expands the types of probate records which the clerk must file.
- Makes the following changes to the Act:
 - Authorizes a surviving spouse to waive his or her right to assert a claim under the Act.
 - Exempts certain disputes under the Act from the definition of "creditor claim" and provides a new dispute resolution mechanism and statute of repose for such disputes.
 - Provides that the personal representative or curator has no duty to discover whether property held by the decedent or surviving spouse at the time of death is property to which the Act applies absent receipt of a specified written demand, and requires that a statement to this effect be included in the notice of administration and notice to creditors.
 - Limits the liability of the decedent's surviving spouse, the personal representative or curator, and other specified persons in certain situations.
 - Provides that the personal representative has no right to a surviving spouse's one-half share of property to which the Act applies.
 - Makes other revisions to the Act to improve clarity and reduce the risk of unintended forfeitures of community property rights.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 983 - Pub. Rec./Clerks of the Circuit Court, Deputy Clerks, and Clerk Personnel

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Daley; Harris and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1176

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Government in the Sunshine; Public Employees

The bill creates a public record exemption for specified identifying and location information of current clerks of the circuit courts, deputy clerks of the circuit courts, clerk personnel, and their families. Pursuant to the OGS Act, the exemption will be automatically repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 984 - Judgment Liens

By: Judiciary; Rouson

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 175

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Banking and Insurance; Rules

Category: Civil Justice; Commerce

In 2023, the Legislature passed CS/HB 27, which:

- Allowed a judgment lien to attach to payment intangibles and accounts;
- Specified such a judgment lien's priority as against pre-existing security agreements;
- Clarified when an account debtor owing money to a judgment debtor under payment intangibles or accounts must stop paying the judgment debtor; and
- Created two statutory mechanisms for judgment lien notation on title certificates.

The bill provides clarification for several provisions within 2023 CS/HB 27, specifically explaining:

- When a judgment lien may attach to payment intangibles or accounts.
- That the filing of a noncompliant judgment lien certificate does not preclude the subsequent filing of a compliant certificate.
- That the priority of conflicting rights between a secured party and a judgment lienholder or a judgment creditor without an enforceable lien is determined under ch. 679, F.S.
- That, if a judgment debtor's personal property includes a motor vehicle or vessel, ch. 679, F.S., may be used to determine a judgment lien's enforceability.
- That, where an account debtor is served with a complaint or petition by a judgment creditor seeking judicial relief with respect to payment intangibles or accounts, the account debtor may discharge its payment obligation in accordance with a settlement agreement.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1077 - Clerks of Court

By: Appropriations Committee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Botana and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1470

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Government Operations; Local Government

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

- Revises which trust funds certain moneys are deposited into.
- Allows clerks of court to utilize funding received from filing fees for the improvement of court technology.
- Increases the amount of filing fees that will be retained by the clerks of court which will result in a reduction in the amount of filing fees distributed to the General Revenue Fund.
- Authorizes the establishment of the Miami-Dade County Clerk of Court Driver License Reinstatement Pilot Program.
- Requires appointed capital collateral regional counsel or other appointed attorney to be paid from funds appropriated to the Justice Administrative Commission.
- Eliminates state attorney and public defender reporting requirements regarding affirmative action programs.
- Authorizes clerks of court to invest specified funds in an interest-bearing account.
- Updates the definition of "state agency" or "agency" in the state and regional planning chapter of the Florida Statutes.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 1093 - Florida Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act

By: Judiciary Committee; Caruso

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1316

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice

In 2018, the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws adopted the Uniform Fiduciary Income and Principal Act (“UFIPA”) to account for recent developments in trust and estate investment practices. In response, a Florida Bar Committee proposed a revision to Florida law to implement the general principles of UFIPA.

The bill codifies the Committee’s recommended revisions into ch. 738, F.S., to, in addition to modernizing trust law generally:

- Allow for total-return investing under the “modern portfolio theory.”
- Provide for the conversion of an existing trust into a unitrust.
- Provide flexibility for more individualized estate planning.
- Provide a governing law provision to reduce jurisdictional disputes.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

HB 1393 - Court Interpreter Services

By: Tuck, Joseph and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 468; CS/SB 1660

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Criminal Justice

The bill authorizes the state court system to use state funds to provide court-appointed interpreting services to non-indigent individuals if such funds are available in the fiscal year appropriation for due process services and if such interpreting services are provided as prescribed by the Florida Supreme Court. The bill also removes the requirement that a trial court administrator must recover funds utilized for court interpreter services from individuals who have the present ability to pay.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 1415 (ch. 2024-35, L.O.F.) - Peer Support for First Responders

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Chamberlin and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1712

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Corrections; Law Enforcement

Florida law recognizes the right to confidentiality for peer support communications between a first responder and a first responder peer. For purposes of this confidentiality provision, a “first responder” means a:

- Law enforcement officer;
- Firefighter;
- Emergency medical technician;
- Paramedic; or
- 911 public safety telecommunicator.

The bill adds correctional officers and correctional probation officers to the definition of “first responders” for the purpose of providing confidentiality in civil, criminal, administrative, or disciplinary proceedings for such officers who participate in peer support communications.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-35, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1616 - Electronic Access to Official Records

By: Judiciary; Calatayud

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1443

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Appropriations

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts; Criminal Justice

Current law requires the clerk of court or county recorder to make available on a website the identity of an adult respondent against whom a final judgment for an injunction for the protection of a minor has been entered.

The bill clarifies that each clerk of court or county recorder must make the identities of such respondents viewable to the general public through a searchable database on the clerk’s or recorder’s own website. This requirement may be satisfied by including a link to the official records index that is clearly identified as the location where the identity of the respondents can be found. The bill also requires the clerk’s or recorder’s website to provide notice of the right of any affected party to request the addition to the database of the identity of a respondent if the respondent’s identity is not already included.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 6007 - Relief/Julia Perez/St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Yarkosky; Daniels and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 10

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Claim Bill; Local Government

A St. Johns County Sheriff's Office deputy driving a marked patrol vehicle negligently made a left turn directly in front of an oncoming motorcycle lawfully operated by Ms. Julia Perez, causing Ms. Perez's motorcycle to collide with the patrol vehicle. The collision resulted in serious bodily injury and permanent disability to Ms. Perez. Pursuant to a settlement agreement, the sheriff's office agreed to pay Ms. Perez \$6.5 million, of which \$200,000 has already been paid.

The bill directs the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office to pay the remaining \$6.3 million to Ms. Perez in compensation for her injuries and other damages. The bill limits the amount that may be paid for attorney fees.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

SB 7020 - Delivery of Notices

By: Judiciary

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 513

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

Category: Civil Justice; Courts

Section 1.01, Florida Statutes, provides definitions that generally apply throughout the Florida Statutes. The bill clarifies that the definition of "registered mail" under s. 1.01, F.S., includes any delivery service by the United States Postal Service (USPS) or a private delivery service that is regularly engaged in the delivery of documents which provides proof of mailing or shipping and proof of delivery. The bill states that it is remedial and applies retroactively.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

Criminal Justice Subcommittee

CS/HB 117 (ch. 2024-7, L.O.F.) - Disclosure of Grand Jury Testimony

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Gossett-Seidman and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 234

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice

The bill specifies that a court may authorize the disclosure of grand jury testimony for the purpose of furthering justice when disclosure furthers a public interest and the disclosure is requested by the media or an interested person, regardless of whether the purpose of the disclosure is for use in a criminal or civil case, and:

- The subject of the grand jury inquiry is deceased;
- The grand jury inquiry related to criminal or sexual activity between the subject of the grand jury investigation and a person who was a minor at the time of the alleged criminal or sexual activity;
- The testimony was previously disclosed by a court order; and
- The state attorney is provided notice of the request.

The bill specifies that nothing in the new disclosure provisions created by the bill hinders the court's ability to limit the disclosure of grand jury testimony, including, but not limited to, redaction.

Additionally, the bill generally prohibits the custodian of a grand jury record from disclosing the testimony of a witness examined before the grand jury or other evidence received by the grand jury.

The bill became law on February 29, 2024, chapter 2024-7, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

SB 184 - Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders

By: Avila and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 75

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Community Affairs; Rules

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill creates a second degree misdemeanor offense to prohibit a person, after receiving a verbal warning not to approach from a person he or she knows or reasonably should know is a first responder, who is engaged in the lawful performance of a legal duty, from knowingly and willfully violating such warning and approaching or remaining within 25 feet of the first responder with the intent to:

- Impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform such duty;
- Threaten the first responder with physical harm; or
- Harass the first responder.

Under the bill, a first responder includes a law enforcement officer, a correctional probation officer, a firefighter, and an emergency medical care provider.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

HB 187 - Antisemitism

By: Gottlieb; Fine and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 148

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill creates a definition of "antisemitism" which is applicable to all sections of Florida law and provides contemporary examples of antisemitism. Under the bill, the definition of "antisemitism" is based on a working definition developed and adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and means "a certain perception of Jewish individuals which may be expressed as hatred toward such individuals. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish and non-Jewish individuals and their property and toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."

The bill specifies that the definition of "antisemitism" does not include criticism of Israel that is similar to criticism of any other country and that the definition and examples of "antisemitism" may not be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or to conflict with federal or state antidiscrimination laws.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/HB 275 - Offenses Involving Critical Infrastructure

By: Judiciary Committee; Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Canady and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 340

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Criminal Justice; Cybersecurity; Public Safety; Transportation; Utilities and Communications

The bill creates new criminal offenses involving critical infrastructure, including:

- Knowingly and intentionally improperly tampering with critical infrastructure that results in damage to such critical infrastructure that is \$200 or more, or results in the interruption or impairment of the function of critical infrastructure which costs \$200 or more in labor and supplies to restore, punishable as a second degree felony;
- Trespassing on critical infrastructure as to which notice against entering or remaining in is given, punishable as a third degree felony;
- Accessing a computer, computer system, computer network, or electronic device owned, operated, or used by a critical infrastructure entity without authorization, punishable as a third degree felony; and
- Physically tampering with or inserting a computer contaminant into a computer, computer system, computer network, or electronic device that causes a disruption in any service delivered by a critical infrastructure entity, punishable as a second degree felony.

The bill specifies that a person who is found in a civil action to have improperly tampered with critical infrastructure based on a conviction is civilly liable to the owner or operator of the critical infrastructure for damages in an amount equal to three times:

- The actual damage sustained by the owner or operator due to any property damage, personal injury, or wrongful death caused by the act; or
- Any claim the owner or operator was required to pay for any property damage, personal injury, or wrongful death caused by the malfunction of the critical infrastructure resulting from the criminal act, whichever is greater.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 305 - Offenses Involving Children

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 312

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill expands the applicability of a hearsay exception related to specified statements of a child victim to include such statements made by a child victim with a physical, mental, emotional, or developmental age of 17 years of age or less, rather than 16 years of age or less. Under the bill, the hearsay exception may apply under specified circumstances in any civil or criminal proceeding if the child victim's out-of-court statement describes any act of child abuse or neglect, child sexual abuse, or any other unlawful sexual act performed in the presence of, with, by, or on the child, unless the source of information or circumstances by which the statement is reported indicates a lack of trustworthiness.

