# Florida House of Representatives

# 2025 Session Summary



Paul Renner May 2023

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# SESSION SUMMARY



Paul Renner, Speaker May 2023



## 2023 Legislative Session

#### **End of Session Summary**

This report was compiled by the staff of the Florida House of Representatives upon completion of the 2023 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 <a href="MyFloridaHouse.gov">MyFloridaHouse.gov</a>. 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 May 23, 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 flgov.com.

### **MASTER TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Appropriations Committee	
SB 2500 - Appropriations	19
SB 2502 - Implementing the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act	32
SB 2504 - State Employees	32
Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee  Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee	33
HB 5303 - Biomedical Research	34
SB 7030 - Trust Funds/State Opioid Settlement Trust Fund/ Department of Children and Families	34
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee	
Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee	
Justice Appropriations Subcommittee  HB 1207 - Operation New Hope	
SB 7018 - Inmate Welfare Trust Fund	38
PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	
HB 5101 - Education	40
State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee	
Commerce Committee	
CS/CS/HB 5 - Economic Programs	51
CS/CS/SB 250 - Natural Emergencies	52
SB 1438 (ch. 2023-94, L.O.F.) - Protection of Children	53
CS/CS/SB 1718 (ch. 2023-40, L.O.F.) - Immigration	54
SB 7044 - Changes in Ownership of or Interest in Pari-mutuel Permits	55
CS/SB 7052 - Insurer Accountability	56
SB 7054 (ch. 2023-80, L.O.F.) - Central Bank Digital Currency	57

Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee CS/CS/HB 125 - Utility System Rate Base Values	
CS/CS/SB 284 - Energy	59
CS/SB 552 - Public Records/Broadband Opportunity Program	60
CS/HB 1221 - Broadband Internet Service Providers	61
CS/CS/HB 1281 - Preemption Over Utility Service Restrictions	62
CS/CS/CS/SB 1418 (ch. 2023-55, L.O.F.) - Emergency Commur	nications63
Insurance & Banking Subcommittee	
CS/CS/SB 312 - Insurance	65
CS/CS/CS/SB 418 - Insurance	66
CS/CS/HB 487 - Department of Financial Services	67
CS/HB 599 - Debt Management Services	68
CS/HB 607 - Money Services Businesses	69
SB 708 - Estoppel Letters	70
CS/CS/HB 721 - Paid Family Leave Insurance	71
HB 793 - Collateral Protection Insurance	72
CS/CS/CS/HB 799 - Property Insurance	73
CS/HB 881 - My Safe Florida Home Program	74
CS/SB 1002 - Motor Vehicle Glass	75
CS/CS/HB 1185 - Consumer Protection	76
CS/CS/HB 1267 - Consumer Finance Loans	77
CS/HB 1353 - Commercial Financing Product Brokers and Prov	viders78
CS/CS/HB 1573 - Continuing Care Providers	79
CS/HB 1575 - Public Safety Emergency Communications Syste	ems80
Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcomm CS/CS/HB 89 - Building Construction	
CS/CS/SB 154 - Condominium and Cooperative Associations	82
CS/HB 179 - Florida Kratom Consumer Protection Act	83
CS/SB 214 (ch. 2023-79, L.O.F.) - Sales of Firearms and Ammu	nition84
CS/CS/HB 233 (ch. 2023-109, L.O.F.) - Deceased Individuals	85
CS/CS/SB 262 - Technology Transparency	86
CS/CS/HB 327 - Fire Sprinkler System Projects	87

	CS/CS/HB 637 - Motor Vehicle Dealers, Manufacturers, Importers, and Distributors	88
	CS/CS/HB 639 (ch. 2023-65, L.O.F.) - Issuance of Special Beverage Licenses	89
	HB 719 - Practice of Veterinary Medicine	90
	CS/HB 737 - Secondhand Goods	91
	CS/CS/SB 752 (ch. 2023-48, L.O.F.) - Temporary Commercial Kitchens	92
	CS/CS/HB 761 - Telephone Solicitation	93
	CS/CS/SB 770 - Residential Loan Alternative Agreements	94
	CS/CS/HB 869 - Department of Business and Professional Regulation	95
	SB 892 - State Minimum Wage	96
	CS/CS/SB 902 (ch. 2023-50, L.O.F.) - Safety Standards for Amusement Rides	97
	CS/SB 904 (ch. 2023-51, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Active Amusement Ride Investigation	98
	CS/CS/HB 919 - Homeowners' Associations	99
	CS/HB 959 - Dosage Form Animal Health Products	100
	HB 1091 (ch. 2023-68, L.O.F.) - Licensing Fee Relief	101
	CS/SB 1154 - Labor Pool Act	102
	CS/HB 1203 - Registrations and Transfers of Heating, Ventilation,	
	and Air-Conditioning System Manufacturer Warranties	
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1209 - Rural Development	104
	CS/HB 1215 - Pub. Rec./Inspectors and Investigators/DACS	
	CS/HB 1307 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	106
	CS/CS/HB 1383 - Specialty Contractors	107
	HB 1459 - Registration Fees for Malt Beverage Brands and Labels	108
	CS/HB 1521 (ch. 2023-106, L.O.F.) - Facility Requirements Based on Sex	109
	CS/CS/SB 1648 - Public Records/Investigations by the Department of Legal Affairs and Law Enforcement Agencies	110
	CS/HB 7041 - Space Florida	111
Ed	ucation & Employment Committee	
	CS/SB 7026 (ch. 2023-95, L.O.F.) - Higher Education Finances	118
Ch	oice & Innovation Subcommittee	
	HJR 31 - Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards	
	CS/SB 190 - Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities	

CS/CS/HB 301 (ch. 2023-99, L.O.F.) - Emergency Response Mapping Data	121
CS/HB 379 (ch. 2023-36, L.O.F.) - Technology in K-12 Public Schools	122
CS/CS/HB 443 (ch. 2023-102, L.O.F.) - Education	123
HB 477 (ch. 2023-37, L.O.F.) - Term Limits for District School Board Members	124
CS/SB 478 - Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program	124
CS/HB 733 (ch. 2023-78, L.O.F.) - Middle School and High School Start Times	125
HB 891 (ch. 2023-66 L.O.F.) - Year-round School Pilot Program	126
CS/HB 1597 (ch. 2023-73, L.O.F.) - Florida Virtual School	127
Education Quality Subcommittee	<b>127</b>
CS/SB 196 (ch. 2023-89, L.O.F.) - Guidance Services on Academic and Career Plann	ing128
CS/CS/HB 225 (ch. 2023-97, L.O.F.) - Interscholastic Activities	129
HB 265 (ch. 2023-98, L.O.F.) - High School Equivalency Diplomas	129
CS/SB 290 (ch. 2023-91, L.O.F.) - Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities	
CS/HB 389 (ch. 2023-100, L.O.F.) - Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools	131
CS/HB 551 (ch. 2023-103, L.O.F.) - Required African-American Instruction	132
CS/CS/HB 633 (ch. 2023-104, L.O.F.) - K-12 Education	133
SB 662 - Student Online Personal Information Protection	134
HB 795 - Private Instructional Personnel	135
CS/HB 1035 (ch. 2023-38, L.O.F.) - K-12 Teachers	136
CS/CS/HB 1069 (ch. 2023-105, L.O.F.) - Education	137
CS/HB 1125 - Interstate Education Compacts	138
CS/HB 1127 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact	138
CS/SB 1278 - Direct-support Organizations	139
CS/CS/CS/HB 1537 (ch. 2023-39, L.O.F.) - Education	140
CS/CS/HB 7039 (ch. 2023-108, L.O.F.) - Student Outcomes	142
Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee	
CS/CS/CS/SB 266 (ch. 2023-82, L.O.F.) - Higher Education	145
SB 274 - Nursing Education Pathway for Military Combat Medics	146
SB 596 - Board of Governors of the State University System	147
CS/SB 598 (ch. 2023-92, L.O.F.) - Higher Educational Facilities Financing	148

	CS/SB 732 - Collegiate Purple Star Campuses	. 149
	CS/CS/SB 846 (ch. 2023-34, L.O.F.) - Agreements of Educational Entities with Foreign Entities	. 150
	CS/CS/HB 931 (ch. 2023-83, L.O.F.) - Postsecondary Educational Institutions	. 151
Hea	alth & Human Services Committee	.153
	CS/CS/SB 238 (ch. 2023-42, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Protection from Discrimination  Based on Health Care Choices	. 157
	CS/SB 252 (ch. 2023-43, L.O.F.) - Protection from Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices .	. 158
	HB 7061 (ch. 2023-77, L.O.F.) - Sheriffs Providing Child Protective Investigative Services	. 159
Chi	Idren, Families & Seniors Subcommittee	
	CS/SB 210 - Substance Abuse Services	.161
	CS/CS/SB 272 - Children and Young Adults in Out-of-home Care	. 162
	CS/CS/SB 538 - Provisional Child Care Licensing	. 163
	CS/CS/HB 625 - Children's Initiative Projects	. 164
	CS/SB 664 - Contracts Entered into by the Department of Children and Families	. 165
	HB 829 - Operation and Administration of the Baker Act	. 166
	CS/SB 914 - Suicide Prevention	. 167
	CS/CS/SB 1064 - Trauma Screening for Children Removed from Caregivers	. 168
	HB 1087 - Child Support	. 169
	CS/CS/HB 1119 - Withholding or Withdrawal of Life-prolonging Procedures	. 170
	CS/SB 1190 - Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Pilot Program	. 171
	CS/HB 1275 - Persons with Disabilities Registry	. 172
	CS/HB 1277 - Pub.Rec./Persons with Disabilities Registry	. 173
	CS/CS/SB 1322 - Adoption	. 174
	HB 1349 - Mental Health Treatment	. 175
	SB 1396 - Department of Elderly Affairs	. 176
	CS/CS/HB 1517 - Agency for Persons with Disabilities	. 177
	CS/SB 1540 - Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Teams	. 178
	CS/SB 1542 - Public Records and Public Meetings/Elder Abuse or  Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Team	179
	CS/CS/CS/SB 1690 (ch. 2023-85, L.O.F.) - Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking	. 180

Iealthcare Regulation Subcommittee         CS/HB 33 - Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact	
HB 35 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact	182
CS/CS/HB 121 - Florida KidCare Program Eligibility	183
CS/CS/HB 139 - Benefits, Training, and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses	183
SB 218 - Genetic Counselors Using Telehealth	184
CS/CS/SB 230 - Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations	184
CS/SB 254 (ch. 2023-90, L.O.F.) - Treatments for Sex Reassignment	185
HB 267 (ch. 2023-63, L.O.F.) - Telehealth Practice Standards	186
CS/CS/HB 299 - Education and Training For Alzheimer's Disease and Related Forms of Dementia	187
SB 300 (ch. 2023-21, L.O.F.) - Pregnancy and Parenting Support	188
CS/HB 341 - 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator Certifications	189
CS/HB 385 - Professional Counselors Licensure Compact	189
CS/CS/HB 387 - Medical Use of Marijuana	190
CS/CS/CS/HB 391 - Home Health Aides for Medically Fragile Children	191
CS/SB 558 - Certified Nursing Assistants	192
CS/SB 612 - Blood Clot and Pulmonary Embolism Policy Workgroup	193
SB 614 (ch. 2023-45, L.O.F.) - Mammography Reports	193
SB 768 - Referral of Patients by Health Care Providers	194
CS/CS/HB 783 - Opioid Abatement	195
CS/CS/HB 897 - Group Health Plans	195
CS/HB 967 - Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors	196
CS/HB 1133 - Physician Assistant Licensure	197
CS/CS/SB 1352 - Sickle Cell Disease Medications, Treatment, and Screening	198
CS/CS/HB 1387 (ch. 2023-71, L.O.F.) - Department of Health	199
CS/CS/HB 1471 - Health Care Provider Accountability	200
CS/CS/SB 1550 (ch. 2023-29, L.O.F.) - Prescription Drugs	201
CS/SB 1552 (ch. 2023-30, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Pharmacy Benefit Managers	202
CS/SB 1580 (ch. 2023-57, L.O.F.) - Protections of Medical Conscience	203
nfrastructure Strategies Committee	
CAZID TUD ICH ZUZS-ZU T CLE L- EIONIGA SHARPO-USP NONMONONZEN TRAH NIPTWORK	/119

Ag	riculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee	
	CS/HB 111 - Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies	211
	HB 641 - Restoration of Osborne Reef	212
	CS/CS/SB 724 (ch. 2023-47, L.O.F.) - Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative	212
	CS/HJR 1157 - Fishing and Hunting	213
	CS/HB 1161 - Venomous Reptiles	213
	CS/CS/HB 1279 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	214
	CS/CS/HB 1489 - Designation of Brevard Barrier Island Area as Area of Critical State Concern	215
	CS/CS/SB 1676 - Hemp	216
Tra	nsportation & Modals Subcommittee	
	CS/CS/HB 21 - Transportation Facility Designations	
	CS/HB 155 - Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority	
	CS/CS/CS/HB 425 - Transportation	218
	CS/CS/HB 645 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act	219
	CS/CS/HB 657 - Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits	220
	SB 678 - Disposal of Property	220
	CS/CS/SB 766 - Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions	221
	CS/CS/SB 838 - Proceeds Funding Motorcycle Safety Education	222
	CS/CS/HB 949 (ch. 2023-67, L.O.F.) - Operation of a Golf Cart	222
	CS/HB 965 - Driver License, Identification Card, and Motor Vehicle Registration	223
	CS/CS/SB 1068 - Drone Delivery Services	224
	CS/CS/HB 1123 - Commercial Service Airport Transparency and Accountability	225
	CS/CS/HB 1191 - Use of Phosphogypsum	226
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1305 (ch. 2023-70, L.O.F.) - Department of Transportation	227
	CS/HB 1397 - Regional Transportation Planning	228
Wa	ter Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee	
	HB 407 - Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern	229
	CS/CS/HB 847 - Vessel Regulations	229
	CS/CS/HB 1379 - Environmental Protection	230
	CS/CS/HB 1405 - Biosolids	230
	HB 7027 - Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection	231

Jua	liciary Committee	
	CS/CS/SB 264 (ch. 2023-33, L.O.F.) - Interests of Foreign Countries	
	HB 7025 (ch. 2023-19, L.O.F.) - Pub. Rec./Safe School Officers	240
	SB 7064 (ch. 2023-86, L.O.F.) - Human Trafficking	
Civ	il Justice Subcommittee	
	SB 4 - Relief of Maria Garcia by the Pinellas County School Board	
	SB 6 - Relief of the Estate of Jason Sanchez by Miami-Dade County	
	SB 8 - Relief of Leonard Cure/State of Florida	
	SB 10 - Relief of Kristin A. Stewart by Sarasota County	
	CS/SB 12 - Relief of Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano, as personal representa of Hilda Medrano/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office	
	CS/SB 16 - Relief of Mitchell by the South Broward Hospital District	245
	CS/HB 27 - Judgment Liens	245
	CS/SB 50 - Public Records/Judicial Assistants	246
	SB 62 - Relief of Robert Earl DuBoise by the State of Florida	247
	CS/CS/SB 130 - Domestic Violence	247
	CS/HB 133 - Fees in Lieu of Security Deposits	248
	SB 144 (ch. 2023-88, L.O.F.) - Lactation Spaces	249
	CS/CS/HB 213 - Limitation of Actions Involving Real Estate Appraisers and Appraisal Management Companies	251
	CS/CS/SB 226 - Support for Dependent Adult Children	252
	CS/SB 286 - Legal Instruments	253
	CS/CS/HB 331 - Liens and Bonds	254
	CS/SB 360 (ch. 2023-22, L.O.F.) - Causes of Action Based on Improvements to Real Property	255
	CS/CS/HB 437 (ch. 2023-64, L.O.F.) - Property Owners' Right to Install, Display, and Store Items	256
	HB 441 - Removal of Unknown Parties in Possession	257
	CS/SB 574 - Termination of Agreements by a Servicemember	257
	CS/CS/SB 600 - Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors	
	CS/CS/HB 775 - Shared Parental Responsibility after Establishment of Paternity	
	CS/CS/HB 837 (ch. 2023-15, L.O.F.) - Civil Remedies	
	CS/HB 977 - Clerks of Court	. 261

	CS/SB 978 - Secured Transactions	262
	CS/HB 1205 - Advertisements for Legal Services	263
	CS/HB 1301 - Parenting and Time-sharing of Minor Children	264
	CS/SB 1318 - Spaceflight Entity Liability	265
	CS/SB 1416 - Dissolution of Marriage	266
	CS/HB 1417 - Residential Tenancies	267
	CS/CS/HB 1419 - Real Property Fraud	268
	SB 1442 - Terrorism	269
	CS/SB 1458 (ch. 2023-56, L.O.F.) - Roller Skating Rink Safety	269
Cri	minal Justice Subcommittee	
	CS/HB 95 - Rights of Law Enforcement Officers and Correctional Officers	271
	HB 119 - Visiting County and Municipal Detention Facilities	272
	CS/SB 164 - Controlled Substance Testing	272
	CS/SB 232 - Exploitation of Vulnerable Persons	273
	CS/CS/HB 269 (ch. 2023-24, L.O.F.) - Public Nuisances	274
	CS/CS/SB 306 - Catalytic Converters	275
	CS/HB 319 - Interference With Sporting or Entertainment Events	276
	CS/HB 329 - Electronic Monitoring of Persons Charged with or Convicted of Offenses Involving Schools or Students	277
	CS/CS/HB 365 - Controlled Substances	278
	CS/CS/SB 376 - Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records and Making Confidential and Exempt Related Court Records	279
	CS/SB 384 - Violent Offenses Committed Against Criminal Defense Attorneys	279
	CS/SB 404 (ch. 2023-44, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Photograph or Video or	
	Audio Recording of the Killing of a Minor/Autopsy Reports of Minors	
	CS/CS/SB 450 (ch. 2023-23, L.O.F.) - Death Penalty	282
	SB 508 - Problem-solving Courts	283
	CS/HB 537 - Custody and Supervision of Specified Offenders	284
	CS/HB 605 - Expunction of Criminal History Records	285
	CS/HB 667 – Victims of Crime	286
	SR 736 - Controlled Substances	227

	HB 825 - Assault or Battery on Hospital Personnel	287
	CS/CS/HB 1045 - Certified Peer Specialist Gateway Pilot Program	288
	CS/HB 1047 - Offenses Against Certain Animals	289
	CS/HB 1105 - Rapid DNA Grant Program	289
	SB 1210 (ch. 2023-84, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Human Trafficking Victims	290
	CS/CS/HB 1297 (ch. 2023-25, L.O.F.) - Capital Sexual Battery	291
	CS/HB 1327 - Pub. Rec./Investigative Genetic Genealogy Information and Materials	292
	CS/SB 1332 (ch. 2023-54, L.O.F.) - Missing Persons	293
	CS/CS/HB 1359 (ch. 2023-26, L.O.F.) - Offenses Involving Fentanyl or Fentanyl Analogs	294
	CS/HB 1375 - Battery by Strangulation	295
	CS/HB 1465 - Firearm and Destructive Device Offenses	296
	CS/SB 1478 - Criminal Sentencing	297
	CS/HB 1571 - Juvenile Court Proceedings	298
	CS/HB 1577 - Crime Victim Compensation Claims	299
	CS/SB 1616 (ch. 2023-58, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Transportation and Protective Services	299
	CS/CS/HB 1627 (ch. 2023-27, L.O.F.) - Pretrial Release and Detention	300
	CS/SB 7014 (ch. 2023-59, L.O.F.) - Juvenile Justice	301
	CS/CS/SB 7016 - Department of Corrections	302
Ru	SB 32 (ch. 2023-8, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	
	SB 34 (ch. 2023-9, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	307
	SB 36 (ch. 2023-10, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	308
	SB 38 (ch. 2023-11, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	308
	SB 40 (ch. 2023-12, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	309
	SB 42 (ch. 2023-13, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	309
	SB 44 (ch. 2023-14, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	310
Sta	cS/SB 102 (ch. 2023-17, L.O.F.) - Housing	
	CS/CS/HB 1285 - Florida State Guard	315
	CS/SB 7050 - Elections	316

stitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee	
CS/CS/SB 110 - State Board of Administration	.317
CS/SB 234 (ch. 2023-41, L.O.F.) - Statutorily Required Reports	. 318
CS/SB 242 - Fiscal Accountability	. 318
CS/CS/SB 256 (ch. 2023-35, L.O.F.) - Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees	.319
CS/CS/SB 258 (ch. 2023-32, L.O.F.) - Prohibited Applications on Government-issued Devices	.319
CS/CS/HB 535 - Funeral Service Benefits for Public Safety Officers	.320
CS/HB 543 (ch. 2023-18, L.O.F.) - Public Safety	.321
CS/CS/HB 935 - Chiefs of Police	.322
CS/SB 946 (ch. 2023-52, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Department of State Electronically Filed Records	.322
SB 948 (ch. 2023-53, L.O.F.) - Records Electronically Filed with the Department of State	.323
CS/CS/HB 1121 - Florida Retirement System	.323
CS/CS/SB 1188 - Contract Liability	.323
CS/HB 1189 - Monuments	.324
CS/CS/SB 1310 - Substitution of Work Experience for Postsecondary Education Requirements	.324
CS/HB 1441 (ch. 2023-72, L.O.F.) - Florida Museum of Black History	. 325
CS/CS/SB 1480 - Grants for Nonprofit Organization Safety	. 325
CS/SB 7024 - Retirement	. 326
cs, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee CS/HB 199 - Ethics Requirements for Officers and Employees of Special Tax Districts	
HB 411 (ch. 2023-101, L.O.F.) - Residency of Local Elected Officials	. 327
CS/SB 666 (ch. 2023-46, L.O.F.) - Form of Candidate Oath	. 328
CS/CS/SB 774 (ch. 2023-49, L.O.F.) - Ethics Requirements for Public Officials	. 328
SB 7000 - OGSR/Current or Former Public Guardians	.329
HB 7003 (ch. 2023-74, L.O.F.)- OGSR/Water Management District Surplus Lands	. 329
SB 7006 - OGSR/Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network	. 329
HB 7007 (ch. 2023-75, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Security and Firesafety System Plans	. 330
SB 7008 - OGSR/Building Plans, Blueprints, Schematic Drawings, and Diagrams	. 330
CS/SB 7020 (ch. 2023-60, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Mobile Suspicious Activity Reporting Tool	.331
SB 7022 (ch. 2023-61, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission/Safe-school Officers	.331

	HB 7031 (ch. 2023-107, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Address of a Victim of an Incident of Mass Violence	332
	HB 7035 (ch. 2023-76, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Citizens Property Insurance Corporation/Cybersecurity De	ata
	and Information	332
Loc	cal Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee	
	as a Foreign Terrorist Organization	
	CS/CS/SB 170 - Local Ordinances	334
	CS/HB 339 - Education of Dependents of Deceased or Disabled Servicemembers,  Prisoners of War, and Persons Missing in Action	334
	CS/CS/SB 346 - Public Construction	335
	CS/HB 485 - Veterans' Services and Recognition	335
	CS/CS/SB 540 - Local Government Comprehensive Plans	336
	CS/HB 621 - Death Benefits for Active Duty Servicemembers	336
	CS/HB 635 - Dental Services for Veterans	337
	CS/CS/SB 718 - Local Government	337
	SM 848 - People of Iran	337
	SB 942 - Authorization of Restrictions Concerning Dogs	338
	SM 1036 - Florida National Guard	338
	CS/CS/HB 1367 - Unlawful Dumping	339
	HB 1373 - County Constitutional Officers	340
	SM 1382 - United States Department of Defense	340
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1595 - Law Enforcement Operations	341
	CS/CS/SB 1604 (ch. 2023-31, L.O.F.) - Land Use and Development Regulations	342
Wa	ys & Means Committee CS/HB 619 - State Estate Tax	
	HR 7063 - Taxation	348

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Appropriations Committee Representative Thomas J. Leek, Chair Representative Lawrence McClure, Vice Chair

#### 2023 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 Michelle Salzman, Vice Chair

#### **Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee**

Representative Jason Shoaf, Chair Representative Fred Hawkins, 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 Kaylee Tuck, Vice Chair

#### State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative Demi Busatta Cabrera, Chair Representative James Vernon Mooney Jr., Vice Chair

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appropriations Committee	15
SB 2500 - Appropriations	19
SB 2502 - Implementing the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act	32
SB 2504 - State Employees	32
Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee	33
Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee	
SB 2510 - Health	33
HB 5303 - Biomedical Research	34
SB 7030 - Trust Funds/State Opioid Settlement Trust Fund/	
Department of Children and Families	34
Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee	35
CS/SB 1272 (ch. 2023-93, L.O.F.) - Educational Grants	
Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee	36
CS/SB 726 - Library Cooperative Grants	
Justice Appropriations Subcommittee	37
HB 1207 - Operation New Hope	
SB 7018 - Inmate Welfare Trust Fund	38
PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee	39
CS/CS/HB 1259 (ch. 2023-69, L.O.F.) - Education	
HB 5101 - Education	40
State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee	41
SB 2506 - Capitol Complex	

SB 2500 - Appropriations

By: Appropriations
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 5001

Committee(s) of Reference: None Category: Budget; Public Employees

The following is a summary of SB 2500 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 billion (\$46.5 billion General Revenue, \$29.5 billion State Trust Funds, and \$41 billion Federal Trust Funds). This includes funding for 113,747 authorized positions.

- The budget maintains a record level of planned reserves, totaling \$10.9 B.
  - General Revenue Fund Unallocated = \$5.3 B.
  - Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) = \$4.1 B including a transfer of \$1 B from GR.
  - Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund = \$1.4 B.
- The budget includes significant investments in three key areas:
  - State Infrastructure \$23.5 B, including:
    - \$18 B for transportation projects including \$13.6 B for the Department of Transportation (DOT) Five-Year Work Program; \$4 B to accelerate road projects through the Governor's Moving Florida Forward initiative; and \$401 M for local transportation projects.
    - \$3.4 B for water and land conservation initiatives including \$1.1 B for conservation land acquisition; \$952.9 M for wastewater, resiliency, and local water project grants; \$694.6 M for Everglades, Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), and Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project (LOWRP) Restoration; \$508.8 M for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater revolving loan programs; and \$206 M for beach restoration initiatives.
    - \$2.1 B for maintenance, repair, renovation, and construction of state and educational facilities throughout the state.
  - Support for Children and Families \$23.5 B, including:
    - \$17.7 B for education programs including a new state investment of \$930 M in the Florida Education Finance Program to support Florida's elementary and secondary students.
    - \$2.8 B for health care programs including new investments of \$76.1 M to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for pediatricians and \$20.6 M to expand KidCare eligibility.

• \$2.9 B for other initiatives including the school lunch program and tax relief directed to Florida's families.

#### Recognition of Public Service \$1.3 B, including:

- \$1 B for salary increases and bonuses including \$581.3 M for pay increases to recognize, recruit, and retain state employees; \$250.3 M to continue increasing teacher pay; and \$178.1 M to provide bonuses to correctional officers, local first responders, and new law enforcement officers, as well as bonuses for retired veterans and first responders who become teachers.
- \$347.9 M for state employee benefits including \$147.9 M to fund the Florida Retirement System and increase benefits for current and future retirees, as well as \$200 M to fund the State Employee Health Insurance Program without raising premiums.
- The budget authorizes the transfer of \$200 M to the State Board of Administration to reduce the amount of state debt and realize debt service savings.

#### **Administered Funds Issues**

- Salary Increases \$619.3 M (\$370.7 M GR)
  - \$389 M (\$205.3 M GR) to increase salaries for all state employees by 5% to account for elevated inflation and provide a competitive pay adjustment.
  - \$97 M (\$37.9 M GR) to allow each agency to develop a pay plan that addresses compression, recruitment, and retention issues unique to the agency.
  - \$60.5 M (\$59.7 M GR) to increase base salaries of correctional officers to \$45,760 (\$22/hour).
  - \$38.1 M GR to grant a \$5,000 hiring and retention bonus for correctional officers at 15 targeted high vacancy rate correctional facilities.
  - \$9.2 M (\$8.9 M GR) to provide additional increases of \$500 \$1,000 for correctional officers based on years of service; provide an additional increase of 5% for correctional facility maintenance workers; and increase salaries for educational staff serving in correctional facilities.
  - \$24.8 M (\$20.9 M GR) to provide additional pay increases of up to 10% to recruit and retain assistant state attorneys, assistant public defenders, and conflict counsel attorneys.
  - \$0.8 M TF to increase salaries for administrative hearing judges.
- Florida Retirement System Employer Contribution Increases \$147.9 M (\$85.5 M GR)
  - Fully funds the Unfunded Actuarial Liability and Normal Costs for State Entities.
  - Allows all job classifications to enter Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) at any age on or after the date they are eligible for full retirement benefits.
  - Expands DROP participation from 5 years to an 8-year limit for all eligible active members and to a 10-year limit for teachers.
  - Adjusts the accrual interest rate for a member's DROP account from 1.3% to 4%.
  - Returns to the pre-2011 policy where Special Risk employees are eligible for retirements benefits with 25 years of service instead of 30 years.
  - Increases the monthly Health Insurance Subsidy for retirees from \$5.00 to \$7.50 for each year of service.
  - Increases the employer contribution into employee investment plan accounts by 2%.
- State Employees Health Insurance \$200 M GR

- Transfers \$200 M nonrecurring GR to the State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund to maintain a positive balance in the trust fund.
- Maintains current levels of premiums and benefits for employees and retirees.
- Requires agencies to pay an administrative health insurance assessment for vacant positions.
- State Matching Funds for FEMA Disaster Grants \$472.5 M GR
- Domestic Security Projects \$56.7 M TF

#### **Education Fixed Capital Outlay**

- Public Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Maintenance and Projects Funding \$1.3 B (\$155.7 M GR) Funds are provided from the PECO TF and GR. No new bonds are authorized.
  - Charter School Capital Outlay \$213.5 M TF Provides state funds for charter school capital outlay.
  - **Special Facilities Construction \$88.6 M TF** Provides funds for 3 new projects in Glades, Gadsden, and Putnam counties.
  - State University Projects \$682.2 M (\$115.9 M GR) Provides funds for 39 capital outlay projects at all 12 state universities.
  - Florida College Projects \$272.4 M (\$33.9 M GR) Provides funds for 36 capital outlay projects at 24 Florida colleges.
  - Public Schools and Workforce Projects \$50 M (\$6 M GR) Provides funds for 13 capital outlay projects.
  - Other PECO Projects \$21.6 M TF Funds capital outlay projects for the Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools millage equivalent (\$10 M); Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (\$4.6 M); Public Broadcasting Stations (\$6.4 M); and Division of Blind Services (\$0.6 M).
- State University Capital Improvement Fee Projects \$44 M TF Authorizes fixed capital outlay projects from student capital improvement fee revenues.
- **Reduced Debt Service Payment Requirements \$122 M TF** Associated with the retirement and refunding of previous bond issues.

#### **Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### **Overview**

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriation Subcommittee overall budget totals \$7.5 billion (\$1.7 billion General Revenue and \$5.8 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 9,033.25 authorized positions.

- Everglades Restoration and Protection of Florida's Water Resources over \$1.6 B (\$771.2 M GR)
  - Everglades Restoration \$694.6 M (\$15.3 M GR) Provides \$478.5 M in funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), \$91.1 M for the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP), \$50 M for the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Restoration Project, and \$70 M for the C-51 Reservoir.
  - Wastewater Grant Program \$200 M (\$55 M GR) Provides \$200 M funds for wastewater grants to help communities across Florida reduce excess nutrient pollution within a basin management action plan.

- Water Projects \$433 M GR Provides funds for stormwater treatment, wastewater treatment, and water supply projects in local communities.
- Indian River Lagoon \$100 M GR Provides funding to address water quality impacts due to excess nutrients entering the waterway.
- **Springs Restoration \$50 M TF** Provides funding for springs restoration, protection, and preservation.
- **Alternative Water Supply \$60 M GR** Provides funds for the alternative water supply grant program.
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) \$40 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).
- Innovative Technologies for Harmful Algal Blooms \$35 M GR Provides funds for innovative technologies and short-term solutions to mitigate and address harmful algal blooms and nutrient pollution of Florida waters.
- Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements \$20 M GR Provides funds for water quality improvements and coral reef restoration in Biscayne Bay.
- 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 Grants and Research \$14.6 M (\$12.2 M GR) Provides \$5 M to the
  Department of Environmental Protection for grants to local governments to respond to
  red tide cleanup and continuation funding for the Center for Red Tide Research in the
  Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Land Acquisition \$1.1 B (\$950 M GR) Provides \$100 M in recurring funds for the Florida Forever Program to acquire critical conservation and recreation lands, \$100 M for the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program to protect important agricultural lands and \$850 M in the back of the bill to immediately acquire lands within the wildlife corridor (Caloosahatchee Big Cypress and lands within the Ocala to Osceola O2O region).
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan programs \$508.8 M (\$28 M GR) Provides low-interest loans for the construction of drinking water systems, wastewater treatment, and stormwater management systems.
- Resilient Florida Program \$320 M (\$121 M GR) Provides funding for projects included in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan submitted Dec. 1, 2022, including \$20 M in Resilient Florida planning grants.
- Waste Cleanup Programs \$299 M (\$85 M GR) Provides \$195 M for the cleanup of contaminated petroleum sites, \$85 M for Piney Point closure, \$10 M for dry cleaning site cleanup, \$6 M for hazardous waste site cleanup, and \$3 M for the Solid Waste Management Program.
- Beach Restoration Projects \$206 M (\$156 M GR) Provides continuation funds for financial assistance to local governments for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management.
- **Citrus Greening Response \$48.4 M (\$34 M GR)** Provides \$6.4 M to continue funding for the Citrus Health Response Program; \$38 M for citrus research and field trials; and \$4 M for citrus crop decline supplemental funding.

- State Park and Aquatic Preserve Improvements \$44.5 M TF Provides \$37 M for state park improvement projects, \$3.8 M for maintenance and repair projects in Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas and \$3.7 M for state park operations.
- Wildfire Suppression Equipment and Land Management Activities \$29.3 M TF Provides funding to replace equipment for fire suppression and for repair and maintenance of forestry facilities.
- Coral Reef Protection and Restoration \$22.2 M (\$18.2 M GR) Provides 3 FTE and funding to help protect, restore and monitor coral reefs which provide food and habitat for other marine life as well as shoreline protection.
- 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.
- Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration \$17 M (\$10 M GR) Provides funds to restore oyster beds, develop stakeholder informed harvest management options, and mapping, planning, research, and monitoring of oyster beds to prevent further loss.

#### **Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### **Overview**

The Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$47.3 billion (\$15.2 billion General Revenue and \$32 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 32,046 authorized positions.

- Children's Hospital Inpatient Rate Increase \$76.4 M (\$31 M GR) Provides funding for increased Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals serving children with severe medical conditions.
- Pediatric Physician Rate Increase \$76.1 M (\$30.9 M GR) Provides funding to increase
   Medicaid reimbursement rates for pediatric physicians to amounts above Medicare rates.
- Florida KidCare Program Eligibility \$20.6 M (\$6.1 M GR) Provides funding to increase the income eligibility threshold for coverage to 300% of the federal poverty level, contingent upon HB 121 becoming law.
- Florida KidCare Enrollment \$47.8 M (\$10.8 M GR) Fully funds the program for the 2023-2024 fiscal year as agreed upon at the February 2023 Social Services Estimating Conference to serve an anticipated 248,521 children.
- Stand Alone Children's Hospitals \$54.3 M (\$22 GR) Provides additional funding for Medicaid reimbursements to separately licensed hospitals providing comprehensive acute care services to children.
- **Pediatric Behavioral Health Care Services \$15 M (\$6.1 M GR)** Provides funding for a Medicaid provider rate increase for pediatric behavioral health care services.
- Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care (PPEC) Rate Increase \$4.9 M (\$2 M GR) Provides funding
  for rate increases to those providing continual medical care, such as nursing services, personal
  care, developmental therapies, and caregiver training, in a non-residential setting to Medicaid
  eligible children from birth through age 20 with medically-complex conditions.
- Andrew John Anderson Rapid Whole Genome Sequencing Program \$3.3 M (\$1.3 M GR) —
   Provides funding to add rapid whole genome sequencing as a covered fee-for-service Medicaid
   benefit for enrollees who are 20 years of age or younger with specified complex or acute
   illnesses.