The bill also amends criteria under the Florida Sexual Predators Act to require a person to be designated as a sexual predator upon a single conviction for specified human trafficking offenses related to commercial sexual activity, where the victim is a minor.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 487 (ch. 2024-30, L.O.F.) - Lost and Abandoned Property

By: Judiciary Committee; Chaney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 682

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Environmental Protection; Law Enforcement

The bill changes the time period within which a law enforcement officer, having ascertained the name and address of the owner of lost or abandoned property or the name and address of the owner and any lienholders of a derelict vessel or a vessel declared a public nuisance, must mail a copy of the required notice to the owner and any lienholders, if applicable, before the property or vessel may be repurposed, sold, or otherwise removed and destroyed. The bill requires a copy of the required notice to be mailed on the date the notice is affixed to such property or vessel or as soon thereafter as is practical, instead of on or before the date the notice is affixed to such property or vessel.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-30, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

HB 533 (ch. 2024-31, L.O.F.) - DNA Samples from Inmates

By: Fabricio and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 524

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill creates an unnumbered section of law, requiring each inmate in the custody of the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) to submit a DNA sample to DOC no later than September 30, 2024, if he or she has not previously provided a DNA sample pursuant to s. 943.325, F.S., relating to Florida's statewide DNA database. The bill directs DOC to collect and process such samples in accordance with s. 943.325, F.S.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-31, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/HB 549 - Theft

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Rommel and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1222

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice

The bill creates new offenses and revises an existing offense related to theft from a dwelling or unenclosed curtilage of a dwelling by:

- Reducing the threshold value of stolen property for a third degree felony grand theft from between \$100 to \$750, to between \$40 to \$750, ranked as a Level 2 offense on the offense severity ranking chart (OSRC) of the Criminal Punishment Code.
- Creating a third degree felony grand theft, ranked as a Level 4 offense on the OSRC, if stolen property is valued at \$750 or more.
- Creating a second degree felony grand theft, ranked as a Level 5 offense on the OSRC, if property is stolen from more than 20 dwellings or from the unenclosed curtilage of more than 20 dwellings, or any combination thereof.
- Creating a first degree misdemeanor petit theft if stolen property is valued at less than \$40. However, if a person has one prior theft conviction, the offense is enhanced to a third degree felony, ranked as a Level 2 offense on the OSRC; and if a person has two or more prior theft convictions, the offense is enhanced to a third degree felony, ranked as a Level 4 offense on the OSRC.

The bill creates new offenses and revises existing aggregation thresholds related to retail theft by:

- Increasing the period in which the number of thefts or the value of merchandise stolen during individual thefts may be aggregated to determine the total number of thefts or value of property stolen, from 30 days to 120 days.
- Decreasing the number of thefts required to prove a violation of specified retail theft offenses, committed within a specified timeframe and involving a specified number of items of merchandise, from five thefts to three thefts.
- Creating a third degree felony, ranked as a Level 5 offense on the OSRC, if a person acts in concert with five or more other persons within one or more establishments for the purpose of overwhelming the response of a merchant, merchant's employee, or law enforcement officer in order to carry out the offense or avoid detection or apprehension for the offense; and creating a second degree felony, ranked as a Level 6 offense on the OSRC, if, in the course of organizing or committing such an offense, a person solicits the participation of another person through the use of a social media platform.
- Creating a first degree felony, which defaults to a Level 7 offense on the OSRC, if a person commits a retail theft offense and has two or more prior specified retail theft convictions.
- Creating a first degree felony, ranked as a Level 8 offense on the OSRC, if a person possesses a firearm during the commission of a specified retail theft offense.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

HB 601 - Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers

By: Duggan and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 576

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Employees

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

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

Under the bill, any civilian board that is currently performing such oversight functions related to the investigation of complaints of misconduct is prohibited from continuing to do so after July 1, 2024.

The bill authorizes a sheriff or a chief of a municipal police department to establish a civilian oversight board to review the policies and procedures of his or her office or department and its subdivisions. The bill requires such a civilian oversight board to be composed of at least three and up to seven members appointed by the sheriff or chief of police, one of which must be a retired law enforcement officer.

The bill also increases the base salary for each county sheriff by \$5,000.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 678 - Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Grant Program

By: Criminal Justice; Bradley

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 453

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement

The bill establishes the Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Grant Program within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to annually award grants, from any funds specifically appropriated to the grant program, to statewide and local law enforcement agencies and medical examiner's offices to cover expenses related to using forensic investigative genetic genealogy methods to generate investigative leads for criminal investigations of violent crimes and unidentified human remains.

The bill requires the grant funds to be used in accordance with FDLE rule and be limited to the following purposes:

- The analysis of DNA samples collected under applicable legal authority using forensic investigative genetic genealogy methods for solving violent crimes.
- The analysis of DNA samples of unidentified human remains.

The bill requires each grant recipient to provide a report, including certain required information, to the executive director of FDLE no later than one year after receipt of funds under the grant program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 715 (ch. 2024-32, L.O.F.) - Pub. Rec./Problem-solving Court Participant Records

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Maney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 910

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Mental Health; Substance Abuse

The bill makes information relating to a participant or a person considered for participation in a veterans treatment court or a mental health court program that is contained in the following records confidential and exempt from public record requirements:

- Records created or compiled during screenings for participation in the program;
- Records created or compiled during substance abuse screenings;
- Behavioral health evaluations; and
- Subsequent treatment status reports.

The bill allows for disclosure of such information: pursuant to a written request of the participant or person considered for participation or his or her legal representative; to another governmental entity in furtherance of its responsibilities associated with the screening of a person considered for participation in or the provision of treatment to a person in a veterans treatment court or mental health court program; and pursuant to ss. 397.501(7) and 394.4615, F.S., regulating the disclosure of substance abuse providers' records and clinical records, respectively.

The bill applies to such information collected before, on, or after the effective date of the bill. Additionally, pursuant to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, the exemptions created by the bill will be automatically repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-32, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/CS/CS/SB 718 - Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Criminal Justice; Collins and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 231

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy

Category: Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill creates a second degree felony offense to prohibit a person 18 years or older who is unlawfully in possession of dangerous fentanyl or fentanyl analogs from recklessly exposing a first responder, including a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, correctional probation officer, firefighter, emergency medical technician, or paramedic, to such fentanyl or fentanyl analogs when an overdose or serious bodily injury of the first responder results. Under the bill, “expose or exposure” means to cause any of the following, including, but not limited to, ingestion, inhalation, needlestick injury, or absorption through skin or mucous membranes. The bill defines “overdose or serious bodily injury” as drug toxicity or a physical condition that creates a substantial risk of death or substantial loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

The bill expands an immunity provision in current law to prohibit a person from being arrested, charged, prosecuted, or penalized for violating the prohibition against recklessly exposing a first responder to dangerous fentanyl or fentanyl analogs created by the bill if the evidence for such offense was obtained as the result of a person seeking medical assistance for himself or herself or another person who is experiencing, or believed to be experiencing, an alcohol-related or drug-related overdose.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/SB 758 - Tracking Devices and Applications

By: Judiciary; Martin

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 401

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Rules

Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill expands the prohibition against installing a tracking device or tracking application on another person's property without that person's consent to also prohibit:

- Placing a tracking device or tracking application on another person's property without that person's consent; or
- Using a tracking device or tracking application to determine the location or movement of another person or another person's property without that person's consent.

The bill increases the penalty for a violation of the prohibition from a second degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony.

The bill also amends an exception to the prohibitions to allow an owner or lessee of a motor vehicle to install, place, or use a tracking device or tracking application if the owner of the vehicle at the time of the installation or placement of the tracking device or tracking application was the original manufacturer of the vehicle and the next owner of the vehicle was informed of the location and how to remove the device before the vehicle title is transferred.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/CS/SB 764 - Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Criminal Justice; Stewart
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 607

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice;
Fiscal Policy

Category: Criminal Justice; Health Care Facilities; Law Enforcement

The bill requires a sexual assault kit (SAK) collected from a non-reporting victim, a person who chooses not to report an offense to law enforcement, to be retained for a minimum of 50 years. The bill requires medical facilities and certified rape crisis centers that collect such a kit to transfer the kit to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) within 30 days after collection. The bill requires FDLE to store a SAK collected from a non-reporting victim:

- Anonymously;
- In a secure, environmentally safe manner; and
- With a documented chain of custody.

Under the bill, if a non-reporting victim later makes a report to law enforcement or requests, or has a request made on his or her behalf by an authorized representative, to have his or her SAK tested, his or her kit must then be retained until the prosecuting agency authorizes its destruction if the applicable time limitation under s. 775.15, F.S., has not expired and prosecution of a criminal case may still be commenced. However, in circumstances in which a criminal case may no longer be commenced because the applicable statute of limitation has expired, the bill requires the SAK to be maintained in a secure, environmentally safe manner until FDLE has approved its destruction.

Additionally, the bill requires DNA evidence not contained in a SAK and collected from a reporting victim to be retained until the prosecuting agency authorizes its destruction.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 801 - Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Training for Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Buchanan and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 208

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to establish an online, continued employment training component relating to Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia. Under the bill, the training component must be developed in consultation with the Department of Elder Affairs and include, but need not be limited to, instruction on interacting with persons with Alzheimer's disease or a related form of dementia, including instruction on techniques for recognizing behavioral symptoms and characteristics; effective communication; employing alternatives to using physical restraints; and identifying signs of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

The bill specifies that completion of the training component may count toward the 40 hours of instruction required for continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, or correctional probation officer.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

HB 937 - Purple Alert

By: Casello; Keen

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 640

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill amends the Purple Alert process for specified missing adults to create two levels of activation: local and statewide. The bill clarifies that any Purple Alert involving a person who is missing on foot or in an unidentifiable vehicle must be processed and issued through policies developed by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction, rather than by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). Under the bill, when activating a local Purple Alert, local law enforcement agencies must:

- Contact media outlets in the affected area and surrounding jurisdictions;
- Inform all on-duty law enforcement officers of the missing adult report; and
- Communicate the report to any other law enforcement agency in the county of jurisdiction.

The bill specifies that a law enforcement agency may only request the issuance of a statewide Purple Alert from FDLE when the investigation indicates that there is a motor vehicle with an identified license plate or other vehicle information involved. In such cases, FDLE must coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and Department of the Lottery for the:

- Activation of dynamic message signs on state highways and immediate distribution of critical information to the public about the missing adult;
- Notification on lottery terminals, including, but not limited to, lottery terminals in gas stations, convenience stores, and supermarkets; and
- Notification to subscribers of the Purple Alert.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1036 (ch. 2024-8, L.O.F.) - Reclassification of Criminal Penalties

By: Fiscal Policy; Criminal Justice; Ingoglia

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1449

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy

Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill requires reclassification of any new felony committed by a person who was previously convicted of a crime relating to reentry of a removed alien under federal law.

The bill also authorizes reclassification of any misdemeanor or felony if a person committed the offense for the purpose of benefiting, promoting, or furthering the interests of a transnational crime organization. The bill defines “transnational crime organization” to mean an organization that routinely facilitates the international trafficking of drugs, humans, or weapons or the international smuggling of humans.

Under the bill, qualifying offenses are reclassified as follows:

- A misdemeanor of the second-degree is reclassified to a misdemeanor of the first-degree.
- A misdemeanor of the first-degree is reclassified to a felony of the third-degree.
- A felony of the third-degree is reclassified to a felony of the second-degree.
- A felony of the second-degree is reclassified to a felony of the first-degree.
- A felony of the first-degree is reclassified to a life felony.

The bill became law on March 15, 2024, chapter 2024-8, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

HB 1131 - Online Sting Operations Grant Program

By: Temple and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1190

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill establishes the Online Sting Operations Grant Program within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to award grants to local law enforcement agencies to support the creation of sting operations to target individuals online preying upon children or attempting to prey upon children.

The bill requires FDLE to annually award any funds specifically appropriated to the grant program to local law enforcement agencies to cover expenses related to computers, electronics, software, and other related necessary supplies. The bill specifies that the total amount of grants awarded may not exceed funding appropriated for the grant program, and authorizes FDLE to establish criteria and set specific time periods for the acceptance of applications and for the selection process for awarding grant funds.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1133 - Violations Against Vulnerable Road Users

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Redondo; Smith and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Public Safety; Transportation

The bill creates specified penalties for a person who commits a noncriminal traffic infraction that causes serious bodily injury or death to a vulnerable road user. Under the bill, such a person who causes:

- Serious bodily injury to a vulnerable road user must pay a fine of not less than \$1,500, have his or her driver license suspended for 90 days, and complete a department approved driver improvement course relating to the rights of vulnerable road users.
- The death of a vulnerable road user must pay a fine of not less than \$5,000, have his or her driver license suspended for one year, and complete a department approved driver improvement course relating to the rights of vulnerable road users.

Under the bill, a "vulnerable road user" includes specified pedestrians, persons riding animals, and persons lawfully operating bicycles and other specified equipment on the roadway or other specified locations.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1171 - Schemes to Defraud

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Steele and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1220

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Sentencing

The bill prohibits a person from committing organized fraud by engaging in a scheme to defraud by utilizing false or fraudulent endorsements of nonconsenting parties. The bill also prohibits a person from committing communications fraud by engaging in a scheme to defraud by utilizing false or fraudulent endorsements of nonconsenting parties and, in furtherance of that scheme, communicating with any person with the intent to obtain property from that person.

The bill reclassifies organized fraud and communications fraud offenses that are committed against a person 65 years of age or older, a minor, or a person with a mental or physical disability, as defined in s. 775.0863(1)(b), F.S. Under the bill, such offenses are reclassified as follows:

- A misdemeanor of the first-degree is reclassified to a felony of the third-degree.
- A felony of the third-degree is reclassified to a felony of the second-degree.
- A felony of the second-degree is reclassified to a felony of the first-degree.
- A felony of the first-degree is reclassified to a life felony.

The bill creates a civil cause of action for any person whose image or likeness was used without consent in a scheme to defraud and authorizes the person to recover an amount for damages caused by the use of his or her image or likeness. However, the bill specifies that the remedies provided within are in addition to and not in limitation of the remedies available to any person under the common law or any other law.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1181 - Juvenile Justice

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Jacques and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1274

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill amends several statutes relating to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the juvenile justice system, and juvenile firearm possession and use. Specifically, the bill:

- Requires a court, if a minor is found to have committed the offense of unlawfully possessing a firearm three or more times, to adjudicate the minor delinquent and commit the minor to a DJJ residential program.
- Authorizes a law enforcement officer to arrest a minor without a warrant for unlawfully possessing a firearm in violation of s. 790.22(3), F.S., if the officer has probable cause to believe the minor committed such an offense.
- Authorizes a court to commit a juvenile to a residential program for a misdemeanor violation of unlawfully possessing a firearm in violation of s. 790.22(3), F.S.
- Changes the term “civil citation” to “delinquency citation,” prohibits a juvenile charged with an offense involving the use or possession of a firearm from being issued a delinquency citation, and authorizes civil citation or similar prearrest diversion programs existing before July 1, 2024, to continue to operate as a delinquency citation program if such program has been approved by the local State Attorney.
- Requires a juvenile who violates the terms of his or her electronic monitoring to be held in secure detention until a detention hearing and requires a juvenile who is on probation for committing a felony firearm offense to be held in secure detention for up to 21 days if he or she is taken into custody for a specified violation of his or her probation.
- Requires a court to consider, rather than use, the results of DJJ’s risk assessment instrument in determining whether to continue to detain a juvenile, and creates a presumption that a juvenile must be held in secure detention if the court finds probable cause that he or she committed murder or other specified offenses involving the use or possession of a firearm.
- Requires a juvenile who is adjudicated delinquent by a court for committing any offense or attempted offense involving a firearm to be placed on conditional release for one year following his or her release from a juvenile commitment program and prohibits a court from withholding adjudication if a juvenile previously had adjudication withheld for specified offenses, and requires a court to adjudicate such a juvenile delinquent and sentence the juvenile to a DJJ residential program.
- Provides minimum standards and requirements for conditional release.
- Authorizes DJJ to create a “graduated response matrix” by administrative rule.
- Requires DJJ to establish a class on the consequences of committing firearm offenses.

- Increases the penalty for introducing contraband into a DJJ facility to a second degree felony; prohibits a person from introducing any currency, cigarettes, or tobacco products into a DJJ facility; and authorizes DJJ staff to use canine units in a DJJ facility to locate and seize contraband.
- Authorizes a juvenile's educational records to be introduced in court proceedings.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1235 - Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1230

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill makes several changes relating to the registration requirements for sexual predators and sexual offenders and penalties for noncompliance, including by:

- Clarifying the definitions of “conviction,” “permanent residence,” “temporary residence,” and “transient residence” and clarifying how to determine if a location qualifies as a specified type of residence.
- Authorizing a sexual predator or sexual offender to use the Florida Department of Law Enforcement’s (FDLE) online reporting system to report any changes to vehicles owned.
- Requiring a sheriff to electronically submit to FDLE the addresses and locations where a sexual predator or sexual offender maintains a transient residence within two business days after a sexual predator or sexual offender provides such information to the sheriff’s office.
- Requiring a sexual predator or sexual offender who intends to establish a permanent, temporary, or transient residence in another state or jurisdiction other than Florida to report such an intention at least, rather than within, 48 hours before the date he or she intends to leave the state, and to report to the sheriff’s office as soon as possible before departure any travel that is not known by the sexual predator or sexual offender 48 hours before he or she intends to establish a residence in another state or jurisdiction or 21 days before the departure date for travel outside the United States.
- Specifying that a sexual predator who fails to respond to any address verification correspondence from a county or local law enforcement agency within a specified time period commits a third degree felony and that each instance of a sexual predator’s failure to register or report changes to the required registration information constitutes a separate offense.
- Requiring, if a sexual offender is in the custody of a local jail, the custodian of the local jail to:
 - Register the sexual offender within three business days after his or her intake and upon his or her release and to forward such registration to FDLE.
 - Take a digitized photograph of the sexual offender while he or she is in custody and forward such photograph to FDLE.
 - Notify FDLE if the sexual offender escapes from custody or dies.
- Aligning provisions relating to a sexual offender’s noncompliance with registration and reporting requirements to mirror similar provisions relating to noncompliance with registration for a sexual predator, and providing that each instance of a sexual offender’s failure to register or report changes to the required registration information constitutes a separate offense.
- Requiring that FDLE receive notice of a petition for removal of sexual offender registration requirements three weeks prior to a hearing and authorizing FDLE to present evidence in opposition to such a petition.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1241 - Probation and Community Control Violations

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Snyder and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1154

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill revises provisions related to probation and the alternative sanctioning program (ASP) by requiring a court to:

- Modify, rather than revoke, probation if a probationer meets specified criteria and has fewer than two previous violations of probation resolved by the court and limits the jail sentence a court may impose for a low-risk violation to 90 days for a first low-risk violation and 120 days for a second low-risk violation.
- Hold a hearing on a low-risk violation of probation within 30 days after a probationer's arrest for the violation of probation or to release the probationer without bail unless the court determines that the hearing was not held in the applicable time frame due to circumstances attributable to the probationer.

The bill prohibits a previous community sanction violation that was resolved through the ASP from being assessed sentencing points and being used when determining an offender's lowest permissible sentence for a violation of probation if probation is later revoked.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1281 - Interception and Disclosure of Oral Communications

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Persons-Mulicka; Joseph and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1618

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill adds an exception to the prohibition against intercepting specified wire, oral, or electronic communications to authorize a parent or legal guardian of a child under 18 years of age to lawfully intercept an oral communication if the child is a party to the communication and the parent or legal guardian has reasonable grounds to believe the recording will capture a statement by another party to the communication that the other party intends to commit, is committing, or has committed an unlawful sexual act or an unlawful act of physical force or violence against the child.

A recording that is authorized under the bill and which captures a statement by a party that the party intends to commit, is committing, or has committed an unlawful sexual act or an unlawful act of physical force or violence against a child must be provided to a law enforcement agency and may be used for the purpose of evidencing the intent to commit or the commission of an unlawful sexual act or an unlawful act of physical force or violence against a child, but may not be otherwise disseminated or shared.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/SB 1286 - Return of Weapons and Arms Following an Arrest

By: Criminal Justice; Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 485

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Rules

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill deletes the requirement for a sheriff or chief of police to retain custody of all weapons or firearms seized incident to an arrest until after the trial of the person arrested. Instead, the bill requires a law enforcement agency to return any weapons or firearms that are taken from a person following an arrest, but that are not seized as evidence or seized and subject to forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act in ss. 932.701–932.7062, F.S., upon request of the person arrested within 30 days after such request is made if he or she:

- Has been released from detention;
- Provides a form of government-issued photographic identification; and
- If requesting the return of a firearm, successfully completes a criminal history background check confirming the person is not prohibited from possessing a firearm under state or federal law, including not having any prohibition arising from an injunction, a risk protection order, or any other court order prohibiting the person from possessing a firearm.

The bill authorizes a sheriff or chief of police to develop reasonable procedures to ensure the timely return of weapons or firearms which are not inconsistent with the bill. The bill prohibits a sheriff or chief of police from requiring a court order to release weapons or firearms that are not seized as evidence in a criminal proceeding unless there are competing claims of ownership of such weapons or firearms.

The bill also deletes a provision requiring an order of a trial court judge to return a pistol or firearm to its owner if such pistol or firearm was taken by an officer upon a view by the officer of a breach of the peace.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1337 - Department of Corrections

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Stark; Jacques and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1278

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Government Operations; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill makes several changes to statutes relating to the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC), including:

- Revising the term “private correctional facility” to “contractor-operated correctional facility.”
- Specifying that a contract for operating a contractor-operated correctional facility is not exempt from ch. 287, F.S., including competitive solicitation requirements, and that FDC may use any competitive solicitation process in ch. 287, F.S., to procure a contract for the operation of a contractor-operated correctional facility.
- Deleting references to the obsolete Prison Per-Diem Workgroup that was previously tasked with determining the inmate per diem that is used in determining the cost of operating a correctional institution, which is used in the competitive solicitation and legislative appropriations process for contractor-operated correctional facilities. As such, FDC will continue to provide the per diem calculations required as part of the competitive solicitation process for contractor-operated correctional facilities.
- Deleting the provision in current law that prohibits FDC from having authority over funds appropriated for the operation, maintenance, and lease-purchase of contractor-operated correctional facilities, thereby reflecting FDC’s contract monitoring authority of contractor-operated correctional facilities.
- Authorizing a law enforcement officer employed by the FDC Office of the Inspector General to conduct all criminal investigations involving matters over which FDC has jurisdiction at contractor-operated correctional facilities and authorizing such an officer, for matters over which FDC has jurisdiction, to have the same arrest authority as provided for law enforcement officers generally in ch. 901, F.S. The bill authorizes an officer to make arrests consistent with such authority in the following circumstances, including an arrest of:
 - Any prisoner or visitor to a state correctional institution or a contractor-operated correctional facility for a violation of the criminal laws of this state involving an offense that occurs on property owned or leased by FDC or on the property of a contractor-operated correctional facility;
 - Offenders who have escaped or absconded from custody;
 - An FDC staff member, including any contract employee, subcontractor, or volunteer, for a violation of the criminal laws of this state on property owned or leased by FDC;
 - A staff member, contract employee, subcontractor, or volunteer at any contractor-operated correctional facility for a violation of the criminal laws of this state that occurs on the property of a contractor-operated correctional facility; or
 - Persons against whom arrest warrants have been issued.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1389 - Digital Voyeurism

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Cassel; Cross and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1604

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Sentencing

The bill renames the offense of “video voyeurism” to “digital voyeurism” and revises the penalty scheme for digital voyeurism offenses. Under the bill:

- A person under 19 years of age commits a first degree misdemeanor for a first offense of digital voyeurism.
- A person 19 years of age or older commits a third degree felony for a first offense of digital voyeurism, ranked as a Level 3 offense on the offense severity ranking chart (OSRC) of the Criminal Punishment Code.
- A person, regardless of age, commits a third degree felony for a first offense of digital voyeurism dissemination, ranked as a Level 4 offense on the OSRC.
- A person, regardless of age, commits a third degree felony for a first offense of commercial digital voyeurism dissemination, ranked as a Level 5 offense on the OSRC.
- A person, regardless of age, commits a second degree felony for a second or subsequent digital voyeurism offense, ranked as a Level 5 offense on the OSRC.
- A person commits a second degree felony for a violation of s. 810.145(8), F.S., digital voyeurism committed against a specified minor, ranked as a Level 5 offense on the OSRC. A violation of s. 810.145(8), F.S., when the offender has a prior digital voyeurism conviction remains a second degree felony, ranked as a Level 6 offense.