- Graduate Medical Education \$109.3M (\$38 M GR) Provides additional funding for Graduate Medical Education FTE and for the Statewide Medicaid Residency Program.
- Slots for Doctors \$30 M (\$12.2 M GR) Provides funding to increase hospital residency slots through the Slots for Doctors Graduate Medical Education Program.
- Nursing Home Reimbursement Rates \$125 M (\$50.9 M GR) Provides funding for nursing home rate increases tied to quality initiatives.
- PACE Expansion \$60.3 M (\$24.4 M GR) Provides funding for additional 1,850 PACE slots:
   Flagler, Seminole and Volusia (300 slots); Clay, Duval, St. Johns, Baker and Nassau (100 slots);
   Pinellas (50 slots); Brevard (200 slots); Martin and Palm Beach (200 slots); Miami-Dade and
   Broward (700 slots); Bay Calhoun, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Liberty, Leon,
   Wakulla, Walton and Washington (150 slots) and Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa (150 slots).
- Community Mental Health Services Medicaid Reimbursement \$29.7 M (\$12.1 M GR) –
  Provides funding for rate increases for Medicaid behavioral health services provided by
  Medicaid Community Behavioral Health providers.
- **Personal Needs Allowance \$17.7 M (\$7.1 M GR)** Provides funding to increase the personal needs allowance for residents in institutional settings.
- Durable Medical Equipment Provider Rate Increase \$14.5 M (\$5.9 M GR) Provides funding for a 7.5% increase in reimbursement to Durable Medical Equipment (DME) providers to account for increased costs.
- Waiver Waitlist \$79.6 M (\$32.3 M GR) Provides funds to serve an anticipated 1,200 individuals from the Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver who are determined to be in crisis.
- Dually Diagnosed Program \$3.4 M (\$1.7 M GR) Initiates a pilot program in Orange and Broward counties that will utilize a mobile response team model providing services to individuals with co-occurring mental health and developmentally disabled issues when experiencing a behavioral crisis.
- Homelessness Housing Opportunities \$21.3 M GR Increases the Challenge and Homeless
  Housing Assistance grants providing rapid rehousing and increased staffing at the Continuum of
  Care lead agencies (\$19 M) and federal grant award for the Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing
  Grant (\$2.3 M).
- Mental Health Treatment Beds \$72.9 M GR Continues funding for 843 forensic beds plus an additional 427 forensic and civil beds to mitigate the waitlists for admission at the State Mental Health Treatment Facilities (inclusive of \$30 M for current year needs).
- Services for Mental Health Disorders \$195.8 M (\$38.3 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 (\$156.3 M); jail-based competency services for forensic patients (\$6 M); additional residential treatment beds for juvenile offenders deemed incompetent to proceed to trial (\$1.3 M); grant funding to expand and enhance the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline (\$1.2 M); and for additional Central Receiving Facilities (\$31 M).
- Resources to Combat the Opioid Epidemic \$295.4 M Provides funding for prevention and treatment services that address the opioid epidemic, including an additional installment of the State Opioid Response (\$110.6 M); the final installment of litigated opioid misuse funding (\$11.3 M); and the first year of Opioid Settlement funding (\$173.5 M).
- Alzheimer's Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives \$9 M GR –
   Provides funding to reduce the waitlist by 400 individuals for Alzheimer's respite services, to

- reduce the waitlist by 226 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 799 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program.
- Memory Disorder Research and Treatment \$8.5 M GR Provides additional funding for research and treatment at the Memory Disorder Clinics.
- The Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program \$27.5 M GR Provides funding to expand the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program to allow for additional National Cancer Institute (NCI) designated facilities to participate in the program.
- Florida Cancer Innovation Fund \$20 M GR Provides funding to establish the Florida Cancer Innovation Fund to promote emerging cancer research grants.
- Addressing Health Disparities for High-Risk and Underserved Populations \$23.9 M TF —
   Provides funding to educate minorities and rural communities about chronic conditions, provide
   mental health services and the infrastructure needed to prepare for future public health
   emergencies.
- Expansion of Maternal Health Improvement Through Coordinated Telehealth \$12.7 M GR Provides funding to maintain the existing Maternal Health Telehealth pilot programs in Duval and Orange Counties and expand to 18 additional counties with the highest number of severe maternal morbidity.
- School-Based Dental Health \$10.9 M GR Provides funding to expand 25 school-based dental health programs to serve 97,250 additional individuals and hire Other Personal Services (OPS) dental hygienists to perform services.
- Primary Care Health Professional Loan Repayment Program \$20 M GR Provides funding to qualifying medical professionals in underserved locations where there are health care shortages. Funds will be used by Department of Health (DOH) to repay student loans. (\$10 M is provided for Fiscal Year 2022-23 in the back of the bill).
- **Florida Healthy Start \$9.6 M GR** Provides funding to increase Healthy Start services for families not eligible for Medicaid.
- Additional Funding for Child Protection Teams \$7 M GR Provides funding for needed resources to support forensic investigations.
- **Dental Student Loan Repayment Program \$2 M GR** Promotes access to dental care by supporting qualified dentists who treat medically underserved populations in dental health professional shortage areas.
- 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.

#### **Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### **Overview**

The Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$8.3 Billion (\$6.1 billion General Revenue; \$1.8 billion Lottery; \$0.4 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 1,243 authorized positions.

#### **Highlights**

State University Performance Based Funding \$350 M GR – Restores and increases the
performance-based incentive funding to State University System institutions to award
excellence and incentivize continuous improvement.

- Florida College System Workload Funding \$155.7 M GR Provides increased workload funding to the college system program fund. Includes \$100 M in allocations using the new Size-Index allocation model put forth by the Council of Presidents, \$25.7 M for dual enrollment tuition and fees reimbursements, and \$30 M for the realignment of Student Success Incentive funds.
- State University System Performance-Based Recruitment and Retention Incentive \$100 M GR
   Provides funding for a new State University System Performance-Based Recruitment and Retention Incentive Program.
- Workforce Development \$36.2 M GR Provides an increase in recurring funding to fully fund each school district career college and technical center.
- Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grants \$59.4 M GR Provides funds to support 37,728 qualified students at an award amount of \$3,500 per student for Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) institutions for tuition assistance. Contingent upon SB 1272, or similar legislation becoming a law, a maximum of \$2.8 M is provided to support an additional 800 qualified students at \$3,500 per student for tuition assistance.
- Workforce-related Performance Based Funding \$15.5 M GR Provides additional funds for school district and Florida College System industry certifications (\$8 M GR), creates a new tech center Student Success Incentive Fund (\$2.5 M GR), and creates a new Adult General Education Performance-Based Incentive Fund (\$5 M GR).
- **Student Financial Aid Increases \$3.2 M** Fully funds the Bright Futures Scholarship Program for an anticipated 120,974 students, the Benacquisto Scholarship Program for an anticipated 1,909 students, and the Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans for an anticipated 3,897 students.
- The Hamilton Center for Classical & Civic Education \$10 M GR Provides additional funding for the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education, a statutorily authorized academic unit within the University of Florida.
- Institute of Economic Freedom \$5 M GR Provides additional funding for the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom, a statutorily authorized center within Florida International University.
- No tuition increases.

#### <u>Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee</u>

#### **Overview**

The Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee's budget totals \$20.9 billion (\$1.6 billion General Revenue funds and \$19.3 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 13,183 positions.

- Transportation Work Program \$13.6 B Provides full funding for the department's 5-year Transportation Work Program.
- Moving Florida Forward \$4 B 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.
- Federally Declared Disaster Funding \$2.3 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.

- Hurricane Recovery Grant Program \$350 M Provides grant program funding to local governments for mitigation of revenue losses and operating deficits, infrastructure repair and replacement, and other hurricane related issues.
- Economic Development \$269.4 M (\$163.6 M GR)
  - Provides \$25 M (\$17.7 M GR) 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 \$127.7 M (\$100 M GR) 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, Sports Foundation).
  - Provides \$101 M (\$38.5 M GR) for the economic development partnerships.
    - Provides \$80 M for Visit Florida to promote our state's tourism industry.
    - Provides \$21 M for aerospace industry development and infrastructure funding through Space Florida.
- Payments for First Responders \$110 M Provides funding to award one-time recognition payments of up to \$1,000 for law enforcement and essential first responders with local governments.
- Florida State Guard \$107.6 M Provides funding to create the State Guard to protect and
  defend Floridians and augment state and local agencies with a force of up to 1,500 volunteers.
  Funding is included for 11 FTE, training and recruitment, travel, compensation, personnel
  equipment, maritime and aviation equipment, and fixed capital outlay for equipment storage
  and operational requirements.
- Camp Blanding Fixed Capital Enhancements \$102.5 M Provides funding to support
  construction projects at the Camp Blanding Readiness Center needed to retain the current Level
  II National Guard facility.
- 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 \$54 M** Provides \$43.3 M for cultural and museum grants. Historic preservation grants are funded at \$10.8 M.
- Law Enforcement Recruitment Bonus Program \$20 M Provides funding to recruit new law enforcement officers in the state.
- **Libraries \$19.3 M** Maintains full funding for state aid to libraries at \$17.3 M and \$2 M for library cooperatives.
- Motorist Modernization Phase II \$10 M Provides continued authority for a multi-year
  information technology initiative to modernize the Department of Highway Safety and Motor
  Vehicles (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.
- **Highway Patrol Academy Driving Track \$9.3 M** Provides funding to complete reconstruction of an advanced driving track used to instruct law enforcement in methods and tactics of driving at high rates of speed.
- National Guard Tuition Assistance \$5.2 M Provides financial assistance for postsecondary educational opportunities to qualifying Florida National Guard service members.

- Sargassum Clean-up Grant \$5 M Provides funding to support government efforts in the removal of the sargassum seaweed found on Florida beaches.
- **Historic Preservation Fixed Capital \$3.4 M** Provides funding for lead-based paint abatement on historic properties.
- National Guard Joint Enlistment Enhancement Program \$3 M Provides funding to recruit and enlist new members in the Florida National Guard.
- Elections Issues \$2.3 M
  - **Cyber Security Awareness Training \$0.1 M** Provides funding to support the cyber security efforts of the Supervisors of Elections throughout the state.
  - **Elections Operations Support \$0.6 M** Provides funding and 6 FTE to support election and campaign finance audit activities.
  - **Special Elections \$1.5 M** Provides funding to reimburse counties for costs incurred from special elections.
  - **Elections Technology Enhancements \$0.1 M** Provides funding to update several public websites and develop an online program for signature verification training.

#### **Reductions**

- Economic Development Partnerships
  - Eliminates \$12 M of state funding for Enterprise Florida.

#### <u>Justice Appropriations Subcommittee</u>

#### Overview

The Justice Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$6.7 billion (\$5.7 billion General Revenue and \$1 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 45,622 authorized positions.

- Inmate Health Services \$107 M GR Provides additional funding for inmate health services contract renewal.
- Education Program Expansion \$33.3 M (\$20.6 M GR) Provides 215 FTE and funding to expand traditional education, career, and technical education programs within the Department of Corrections.
- State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund Increase \$29.5 M TF Provides trust fund authority to offer inmates improved and increased access to program and wellness activities including: educational programming expansion, substance abuse treatment programs, and a phone call savings pilot program.
- **Drone Replacement Grant Program \$25 M GR** Provides nonrecurring funding in the back of the bill for Fiscal Year 2022-23 to create a drone replacement grant program within Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to assist local law enforcement agencies with replacing drone technology in compliance with statutory changes.
- Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Contracted Care Staff Rate Increases \$24.6 M GR —
   Provides funding to increase pay for contracted direct care and support staff at Children in Need
   of Services (CINS)/Families in Need of Services (FINS), secure, and non-secure residential
   facilities, and for staff who conduct mental and physical intake evaluations for juveniles
   committed to residential facilities.
- FDLE IT, Investigative, and Protection Resources \$24.5 M (\$18.5 M GR) Provides funding for:

- Modernization of the National Fingerprint File Repository and statewide emergency alert applications,
- Local support grant funding for ballistics testing machines, body armor purchase, and alcohol breath testing instruments, and
- Completion of the Sexual Assault Kit tracking system.
- State Courts Critical Due Process Resources \$21.8 M GR Provides funding and 20 FTE to
  support information technology resources including development, training, and maintenance of
  a vast array of new digital court processes; and to provide salary enhancements for traditional
  and digital court reporters, interpreters, program specialists, and various staff attorney positions
  within the trial court system.
- State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida Program \$20 M NR GR & TF Provides pass-through funding for local agencies to support drug trafficking prevention and interdictions.
- Protective Service Operations \$18.3 M GR Provides funding and 7 FTE to address staffing
  concerns in the protective services detail within FDLE, including repurposing 43 existing vacant
  FTE.
- **Trial Courts Pandemic Recovery Plan \$12 M GR** Provides nonrecurring funding to address the workload associated with a backlog of court cases due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Critical Security Equipment \$10 M GR** Provides funding to purchase critical security enhancement equipment at state operated correctional facilities.
- 2nd DCA Courthouse Construction \$9 M GR Provides nonrecurring funding for inflationary cost increases in construction materials and labor to complete the Bernie McCabe 2nd District Court of Appeal courthouse.
- Increases for Law Enforcement Officers in Fiscally Constrained Counties \$5.7 M GR Provides
  funding to increase salaries of sheriff's deputies and sheriff's correctional officers within fiscally
  constrained counties.
- Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant \$5 M GR Provides nonrecurring funding to FDLE to award grants to non-profit organizations and community-based partnerships that serve communities disproportionately impacted by violence to implement or expand violence reduction programs.

#### **PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### Overview

The PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$19.7 billion (\$14.2 billion General Revenue and \$5.5 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 1,038 authorized positions.

- Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) \$26.8 B (\$14.5 B State Funds and \$12.3 B Local Funds) Updates and aligns the FEFP with the state's educational choice policy. Provides an increase in total FEFP funds of \$2.2 B (9.04% increase) over current year. Provides an increase of \$404.67 (4.91%) for a total funds per student of \$8,648.11.
  - Base FEFP Funding \$2.7 B Transfers the funds associated with five categoricals to the base FEFP funding and adds new funds to offset additional operating costs associated with items such as payroll and retirement changes.
  - Classroom Teachers and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increases \$252.8 M –
     Increases the base FEFP funding by \$252.8 M with proviso that states these funds are

- provided for school districts and charter schools to provide salary increases to either full-time classroom teachers and certified prekindergarten teachers funded in the FEFP or other instructional personnel.
- Required Local Effort (RLE) Maintains the FY 2022-23 statewide average millage rate
  of 3.262 and increases the aggregate RLE by \$1 B.
- Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program \$350 M GR Provides nonrecurring funding in the back of the bill for the Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program created in section 1011.62(18), Florida Statutes; the program is intended to maintain the stability of the operations of public schools in each school district and to protect districts, including charter schools, from financial instability as a result of changes in the full-time equivalent student enrollment through the school year.
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program (VPK) \$20 M Increases the base student allocation (BSA) for the VPK program; \$138 increase for the regular school year program and \$118 increase for the summer program.
- School Readiness Program \$100 M Increases the School Readiness Allocation to fund additional school readiness slots and assist school readiness providers to implement the standard provider reimbursement rates.
- Florida School for Competitive Academics \$24 M Provides funds to establish the Florida School for Competitive Academics to provide a rigorous academic curriculum and to prepare students for regional, state, and national academics competitions in all areas of study, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Micro-Credentials Incentives \$21 M Provides funds for the Micro-Credential Incentive
  program which provides an incentive to PreK-12 grade instructors who meet certain statutory
  requirements and who possess a reading certification or endorsement or a literacy microcredential.
- Science of Reading Literacy and Tutoring Program \$16 M Provides additional reading literacy support to students in kindergarten through grade 5 enrolled in a public school and who scored below a certain level on the final English Language Arts (ELA) assessment in the prior year or who have been determined to be below grade level and in need of reading intervention.
- Heroes in the Classroom Sign-on Bonus \$10 M Provides funds for honorably discharged or retired military veterans and retired first responders who commit to joining the teaching profession as full-time classroom teachers.
- Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT) Exam Administration \$8 M
   Provides funds to provide free SAT or ACT testing to approximately 200,000 grade 11 public school students.
- Regional Literacy Coaches \$5 M Provides funds for the State Regional Literacy Directors team to assist schools with improving low reading scores.
- Transportation Grant Program \$5 M Provides funds for a grant program for school districts and charter schools interested in implementing the new school start time requirements prior to the July 1, 2026, deadline.
- Florida Safe Schools Canine Program \$4 M Provides funds to the Department of Education (DOE) to provide grants to schools in fiscally-constrained counties to participate in the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program.

- Career Planning and Work-Based Learning Coordination System \$4 M Provides funds to the DOE for the Career Planning and Work-Based Learning Coordination System.
- Civics Literacy Captains and Coaches Initiative \$3.5 M Provides funds for the Civics Literacy
  Captains and Coaches Initiative that supports school districts in the improvement of civic literacy
  for Florida's students.

#### **State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee**

#### **Overview**

The State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee overall budget totals \$2.8 billion (\$724.6 million General Revenue and \$2.1 billion Trust Funds). This includes funding for 11,297.5 authorized positions.

- **Fixed Capital Outlay \$111.4 M (\$83.8 M GR)** Provides Fixed Capital Outlay for deferred maintenance of state buildings. Includes funds for security, code compliance, life, safety and ADA improvements. Specific projects include:
  - \$63.5 M for deferred general repair and maintenance of state facilities,
  - \$20 M for Capitol building renovations,
  - \$8 M for building and land acquisition funding,
  - \$6.5 M for the FDLE Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center,
  - \$6 M for planning and design of a new state office building at the Capital Circle Office Complex,
  - \$6 M for the planning and design of the Sixth District Court of Appeal Courthouse,
  - \$3.6 M for FDLE office space renovation, and
  - \$2 M for the creation of a Capitol Complex Memorial Park.
- My Safe Florida Home Program \$102.1 M GR Funding for grants to harden Floridian's homes that qualify under My Safe Florida Home (s. 215.5586 F.S.).
- **FLAIR Replacement/PALM \$62.6 M TF** Provides funding to replace the state's accounting and treasury systems.
- **Cybersecurity Local Government Grants \$40 M GR** Provides funding for a cybersecurity competitive grant program for local governments.
- **Fiscally Constrained Counties \$59.4 M GR** Provides for distributions to fiscally constrained counties.
- Emergency (E)911 Revenue Distribution to Counties \$25.2 M TF Provides funding for distribution of grants to counties for E911 operations.
- Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) \$14.2 M (\$12.1 M GR) Provides funding for tower construction, project IV&V, First Net radio subscriptions, tower lease increases and 1 support FTE, and the purchase of SLERS radios for local governments.
- Enterprise Cybersecurity Resiliency \$10 M GR Provides funding for the cost of tools and services needed to operate and maintain the state's Cybersecurity Operations Center.
- Miami-Dade Child Support Partner Agency \$9.5 M (\$3.2 M GR) Provides enhanced funding and salary and benefits adjustments for Miami-Dade state attorney's Child Support Services staff.

• Lottery Contract Funding \$6.8 M TF – Provides increased funding for the gaming system and instant ticket contracts based on the February 2023 Revenue Estimating Conference.

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, 2023, or upon becoming law, whichever occurs later; however, if this act becomes law after July 1, 2023, then it shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2023.

SB 2502 - Implementing the 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act

By: Appropriations Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: HB 5003** 

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 2023-2024. The statutory changes are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1, 2024, 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, 2023, 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, 2023.

SB 2504 - State Employees

By: Appropriations Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: HB 5005** 

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 2023-2024 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, 2023.

#### **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**

SB 2510 - Health By: Appropriations Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: None** 

Committee(s) of Reference: None

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

The bill makes the following changes to provisions covering health care:

- Increases the income threshold above which a resident in a State Veterans' nursing facility would be required to contribute to his or her account from \$130 to \$160 per month.
- Clarifies the premiums paid under Florida KidCare's full-pay programs are based on the combined-risk premium
- Increases the nursing home prospective payment reimbursement methodology for the Quality Incentive Program Payment Pool from 6% to 10% of the September 2016 non-property related payments of included facilities
- Creates the Graduate Medical Education Slots for Doctors Program.
- Provides for a portion of the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care achieved savings rebate to be repaid to the federal government.
- Establishes a Medicaid managed care pilot program to provide home and community-based services to individuals with developmental disabilities in Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Manatee, Polk, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties (Medicaid regions D and I).
- Prohibits the Agency for Health Care Administration from requiring a home health agency to
  meet the requirements of Medicare certification, if a home health agency does not provide
  Medicaid-skilled private duty nursing and attendant care nursing services, beginning October 1,
  2021.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise expressly provided.

**HB 5303 - Biomedical Research** 

By: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Garrison and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: None** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee Category: Budget; Health; Health Financing; Health Services

The bill makes changes to cancer research programs as follows:

- Expands the Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program to include an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center with at least one geographic site in Florida among qualifying entities for the program.
- Clarifies that program allocation factors upon which funding is based are for activities in Florida.
- Excludes \$37,771,257 from the annual funding calculation and requires those funds to be distributed according to each participating cancer center's proportionate allocation.
- Eliminates the endowed research chair and associated funding in the Bankhead-Coley Cancer Research Program.
- Authorizes funding for "other cancer research initiatives" as appropriated by the Legislature within the Biomedical Research Trust Fund.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

SB 7030 - Trust Funds/State Opioid Settlement Trust Fund/Department of Children and Families

By: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 5301

**Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations** 

**Category: Budget** 

The bill creates the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund in the Department of Children and Families. The bill provides that funds credited to the trust fund shall consist of funds received by the state from settlement of Florida opioid-related litigation with pharmaceutical manufacturers, distributors and pharmacies. Subject to an annual appropriation, monies will be used to abate the opioid epidemic in accordance with settlement agreements.

# **Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee**

CS/SB 1272 (ch. 2023-93, L.O.F.) - Educational Grants

By: Appropriations; Simon and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1019

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

**Appropriations** 

**Category: Higher Education and Employment** 

The bill creates educational grants to students enrolled in independent nonprofit and for-profit colleges and universities. Specifically, the bill makes institutions that meet specified requirements eligible to receive funds from the Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant program.

The bill authorizes any Florida resident, full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate student who is registered at an independent nonprofit or for-profit college or university, that meet specified requirements, to be eligible to receive an EASE grant.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-93, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

### **Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee**

**CS/SB 726 - Library Cooperative Grants** 

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rodriguez

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 643

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Committee

on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

**Category: Budget; Library** 

The Division of Library and Information Services within the Department of State is responsible for collecting, preserving, and providing public access to the published history of Florida. The Interstate Library Compact provides that state library agencies may conduct joint or cooperative library programs to: meet the needs of state residents which cannot be met independently by local libraries, build upon the strength of local libraries, or augment their resources with regional and statewide services. Encouraging and assuring cooperation among libraries of all types for the development of library services is a core component of library cooperative programs.

Current law authorizes that the administrative unit of a library cooperative may receive a grant of up to \$400,000 from the state for the purpose of sharing library resources. The bill removes this cap.

The bill does not have a fiscal impact on state revenues or expenditures, it simply adjusts the amount of funding an individual cooperative may receive, subject to appropriation.

# **Justice Appropriations Subcommittee**

**HB 1207 - Operation New Hope** 

By: Shoaf and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1198

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

**Appropriations Committee** 

**Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice** 

The bill authorizes the Florida Department of Corrections to contract with Operation New Hope, in accordance with s. 944.706, F.S., to provide reentry services including, but not limited to, counseling, job placement, money management assistance, and programs that address substance abuse, mental health, and co-occurring conditions. Such contracts must be authorized by and consistent with funding appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

SB 7018 - Inmate Welfare Trust Fund

By: Criminal Justice Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1219

**Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations** 

**Category: Corrections; Budget** 

The bill authorizes the collection of revenue from additional sources for deposit into the State-Operated Institutions Inmate Welfare Trust Fund (Trust Fund). Additional revenue sources include proceeds obtained through the collection of damages pursuant to s. 960.293(2), F.S., cost of incarceration liens pursuant to s. 960.292(2), F.S., and copayments made by inmates for nonemergency visits to a healthcare provider.

The bill amends s. 945.215(1)(f), F.S., to eliminate the current \$100 statutory cap on the weekly amount that inmates can spend on canteen and vending items. Without the statutory cap, the weekly amount would be established by the Department of Corrections.

The bill increases the authorized amount of deposits into the Trust Fund from \$2.5 million up to \$32 million per fiscal year, maintaining that all excess revenue above \$32 million must be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The bill also allows for funds in the Trust Fund to be utilized for fixed capital outlay for educational facilities and to provide environmental wellness upgrades to facilities.

## **PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee**

CS/CS/HB 1259 (ch. 2023-69, L.O.F.) - Education

By: Appropriations Committee; Education & Employment Committee; Canady and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1328

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

Committee; Appropriations Committee Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill clarifies that the calculation of school district enrollment for purposes of calculating the proportionate share of school capital outlay surtax is based on the capital outlay full-time equivalent enrollment.

The bill clarifies that charter school capital outlay funding consists of state funds, when such funds are appropriated in the General Appropriations Act, and revenues resulting from the discretionary 1.5 millage authorized in section 1011.71(2), Florida Statutes.

The bill removes the state funding threshold and revises the calculation methodology for the Department of Education (DOE) to use to allocate appropriated state funds to eligible charter schools.

The bill requires charter schools to attest in writing to the DOE that, if the charter school is nonrenewed or terminated, any unencumbered funds and all equipment and property purchased with public funds will revert to the state.

The bill disallows a charter school from receiving capital outlay funds if:

- the charter school is a developmental research (lab) school and receives state funding for capital improvements.
- a member of the charter school's governing board, or his or her family member, has an interest in or is an employee of the lessor; however, a charter school operating as a charter school-in-the-workplace or charter school-in the-municipality is exempt from this requirement.

The bill revises the calculation methodology used by the DOE to determine the amount of the discretionary 1.5 millage revenue a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school; and prescribes the percentage of such funds a school district must distribute to each eligible charter school beginning in Fiscal Year 2023-2024 through Fiscal Year 2027-2028.

The bill requires any purchase, lease-purchase, or lease made by a charter school must be at the appraised value and provides a definition of "appraised value."

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-69, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 5101 - Education

By: PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Tomkow

Tied Bills: CS/CS/HB 1069 Companion Bills: None

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee Category: Early Learning; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill conforms applicable statutes to appropriations provided in the conference report of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for PreK-12 education for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Specifically, the bill:

- conforms the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) calculation methodologies for the Florida Virtual School (FLVS), the developmental research (lab) schools, and the Family Empowerment Scholarship (FES) program to changes made by the bill.
- creates the Florida School for Competitive Academics in Alachua County as a state-supported school for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students for the purpose of providing rigorous academic curriculum and preparing students for regional, state, and national academic competitions.
- repeals the weighted enrollment ceiling for the Group 2 education programs, which includes the English Students of Other Languages (ESOL) education program.
- renames the district cost differential (DCD) the comparable wage factor (CWF) and authorizes its application in calculating the base FEFP only when a school district's CWF is greater than 1.000.
- requires the program cost factor for secondary career education program to be higher than the program cost factor for basic programs grades 9th-12th.
- creates the small district factor as an additional value to full-time equivalent (FTE) students for school districts with fewer than 20,000 FTE students and is located in a fiscally constrained county. The small district factor is included in the calculation of the base FEFP.
- repeals the following FEFP categoricals:
  - funding Compression and Hold Harmless Allocation
  - Sparsity Supplement
  - Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation.
- renames the Teacher Salary Increase Allocation the Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Increase, modifies school district reporting requirements, and specifies that its amount and distribution methodology shall be provided for in the GAA.
- retains the DJJ Supplemental Allocation and modifies its eligible uses to include uses previously only included in proviso in the GAA.
- retains the ESE Guaranteed Allocation and establishes a calculation methodology in law.
- renames the Supplemental Academic Instruction categorical the Educational Enrichment Allocation and modifies its (a) eligible uses to include the uses previously included in the Turnaround Supplemental Services Allocation and (b) calculation methodology.
- creates the State-Funded Discretionary Supplement to fund the nonvoted discretionary local millage for operations for students awarded a FES; this supplement is similar to the State-Funded Discretionary Contribution for the FLVS and the lab schools.
- retains the Florida Teachers Classroom Supply Assistance Program, modifies requirements of the program, and authorizes the Department of Education (DOE) to administer a competitive procurement through which eligible classroom teachers may purchase classroom materials and supplies.

- creates the Educational Enrollment Stabilization Program to maintain the stability of the
  operations of public schools in each school district and to protect school districts, including
  charter schools, from financial instability as a result of changes in the FTE student enrollment
  throughout the school year.
- creates the Heroes in the Classroom Sign-on Bonus program and requires the DOE to provide a
  one-time, sign-on bonus to honorably discharged and retired military veterans and retired first
  responders who commit to joining the teaching profession as full-time classroom teachers.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

# **State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee**

SB 2506 - Capitol Complex

By: Appropriations Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 5201

**Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee** 

**Category: Government Operations** 

The bill expands the Capitol Complex to include the Holland Building, the Elliot Building, the R.A. Gray Building, and their associated parking garages. To effectuate this change, the bill expands the area of the Capitol Complex by including the state-owned lands and public streets adjacent within an area bounded by and including Calhoun Street, East Pensacola Street, Monroe Street, Jefferson Street, West Pensacola Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Gaines Street. The bill states that the Capitol Complex does not include the Supreme Court Building or the public streets adjacent thereto.

The bill removes the requirement that DMS, in consultation with the Florida Historical Commission, dedicate a memorial garden. Instead, the bill requires DMS to set aside and dedicate an area of the Capitol Complex to be known as "Memorial Park," where authorized monuments will be placed. The bill defines "Memorial Park" as the portion of the Capitol Complex existing between and including the Elliot Building and the Holland Building within an area bounded by and including Monroe Street, Gaines Street, Calhoun Street, and East Pensacola Street.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Commerce Committee Representative Bob Rommel, Chair Representative Patt Maney, Vice Chair

#### 2023 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 Tom Fabricio, Vice Chair

# Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee

Representative Tyler I. Sirois, Chair Representative Lauren Melo, Vice Chair

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Commerce Committee	43
CS/CS/HB 3 (ch. 2023-28, L.O.F.) - Government and Corporate Activism	49
CS/CS/HB 5 - Economic Programs	51
CS/CS/SB 250 - Natural Emergencies	52
SB 1438 (ch. 2023-94, L.O.F.) - Protection of Children	53
CS/CS/SB 1718 (ch. 2023-40, L.O.F.) - Immigration	54
SB 7044 - Changes in Ownership of or Interest in Pari-mutuel Permits	55
CS/SB 7052 - Insurer Accountability	56
SB 7054 (ch. 2023-80, L.O.F.) - Central Bank Digital Currency	57
Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee	
CS/CS/SB 284 - Energy	59
CS/SB 552 - Public Records/Broadband Opportunity Program	60
CS/HB 1221 - Broadband Internet Service Providers	61
CS/CS/HB 1281 - Preemption Over Utility Service Restrictions	62
CS/CS/CS/SB 1418 (ch. 2023-55, L.O.F.) - Emergency Communications	63
Insurance & Banking Subcommittee	
CS/CS/SB 312 - Insurance	65
CS/CS/CS/SB 418 - Insurance	66
CS/CS/HB 487 - Department of Financial Services	67
CS/HB 599 - Debt Management Services	68
CS/HB 607 - Money Services Businesses	69
SB 708 - Estoppel Letters	70
CS/CS/HB 721 - Paid Family Leave Insurance	71
HB 793 - Collateral Protection Insurance	72
CS/CS/CS/HB 799 - Property Insurance	73
CS/HB 881 - My Safe Florida Home Program	74

	CS/SB 1002 - Motor Vehicle Glass	75
	CS/CS/HB 1185 - Consumer Protection	76
	CS/CS/HB 1267 - Consumer Finance Loans	77
	CS/HB 1353 - Commercial Financing Product Brokers and Providers	78
	CS/CS/HB 1573 - Continuing Care Providers	79
	CS/HB 1575 - Public Safety Emergency Communications Systems	80
Reg	gulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee CS/CS/HB 89 - Building Construction	
	CS/CS/SB 154 - Condominium and Cooperative Associations	82
	CS/HB 179 - Florida Kratom Consumer Protection Act	83
	CS/SB 214 (ch. 2023-79, L.O.F.) - Sales of Firearms and Ammunition	84
	CS/CS/HB 233 (ch. 2023-109, L.O.F.) - Deceased Individuals	85
	CS/CS/SB 262 - Technology Transparency	86
	CS/CS/HB 327 - Fire Sprinkler System Projects	87
	CS/CS/HB 637 - Motor Vehicle Dealers, Manufacturers, Importers, and Distributors	88
	CS/CS/HB 639 (ch. 2023-65, L.O.F.) - Issuance of Special Beverage Licenses	89
	HB 719 - Practice of Veterinary Medicine	90
	CS/HB 737 - Secondhand Goods	91
	CS/CS/SB 752 (ch. 2023-48, L.O.F.) - Temporary Commercial Kitchens	92
	CS/CS/HB 761 - Telephone Solicitation	93
	CS/CS/SB 770 - Residential Loan Alternative Agreements	94
	CS/CS/HB 869 - Department of Business and Professional Regulation	95
	SB 892 - State Minimum Wage	96
	CS/CS/SB 902 (ch. 2023-50, L.O.F.) - Safety Standards for Amusement Rides	97
	CS/SB 904 (ch. 2023-51, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Active Amusement Ride Investigation	98
	CS/CS/HB 919 - Homeowners' Associations	99
	CS/HB 959 - Dosage Form Animal Health Products	. 100
	HB 1091 (ch. 2023-68, L.O.F.) - Licensing Fee Relief	. 101
	CS/SB 1154 - Labor Pool Act	. 102
	CS/HB 1203 - Registrations and Transfers of Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning System  Manufacturer Warranties	.103
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1209 - Rural Development	104

CS/HB 1215 - Pub. Rec./Inspectors and Investigators/DACS	105
CS/HB 1307 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	106
CS/CS/HB 1383 - Specialty Contractors	107
HB 1459 - Registration Fees for Malt Beverage Brands and Labels	108
CS/HB 1521 (ch. 2023-106, L.O.F.) - Facility Requirements Based on Sex	109
CS/CS/SB 1648 - Public Records/Investigations by the Department of Legal Affairs and Law Enforcement Agencies	110
CS/HB 7041 - Space Florida	111

CS/CS/HB 3 (ch. 2023-28, L.O.F.) - Government and Corporate Activism

By: State Affairs Committee; Commerce Committee; Rommel; Sirois and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 302

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Commerce; Financial Services; Government Operations; Local Government

The Governor, Attorney General, and Chief Financial Officer – as trustees of the State Board of Administration (SBA) – directed the SBA in August 2022 to invest funds of the Florida Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan in a manner that prioritizes the highest return on investment, without consideration of social, political, or ideological interests. This bill expands the directive to cover all funds invested by state and local governments, including general revenue, trusts dedicated to specific purposes, money held by retirement plans, and surplus funds. Investment decisions, including written policies and the exercise of shareholder rights, must be driven solely by pecuniary factors, and may not sacrifice investment return to promote non-pecuniary factors. The Attorney General is authorized to bring civil or administrative actions to enforce provisions of the bill.

The term "pecuniary factor" is defined as a factor that is expected "to have a material effect on the risk or return of an investment based on appropriate investment horizons consistent with applicable investment objectives and funding policy. The term does not include the consideration of the furtherance of any social, political, or ideological interests."

Additionally, the bill prohibits both the state Division of Bond Finance and specified public bond issuers from issuing an environmental, social, or corporate governance (ESG) bond, paying for the services of another to verify or certify a public bond as an ESG bond, or contracting with rating agencies that use ESG scores in a manner that directly impacts the issuer's bond ratings.

For government contracting, the bill prohibits all units of state and local government from:

- considering social, political, or ideological beliefs when evaluating prospective vendors.
- giving any preference to a vendor based on social, political, or ideological beliefs.

State and local governments may only deposit funds in banks and savings associations that have been designated as a Qualified Public Depository (QPD). The bill prohibits certification as a QPD if a bank has engaged in an "unsafe and unsound business practice" by denying or canceling services based on political beliefs or affiliations, religious beliefs or affiliations, business sector, or any other factor that is not a quantitative, impartial, risk-based standard, or applying social credit scores. QPDs will be required to certify compliance with this requirement.

Other financial institutions – banks, trust companies, credit unions, consumer finance lenders, and money services businesses – may be subject to administrative sanctions if they engage in an "unsafe and unsound business practice" by denying or canceling services based on political beliefs or affiliations, religious beliefs or affiliations, business sector, any other factor that is not a quantitative, impartial, risk-based standard, or applying social credit scores.