The bill enhances criminal penalties for digital voyeurism offenses when the offender is a family or household member, or holds a position of authority or trust, with the victim.

The bill specifies that each instance of secretly viewing a person in violation of s. 810.145(2), F.S., or of broadcasting, recording, disseminating, distributing, or transferring an image or recording made in violation of s. 810.145(2), F.S., is a separate offense for which a separate penalty is authorized.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1425 - Juvenile Justice

By: Judiciary Committee; Yarkosky

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1352

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill amends several statutes relating to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Specifically, the bill:

- Revises juvenile commitment restrictiveness level classifications and terms, to replace the terms “gender-specific” and “gender” with “sex-specific” and “sex,” respectively, to conform to terminology defined in s. 553.865, F.S.
- Includes any DJJ personnel and any DJJ contracted provider with direct contact with youth in the care of DJJ in the list of persons who are authorized to possess, store, and administer emergency opioid antagonists and who are immune from any civil or criminal liability as a result of administering an emergency opioid antagonist.
- Removes and reassigns certain duties from the juvenile justice circuit advisory boards to other entities and streamlines the role of such boards.
- Prohibits a person who has taken a child into custody from releasing a child to a juvenile assessment center if the child is suffering from a serious physical condition which requires prompt diagnosis or treatment, is believed to be mentally ill, or appears to be intoxicated and has threatened, attempted, or inflicted physical harm on himself or herself or another, or is incapacitated by substance abuse.
- Clarifies that the transfer of a child to or from secure detention care or supervised release detention care may be initiated upon a court’s own motion; a motion of the child; or a motion of the state. The bill requires a court to consider any information provided by DJJ regarding a child’s adjustment to detention supervision.
- Authorizes DJJ to use state or federal funds to purchase and distribute promotional and educational materials for specified purposes.
- Authorizes the Florida Scholars Academy’s board of trustees to review and approve an annual academic calendar for students enrolled in a traditional K-12 education pathway.
- Makes conforming changes to align current education statutes with the controlling provisions of the Florida Scholars Academy adopted in 2023.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 1512 (ch. 2024-20, L.O.F.) - Controlled Substances

By: Brodeur

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 1595

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy

Category: Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill adds tianeptine to the list of Schedule I controlled substances. As such, under the bill, the manufacture, distribution, preparation, and dispensing of tianeptine will be regulated by Florida law.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-20, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1545 - Child Exploitation Offenses

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker; Yarkosky and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1656

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill increases the ranking for specified child exploitation offenses on the offense severity ranking chart (OSRC) of the Criminal Punishment Code. Under the bill, second degree felony, is increased from a Level 6 to a Level 7 offense.

- Possessing child pornography with the intent to promote such child pornography, a second degree felony, is increased from a Level 5 to a Level 7 offense.
- Possessing or intentionally viewing child pornography, a third degree felony, is increased from a Level 5 to a Level 6 offense.

Additionally, the bill creates a new offense to prohibit harmful communication to a minor as a third degree felony, and ranks the offense as a Level 3 offense on the OSRC. Under the bill, an adult is prohibited from engaging in a pattern of verbal or written communication to a minor that includes explicit and detailed descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual activity, sexual conduct, or sexual excitement and that is harmful to minors. The bill specifies that a person's ignorance of a minor's age, a minor's misrepresentation of his or her age, a bona fide belief of a minor's age, or a minor's consent may not be raised as a defense in a prosecution for a violation of the offense.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1589 (ch. 2024-10, L.O.F.) - Driving Without a Valid Driver License

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Plakon

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1324

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill revises the criminal penalties applicable to an offense of driving without a valid license. Under the bill, a person commits a:

- Second degree misdemeanor, upon a first conviction.
- First degree misdemeanor, upon a second conviction.
- First degree misdemeanor, and must serve 10 days in jail upon a third or subsequent conviction.

The bill became law on March 15, 2024, chapter 2024-10, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1653 - Duties and Prohibited Acts Associated with Death

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Giallombardo and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 768

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill requires a person who becomes aware of the death of any person under the circumstances described in s. 406.11, F.S., to report such a death and the circumstances surrounding the death to either the district medical examiner or to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over the location.

The bill retains the first degree misdemeanor offense in current law if a person knowingly fails or refuses to report a death under the circumstances described in s. 406.11, F.S., or refuses to make available prior medical or other information pertinent to a death investigation, and creates a new offense, punishable as a third degree felony, if a person fails to make such a report or fails to make such specified information available with the intent to conceal the death or to alter the circumstances surrounding the death.

The bill increases the penalty if a person, without an order from the office of the district medical examiner, willfully touches, removes, or disturbs a body, clothing, or any article upon or near the body, with the intent to conceal the death or alter the evidence or circumstances surrounding the death, from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1764 - Car Racing Penalties

By: Transportation; Pizzo and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 449

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Rules

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety; Transportation

The bill revises offenses and penalties related to street takeovers, stunt driving, and racing by:

- Increasing the fine for a base level offense from \$500 to \$1,000, to \$500 to \$2,000.
- Decreasing the time period within which conviction for a second offense results in an enhanced penalty, from within five years after the date of a prior violation that resulted in conviction, to within one year of such a violation; increasing the penalty for such a violation from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony; and increasing the fine for such a violation from \$1,000 to \$3,000, to \$2,500 to \$4,000.
- Increasing the penalty for a third or subsequent offense within five years after the date of a prior violation that resulted in a conviction, from a first degree misdemeanor to a second degree felony; and increasing the fine from \$2,000 to \$5,000, to \$3,500 to \$7,500.
- Increasing the fine for a spectator noncriminal infraction to \$400.

The bill also creates new offenses and penalties related to street takeovers, stunt driving, and racing by:

- Creating a third degree felony offense for any person who, in the course of committing a base level offense, knowingly impedes, obstructs, or interferes with an authorized emergency vehicle that is on call and responding to an emergency; and creating a second degree felony, in addition to a four year driver license revocation, for a second or subsequent violation of such offense.
- Defining a “coordinated street takeover” to mean 10 or more vehicles operated in an organized manner to effect a street takeover; and creating a third degree felony offense for a person who commits a specified violation related to driving, filming or recording, impeding traffic, or carrying fuel while engaged in a coordinated street takeover.

The bill removes a provision that limits law enforcement’s ability to impound a vehicle that is used to commit a street takeover, stunt driving, or racing offense to only vehicles that are owned or co-owned by the person who is arrested for the offense.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rules Committee

Representative Daniel Perez, Chair

Representative Linda Chaney, Vice Chair

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SB 72 (ch. 2024-1, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7027

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The bill prospectively adopts as the official statutory law of the state all statutes of a general and permanent nature passed through the 2023 Regular Session together with corrections, changes, and amendments to and repeals of the provisions of the 2023 Florida Statutes enacted in additional Reviser's bills by the 2024 Legislature.

The bill excludes from adoption legislation passed during the November 6-9, 2023, Special Session through the 2024 Regular Session, which occurred after the publication of the 2023 Florida Statutes.

The bill became law on February 15, 2024, chapter 2024-1, Laws of Florida, and will take effect on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (May 7, 2024).

SB 74 (ch. 2024-2, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7029

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The bill is a general reviser's bill of a technical nature that deletes expired or obsolete language; corrects cross references and grammatical errors; removes inconsistencies, redundancies, and unnecessary repetition in the statutes; improves the clarity of the statutes and facilitates their correct interpretation; and confirms the restoration of provisions unintentionally omitted from republication in the Legislature's acts during the amendatory process.

The bill became law on February 15, 2024, chapter 2024-2, Laws of Florida, and will take effect on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (May 7, 2024).

SB 76 (ch. 2024-3, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7031

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The bill is a general reviser's bill that deletes statutory provisions that have been repealed by a non-current (past-year) session of the Legislature where that repeal or expiration date has now occurred, rendering the provision of no effect. Such provisions may be omitted from publication in the 2024 Florida Statutes only through a reviser's bill duly enacted by the Legislature.

The bill became law on February 15, 2024, chapter 2024-3, Laws of Florida, and will take effect on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (May 7, 2024).

SB 78 (ch. 2024-4, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7033

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The reviser's bill conforms to the directive of Section 11.242(5)(j), F.S., to omit statutes which grant duplicative, redundant, or unused statutory rulemaking authority.

The bill became law on February 15, 2024, chapter 2024-4, Laws of Florida, and will take effect on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (May 7, 2024).

SB 80 (ch. 2024-5, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7035

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The bill replaces references to the term "professional development" with the term "professional learning" in the Florida Statutes pursuant to the directive of s. 39, ch. 2023-39, Laws of Florida.

The bill became law on February 15, 2024, Chapter 2024-5, Laws of Florida, and will take effect on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (May 7, 2024).

SB 82 (ch. 2024-6, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7037

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The bill changes the terms “Department of Economic Opportunity” and “Secretary of Economic Opportunity,” to “Department of Commerce” and “Secretary of Commerce,” respectively, wherever the terms appear in the Florida Statutes pursuant to the directive of s. 147, ch. 2023-173, Laws of Florida.

The bill became law on February 15, 2024, chapter 2024-6, Laws of Florida, and will take effect on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (May 7, 2024).

The Rules Committee has no subcommittees under it.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Select Committee on Health Innovation
Representative Kaylee Tuck, Chair
Representative Vicki L. Lopez, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



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CS/HB 241 - Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings

By: Select Committee on Health Innovation; Massullo; Payne and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 56

Committee(s) of Reference: Select Committee on Health Innovation; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance; Public Employees

The bill requires the state group health insurance plan to provide coverage for an annual skin cancer screening by a dermatologist, physician assistant, or an advanced registered practice registered nurse. The bill prohibits the state group health insurance plan from imposing a deductible, copayment, coinsurance, or any other cost sharing requirement for such coverage. The bill requires the Department of Management Services to implement the benefit effective January 1, 2025.

The bill prohibits state group health insurance plan insurers and health plans from bundling payments for skin cancer screenings with any other procedure or service, including evaluations or management visits, which are performed during the same, or a subsequent, office visit.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 644 - Rural Emergency Hospitals

By: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Simon

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 309

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Federal Government; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Financing; Health Services; Local Government

The bill authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to designate rural emergency hospitals which provide outpatient health care services for up to 24 hours, on average, and meet federal Medicare requirements for rural emergency hospitals. Once designated, the bill qualifies a rural hospital to receive monthly supplemental Medicare payments and increased Medicaid rates.

The bill exempts a designated rural emergency hospital from offering acute inpatient care or care beyond 24 hours or obstetrical care, or similar services as long as the hospital maintains its rural emergency hospital designation. The bill requires AHCA to revoke the designation if the hospital fails to meet these requirements.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 885 - Coverage for Biomarker Testing

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Select Committee on Health Innovation; Gonzalez Pittman and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 964

Committee(s) of Reference: Select Committee on Health Innovation; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Federal Government; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance; Public Employees

The bill requires coverage within the state group insurance plan and Medicaid program for biomarker testing for the purposes of diagnosis, treatment, appropriate management, or ongoing monitoring of an enrollee's disease or condition or to guide treatment. The bill requires enrollees to have access to a clear and convenient process to request authorization for testing through readily accessible websites of the insurer, health plan, and Medicaid program.

The bill requires the Medicaid program to implement this coverage by October 1, 2024, and makes the coverage requirements applicable to state group health insurance policies issued on or after January 1, 2025.