The bill became law on May 2, 2023, chapter 2023-28, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

**CS/CS/HB 5 - Economic Programs** 

By: Appropriations Committee; Commerce Committee; Esposito and others

Tied Bills: HB 7073

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1664

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Appropriations

**Committee** 

Category: Economic Development; Government Operations; Repeals of Existing Laws; Tourism

The bill eliminates Enterprise Florida, Inc., (EFI) and provides that all duties, functions, records, pending issues, existing contracts, administrative authority, administrative rules, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other public funds relating to the programs in EFI are transferred by a type two transfer to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).

The bill changes the name of DEO to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) and shifts duties from EFI to Commerce.

The bill designates VISIT FLORIDA (VF) and the Florida Sports Foundation (FSF) as direct-support organizations of Commerce. VF and FSF may enter into agreements with Commerce to continue any existing programs, activities, duties, or functions necessary for their operation. The bill also designates the international offices program as a direct-support organization of Commerce.

The bill provides for the repeal of the following programs and incentives; however, the bill authorizes continuation of payments for existing related commitments:

- Entertainment industry tax credit
- Qualified defense contractor and space flight business tax refund
- Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses
- Economic Gardening programs
- Quick Action Closing Fund
- Innovation Incentive Program
- Corporate Income Tax Credits for Spaceflight Projects
- Scripps Florida Funding Corporation
- Motorsports Entertainment Complex
- Professional Golf Hall of Fame
- International Game Fish Association World Center
- Florida Small Business Technology Program
- New Markets Development Program
- Microfinance Loan Program
- Office of Film and Entertainment and the Florida Film and Entertainment Advisory Council

The bill appropriates \$5 million in recurring funds to the international DSO and \$5 million in recurring funds to Commerce to carry out the provisions of the bill. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$1 million in nonrecurring funds to Commerce to facilitate the transition of EFI to Commerce.

CS/CS/SB 250 - Natural Emergencies

By: Fiscal Policy; Community Affairs; Martin

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7057

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

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Emergency Management; Local

**Government; Natural Disasters; Utilities and Communications** 

The bill:

- requires the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to post on its website a model debris removal contract for the benefit of local governments and encourages local governments to create emergency financial plans in preparation for major natural disasters.
- provides that counties and municipalities cannot prohibit a resident from placing a temporary residential structure on their property for certain periods of time following a natural emergency under certain circumstances.
- encourages local governments following a natural disaster to expedite the issuance of certain permits, create specialized building inspection teams, and enter into interlocal agreements for inspection services.
- requires certain local governments following a natural emergency to approve special processing procedures to expedite certain permits that do not require technical review.
- increases the extension of certain permits following a declaration of a state of emergency in certain circumstances.
- prohibits counties and municipalities within areas of a disaster declaration for Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole from increasing building fees until October 1, 2024.
- allows registered contractors to work outside the local jurisdiction during a state of emergency.
- prohibits counties and municipalities within 100 miles of landfall of Hurricane Ian or Hurricane
   Nicole from adopting more restrictive land development regulations under certain circumstances.
- extends certain portions of the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act through December 31, 2023.
- provides clarification regarding abandoned vessels and their destruction.
- directs DEM to administer a revolving loan program for local government hazard mitigation projects, and appropriates \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund and \$10,000,000 in nonrecurring funds from the Federal Grants Trust Fund for such activity.
- extends the date for fire control districts within 50 miles of where Hurricane Ian made landfall to submit performance reviews in certain circumstances.
- makes the Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan Program a "revolving" program and appropriates \$50 million in nonrecurring funds to the program.
- provides that public utilities are not liable for damages based on changes in the reliability of utility services arising out of an emergency or disaster.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this act is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

SB 1438 (ch. 2023-94, L.O.F.) - Protection of Children

By: Yarborough and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1423

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Criminal

**Justice**; Local Government

The bill prohibits a person from knowingly "admitting" a child to an adult live performance. The penalty for violating this prohibition is a first degree misdemeanor which is punishable by imprisonment that does not exceed 1 year and a fine that does not exceed \$1,000.

The bill defines "adult live performance" as:

- "Any show, exhibition, or other presentation in front of a live audience which, in whole or in part, depicts or simulates 'nudity,' 'sexual conduct,' 'sexual excitement,' 'specific sexual activities' as those terms are defined in s. 847.001, F.S., 'lewd conduct,' or the 'lewd exposure of prosthetic or imitation genitals or breasts' when it:
  - predominately appeals to a prurient, shameful, or morbid interest,
  - is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community of this state as a
    whole with respect to what is suitable material or conduct for the age of the child
    present, and
  - taken as a whole, is without serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value for the age of the child present."

In addition, the bill allows certain licensees to be disciplined related to admitting a child to such performance. Specifically, if any person that has a license to operate a public lodging establishment or a public food service establishment or an establishment that has an alcoholic beverage license, knowingly admits a child to an "adult live performance," such licensee is subject to suspension, revocation, and a fine for a first violation of \$5,000 and for a second or subsequent violation of \$10,000. Such violation is considered an "immediate, serious danger to the public health, safety, or welfare" and an emergency action may be taken against such licensee by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

The bill also prohibits a governmental entity from issuing permits for a performance that would violate the prohibition on allowing a child to be admitted to an adult live performance. In addition, if an individual lawfully obtains a permit, and a performance in violation of the bill occurs, the individual that obtained the permit commits a misdemeanor of the first degree.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-94, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/CS/SB 1718 (ch. 2023-40, L.O.F.) - Immigration

By: Fiscal Policy; Rules; Ingoglia

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1617

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules; Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Criminal Justice; Federal Government;

Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

#### The bill, in part:

• beginning July 1, 2023, requires private employers, with 25 or more employees, to use E-Verify for new employees.

- expands violations and penalties related to human smuggling for:
  - smuggling a minor.
  - smuggling more than five people.
  - smuggling a defendant that has a prior conviction for human smuggling.
- allows prosecution of human smuggling under the Florida Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act.
- prohibits a county or municipality from providing funds to issue community ID cards for individuals who are not lawfully in the country.
- invalidates driver's licenses that are exclusively issued by another state to undocumented immigrants, and requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue citations and maintain a list of out of state classes of driver licenses that are invalid.
- removes the authority for certain unauthorized immigrants to be admitted to the Florida Bar, effective November 1, 2028.
- requires persons who are in the custody of a law enforcement agency and subject to an immigration detainer to submit DNA to the statewide DNA database.
- requires hospitals that accept Medicaid to collect immigration status data related to admissions and emergency room visits and report to the Agency of Health Care Administration.
- for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, provides a \$12 million nonrecurring appropriation to the Division of Emergency Management for the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program.

The bill became law on May 10, 2023, chapter 2023-40, Laws of Florida and becomes effective July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

SB 7044 - Changes in Ownership of or Interest in Pari-mutuel Permits

**By: Regulated Industries** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: HB 7075** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Gaming

The bill relaxes the provisions in the Florida Pari-mutuel Wagering Act (Act) that restrict pari-mutuel permits and operating licenses from being held by anyone other than a permitholder that held an operating license in Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Relating to permits, the bill allows a permit, for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering and associated cardroom and slot machine licenses, to be held by a purchaser, transferee, or assignee of a valid permit to conduct pari-mutuel wagering, if approved by the Florida Gaming Control Commission (commission) before such purchase, transfer, or assignment, and provided that the commission does not approve or issue an additional permit for the conduct of pari-mutuel wagering.

Relating to cardrooms, the bill allows a purchaser, transferee, or assignee of a valid permit to be issued a license to operate a cardroom.

Relating to operating licenses, the bill authorizes the issuance of an operating license to an eligible purchaser, transferee, or assignee of a valid permit.

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

CS/SB 7052 - Insurer Accountability
By: Fiscal Policy; Banking and Insurance

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7065

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Insurance; Resiliency

The bill makes changes designed to increase insurer accountability in the following ways:

- Criminal Violations: requires the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) to refer records and
  information to the Division of Investigative and Forensic Services (DIFS) or other appropriate law
  enforcement agency or prosecutor when OIR has reason to believe a crime has occurred
- Agent Licensing: allows the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to deny licensure to an applicant who has committed certain misdemeanors
- Examination of Insurers: requires a risk-based assessment for scheduling insurer financial
  examinations and post-hurricane market conduct examinations; provides for enhanced
  penalties for poor claims-handling identified during any market conduct examination
- Hazardous Financial Condition: codifies portions of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners hazardous financial condition model act
- Insurance Policy/Claims Handling: identifies two new acts that constitute unfair methods of competition or unfair or deceptive acts by an insurer or agent; prohibits Citizens Property Insurance Corporation from declaring a property ineligible if there is unrepaired damage being serviced by the Florida Insurance Guaranty Association; requires reporting of temporary suspension policy writing in certain circumstances; limits form review exemptions for 36 months following an Insurance Code violation; requires creation, use, and reporting of claims-handling manuals in certain circumstances; limits cancellation or nonrenewal of residential property insurance policies in certain situations following damage repair (the period varies depending on source of the damage); clarifies applicability of other deductibles when a roof deductible is applied; gives servicemembers deployed to combat zones/combat support postings more time to file property claims; clarifies applicability of Bill SB 2A (2022A)
- Fines: increases certain fines; creates fines for insurer violations of the Insurance Code related to a declared state of emergency; increases the maximum fines that may be assessed for unfair methods of competition or unfair or deceptive acts or practices by any individual or company transacting insurance
- Reporting: requires OIR to create annual and quarterly reports of compliance enforcement
  actions against insurers; requires DIFS to create an annual report regarding investigations and
  prosecutions of insurance fraud
- Rates/Premiums: provides OIR with funding to engage a vendor to develop methodology and
  data to assist in determining the impact of recent bills on motor vehicle and residential property
  insurance rate filings; requires residential property insurers to post hurricane mitigation
  discount information on their websites; requires OIR to reevaluate fixtures or construction
  techniques demonstrated to reduce windstorm losses, and associated insurance premium
  discounts every five years
- Agency Staffing: appropriates positions to DFS and OIR to implement the bill

SB 7054 (ch. 2023-80, L.O.F.) - Central Bank Digital Currency

By: Banking and Insurance

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7049

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy Category: Commerce; Federal Government

Digital currency is a virtual representation of a value, stored in electronic form, that is not available in physical form but which can be used as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, or a store of value. However, digital currency does not have the status of U.S. currency in any U.S. jurisdiction.

Central bank digital currency (CBDC) is digital currency issued or authorized by a sovereign government or central bank as a digital representation of a certain denomination of currency. Currently, in the U.S., standard U.S. currency is the only type of central bank currency available for use by the general public (i.e., the U.S. has not yet adopted a CBDC).

The Uniform Law Commission and American Law Institute have drafted model amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) to address emerging technologies and provide updated rules for commercial transactions involving digital currencies and other technological developments. The model amendments, in pertinent part, redefine "money" as the term is used in the UCC to exclude digital currency <u>unless</u> the digital currency is a CBDC. Florida has not adopted the model amendments to its own Uniform Commercial Code (Florida's UCC).

The bill amends Florida's UCC to define CBDC and to expressly state that "money," as the term is used in Florida's UCC, does not include a CBDC.

The bill became law on May 12, chapter 2023-80, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

#### **Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee**

CS/CS/HB 125 - Utility System Rate Base Values

By: Commerce Committee; Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; McClain

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 194

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

**Committee** 

**Category: Utilities and Communications** 

When a water or wastewater utility regulated by the Public Service Commission (PSC) acquires an existing water or wastewater utility system, the PSC establishes the rate base value of the acquired utility system for rate-setting purposes. This value is determined using the acquired utility's net book value, i.e., the original cost of the utility's assets when first dedicated to public service, less depreciation.

As an alternative to this "original cost" method, the bill allows certain PSC-regulated water and wastewater utilities (those with over 10,000 customers or those that are permitted to produce at least 3 million gallons of drinking water per day) that acquire an existing system to petition the PSC to establish the rate base value for the acquired system based on the lesser of: (1) the purchase price negotiated by the two utilities; or (2) the average of three appraisals of the system conducted by licensed appraisers chosen from a list established by the PSC. To support a petition to use this approach, a utility must provide the PSC certain information specified in the bill, including a rate stabilization plan if the requested relief would result in a significant individual rate increase. The bill provides a list of factors that the PSC must consider when reviewing a utility petition and authorizes the PSC to set reasonable performance goals based on these factors. Within 8 months of receiving a complete petition, the PSC must issue a final order granting the petition, in whole or in part or with modifications, or denying the petition, consistent with the public interest.

CS/CS/SB 284 - Energy

By: Finance and Tax; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Brodeur

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1025

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Finance and Tax; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Energy; Government Operations** 

When procuring new vehicles, state agencies, state universities, community colleges, and local governments under a state purchasing plan must first define the intended purpose for the vehicle and determine which statutorily listed use class applies. Vehicles must be selected for the greatest fuel efficiency available for the determined class when fuel economy data is available.

Under the bill, any governmental entity that purchases under the state purchasing plan must select vehicles based on lowest lifetime ownership costs, including costs for operations, maintenance, and fuel when fuel economy data is available. The bill provides that if a state agency purchases a vehicle with an internal combustion engine, the agency must use ethanol and biodiesel blended fuels or natural gas fuels when available. The bill also requires state agencies that administer central fueling operations for state-owned vehicles with internal combustion engines to procure biofuels for fleet needs to the greatest extent practicable.

The bill requires the Department of Management Services to make recommendations before July 1, 2024, to state agencies, state universities, community colleges, and local governments regarding the procurement of electric vehicles, natural gas fuel vehicles, and other vehicles that are powered by renewable energy as specified in law.

CS/SB 552 - Public Records/Broadband Opportunity Program

By: Commerce and Tourism; Hooper

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1437

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Governmental Oversight and Accountability;

**Rules** 

**Category: Government in the Sunshine; Utilities and Communications** 

This bill creates a public record exemption for information relating to communications services locations, project proposals, and challenges submitted to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) under the grant program in s. 288.9962, F.S. Under the bill, such information is confidential and exempt from public record requirements if it is not otherwise publicly available and would reveal:

- the location and capacity of communications network facilities.
- communications network areas, including geographical maps.
- features, functions, and capabilities of communications network infrastructure and facilities.
- security, including cybersecurity, of the design, construction, and operation of the communications network and associated services and products.
- specific customer locations.
- sources of funding or in-kind contributions for a project.

The bill provides that the exemption does not to apply to any required functions of DEO under s. 288.9962, F.S., relating to publishing a description of proposed unserved areas to be served and proposed broadband Internet speeds for those areas that are provided by an applicant for a grant under that section.

The public record exemption created by the bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will repeal on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

CS/HB 1221 - Broadband Internet Service Providers

By: State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Tomkow

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 626

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

Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Technology; Utilities and Communications** 

The bill provides explicit authority for rural electric cooperatives in Florida to "engage in the provision of broadband." The bill defines this phrase to mean:

- providing broadband service directly, through an affiliate, or pursuant to an agreement with a third party.
- accepting broadband grant funding pursuant to the Florida Broadband Opportunity Program or from any other federal or state program offering grants to expand broadband Internet service to unserved areas of the state.

Under the bill, if a rural electric cooperative engages in the provision of broadband, all poles owned by the cooperative are subject to the Public Service Commission's (PSC) pole attachment regulations on the same basis as poles owned by investor-owned electric utilities. The PSC is granted access to the cooperative's books and records to the limited extent necessary to exercise its authority. The bill provides for the continued confidential treatment of certain records received by the PSC under existing public record exemptions. The bill provides that it may not be construed to impair the contract rights of parties to an existing pole attachment agreement.

CS/CS/HB 1281 - Preemption Over Utility Service Restrictions

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

Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1256

Committee(s) of Reference: Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Energy; Local Government; Utilities and Communications** 

The bill prohibits a municipality, county, special district, or other political subdivision of the state from enacting or enforcing a resolution, ordinance, rule, code, or policy, or take any other action that restricts or prohibits, or has the effect of restricting or prohibiting, the use of an appliance, including a stove or grill, which uses the types or fuel source of energy production which may be used, delivered, converted, or supplied by: investor-owned electric or natural gas utilities; municipal electric or natural gas utilities; rural electric cooperatives; entities formed by interlocal agreement to generate, sell, and transmit electrical energy; gas districts; natural gas transmission companies; and certain propane dealers, dispensers, and gas cylinder exchange operators.

Under the bill, an appliance is defined as a device or apparatus manufactured and designed to use energy and for which the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code provides specific requirements. The bill provides an exception for circumstances in which the political subdivision must enforce the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code.

CS/CS/SB 1418 (ch. 2023-55, L.O.F.) - Emergency Communications

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

**Regulated Industries; Bradley** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 745

Committee(s) of Reference: Regulated Industries; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture,

**Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Government Operations; Public Safety; Utilities and Communications

The Division of Telecommunications (Division) within the Department of Management Services (DMS) is the state entity responsible for developing, maintaining, planning, and implementing a statewide E911 system. The secretary of DMS, or his or her designee, acts as the director of the system and serves as chair of the state's E911 Board, an 11-member body that administers funds derived from fees imposed on each user of voice communications services in Florida to support 911 systems. These fees are deposited into a trust fund, which is segregated into three categories (wireless, prepaid wireless, and non-wireless), then distributed as provided by law to counties and wireless service providers.

The bill modifies the powers, duties, and composition of the E911 Board, which is renamed by the bill as the Emergency Communications Board (Board), and places an emphasis on promoting interoperability between public safety answering points and deploying advanced emergency communications systems.

The bill also expands and clarifies the list of items that may be funded with distributions of fee revenues.

The bill modifies the statutory allocation of fee revenues in the wireless category to more closely match the actual allocation approved by the Board and eliminates the small remaining allocation to wireless service providers. The bill requires the Division to develop a plan by December 30, 2023, to upgrade all 911 public safety answering points within the state to allow for interjurisdictional transfers of emergency calls by December 30, 2033, and provides requirements for the plan.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-55, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

#### **Insurance & Banking Subcommittee**

CS/SB 180 - Regulation of Securities By: Banking and Insurance; Gruters

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 253

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture,

**Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy** 

**Category: Commerce; Financial Services** 

The Florida Securities and Investor Protection Act (the Act) regulates securities issued, offered, and sold in the state of Florida. The Florida Office of Financial Regulation (OFR) regulates and registers the offer and sale of securities in, to, or from Florida by firms, branch offices, and individuals affiliated with these firms. 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.

#### The bill:

- eliminates the requirement for an issuer to register with OFR when selling securities.
- reduces the issuer filing fee for certain security offerings.
- creates a continuing education requirement based on the North American Securities
   Administration Association (NASAA) model rule applicable to associated persons of investment advisers and federal covered advisers.
- creates a registration exemption for investment advisers to private funds based on a NASAA model rule.
- repeals the authority of OFR to require the filing of escrow agreements and to hold escrow funds
- makes technical, clarifying, and modernizing updates throughout the Act, especially in regard to registration requirements and exemptions.
- introduces or amends various definitions, including adding regulation of limited liability companies, when acting as an issuer, throughout the Act.

CS/CS/SB 312 - Insurance

By: Rules; Banking and Insurance; Collins

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1111

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

**Category: Financial Services; Insurance** 

Florida law sets forth pre-licensure education and experience requirements for life insurance agents. Among other specified requirements, applicants must have successfully completed 40 hours of coursework in life insurance, annuities, and variable contracts, three of which must be on ethics. The bill reduces the number of hours of prelicensure coursework a life insurance agent applicant must complete from 40 hours to 30 hours.

Value-added insurance products or services (VAS) are provided with the sale of insurance, but extend beyond simply providing insurance coverage. VAS include risk control or claims management services, funeral planning, or financial planning. The bill establishes that certain actions by insurers related to VAS are not discrimination or unlawful rebates under the Unfair Insurance Trade Practices Act (Act). All of these criteria regarding the VAS must be met for the actions to be excluded from the Act:

- Offered at no cost or reduced cost by an insurer, insurance agent, or employee, affiliate, or third-party representative of the insurer or insurance agent.
- Not specified in the insurance policy.
- Primarily designed to do one or more of the following:
  - Provide loss mitigation or control
  - Reduce claim or claim settlement costs
  - Provide education about liability risks or risk of loss to people or property
  - Monitor or assess risk, identify sources of risk, or develop strategies to eliminate or reduce risk
  - Enhance health
  - Enhance financial wellness through items such as education or financial planning services
  - Provide post-loss services
  - Incentivize behavioral changes to improve the health or reduce the risk of death or disability
  - Assist in the administration of employee or retiree benefit insurance coverage

The VAS cost must be reasonable compared to the customer's premium or coverage, and availability must be based on specified factors. VAS that do not meet the factors may be provided as part of a pilot program for up to one year. An insurer, agent, or representative may not offer to provide insurance or inducement to purchase another policy, or use the words "free" or "no cost," or similar words in an advertisement.

CS/CS/CS/SB 418 - Insurance

By: Rules; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Banking and Insurance; Perry

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 505

Committee(s) of Reference: Banking and Insurance; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and

**Domestic Security; Rules** 

**Category: Insurance; Local Government** 

The bill makes the following changes regarding insurance:

- Changes the circumstances under which a renter or lessee of a livery vessel must be provided with insurance
- Establishes that, where a local governmental entity is a member of a group self-insurance fund, only an elected official of the entity may be the entity's representative on the self-insurer's governing body
- Provides that a property insurer may use a weighted or straight average of two or more approved hurricane models in a rate filing
- Provides that designees of the Executive Director of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation and the Director of the Division of Emergency Management may be members of the Commission in lieu of the directors
- Allows residential property insurers to give mitigation credit for compliance with building codeplus standards developed by an independent, not-for-profit, scientific research organization
- Modifies the notice requirement for a change in the amount of insurance premium by automatic bank withdrawal from an increase of any amount to increases greater than \$10 and changes the number of days' notice that must be given from 15 days to 10 days to match federal law
- Changes property insurance deductible requirements for policies providing dwelling limits over \$1 million
- Allows the electronic delivery of health insurance policy documents
- Removes requirements regarding paper insurance policy documents
- Revises notice requirements for certain limited-coverage automobile insurance policies
- Allows policyholders to type their intent to decline wind and contents coverage in their property insurance policies, rather than requiring them to handwrite it, as is currently required
- Provides an additional exception to unearned insurance premium reserve requirements for service agreement companies

CS/CS/HB 487 - Department of Financial Services

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Salzman

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1158

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

**Commerce Committee** 

Category: Commerce; Financial Services; Insurance; Repeals of Existing Laws

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is an elected member of the Cabinet, serves as the state's chief fiscal officer, and is designated as the State Fire Marshal. The CFO is the head of the Department of Financial Services (DFS). Changes made by the bill related to DFS include:

- Providing that county agencies, municipalities, and special districts must have adequate controls over tangible property
- Changing the frequency of a required hurricane-related report by DFS from annual to triennial
- Requiring insurers to bear certain costs and make certain elections prior to mediation of claims
- Authorizing the suspension of agent appointments by insurers for non-payment of costs
- Revising various requirements applicable to the DFS property insurance claims mediation program
- Reducing certain administrative obligations of title agents and agencies; changing certain continuing education requirements; reducing barriers to licensing
- Expanding the circumstances when DFS can suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew or continue the licenses and the types of criminal offenses that can disqualify an insurance agent licensee
- Allowing reciprocal non-resident licenses in certain circumstances
- Eliminating temporary bail bond licenses and creating a means to convert to regular bail bond agent licenses; specifying the qualifications of a primary bail bond agent
- Converting bail bond agency registration to licensure
- Improving processing of insolvent insurer estates
- Authorizing a State Fire Marshal direct support organization, which is repealed in five years, unless saved by subsequent legislative action
- Allowing any governmental employee to participate in the Deferred Compensation Plan
- Ratifying the 2020 Workers' Compensation Health Care Provider Reimbursement Manual eliminating the need for future Reimbursement Manual ratifications
- Ratifying the workers' compensation "Health Care Provider Medical Billing and Reporting Responsibilities" rule and the "Insurer Authorization and Medical Bill Review Responsibilities" rule;
- Creating term limits, ethical requirements, and other improvements to specified Boards; authorizing the CFO to remove Board members in certain circumstances;
- Exempting travel-related transportation protection agreements for the preparation and return of human remains from regulation as a preneed funeral contract or insurance.
- Prohibiting certain practices in the issuance of collateral protection insurance; and
- Increasing the reserve requirement for warranty associations.

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

**CS/HB 599 - Debt Management Services** 

By: Commerce Committee; Garcia and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 628

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

**Category: Commerce; Consumer Protection; Financial Services** 

Debt management services laws regulate the fees credit counseling organizations may charge debtors for debt management services and credit counseling services. Debt management services include effectuating an adjustment, compromise, or discharge of indebtedness, and advising debtors on debt reduction and general money management practices. Credit counseling agencies work with debtors' creditors, educate debtors about credit practices, and enroll qualifying debtors in debt management plans tailored to their specific situation and budget.

The bill revises the debt management services fee chargeable by a credit counseling agency to a debtor for receiving from the debtor, and subsequently disbursing to a creditor, money or anything of value from the greater of 7.5% of the monthly payment or \$35 monthly to up to the lesser of 15% of the monthly payment or \$75 monthly.

CS/HB 607 - Money Services Businesses

By: Commerce Committee; Steele

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 532

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

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

**Category: Commerce; Financial Services** 

In 2021, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) informed the Florida Department of Law Enforcement that the Money Services Business (MSB) licensing statute does not qualify for access to the FBI's criminal history record information data because the terms "responsible person" and "control of a money services business", which identifies the persons who are required to submit fingerprints, are overly broad and, thus, do not sufficiently define the categories of people subject to the background check.

To address this issue the Legislature passed ch. 2022-135, L.O.F., which created the term "control person" to replace the use of "officer" and "responsible person," as well as various other terms. However, this new "control person" term was still too broad for FBI approval.

The FBI acknowledged that MSB fingerprinting was previously approved, and that the FBI will continue to honor fingerprints submitted for MSB licensure. However, the FBI has placed MSB fingerprinting on a grace period of unspecified length in order to allow Florida to amend MSB fingerprinting statutes such that the statutes specifically identify the persons subject to fingerprinting.

The bill revises the term "control person" to create a more definite list of individuals subject to required fingerprinting.

**SB 708 - Estoppel Letters** 

By: Burgess Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: HB 743** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules and others

**Category: Commerce; Financial Services** 

Florida law currently defines an "estoppel letter" as a statement of the amount of the unpaid balance of a loan secured by a mortgage, including principal, interest, and any other charges due under or secured by the mortgage, and the interest on a per-day basis for the unpaid balance. A lender must deliver an estoppel letter to the requesting party within 14 days after a written request for the same.

In some estoppel letters, lenders expressly reserve the right to change the amounts listed and disclaim the reliance of others on the letter. Further, if after sending an estoppel letter the lender determines the mortgagor owes additional funds beyond those stated in the letter, some lenders return payments made in reliance on the letter. Until the discrepancy in amounts owed is resolved, interest and potential fees continue to accrue and title to the property remains unclear.

The bill revises the estoppel letter process. The bill:

- reduces the timeframe within which a lender must send a requested estoppel letter from 14 days to 10 days and prohibits a lender from qualifying, reserving the right to change, or conditioning or disclaiming the reliance of others on information provided in an estoppel letter.
- allows a lender to send a corrected estoppel letter to supersede prior estoppel letters if certain conditions are met.
- prohibits a lender from denying the accuracy of an estoppel letter against anyone who relied on it, but permits recovery of the sum owed from the mortgagor.
- requires a lender to both accept payment received in reliance on an estoppel letter and promptly apply such payment to the unpaid balance of the loan.
- requires a lender to execute and record an instrument confirming release of the mortgage in the official records of the proper county, and send the recorded instrument to the mortgagor, within 60 days of receiving full payment of the loan secured by the mortgage.
- revises the definition of "estoppel letter."

CS/CS/HB 721 - Paid Family Leave Insurance

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 670

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

Commerce Committee Category: Insurance

The bill creates a regulatory structure for the creation and sale of paid family leave insurance policies by life insurers. The bill gives employers the option to offer, and authorizes life insurers to transact, paid family leave insurance providing benefits covering certain lost wages.

#### The bill:

- revises the definition of "kinds of insurance" to include paid family leave insurance.
- defines "paid family leave insurance."
- specifies requirements under which family leave insurance benefits may be provided.
- requires insurance policies to specify details and requirements for covered leave reasons.
- specifies requirements for polices relating to benefit periods and waiting periods.
- permits limitations, exclusions and reductions for eligibility.
- authorizes the Financial Services Commission to adopt rules.

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

**HB 793 - Collateral Protection Insurance** 

By: Fernandez-Barquin and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 410** 

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

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

**Category: Insurance** 

In general, mortgages require borrowers to maintain adequate homeowners' insurance on their property. A lender-placed, or force-placed, insurance policy is an insurance policy placed by a bank or mortgage servicer on a home when the homeowners' property insurance has lapsed or is deemed insufficient by the bank or mortgage servicer. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners issued a Real Property Lender-Placed Insurance Model Act that can be adopted by member states. Florida law does not use the term lender-placed insurance. Instead, it refers to collateral protection insurance (CPI).

The bill creates a new part (Part XXII) of ch. 627, F.S., for the purposes of:

- Regulating CPI on real property
- Establishing a legal framework for the writing of CPI on real property in Florida
- Maintaining separation between lenders or servicers, and insurers or insurance agents
- Minimizing the possibilities of unfair practices in the sale, placement, or solicitation, and negotiation of CPI

Part XXII applies to insurers and insurance agents engaged in transactions of CPI on real property. All CPI policies for mortgaged real property, including manufactured and mobile homes are subject to Part XXII, with certain exceptions. The bill contains statutory definitions of CPI and several related terms. CPI is defined as commercial property insurance under which a creditor is the primary beneficiary and policyholder, and which protects or covers the creditor's interest arising out of a credit transaction secured by the real property. CPI is triggered by the mortgagor's failure to maintain insurance coverage required by the mortgage or other lending document. The bill provides the Office of Insurance Regulation with authority to develop rules related to the regulation of Part XXII.

CS/CS/CS/HB 799 - Property Insurance

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee;

**Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Griffitts and others** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 594

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

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

**Category: Insurance; Resiliency** 

The bill makes changes related to property insurance.

Windstorm Coverage – establishes that a property insurer's residential rate filing with the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) must allow for appropriate discounts for mitigation measures that reduce the potential for windstorm losses; provides a \$750,000 nonrecurring appropriation to OIR to conduct a wind-loss mitigation study; adds wind uplift prevention to the list of fixtures or construction techniques for which an actuarially reasonable discount, credit, or other rate differential, or appropriate reduction in deductibles, must be included in a rate filing for residential property insurance.

Citizens Property Insurance Corporation (Citizens) – provides that the "glidepath" normally imposed on Citizens rates does not apply to policies where coverage for the risk insured by Citizens was last provided by an insurer determined by OIR to be unsound or placed into receivership due to impairment or insolvency; makes certain that a limitation on Citizens rates for non-primary residences and policies assumed from unsound insurers applies on a year-over-year basis, rather than based on a fixed date; eliminates the requirement that condominium owners insured by Citizens purchase flood insurance; makes technical changes to the statutory language establishing when certain Citizens policyholders must obtain flood coverage so that Citizens can implement the flood coverage requirements; establishes that, in addition to any other method of alternative dispute resolution authorized by law, Citizens may adopt policy forms that allow both Citizens and Citizens' policyholders to request a hearing by the Division of Administrative Hearings to resolve claims disputes.

Flood Coverage Required by Windstorm Policies – requires that if an insurer requires an insured or applicant to have flood coverage when issuing a policy providing wind coverage, the insurer must verify that the insured or applicant has flood coverage; provides that an insurer may deny a wind claim where a policyholder fails to maintain his or her flood insurance policy after the insurer verifies the existence of the flood policy, but before making a wind claim; establishes that a master flood policy issued to someone other than the insured or applicant, and that includes the insured or applicant as an intended third-party beneficiary is acceptable proof of flood coverage.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

CS/HB 881 - My Safe Florida Home Program

By: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; LaMarca and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 748

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

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

**Category: Insurance; Resiliency** 

The My Safe Florida Home (MSFH) Program was created in 2006, within the Department of Financial Services (DFS), with the intent that the Program provide inspectors to perform inspections of site-built, single-family, residential properties (inspections), and mitigation grants (grants) to eligible applicants. The bill makes various changes to the MSFH Program, including changes to inspection and grant eligibility requirements, program management, and technical, conforming, and statutory structure.

The bill requires that eligible properties be homesteaded. It increases the value of mitigation granteligible homes from \$500,000 to \$700,000. It also permits funds from the MSFH Program to be used to inspect townhouses to determine if opening protection mitigation would help decrease the risk of hurricane damage. If an inspection determines that opening protection mitigation would decrease the risk, grant funds from the MSFH Program may be used to pay for the mitigation.

The bill removes the designation of a specific portion of the grant funds for low-income recipients, but increases the overall grant award for low-income recipients from \$5,000, to \$10,000. The bill makes the MSFH Program statewide instead of limited to homes in the wind-borne debris region. The bill also eliminates two types of home improvements from the list of those home improvements for which MSFH Program grant funds may be used because they are no longer recognized by the Florida Building Code.

CS/SB 1002 - Motor Vehicle Glass By: Rules; Stewart and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 541

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

**Category: Civil Justice; Insurance** 

The bill expands the definition of "motor vehicle repair" to include advanced driver assistance system (ADAS) calibration or recalibration. It defines ADAS to mean any motor vehicle electronic safety system that is associated with motor vehicle glass and is designed to support the driver and motor vehicle in a manner intended to increase motor vehicle safety and reduce losses associated with motor vehicle crashes. The bill prohibits a repair shop or its employees from offering to a customer anything of value in exchange for making an insurance claim for motor vehicle glass replacement or repair, including ADAS calibration or recalibration, and prohibits a non-employee who is compensated for soliciting insurance claims from making such offers. It also requires the shop or its employees to provide electronic or written notice to the customer as to whether the calibration or recalibration of ADAS is required as part of the replacement or repair of motor vehicle glass.

The bill prohibits a policyholder or any other person from entering into an assignment agreement for post-loss benefits for motor vehicle glass replacement or repair under a motor vehicle insurance policy issued or renewed on or after July 1, 2023. Any such agreement is void and unenforceable. The bill also prohibits insurers, agents and adjusters, and anyone working for them, from influencing the selection of a shop to complete a motor vehicle windshield repair, i.e., "steering" a claim, and establishes related conditions.

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

CS/CS/HB 1185 - Consumer Protection

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Giallombardo

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1398

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

**Category: Consumer Protection; Financial Services; Insurance** 

The bill makes changes related to consumer protection, including:

- Allowing mortgage loan originators to work from a remote location if certain criteria are met
- Identifies unlawful acts and practices regarding online crowd-funding campaigns related to disasters
- Adds to the information and disclosures that must be provided to customers when they
  purchase or lease distributed energy generation systems
- Prohibits licensed check-cashing businesses from cashing corporate checks when the total
  amount of all checks cashed for each payee exceeds 200% of the payee's workers'
  compensation policy coverage; makes it a third degree felony for someone to knowingly cash
  such checks;
- Allows the Department of Financial Services to disapprove the name of an adjusting firm on the same grounds under which it can disapprove of the name of an insurance agency;
- Significantly alters the requirements for contracts between public adjusters and insureds or claimants; provides for additional disclosures to accompany such contracts; and provides for recordkeeping requirements for public adjusters;
- Establishes it is an unfair method of competition, or an unfair or deceptive act or practice, if an insurer fails to disclose to a third party that it receives royalties, referral fees, or other money for sponsorship, marketing, or use of third-party branding for a health insurance contract;
- Defines hurricane deductible as the deductible applicable to loss caused by a hurricane;
- Reduces the time that an insurer has to cancel a policy for reasons other than material
  misstatement, nonpayment of premium, or failure to comply with underwriting requirements
  from 90 days to 60 days, but allows Citizens Property Insurance Corporation 90 days to
  underwrite when it has assumed policies from an insurer placed into receivership;
- Revises the law to reflect the most recent changes to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' Annuity Transactions Model Regulation; and
- Provides an additional exception to unearned premium reserve requirements for service agreement companies; and revises solvency requirements for manufacturers who sell service warranties.

CS/CS/HB 1267 - Consumer Finance Loans

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Fernandez-Barquin

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 580

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

Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee Category: Consumer Protection; Financial Services

Under the Florida Consumer Finance Act, ch. 516, F.S. (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:

- 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
- 18% per annum on that part of the principal amount exceeding \$4,000 and up to \$25,000

Additionally, the Act prohibits licensees from applying delinquency charges until a borrower has been in default for 10 days.