For Medicaid, the bill authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration to seek federal approval if necessary to implement the coverage. For Medicaid managed care contracts, the bill permits the inclusion of any rate impact of the benefit change in the applicable contracts.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 935 - Home Health Care Services

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Select Committee on Health Innovation; Franklin and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1798

Committee(s) of Reference: Select Committee on Health Innovation; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Social Services

Florida Medicaid pays for home health services ordered by a physician. The bill authorizes Medicaid to pay for home health services ordered by advanced practice registered nurses and physician assistants.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1259 - Providers of Cardiovascular Services

By: Select Committee on Health Innovation; Andrade and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1612

Committee(s) of Reference: Select Committee on Health Innovation; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Services

The Agency for Health Care Administration licenses three levels of hospital programs for Adult Cardiovascular Services (ACS), including adult inpatient diagnostic cardiac catheterization, Level I ACS, and Level II ACS. Level I ACS programs provide diagnostic and therapeutic cardiac catheterization services, including percutaneous cardiac intervention (PCI). Level I ACS programs are not allowed to perform open heart surgery, use rotational or other atherectomy devices, or treat chronic total occlusions.

The bill authorizes Level I ACS programs to perform adult PCI for treatment of chronic total occlusions, and to use rotational or other atherectomy devices, or electrophysiology, when performing PCI.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

The Select Committee on Health Innovation has no subcommittees under it.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Affairs Committee

Representative Lawrence McClure, Chair

Representative Michael A. Caruso, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee

Representative Spencer Roach, Chair

Representative Rick Roth, Vice Chair

Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee

Representative Tom Fabricio, Chair

Representative Webster Barnaby, Vice Chair

Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka, Chair

Representative Robert A. Brackett, Vice Chair

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CS/CS/SB 328 - Affordable Housing

By: Fiscal Policy; Community Affairs; Calatayud and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1239; includes part(s) of CS/SB 7074

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Fiscal Policy

Category: Budget; Local Government; Military; Real Property; Taxes

The bill amends various provisions of the Live Local Act (act) to:

- Provide that affordable units qualifying under the act's preemption of certain local zoning and land use regulations must be rental units and the highest allowed density and height subject to the preemption does not include bonuses, variances, or other special exceptions.
- Modify the height preemption for developments adjacent to single-family residential uses.
- Limit the ability of local governments to restrict the intensity of a proposed development beyond the highest amount currently authorized.
- Prohibit qualifying developments located near a military installation and exempt certain airport impacted areas.
- Clarify that the act does not limit a local government's ability to grant certain bonuses and provide that a proposed development is still eligible for certain bonuses provided by local ordinance if certain conditions are satisfied.
- Require developments authorized under the act be treated as a conforming use even after expiration of the development's affordability period and expiration of the act.
- Modify parking reduction requirements for qualifying developments.
- Grandfather in applicants for proposed developments under current law.
- Require fewer units be set aside for income-limited persons and families for developments located in the Florida Keys.
- Clarify that the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's (FHFC) duties are ministerial, while local property appraisers maintain authority to grant tax exemptions.
- Outline the method for property appraisers to value tax-exempt units.
- Expand the authority of the FHFC to exclude certain developers from participating in its programs.

For Fiscal Year 2024-2025, the bill appropriates \$100 million in nonrecurring funds to the FHFC to administer the Florida Hometown Hero Program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

HCR 693 - Congressional Term Limits**By: Borrero, Gregory and others****Tied Bills: None****Companion Bills: SCR 326****Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee****Category: Constitutional Amendments; Federal Government**

The concurrent resolution constitutes the state's application to the United States Congress under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to call a convention to consider and propose a constitutional amendment limiting the number of terms members of the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives may serve.

The concurrent resolution was adopted on February 1, 2024, and is not subject to the Governor's veto powers. The concurrent resolution will be sent to the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, each member of the Florida delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each state.

HCR 703 - Balanced Federal Budget**By: Sirois, Gregory and others****Tied Bills: None****Companion Bills: SCR 324****Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee****Category: Constitutional Amendments; Federal Government**

The concurrent resolution constitutes the state's application to the United States Congress under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to call a convention to consider and propose a constitutional amendment requiring the federal government to have a balanced annual budget.

The concurrent resolution was adopted on February 1, 2024, and is not subject to the Governor's veto powers. The concurrent resolution will be sent to the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, each member of the Florida delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each state.

SJR 1114 - Public Financing for Campaigns of Candidates for Elective Statewide Office

By: Hutson

Tied Bills: SB 1116

Companion Bills: HJR 7059

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Rules

Category: Constitutional Amendments; Elections; Repeals of Existing Laws

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution that repeals the requirement for the Legislature to establish a method of public financing for campaigns of candidates for statewide office.

The amendment proposed in the joint resolution will take effect on January 7, 2025, if approved by sixty percent of the voters during the 2024 general election or earlier special election.

SB 1116 - Campaign Finance

By: Hutson

Tied Bills: SJR 1114

Companion Bills: HB 7061

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Rules

Category: Elections; Repeals of Existing Laws

The bill repeals the Florida Election Campaign Financing Act, which creates a statutory framework for the public financing of statewide campaigns, provided SJR 1114 is approved by 60 percent of the voters at the 2024 general election or an earlier special election.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 7, 2025, if SJR 1114 is approved by sixty percent of the voters during the 2024 general election or an earlier special election.

HCR 7055 - Equal Application of the Law

By: State Affairs Committee; Alvarez and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SCR 7066

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Constitutional Amendments; Federal Government

The concurrent resolution constitutes the state's application to the United States Congress under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to call a convention to consider and propose a constitutional amendment prohibiting Congress from making any law that does not equally apply to all U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators, and to all members of the federal legislative branch.

The concurrent resolution was adopted on March 4, 2024, and is not subject to the Governor's veto powers. The concurrent resolution will be sent to the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, each member of the Florida delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each state.

HCR 7057 - Line-item Veto

By: State Affairs Committee; Alvarez and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SCR 7064

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Budget; Constitutional Amendments; Federal Government

The concurrent resolution constitutes the state's application to the United States Congress under Article V of the U.S. Constitution to call a convention to consider and propose a constitutional amendment authorizing the President of the United States to eliminate one or more items of appropriation while approving other portions of a bill.

The concurrent resolution was adopted on March 4, 2024, and is not subject to the Governor's veto powers. The concurrent resolution will be sent to the President of the U.S. Senate, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, each member of the Florida delegation to the U.S. Congress, and the presiding officer of each house of the legislature of each state.

HB 7071 - Foreign Investments by the State Board of Administration

By: State Affairs Committee; Caruso and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7060

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Government Operations; Retirement

The bill prohibits the State Board of Administration (SBA) from acquiring, on behalf of the Florida Retirement System Trust Fund, direct holdings in a company that is publicly known to be majority-owned by the Chinese government, the Chinese Communist Party, or the Chinese military. The bill requires the SBA to develop a divestment plan and to divest from such companies by a date certain, with certain exceptions.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee

CS/CS/CS/HB 149 - Continuing Contracts

By: State Affairs Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Alvarez and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 656

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations; Local Government

The bill increases the estimated per project construction cost limit for continuing contracts covered by the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act from a maximum of \$4 million to \$7.5 million and, beginning July 1, 2025, provides an annual increase based on the Consumer Price Index.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 151 - Florida Retirement System

By: Appropriations Committee; Busatta Cabrera and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: Includes CS/SB 400, SB 7024

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee

Category: Budget; Public Employees; Retirement

The bill makes the following changes to the Florida Retirement System (FRS):

- Closes the FRS Preservation of Benefits Plan to new members effective July 1, 2026.
- Allows FRS retirees to receive both compensation from an employer that participates in the FRS and retirement benefits, provided the retiree is not reemployed within the six months following the date of retirement.
- Adjusts the employer contribution rates for the FRS.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 276 - Review of Advisory Bodies

By: Avila

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 1211

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government Operations

The bill requires each executive agency that has an adjunct advisory body to annually upload a report to the Florida Fiscal Portal website maintained by the Executive Office of the Governor and specifies the content of the report. The bill also requires any law creating or authorizing the creation of an advisory body to provide for the repeal of the advisory body on October 2nd of the third year after enactment.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 357 - Special Observances

By: State Affairs Committee; Holcomb and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 346

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations; Military

The bill replaces the “Veterans Week” special observance by designating the month of November as “Veterans Appreciation Month.”

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 592 - Historical Preservation Programs

By: Fiscal Policy; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Burgess

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 1679

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy

Category: Government Operations

The bill requires the Department of State to partner with the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network, subject to appropriation, to preserve the history, culture, and contributions of Florida’s black and African-American residents, including, but not limited to, providing funding to support member museums.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 674 - United States-produced Iron and Steel in Public Works Projects

By: Boyd

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 779

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Fiscal Policy

Category: Government Operations; Local Government; Transportation

The bill requires a governmental entity contracting for a public works project, or purchasing materials for such a project, to include a requirement that any iron or steel product permanently incorporated in the project be produced in the United States, with certain exceptions. The bill requires the Department of Management Services to develop guidelines and procedures by rule to implement the act.

Subject to the Governor’s veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 781 - Unsolicited Proposals for Public-private Partnerships

By: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Clemons and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 870

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations; Local Government

The bill provides an alternative process by which local governments may enter into a public-private partnership (P3) for a project offered by a private entity's unsolicited proposal. The bill authorizes a local government to proceed with an unsolicited proposal for a qualifying P3 project without engaging in a public bidding process provided certain requirements are met.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 1227 - Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day

By: Antone; Bankson and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1312

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations; Military

The bill designates the fourth Thursday in March as a legal holiday to be known as "Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day."

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1331 - Commodities Produced by Forced Labor

By: State Affairs Committee; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Yeager and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 7042

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations

The bill prohibits state agency contracts with companies for commodities produced, in whole or in part, by forced labor, with certain exceptions. The bill requires the Department of Management Services to create and maintain a forced labor vendor list of companies disqualified from public contracting for a specified period for violating the prohibition.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1567 - Qualifications for County Emergency Management Directors

By: State Affairs Committee; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Grant and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1262

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Emergency Management; Local Government

The bill creates minimum education, experience, and training standards for county emergency management directors and provides that current directors have until June 30, 2026, to meet the new requirements.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/SB 1746 (ch. 2024-23, L.O.F.) - Public Employees

By: Rules; Ingoglia

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1471

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Government Operations; Public Employees

The bill removes the requirement that employee organizations submit audited financial statements and, instead, requires financial statements be prepared by an independent certified public accountant. For registration renewal applications submitted during a specified period, the bill prohibits the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) from denying the registration renewal or revoking the registration of an employee organization based solely on the organization's failure to submit an audited financial statement.

The bill requires a certified bargaining agent to petition PERC for recertification if less than 60 percent of the employees in the bargaining unit have not submitted membership authorization forms and have not paid dues to the employee organization during its last registration period.

The bill specifies that the exemptions from certain requirements apply to a bargaining unit with a majority of employees eligible for representation employed as law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, firefighters, 911 public safety telecommunicators, emergency medical technicians, or paramedics. The bill also specifies that the dues deduction exemption for mass transit employees only applies to those employees who submit a membership authorization form to their employer as part of the authorization for dues deduction.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-23, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee

CS/HB 135 - Voter Registration Applications

By: State Affairs Committee; Gossett-Seidman; Caruso and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1256

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Elections; Technology

The bill prohibits the party affiliation of an applicant who is updating his or her voter registration record from being changed unless the applicant designates and consents in writing to change his or her party affiliation. The bill also requires a driver license office to provide a printed receipt to an applicant that documents any change in party affiliation. The bill requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, by a time certain, to ensure that information technology processes and updates do not alter an applicant's party affiliation without written consent.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/SB 474 (ch. 2024-18, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Suicide Victims

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Grall and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 529

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Government in the Sunshine

The bill expands the current public record exemption for photographs, video recordings, and audio recordings that depict or record the killing of certain persons to include such photographs and recordings related to victims of suicide. The bill also creates a public record exemption for the autopsy report of a person whose manner of death was suicide. The bill provides for retroactive application of the exemptions, provides for future legislative review and repeal of the exemptions, and provides public necessity statements as required by the State Constitution.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-18, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/HB 919 - Artificial Intelligence Use in Political Advertising

By: State Affairs Committee; Rizo and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 850

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Justice

Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Elections; Technology

The bill requires certain political advertisements, electioneering communications, or other miscellaneous advertisements of a political nature to include a specified disclaimer if they contain content created with the use of generative artificial intelligence. The bill creates requirements for the disclaimer and provides for civil and criminal penalties for noncompliance.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 7001 (ch. 2024-38, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Reporter of Child Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Tramont

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7036

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Social Services

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption concerning all identifying information of a person reporting child abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-38, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

CS/HB 7003 (ch. 2024-39, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Preregistered Voters

By: State Affairs Committee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Holcomb and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7010

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Elections; Government in the Sunshine

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for all information concerning 16- or 17-year-old voter registration applicants who pre-register to vote and authorizes an agency to disclose confidential and exempt voter registration information in a limited instance.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-39, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

HB 7005 (ch. 2024-40, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Financial Disclosure

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Holcomb

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7012

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Ethics; Government in the Sunshine

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for secure login credentials held by the Commission on Ethics for the purpose of allowing access to the electronic financial disclosure filing system, as well as information entered into that system before submission.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-40, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7006 (ch. 2024-24, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Utility Owned or Operated by a Unit of Local Government

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Regulated Industries; and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7047

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine; Local Government; Utilities and Communications

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for customer meter-derived data and billing information held by a utility owned or operated by a unit of local government. The bill extends the repeal date for the public record exemption for information related to the security of the local government utility's information technology (IT), and the public meeting exemption for meetings wherein meter-derived data and billing information or IT security information is discussed.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-24, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

HB 7007 (ch. 2024-41, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Campus Emergency Response

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Griffiths

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7022

Committee(s) of Reference: Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Emergency Management; Government in the Sunshine; Post-Secondary Education

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for any portion of a campus emergency response of a postsecondary educational institution, as well as the public meeting exemption for portions of a meeting that would reveal information related to a campus emergency response.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-41, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7008 - OGSR/Department of the Lottery

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Regulated Industries; and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7045

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for certain information held by the Department of the Lottery (department), including security information, information about lottery games, information concerning terminals and machines that issue tickets, certain information relating to the department's participation in a multistate lottery association or game, personal identifying information of retailers and vendors, and financial information about certain entities. The bill extends the repeal date for the public record exemption for certain information relating to the security of the department's technology.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

HB 7009 - OGSR/Mental Health Treatment and Services

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Griffitts

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7034

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Courts; Government in the Sunshine; Mental Health

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for all petitions for voluntary and involuntary admission for mental health treatment, court orders, and related records filed with or by a court pursuant to the Baker Act.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7014 - Ethics

By: Rules; Ethics and Elections

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1597

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Ethics; Local Government

The bill makes the following changes to the Code of Ethics:

- Creates statutory timeframes for conducting and completing investigations of alleged ethics violations by the Commission on Ethics (Commission).
- Requires ethics complaints be based on personal knowledge or information other than hearsay.
- Requires a two-thirds vote of Commission members present at a meeting to reject or deviate from a stipulation or settlement recommended by Commission counsel.
- Requires political subdivisions with additional or stricter ethical requirements to abide by certain requirements.
- Allows attorneys filing financial disclosures to remove identifying information about a client if disclosure would violate attorney confidentiality rules.
- Conforms the maximum civil penalty for a violation of the prohibition against lobbying by a public officer to those for other violations of ethics laws.
- Limits terms of Commission members to two total terms, rather than two consecutive terms.
- Allows candidates for public office to recover costs and attorney fees for defending against certain ethics complaints.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law, except as otherwise provided.

HB 7043 - OGSR/Agency Personnel Information

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Arrington and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Public Employees

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for identification and location information of certain current or former agency personnel and their spouses and children.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

CS/CS/SB 224 (ch. 2024-17, L.O.F.) - Citizen Volunteer Advisory Committees

By: Rules; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Wright

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 413

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Government Operations; Technology

The bill authorizes a regional citizen volunteer advisory committee created to provide technical expertise and support to the National Estuary Program, whose membership is composed of representatives from four or more counties, to conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology provided certain requirements are met.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-17, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

SM 226 - Florida National Guard

By: Wright

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HM 1145

Committee(s) of Reference: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Rules

Category: Federal Government; Military

The memorial urges the United States Congress to direct the U.S. National Guard Bureau to examine the resource allocations of the Florida National Guard and allow an increase in its force structure.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State.

CS/CS/HB 271 - Motor Vehicle Parking on Private Property

By: State Affairs Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Lopez, V., Busatta Cabrera and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 388

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Consumer Protection; Local Government

The bill requires the owner or operator of a privately-owned parking facility (owner or operator) to place legible signage informing people entering the parking facility that the property is not operated by a governmental entity. The signage must include the rates charged for violating the rules of the property, specified contact information, and certain notice information. The bill specifies the process for invoicing parking charges, prohibits owners or operators from assessing certain late fees, and provides the process for disputing parking charges. The bill prohibits owners or operators from selling the personal information of anyone using the private property for parking services. Finally, the bill provides certain exceptions to these requirements.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 273 - Pub. Rec./Animal Foster or Adoption

By: State Affairs Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Holcomb and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 660

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Local Government

The bill creates a public record exemption for the personal identifying information of a person who fosters, adopts, or otherwise receives legal custody of an animal from a shelter or animal control agency. The bill provides for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption and provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

HM 351 - Condemning the Emerging Partnership between the Chinese and Cuban Governments

By: Porras and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SM 318; SM 540

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Federal Government; Military

The memorial urges the United States Secretary of State to condemn the Chinese Government for taking increasingly aggressive steps to collect information about the U.S. Government and its citizens and establishing a potential base for Chinese troops in Cuba.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State.

CS/HB 479 - Alternative Mobility Funding Systems

By: Commerce Committee; Robinson, W. and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 688

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Ways & Means Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Local Government; Transportation

The bill makes the following changes concerning impact fees, mobility fees, and concurrency:

- Provides that an applicant for a development permit must be allowed to proceed with a project if the applicant satisfies certain requirements.
- Allows a local government that repeals transportation concurrency to adopt an alternative transportation system that follows the law governing impact fees.
- If a local government adopts an alternative transportation system, provides that the holder of certain pre-existing credits is entitled to the full benefit of such credits.
- Requires a county and municipality both incurring transportation impacts from the same development to enter into an interlocal agreement to coordinate the mitigation of their respective transportation impacts by imposing a single fee, and specifies the content of the agreement, with exceptions.
- If a local government imposes impact fees, requires the fees be based on a study using localized data available and requires such study be adopted by a time certain.
- Requires a local government to credit against impact fees any required contribution identified in a development order or any other form of exaction related to public facilities or infrastructure, including monetary contributions.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 548 - Public Records/Military Personnel and their Spouses and Dependents

By: Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 308; HB 319

**Committee(s) of Reference: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security;
Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules**

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Military

The bill creates a public record exemption for identification and location information of certain current or former military personnel and their spouses and dependents. The bill provides for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption and provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is upon becoming a law.

CS/HB 705 - Public Works Projects

By: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Shoaf

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 594; CS/SB 742

**Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;
State Affairs Committee**

Category: Government Operations; Local Government

The bill revises the definition of "public works project" to include any project paid for using local funds in addition to state-appropriated funds, with certain exceptions. The bill maintains the ability of counties and municipalities to preclude certain contractors from participating in the bidding process for public works projects based on the geographic location of a contractor's headquarters or offices, or the residences of its employees, if the county or municipality is the sole source of funding for the project.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HB 725 - Veterans' Long-term Care Facilities Admissions

By: Woodson, Snyder and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 174

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health Care Facilities; Military

The bill expands the eligibility for residency at state veterans' homes to include the spouse or surviving spouse of a qualifying veteran, and revises the priority order of admission to place such spouse or surviving spouse last in priority.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 818 (ch. 2024-19, L.O.F.) - Military Leave

By: Avila and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 765

Committee(s) of Reference: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Community Affairs; Fiscal Policy

Category: Federal Government; Military; Public Employees

The bill revises the requirement that a public employer provide an employee or official who is a servicemember a full paid leave of absence for the first 30 days of active military service to limit its application to a servicemember activated under federal military service for a period equal to or greater than 90 consecutive days.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-19, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

SB 958 - Local Government Employees

By: Martin and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 505; includes part(s) of CS/CS/CS/HB 1083, CS/CS/SB 1486

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Government Operations; Local Government; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Employees

The bill raises the statutory base salary rates for tax collectors and district school superintendents by \$5,000 each. The bill also allows tax collector employees to be eligible for a lump-sum monetary benefit for adopting a child, tax collectors to budget for and pay a hiring or retention bonus to employees, and district school boards to contract with county tax collectors to administer road tests on school grounds.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1329 - Veterans

By: State Affairs Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Redondo, Alvarez and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1666; includes part(s) of CS/SB 408, HB 685

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Budget; Government Operations; Health; Military; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill creates the Major John Leroy Haynes Florida Veterans' History Program within the Division of Arts and Culture of the Department of State as a Florida Folklife Program, and includes an appropriation to implement the program.

The bill provides that Florida Is for Veterans, Inc., serves as the state's initial point of military transition assistance for veterans and their spouses; expands its employment outreach, marketing, and support services; and revises the membership and appointments for its governing body. The bill also revises the duties of the Veterans Employment and Training Services Program to focus on assisting veterans and spouses with finding employment in certain industries.

The bill provides an exemption from fees related to hunting and fishing licenses and permits for certain veterans, increases the membership of the Advisory Council on Brain and Spinal Cord Injuries, and authorizes schools to include certain instruction on the history and importance of Veterans' Day and Memorial Day.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 1365 (ch. 2024-11, L.O.F.) - Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Judiciary Committee; Garrison and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1530

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Courts; Local Government; Mental Health; Public Safety; Real Property; Social Services; Substance Abuse

The bill prohibits local governments from authorizing or allowing any person to regularly engage in public camping or sleeping on any public property, with certain exceptions. The bill provides a process for local governments to designate public property for public camping or sleeping, with certain exceptions, and requires the Department of Children and Families to certify such designations. Beginning January 1, 2025, the bill creates a cause of action for injunctive relief.

The bill became law on March 20, 2024, chapter 2024-11, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2024, except as otherwise provided.

HB 1451 (ch. 2024-9, L.O.F.) - Identification Documents

By: Michael, Jacques and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 1174

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Federal Government; Government Operations; Local Government

The bill prohibits a county or a municipality from accepting any identification card or document issued by any person, entity, or organization that knowingly issues identification to individuals who are in the United States unlawfully, excluding documentation issued by or on behalf of the Federal Government.

The bill became law on March 15, 2024, chapter 2024-9, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1456 - Counties Designated as Areas of Critical State Concern

By: Finance and Tax; Community Affairs; Rodriguez

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1297; includes part(s) of CS/HB 7073

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Finance and Tax; Appropriations

Category: Emergency Management; Local Government; Taxes; Tourism

The bill revises hurricane evacuation clearance time criteria for the Florida Keys and the City of Key West Areas of Critical State Concern. The bill also revises the powers of land authorities to allow them to require compliance with income limitations on land conveyed for affordable housing by memorializing the original land authority funding or donation in a recordable perpetual deed restriction; exempts Monroe County and eligible municipalities in the Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern from the requirement to only aid very low-income and low-income persons with funding from the local housing assistance trust fund for five years; and allows Monroe County to use any accumulated surplus from its tourist development tax and tourist impact tax collected through September 30, 2024, to provide affordable housing for employees of private sector tourism-related businesses.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1551 (ch. 2024-36, L.O.F.) - Florida State Guard

By: Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Giallombardo and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 7058

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations; Military

The bill revises the Florida State Guard (FSG) fingerprinting requirements to require FSG applicants to submit a complete set of fingerprints for state criminal history processing by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and requires FDLE to submit the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. The bill provides that fingerprint processing fees will be borne by the FSG.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-36, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/CS/SB 1628 - Local Government Actions

By: Fiscal Policy; Community Affairs; Collins

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1547

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Fiscal Policy

Category: Elections; Local Government

The bill narrows the exemption from the requirement for counties and municipalities to prepare a business impact statement to only exempt development orders, development permits, and development agreements. The bill also requires a referendum for any local government bond issue amount exceeding \$500 million be held at a general election.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2024.