## The bill:

- increases the maximum interest rate for a consumer finance loan to 36% and removes the tiered-interest structure altogether.
- provides a definition for the term "branch."
- prohibits the operation of a branch that makes consumer finance loans without first obtaining a license.
- requires designation of a principal branch.
- 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 the details of such assistance programs to the Office of Financial Regulation (OFR).
- requires licensees to annually submit reports of certain information to OFR, which may be published by OFR in a report after anonymizing and consolidating the data for all licensees.

CS/HB 1353 - Commercial Financing Product Brokers and Providers

By: Commerce Committee; Bankson and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1624

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

Subcommittee; Commerce Committee Category: Commerce; Financial Services

A commercial financing transaction, also known as revenue-based financing, is a loan that a business agrees to pay back over time by pledging a portion of its future revenue to the lender until a set amount is paid back. Unlike bank loans and private investors, commercial financing transactions help businesses access capital without the business owner having to incur a personal loan guarantee or forfeit equity. Commercial financing transactions are provided by private companies, often via brokers. Currently, there are no Florida laws regulating commercial financing transaction brokers and providers.

The bill creates Part XIII of ch. 599, F.S., entitled "Florida Commercial Financing Disclosure Law." It provides definitions for and establishes the scope of Part XIII; requires certain disclosures by commercial financing transaction providers; and prohibits brokers from engaging in certain activities. The bill grants the Attorney General exclusive authority to enforce Part XIII.

CS/CS/HB 1573 - Continuing Care Providers

By: Commerce Committee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Persons-Mulicka and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 622

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

**Category: Consumer Protection; Financial Services; Insurance** 

The bill makes changes to the law governing continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), including amending law enacted in 2019 following insolvencies of two Tampa-area CCRCs. It allows a CCRC provider to keep their escrow account in any state or federally chartered institution, rather than only institutions with a Florida branch. The bill permits the release of expansion-related escrow funds when 75% of the total units are reserved, rather than when only half of the total units have been paid in full, plus, the provider must submit an attestation concerning use of the entrance fees collected. It revises when a provider may withdraw funds from its debt service reserves.

The bill reduces the timeline for review of a CCRC expansion application by the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR) from 45 days to 30 days. It significantly expands the list of financial institutions that may supply a provider with a letter of credit in order to satisfy the statutory minimum liquid reserve requirements, including institutions without a Florida branch. It changes the conditions under which an individual must pay a penalty for cancelling a contract with a CCRC. The bill shortens the lookback period for required OIR market conduct examinations of a CCRC. It increases transparency for the benefit of authorized resident councils in CCRC operations, budgeting, planning, pricing, and OIR examining. It clarifies that a residents' council has the authority to establish and maintain its own governance documents and that residents have the right to participate in resident council matters, including elections. The bill requires facilities with common ownership to each have their own resident representative and specifies resident representative obligations of good faith as a fiduciary to the residents.

CS/HB 1575 - Public Safety Emergency Communications Systems

By: Commerce Committee; Brackett and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1614

Committee(s) of Reference: Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs

& Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Local Government; Public Safety** 

The bill creates limitations on when a local authority having jurisdiction (LAHJ) can require installation of a two-way radio communication enhancement system (enhancement system), which are post-construction systems that accept and amplify first responders' radio signals so that the radio signal strength at ground level is equal to the radio signal strength in all locations throughout the building. Unless a building undergoes significant renovation or poses a safety threat, the LAHJ may only require an assessment no more often than:

- Every three years for high-rise buildings or buildings exceeding 12,000 square feet; or
- Every five years for all other buildings.

If an enhancement system is needed after assessment of a new building, the bill requires that a contractor submit a design to the LAHJ for an enhancement system and the LAHJ must require installation of the system within 12 months after the issuance of a temporary certificate of occupancy. If an LAHJ requires an existing building to retrofit its enhancement system, it must also give the building owner at least 12 months to do so. The bill also establishes that certain structures are not required to meet radio signal strength requirements at any time.

# **Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee**

CS/CS/HB 89 - Building Construction

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 512

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

Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Local Government** 

### The bill:

- prohibits a local government from making substantive changes to building plans after a building permit has been issued unless such changes are required under the Building Code, or Fire Prevention Code.
- requires any changes a local government makes to building plans after a permit has been issued to identify the specific parts of the plan that do not conform to the applicable code in writing.
- requires a building official or inspector who asks another person or employee other than a
  building official, plans examiner, or inspector to review the building plans to notify the local
  government if such person or employee determines the plans do not comply with the Building
  Code.
- requires a local fire official to notify the permit applicant of specific reasons why plans do not comply with the Fire Prevention Code.
- allows a plans examiner, inspector, building official, or fire safety inspector to have their certificate disciplined for failure to notify the appropriate person of the reasons for making substantive changes to building plans.

CS/CS/SB 154 - Condominium and Cooperative Associations

By: Fiscal Policy; Regulated Industries; Bradley

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1395

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

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Commerce; Insurance; Local

**Government; Public Safety; Real Property** 

On June 24, 2021, Champlain Towers South, a 12-story beachfront condominium building in the Town of Surfside, partially collapsed resulting in the death of 98 people. In response, during Special Session, 2022D, SB 4-D was enacted to provide building safety inspection requirements (milestone inspections) and reserve requirements (structural integrity reserve study, or SIRS) for condominium and cooperative buildings. The bill clarifies provisions created by SB 4-D. Specifically, the bill:

- requires certain condominium and cooperative buildings to have a milestone inspection when they reach 30 years of age, or when certain coastal buildings reach 25 years, as determined by the local government.
- allows local governments to extend the deadline to complete a milestone inspection, under certain circumstances.
- allows condominiums and cooperatives to use prior inspection reports completed within the last 5 years for both the milestone inspection and SIRS, under certain circumstances.
- Requires phase 2 of milestone inspections to begin within 180 days of completing phase 1, if necessary.
- allows a certified reserve specialist or professional reserve analyst from the Community Associations Institute or the Association of Professional Reserve Analysts to perform the SIRS visual inspection.
- limits setting mandatory reserves for only those SIRS items maintained by association and that have 25 years or less of useful life left.
- requires the Florida Building Commission to create a building safety program.
- requires milestone inspection and SIRS reports and disclosures to be included in sales contracts.
- allows unit owners to utilize pre-suit mediation at Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to resolve certain disputes related to milestone inspections and SIRS.
- allows certain multicondominiums to utilize an alternative funding method approved by DBPR in lieu of maintaining reserves for SIRS items.
- provides that the responsibility to maintain certain common elements may be assigned to the unit owner by the declaration.

Regarding new flood insurance coverage requirements in SB 2-A from Special Session 2022A, the bill provides that policyholders with policies that provide coverage under a condominium unit owners form are not required to purchase flood insurance as a condition for maintaining their Citizens policies.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the bill is effective upon becoming a law, except as otherwise expressly provided.

CS/HB 179 - Florida Kratom Consumer Protection Act

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 136

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

Committee

Category: Agriculture; Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice

Kratom is a tropical tree that contains psychoactive ingredients in its leaves. Currently, kratom is not listed as a controlled substance under federal law or Florida law, and is generally regulated as a food and subject to regulation and inspection by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The bill defines "kratom product" to mean a food product, food ingredient, dietary ingredient, dietary supplement, or beverage intended for human consumption which contains any part of the leaf of the plant *Mitragyna speciosa* or an extract, synthetic alkaloid, or synthetically derived compound of such plant and is manufactured as a powder, capsule, pill, beverage, or other edible form.

The bill provides that it is unlawful to sell, deliver, barter, furnish, or give, directly or indirectly, any kratom product to any person who is under 21 years of age. A person who violates this prohibition commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable by up to 60 days imprisonment and a fine of not more than \$500.

CS/SB 214 (ch. 2023-79, L.O.F.) - Sales of Firearms and Ammunition

By: Commerce and Tourism; Burgess

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 221

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

**Category: Commerce; Consumer Protection; Technology** 

A Merchant Category Code (MCC) is a code used by credit card payment associations that categorizes where a credit card purchase is made without showing the specific items that were purchased. Historically, MCCs have allowed retailers who sell firearm and ammunition to be categorized under general retail or sporting goods stores. Recently, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) updated the MCC and created a new MCC for firearm and ammunition retailers. Some argue that the information gathered from the use of this new code could be construed as a firearm registry maintained by private entities.

The bill prohibits payment settlement entities, merchant acquiring entities, or third-party settlement organizations from classifying merchants or assigning them with an MCC that identifies them as sellers of firearms or ammunition.

The bill also, authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to conduct investigations of alleged violations and bring an administrative action seeking to impose a Class III administrative fine for violations.

The bill became law on May 12, 2023, chapter 2023-79, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 233 (ch. 2023-109, L.O.F.) - Deceased Individuals

By: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Michael and others

Tied Bills: HB 789

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 490

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

Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement** 

There are several enumerated rights for families of certain victims of crime, but no specific mandate that law enforcement agencies (LEA) provide certain investigative and contact information to the next of kin of deceased minors who were the victim of a homicide. The bill defines "next of kin" and requires that, during the criminal investigation of the death of a minor, the LEA that initiates or bears the primary responsibility for the investigation must provide the minor's next of kin with all of the following information:

- Contact information for the primary investigator and each LEA involved.
- Case number for the investigation, if applicable.
- A list of the minor's personal effects and information on how the minor's next of kin can collect such personal effects, unless providing the information would jeopardize or otherwise interfere with an active investigation.
- Information regarding the status of the investigation, at the discretion of the LEA.

The bill prohibits the LEA from providing any of the above information if doing so would jeopardize or otherwise interfere with an active investigation. The LEA is not required to provide investigative records generated during its investigation to a minor's next of kin for inspection.

Chapter 497, F.S., known as the Florida Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services Act, generally regulates funeral and cemetery services. Under this statute, the bill modifies the definition for the term "legally authorized person" which provides a list of people who may make funeral arrangements for the deceased, to remove anyone who contributed to the death of the deceased.

The bill became law on May 22, 2023, chapter 2023-109, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 262 - Technology Transparency

By: Rules; Commerce and Tourism; Bradley

Tied Bills: CS/CS/SB 1648 Companion Bills: CS/HB 1547

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

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

Cybersecurity; Technology

Due to the growth in businesses that collect personal information for the purpose of selling targeted advertising on the Internet, many countries and states have adopted or updated laws relating to the collection and use of personal information. Specifically, the European Union, and states like California, Virginia, and Illinois, have enacted data privacy laws to protect consumers' personal information.

The bill requires certain businesses to publish a privacy policy for personal data, and defines "personal data" as any information, including "sensitive data," which is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable individual, not including certain public, employee, deidentified, or aggregate information.

The bill gives consumers rights related to personal data collected by certain businesses with over \$1 billion in gross annual revenues, including:

- the right to access personal data collected.
- the right to delete or correct personal data.
- the right to opt-out of the sale of personal data and processing of sensitive data or geolocation.

The bill provides that online platforms "predominantly accessed" by children under 18 years of age may not, except under certain situations:

- process personal information of or profile a child.
- collect, sell, share, or retain personal information or geolocation of a child.
- use dark patterns to obtain more information of a child than necessary.
- use collected information to estimate age for any other reason.

The bill allows the Department of Legal Affairs to enforce such rights by bringing an action against, and collecting civil penalties from, online platforms or businesses that violate a consumer's rights.

The bill also adds "biometric data" and "geolocation" to the definition of "personal information" under the Florida Information Protection Act. As such, entities in possession of such information must take reasonable measures to protect biometric data and geolocation data and report data breaches.

The bill provides that certain government employees may not request that a social media platform remove content or accounts, and prohibits a governmental entity from working with a social media platform for the purpose of content moderation, with certain exceptions that include routine account maintenance of the government entity's account.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the provisions in the bill will take effect July 1, 2024, except as otherwise expressly provided.

## CS/CS/HB 327 - Fire Sprinkler System Projects

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 408** 

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

Committee

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

The bill provides that a Fire Protection System Contractor I or II may design the alteration of an existing fire sprinkler system if the alteration consists of the relocation or deletion of 249 or fewer sprinklers, and the addition of 49 sprinklers, as long as the cumulative total number of fire sprinklers being added, relocated, or deleted does not exceed 249.

The bill creates an expedited permitting process for certain "fire sprinkler system projects," similar to the current process for fire alarm system projects, and prohibits local enforcement agencies from requiring a fire protection system contractor to submit plans to obtain a building permit for a fire sprinkler system project, as defined in the bill.

The expedited process allows a fire protection system contractor to start work on such fire system projects without first obtaining a standard permit, and instead obtain an expedited permit electronically.

The bill also requires such contractors to maintain a copy of plans and specifications at the worksite, similar to the requirements for alarm system projects.

CS/CS/HB 637 - Motor Vehicle Dealers, Manufacturers, Importers, and Distributors

By: Commerce Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Shoaf and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 712

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

**Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

The bill makes the following changes to the Florida Automobile Dealers Act that regulates the contractual business relationship between franchised motor vehicle dealers (dealers) and manufacturers, distributors, and importers (manufacturers) operating in the state:

- Broadens the definitions of "common entity"; "unfair"; "independent person"; and "sell" and related terms, and defines "motor vehicle dealer association."
- Prohibits new franchise agreements with manufacturers that do not include all types of "linemake."
- Expands the actions which a manufacturer is prohibited from taking to include:
  - reserving or incentivizing the sale or lease of a motor vehicle.
  - requiring or incentivizing dealers to sell or lease vehicles at a specified price or profit margin.
  - engaging in certain motor vehicle dealer activities.
  - refusing to provide a dealer with an "equitable supply" of new vehicles by model, mix, or color as it offers or allocates to dealers.
  - using the number of motor vehicles pre-ordered or reserved by consumers when determining allocations to dealers.
  - owning, operating or controlling by contract, agreement or otherwise a dealership for any "line-make," if that "line-make" is already offered for sale in Florida by an "independent person" through a franchise agreement.
- Authorizes manufacturers to sell certain motor vehicle features or improvements through remote electronic transmission, and requires the manufacturer to pay the dealer at least 8% of the payment under certain conditions.
- Prohibits distributors and affiliates from being licensed as a motor vehicle dealer or owning or
  operating a dealership that sells or services motor vehicles of the line-make of motor vehicles
  distributed by the distributor.
- Limits the administrative authority of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to allow certain exceptions to the restriction on dealer ownership by manufacturers that have established dealers.
- Creates a timeline and process for DHSMV to conduct an inquiry of a manufacturer relating to a
  written complaint alleging a violation of the Act, when such complaint is made by a franchised
  motor vehicle dealer or a motor vehicle dealer association with at least one member with a
  current franchise agreement issued by the manufacturer.

CS/CS/HB 639 (ch. 2023-65, L.O.F.) - Issuance of Special Beverage Licenses

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1262

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

**Committee and others** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

Florida law limits the number of "quota" alcoholic beverage licenses that may be issued in a county for the sale of distilled spirits by population. A "special license" is an exception to the quota licensing scheme, including a "special food service license" (SFS license) for a food service establishment that:

- has 2,500 square feet
- is equipped to serve 150 persons at one time
- derives at least 51% of its gross food and beverage revenue from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages

The bill lowers the requirements for an SFS license by reducing the minimum:

- service area to 2,000 square feet
- service capacity to 120 persons

Additionally, there is an exception to quota licensing for certain bona fide clubs, including beach or cabana clubs. Such clubs must meet certain criteria to qualify for such a license. The bill expands beach or cabana club beverage license criteria to include clubs with:

- Locker room or bathroom facilities for at least 100 persons
- Any type of public food service establishment of any seating size

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-65, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

**HB 719 - Practice of Veterinary Medicine** 

By: Killebrew and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 722** 

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

Committee

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

The bill allows out-of-state veterinarians to perform dog or cat sterilization services, and routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization, under certain circumstances. Specifically, the bill exempts from the practice act veterinarians who:

- hold an active license to practice veterinary medicine in another jurisdiction in the U.S.
- are in good standing in such jurisdiction.
- perform dog or cat sterilization services or routine preventative health services at the time of sterilization as an unpaid volunteer under responsible supervision of a veterinarian licensed in this state.

The bill specifies that the supervising licensed veterinarian is responsible for all acts performed under this provision by an out-of-state veterinarian acting under her or his responsible supervision.

The bill provides that an out-of-state veterinarian practicing pursuant to this provision is not eligible to apply for a premises permit.

CS/HB 737 - Secondhand Goods

By: Commerce Committee; Barnaby; Mooney and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 442** 

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

Committee

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

Chapter 538, F.S., regulates secondhand dealers and secondary metal recyclers in the trade of secondhand goods. A secondhand dealer is a person, corporation, or other business organization or entity, that is not a secondary metals recycler, engaged in the business of purchasing, consigning, or trading secondhand goods. Secondhand goods are previously owned or used personal property that is purchased, consigned, or traded as used property. Currently, secondhand dealers are required to hold precious metals, including bullion, for 30 days after they acquire the precious metals.

The bill amends the definition of "secondhand goods" to exclude gold bullion, silver bullion, platinum bullion, palladium bullion, or rhodium bullion if such bullion has been assayed and is properly marked as to its weight and fineness. Thus, persons dealing exclusively with these various forms of bullion are no longer considered secondhand dealers and are no longer subject to the secondhand goods regulations, such as the 30-day holding period.

CS/CS/SB 752 (ch. 2023-48, L.O.F.) - Temporary Commercial Kitchens

By: Commerce and Tourism; Regulated Industries; Calatayud

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 415

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

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

## The bill:

- defines "temporary commercial kitchen" as "any kitchen that is a public food service
  establishment, used for the preparation of takeout or delivery-only meals housed in portable
  structures that are movable from place to place by a tow or are self-propelled or otherwise axle
  mounted, that include self-contained utilities, including, but not limited to, gas, water,
  electricity, or liquid waste disposal."
- includes temporary commercial kitchens as a regulated public food service establishment, thus requiring such establishments to be subject to regulation by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants (Division) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.
- requires operators of public food service establishments who provide commissary services to temporary commercial kitchens to maintain a registry to verify that each temporary commercial kitchen that receives such services is properly licensed, and requires operators of temporary commercial kitchens to properly display their public food service establishment license number.
- preempts the regulation involving licenses, registrations, permits, and fees of temporary commercial kitchens to the state.
- authorizes food trucks and temporary commercial kitchens that are operated on the same premises as and by a separately licensed public food service establishment to operate during the same hours of operation as the separately licensed public food service establishment.
- provides timeframes within which temporary commercial kitchens are allowed to operate, authorizes the Division to grant such operation and extensions, and requires the Division to be notified by the kitchen operator before commencing operations.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-48, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 761 - Telephone Solicitation

By: Commerce Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Fabricio and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1308

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

**Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection

The bill makes the following changes to the laws governing telemarketing and robocalls:

- Revises the prohibition on telephonic sales calls that use an automated system to specifically
  include unsolicited calls using automated systems for the selection <u>and</u> dialing of telephone
  numbers or playing of a recorded message.
- Clarifies what constitutes consent and clear and conspicuous disclosure.
- Revises what constitutes a consumer's "signature" for purposes of giving prior express written
  consent to include either an electronic or digital signature <u>or</u> an "act demonstrating consent,"
  which may include a simple affirmative response.
- Provides a safe harbor period of 15 days from the date a consumer notifies the telephone solicitor that he or she does not want to receive text message solicitations.
- Applies retroactively to any 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 770 - Residential Loan Alternative Agreements

By: Rules; Commerce and Tourism; Bradley

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 861

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

**Category: Consumer Protection; Courts; Real Property** 

### The bill:

 defines "residential real property" as improved residential property of four residential dwelling units or fewer or unimproved residential property on which four residential dwelling units or fewer may be built.

- defines "residential loan alternative agreement" as a signed writing, legal instrument, or contract between a person and a seller or owner of residential real property that:
  - grants an exclusive right to a person to act as a broker for the property's disposition.
  - has an effective duration, inclusive of renewals, of more than two years.
  - requires the person to pay monetary compensation to the seller or owner.
- defines "disposition" as a transfer or voluntary conveyance of the title or other ownership interest in residential real estate.
- prohibits a residential loan alternative agreement from authorizing a person to place a lien on or otherwise encumber any residential real property.
- prohibits a residential loan alternative agreement from constituting a lien, encumbrance, or security interest in the residential real property.
- prohibits a court from enforcing a residential alternative loan alternative agreement by a lien or constructive trust in the residential real property or upon the proceeds of the property's disposition.
- prohibits assignment of a residential loan alternative agreement.
- provides that a residential loan alternative agreement is void if listing services do not begin within 90 days after the agreement's execution by both parties, and unenforceable if it does not meet the requirements established by the bill.
- prohibits the clerk of the court from recording a residential loan alternative agreement.
- makes a residential loan alternative agreement violation an unfair or deceptive trade practice.

CS/CS/HB 869 - Department of Business and Professional Regulation

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee;

McClain

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 782

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

**Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Real Property

The Department of Business and Professional Regulation is responsible for licensing and regulating various businesses and professions throughout the state. The bill:

- provides a pathway for a person who holds a license in another state to obtain a Florida mold-related or asbestos professional license.
- allows certain local electrical and alarm contractors to be licensed statewide.
- removes the maximum participant weight differential requirement for all pugilistic exhibition matches, to allow any exhibition to have participants who are not in the same weight category.
- related to public lodging establishments and public food service establishments:
  - requires licensees to submit certain documents, fees, and communications online.
  - allows notices to be served to the operator of a licensed establishment via email.
  - allows the guest registry at a transient public lodging establishment to be kept online, and guests are no longer required to sign the registry.
- allows alcohol package stores to sell nicotine products.
- allows the Florida Building Commission to delay the effective date of the energy provisions for up to 3 months if energy code compliance software is not approved timely.
- related to timeshares:
  - revises certain provisions related to incidental benefits in the sale of a timeshare plan.
  - extends the period for voiding certain unlawful contracts, from one year to five years.
  - provides that a developer is not required to file a separate public offering statement for any component site in the multistate timeshare plan.

SB 892 - State Minimum Wage

By: Martin
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 917

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Governmental Oversight and Accountability;

**Rules** 

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

The bill amends the Florida Minimum Wage Act to clarify that the state minimum wage will track the federal minimum wage, as set forth and "as amended," in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. This aligns Florida's minimum wage exemptions with recent amendments to federal exemptions.

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

CS/CS/SB 902 (ch. 2023-50, L.O.F.) - Safety Standards for Amusement Rides

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

Tied Bills: CS/SB 904

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1241

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and

**General Government; Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Safety

### The bill:

renames the act related to safety standards for amusement rides, "The Tyre Sampson Act."

- requires permanent amusement rides operated for the first time in this state after a specified date
  to have a ride commissioning and certification report on file with the Department of Agriculture
  and Consumer Services (DACS) within a specified timeframe.
- revises nondestructive testing and affidavit requirements.
- provides authority for DACS to inspect certain rides that are exempt from inspection, at the request of DACS.
- revises requirements for posting signs relating to rider qualifications.
- requires that, upon request, the owner or manager of an amusement ride must demonstrate patron-loading procedures and must provide other information related to patron safety restraint systems.
- revises the circumstances under which the owner or manager of an amusement ride is required to report an accident and under which DACS may impound an amusement ride involved in an accident.
- authorizes DACS to impound rides with similar operating characteristic to other rides involved in an accident investigation.
- requires DACS to produce a written report of all accident investigations.
- revises circumstances under which an amusement ride may be considered an immediate serious danger to the public.
- requires that amusement ride owners record maintenance and training data at the time the maintenance or training was performed.
- directs DACS to create rules for operator training/retraining standards.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-50, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 904 (ch. 2023-51, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Active Amusement Ride Investigation

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

Tied Bills: CS/CS/SB 902 Companion Bills: HB 1243

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and

**General Government; Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Safety

## The bill provides:

- that all investigatory records made or received by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services pursuant to an investigation are confidential and exempt from public record requests until the investigation is no longer active or it is completed.
- that such exemption will be repealed on a specified date unless reviewed and saved from repeal.

The bill also provides the following legislative intent: "The premature release of [investigative] records could frustrate or thwart the investigation and impair the ability of the department to effectively and efficiently administer the investigation."

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-51, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 919 - Homeowners' Associations

By: Commerce Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Porras;

Fernandez-Barquin and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1114

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

Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Commerce; Real Property

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. HOAs are authorized to impose assessments and fines that, if unpaid, may become a lien on the parcel. In addition, Florida law requires officers and directors of an HOA to comply with certain requirements and may be removed from office under certain circumstances.

Related to HOA officers and directors, the bill:

- provides that an officer or a director must be removed from office if criminally charged with:
  - forgery of a ballot envelope or voting certificate used in an HOA election.
  - theft or embezzlement of funds of an HOA.
  - destruction of or refusing to allow inspection of HOA records in furtherance of any crime.
  - obstruction of justice.
- provides criminal penalties for certain actions of fraudulent voting activities.
- provides liability for monetary damages for accepting kickbacks.
- provides additional requirements for disclosing officer or director conflicts of interest.

Related to HOA fines and suspensions, the bill:

- requires, if a violation is found, that the proposed fine or suspension be approved by the committee by a majority vote.
- allows a member to cure a violation, as determined by the HOA.

Related to HOA funds, the bill requires that if an HOA collects a deposit from a member to pay for expenses that may be incurred as a result of construction on a member's parcel, or other reason for such deposit, such funds must not be comingled with any other HOA funds, and must be returned after an accounting.

Related to HOA official records, the bill requires an HOA to allow a member to keep an address different than the property address to be used for all required notices.

CS/HB 959 - Dosage Form Animal Health Products

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1056

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

& Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee and others

Category: Agriculture; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce

Animal health or dietary supplements are referred to as dosage form animal health supplements or products and are similar to dietary supplements for humans used to supplement a regular diet.

The bill addresses the regulation of dosage form animal health products in the state as follows:

- Includes dosage form animal products as a regulated feedstuff under the Commercial Feed Law, thus requiring such products to be subject to regulation by DACS.
- Clarifies that such products do not include certain drugs, biologics, parasiticides, medical devices, or diagnostics used to treat or administered to animals under federal law.
- Exempts products sold solely as a dosage form animal health product if guaranteed as specified in the Commercial Feed Law, from showing a guaranteed analysis.
- Provides specific product labeling requirements.

HB 1091 (ch. 2023-68, L.O.F.) - Licensing Fee Relief

By: Alvarez and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 7046

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

Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

The Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) regulates and licenses businesses and professionals in Florida under the Divisions of Professions, Regulation, Real Estate, and Certified Public Accounting. For each professional licensed, DBPR charges an initial license fee and license renewal fee set by statute and the applicable board, or by DBPR if there is no board for the profession.

The bill requires DBPR to waive, for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years:

- 50% of the initial licensing fee for an applicant applying for an initial license, with such waiver limited to a maximum of \$200 per year per license.
- 50% of a licensee's license renewal fee, with such waiver limited to a maximum of \$200 per year per license.

Such fee waivers may not include any applicable unlicensed activity or background check fees. This waiver expires July 1, 2025.

The bill provides an appropriation for such waiver in the sum of \$50 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to DBPR to be deposited into the Professional Regulation Trust Fund for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Any unexpended balance of funds from this appropriation remaining on June 30, 2024, shall revert and is appropriated to DBPR for the 2024-2025 fiscal year for the same purpose.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-68, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 1154 - Labor Pool Act

By: Rules; Perry Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 895

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Judiciary; Rules Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Commerce

The Labor Pool Act ("Act") outlines uniform standards of conduct and practice for labor pools. The Act requires a labor pool that operates a labor hall to supply workers with drinking water, sufficient seating, and restroom facilities. Labor pools must also comply with certain requirements related to payment and safety equipment. When a worker is affected by a violation of the Act, the worker may seek legal remedies as specified in the Act, or any other available legal remedy.

The bill provides that a labor pool satisfies the statutory requirements for providing restroom facilities and drinking water if its labor hall facilities comply with all minimum requirements for public restrooms and drinking fountains in the Florida Building Code. The bill also provides that a labor pool may provide drinking water through a water cooler dispenser, by offering bottled water, or by any other similar means.

The bill requires that a worker affected by a violation of the Act must provide written notice of the alleged violation to the labor pool and give the labor pool 60 days to cure the alleged violation before bringing a lawsuit against the labor pool, and such lawsuit must be commenced within one year.

The bill provides that the remedies specified in the Act for a worker affected by a violation of the Act are the only remedies available to the worker, and therefore the worker may not pursue any other legal remedy.

CS/HB 1203 - Registrations and Transfers of Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning System Manufacturer Warranties

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1242

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

Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Real Property

The bill provides that regardless of ownership, a heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system manufacturer's warranty runs with the property. The HVAC warrantor continues to be obligated under the terms of the warranty regardless of the property owner and may not charge a transfer fee. The bill clarifies that the transfer of an HVAC manufacturer warranty does not make the existing warranty term longer. Under the bill, such warranties are deemed registered if a licensed contractor meets certain requirements. The licensed contractor who installs a new HVAC system must document the installation through an invoice or receipt to the customer.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1209 - Rural Development

By: Commerce Committee; Ways & Means Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development

Subcommittee; Shoaf and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1482

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

Means Committee; Commerce Committee

Category: Economic Development; Federal Government; Local Government

Related to agency agreements providing federal or state financial assistance to a county, municipality, or rural area of opportunity, the bill requires such agreement to include a provision allowing the agency to pay the county, municipality, or rural area of opportunity for verified and eligible performance.

Related to the Rural Infrastructure Fund, the bill:

- increases the percentage of the total infrastructure cost that DEO may award for infrastructure funding to 75%.
- increases the percentage of the total infrastructure cost that DEO may award for infrastructure funding for a project located in a rural community which is also located in a fiscally constrained county or a rural area of opportunity to 100%.
- removes requirement that eligible projects must be related to job creation or retention opportunities.
- removes improvements to broadband Internet service and access in unserved or underserved rural communities as an eligible use of funds.
- increases the amount that the department may award to all recipients in feasibility grants to \$300,000, which varies under current law based on job creation commitments.
- removes the requirement related to infrastructure feasibility studies and other infrastructure planning activities that grants awarded be limited to 30% of the total project cost.
- removes match requirement for preclearance review grants.

CS/HB 1215 - Pub. Rec./Inspectors and Investigators/DACS

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Maggard and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1166

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

**Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

**Category: Government in the Sunshine; Public Employees** 

The Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) is located in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) and enforces laws governing businesses regulated by DACS. The goal of OALE is to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive trade practices, protect Florida's agriculture industry from theft and other crimes, and safeguard the wholesomeness of food and other consumer products. The bill provides a public record exemption for the following information of former and current DACS inspectors and investigators as well as their spouses and children:

- Home addresses
- Telephone numbers
- Dates of birth
- Photographs

The bill also protects the following information regarding the spouses and children of current and former DACS inspectors and investigators:

- Places of employment.
- The names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended.

The exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

CS/HB 1307 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; McClure and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1150

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

**Justice Subcommittee; Commerce Committee** 

Category: Agriculture; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Military

The bill streamlines licensure requirements and reduces fees related to the private investigative, private security, and recovery services industries; relaxes certain registration fee requirements for charitable organizations; revises services that certain liquified petroleum (LP) gas licensees are authorized to conduct; and provides criminal penalties for retail fuel theft violations, as follows:

- Allows former military firearms instructors to use their experience in the military to satisfy a firearm training requirement when applying for a Class "K" Firearms Instructor License.
- Allows Class "K" Firearms Instructor teaching experience to replace the license renewal training.
- Allows DACS to waive the annual firearms training for Class "G" Statewide Firearm Licensees who provide proof of annual training under the federal Law Enforcement Officers' Safety Act.
- Gives DACS more flexibility when charging late fees for private investigative, security, or recovery services license renewal applications.
- Allows DACS to publish the private investigative, private security, and recovery industry newsletters and pamphlets online.
- Authorizes electronic verification, instead of verification under oath, for certain recovery agent and security guard applications for licensure.
- Relaxes annual registration fees for charitable organizations that are not in higher revenue categories.
- Expands the types of services that licensed Category I LP Gas Dealers and Category V LP Gas Dealers may provide to include the "design" of LP gas equipment.
- Creates provisions that address retail fuel theft and tampering with gas pumps, including prohibitions, seizure and forfeiture requirements, and criminal penalties.

CS/CS/HB 1383 - Specialty Contractors

By: Commerce Committee; State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee;

Trabulsy; Mooney
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1570

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

Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Local Government

In 2021, HB 735 was enacted, which expressly preempted occupational licensing to the state and provided that any local licensing of an occupation not specifically authorized by general law may not be enforced, effective July 1, 2023. HB 735 specifically preempted local construction licensing that is outside the scope of state construction contractor licensing provisions regulated by the Construction Industry Licensing Board (CILB) under the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

#### The bill:

- extends the expiration date for local licensing without general law authority to July 1, 2024.
- requires the CILB, by July 1, 2024, to, by rule, establish certified specialty contractor categories for voluntary licensure for all of the following:
  - structural aluminum or screen enclosures.
  - marine seawall, bulkhead, dock, and pile driving work.
  - structural masonry; steel; carpentry; and prestressed, precast concrete work.
  - rooftop solar heating installation.
  - window and door installation.
  - plaster and lath.
- prohibits local governments from requiring a license to obtain a permit for a job scope outside
  of the practice of contracting.
- allows a county in an area designated as an area of critical state concern to continue to offer a license for any job scope which requires a statewide contractor license, if such a licensing requirement existed before January 1, 2021.
- allows a local government to continue to offer a license for veneer work; rooftop work above three stories; and fence installation and erection; if such a licensing requirement existed before January 1, 2021.
- provides that a local government may not require a license as a prerequisite to submit a bid for public works projects if the work to be performed does not require a license under general law.

HB 1459 - Registration Fees for Malt Beverage Brands and Labels

By: Yeager; Cross and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 658** 

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

Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce** 

The bill provides that the annual registration fee of \$30 for each malt beverage brand and label only applies to a brand or label that is sold to a distributor, not to a brand or label that is kept in-house.

The bill also specifies that no other annual registration fee for a brand or label is authorized.

CS/HB 1521 (ch. 2023-106, L.O.F.) - Facility Requirements Based on Sex

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1674

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

**Committee** 

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Local Government; Post-Secondary Education;

Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Employees; Public Safety

#### The bill:

creates the "Safety in Private Spaces Act."

- specifies the "covered entities" under the bill include state and local public buildings, educational institutions, correctional institutions, juvenile institutions, and detention facilities.
- requires all covered entities that maintain a restroom or changing facility (facility) to have such facilities separately designated for males and females or have a unisex facility.
- requires all covered entities to submit documentation regarding compliance with the facility requirements.
- limits instances when a person may enter a facility designated for the opposite sex to the following circumstances:
  - to assist a child under 12 years of age, an elderly person 60 years of age or older, or persons with certain disabilities.
  - in certain cases of emergency where the health or safety of another person is at risk.
  - for custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes, provided that the facility is not in use.
  - if the appropriate designated facility is out of order or under repair and the facility designated for the opposite sex contains no person of the opposite sex.
- provides that the failure to depart a facility designated for the opposite sex by persons other than the covered entity's employees constitutes the offense of trespass.
- allows an employee of a covered entity to request a person to depart a facility designated for the opposite sex on a covered entity's premises, when the entry is not for an authorized purpose.
- requires each type of covered entity to establish disciplinary procedures for its employees, certain persons under its control, and other personnel described in the bill for failing to follow these requirements.
- does not apply to persons born with a medically verifiable genetic disorder of sexual development under treatment by a physician, with certain specified conditions.
- gives the Attorney General enforcement authority, including the authority to seek injunctive relief and impose fines of up to \$10,000.