CS/CS/SB 1704 - Sheriffs in Consolidated Governments

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Yarborough

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1447

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Rules

Category: Budget; Government Operations; Law Enforcement; Local Government

The bill provides that sheriffs, including sheriffs in consolidated governments, have full authority over procurement. The bill also provides that a sheriff in a county with a consolidated government may transfer funds between the fund and functional categories and object and subobject code levels after the budget has been approved by the board of county commissioners, city council, or budget commission, and specifies that such sheriff has the same authority as other sheriffs concerning the purchase of supplies and equipment and the management of personnel.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

SB 1720 (ch. 2024-22, L.O.F.) - Marine Encroachment on Military Operations

By: Rodriguez

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 1407

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Rules

Category: Local Government; Military

The bill adds various annexes and a range in the Key West area to the list of major military installations with a greater potential for experiencing compatibility and coordination issues with local government planning than others.

The bill became law on March 22, 2024, chapter 2024-22, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 7011 - Inactive Special Districts

By: State Affairs Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Persons-Mulicka

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1052

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Local Government; Repeals of Existing Laws

The bill dissolves special districts that have been declared inactive, and repeals the enabling laws and judicial order establishing the districts.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/CS/HB 7013 - Special Districts

By: State Affairs Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Persons-Mulicka

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1058

Committee(s) of Reference: Ways & Means Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Government Operations; Local Government; Taxes

The bill makes the following changes concerning special districts:

- Requires special districts to adopt goals and objectives, as well as performance measures and standards.
- Adds additional criteria for declaring a special district inactive and revises the process for such declaration.
- Creates 12-year term limits for members of a popularly elected governing body of an independent special district, with certain exceptions.
- Provides that boundaries of an independent special district may only be changed by general law or special act, with certain exceptions.
- Removes the authority for independent special districts and community development districts to convert to a municipality without legislative approval.
- Requires independent special fire control districts to report annually on the training certification of the district's volunteer firefighters.
- Reduces the maximum ad valorem millage that may be levied by a mosquito control district and requires such districts to maintain state approval.
- Prohibits the creation of new neighborhood improvement districts and requires existing districts be reviewed by the Office of Program Policy and Government Accountability by a date certain.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Ways & Means Committee
Representative Stan McClain, Chair
Representative James Buchanan, Vice Chair

2024 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



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HB 113 - Tax Collections and Sales

By: Maney and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 216

Committee(s) of Reference: Ways & Means Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Taxes, Local Government

The bill makes three changes to local governments' tax collection administration:

- Removes a \$10 processing fee associated with partial payment of current year taxes.
- Requires that tax collectors revise their annual errors and insolvencies report on tax collections to include properties subject to federal bankruptcies, properties in which the taxes are below the minimum tax bill, and properties assigned to the list of lands available for taxes.
- Clarifies the applicable interest rate and status of a tax certificate following cancellation of a tax deed application.

The Revenue Estimating Conference estimated a recurring negative indeterminate impact on local government revenues for the repeal of the \$10 fee applied to partial payment of taxes.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HB 1161 - Verification of Eligibility for Homestead Exemption

By: Ways & Means Committee; Arrington; Keen and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 172

Committee(s) of Reference: Ways & Means Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Taxes

The bill requires the Department of Revenue to provide a form that a county property appraiser may use to tentatively verify a veteran or surviving spouse who believes they will qualify for a property tax exemption under s. 196.081, s. 196.082, or s. 196.091, F.S., once they purchase a homestead property. The form may only be issued if the person provides the forms, documentation, or other proof necessary to qualify for the relevant exemption, and the person must still apply after the purchase and in each subsequent year in order to receive the exemption (unless an annual application is otherwise not required). The tentative verification by the property appraiser is not binding on the taxpayer or the property appraiser. Decisions by the property appraiser regarding whether to issue a tentative verification or a person's apparent eligibility to receive an exemption or a discount are not subject to administrative or judicial appeal.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024.

CS/HJR 7017 - Annual Adjustment to Homestead Exemption Value

By: State Affairs Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Buchanan and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 7019

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Taxes, Constitutional Amendments, Real Property

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to art. VII, s. 6(a) of the Florida Constitution, requiring the existing homestead exemption of \$25,000 of the assessed value amount between \$50,000 and \$75,000, which is exempt from all ad valorem taxes other than school district taxes, be adjusted annually for positive inflation growth.

This inflation adjustment provision would also apply to any future homestead exemption applying only to ad valorem levies, other than school district levies.

The Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) estimated that the joint resolution would have a zero/negative indeterminate impact on local government revenues because it is proposing an amendment to be submitted to the voters for approval. If the amendment proposed by the joint resolution is not approved by the voters, the REC estimated the impact on local government revenues would be zero. If the amendment is approved by the voters, the REC estimated the impact on non-school local government property taxes in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 (the first year of implementation) would be approximately -\$22.8 million, growing to approximately -\$111.8 million in FY 2028-29, assuming current tax rates.

If approved by voters, the amendment would go into effect January 1, 2025.

The joint resolution is not subject to the Governor's veto powers.

CS/HB 7019 - Exemption of Homesteads

By: State Affairs Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Buchanan and others

Tied Bills: CS/HJR 7017

Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Taxes, Real Property, Local Government

The bill implements an amendment to art. VII, s. 6 of the Florida Constitution, proposed by HJR 7017 (2024). If the constitutional amendment proposed by HJR 7017 is approved by the voters, the bill amends current law to add an annual positive inflation adjustment to the current homestead exemption on the assessed value for all levies, other than school district levies, of \$50,000 up to \$75,000. The inflation adjustment will begin on January 1, 2025.

The Revenue Estimating Conference estimated that the bill has no impact on local government revenues because the constitutional amendment that the bill implements is self-executing. Therefore, revenue impacts would result from approval of the constitutional amendment, not the implementing legislation.

The bill directs the Legislature to appropriate funds to offset reductions in ad valorem tax revenue experienced by fiscally constrained counties as a result of the annual positive inflation adjustment. To receive the offset, a qualifying county must annually apply to the Department of Revenue (DOR) and provide certain documentation. The annual revenue losses in fiscally constrained counties resulting from the annual positive inflation adjustment are estimated to be \$0.7 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, growing to approximately \$4.3 million in FY 2028-29.

The bill authorizes DOR to adopt emergency rules to implement this legislation.

The bill provides that changes made to the law by this legislation first apply to the 2025 tax roll.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the bill will take effect on January 1, 2025, if the voters approve the amendment to the Florida Constitution proposed by HJR 7017.

CS/SB 7054 - Private Activity Bonds

By: Ways & Means Committee; McClain

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7069

Committee(s) of Reference: None

Category: Taxes, Federal Government

The bill makes various changes to Part VI, Private Activity Bonds, of ch. 159, F.S. The bill details the Legislature's intent to maximize the annual use of private activity bonds to benefit the social and economic well-being of Floridians. Definitions that are used throughout Part VI are refined and added.

The bill revises the bond allocations given to each pool as well as timelines related to bond allocations. The bill combines the purposes of Florida First Business allocation pool, the Manufacturing Facility Bond pool, and the existing State allocation pool. The bill revises and consolidates a number of regions, to create fourteen regional pools.

The bill codifies rules and procedures relating to requests for state volume limitation through a notice of intent to issue, what must be included in such notices, how such notices are evaluated, and the Division of Bond Finance's (Division) role in final certification of bond issuance. The bill repeals the Division's rulemaking authority.

The bill provides how state volume limitation can be converted to mortgage credit certificates. The bill also allows for volume cap allocated in a confirmation to be entitled to be carried forward via a carryforward confirmation issued by the Division.

The bill revises the processes for requesting and granting allocation of volume cap by creating an electronic application wherein certain information will be submitted on the Division's website instead of by certified or overnight mail.

The bill amends related statutes to correct cross references and outdated references.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2025.

CS/HB 7073 - Taxation

By: Appropriations Committee; Ways & Means Committee; McClain and others

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7074

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee

Category: Taxes, Government Operations, Local Government

The bill provides the following tax reductions and other tax-related modifications:

For sales tax, the bill has the following sales tax holidays: a 14-day “back-to-school” tax holiday; two 14-day “disaster preparedness” tax holidays for specified disaster preparedness supplies; a one-month “Freedom Month” tax holiday for specified recreational items and activities; and a seven-day “Tool Time” tax holiday for tools/equipment used in skilled trades. The bill also: expands the ability of a leasing company to pay sales tax up front on certain motor vehicle purchases; allows Duval County to levy an indigent care sales surtax if approved by voters; and provides how discretionary sales surtaxes may be temporarily suspended when a discretionary sales surtax is found to be invalid or unconstitutional.

For property tax, the bill: expands the ad valorem tax benefits for renewable energy source devices to include facilities used to capture and convert biogas to renewable natural gas; clarifies when construction work in progress is deemed substantially complete for tangible personal property constructed or installed by an electric utility; extends the time, from 3 years to 5 years, in which a homestead owner has to start the repair of a damaged homestead property in order to continue to claim the homestead exemption; provides that property owners are not required to pay certain unpaid taxes when they notify a property appraiser of a clerical mistake; reduces back taxes from 10 years to 5 years for certain improperly granted exemptions; requires property appraisers to provide a taxpayer improperly receiving a property tax exemption with certain information; and provides an appropriation to offset ad valorem revenue losses experienced by fiscally constrained counties that refunded property taxes due to Hurricanes Idalia.

The bill includes the following provisions related to affordable housing property tax exemptions: allows counties deemed to be area of critical state concern to give an affordable housing tax exemption to properties with more than 10 units; allows taxing authorities the power to opt out of state law relating to certain affordable housing exemptions, if certain conditions are met and the decision is approved by a two-thirds majority of the governing body; allows an affordable housing tax exemption for the first 15 years of certain new, low-income housing projects; and revises exemption parameters and processes.

For corporate income tax, the bill adopts the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2024; creates a temporary corporate income tax credit for three fiscal years for businesses that hire persons with disabilities; and makes changes to the existing tax credit for certain short line railroad expenditures.

Additionally, the bill provides automatic filing extensions for sales tax dealers and corporate income taxpayers in certain emergencies; reduces various natural gas fuel tax rates by half for calendar year 2026; limits documentary stamp tax assessments for reverse mortgages; temporarily exempts from the documentary stamp tax certain written obligations given by a customer to an alarm system contractor; increases the percentage of revenue collected from the Sales Tax Collection Enforcement Diversion Program that goes to the James Patrick Memorial Work Incentive Personal Attendant Services and

Employment Assistance (JP-PAS) Program; makes permanent the yearly distribution of \$27.5 million to promote horse breeding and racing in Florida; provides a \$30 million distribution of General Revenue from beverage tax collections for the next thirty years to specified medical research facilities; creates insurance premium deductions for residential and flood policies and creates a corresponding insurance premium tax credit for insurers required to give deductions; creates a temporary tax credit for three fiscal years against various types of tax liabilities for expenses incurred relating to employee childcare; increases the annual cap of the Strong Families Tax Credit Program to \$40 million and revises the criteria for a qualifying charitable organization under the Program; modifies certain Department of Revenue administrative powers; and makes technical, administrative, and clarifying updates.

The total state and local government impact of the bill in Fiscal Year 2024-25 is estimated to be -\$508.8 million (-\$86.9 million recurring).

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2024, except as otherwise provided.

The Ways & Means Committee has no subcommittees under it.