The bill may have an indeterminate fiscal impact on state and local government and the private sector.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-106, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 1648 - Public Records/Investigations by the Department of Legal Affairs and Law

**Enforcement Agencies** 

By: Rules; Commerce and Tourism; Bradley

Tied Bills: CS/CS/SB 262

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1549

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

Category: Commerce; Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine; Technology

CS/CS/SB 262, to which this bill is linked, gives consumer's certain rights related to personal data, including the right to access personal data collected about them; the right to delete or correct their personal data; and the right to opt-out of the sale of their personal data to third parties. It also gives certain protections when using certain online platforms. The Department of Legal Affairs (DLA), upon belief that any person or online platform is in violation of CS/CS/SB 262's provisions, may bring an action under the Florida Unfair or Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

This bill provides that all information received by DLA pursuant to a notification or investigation by DLA or a law enforcement agency of a violation is confidential and exempt from public record requirements. The bill provides that the information may be released by DLA during an active investigation:

- in the furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities.
- for print, publication, or broadcast to notify the public of a data breach.
- 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:

- All information to which another public records exemption applies
- Personal information
- A computer forensic report
- Information that would otherwise reveal weaknesses in data security
- Information that would otherwise disclose proprietary information

The bill provides that the public records exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will repeal on October 2, 2028, 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 on the same date that SB 262 or similar legislation takes effect, if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

CS/HB 7041 - Space Florida

By: Commerce Committee; Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Sirois;

Duggan and others
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7048

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce Committee

**Category: Economic Development** 

The bill revises provisions governing Space Florida and its board of directors to increase collaboration with public and private stakeholders regarding spaceport activities and enhance transparency measures regarding spaceport projects. The bill:

- separates the Space Florida board from the Enterprise Florida, Inc., board, establishes membership and appointment criteria, and term lengths, prohibits compensation, provides per diem and travel limits, allows electronic meetings, provides quorum requirements, and requires Senate approval of Governor's appointments.
- requires Space Florida to:
  - solicit input on Space Florida plans and activities from the aerospace industry, private sector spaceport territory stakeholders, each entity that owns or has ownership interest in a facility within spaceport territory, and other political subdivisions within spaceport territory.
  - include specific economic data in the Space Florida annual report to the Governor and Legislature.
  - keep records related to certain travel and entertainment expenditures and comply with other record keeping requirements.
  - assess and report on internal contracts with service providers.
- includes Space Florida among the list of economic development programs scheduled to be reviewed and analyzed by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.
- requires the Department of Economic Opportunity to include information about Space Florida in its annual report.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

### **2023 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION**



#### Choice & Innovation Subcommittee

Representative Kaylee Tuck, Chair Representative Traci Koster, Vice Chair

# **Education Quality Subcommittee**

Representative Dana Trabulsy, Chair Representative Alex Rizo, Vice Chair

# Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee

Representative Lauren Melo, Chair Representative Mike Beltran, Vice Chair

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ed	ucation & Employment Committee	
	CS/SB 7026 (ch. 2023-95, L.O.F.) - Higher Education Finances	
Ch	oice & Innovation Subcommittee	
CII	CS/CS/CS/HB 1 (ch. 2023-16, L.O.F.) - Education	
	HJR 31 - Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards	120
	CS/SB 190 - Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities	120
	CS/CS/HB 301 (ch. 2023-99, L.O.F.)- Emergency Response Mapping Data	121
	CS/HB 379 (ch. 2023-36, L.O.F.) - Technology in K-12 Public Schools	122
	CS/CS/HB 443 (ch. 2023-102, L.O.F.) - Education	123
	HB 477 (ch. 2023-37, L.O.F.) - Term Limits for District School Board Members	124
	CS/SB 478 - Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program	124
	CS/HB 733 (ch. 2023-78, L.O.F.) - Middle School and High School Start Times	125
	HB 891 (ch. 2023-66 L.O.F.) - Year-round School Pilot Program	126
	CS/HB 1597 (ch. 2023-73, L.O.F.) - Florida Virtual School	127
Education Quality Subcommittee		127
	CS/CS/HB 19 (ch. 2023-96, L.O.F.) - Individual Education Plans	
	CS/SB 196 (ch. 2023-89, L.O.F.) - Guidance Services on Academic and Career Planning	128
	CS/CS/HB 225 (ch. 2023-97, L.O.F.) - Interscholastic Activities	129
	HB 265 (ch. 2023-98, L.O.F.) - High School Equivalency Diplomas	129
	CS/SB 290 (ch. 2023-91, L.O.F.) - Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities	130
	CS/HB 389 (ch. 2023-100, L.O.F.) - Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools	131
	CS/HB 551 (ch. 2023-103, L.O.F.) - Required African-American Instruction	132
	CS/CS/HB 633 (ch. 2023-104, L.O.F.) - K-12 Education	133
	SB 662 - Student Online Personal Information Protection	134
	HB 795 - Private Instructional Personnel	135
	CS/HB 1035 (ch. 2023-38, L.O.F.) - K-12 Teachers	136
	CS/CS/HB 1069 (ch. 2023-105, L.O.F.) - Education	137
	CS/HB 1125 - Interstate Education Compacts	138

	CS/HB 1127 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact	. 138
	CS/SB 1278 - Direct-support Organizations	. 139
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1537 (ch. 2023-39, L.O.F.) - Education	. 140
	CS/CS/HB 7039 (ch. 2023-108, L.O.F.) - Student Outcomes	. 142
Pos	stsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee	.143
	CS/CS/SB 240 (ch. 2023-81, L.O.F.) - Education	
	CS/CS/SB 266 (ch. 2023-82, L.O.F.) - Higher Education	. 145
	SB 274 - Nursing Education Pathway for Military Combat Medics	.146
	SB 596 - Board of Governors of the State University System	. 147
	CS/SB 598 (ch. 2023-92, L.O.F.) - Higher Educational Facilities Financing	. 148
	CS/SB 732 - Collegiate Purple Star Campuses	. 149
	CS/CS/SB 846 (ch. 2023-34, L.O.F.) - Agreements of Educational Entities with Foreign Entities	. 150
	CS/CS/HB 931 (ch. 2023-83, L.O.F.) - Postsecondary Educational Institutions	. 151

CS/SB 676 - Level 2 Background Screenings

By: Appropriations; Grall

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 249

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice;

**Appropriations** 

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill allows qualified entities to conduct background screenings through the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse administered by the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) beginning January 1, 2026, or a later date as determined by AHCA. Any qualified entities using the clearinghouse must use Level 2 screening standards. The bill incorporates qualified entities into clearinghouse processes and expands clearinghouse policies to include them, with a delayed effective date for when the clearinghouse is ready to process screenings for qualified entities. The bill allows qualified entities to obtain background screening records if the individual being screened will be seeking an exemption from disqualification and authorizes qualified entities to grant those exemptions.

The bill also requires AHCA to make eligibility determinations for screenings through the Department of Education, other education-related entities, and qualified entities. The bill delays existing statutory timeframes for bringing education-related entities into the clearinghouse.

The bill revises Level 2 screening standards by adding additional offenses and requires the following individuals to undergo a Level 2 screening instead of their current screening standard:

- Individuals who have direct contact with a student in a district school system, a charter school, or a private school that participates in a state scholarship program
- Youth athletic coaches

The bill provides for a \$400,000 recurring appropriation from the Health Care Trust Fund and a \$4 million nonrecurring appropriation from the Health Care Trust Fund to the AHCA.

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.

CS/SB 7026 (ch. 2023-95, L.O.F.) - Higher Education Finances By: Appropriations; Appropriations Committee on Education

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: None** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill provides flexibility for state universities and Florida College System (FCS) institutions regarding the use of funds in areas relating to the use of carry forward fund balances, contracting for professional services, compensation of employees, including for bonuses, and the waiver of out-of-state fees for student athletes receiving an athletic scholarship.

The bill removes restrictions on certain uses of carry forward fund balances, including caps on maintenance and remodeling projects and the requirement that funds only be used for nonrecurring operating expenditures.

The bill requires the Board of Governors' to adopt regulations for universities to follow when contracting for professional services, including professional services for construction projects. Such regulations must include, but are not limited to, competitive bids, design-build, and selection of a construction management entity. Contracts executed, extended, or amended on or before September 30, 2023, must comply with the Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act.

With respect to employee compensation, the bill increases the limitation on the annual compensation of state university employees paid from public funds and for FCS administrative employees paid from state funds. The bill also amends requirements related to the employee bonus program for state universities.

Finally, the bill authorizes state universities and FCS institutions to waive out-of-state fees for student athletes receiving an athletic scholarship.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-95, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

#### **Choice & Innovation Subcommittee**

CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 1 (ch. 2023-16, L.O.F.) - Education

By: Education Quality Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee; PreK-12 Appropriations

Subcommittee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Tuck, Plasencia, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 202

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

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill increases the number of students with disabilities served under the Family Empowerment Scholarship for students with disabilities by increasing scholarship growth rates from 1% to 3% of Florida's exceptional education students, annually. The bill requires a participating private school to inform a parent that a student with a disability attending the school is not entitled to the special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The bill expands eligibility for the Florida Tax Credit (FTC) and Family Empowerment Scholarship for students attending private school (FES-EO) through scholarships to any student who is a resident of Florida and is eligible to enroll in kindergarten through grade 12 in a public school. The bill establishes the personalized education program as a parent directed educational choice option and authorizes the student to participate in FTC. The bill expands the scope of authorized uses for scholarship funds and provides for the creation of empowerment savings accounts allowing parents to choose among such uses to customize their child's K-12 education. The bill retains the priority for FTC and FES-EO scholarships for those students whose household income does not exceed 185% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and creates a second priority for households with income not exceeding 400% of the FPL.

The bill requires that scholarship-funding organizations (SFO) review student eligibility annually, approve all expenditures prior to disbursing any funds from the empowerment savings account, and notify parents that participation in a scholarship program does not guarantee enrollment in a private school. Additionally, the bill requires SFOs to jointly develop purchasing guidelines for authorized uses of scholarship funds and publish them to their websites.

Additionally, the bill authorizes any public school in Florida to permit a student to enroll part-time and provides that the student will be funded proportionally based on their time of attendance or as contracted services. The bill provides flexibility for traditional public schools as it relates to educator certificate requirements, transportation, cost per student station, capital improvement funding, transfer of student records, and the online course requirement for high school graduation. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop an online portal that allows parents to choose the best educational choice options for their student. The bill also requires the State Board of Education, with input from stakeholders, to report to the Governor and Legislature recommended repeals and revisions to the education code to reduce regulation on public schools.

The bill became law on March 27, 2023, chapter 2023-16, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

#### HJR 31 - Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards

By: Roach, Sirois, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SJR 94

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government

**Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee** 

Category: Constitutional Amendments; Elections; Pre-K through 12 Education

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution requiring that members of a district school board be elected in a partisan election, except no district school board member may be elected on a partisan basis until the general election held on November 3, 2026. The proposed amendment authorizes partisan primaries to occur before the November 3, 2026, election.

The amendment proposed in the joint resolution will take effect on January 7, 2025, if approved by 60% of the voters during the 2024 general election.

#### CS/SB 190 - Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities

By: Rules; Grall and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 259; includes parts of CS/CS/HB 225; CS/CS/SB 308

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K -12; Judiciary; Rules

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill authorizes a charter school student and a Florida Virtual School (FLVS) full-time program student to develop an agreement with a private school to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities at the private school. The bill requires both a charter school student and a full-time FLVS student to meet existing conditions for interscholastic participation as provided by law and specifies that a charter school student may not participate in private school activities if such activities are offered at the charter school the student attends.

CS/CS/HB 301 (ch. 2023-99, L.O.F.) - Emergency Response Mapping Data

By: PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Alvarez and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 212

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

Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee Category: Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to create a School Mapping Data Grant Program through which public schools, including charter schools, can apply to receive funds for mapping each school in the district. The optional program authorizes a school district to procure a vendor, in consultation with local law enforcement and public safety agencies, to provide school mapping data with funds from the grant program.

The bill establishes the minimum requirements for the school mapping data and requires the data to be provided in an electronic or a digital format for use in responding to emergencies at schools and for conducting required active assailant drills. A vendor selected by a school district under the grant program is responsible for providing the data to the district and local law enforcement and public safety agencies. The bill appropriates \$14 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the DOE for the School Mapping Data Grant Program.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-99, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 379 (ch. 2023-36, L.O.F.) - Technology in K-12 Public Schools

By: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Yeager and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 52

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

Committee Category: Pre-K through 12 Education; Safety; Technology

The bill requires a district school board to provide and adopt an Internet safety policy for student access to the Internet provided by the school district. The policy must limit student access to only age appropriate material, protect students using electronic communications, prohibit student access to unlawful activities, and prevent access to technology which does not protect a students' personal information.

The bill prohibits and prevents students from accessing social media platforms through district-provided Internet access, unless expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes. Furthermore, the bill prohibits the use of the TikTok platform on district-owned devices, through district-provided Internet access, or as a platform to communicate or promote any district school, school-sponsored club, extracurricular organization, or athletic team. The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the Internet safety policy and social media restrictions a school district must implement.

The bill requires students in grades 6 through 12 to receive instruction on the social, emotional, and physical effects of social media. The Department of Education is required to make the instructional materials used to provide this instruction available online and district school boards must notify parents of the material's availability.

The bill prohibits students from using wireless communications devices at school during instructional time, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes and requires a teacher to designate an area for wireless communications devices during instructional time.

The bill became law on May 9, 2023, chapter 2023-36, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 443 (ch. 2023-102, L.O.F.) - Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Valdés and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 986; includes parts of HB 585; CS/CS/HB 857; CS/CS/CS/HB 1021; CS/SB 990; SB 1714

Committee(s) of Reference: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee Category: Early Learning; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill requires a charter school sponsor to annually provide a report to its charter schools and to the Department of Education (DOE) on services being rendered from the sponsor's portion of the administrative fee. Additionally, the bill requires a sponsor to provide training on any required systems and to timely review and reimburse federal grant funds for its charter schools.

The bill authorizes a charter school to give enrollment preference to students who are the children of a safe-school officer at the school and requires a charter school which limits enrollment to students who meet reasonable academic standards to place a student on a progress monitoring plan before dismissing the student from the school. For charter schools operated by a not-for-profit entity, the bill authorizes unrestricted specified assets to be loaned to another school operated by the same entity in another school district via an unforgiveable loan which must be repaid within 5 years to the originating school.

The bill expands eligibility for the Florida Teachers Supply Assistance Program, extends the validity period for the adjunct teaching certificate to 5 years, and authorizes private tutoring of up to 25 students to be provided in specified facilities without obtaining exceptions, rezoning, or land use changes. Additionally, the bill requires district school boards to post step-by-step instructions on how to provide first aid for choking in each public school cafeteria within the school district.

The bill revises award priority for the Community School Grant Program to include school districts expanding a program based on the feeder pattern of an existing community school in the district. The bill revises annual program reporting requirements and requires the DOE and participating school districts to provide data in order to evaluate and report on the program.

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to report on specified information regarding the training of child care personnel and make recommendations on licensing and regulation of child care facilities. The bill modifies requirements for obtaining or maintaining the Gold Seal Quality Care designation and requires the DOE's single statewide information system, used for the school readiness program, to allow a parent to find early learning programs online.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-102, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 477 (ch. 2023-37, L.O.F.) - Term Limits for District School Board Members

By: Rizo and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1110

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

Category: Elections; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill prohibits a district school board member from appearing on a ballot for reelection if the member will have served, or would have served if not for resignation, in that office for 8 consecutive years. The limitation only applies to terms of office beginning on or after November 8, 2022, and is prospective, so that school board members reelected to a consecutive term in 2022 could serve another 8 consecutive years before reaching the term limit.

The bill became law on May 9, 2023, chapter 2023-37, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 478 - Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Program

By: Appropriations Committee on Education; Perry

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 703

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

**Appropriations** 

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill converts the Early Childhood Music Education Incentive Pilot Program into a permanent program and shifts the responsibility for administering the program from the Commissioner of Education to the Department of Education (DOE). The bill revises eligibility for the program by removing the requirement for proximity to the University of Florida and authorizing the DOE to approve school district participation.

Subject to an appropriation in the General Appropriations Act, a school district will annually receive a maximum of \$150 per full-time equivalent student in kindergarten through grade 2 who is enrolled in a comprehensive music education program.

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

CS/HB 733 (ch. 2023-78, L.O.F.) - Middle School and High School Start Times

By: Education & Employment Committee; Temple and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 1112** 

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

**Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee** 

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires that no later than July 1, 2026, the instructional day for all public and charter middle schools must begin no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no earlier than 8:30 a.m. for high schools. A charter school-in-the-workplace is exempt from the middle and high school start times. District school boards and charter school governing boards must inform their communities, including parents, students, teachers, school administrators, athletic coaches, and other stakeholders, about the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on middle school and high school students. Stakeholders must also be made aware of the benefits of a later school start time and discuss local strategies to successfully implement the later school start times.

The bill became law on May 12, 2023, chapter 2023-78, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 891 (ch. 2023-66 L.O.F.) - Year-round School Pilot Program

By: Williams and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1564; includes parts of CS/CS/CS/HB 1537; CS/CS/SB 1430

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

**Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee** 

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill creates a year-round school pilot program, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. The pilot program is established for a period of 4 years and requires the Department of Education (DOE) to assist school districts in establishing a year-round school program within at least one elementary school in the district.

The bill allows school districts to apply for participation and specifies that the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) must select five school districts to participate in the program and, to the extent possible, the districts must represent a variety of demographics. The participating districts must provide specific data to the DOE to assess the benefits of a year-round school program along with an evaluation of barriers to implementation.

Upon completion of the pilot program, the commissioner must provide a report to the Governor and Legislature and include the commissioner's recommendation on the adoption of year-round school programs for all students.

The bill became law on May 9, 2023, chapter 2023-66, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1597 (ch. 2023-73, L.O.F.) - Florida Virtual School

By: Choice & Innovation Subcommittee; Gossett-Seidman and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 926

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

Category: Military; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill authorizes, and establishes the process for, the parent or guardian of students enrolled full-time at the Florida Virtual School, but living out-of-state due to the location of their parent's or guardian's military duty station, to make a written request for flexibility in statewide, standardized assessment administration. If granted, the flexibility in assessment administration permits the students to take the assessment in-person in a secure, proctored setting at the out-of-state military duty station.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-73, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

## **Education Quality Subcommittee**

CS/CS/HB 19 (ch. 2023-96, L.O.F.) - Individual Education Plans

By: Education & Employment Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Tant and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 636

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

**Employment Committee** 

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires school districts to provide information and instruction to a student and his or her parent on self-determination and the legal rights and responsibilities relating to educational decisions that transfer to the student upon turning 18 years of age. The information provided must include options for maintaining parental involvement in educational decision-making including, but not limited to, a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act waiver, powers of attorney, guardian advocacy, and guardianship. The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules for the administration of the provisions of the bill.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-96, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 196 (ch. 2023-89, L.O.F.) - Guidance Services on Academic and Career Planning

By: Commerce and Tourism; Jones and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 141; includes parts of CS/CS/HB 7051; CS/CS/SB 240 Committee(s) of Reference: Education Pre-K -12; Commerce and Tourism; Rules

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires a middle grade student's personalized academic and career plan to include informing a student of the career and technical education (CTE) graduation pathway option and work-based learning (WBL) opportunities.

The bill also expands the required annual school district notification on high school acceleration options to include information on career and professional academies, career-themed courses, the CTE graduation pathway, WBL opportunities, including internships, apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, foundational and soft-skill credentialing programs under s. 445.06, F.S., and contact information for a certified school counselor. This information must be provided in a language understandable to students and parents.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-89, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 225 (ch. 2023-97, L.O.F.) - Interscholastic Activities

By: Education & Employment Committee; Education Quality Subcommittee; Hawkins, Canady, and others

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Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 308; includes parts of CS/HB 259; CS/SB 190

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

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill streamlines the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) board of directors by reducing its membership from 16 to 13 members comprised of the Commissioner of Education, or his or her designee, eight members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, and four members elected by FHSAA member schools. The bill requires that the FHSAA's executive director, budget, and bylaws be approved by the State Board Education.

The bill expands the ability of traditional public school, charter school, Florida Virtual School full-time, and private school students to participate in interscholastic and intrascholastic activities and athletics. The bill also requires that students who transfer between schools during the school year be permitted to complete the interscholastic and intrascholastic activities in which they participated at the school from which they transferred.

The bill requires the FHSAA to adopt bylaws, policies, or procedures that provide schools participating in a high school championship contest or series, under the direction and supervision of the association, an opportunity to make brief opening remarks.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-97, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 265 (ch. 2023-98, L.O.F.) - High School Equivalency Diplomas

By: Plasencia, López, J, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1004

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

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill prohibits a school district from requiring a student that has reached the age of 16 to take any course prior to sitting for the General Educational Development (GED) exam unless the student failed to attain a passing score on the GED practice test. The bill requires the State Board of Education to establish, by rule, what constitutes a passing score for the GED practice test.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-98, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 290 (ch. 2023-91, L.O.F.) - Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities

By: Education Pre-K -12; Jones and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 223

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

**Policy** 

Category: Early Learning; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill allows for the parent of a student, who has a disability and an individual education plan (IEP), who is enrolled in a public school prekindergarten program at the age of four and is fully funded through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), to decide, in consultation with the individual education plan team, if their student should be retained.

The bill requires that a four-year old student with an IEP, who has been retained in a public school prekindergarten program that was fully funded through the FEFP and has demonstrated a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills, receive instruction in early literacy skills.

The bill also allows the retention of the student in VPK to count for one of the two years of the retention necessary to qualify for a good cause exemption from mandatory retention in third grade.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-91, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 389 (ch. 2023-100, L.O.F.) - Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools

By: Education Quality Subcommittee; Skidmore and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 334

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

Category: Health; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill allows school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available in each school within the district, at no charge. The menstrual hygiene products may be located in the school nurse's office, other physical school facilities for health services, and in school restrooms. Each participating school is required to provide students with appropriate notice as to the availability and location of the menstrual hygiene products.

The bill specifies that the menstrual hygiene products or the associated dispensing mechanism may not display any advertisement, logo, or text except for the brand name, product information provided by the manufacturer, or information necessary to maintain the dispensing mechanism.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-100, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 551 (ch. 2023-103, L.O.F.) - Required African-American Instruction

By: Education Quality Subcommittee; Benjamin; Fine and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 804** 

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

**Education & Employment Committee Category: Pre-K through 12 Education** 

The bill requires school districts to provide evidence that requirements relating to the instruction of African American history are being met. The bill also allows the Department of Education (DOE) to seek input from and contract with state or nationally recognized African American educational organizations to support curriculum on the history of African Americans.

The bill requires school districts to submit to the Commissioner of Education (commissioner) and post on their website an implementation plan for required instruction topics that includes methods in which instruction will be delivered for each grade level, professional qualifications of instructional personnel, and a description of instructional materials. The bill also requires the commissioner or the DOE to notify school districts if they do not meet implementation plan requirements and gives school districts 45 days from the date of notification to submit revisions to their implementation plans. The bill allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to initiate compliance actions outlined in s. 1008.32(4), F.S., against school districts for failure to comply with implementation plan requirements.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-103, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 633 (ch. 2023-104, L.O.F.) - K-12 Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Education Quality Subcommittee; Salzman, Hawkins, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

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Companion Bills: CS/SB 1236

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

**Education & Employment Committee** 

Category: Military; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill repeals the financial penalty for schools that exceed class size maximums.

For a student whose parent is active duty military personnel and meets the eligibility criteria for special academic programs offered through public schools, the bill requires the student be enrolled in such a program when the student's parent is transferred to the state during the school year. Special academic programs include magnet schools, advanced studies programs, advanced placement, dual enrollment, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and International Baccalaureate.

Additionally, the bill provides that a student whose parent is on active military duty and is transferred within the state after the controlled open enrollment window, can enroll in any school within the state.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-104, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

SB 662 - Student Online Personal Information Protection

By: Bradley and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 699

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Education Pre-K -12; Rules

Category: Pre-K through 12 Education; Safety; Technology

The bill creates the Student Online Personal Information Protection Act (SOPIPA), to protect students' personal information by restricting the operator of a website, online service, or online application that is used for K-12 school purposes from collecting, disclosing, or selling student data, or from using student data to engage in targeted advertising.

The bill prohibits operators using any information acquired through the use of their education technology to create profiles of students, except for K-12 school purposes, or knowingly engaging in targeted advertising. Additionally, the bill prohibits an operator from sharing, selling, or renting student information to third parties or disclosing certain covered information, except when authorized by federal or state law.

The bill requires operators to collect no more covered information than reasonably necessary to operate the educational technology and implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices to protect covered information. Operators must delete a student's covered information if requested by the K-12 school or school district, unless a student or a parent or guardian consents to its maintenance.

Any violation of the SOPIPA is deemed a deceptive and unfair trade practice and constitutes a violation of Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act. The bill clarifies that there is no private cause of action for violations of SOPIPA by expressly limiting enforcement authority to the Department of Legal Affairs.

**HB 795 - Private Instructional Personnel** 

By: Tant and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 514

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Quality Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee;

Education & Employment Committee Category: Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill broadens the list of registered behavior technicians (RBT) who are allowed to provide Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services in a public K-12 school by eliminating the requirement that RBTs be employed by an enrolled Medicaid provider. Instead, the bill requires employment by a behavioral analysis provider who is certified under s. 393.17, F.S. or licensed under chapter 490 or chapter 491.

CS/HB 1035 (ch. 2023-38, L.O.F.) - K-12 Teachers

By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Gonzalez Pittman and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 244; includes parts of CS/CS/CS SB 266; CS/CS/HB 999; HB 5101

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

**Employment Committee** 

Category: Budget; Higher Education and Employment; Military; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K

through 12 Education; Public Safety; Safety

The bill requires the Commissioner of Education, by December 31, 2023, to conduct a comprehensive review of all federal, state, and local teacher training requirements, identify any duplicate training requirements, and eliminate training requirements not required by state and federal law or that are duplicative.

The bill expands opportunities for teacher recruitment and retention, and clarifies teachers' rights by:

- authorizing state-approved teacher preparation programs to be eligible for the buy-one-get-one tuition and fee waiver for qualified students.
- establishing the Dual Enrollment Educator Scholarship Program to assist Florida public high school teachers in obtaining the graduate degree and credentials necessary to provide dual enrollment coursework directly to students on a Florida high school campus.
- establishing the Teacher Apprenticeship Program as an alternative pathway for individuals to enter the teaching profession, and authorizing a temporary apprenticeship certificate.
- waiving teacher certification initial exam and certification fees for a retired first responder.
- establishing the Heroes in the Classroom Bonus Program to provide a one-time sign-on bonus to retired first responders and veterans who become a full-time classroom teacher.

The bill creates chapter 1015 of the Florida Statutes to catalog a number of teachers' rights that are currently guaranteed in law regarding employment, continuing education, controlling the classroom, directing classroom instruction, and receiving timely assessment data. The bill creates an appeal process for teachers who believe the school district has directed him or her to violate state law or State Board of Education (SBE) rule. The bill authorizes the teacher to request an investigation by a special magistrate, who will report findings to the SBE.

The bill provides that when a student is sent by a teacher to the principal's office for behavioral issues, a principal must determine whether the student violated the code of conduct. If a principal finds that no violation occurred, he or she is prohibited from imposing any disciplinary action on the student. However, if a principal determines that a student's disruptive behavior, coupled with his or her overall disciplinary behavioral record, warrants more serious disciplinary action than the teacher recommended, he or she may impose a more serious disciplinary action.

The bill became law on May 9, 2023, chapter 2023-38, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 1069 (ch. 2023-105, L.O.F.) - Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Education Quality Subcommittee; McClain, Anderson, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1320; includes parts of CS/HB 1223; HB 5101

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

Category: Early Learning; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires that district school boards be responsible for the contents of classroom libraries, in addition to instructional materials and school libraries. The bill requires that all books in elementary school classroom libraries be included in the required online catalogue of elementary school library materials and school districts must adopt and implement a process for parents to limit their child's access to library materials.

The bill requires that district school board policies regarding objections to specific materials authorize objections on the basis that the material depicts or describes sexual conduct, as defined in law. However, material used in required instruction on HIV/AIDS, child sexual abuse prevention, or any other course identified by the DOE are excluded. The DOE must annually approve all instructional materials used to teach reproductive health and any disease, including HIV/AIDS.

Any specific materials subject to an objection on the basis that the materials are pornographic, harmful to minors, or describe or depict sexual conduct must be removed from circulation at the school where the objection was made, within 5 days of the objection, until the completion of the objection process. Committees convened by a school district to review and make recommendations related to the adoption of instructional materials must include parents of students that will have access to the materials being reviewed. All meetings of such committees must be publicly noticed and open to the public. The bill creates an appeals process for a parent that disagrees with the school board's determination on his or her objection. The DOE must adopt an objection form for use by school districts.

The bill expands the existing prohibition on instruction relating to sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through grade 3 to include prekindergarten through grade 8 and expressly states that charter schools must comply with this requirement. The bill requires that instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in grades 9 through 12 be age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students.

The bill establishes new requirements relating to the use of personal titles and pronouns in Florida's public schools, with an exception for individuals with specified conditions. The bill prohibits an employee, contractor, or student, as a condition of employment, enrollment, or participation, at a public K-12 educational institution, be required to refer to another individual by a personal title or pronouns that do not align with the person's sex.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-105, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

**CS/HB 1125 - Interstate Education Compacts** 

By: Education Quality Subcommittee; Smith; Hunschofsky and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 1127 Companion Bills: SB 1446

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

**Education & Employment Committee** 

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill ratifies the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC) by adopting the model legislation into Florida statute. The ITMC permits teachers with an eligible license held in a compact member state to be granted an equivalent license in another compact member state. Once the ITMC has been ratified by 10 states, it becomes effective; at which time the designated commissioner of each member state will coordinate implementation of the policies and procedures necessary to effectuate the ITMC and the streamlined transition of licensed educators between compact member states.

The bill updates citations to federal law in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children statute.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1127 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Smith; Hunschofsky and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 1125 Companion Bills: SB 1448

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Quality Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government

**Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee** 

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill creates the public records and public meetings exemption necessary for Florida to participate in the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (ITMC). The public meeting exemption covers portions of a meeting of the ITMC commission required to remain confidential under the compact. The public record exemption protects any recordings, minutes, or records generated at an exempt meeting, as well as any records relating to an investigation of a teacher received from another member state and held by Florida's ITMC commissioner or the Florida Department of Education pursuant to the ITMC. The bill 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 on the same date that CS/HB 1125 or similar legislation takes effect.

CS/SB 1278 - Direct-support Organizations

By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Simon and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 925; HB 1621; CS/SB 1040

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Governmental Oversight and

**Accountability; Rules** 

Category: Government Operations; Pre-K through 12 Education; Social Services

The bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to establish a direct-support organization (DSO) with the sole purpose to support the DCF in carrying out its purposes and responsibilities. The DSO board of directors is appointed by the Secretary of the DCF and must operate pursuant to a contract with the department.

The bill authorizes district school boards to contract with a DSO for personal services or operations. Retirees of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) must first satisfy the requirements for termination from employment prior to providing services for a FRS employer, and are subject to the reemployment limitations in law.

The bill also raises the threshold of expenditures and expenses that requires a district school board DSO to undergo an annual financial audit from \$100,000 to \$250,000 and authorizes district school boards to contract with a vendor for the audit.

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

CS/CS/CS/HB 1537 (ch. 2023-39, L.O.F.) - Education

By: Education & Employment Committee; Appropriations Committee; Education Quality

Subcommittee; Rizo, Daniels, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1430; includes parts of CS/HB 287; CS/HB 289; HB 459; CS/CS/HB 857; HB

891; CS/CS/HB 7051; CS/CS/SB 240; SB 294; SB 348; SB 1564; SB 1654

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

& Employment Committee

Category: Budget; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill streamlines Florida's teacher preparation programs and requirements, and expands upon program uniform core curricula. The bill requires a system-wide shift from professional development to professional learning by defining the requirements for professional learning and requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to create a high-quality programs web-based marketplace. The bill protects administrators' responsibility to visit and observe classroom teachers throughout the year.

The bill extends temporary teaching certificates from 3 years to 5 years, but limits the certificate to a one-time, non-renewable issuance. In addition, candidates who are currently enrolled in state-approved teacher preparation programs and who meet certain requirements are eligible for a temporary certification.

The bill requires instruction on Asian American and Pacific Islander history; instruction on the history and significance of September 11, 2001, for middle and high school students; replaces one practical arts credit with one career and technical education credit; adds measures to the school grades formula; and expands postsecondary credit pathways. Each school district must annually review and confirm that all reproductive health and disease information, including instructional materials, parental exemption process and form, and associated links available on the district school board website are accurate and up-to-date. The bill creates the year-round school pilot program, established for a period of four years.

The bill authorizes school districts to select the Classic Learning Test (CLT) for an annual districtwide administration for certain students and allows students to earn a concordant score on the CLT to meet the initial eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program (Bright Futures). Bright Futures students may combine volunteer and paid work hours to meet initial eligibility requirements, including paid work completed on or after June 27, 2022, in the student's total of required paid work hours. Effective upon becoming a law, concordant scores for students graduating in the 2022-23 year are established for eligibility to earn a high school diploma.

The bill adds a rebuttable presumption within school district zero tolerance policies, and provides for privacy of student personal belongings during a search.

The bill authorizes a charter school governing board to adopt rules to allow for the issuance of an adjunct teaching certificate to any applicant who fulfills the certification requirements under the law, and modifies charter capital outlay funding eligibility requirements.

The bill authorizes additional enforcement mechanisms for the Commission for Independent Education at the DOE, and expands fair consumer practices and minimum standards for licensure of private, postsecondary institutions under the jurisdiction of the commission.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the sum of \$1 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated to the DOE to be used for the procurement of bleeding control kits for placement in public schools across the state, and a sum of \$5.8 million in nonrecurring funds is appropriated to the DOE for the competitive procurement of a statewide transparency tool to support the implementation of instructional and library materials requirements imposed in chapters 2022-21, 2022-22, and 2022-72, Laws of Florida.

This bill became law on May 9, 2023, chapter 2023-39, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

CS/CS/HB 7039 (ch. 2023-108, L.O.F.) - Student Outcomes

By: Education & Employment Committee; PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Education Quality

**Subcommittee; Trabulsy and others** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1424

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

Committee

Category: Early Learning; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill creates a framework for increasing reading and math proficiency. It requires school districts to identify and provide immediate, tailored instruction to students in grades K-4 who exhibit a substantial deficiency in math or characteristics of dyscalculia, and to students in grades K-3 who exhibit characteristics of dyslexia. Students must undergo evaluation at the end of every grading period, parents must be notified of their child's progress, and district school boards must create individualized plans that incorporate specific elements. The Department of Education (DOE) is tasked with identifying state-approved mathematics and reading intervention programs, curricula, and high-quality supplemental materials.

School district reading plans must prioritize the assignment of highly effective teachers to K-2 classrooms and the assignment of reading coaches to individual schools. All reading literacy instruction and materials must be grounded in the science of reading and the use of three-cueing is prohibited. Performance standards for VPK students and courses in emergent literacy for prekindergarten instructors must include foundational background knowledge correlated with K-12 content. VPK curriculum must also develop students' background knowledge through a content-rich and sequential knowledge-building early literacy curriculum. Private prekindergarten providers or public schools that fail to meet minimum learning gains must use state-approved curricula.

Finally, the bill expands the New Worlds Reading Initiative to pre-K students in public and private provider VPK programs, and provides K-5 math scholarship accounts.

The State Board of Education is required to define the course standards for dropout prevention and academic intervention programs, also known as credit retrieval courses, offered by school districts.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-108, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

#### **Postsecondary Education & Workforce Subcommittee**

CS/CS/SB 240 (ch. 2023-81, L.O.F.) Education

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 7051; includes parts of CS/HB 141, CS/HB 465, CS/CS/CS/HB 1537, CS/SB

196, CS/CS/SB 1430, and SB 2502

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

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

**Education; Pre-K through 12 Education; Taxes** 

The bill enhances and streamlines provisions to improve the implementation and expansion of workforce education programs. Among other things, the bill:

- expands the Reimagining Education and Career Help Office's duty to facilitate the development and expansion of apprenticeship, preapprenticeship, and other work-based learning (WBL) models.
- establishes regional consortiums to meet and report to local workforce development boards the most effective ways to grow, retain, and attract talent.
- increases access to career and technical education (CTE) for middle and high school students, including opportunities for WBL, such as apprenticeships.
- requires a middle school student who completes a CTE course or an industry certification included in the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List (Funding List) to be given the opportunity to continue a sequential program in the same concentration via controlled open enrollment if a high school in the district offers the program.
- requires each district school board to provide each student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 with access to at least one WBL opportunity and to adopt policies and procedures that require each high school to host an annual career fair.
- requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt three funding tiers for postsecondary certifications on the Funding List according to anticipated wages.
- authorizes district career centers to offer Associate in Science and Associate in Applied Science degree programs, upon approval by the SBE.
- expands the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program (PCOG) to facilitate more employers creating, expanding, and operating apprenticeship programs.
- revises the Workforce development Capitalization Incentive Grant and the PCOG by removing the requirement that the grants be administered on a competitive basis.
- converts the Open Door Grant Program to a student financial assistance program and provides requirements.
- requires the ABLE Trust to research, identify, and report on the systems in the state that provide services to persons with disabilities.
- Authorizes state universities to create workforce education partnership programs that facilitate work and learn opportunities for students.

• Expands and renames the internship tax credit program to include businesses that employ student apprentices and preapprentices.

The bill became law on May 15, 2023, chapter 2023-81, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 266 (ch. 2023-82, L.O.F.) - Higher Education

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Education; Education Postsecondary; Grall

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 999; includes parts of CS/HB 1035; SB 244

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

**Policy** 

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill prohibits a state college, state university, or one of their direct-support organizations, from expending state or federal funds on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs or activities unless required for compliance with federal law, state law, or regulations, for accreditation, or in support of specified access programs. The bill requires the Board of Governors (BOG) to review the alignment of state university missions, including, providing a directive to each university regarding its programs for any curriculum that violates the Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) or is based on divisive concepts.

The bill provides final authority to university presidents to select and hire the provost, the deans, and all full-time faculty for the university. The president may only delegate this authority to specified university personnel. Additionally, the university board of trustees must have procedures to review the university president's selection and reappointment of his or her executive management team. The bill prohibits the use of statements, pledges, or oaths, except those to uphold state, federal, or constitutional law, in the institution's admissions, hiring, employment, promotion, tenure, disciplinary, or evaluation processes.

The bill removes the prohibition on a public postsecondary education institution remaining with the same accrediting agency or association for consecutive accreditation cycles. The bill clarifies that public postsecondary education institutions are not required to change accreditors more than once and provides additional protections for these institutions from retaliatory and adverse actions by accreditors.

The bill re-aligns the missions of the Florida Institute of Politics at Florida State University, the Adam Smith Center for the Study of Economic Freedom at Florida International University, the Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education at the University of Florida, and establishes the Institute for Risk Management and Insurance Education at the University of Central Florida. The bill prohibits general education core courses that distort significant historical events, teach identity politics, or violate the FEEA and establishes new standards and adoption procedures for these courses.

The bill adds a new standard for the Preeminent State Research University Program related to annual STEM-related research expenditures, including federal expenditures, of \$50 million or more. The bill revises provisions related to the programs of strategic emphasis fee waiver to protect students from losing the waiver based on a change to an approved program and requiring the BOG to identify two teacher preparation programs that qualify for the waiver.

The bill became law on May 15, 2023, chapter 2023-82, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

SB 274 - Nursing Education Pathway for Military Combat Medics

By: Avila and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 517

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Health Policy; Rules

Category: Health Care Practitioners; Higher Education and Employment; Military; Post-Secondary

**Education** 

The bill creates the "Pathway for Military Combat Medics Act." The bill expands existing law for awarding postsecondary credit for military training and education courses to include the application of military combat medic training and education toward postsecondary credit (credit) or career education clock hours (clock hours) in accredited nursing education programs.

The bill directs the Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) to form a workgroup to develop a process for prioritizing and determining postsecondary course equivalencies, as well as the minimum credit or clock hours that must be awarded in an accredited nursing education program for military training and education required for service in specified positions. The process must be approved by the State University System's Board of Governors (BOG) and the State Board of Education (SBE). Furthermore, it calls for the ACC to approve a list of postsecondary course equivalencies, as well as credit and clock hours awarded for such courses and training, which must be approved by the BOG and SBE in the statewide articulation agreement. Finally, the approved list must be used by state universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers to award credit or clock hours, which must be transferable.

The bill revises a primary goal of the Florida Center for Nursing to include encouraging and coordinating the development of partnerships, including partnerships with hospitals to provide opportunities for nursing students to gain clinical experience, and requiring such partnerships be addressed and included in the strategic statewide plan for nursing manpower.

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

SB 596 - Board of Governors of the State University System

By: Martin

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 515

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability;

**Rules** 

**Category: Criminal Justice; Post-Secondary Education** 

The bill authorizes the Board of Governors (BOG) Inspector General, or designee, to issue and serve subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum on behalf of the BOG or a state university to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, and other data in any medium.

In the event of noncompliance with an issued subpoena, the bill authorizes the BOG Inspector General to petition the circuit court of the county in which the person subpoenaed resides or has his or her principal place of business for an order requiring the subpoenaed person to appear and testify and to produce documents, reports, answers, records, accounts, or other data as specified in the subpoena.

CS/SB 598 (ch. 2023-92, L.O.F.) - Higher Educational Facilities Financing

By: Education Postsecondary; Martin

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 257

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Governmental Oversight and Accountability;

Rules

Category: Higher Education and Employment; Post-Secondary Education

The bill revises several provisions relating to the makeup and operation of the Higher Educational Facilities Financing Authority (HEFFA). Specifically, the bill:

- modifies the legislative findings and declarations by clarifying the necessity of the public interest of the provisions enacted as a matter of legislative determination.
- specifies the start of a term when the Governor appoints a new member to the HEFFA as beginning on the later of the date the current term expires or the date the new member was appointed.
- allows for the HEFFA to conduct a public meeting or workshop by means of communications
  media technology. For meetings or workshops being conducted via communications media
  technology, the bill requires the HEFFA to provide notice requirements for such meetings and
  workshops. The bill also revises the requirement for the HEFFA to take action by defining a
  quorum and the necessity of an affirmative vote of a majority of members participating in the
  meeting.
- authorizes the HEFFA to contract with an entity as its agent and to assist the HEFFA with administrative matters.
- prohibits the HEFFA from entering into a financing agreement with a participating institution for a project, if at the time the agreement is executed, the institution is not financially responsible and not fully capable of and willing to fulfill its obligation under the financing agreement.
- increases the timeframe that the HEFFA is required to submit a report to the Governor and the
  presiding officers of each house of the Legislature, from two to six months after the end of its
  fiscal year.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-92, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 732 - Collegiate Purple Star Campuses

By: Education Postsecondary; Wright and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 845

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 establishes the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses Program, modeled after the K-12 Purple Star School of Distinction Program. This program will identify participating Florida College System (FCS), State University System (SUS) institutions, or career centers that support military-connected collegiate students.

At a minimum, the program must require a participating FCS, SUS, or career center to: designate a staff member as a military liaison; maintain a web page on the institution's website which includes resources for military students and their families; maintain a student-led transition program that assists military students in transitioning to the institution; offer professional development training opportunities for staff members on issues relating to military students; and provide priority course registration for military students.

The State Board of Education (SBE) and Board of Governors (BOG) may establish additional criteria to identify FCS, SUS, and career centers that demonstrate a commitment to or provide critical transition supports for military-connected families.

The bill requires the SBE to adopt rules, and the BOG to adopt regulations, to implement the program.

CS/CS/SB 846 (ch. 2023-34, L.O.F.) - Agreements of Educational Entities with Foreign Entities

By: Rules; Judiciary; Avila

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 679

Committee(s) of Reference: Education Postsecondary; Judiciary; Rules

**Category: Post-Secondary Education** 

The bill prohibits a state university or state college, including their direct support organizations, from accepting any grant from or participating in any agreement with any college, university, or entity that is based in a foreign country of concern or any foreign principal, unless the state university or state college has received approval from the Board of Governors or the State Board of Education, respectively.

The bill also prohibits a state university, state college, or any employee or representative of such entities, from soliciting or accepting a gift in their official capacity – regardless of value – from a college or university based in a foreign country of concern or a foreign principal.

The bill disqualifies a private school owned or operated by a person or entity domiciled in, owned by, or in any way controlled by a foreign country of concern or foreign principal from participating in an educational scholarship program.

The bill became law on May 8, 2023, chapter 2023-34, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 931 (ch. 2023-83, L.O.F.) - Postsecondary Educational Institutions

By: Education & Employment Committee; Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Roach and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 958

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

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Education & Employment Committee** 

**Category: Post-Secondary Education** 

The bill requires each state university to establish an Office of Public Policy Events (OPPE). The bill requires that each OPPE organize, publicize, and stage debates or group forums that address a range of public policy issues. The bill prohibits the use of political loyalty tests in a public institution of higher education's hiring, admissions, or promotion processes. The bill updates the reporting deadline for the required Intellectual Freedom and Viewpoint Diversity survey results from September 1 to December 31, annually, beginning December 31, 2024.

The bill designates the Florida Student Association (FSA) as the nonprofit advocacy group for Florida's State University System students and requires the FSA to adopt bylaws providing due process protections for its president.

The bill became law on May 15, 2023, chapter 2023-83, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Health & Human Services Committee Representative Randy Fine, Chair Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka, Vice Chair

#### **2023 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION**



#### Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

Representative Traci Koster, Chair Representative Patt Maney, Vice Chair

#### **Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee**

Representative Charles Wesley Clemons Sr., Chair Representative David Borrero, Vice Chair

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

He	alth & Human Services Committee	153
	Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices	157
	CS/SB 252 (ch. 2023-43, L.O.F.) - Protection from Discrimination Based on	
	Health Care Choices	158
	HB 7061 (ch. 2023-77, L.O.F.) - Sheriffs Providing Child Protective Investigative Services	159
Ch	ildren, Families & Seniors Subcommittee	
	CS/SB 210 - Substance Abuse Services	161
	CS/CS/SB 272 - Children and Young Adults in Out-of-home Care	162
	CS/CS/SB 538 - Provisional Child Care Licensing	163
	CS/CS/HB 625 - Children's Initiative Projects	164
	CS/SB 664 - Contracts Entered into by the Department of Children and Families	165
	HB 829 - Operation and Administration of the Baker Act	166
	CS/SB 914 - Suicide Prevention	167
	CS/CS/SB 1064 - Trauma Screening for Children Removed from Caregivers	168
	HB 1087 - Child Support	169
	CS/CS/HB 1119 - Withholding or Withdrawal of Life-prolonging Procedures	170
	CS/SB 1190 - Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Pilot Program	171
	CS/HB 1275 - Persons with Disabilities Registry	172
	CS/HB 1277 - Pub.Rec./Persons with Disabilities Registry	173
	CS/CS/SB 1322 - Adoption	174
	HB 1349 - Mental Health Treatment	175
	SB 1396 - Department of Elderly Affairs	176
	CS/CS/HB 1517 - Agency for Persons with Disabilities	177
	CS/SB 1540 - Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Teams	178
	CS/SB 1542 - Public Records and Public Meetings/Elder Abuse or	
	Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Team	179
	CS/CS/CS/SB 1690 (ch. 2023-85, L.O.F.) - Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking	180

He	althcare Regulation Subcommittee	
	HB 35 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact	182
	CS/CS/HB 121 - Florida KidCare Program Eligibility	183
	CS/CS/HB 139 - Benefits, Training, and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses	183
	SB 218 - Genetic Counselors Using Telehealth	184
	CS/CS/SB 230 - Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations	184
	CS/SB 254 (ch. 2023-90, L.O.F.) - Treatments for Sex Reassignment	185
	HB 267 (ch. 2023-63, L.O.F.) - Telehealth Practice Standards	186
	CS/CS/HB 299 - Education and Training For Alzheimer's Disease and Related Forms of Dementia	187
	SB 300 (ch. 2023-21, L.O.F.) - Pregnancy and Parenting Support	188
	CS/HB 341 - 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator Certifications	189
	CS/HB 385 - Professional Counselors Licensure Compact	189
	CS/CS/HB 387 - Medical Use of Marijuana	190
	CS/CS/CS/HB 391 - Home Health Aides for Medically Fragile Children	191
	CS/SB 558 - Certified Nursing Assistants	192
	CS/SB 612 - Blood Clot and Pulmonary Embolism Policy Workgroup	193
	SB 614 (ch. 2023-45, L.O.F.) - Mammography Reports	193
	SB 768 - Referral of Patients by Health Care Providers	194
	CS/CS/HB 783 - Opioid Abatement	195
	CS/CS/HB 897 - Group Health Plans	195
	CS/HB 967 - Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors	196
	CS/HB 1133 - Physician Assistant Licensure	197
	CS/CS/SB 1352 - Sickle Cell Disease Medications, Treatment, and Screening	198
	CS/CS/HB 1387 (ch. 2023-71, L.O.F.) - Department of Health	199
	CS/CS/HB 1471 - Health Care Provider Accountability	200
	CS/CS/SB 1550 (ch. 2023-29, L.O.F.) - Prescription Drugs	201
	CS/SB 1552 (ch. 2023-30, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Pharmacy Benefit Managers	202
	CS/SB 1580 (ch. 2023-57, L.O.F.) - Protections of Medical Conscience	203

CS/CS/SB 238 (ch. 2023-42, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Protection from Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices

By: Fiscal Policy; Health Policy; Burton and others

Tied Bills: CS/SB 252

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1015

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

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Government in the Sunshine; Health; Health Care

Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12

**Education** 

CS/SB 252, to which this bill is linked, establishes prohibitions against governmental entities, educational institutions and private businesses, related to COVID-19 vaccination, testing and face masks, and non-COVID-19 vaccination, and authorizes enforcement by the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) and the Department of Health (DOH).

This bill establishes a public records exemption for complaints and investigation information related to violations of the new prohibitions established in the linked bill, held by either DLA or DOH. The exemption applies until the investigation is completed or ceases to be active, after which, the information remains confidential and exempt if disclosure would jeopardize the integrity of another active investigation, reveal medical information, or reveal information regarding religious beliefs.

Information made confidential and exempt may be released to another business, governmental entity, or educational institution in the furtherance of that entity's lawful duties and responsibilities.

The bill provides a public necessity statement as required by the Florida Constitution, and repeals the public record exemption October 2, 2028, unless saved by the Legislature.

This bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-42, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on June 1, 2023.

CS/SB 252 (ch. 2023-43, L.O.F.) - Protection from Discrimination Based on Health Care Choices

By: Fiscal Policy; Burton and others

Tied Bills: CS/CS/SB 238

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1013

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

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health

Care Practitioners; Health Services; Post-Secondary Education; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill amends current law regulating government, education institution and private business requirements for COVID-19 vaccination proof, COVID-19 tests, and masks; and expands regulation to address use of Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) vaccines, Moderna-mRNA vaccines, and any other vaccine. The bill regulates businesses, governmental entities, and educational institutions by:

- prohibiting them from requiring a person to take a COVID-19 test, wear a mask, or document vaccination status for any COVID-19, mRNA, or EUA vaccine to gain access to or use services.
- prohibiting them from discriminating against a person for refusing to comply with a requirement prohibited by law, and from employment discrimination.
- prohibiting them from using international public health organization policies, unless authorized by state government.
- requiring them to provide exemptions and reasonable accommodations related to other (non-COVID-19, non-EUA and non-mRNA) vaccines.
- prohibiting health care businesses from requiring masks, except in compliance with emergency rules by the Department of Health (DOH) and the Agency for Health Care Administration.

The bill regulates the use of COVID-19 treatment by prohibiting hospitals from interfering with a patient's choice of treatment, under certain circumstances, and requiring practitioners to obtain certain informed consent that addresses certain COVID-19 treatment alternatives.

The bill requires the Department of Legal Affairs to enforce the provisions against businesses and governmental entities, and DOH to enforce the provisions against educational institutions.

This bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-43, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on June 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

HB 7061 (ch. 2023-77, L.O.F.) - Sheriffs Providing Child Protective Investigative Services

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Koster

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 7056** 

**Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee** 

Category: Civil Justice; Government Operations; Law Enforcement; Public Employees; Public Safety;

Repeals of Existing Laws; Retirement; Safety; Social Services

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) performs child protective investigations in 60 counties, and sheriffs' offices do so in seven counties.

The bill transfers responsibilities for child protective investigation services by sheriffs to DCF by December 31, 2023, with a phased transfer in accordance with a schedule jointly determined with the sheriffs. The bill specifies the requirements for the transfer, including terms for employee transfer. The bill requires claims or causes of action regarding sheriff-provided investigations filed after responsibilities transfer to DCF to be defended and indemnified by DCF. It also addresses the handling of records, use of facilities, final grant accounting, and disposition of assets.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-77, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on January 1, 2024.

#### Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee

CS/SB 204 - Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care

By: Fiscal Policy; Rouson and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 143

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

Category: Criminal Justice; Government Operations; Law Enforcement; Public Safety; Safety; Social

**Services** 

The bill creates the Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care (task force) within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The task force must identify and counter the root causes of why children go missing while in foster care, ensure prompt and effective action is taken to address such causes, and examine and recommend improvements to current policies, procedures, programs, and initiatives. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Florida Institute for Child Welfare must assist the task force by, respectively, submitting monthly reports and conducting focus groups and individual interviews with current and former foster youth.

The task force must be composed of 13 members, including, but not limited to, a representative from the Senate, the House of Representatives, DCF, FDLE, the Guardian ad Litem program, Safe Kids Florida within the Department of Health, and community based care lead agencies.

The task force must submit its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2024.

The bill sunsets the task force June 30, 2025, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

CS/SB 210 - Substance Abuse Services

By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Harrell

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 295

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Administrative Procedure; Controlled Substances; Health; Health Services; Substance Abuse

The bill modifies requirements for licensed substance abuse service providers and recovery residences.

The bill prohibits the use of the following substances on the premises of substance abuse service providers licensed by the Department of Children and Families (DCF):

- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Medical marijuana
- Prescription drugs used by a person other than whom the medication is prescribed

The bill requires applicants for licensure as substance abuse service providers to provide proof that the provider will prohibit the use of such substances, and prohibits referrals from licensed providers to recovery residences that allow the use of the barred substances on the premises.

The bill specifies that a referral to a recovery residence includes the placement of a patient into the licensed community housing component of the provider's day or night treatment program, regardless of whether the community housing component is affiliated with the licensed provider.

The bill makes it a second degree misdemeanor for any person discharged from a recovery residence to willfully refuse to leave the premises after being warned by the owner or an authorized employee.

The bill requires DCF to establish a mechanism by January 1, 2024, for imposing and collecting fines for failed inspections of licensed substance abuse service providers and for improper referrals made by a licensed provider.

CS/CS/SB 272 - Children and Young Adults in Out-of-home Care

By: Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Garcia and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1101

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Health Services; Mental Health; Pre-K through 12 Education; Safety; Social Services

The bill is named the "Nancy C. Detert Champion for Children Act," It requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to work with children in foster care to ensure case managers or other staff provide them information on topics including, at a minimum:

- Nurturing care, personal safety, and protection from abuse, abandonment, and neglect
- Education
- Placement, visitation, and contact with siblings, family, and other important persons
- Court participation
- Participation in permanency planning, transition planning, and other case planning
- Access to food, clothing, shelter, and health care
- Normalcy and what that means for children and young adults in out-of-home care

The bill also establishes the Office of the Children's Ombudsman in DCF and specifies its responsibilities in assisting children and young adults.

The bill allows former foster youth who are in the Postsecondary Education Services and Support program and who had been adopted out of foster care or placed with a guardian after turning 16 to receive assistance with obtaining driver licenses and insurance under s. 409.1454, F.S., known as the Keys to Independence program.

CS/CS/SB 538 - Provisional Child Care Licensing

By: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Children, Families, and Elder Affairs;

Trumbull

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1155

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space,

and Domestic Security; Rules

Category: Early Learning; Federal Government; Military; Pre-K through 12 Education; Social Services

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families, or the local licensing agency, to issue a child care provisional license or registration if the operator or owner:

- is applying for an initial license or registration for a child care facility, family day care home, or a large family child care home
- has made adequate provisions for the health and safety of the child
- provides evidence that he or she has completed, within the previous 6 months, Department of Defense training and background screening to provide child care and received a favorable suitability and fitness determination.

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

CS/CS/HB 625 - Children's Initiative Projects

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Bracy Davis and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1578

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

Committee

Category: Early Learning; Health Services; Higher Education and Employment; Local Government; Pre-K through 12 Education; Social Services

Children's initiatives are neighborhood-based service networks that develop, coordinate, and provide quality education, accessible health care, youth development programs, opportunities for employment, and safe and affordable housing. The Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, Inc., (the Ounce) approves new initiatives and oversees any state funding for them, based on the goals, strategies, and tasks outlined in their strategic community plans.

The bill amends current statutory criteria for establishing children's initiatives. Specifically, the bill:

- expands the ways in which a county or municipality must recognize a not-for-profit corporation to serve as a children's initiative.
- requires the Ounce to prioritize counties for designation that do not have a children's initiative that are trying to establish an initiative.
- expands objectives of working groups forming a children's initiative strategic community plan.

The bill renames the Parramore Kidz Zone the "Orlando Kidz Zones" and adds to it the Orlando neighborhoods of Mercy Drive and Englewood. The bill applies current statutory requirements and exemptions for children's initiatives to the Orlando Kidz Zones. The bill also renames the Tampa Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise Success Zone (SSNOP) the "Tampa Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise."

CS/SB 664 - Contracts Entered into by the Department of Children and Families

By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Burgess

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 757

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Governmental Oversight and

**Accountability**; Rules

**Category: Courts; Safety; Social Services** 

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) contracts with regional community-based care lead agencies (CBC's) to manage and deliver child welfare services. Case managers develop case plans approved by the court that specify a dependent child's permanency goal or goals, and also coordinate adoptive home studies.

The bill requires CBC's to annually provide written and published operating procedures that detail timelines and procedures to maximize the use of concurrent case planning, minimize the time to complete preliminary and final adoptive home studies, streamline data entry into the statewide child welfare information system, and reduce time to permanency. The bill also requires CBC's to gather all necessary information to complete the child-specific section of the unified home study, excluding information related to any prospective caregiver, and enter it into the child welfare information system of record no later than 90 days after the filing of the petition for termination of parental rights.

HB 829 - Operation and Administration of the Baker Act

By: Silvers and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 938

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

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Courts; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Law Enforcement; Mental Health; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Employees; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services; Substance Abuse

The Baker Act provides legal procedures for voluntary and involuntary mental health examination and treatment.

The bill requires the Department of Children and Families to annually update the Baker Act handbook required under current law, to facilitate understanding of the Baker Act, and to maintain a Frequently Asked Questions repository.

CS/SB 914 - Suicide Prevention By: Rules; Garcia and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 655

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

Category: Health; Health Financing; Health Services; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Mental Health; Public Employees; Repeals of Existing Laws; Social Services; Substance Abuse; Technology

The Commission on Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Commission) studies and recommends improvements to the mental health and substance abuse services available in the state.

The bill renames the Commission as the Commission on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder and requires the Governor to appoint to it a representative of the statewide Florida 211 network. The bill extends the Commission's repeal date to September 1, 2026. The bill also extends the Commission's reporting obligations and requires it to submit annual interim reports through January 1, 2025, and a final report by September 1, 2026, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate. The bill directs the Commission to include findings on the following issues relating to suicide prevention in its final report:

- The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline system (the 988 system)
- Crisis response services
- Strategies to improve linkages between the 988 system infrastructure and crisis response services
- Available mental health block grant funds
- Funding sources available through Medicaid
- Strategies to ensure that managing entities work with community stakeholders in furtherance of supporting the 988 system and other crisis response services

The bill authorizes active, volunteer, and retired first responders to serve as first responder peers and authorizes an affiliated first responder organization to designate peers to provide support to first responders.

The bill also permits the use of telehealth to diagnose post-traumatic stress disorder in first responders for purposes of obtaining worker's compensation benefits.

CS/CS/SB 1064 - Trauma Screening for Children Removed from Caregivers

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

**Elder Affairs; Yarborough** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1007

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Health; Health Services; Mental Health; Social Services

The bill requires trauma screening, assessment, and therapeutic response when placing children in foster care under s. 39.523, F.S. The bill requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and community-based care lead agencies (CBC's) to screen children removed from their homes for trauma as soon as practicable and, at a minimum, within 21 days of their removal. If appropriate based on screening results, DCF and CBC's must then refer children to trauma assessments and also provide supports to their caregivers.

HB 1087 - Child Support By: Caruso and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 536

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

**Health & Human Services Committee** 

Category: Administrative Procedure; Court Administration; Courts; Federal Government; Social

**Services** 

The Department of Revenue (DOR) administers the child support program in Florida, and collects and enforces child support payments. The child support depository is operated by each clerk of the circuit court and maintains child support payment accounts. The bill makes the following changes to the child support program:

- Requires the clerk of court to credit a depository payment account for collections received by another state while enforcing the Florida administrative support order associated with the account
- Resolves statutory inconsistencies by revising methods for calculating fee allocations deposited into the Clerk of Court Child Support Collection System (CLERC) Trust Fund to fund the CLERC system
- Expands conditions in which a payment agreement with a deferred start date may be used to include when an obligor is participating in good faith job training
- Removes a state exception to the federal prohibition on treating incarceration as voluntary unemployment when establishing or modifying a child support order
- Authorizes DOR to commence an administrative proceeding to determine paternity, and child support, based on an affidavit or written declaration completed by a nonparent caregiver of the child who has knowledge of the child's paternity

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except for the provisions related to incarceration which is effective upon becoming law.

CS/CS/HB 1119 - Withholding or Withdrawal of Life-prolonging Procedures

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Berfield and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1098

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

Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care

**Practitioners; Health Services; Safety; Social Services** 

When an individual loses capacity to make legal decisions, a court may appoint a guardian to make decisions for the individual, or ward. The bill creates new processes regarding a ward's pre-existing health care advance directives, and decisions to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures by a guardian.

The bill requires a guardian to file a ward's advance directive with the court, even if the advance directive was discovered after the guardianship has begun. The bill requires initial and annual guardianship plans to include information relating to pre-existing advance directives and orders not to resuscitate, including when they were signed and whether they were revoked, modified, or suspended by the court. The bill authorizes health care surrogates and agents designated in advance directives or durable powers of attorney to make health care decisions for a ward without additional court approval if the surrogate or agent retained health care decision-making authority under the guardianship plan.

The bill requires a professional guardian to petition the court for the authority to withhold or withdraw life-prolonging procedures prior to making such decisions, with certain exceptions. The bill outlines the contents of the petition, the circumstances in which a court hearing is required, and timeframes.

CS/SB 1190 - Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Pilot Program

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 1337

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

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

**Education; Public Employees; Social Services** 

Young adults who age out of the foster care system can experience challenges achieving self-sufficiency.

The bill creates the "Step Into Success Act" and establishes the three-year Step into Success Workforce Education and Internship Pilot Program (program) to be implemented by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The purpose of the program is to give eligible foster youth and former foster youth an opportunity to learn and develop essential workforce and professional skills; transition from the custody of DCF to independent living; and become better prepared for an independent and successful future.

The program includes two components: a workforce education component and an onsite internship component. State government agencies as well as private-sector organizations may be sites for interns, who must be assigned mentors and, subject to available funding, receive \$1,517 monthly stipends.

The program is available to foster and former foster youth ages 16-25. The bill specifies detailed program requirements, including criteria for participating organizations, participant and mentor qualifications and obligations, program policies and operation, timeframes for implementation, training requirements for participants and mentors, and annual reporting by DCF.

The bill also requires the Board of Governors and the State Board of Education to adopt rules to award postsecondary credit or career education clock hours for eligible former foster youth participating in the internship component.

The bill appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds to DCF to implement the bill.

CS/HB 1275 - Persons with Disabilities Registry

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Plasencia and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 1277

Companion Bills: CS/SB 784

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Criminal Justice

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Highway Safety; Juvenile Justice; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Mental Health; Public Employees;

**Public Safety; Safety; Social Services** 

Some local law enforcement agencies maintain registries for individuals with developmental, mental, neurological, or other impairments to voluntarily enroll to indicate their condition relevant to interactions with law enforcement officers.

The bill establishes uniform requirements for registries of persons with disabilities maintained by law enforcement agencies. The bill requires specified professionals to diagnose and certify a person's developmental, mental, or neurological condition prior to eligibility for enrollment in a registry. The bill specifies how individuals are enrolled in and disenrolled from the registries, depending on their age and capacity.

The bill authorizes a local law enforcement agency to provide access to a registry, and relevant information from the registry, to a law enforcement officer engaged in official duties.

CS/HB 1277 - Pub.Rec./Persons with Disabilities Registry

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Plasencia

Tied Bills: CS/HB 1275

Companion Bills: CS/SB 786

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open

**Government Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee** 

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Highway Safety; Juvenile Justice; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Mental Health; Public Employees; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services

The bill creates a public records exemption for all records and personal identifying information relating to the enrollment of individuals in a Persons with Disabilities Registry held by a local law enforcement agency and provides that such records are confidential and exempt from public disclosure. The bill authorizes a law enforcement agency to make such records and personal identifying information available to certain entities upon a showing of good cause before a court of competent jurisdiction, or in furtherance of their official duties and responsibilities.

The bill provides for prospective and retroactive application of the public records exemption and for repeal of the public records exemption on October 2, 2028, 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 on the same date that HB 1275 or similar legislation takes effect.

CS/CS/SB 1322 - Adoption By: Rules; Judiciary; Grall

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1377

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

**Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Social Services** 

The bill requires birth certificates to be filed with petitions for adoptions and for clerks of court to maintain an adoption case separately from the related termination of parental rights case. It also allows payment of a birth mother's medical expenses after a child's birth without a finding that the mother's medical needs require such support.

Current law allows a private adoption entity to intervene in a state child welfare case to place a dependent child with prospective adoptive parents chosen by the child's parent or the private adoption entity, rather than those chosen by child welfare agencies. The bill:

- limits the time period in which a parent may consent to private adoption during a dependency case.
- grants the court greater discretion regarding a private adoption entity's ability to intervene in the dependency process and accepting a home study from prospective adoptive parents.
- requires the court to give greater consideration to keeping the child in the current placement, under certain conditions.

The bill requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to conduct a national study of adoption intervention, and a review of adoption generally in Florida, and report to the Legislature by January 1, 2024.

The bill became law on May 16, 2023, chapter 2023-84, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

**HB 1349 - Mental Health Treatment** 

By: Melo and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1412

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

**Health & Human Services Committee** 

Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Criminal Justice; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health

Services; Law Enforcement; Mental Health; Transportation

The bill authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to issue a conditional designation for Baker Act mental health receiving and treatment facilities as an alternative to suspension or withdrawal of a non-conditional designation, allowing facilities to address minor noncompliance issues without having to suspend services or reapply for a designation.

The bill also revises the statutory procedures for criminal defendants found incompetent to proceed due to mental illness, as follows:

- Requires expert evaluators and the courts to consider alternative treatment options before ordering a defendant into a treatment facility
- Requires the treatment facility administrator to notify the court within 60 days, instead of 6
  months, when the defendant regains competency or no longer meets commitment criteria, and
  requires the courts to conduct a hearing to determine competency within 30 days of notification
- Reduces the maximum time defendants may wait to be transported from a forensic treatment facility from 30 days to 7 days, once they are competent to proceed or no longer meet the criteria for continued commitment
- Requires sheriffs to administer, or permit DCF to administer, psychotropic medication therapy to forensic clients held in jail awaiting admission to a state mental health treatment facility
- Requires forensic facilities to transfer defendants back to the committing jurisdiction with up to 30 days of medication and to assist in discharge planning with medical teams at the receiving jail.

SB 1396 - Department of Elderly Affairs

By: Garcia

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1411

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

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Courts; Ethics; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Services; Public Employees; Social Services

The bill amends provisions relating to the Department of Elderly Affairs (DOEA).

The Long-term Care Ombudsman Program (Ombudsman Program) is a statewide, volunteer-based system of district councils that advocate on behalf of long-term care facility residents. The bill allows DOEA employees working in the Ombudsman Program to be appointed to local Ombudsman councils.

Prospective employees of entities providing certain DOEA-administered services must undergo a criminal history background check. The bill expands this requirement to include more direct service providers, and eliminate exemptions for attorneys. The bill also deletes obsolete language related to outdated DOEA background screening processes.

The Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG) regulates professional guardians, including practice standards, registration and education requirements, and discipline. The bill changes the training and educational requirements for professional guardians and requires OPPG to provide materials and training for non-professional guardians. The bill also establishes specific timeframes for processing a complaint about a professional guardian, and requires the clerks of courts to report sanctions imposed by a court on a professional guardian to OPPG within 10 business days.

CS/CS/HB 1517 - Agency for Persons with Disabilities

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee; Plakon and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1594

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

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Financing; Health Services; Repeals of Existing Laws;

**Social Services** 

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) administers Florida's Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Waiver, iBudget Florida (iBudget), for individuals with specified developmental disabilities.

The bill modifies the process to apply for waiver services or institutional placement by requiring APD to process all applications within 60 days of receipt, regardless of the age of the applicant. Further, the bill requires APD to complete eligibility determinations for waiver applicants in crisis within 45 days of receipt, or within 90 days if APD has to request additional documentation. The bill revises terminology for the waiting list for iBudget services, changing the term "waiting list categories" to "pre-enrollment categories." The bill requires APD to authorize all institutional admissions, removing authority for APD to delegate this function.

The bill requires APD to establish an interagency workgroup to identify gaps in information and communication across the lifespan of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Additionally, the bill creates a licensure program for adult day training providers, authorizes APD to take disciplinary action relating to verified findings of abuse, neglect, or abandonment of a child or vulnerable adult, and repeals the licensure statute for comprehensive transitional education programs.

CS/SB 1540 - Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Teams

By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Garcia

Tied Bills: CS/SB 1542

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1567

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Civil Justice; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Law

**Enforcement; Mental Health; Safety; Social Services** 

The bill revises the scope, membership, and operations of Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams (review teams). The bill expands the scope of review teams to include vulnerable adults, such as disabled adults and persons over 60 recovering from short-term disabilities or surgery, and renames them as elder and vulnerable adult abuse fatality review teams. The bill also expands the scope of the review teams to include incidents of exploitation.

The bill allows a state attorney, a law enforcement agency, the Department of Children and Families, or the Agency for Persons with Disabilities to initiate review teams. The bill requires a representative of the initiating entity to serve as a co-chair of the review team, with the other co-chair selected by the team members. The geographic area of the team is restricted to the service area of the initiating entity.

The bill requires review team members to sign a written acknowledgement of their obligations to comply with applicable public records requirements under current law and prohibits them from knowingly disclosing or revealing records that are confidential and exempt. The initiating entity must provide the acknowledgement form and train review team members on public records requirements.

The bill allows review team members to contact family members of persons whose cases are being reviewed, in certain circumstances. The bill expands immunity from monetary liability to apply to persons providing information to review teams and prohibits records created or held by a review team from being used in a civil or criminal trial.

CS/SB 1542 - Public Records and Public Meetings/Elder Abuse or Vulnerable Adult Abuse Fatality Review Team

By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Garcia

Tied Bills: CS/SB 1540

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1569

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Government in the Sunshine; Social Services** 

The bill creates public record and public meeting exemptions related to elder and vulnerable adult fatality review teams (review teams). The bill is linked to CS/SB 1540, which revises the scope, membership, and operations of review teams.

The bill specifies that information obtained by a review team which is exempt or confidential and exempt under current law retains such status when held by a review team. The bill creates a public record exemption for records created by a review team which reveal the identity of a victim of elder or vulnerable adult abuse, the identity of the persons responsible for their care, and any information otherwise exempt or confidential and exempt.

The bill also creates a public meeting exemption for portions of a review team meeting during which exempt or confidential and exempt information is discussed, including, but not limited to, the identity of a victim and the identity of the persons responsible for their care.

The bill repeals this public meeting and public record exemption on October 2, 2028, unless reenacted by the Legislature, and provides a statement of public necessity as required by the State Constitution.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is on the same date that CS/SB 1540 or similar legislation takes effect if such legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

CS/CS/CS/SB 1690 (ch. 2023-85, L.O.F.) - Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

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

Elder Affairs; Ingoglia

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1557

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

and Human Services; Fiscal Policy

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Budget; Health Services; Mental Health; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services; Substance Abuse

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery whereby children and adults are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for sexual exploitation or forced labor.

The bill addresses residential services for child and adult survivors of, and children who are vulnerable to, human trafficking. The bill requires child welfare safe houses and safe foster homes for children who have experienced human trafficking to have a trained individual on staff to provide security services, and to provide age-appropriate human trafficking awareness education to their residents. Additionally, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) must develop human trafficking public awareness signs, which certain child welfare residential facilities must post.

The bill requires adult safe houses to be certified by DCF. The bill requires a committee of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking to conduct a study of adult safe houses, which must be submitted to the Governor and Legislature. Upon completion of the study, DCF must adopt rules for the certification program.

The bill also reduces the time from 90 to 45 days for a public lodging establishment to correct a first violation of human trafficking-related signage and employee training requirements, and requires the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to impose a penalty without a correction period for subsequent violations.

The bill appropriates \$75,000 in recurring funds and \$388,000 in nonrecurring funds to DCF for technology modifications necessary to implement the bill.

The bill became law on May 16, 2023, chapter 2023-85, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

# **Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee**

CS/HB 33 - Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Hunschofsky; Koster and others

Tied Bills: HB 35

Companion Bills: CS/SB 56

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Mental Health;

**Substance Abuse; Technology** 

The bill enacts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact and authorizes Florida to enter into the compact. The compact allows eligible Florida licensed psychologists to practice psychology across state lines in other compact states in-person, for up to 30 days per year, and through telehealth. To practice psychology in a compact state, the licensed psychologist must apply to, and obtain authorization from, the Compact Commission.