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HB 917	HB 917	Education & Employment Committee
HB 919	HB 919	State Affairs Committee
HB 923	HB 923	Judiciary Committee
HB 927	SB 770	Commerce Committee
HB 931	HB 931	Education & Employment Committee
HB 935	HB 935	Select Committee on Health Innovation
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SB 938	SB 938	Health & Human Services Committee
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HB 943	SB 988	Commerce Committee
SB 954	HB 813	Commerce Committee
SB 958	SB 958	State Affairs Committee
SB 962	HB 883	Education & Employment Committee
SB 964	HB 885	Select Committee on Health Innovation
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SB 968	SB 968	Commerce Committee
HB 975	HB 975	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 983	HB 983	Judiciary Committee
SB 984	SB 984	Judiciary Committee
SB 988	SB 988	Commerce Committee
HB 989	HB 989	Commerce Committee
HB 991	SB 1078	Commerce Committee
SB 994	SB 994	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
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SB 998	SB 998	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
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HB 1007	HB 1007	Commerce Committee
SB 1008	HB 975	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1014	HB 85	Commerce Committee
SB 1016	HB 1317	Education & Employment Committee
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HB 1021	HB 1021	Commerce Committee
HB 1029	HB 1029	Commerce Committee
HB 1031	HB 1031	Commerce Committee
SB 1036	SB 1036	Judiciary Committee
SB 1040	HB 849	Commerce Committee
SB 1044	HB 931	Education & Employment Committee
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HB 1051	SB 1082	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 1052	HB 7011	State Affairs Committee
SB 1058	HB 7013	State Affairs Committee
HB 1063	HB 1063	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1064	HB 923	Judiciary Committee
HB 1065	HB 1065	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1066	HB 939	Commerce Committee
HB 1071	SB 1084	Commerce Committee
HB 1073	SB 1532	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 1074	HB 1031	Commerce Committee
HB 1077	HB 1077	Judiciary Committee
SB 1078	SB 1078	Commerce Committee
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HB 1083	HB 1083	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1084	SB 1084	Commerce Committee
SB 1090	SB 1090	Commerce Committee
HB 1093	HB 1093	Judiciary Committee
SB 1098	HB 989	Commerce Committee
HB 1099	SB 676	Commerce Committee
HB 1109	HB 1109	Judiciary Committee
HB 1113	HB 1113	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
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SB 1116	SB 1116	State Affairs Committee
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SB 1142	SB 1142	Commerce Committee
HB 1145	SM 226	State Affairs Committee
HB 1147	HB 1147	Commerce Committee
SB 1154	HB 1241	Judiciary Committee
SB 1158	HB 463	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
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HB 1163	SB 1136	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 1164	HB 1113	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
HB 1167	SB 702	Judiciary Committee
HB 1171	HB 1171	Judiciary Committee
SB 1174	HB 1451	State Affairs Committee
SB 1176	HB 983	Judiciary Committee
SB 1178	HB 1021	Commerce Committee
SB 1180	HB 1065	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1181	HB 1181	Judiciary Committee
HB 1189	SB 1198	Commerce Committee
SB 1190	HB 1131	Judiciary Committee
SB 1198	SB 1198	Commerce Committee
HB 1203	HB 1203	Commerce Committee
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SB 1218	HB 1147	Commerce Committee
HB 1219	SB 892	Commerce Committee
SB 1220	HB 1171	Judiciary Committee
SB 1222	HB 549	Judiciary Committee
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HB 1227	HB 1227	State Affairs Committee
SB 1230	HB 1235	Judiciary Committee
HB 1235	HB 1235	Judiciary Committee
HB 1239	SB 328	State Affairs Committee
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HB 1271	SB 1758	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1273	SB 1600	Health & Human Services Committee
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SB 1278	HB 1337	Judiciary Committee
HB 1281	HB 1281	Judiciary Committee
HB 1285	HB 1285	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1286	SB 1286	Judiciary Committee
HB 1291	HB 1291	Education & Employment Committee
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HB 1317	HB 1317	Education & Employment Committee
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HB 1329	HB 1329	State Affairs Committee
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HB 1347	HB 1347	Commerce Committee
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SB 1350	SB 1350	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
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SB 1356	HB 1473	Judiciary Committee
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HB 1377	HB 1377	Commerce Committee
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SB 1420	SB 1420	Commerce Committee
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HB 1443	SB 1616	Judiciary Committee
HB 1447	SB 1704	State Affairs Committee
HB 1449	SB 1036	Judiciary Committee
HB 1451	HB 1451	State Affairs Committee
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SB 1486	SB 958	Health & Human Services Committee
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HB 1491	HB 1491	Commerce Committee
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SB 1502	HB 7089	Health & Human Services Committee
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HB 1509	HB 1509	Judiciary Committee
SB 1512	SB 1512	Judiciary Committee
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SB 1526	SB 1526	Commerce Committee
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HB 1549	SB 7016	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1551	HB 1551	State Affairs Committee
HB 1555	HB 1555	Commerce Committee
HB 1557	HB 1557	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
HB 1561	HB 1561	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1565	HB 1565	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
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HB 1579	SB 1142	Commerce Committee
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HB 1589	HB 1589	Judiciary Committee
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HB 1613	SB 1698	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 1616	SB 1616	Judiciary Committee
HB 1617	SB 330	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1618	HB 1281	Judiciary Committee
SB 1622	HB 1611	Commerce Committee
SB 1624	HB 1645	Commerce Committee
SB 1628	SB 1628	State Affairs Committee
SB 1638	SB 1638	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 1640	HB 7089	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1645	HB 1645	Commerce Committee
HB 1647	SB 1526	Commerce Committee
HB 1653	HB 1653	Judiciary Committee
SB 1656	HB 1545	Judiciary Committee
SB 1666	HB 1329	State Affairs Committee
HB 1679	SB 592	State Affairs Committee
SB 1680	SB 1680	Commerce Committee
SB 1688	SB 1688	Education & Employment Committee

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HB 5003	HB 5003	Appropriations Committee
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HB 5201	HB 5201	Appropriations Committee
HB 5203	HB 5203	Appropriations Committee
HB 5401	HB 5401	Appropriations Committee
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HB 7001	HB 7001	State Affairs Committee
SB 7002	SB 7002	Education & Employment Committee
HB 7003	HB 7003	State Affairs Committee
SB 7004	SB 7004	Education & Employment Committee
HB 7005	HB 7005	State Affairs Committee
SB 7006	SB 7006	State Affairs Committee
HB 7007	HB 7007	State Affairs Committee
SB 7008	SB 7008	State Affairs Committee
HB 7009	HB 7009	State Affairs Committee
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SB 7012	HB 7005	State Affairs Committee
HB 7013	HB 7013	State Affairs Committee
SB 7014	SB 7014	State Affairs Committee
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HB 7019	HB 7019	Ways & Means Committee
SB 7020	SB 7020	Judiciary Committee
HB 7021	HB 7021	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 7022	HB 7007	State Affairs Committee
SB 7024	HB 151	State Affairs Committee
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HB 7051	SB 7032	Education & Employment Committee
SB 7052	HB 1267	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 7053	SB 7040	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 7054	SB 7054	Ways & Means Committee
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HB 7067	HB 7067	Judiciary Committee
SB 7068	HB 7067	Judiciary Committee
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HB 7071	HB 7071	State Affairs Committee
SB 7072	SB 7072	Health & Human Services Committee
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Pre-K through 12 Education	HB 5101 , HB 49 , HB 523 , HB 883 , HB 917 , SB 1264 , HB 1285 , HB 1317 , HB 1403 , SB 1688 , SB 7002 , SB 46 , HB 537 , HB 931 , HB 1361 , SB 7004 , SB 832 , SB 7016 , HB 73 , SB 1224 , HB 1267 , HB 865 , HB 1109 , HB 1473 , HB 1509 , HB 1425 , SB 958 , HB 1329
Public Employees	HB 5001 , HB 5005 , HB 1083 , HB 103 , HB 983 , HB 601 , HB 241 , HB 885 , HB 151 , SB 1746 , HB 7043 , SB 818 , SB 958
Public Safety	HB 83 , SB 366 , HB 267 , HB 303 , SB 1084 , SB 1090 , HB 591 , HB 1083 , SB 1224 , HB 7021 , SB 66 , HB 197 , HB 775 , HB 975 , HB 87 , HB 179 , HB 287 , HB 405 , HB 463 , SB 994 , SM 1020 , HB 1473 , HB 1509 , HB 7063 , HB 7067 , SB 184 , HB 187 , HB 275 , HB 305 , HB 533 , SB 718 , SB 758 , HB 801 , HB 937 , SB 1036 , HB 1131 , HB 1133 , HB 1181 , HB 1235 , HB 1241 , HB 1281 , SB 1286 , HB 1337 , SB 1512 , HB 1545 , HB 1589 , HB 1653 , SB 1764 , HB 1365
Real Property	SB 770 , HB 59 , HB 267 , HB 293 , HB 429 , HB 613 , SB 968 , HB 1021 , HB 1049 , HB 1203 , SB 1420 , HB 7089 , HB 73 , HB 287 , HB 285 , HB 621 , SB 702 , HB 799 , SB 328 , HB 1365 , HB 7017 , HB 7019
Repeals of Existing Laws	SB 1600 , SB 7016 , HB 7089 , HB 7021 , SB 938 , SB 1582 , SB 1114 , SB 1116 , HB 7011
Research Integrity	SB 7072 , SB 7078 , SB 1582
Resiliency	SB 7080 , SB 770 , HB 1645 , HB 1029 , SB 7028 , HB 141 , HB 293 , SB 1638
Retirement	HB 7071 , HB 151
Safety	HB 293 , HB 917 , SB 1600 , SB 7016 , HB 7089 , HB 73 , HB 591 , HB 1083 , SB 1224 , HB 7021 , SB 66 , HB 159 , HB 197 , HB 201 , SB 544 , HB 775 , HB 855 , HB 975 , HB 1063 , HB 1561 , SB 1582 , HB 287 , HB 341 , HB 405 , HB 463 , SB 994 , HB 1113 , HB 1301 , HB 1363 , SB 1380 , HB 1109 , HB 1473 , HB 1509
Sentencing	SB 1090 , SB 1036 , HB 1171 , HB 1181 , HB 1235 , HB 1241 , HB 1389
Social Services	SB 832 , SB 330 , SB 7016 , HB 7089 , HB 73 , SB 564 , HB 591 , HB 1065 , HB 1083 , SB 1224 , HB 1267 , SB 1758 , HB 7021 , SB 168 , HB 415 , SB 544 , HB 775 , HB 975 , SB 1582 , SB 7018 , HB 935 , HB 7001 , HB 1365
Substance Abuse	SB 330 , SB 7016 , HB 1065 , HB 7021 , SB 66 , HB 405 , HB 715 , HB 1365
Taxes	SB 328 , SB 1456 , HB 7013 , HB 113 , HB 1161 , HB 7017 , HB 7019 , SB 7054 , HB 7073
Technology	SB 1680 , HB 1555 , HB 1 , HB 3 , HB 1377 , HB 1491 , SB 7016 , HB 1083 , SB 1758 , HB 855 , SB 7018 , SB 1380 , HB 135 , HB 919 , SB 224
Tourism	SB 280 , SB 1638 , SB 1456

Subject Category	Bills
Transportation	HB 1645 , HB 377 , SB 968 , SB 1420 , HB 591 , HB 437 , HB 91 , HB 179 , HB 287 , HB 317 , HB 341 , SB 370 , HB 379 , HB 389 , HB 405 , HB 463 , SB 736 , SB 994 , HB 1113 , HB 1301 , SB 1350 , HB 1363 , SB 1380 , SB 158 , HB 619 , HB 275 , HB 1133 , SB 1764 , SB 674 , HB 479
Utilities and Communications	SB 364 , SB 366 , SB 478 , HB 1147 , HB 1645 , HB 1301 , HB 275 , SB 7006

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