HB 35 - Pub. Rec. and Meetings/Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

By: Hunschofsky; Koster and others

Tied Bills: CS/HB 33

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 58

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open

**Government Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee** 

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

Health Services; Mental Health; Substance Abuse; Technology

CS/HB 33 authorizes Florida to enter into the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact for interstate practice of psychology. Compact states must submit certain records regarding each psychologist into a coordinated licensure database. The compact requires the Compact Commission to hold public meetings, with public notice. However, the Commission may convene in a closed meeting if the Commission must discuss specified topics during the meeting. If the meeting, or a portion of the meeting is closed, the Commission must certify that the meeting is closed and reference each applicable exemption.

The bill creates a public records exemption for an out-of-state psychologist's personal identifying information, other than the name, licensure status, or license number, obtained from the coordinated database required under the compact and held by the Department of Health or the Board of Psychology, unless the laws of the state that reported the information authorize its disclosure.

The bill creates a public meeting exemption for Compact Commission meetings, or portions of a meeting, in which a matter discussed is specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or state statute. The bill also exempts from public records requirements any recordings, minutes, and records generated during an exempt meeting or portions of such meeting.

The bill repeals the public record exemption October 2, 2028, 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 on the same date that HB 33 or similar legislation takes effect.

CS/CS/HB 121 - Florida KidCare Program Eligibility

By: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Bartleman;

Trabulsy and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 246

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Budget; Federal Government; Health; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance; Social

**Services** 

The Florida KidCare Program implements the federal Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in Florida. The CHIP provides federal matching funds to states to subsidize health insurance coverage for children in families with incomes too high to qualify for Medicaid and that meet other eligibility requirements.

The bill increases eligibility for CHIP-subsidized KidCare programs from 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 300% FPL. The bill requires the program to establish new monthly premiums for enrollees in households with incomes over 150% FPL, in at least three, but no more than six, income-based tiers.

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

CS/CS/HB 139 - Benefits, Training, and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses

By: Appropriations Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Woodson and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 858

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Economic Development; Federal Government; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Military; Post-Secondary Education

The bill establishes the Office of Veteran Licensure Services (Office), within the Department of Health (DOH), to assist veterans and their spouses applying for expedited health care licensing and fee waivers. The Office must refer any veteran or spouse seeking training, education, or employment in health care professions to Veterans Florida.

The bill requires the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and Veterans Florida to provide spouses of veterans with all services and benefits currently provided to veterans. The bill requires Veterans Florida to assist veterans and their spouses with access, training, education, or employment in health care professions and to refer veterans and spouses seeking health care licensure to DOH.

SB 218 - Genetic Counselors Using Telehealth

By: Harrell Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 117

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Judiciary; Rules

Category: Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Technology

The bill authorizes genetic counselors licensed or registered in Florida to provide services to patients through telehealth.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 230 - Health Care Practitioner Titles and Designations

By: Rules; Health Policy; Harrell

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 583

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Rules

Category: Administrative Procedure; Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Higher Education and

**Employment; Post-Secondary Education** 

The bill specifies the titles and abbreviations that health care practitioners may use in advertisements, communications, and personal identification. Any unauthorized use of a title or abbreviation constitutes a misleading, deceptive, or fraudulent representation by the health care practitioner and is grounds for discipline by the Department of Health (DOH) or the applicable regulatory board.

The bill requires any advertisement for health care services naming a practitioner to identify the profession under which the practitioner is practicing and the practitioner's educational degree. The bill also requires health care practitioners to wear name badges, establishes requirements for name badges, and provides exemptions. The bill directs each board, or DOH if there is no regulatory board, to establish rules determining how practitioners must comply with this requirement.

CS/SB 254 (ch. 2023-90, L.O.F.) - Treatments for Sex Reassignment

By: Health Policy; Yarborough and othrs

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: None** 

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

Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Courts; Criminal Justice; Federal Government; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance; Local

Government; Post-Secondary Education; Public Employees; Public Safety; Safety

The bill regulates sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures provided or performed for the purpose of affirming a person's perceived gender, including surgical and hormonal therapies and treatments. The bill prohibits health care practitioners from providing sex-reassignment treatment to minors, with exceptions, and allows minors receiving drug therapy prior to bill's effective date to continue such treatment.

The bill prohibits all health care practitioners, except Florida-licensed physicians and physicians employed by the Federal Government, from providing sex-reassignment treatment. The bill requires a physician to obtain in-person, written informed consent on a form adopted by the Board of Medicine or Board of Osteopathic Medicine, as applicable, each time the physician provides sex-reassignment treatment, other than prescription renewals for which the physician has previously obtained the informed consent.

The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to issue an emergency order suspending the license of any practitioner who provides sex-reassignment treatment to a minor. DOH, or the applicable board, may take disciplinary action against the license of a practitioner who violates any of the requirements for sex-reassignment treatment. The bill imposes criminal penalties for certain violations.

The bill creates a civil cause of action for minors for injuries caused by sex reassignment treatment, applicable to injuries sustained from treatment provided after the bill becomes law.

The bill prohibits the use of state funds by a government entity for sex-reassignment prescriptions and procedures.

The bill grants Florida courts temporary emergency jurisdiction to protect a child from sex-reassignment treatment and considers sex reassignment treatment to be grounds for issuing a physical custody warrant.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-90, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

HB 267 (ch. 2023-63, L.O.F.) - Telehealth Practice Standards

By: Fabricio and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 298** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

**Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee** 

Category: Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Technology; Utilities and

**Communications** 

The bill expressly authorizes health care practitioners to provide services via audio-only telephone calls under the telehealth authorization statute.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-63, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 299 - Education and Training For Alzheimer's Disease and Related Forms of Dementia By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Black; Salzman and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1182

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services

Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Services; Mental Health; Repeals of Existing Laws;

Safety

The bill requires all employees of nursing homes, home health agencies, nurse registries, homemaker and companion service providers, assisted living facilities (ALFs), adult family-care homes, and adult day care centers, to complete one hour of initial training on Alzheimer's disease or related disorders (ADRD) within 30 days of beginning employment. Employees of a health care services pool must complete ADRD training that is applicable to the type of facility where they work.

The bill requires employees of ALFs, nurse registries, homemaker and companion service providers, and adult family-care homes who provide direct care to individuals with ADRD to complete additional training within seven months of beginning employment. The bill requires employees of adult family-care homes that provide special care for individuals with ADRD to complete four hours of continuing education annually.

The bill requires all individuals currently employed, contracted, or referred to provide services when the bill becomes effective to complete the required training by July 1, 2026. Individuals newly employed, contracted, or referred to provide services on or after the effective date of the bill may complete training using any existing training curriculum approved by the Department of Elder Affairs. The bill provides a grandfather clause for an employee who shows proof of completion of training that is equivalent to the training requirements of the bill.

SB 300 (ch. 2023-21, L.O.F.) - Pregnancy and Parenting Support

By: Grall and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7

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

Category: Budget; Courts; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing;

Health Services; Mental Health; Repeals of Existing Laws; Social Services; Technology

The bill expands the types of services that may be provided through the Florida Pregnancy Support Services Program (FPSS) to include parenting services, nonmedical material assistance, counseling, mentoring, education materials, and classes on pregnancy, parenting, adoption, life skills and employment readiness. The bill expands eligibility for services to include adoptive parents of children under age three and their families. The bill appropriates \$25 million to the FPSS program and \$5 million to the Department of Health family planning program. These provisions are effective upon becoming law.

The bill prohibits abortions if the gestational age of the fetus is more than 6 weeks, and retains the medical and fatal fetal anomaly exceptions in current law, and adds exceptions for rape, incest and human trafficking if the fetus is less than 15 weeks of age under certain circumstances. The bill deletes all provisions in current law related to the viability standard, including the prohibition against abortions after viability.

The bill requires abortion-inducing drugs to be dispensed in person by a physician, and expressly prohibits the use of telehealth for abortion. The bill also prohibits the use of state funds to pay for travel out-of-state to obtain an abortion, with certain exceptions.

The abortion provisions of the bill take effect if specified events occur that change Florida jurisprudence on the privacy clause in the state constitution.

The bill became law on April 13, 2023, chapter 2023-21, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date, except where otherwise provided as contingent.

CS/HB 341 - 911 Public Safety Telecommunicator Certifications By: Health & Human Services Committee; Amesty and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 980

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services

Committee

Category: Emergency Management; Government Operations; Health; Health Services; Law

Enforcement; Local Government; Public Employees; Public Safety; Safety

The bill allows the certification of a 911 public safety telecommunicator to automatically revert to inactive status for up to six years if not renewed at the end of the two-year certification period. The bill also provides retroactive applicability to certificates that have expired or are set to expire in the six-year period preceding 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/HB 385 - Professional Counselors Licensure Compact

By: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Porras and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 140

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing;

**Health Services; Mental Health** 

CS/HB 385 amends the Professional Counselors Licensure Compact (compact) to insert missing compact language giving member states the discretion to collect fees. This conforms Florida law to the terms of the compact, but does not authorize the Department of Health to collect a fee.

CS/CS/HB 387 - Medical Use of Marijuana

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Roach

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 344

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services

Committee

Category: Agriculture; Business and Professional Regulation; Commerce; Consumer Protection; Controlled Substances; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Public Safety; Safety; Technology

The bill authorizes a physician who performs an in-person examination of a patient for the initial physician certification for medical marijuana to use telehealth to conduct subsequent examinations of that patient for renewal physician certifications. The bill also authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to suspend a physician's medical marijuana registration for up to 2 years if the physician provides, advertises, or markets telehealth services before July 1, 2023, or violates any medical marijuana law or rule.

The bill requires DOH to issue medical marijuana licenses to applicants for the *Pigford v. Glickman/In Re Black Farmers* litigants medical marijuana license if such applicant:

- Received a DOH notice of intent to deny or approve the application and the application had no deficiencies, or
- Received a final determination from DOH in an administrative challenge that applicant met all requirements for licensure, even if the applicant dies during the challenge process, or
- Had deficiencies in its application but cures such deficiencies within 90 days.

CS/CS/CS/HB 391 - Home Health Aides for Medically Fragile Children

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Tramont and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 452

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Budget; Civil Justice; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Financing; Health Services;

**Social Services** 

The bill creates the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program to allow a family caregiver to be reimbursed by Medicaid as a home health aide for medically fragile children (HHAMFC), for children meeting certain criteria.

The bill authorizes a HHAMFC to perform certain tasks if delegated by a registered nurse, and requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), in consultation with the Board of Nursing, to approve HHAMFC training programs developed by home health agencies which meet certain criteria.

The bill requires AHCA to establish a fee schedule with a family caregiver reimbursement rate of \$25 per hour for up to 8 hours per day. The bill requires services provided by a HHAMFC to result in a reduction in Medicaid-funded private duty nursing service hours provided to the child, and prohibits services provided by a HHAMFC from duplicating private duty nursing services.

The bill provides civil liability protections for a home health agency that terminates or denies employment to a HHAMFC for failure to comply with HHAMFC regulations or whose name appears on a criminal screening report of the Department of Law Enforcement.

Beginning January 1, 2025, the bill requires AHCA to conduct annual assessments of the Home Health Aide for Medically Fragile Children Program and report the findings to the Governor and the Legislature.

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

CS/SB 558 - Certified Nursing Assistants

By: Health Policy; Burton

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 351

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

**Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Controlled Substances; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health

Services; Safety

The bill authorizes certified nursing assistants (CNAs) to administer certain medications, upon delegation by a registered nurse, to patients in nursing homes if the CNA meets certain requirements. The bill creates the designation of qualified medication aide (QMA) for such a CNA. To be a QMA, the CNA must:

- Hold a clear and active certification for at least one year,
- Complete a 34-hour training course on medication administration and associated tasks, and
- Demonstrate clinical competency by successfully completing a supervised clinical practice in medication administration and associated tasks in the facility.

The bill requires the Board of Nursing to approve the training course and provides rulemaking authority to the Board to establish standards and procedures for QMA medication administration in a nursing home. The bill limits the types of medication a QMA may administer to oral, transdermal, ophthalmic, otic, inhaled, or topical prescription medication. A QMA administering medication must be supervised by a registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or an advanced practice registered nurse who is on the premises.

The bill prohibits a nursing home from counting a QMA's work hours towards the direct care staffing ratios required by current law.

CS/SB 612 - Blood Clot and Pulmonary Embolism Policy Workgroup

By: Health Policy; Yarborough and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 483

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

**Fiscal Policy** 

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

The bill creates the Emily Adkins Prevention Act to require the Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), in conjunction with the State Surgeon General, to establish a blood clot and pulmonary embolism policy workgroup to develop policy recommendations to improve patient awareness of blood clot risks and identify a standard of care for blood clot surveillance, detection, and treatment.

The bill requires AHCA to submit an annual report and a final report to the Governor and the legislature by January 4, 2025.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

SB 614 (ch. 2023-45, L.O.F.) - Mammography Reports

By: Harrell Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1059

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Rules

Category: Consumer Protection; Federal Government; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care

**Practitioners; Health Services; Safety** 

Florida law currently requires mammography facilities to send patients a mammography report summary, meeting federal requirements. If the patient has dense breasts, the summary must include a notice that the dense breast tissue makes it more difficult to detect some abnormalities and may be associated with increased risk of breast cancer. This law stands repealed on June 30, 2023.

The bill extends the repeal of the notice requirement until September 10, 2024.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-45, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

SB 768 - Referral of Patients by Health Care Providers

By: Martin

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: HB 601** 

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

**Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Civil Justice; Health; Health Care Financing; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services

The bill amends s. 456.053, F.S., regulating financial arrangements between referring health care providers and health care service providers, related to certain designated health services. The bill alters a safe harbor provision for permitted referrals from a health care provider to another provider that solely serves patients of the referring health care provider: the bill removes a direct supervision requirement and the requirement that the physician be present in the office suite, allowing general supervision of such services from locations outside of the office where the services are provided.

#### CS/CS/HB 783 - Opioid Abatement

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Caruso and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 704

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice; Government Operations; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Post-Secondary Education; Public Employees; Public Safety; Safety; Social Services; Substance Abuse

The bill creates the Statewide Council on Opioid Abatement within the Department of Children and Families to enhance development and coordination of state and local efforts to abate the opioid epidemic and to support the victims of the opioid crisis.

The bill also requires each Florida College System institution and state university to have a supply of emergency opioid antagonists in clearly marked locations within residence halls and dormitory residences. The bill provides civil and criminal immunity to campus law enforcement officers, and to the institutions that employ the officers, related to the administration or attempted administration of emergency opioid antagonists.

The bill permits authorized health care practitioners to dispense emergency opioid antagonists with a prefilled injection device delivery system, in addition to those with auto-injection delivery systems and intranasal application delivery systems that may be dispensed under current law.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

#### CS/CS/HB 897 - Group Health Plans

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Fernandez-Barquin and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 940

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services

**Committee** 

Category: Health; Health Care Financing; Insurance

The bill removes the federal rule reference, and incorporates the substantive requirements from the rule for purposes of establishing a multiple employer welfare arrangement (MEWA), maintaining an expanded pathway for more groups or associations to form MEWAs in Florida.

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

**CS/HB 967 - Medicaid Coverage of Continuous Glucose Monitors** 

By: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Bell and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 988

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health Care Appropriations

Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

Category: Health; Health Financing; Health Services; Technology

The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), subject to funding and any limitations or directives in the General Appropriations Act, to cover continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) under the Medicaid pharmacy benefit for Medicaid recipients. A CGM automatically tracks glucose levels in real time.

Under the bill, CGM coverage is available if:

- The recipient has been diagnosed by his or her primary care physician, or another licensed health care practitioner authorized to make such diagnosis, with Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, gestational diabetes, or any other type of diabetes that may be treated with insulin, and
- A health care practitioner with the applicable prescribing authority has prescribed insulin to treat the recipient's diabetes and a CGM to assist the recipient and practitioner in managing the recipient's diabetes.

CS/HB 1133 - Physician Assistant Licensure

By: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Rizo and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 454

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services

Committee

Category: Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Post-Secondary Education

The bill revises eligibility requirements for physician assistant licensure to specify that applicants who matriculated into, rather than graduated from, an approved program before December 31, 2020, are eligible for licensure.

The bill also authorizes the Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine to grant a license to an applicant who does not meet the educational requirements in current law, but passed the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination.

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

CS/CS/SB 1352 - Sickle Cell Disease Medications, Treatment, and Screening

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1481

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

**Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Budget; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Social Services

The bill requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to biannually conduct a review and publish online a report of its findings on the availability and utilization of specific services for Medicaid enrollees diagnosed with sickle cell disease (SCD). Additionally, AHCA must assess existing Medicaid payment methodologies for approved SCD treatments and medications in the inpatient setting and whether such payment methodologies result in barriers to access. If AHCA identifies barriers to access, AHCA must assess whether the methodologies may be modified or improved. AHCA must publish the first report by November 1, 2024.

The bill requires the Department of Health (DOH) to contract with a community-based SCD medical treatment and research center to establish and maintain a registry to track outcome measures of newborns who are identified as carrying a sickle cell hemoglobin variant. The bill requires newborn screening providers to notify the primary care physician of an infant who tests positive for sickle cell hemoglobin variant, and to submit the results of the screening to DOH for inclusion in the sickle cell registry. The primary care physician must provide information on the availability and benefits of genetic counseling to the parent or guardian of the newborn.

The bill appropriates \$1,060,804 in recurring funds, \$21,355 in nonrecurring funds, and five full time employee positions to DOH, and \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds to AHCA, to implement the bill.

CS/CS/HB 1387 (ch. 2023-71, L.O.F.) - Department of Health

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Porras and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1506

Committee(s) of Reference: Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; Health & Human Services

**Committee** 

Category: Commerce; Consumer Protection; Controlled Substances; Court Administration; Federal Government; Health; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Public Safety; Research Integrity; Safety; Technology

The bill amends programs and health care professions regulated under the Department of Health (DOH). The bill:

- prohibits gain of function research in Florida.
- prohibits medical marijuana treatment centers (MMTCs) from advertising or producing products that are attractive to children or promote recreational use.
- revises background screening requirements for MMTCs and certified medical marijuana testing laboratories.
- requires certain vital records to be filed with DOH's electronic registration system.
- revises the timeframe by which the courts must electronically transmit certain records to DOH.
- raises the age at which birth certificates become public record from 100 to 125 years.
- adds family medicine physicians to the list of board-eligible or board-certified specialist physicians that may certify brain death.
- authorizes autonomous advanced practice registered nurses to certify brain death if they are the patient's treating health care practitioner in conjunction with two specialist physicians.
- revises the certification process for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics.
- revises requirements for EMTs and paramedics performing health care tasks in a nonemergency environment.
- revises the exam requirements for certified nursing assistant applicants who have completed an approved training program.
- revises regulations relating to hearing aids to align with the requirements of a recent US Food & Drug Administration rule relating to over-the-counter hearing aids.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-71, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 1471 - Health Care Provider Accountability

By: Health & Human Services Committee; Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee; 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: Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services

The bill encompasses several areas of health care provider accountability.

Current law establishes a list of rights a nursing home must afford to its residents, such as rights to civil and religious liberties, to participate in social and other activities, and to refuse medication and treatment. The bill adds to the list of nursing home residents' rights the right to be free from sexual abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

The bill authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to seek an ex parte temporary injunction to prevent continuing unlicensed activity by a provider who has been warned by AHCA. The bill establishes the temporary injunction process, including petition requirements, subsequent inspections to determine compliance, and a permanent injunction process if the provider is not complying with the ex parte temporary injunction.

The bill establishes standards of practice for physicians performing gluteal fat grafting procedures in office settings. The bill prohibits certain procedures in an office surgery setting, sets standards for performing such grafting procedures, and includes inspection requirements to become registered to perform such office surgeries.

CS/CS/SB 1550 (ch. 2023-29, L.O.F.) - Prescription Drugs

By: Fiscal Policy; Health Policy; Brodeur and others

Tied Bills: CS/SB 1552

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1509

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

Category: Budget; Health; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance

Prescription drug benefit plans – health insurers, self-insured employers, union health plans, and government purchasers – contract with pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to manage drug costs. PBMs establish pharmacy networks, pay claims, and negotiate drug manufacturer rebates, among other things.

The bill repeals the PBM registration requirement in current law, and establishes a PBM regulatory program within the Office of Insurance Regulation (OIR). Specifically, the bill:

- requires PBMs to obtain a certificate of authority as an insurance administrator under part VI of ch. 626, F.S.
- requires PBMs to submit to examinations and investigations, make available certain documents and records, and comply with recordkeeping requirements.
- regulates PBM contracts with pharmacy benefit plans and programs (insurers, HMOs, and self-insured employers).
- regulates PBM contracts with pharmacies, including claims payment requirements, and prohibits many current practices.
- establishes specific pharmacy network standards for PBMs and their clients.
- requires drug manufacturers notify the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and the Agency for Health Care Administration of drug price increases and submit forms and reports for public availability.

The bill appropriates \$980,705 in recurring funds and \$146,820 in nonrecurring funds, and 10 full-time equivalent positions, to OIR to implement the provisions in the bill.

The bill became law on May 3, 2023, chapter 2023-29, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 1552 (ch. 2023-30, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Pharmacy Benefit Managers

By: Health Policy; Brodeur Tied Bills: CS/CS/SB 1550 Companion Bills: None

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

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Health; Health Financing; Health Services; Insurance

The bill extends the current public records exemptions applicable to insurance administrators under the Florida Insurance Code to pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), which will be a new class of administrators if CS/CS/SB 1550, or similar legislation, is enacted. Additional examination and investigation authority specific to PBMs is provided in CS/CS/SB 1550, and statutory reference to those reports and related work papers is also included in the exemptions provided in CS/SB 1552.

The exemptions will stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reenacted by the Legislature. The bill provides a statement of public necessity as required by the State Constitution.

This bill became law on May 3, 2023, chapter 2023-30, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 1580 (ch. 2023-57, L.O.F.) - Protections of Medical Conscience

By: Rules; Trumbull Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1403

Committee(s) of Reference: Health Policy; Rules

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Ethics; Health; Health Care Facilities; Health Care Practitioners; Health Services; Insurance; Post-Secondary Education; Public Employees

The bill establishes a health care provider and health care payor right to decline to participate in any health care service, including treatment and research, that violates the sincerely held religious, moral or ethical beliefs of the provider or payor. The bill requires health care providers and students to raise a conscience-based objection at the time when the incident giving rise to the objection occurs or as soon as practical thereafter, and to document the objection in the patient's medical record.

The bill prohibits individuals and entities from discriminating against a health care provider or payor on the basis of conscience-based objection. The bill provides civil immunity to health care providers and health care payors for exercising their right of conscience and provides whistleblower protections. The bill also authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action for damages, injunctive relief, or any other appropriate relief for any actual or threatened adverse action due to declining to participate in a health care service that violates the provider's or payor's conscience.

The bill prohibits the Department of Health (DOH) and its boards from taking disciplinary action against a health care practitioner for exercising the constitutional right of free speech, including, but not limited to, speech via social media. The bill authorizes DOH to revoke approval of specialty boards and recognizing agencies if these entities revoke a practitioner certification based upon the exercise of the constitutional right of free speech.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-57, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Infrastructure Strategies Committee Representative Bobby Payne, Chair Representative Sam Garrison, Vice Chair

#### **2023 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 Tom Fabricio, Vice Chair

#### Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee

Representative Cyndi Stevenson, Chair Representative Randall Scott Maggard, Vice Chair

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Inf	rastructure Strategies Committee	
	CS/SB 106 (ch. 2023-20, L.O.F.) - Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network	
Ag	riculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee	
	CS/HB 111 - Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies	211
	HB 641 - Restoration of Osborne Reef	212
	CS/CS/SB 724 (ch. 2023-47, L.O.F.) - Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative	212
	CS/HJR 1157 - Fishing and Hunting	213
	CS/HB 1161 - Venomous Reptiles	213
	CS/CS/HB 1279 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	214
	CS/CS/HB 1489 - Designation of Brevard Barrier Island Area as Area of Critical State Concern	215
	CS/CS/SB 1676 - Hemp	216
Tra	CS/CS/HB 21 - Transportation Facility Designations	
	CS/HB 155 - Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority	217
	CS/CS/CS/HB 425 - Transportation	218
	CS/CS/HB 645 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act	219
	CS/CS/HB 657 - Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits	220
	SB 678 - Disposal of Property	220
	CS/CS/SB 766 - Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions	221
	CS/CS/SB 838 - Proceeds Funding Motorcycle Safety Education	222
	CS/CS/HB 949 (ch. 2023-67, L.O.F.) - Operation of a Golf Cart	222
	CS/HB 965 - Driver License, Identification Card, and Motor Vehicle Registration	223
	CS/CS/SB 1068 - Drone Delivery Services	224
	CS/CS/HB 1123 - Commercial Service Airport Transparency and Accountability	225
	CS/CS/HB 1191 - Use of Phosphogypsum	226
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1305 (ch. 2023-70, L.O.F.) - Department of Transportation	227
	CS/HB 1397 - Regional Transportation Planning	228

Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee	
CS/CS/CS/SB 162 - Water and Wastewater Facility Operators	
HB 407 - Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern	229
CS/CS/HB 847 - Vessel Regulations	229
CS/CS/HB 1379 - Environmental Protection	230
CS/CS/HB 1405 - Biosolids	230
HB 7027 - Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection	231

CS/SB 106 (ch. 2023-20, L.O.F.) - Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network

By: Appropriations; Brodeur and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 915

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Appropriations

Category: Natural Resources; Tourism; Transportation

The bill expands the existing Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network (SUN Trail Network) and enhances coordination of the state's trail system with the Florida Wildlife Corridor (Corridor). Specifically, the bill:

- prioritizes the development of "regionally significant trails," which are defined as trails that
  cross multiple counties; attract national and international visitors; serve economic and
  ecotourism development; showcase the state's wildlife areas, ecology, and natural resources;
  and serve as main corridors for trail connectedness across the state.
- enhances the planning, coordination, and marketing of the state's bicycle and pedestrian trail system and the Corridor.
- requires trails developed within the Corridor to maximize the use of previously disturbed lands and be compatible with applicable land use provisions.
- requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to erect uniform signage identifying trails that
  are part of the SUN Trail Network and to submit a periodic report on the status of the SUN Trail
  Network.
- authorizes DOT and local governments to enter into sponsorship agreements for trails and to use associated revenues for maintenance, signage, and related amenities.
- recognizes "trail town" communities and directs specified entities to promote the use of trails as economic assets, including the promotion of trail-based tourism.
- increases recurring funding for the SUN Trail Network from \$25 million to \$50 million and provides a non-recurring appropriation of \$200 million to plan, design, and construct the SUN Trail Network.

The bill became law on April 11, 2023, chapter 2023-20, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

# **Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee**

CS/HB 109 (ch. 2023-62, L.O.F.) - State Park Campsite Reservations

By: Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Canady and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 76

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Agriculture &

Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

**Category: Natural Resources; Tourism** 

The bill requires the Division of Recreation and Parks within the Department of Environmental Protection to allow individuals to make reservations for state park cabins and campsites, including RV, tent, boat, and equestrian sites, as follows:

• For Florida residents, reservations up to 11 months in advance

• For nonresidents, reservations up to 10 months in advance

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-62, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on January 1, 2024.

CS/HB 111 - Flooding and Sea Level Rise Vulnerability Studies

By: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Hunschofsky and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1170

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Agriculture &

Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Environmental Protection; Government Operations; Local Government; Natural Resources;

Resiliency

The bill expands a requirement for public entities to conduct a sea level impact projection (SLIP) study before commencing construction of certain state-financed coastal structures to apply the requirement to certain structures that are within any area that is at risk due to sea level rise, not just areas within the coastal building zone. The structures subject to this requirement are any "potentially at-risk structures or infrastructure," which include certain critical assets or historical or cultural assets that are within an area at risk due to sea level rise.

The bill expands the Resilient Florida Grant Program to provide funding to:

- Municipalities and counties for feasibility studies and permitting costs for nature-based solutions that reduce the impact of flooding and sea level rise
- Water management districts to support local government adaptation planning

**HB 641 - Restoration of Osborne Reef** 

By: LaMarca and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 546

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Infrastructure

**Strategies Committee** 

Category: Environmental Protection; Natural Resources; Resiliency

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of the Osborne Reef cleanup and tire removal project by December 1, 2023. In addition, by July 1, 2024, the bill requires DEP to develop a comprehensive coral reef restoration plan for Osborne Reef to be commenced, subject to appropriation, upon the completion of the cleanup and tire removal project. The bill also requires DEP to submit a report to the Legislature upon completion of the reef restoration plan that provides an update on the restoration plan and any recommendations for statutory changes necessary to achieve restoration goals.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 724 (ch. 2023-47, L.O.F.) - Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative By: Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Environment and Natural Resources; Boyd and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1181

Committee(s) of Reference: Environment and Natural Resources; Appropriations Committee on

Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations Category: Environmental Protection; Natural Resources; Resiliency

The bill establishes the Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative (Initiative) within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida, to develop cost-efficient innovative and environmentally sustainable technologies needed to restore coastal seagrass ecosystems. Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida are required to create a 10-year Florida Restoration Plan to implement the tools and technologies developed under the Initiative. Beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 and through FY 2027-2028, the bill appropriates \$2 million per year from the General Revenue Fund to DEP for the implementation of the Initiative.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-47, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

CS/HJR 1157 - Fishing and Hunting

By: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Melo and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SJR 1234

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Infrastructure

**Strategies Committee** 

**Category: Constitutional Amendments; Natural Resources** 

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to Article I of the Florida Constitution to create a new section that preserves forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. The joint resolution specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the Constitution.

The amendment proposed in the joint resolution will take effect on January 7, 2025, if approved by 60% of the voters during the 2024 general election or earlier special election.

#### CS/HB 1161 - Venomous Reptiles

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Abbott and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1266

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Agriculture &

Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee Category: Criminal Justice; Environmental Protection; Natural Resources; Public Safety

The bill specifies that a person who knowingly releases a nonnative venomous reptile or who through gross negligence allows a nonnative venomous reptile to escape commits a Level Four violation, punishable by five years in prison or a fine of \$5,000 or any higher amount equal to double the pecuniary gain derived from the offense by the offender.

The bill also specifies that a person who knowingly purchases, sells, attempts to sell, offers to sell, conspires to sell, barters, exchanges, trades, or imports for sale or use any venomous reptile species without first obtaining a permit or license from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission commits a Level Four violation.

CS/CS/HB 1279 - Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee;

Alvarez and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1164

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Infrastructure

**Strategies Committee** 

Category: Agriculture; Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Environmental

**Protection; Government Operations; Taxes** 

The bill contains various provisions related to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (DACS's) programs and Florida's agricultural industry. Specifically, the bill:

- creates the Florida Farm Tax Exempt Agricultural Materials (TEAM) Card.
- requires state agencies, universities, state colleges, and their contracted food service providers to give preference to Florida grown and produced food.
- specifies that DACS is the lead agency for regulating and encouraging the development of aquaculture in the state.
- authorizes DACS to use drones to manage and eradicate plant or animal diseases.
- repeals outdated and unnecessary boards and councils.
- revises and repeals various definitions related to food safety, milk regulations, and fertilizer.
- authorizes DACS to adopt and implement an exemption, waiver, and variance process for school nutrition program sponsors.
- requires each person who is licensed or permitted by DACS to provide an email address of record.
- requires DACS to submit a purchase agreement for a conservation easement acquisition to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund if the purchase price exceeds \$5 million.
- increases the estimated value threshold that requires two appraisals to be conducted for a conservation easement acquisition from \$1 million to \$5 million.
- revises various other provisions to modernize DACS practices and streamline regulations.

CS/CS/HB 1489 - Designation of Brevard Barrier Island Area as Area of Critical State Concern By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Altman and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1686

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; Infrastructure

**Strategies Committee** 

Category: Environmental Protection; Government Operations; Local Government; Natural Resources;

Resiliency

The bill designates the Brevard Barrier Island Area as an Area of Critical State Concern and outlines the guiding principles for development within the area. The bill authorizes the Department of Economic Opportunity to recommend to the Administration Commission (Commission) the removal of the designation if it determines that local land regulations and comprehensive plans are adequate to protect the area, carry out the bill's legislative intent, and are in compliance with the bill's development principles. If the Commission concurs with the recommendation, the Commission must initiate rulemaking to remove the designation within 45 days after receipt of the recommendation.

CS/CS/SB 1676 - Hemp

By: Fiscal Policy; Agriculture; Burton and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1475

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Agriculture; Consumer Protection** 

The bill requires any hemp extract that will be distributed and sold in the state to have come from a batch processed in a facility permitted by a human health or food safety regulatory entity and that meets human health or food safety sanitization requirements.

The bill requires hemp extract to be distributed and sold in a container that is suitable to contain products for human consumption, is composed of materials designed to minimize exposure to light, mitigates exposure to high temperatures, is not attractive to children, and is compliant with the United States Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970. The bill specifies that hemp extract may only be sold to a business in the state if that business is properly permitted.

The bill specifies that hemp extract products intended for human ingestion may not be sold to anyone under 21 years of age and establishes criminal penalties for anyone who sells hemp extract products intended for ingestion or inhalation to anyone under 21.

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to adopt rules for the State Hemp Program that provide packaging and labeling requirements.

# **Transportation & Modals Subcommittee**

CS/CS/HB 21 - Transportation Facility Designations

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Sirois and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 96

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

**Category: Transportation** 

State law authorizes legislative designations of transportation facilities, such as bridges, interchanges, or portions of roads, for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. The Department of Transportation (DOT) may not erect the markers for each designation unless the appropriate city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation.

The bill creates 22 designations for various transportation facilities across the state and revises a designation enacted in 1991. The bill also directs DOT to erect suitable markers for each designation.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 155 - Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority

By: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Holcomb and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 198

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee** Category: Local Government; Repeals of Existing Laws; Transportation

The bill repeals the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) from the Florida Statutes and dissolves TBARTA effective June 30, 2024. The bill requires TBARTA to provide for the discharge of any liabilities, settle and close its affairs, transfer any pending activities such as its vanpool program, close and appropriately dispense of any applicable federal or state funds, provide for the distribution of any remaining assets, notify the Department of Economic Opportunity and each entity represented on TBARTA's board that it is dissolved, and forward its records to the Department of State.

## CS/CS/CS/HB 425 - Transportation

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee;

Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Esposito; Andrade and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 64

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Highway Safety; Insurance; Law Enforcement; Local

Government; Public Safety; Repeals of Existing Laws; Transportation

The bill addresses matters related to transportation. Specifically, the bill:

expands Florida's existing Move Over Law to include disabled motor vehicles.

- requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish standards by which the State
  Highway System will be graded according to their compatibility with the operation of
  autonomous vehicles.
- revises provisions regarding airport land use compatibility zoning regulations.
- codifies the Implementing Solutions from Transportation Research and Evaluating Emerging Technologies (I-STREET) Living Lab within the University of Florida.
- provides that a producer of construction aggregates (gravel, sand, etc.) may not represent that an aggregate is certified for use unless such aggregate complies with DOT rules.
- requires a local governmental entity to accept electronic proof of delivery for construction materials.
- requires DOT contracts for bridge work over navigable waters to require marine general liability insurance in an amount determined by DOT.
- requires DOT to implement strategies to reduce project costs and authorizes DOT to share a portion of construction cost savings with certain persons.
- provides that certain stipends paid by DOT which are contained in DOT's legislatively-approved work program are not subject to additional specified documentation and notification requirements.
- authorizes a contractor who desires to bid exclusively on construction contracts with proposed budget estimates of \$2 million or less (increased from \$1 million) to submit reviewed, rather than audited, financial statements.
- authorizes an applicant for a contractor certificate of qualification to request to keep an existing certificate and current maximum capacity rating in place until expiration of the existing certificate.
- repeals a public records exemption for documents that reveal the identity of a person who has requested or obtained a bid package, plan, or specifications pertaining to any project to be let by DOT.
- increases the maximum size of modular newspaper racks on specified rights-of-way.
- authorizes DOT to request legislative approval of a proposed turnpike project regardless of how complete the project's design phase is.
- revises various provisions relating to Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council.
- requires DOT to make \$20 million available annually for five years to enhance the movement and storage of construction aggregate and authorizes DOT to expend \$5 million for workforce development.

removes the requirement that railroad police be appointed by the Governor and revises powers of railroad police.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

## CS/CS/HB 645 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Brackett and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 908

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee;

**Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

Category: Law Enforcement; Technology; Transportation

Florida law protects critical infrastructure facilities from dangers associated with drone operation by criminalizing knowingly and willfully operating a drone over a critical infrastructure facility, allowing a drone to make contact with a critical infrastructure facility, or allowing a drone to come close enough to a critical infrastructure facility as to interfere with the operations of or cause a disturbance to the facility.

#### The bill:

- expands the definition of "critical infrastructure facility."
- removes the requirement that a person or governmental entity seeking to restrict or limit the operation of drones in close proximity to infrastructure or facilities must apply to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for such designation.
- removes the provision allowing a drone operating in transit for commercial purposes to operate over a critical infrastructure facility.
- sunsets the definition of "critical infrastructure facility," sixty days after the effective date of the FAA's process promulgated pursuant to s. 2209 of the FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016.

CS/CS/HB 657 - Enforcement of School Zone Speed Limits

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Koster and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 588

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Justice Appropriations

**Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

Category: Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Safety; Safety; Transportation

The bill authorizes counties and municipalities to use speed detection systems, which are similar to red light cameras, to enforce school zone speed limits for violations in excess of 10 miles per hour over the applicable speed limit when children are going to or from school and during the entirety of the school day.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

SB 678 - Disposal of Property

By: Powell Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: HB 763** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Transportation; Rules

Category: Local Government; Real Property; Transportation

The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is authorized to convey any land, building, or other real or personal property it acquired if DOT determines the property is no longer needed for an existing, proposed, or anticipated transportation facility. In pertinent part, DOT may, without consideration, convey such property to a governmental entity if the property is used for a public purpose. The bill provides that when DOT conveys the property for a public purpose without consideration to a governmental entity, public purpose includes, but is not limited to, affordable housing.

CS/CS/SB 766 - Enforcement of School Bus Passing Infractions

By: Fiscal Policy; Transportation; Burgess and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 741

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism,

and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy

Category: Highway Safety; Law Enforcement; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety; Safety

The bill authorizes the use of school bus infraction detection system, similar to a red-light camera system, to be used to enforce traffic violations for passing a stopped school bus loading or unloading passengers. The bill:

- authorizes school districts to contract with a private vendor or manufacturer to enforce passing a stopped school bus using a school bus infraction detection system.
- requires the school district to enter into an interlocal agreement with one or more law enforcement agencies regarding enforcement using school bus infraction detection systems.
- requires specified signage on any school bus with a school bus infraction detection system.
- requires public notice prior to starting a school bus infraction detection system program.
- provides requirements for issuing a notice of violation or, if necessary, a uniform traffic citation.
- provides for a \$225 penalty for each violation using a school bus infraction detection system and provides for the distribution of proceeds to school districts and the Department of Health.
- provides defenses for persons who receive a notice of violation or uniform traffic citation.
- provides that images from school bus infraction detection systems may only be used to enforce school bus violation and may not be used for other surveillance purposes.
- requires reporting by school districts that implement a program for school bus infraction detection systems on school buses and requires a summary report by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.
- provides record retention and destruction requirements for specified data.
- authorizes the clerk of court to dismiss a uniform traffic citation if certain conditions are met.
- prohibits points from being imposed for a violation of unlawful speed enforced by a school bus infraction detection system and prohibits such violations from being used for purposes of setting motor vehicle insurance rates.

CS/CS/SB 838 - Proceeds Funding Motorcycle Safety Education

By: Appropriations; Transportation; Collins

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 709

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism,

and Economic Development; Appropriations
Category: Highway Safety; Safety; Transportation

The bill reallocates the \$2.50 motorcycle safety education fee, which is currently provided to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), to three Florida not-for-profit corporations that meet specified criteria. The bill requires DHSMV to enter into a five-year contract with each of the qualified program administrators by October 1, 2023. The selected program administrators must use the safety education fee to fund programs that promote motorcycle safety and education and must submit a specified annual report to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 949 (ch. 2023-67, L.O.F.) - Operation of a Golf Cart

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

Subcommittee; Stevenson and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1290

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal

Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee
Category: Highway Safety; Local Government; Public Safety; Safety; Transportation

The bill authorizes a water control district to designate for use by golf carts a road that the district owns and maintains, provided the district receives approval from the county where such road is located.

The bill requires that a person operating a golf cart on public roads or streets who is under 18 years of age must possess a valid learner's driver license or valid driver license, and a person who is 18 years of age or older must possess a valid form of government-issued photographic identification.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-67, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective October 1, 2023.

CS/HB 965 - Driver License, Identification Card, and Motor Vehicle Registration

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Gottlieb; Arrington and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: None** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism

Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

Category: Highway Safety; Insurance; Law Enforcement

The bill amends statutory provisions relating to highway safety, motor vehicles, and driver licenses. The bill:

- authorizes law enforcement agencies and their contracted service providers to have access to confidential crash reports.
- provides that when a lessee of a motor vehicle is purchasing the leased motor vehicle, the motor vehicle dealer is not required to observe and certify air pollution equipment if the dealer is not in possession of the motor vehicle at the time of sale.
- creates a \$1 voluntary contribution on the motor vehicle registration application for Best Buddies International.
- creates a \$1 or more voluntary contribution on the driver license and identification card application for Best Buddies International.
- defines the term "fleet" for purposes of permanent fleet license plates to mean a minimum of 100 motor vehicles or a minimum of 25 trailers or semitrailers.
- removes a requirement that certain insurance coverage be noncancelable for six months after reinstatement of a driver license.

CS/CS/SB 1068 - Drone Delivery Services

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Commerce and Tourism; Collins and others.

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 1071

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

Category: Local Government; Technology; Transportation

The bill amends the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act. Specifically, the bill:

- defines "drone delivery service" and "drone port" in relation to the business or profession of delivering goods via drone.
- prohibits a political subdivision from withholding the issuance of a business tax receipt, development permit, or other use approval to a drone delivery service or from enacting or enforcing an ordinance or resolution that prohibits a drone delivery service's operation based on the location of its drone port.
- allows a political subdivision to enforce generally applicable minimum setback and landscaping regulations.

The bill also exempts drone ports from the Florida Building Code and provisions of the Florida Fire Prevention Code concerning fire protection systems.

CS/CS/HB 1123 - Commercial Service Airport Transparency and Accountability

By: State Affairs Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Gossett-Seidman; Casello and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1646

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee;

**Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Local Government; Transportation

The bill amends the law relating to commercial service airport transparency and accountability by:

- defining the term "consent agenda."
- requiring each commercial service airport to have a link to the Airport Master Plan on the commercial service airport's website, rather than on the FAA's website.
- amending the requirements for posting a contract to the airport's website such that only
  contracts for the purchase of commodities or contractual services in excess of \$325,000, up
  from \$65,000, will be posted online. Contracts not pertaining to the purchase of commodities or
  contractual services will not be posted online.
- increasing the threshold from \$65,000 to \$325,000 over which the commercial service airport
  must use the competitive solicitation process for purchases of commodities or contractual
  services.
- amending the requirements for a commercial service airport to receive approval of the
  governing body for contracts such that only contracts for commodities or contractual services
  over a threshold amount ranging from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million, based upon the size of the
  airport, need be approved by the governing body as a separate line item on the governing
  body's agenda (not on a consent agenda).

CS/CS/HB 1191 - Use of Phosphogypsum

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; McClure and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1258

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism

Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee Category: Environmental Protection; Natural Resources; Transportation

The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to undertake demonstration projects using phosphogypsum (PG) from phosphate production to evaluate the suitability of using PG as a construction aggregate material. The study and a determination of suitability must be completed by April 1, 2024. Upon DOT's determination of suitability, PG may be used as a construction aggregate material in accordance with the conditions of the United States Environmental Protection Agency approval for the use.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1305 (ch. 2023-70, L.O.F.) - Department of Transportation

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee;

**Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Abbott** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: None** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism

**Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

Category: Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Safety; Repeals of Existing Laws; Safety;

Transportation

The bill relates to the Department of Transportation (DOT). Specifically, the bill:

- increases the maximum debt service coverage for the State Transportation Trust Fund.
- increases the term to 18 years for state bonds for federal aid highway construction.
- authorizes the Florida Development Finance Corporation to finance certain DOT-related public-private partnership projects.
- authorizes installation of automated license plate recognition systems within the rights-of-way of the State Highway System for specified purposes.
- authorizes DOT to fund up to 100% of eligible projects in rural areas of opportunity under the Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support Program.
- revises the definition of "temporary airport" and clarifies DOT's approval process.
- provides that DOT may not, when granting airport site approval, require specified documents regarding air traffic pattern separation procedures unless otherwise required or necessary.
- authorizes DOT, subject to appropriation, to fund specified projects at certain rural airports.
- authorizes DOT to acquire promotional items and materials to promote electric vehicles and autonomous vehicles.
- authorizes DOT to expend funds for training, testing, and licensing for certain DOT employees.
- increases the threshold amount under which DOT is not required to receive competitive bids.
- increases the cap on innovative contracts that DOT may annually award, and removes the exemption for certain design-build projects from this annual cap.
- expands DOT's potential use of phased design-build.
- repeals the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Chairs Coordinating Committee and requires certain MPOs to submit a feasibility report relating to consolidation.
- revises various duties of public transit providers relating to their transportation development plans and productivity and performance reports.
- requires DOT to inspect fixed-guideway systems in specified independent special districts.
- transfers the Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority's bridge system to DOT, authorizes DOT to transfer it to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, and repeals the bridge authority in statute.
- reestablishes the Greater Miami Expressway Agency and revises various provisions related to it.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-70, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1397 - Regional Transportation Planning

By: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; McClure and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1532

Committee(s) of Reference: Transportation & Modals Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies

Committee

**Category: Local Government; Transportation** 

The bill provides legislative intent to explore transformative changes to the policy management structure of the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) to achieve organizational efficiencies with the goal of streamlining decision making, improving transparency, and enhancing the effectiveness of local and regional public transit service delivery. The bill requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), or its consultant, to conduct a study reviewing specified aspects of HART's organizational structure and operation and requires DOT to submit a report detailing the results of the study to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2024.

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/CS/SB 162 - Water and Wastewater Facility Operators

By: Fiscal Policy; Regulated Industries; Environment and Natural Resources; Collins

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 23

Committee(s) of Reference: Environment and Natural Resources; Regulated Industries; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Environmental Protection** 

The bill requires the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to issue reciprocal licenses to certain water utility workers who meet specified criteria and it authorizes DEP, during a declared state of emergency, to issue a temporary reciprocal license to and waive the application fee for certain water utility worker applicants.

HB 407 - Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern

By: Shoaf and others Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: SB 702

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural

Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

**Category: Environmental Protection** 

Beginning in the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year (FY) and continuing through the 2027-2028 FY, the bill authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to expend up to \$5 million each FY to enter into financial assistance agreements with the City of Apalachicola to implement projects that improve surface water and groundwater quality within the Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

# CS/CS/HB 847 - Vessel Regulations

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Stark and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1082

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Infrastructure

**Strategies Committee** 

**Category: Natural Resources** 

The bill increases the areas within which a municipality or county may establish a slow speed, minimum wake boating-restricted area. In addition, the bill revises the environmental resource permit (ERP) exemption for floating vessel platforms and floating boat lifts to specify local governments may only require a one-time registration for a floating vessel platform where the owner of such platform self-certifies compliance with the ERP exemption criteria.

CS/CS/HB 1379 - Environmental Protection

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Steele;

Overdorf and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1632

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural

Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

**Category: Environmental Protection** 

The bill revises requirements of certain water quality-related elements of comprehensive plans; revises requirements related to the installation and use of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems; revises requirements related to the development and implementation of total maximum daily loads and basin management action plans; expands the types of projects eligible for water quality improvement grant funding; establishes the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program; dedicates \$100 million annually for the acquisition of lands through the Florida Forever Program; and revises requirements related to the Florida Forever Program and the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

# CS/CS/HB 1405 - Biosolids

By: Infrastructure Strategies Committee; Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Tuck and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

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Companion Bills: CS/SB 880

Committee(s) of Reference: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural

Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee

**Category: Environmental Protection** 

The bill establishes a biosolids grant program within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), authorizes DEP to grant funds to counties, special districts, and municipalities to support certain projects related to biosolids, and provides requirements for allocating funds, administering the program, and monitoring projects funded by the program.

HB 7027 - Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection By: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Overdorf and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7002

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

**Subcommittee; Infrastructure Strategies Committee** 

**Category: Environmental Protection** 

The bill ratifies rules of the Department of Environmental Protection. Specifically, the bill ratifies rule 62-6.001, F.A.C., which incorporates more stringent permitting requirements for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems. The bill also ratifies rules 62-600.405, 62-600.705, and 62-600.720, F.A.C., which provide new regulations for wastewater treatment facilities related to the prevention of sanitary sewer overflows, underground pipe leaks, and inflow and infiltration.

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# Judiciary Committee Representative Tommy Gregory, Chair Representative Tobin Rogers Overdorf, Vice Chair

# **2023 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION**



# **Civil Justice Subcommittee**

Representative William Cloud Robinson Jr., Chair Representative John Snyder, Vice Chair

# **Criminal Justice Subcommittee**

Representative Keith L. Truenow, Chair Representative Webster Barnaby, Vice Chair

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Judiciary Committee	233
CS/CS/SB 264 (ch. 2023-33, L.O.F.) - Interests of Foreign Countries	239
HB 7025 (ch. 2023-19, L.O.F.) - Pub. Rec./Safe School Officers	240
SB 7064 (ch. 2023-86, L.O.F.) - Human Trafficking	241
Civil Justice Subcommittee	
SB 4 - Relief of Maria Garcia by the Pinellas County School Board	242
SB 6 - Relief of the Estate of Jason Sanchez by Miami-Dade County	243
SB 8 - Relief of Leonard Cure/State of Florida	243
SB 10 - Relief of Kristin A. Stewart by Sarasota County	244
CS/SB 12 - Relief of Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano, as personal representatives of Hilda Medrano/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office	244
CS/SB 16 - Relief of Mitchell by the South Broward Hospital District	245
CS/HB 27 - Judgment Liens	245
CS/SB 50 - Public Records/Judicial Assistants	246
SB 62 - Relief of Robert Earl DuBoise by the State of Florida	247
CS/CS/SB 130 - Domestic Violence	247
CS/HB 133 - Fees in Lieu of Security Deposits	248
SB 144 (ch. 2023-88, L.O.F.)- Lactation Spaces	249
CS/CS/HB 213 - Limitation of Actions Involving Real Estate Appraisers and Appraisal Management Companies	251
CS/CS/SB 226 - Support for Dependent Adult Children	252
CS/SB 286 - Legal Instruments	253
CS/CS/HB 331 - Liens and Bonds	254
CS/SB 360 (ch. 2023-22, L.O.F.) - Causes of Action Based on Improvements to Real	Property 255
CS/CS/HB 437 (ch. 2023-64, L.O.F.) - Property Owners' Right to Install, Display, and Store Items	256
HB 441 - Removal of Unknown Parties in Possession	
CS/SB 574 - Termination of Agreements by a Servicemember	
CS/CS/SB 600 - Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors	
CS/CS/HB 775 - Shared Parental Responsibility after Establishment of Paternity	259

	CS/CS/HB 837 (ch. 2023-15, L.O.F.) - Civil Remedies	260
	CS/HB 977 - Clerks of Court	261
	CS/SB 978 - Secured Transactions	262
	CS/HB 1205 - Advertisements for Legal Services	263
	CS/HB 1301 - Parenting and Time-sharing of Minor Children	264
	CS/SB 1318 - Spaceflight Entity Liability	265
	CS/SB 1416 - Dissolution of Marriage	266
	CS/HB 1417 - Residential Tenancies	267
	CS/CS/HB 1419 - Real Property Fraud	268
	SB 1442 - Terrorism	269
	CS/SB 1458 (ch. 2023-56, L.O.F.) - Roller Skating Rink Safety	269
Cri	minal Justice Subcommittee	
	CS/HB 95 - Rights of Law Enforcement Officers and Correctional Officers	271
	HB 119 - Visiting County and Municipal Detention Facilities	272
	CS/SB 164 - Controlled Substance Testing	272
	CS/SB 232 - Exploitation of Vulnerable Persons	273
	CS/CS/HB 269 (ch. 2023-24, L.O.F.) - Public Nuisances	274
	CS/CS/SB 306 - Catalytic Converters	275
	CS/HB 319 - Interference With Sporting or Entertainment Events	276
	CS/HB 329 - Electronic Monitoring of Persons Charged with or Convicted of Offenses Involving Schools or Students	277
	CS/CS/HB 365 - Controlled Substances	278
	CS/CS/SB 376 - Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records and Making Confidential and Exempt Related Court Records	279
	CS/SB 384 - Violent Offenses Committed Against Criminal Defense Attorneys	279
	CS/SB 404 (ch. 2023-44, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Photograph or Video or Audio Recording of the Killing of a Minor/Autopsy Reports of Minors	280
	CS/HB 431 - Solicitation of Minors to Commit Lewd or Lascivious Act	
	. CS/CS/SB 450 (ch. 2023-23, L.O.F.) - Death Penalty	
	SB 508 - Problem-solving Courts	
	CS/HB 537 - Custody and Supervision of Specified Offenders	
	CS/HB 605 - Expunction of Criminal History Records	

CS/HB 667 – Victims of Crime	286
SB 736 - Controlled Substances	287
HB 825 - Assault or Battery on Hospital Personnel	287
CS/CS/HB 1045 - Certified Peer Specialist Gateway Pilot Program	288
CS/HB 1047 - Offenses Against Certain Animals	289
CS/HB 1105 - Rapid DNA Grant Program	289
SB 1210 (ch. 2023-84, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Human Trafficking Victims	290
CS/CS/HB 1297 (ch. 2023-25, L.O.F.) - Capital Sexual Battery	291
CS/HB 1327 - Pub. Rec./Investigative Genetic Genealogy Information and Materials	292
CS/SB 1332 (ch. 2023-54, L.O.F.) - Missing Persons	293
CS/CS/HB 1359 (ch. 2023-26, L.O.F.) - Offenses Involving Fentanyl or Fentanyl Analogs	294
CS/HB 1375 - Battery by Strangulation	295
CS/HB 1465 (ch. 2023-87, L.O.F.) - Firearm and Destructive Device Offenses	296
CS/SB 1478 - Criminal Sentencing	297
CS/HB 1571 - Juvenile Court Proceedings	298
CS/HB 1577 - Crime Victim Compensation Claims	299
CS/SB 1616 (ch. 2023-58, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Transportation and Protective Services	299
CS/CS/HB 1627 (ch. 2023-27, L.O.F.) - Pretrial Release and Detention	300
CS/SB 7014 (ch. 2023-59, L.O.F.) - Juvenile Justice	301
CS/CS/SB 7016 - Department of Corrections	302

CS/CS/SB 264 (ch. 2023-33, L.O.F.) - Interests of Foreign Countries

By: Rules; Judiciary; Collins and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1355

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules

Category: Agriculture; Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice

The bill identifies as a "foreign country of concern" each of the following countries:

- The People's Republic of China
- The Russian Federation
- The Islamic Republic of Iran
- The Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- The Republic of Cuba
- The Venezuelan regime of Nicolás Maduro
- The Syrian Arab Republic

The bill restricts a Florida governmental entity's ability to contract with or provide economic incentives to a foreign country of concern. The bill also places specific limitations on the type and location of real property that may be owned or acquired by a foreign country of concern and certain persons and entities affiliated with such countries. Specifically, the bill prohibits:

- a foreign country of concern and affiliated persons or entities from acquiring agricultural land.
- a foreign country of concern and affiliated persons or entities from acquiring real property on or within 10 miles of a military installation or critical infrastructure facility.
- The People's Republic of China and affiliated persons or entities from acquiring real property in the state.

The bill provides specific exceptions in certain instances for:

- a natural person lawfully present within the state seeking to purchase a residential property up to two acres, as long as such property is more than five miles from a military installation.
- a "de minimus indirect interest" in certain property.
- an acquisition of real property for diplomatic purposes.

The bill provides property registration requirements, civil and criminal penalties, and a process for forfeiture of property in certain situations. The bill also:

- amends the Florida Electronic Health Records Act and Florida Health Care Licensing Procedures
  Act to require that any offsite storage of medical information and patient records be physically
  maintained at a location within the United States, a territory of the United States, or Canada.
- increases the criminal penalty from a second degree felony to a first degree felony for committing extortion or threats while acting as a foreign agent to benefit a foreign country of concern.

The bill became law on May 8, 2023, chapter 2023-33, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 7025 (ch. 2023-19, L.O.F.) - Pub. Rec./Safe School Officers

By: Judiciary Committee; Brannan

Tied Bills: CS/HB 543 Companion Bills: SB 152

**Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Law Enforcement; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill is linked to the passage of CS/HB 543, which authorizes a private school to partner with a law enforcement or security agency to establish or assign a safe-school officer to a private school. The bill creates a public records exemption for any information that is held by a law enforcement agency that may identify whether a particular individual has been assigned as a safe-school officer at a private school. This public records exemption mirrors the existing public records exemption for information that is held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer at a public or charter school.

The bill provides for repeal of the public record exemption on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. The bill provides a public necessity statement, as required by the Florida Constitution.

The bill became law on April 3, 2023, chapter 2023-19, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

SB 7064 (ch. 2023-86, L.O.F.) - Human Trafficking

By: Fiscal Policy Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 7045
Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Civil Justice; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Sentencing

The bill creates a civil cause of action for victims of human trafficking against an adult theater or an owner, operator, or manager of such theater, that knowingly allows a victim of human trafficking to work, perform, or dance at the adult theater. In such civil action, a victim may recover economic and noneconomic damages; punitive damages; reasonable attorney fees; and costs. The bill authorizes an action brought under the bill's civil remedy provision to be brought within the same time period as is allowed for intentional torts based on abuse or, if applicable, sexual battery offenses on victims under age 16.

The bill requires that after satisfying any liens, the proceeds from any real or personal property seized and forfeited as provided by the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act (Act), must first be allocated to pay any order of restitution of a human trafficking victim in the criminal case for which the owner was convicted. If restitution is satisfied, any remaining proceeds must be disbursed as required by the Act, which directs the funds to be deposited and disbursed for specified uses.

#### The bill also:

- increases the offense for failure of an owner, operator, or manager of an adult theater to comply with the proof of age and identity verification requirements from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony and removes language indicating that the owner, operator, or manager must commit such an offense knowingly.
- requires an offender convicted for soliciting another person to commit prostitution to pay for and attend an educational program relating to human trafficking and commercial sex, if one is available, in addition to any other penalty imposed.
- requires that each certified law enforcement officer successfully complete four hours of training
  in identifying and investigating human trafficking as part of the basic recruit training or any
  additional required training.
- establishes the Statewide Data Repository for Anonymous Human Trafficking Data within the University of South Florida's Trafficking in Persons Risk to Resilience Lab.

The bill became law on May 16, 2023, chapter 2023-86, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

# **Civil Justice Subcommittee**

SB 2 - Relief of the Estate of Molly Parker/Department of Transportation

By: Hooper Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 6007

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Appropriations Committee on

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

**Category: Claim Bill** 

A Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) employee driving a dump truck negligently pulled into an intersection in Jackson County and violated the right of way of Mrs. Molly Parker, causing a collision that resulted in Mrs. Parker's death. Pursuant to a settlement agreement, FDOT agreed to pay Mrs. Parker's estate \$6,250,000 in compensation for her injuries and wrongful death, of which \$300,000 has already been paid.

The bill appropriates from the State Transportation Trust Fund the remaining \$5,950,000 to Mrs. Parker's estate in compensation for her wrongful death. 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 4 - Relief of Maria Garcia by the Pinellas County School Board

By: Rouson and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 6017

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Education Pre-K -12; Rules

**Category: Claim Bill; Local Government** 

A Pinellas County School Board employee driving a Pinellas County school bus negligently struck pedestrian Maria Garcia, who was in a marked crosswalk while the "walk" icon was illuminated, causing serious bodily injury and permanent disability. Pursuant to a settlement agreement, the Pinellas County School Board agreed to pay Ms. Garcia \$3,000,000, of which \$200,000 has already been paid.

The bill directs the Pinellas County School Board to pay the remaining \$2,800,000 to Ms. Garcia in compensation for her injuries and other damages. The bill limits the amount that may be paid for attorney fees.

SB 6 - Relief of the Estate of Jason Sanchez by Miami-Dade County

By: Rodriguez Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 6011

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Community Affairs; Rules

**Category: Claim Bill; Local Government** 

A Miami-Dade County employee driving a Miami-Dade County passenger bus negligently ran a stop sign at a marked intersection in Miami-Dade County and failed to yield the right of way to Jason Sanchez, causing a crash that resulted in Mr. Sanchez's death. Pursuant to a settlement agreement, Miami-Dade County agreed to pay Mr. Sanchez's estate \$1,250,000 in compensation for his wrongful death, of which \$300,000 has already been paid.

The bill directs Miami-Dade County to pay the remaining \$950,000 to Mr. Sanchez's estate in compensation for his wrongful death. The bill limits the amount that may be paid for attorney and lobbying fees.

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

# SB 8 - Relief of Leonard Cure/State of Florida

By: Jones and Thompson

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 6001

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Appropriations Committee on

**Criminal and Civil Justice; Appropriations** 

**Category: Claim Bill** 

Leonard Cure spent 16 years wrongfully incarcerated for a robbery with a firearm and an aggravated assault with a firearm that he did not commit. Because of five prior unrelated felony convictions, Mr. Cure was ineligible for compensation under Chapter 961, Florida Statutes, which provides the usual process through which a wrongfully-incarcerated person obtains relief.

The bill awards Mr. Cure \$817,000 in compensation for his wrongful incarceration and waives tuition and fees for Mr. Cure for up to 120 hours of instruction at any career center, Florida College System institution, or state university.

SB 10 - Relief of Kristin A. Stewart by Sarasota County

By: Gruters
Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 6019

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Community Affairs; Rules

**Category: Claim Bill; Local Government** 

A Sarasota County employee driving a Sarasota County utility truck negligently executed a U-turn at an intersection, striking and severely injuring and disabling Kristin A. Stewart, a pedestrian who had the right of way. Pursuant to a settlement agreement, Sarasota County agreed to pay Ms. Stewart \$5,950,000, of which \$200,000 has been paid.

The bill directs Sarasota County to pay the remaining \$5,750,000 to Ms. Stewart in compensation for her injuries and other damages. The bill limits the amount that may be paid for attorney fees, lobbying fees, and costs.

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

CS/SB 12 - Relief of Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Chavez-Medrano, as personal representatives of

Hilda Medrano/Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office

By: Judiciary; Polsky Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 6021

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Rules

**Category: Claim Bill; Local Government** 

An Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) deputy negligently operated his patrol car and caused a collision with a vehicle in which Hilda Medrano was a passenger, resulting in Ms. Hilda Medrano's death. Pursuant to a settlement agreement, OCSO agreed to pay Ricardo Medrano-Arzate and Eva Medrano, as personal representatives of Hilda Medrano, \$1,200,000 in compensation for Ms. Medrano's wrongful death.

The bill directs OCSO to pay \$1,200,000 to Mr. Medrano Arzate and Ms. Chavez-Medrano in compensation for Ms. Hilda Medrano's wrongful death. The bill directs the payment to be made over four years in installments of \$300,000 each. The bill limits the amount that may be paid for attorney fees, lobbying fees, and costs.

CS/SB 16 - Relief of Mitchell by the South Broward Hospital District

By: Judiciary; Gruters Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 6015

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Health Policy; Rules

**Category: Claim Bill; Local Government** 

Jamiyah Mitchell suffered life-altering injuries as a result of the negligence of the employees of the South Broward Hospital District. The parties reached a settlement for a total of \$995,000, of which \$200,000 has already been paid. The bill directs the South Broward Hospital District to pay the remaining \$795,000 into a special needs trust for the benefit of Jamiyah Mitchell. The bill limits the amount that may be paid for attorney fees, lobbying fees, and costs.

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

## CS/HB 27 - Judgment Liens

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1574

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

**Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection** 

When a plaintiff in a civil lawsuit obtains a monetary judgment in its favor ("judgment creditor"), either the defendant ("judgment debtor") will pay the judgment creditor the money owed or the judgment creditor may seek to satisfy the judgment from the judgment debtor's property which is not exempt from a creditor's reach. To assist in judgment satisfaction, Florida law authorizes a judgment creditor to obtain and secure a lien on the judgment debtor's non-exempt real and tangible personal property. Once a lien is secured, a judgment creditor has numerous judicial remedies available to enforce the lien. However, Florida law provides that a judgment lien on a motor vehicle or vessel, though enforceable against the judgment debtor, is not enforceable against subsequent purchasers for value unless the vehicle's or vessel's title certificate notes the lien. Further, current law does not:

- allow a judgment lien to attach to intangible personal property.
- expressly prohibit a judgment creditor from using self-help methods to satisfy a judgment lien.

The bill creates the Judgment Lien Improvement Act to:

- provide two statutory mechanisms by which a judgment creditor may cause a judgment lien to be noted on the title certificate of a judgment debtor's motor vehicle or vessel, thereby ensuring that a subsequent purchaser of the vehicle or vessel takes title subject to the lien.
- clarify how the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles may remove a judgment lien from its records and relevant title certificates where the lienholder files a second judgment lien certificate with the Department of State.
- allow a judgment lien to attach to certain types of intangible personal property and specify the
  priority of such liens as against pre-existing security agreements in which such property was
  pledged as collateral to secure the loan.

- expressly state that a judgment lien on personal property may only be enforced through judicial process absent the judgment debtor's express written consent to do otherwise.
- clarify that a third party owing money to a judgment debtor under a payment intangible or account may continue to pay the judgment debtor directly until he or she receives specified orders to pay the judgment creditor instead.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

# CS/SB 50 - Public Records/Judicial Assistants

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Wright

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 75

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

**Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Public Employees** 

Judicial assistants provide essential administrative, secretarial, and clerical support functions to justices and judges. As judicial assistants regularly speak and work with attorneys, litigants, self-represented parties, or family members of litigants and defendants, judicial assistants may become the target of acts of retaliation or revenge from disgruntled litigants, defendants, or their associates and family members.

The bill expands the public records exemption pertaining to personal identifying information of justices and judges to also include current judicial assistants. Specifically, the following personal identifying information is exempt under the bill:

- home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of judicial assistants.
- names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of judicial assistants.
- names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of judicial assistants.

Pursuant to the Open Government Sunset Review Act, this exemption will be automatically repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reenacted by the Legislature. The bill provides a statement of public necessity as required by the Florida Constitution.

SB 62 - Relief of Robert Earl DuBoise by the State of Florida

By: Grall

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 6005

Committee(s) of Reference: Special Master on Claim Bills; Judiciary; Appropriations Committee on

**Criminal and Civil Justice; Appropriations** 

**Category: Claim Bill** 

Robert Earl DuBoise spent 37 years wrongfully incarcerated for a sexual assault and murder that he did not commit. Because of three prior unrelated felony convictions, Mr. DuBoise was ineligible for compensation under Chapter 961, Florida Statutes, which provides the usual process through which a wrongfully-incarcerated person obtains relief.

The bill awards Mr. DuBoise \$1,850,000 in compensation for his wrongful incarceration and waives tuition and fees for Mr. DuBoise for up to 120 hours of instruction at any career center, Florida College System institution, or state university.

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

CS/CS/SB 130 - Domestic Violence

By: Rules; Judiciary; Berman and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 97

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules

**Category: Civil Justice; Courts** 

Current law requires a court to order shared parental responsibility of a minor child unless the court finds that shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to the child and establishes a rebuttable presumption of detriment under specific, limited circumstances.

The bill expands the factors a court must consider when determining whether a detriment to the child exists with respect to parental responsibility of a minor child and adds to the existing factors for modifying or establishing parental responsibility or time-sharing of a minor child.

The bill also adds an additional factor the court must consider in determining reasonable cause that the petitioner in a domestic violence matter is in imminent danger of becoming a victim of domestic violence and updates the requirements for the form for a sworn petition for domestic violence injunction.

CS/HB 133 - Fees in Lieu of Security Deposits By: Judiciary Committee; Mooney; and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 494

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Real Property** 

The bill authorizes but does not require a landlord to offer a tenant the option to pay a fee in lieu of a security deposit, and requires a landlord making such an offer to give the tenant written notice:

- that the tenant may pay a security deposit instead of the fee, which fee may not be increased during the rental agreement's term.
- that the tenant may, at any time, terminate the fee payment agreement and instead pay a
  security deposit in the amount specified in the rental agreement or, if not so specified, in the
  amount otherwise offered to new tenants for substantially similar units.
- that the fee is nonrefundable, if applicable.
- that the fee is only for securing occupancy without needing to pay a security deposit.
- that the fee payment does not change the tenant's obligation to pay rent and fees or the costs of repairing premises damage above normal wear and tear.
- that if the landlord uses any portion of the fee to purchase insurance, the tenant is not the
  insured or a beneficiary of such insurance, and the insurance does not change the tenant's
  obligation to pay rent and fees or the costs of repairing premises damage above normal wear
  and tear.

#### The bill also:

- authorizes a landlord to give the tenant the option of paying a security deposit in monthly installments while participating in the fee program.
- requires that, if the tenant chooses the fee option, the landlord and the tenant must sign a written fee payment agreement.
- provides that a fee in lieu of a security deposit may be a recurring monthly fee, payable on the same date that the rent is due under the lease, or payable upon another chosen schedule.
- sets requirements for a landlord claiming unpaid rent or fees under a lease agreement or premises damages where the tenant paid a fee in lieu of a security deposit.
- applies to rental agreements entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2023.

SB 144 (ch. 2023-88, L.O.F.) - Lactation Spaces

By: Berman Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 87

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Fiscal Policy Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts

The bill requires each county courthouse to provide at least one dedicated lactation space for members of the public to use to express breastmilk or breastfeed in private. The dedicated space must not be located in a restroom and must be hygienic, clean and sanitary, and conducive to maintaining and preventing disease. It must be shielded from public view and free from intrusion while in use, and it must contain an electrical outlet. Each courthouse must have such a dedicated lactation space by January 1, 2024. However, the bill does not require a lactation space if new construction would be required and if the courthouse does not already have a lactation space for employees which may be used by members of the public and the courthouse also does not have a space that could be repurposed or made private at a reasonable cost.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-88, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 213 - Limitation of Actions Involving Real Estate Appraisers and Appraisal Management Companies

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Borrero and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 398

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

**Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Real Property

A real estate appraisal gives the current value of real property. This appraisal value is used to establish a property's fair market value, which information is useful to persons involved in real estate transactions, including buyers, sellers, and financiers.

Persons who suffer damages as a result of an act or omission in the performance of appraisal services or appraisal management services may have a cause of action against the person or party responsible for the act or omission. Available causes of action may include an action founded on contract or tort, such as negligence or fraud. Under Florida law, the statute of limitations for an action for professional malpractice, including malpractice in the provision of appraisal services or appraisal management services, whether founded on contract or tort, is generally two years, running from the time the cause of action is discovered or should have been discovered with the exercise of due diligence.

The bill creates a specific two-year statute of limitations and a four-year statute of repose for a lawsuit to recover damages from an appraiser or appraisal management company based on contract, tort, or other legal theory for an act or omission in the performance of appraisal services or appraisal management services. The statute of limitations runs from the date the alleged act or omission is discovered, or should have been discovered, while the statute of repose runs from the date the appraisal services or appraisal management services were performed, or should have been performed. However, under the bill, the statutes of limitations and repose do not apply to any:

- administrative proceedings initiated by specified regulatory authorities.
- action alleging that an appraiser or appraisal management company committed fraud.

The bill also provides that the statutes of limitations and repose apply to any action commenced on or after July 1, 2023, except that any action accruing before that date which would not have been barred before July 1, 2023, must be commenced by July 1, 2024, or else is barred.

CS/CS/SB 226 - Support for Dependent Adult Children By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Judiciary; Berman

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 813

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

**Category: Civil Justice** 

Parents have a common law obligation to support their dependent adult child (DAC); however, such duty is not fully codified in the Florida Statutes. While Florida law allows a court to order support for a DAC, it does not require or create a blanket obligation to do so. As such, there is no consistency from court to court regarding how to calculate support for a DAC.

The bill codifies the common law obligation of a parent to support a DAC after he or she reaches the age of majority. The bill specifies who may bring an action to establish such support and provides that support payments should be made directly to the DAC. The bill permits a portion of the support to be placed in a special needs trust or pooled trust for the DAC's benefit and prohibits a court from entering an order for support that would make the DAC ineligible for programs or services the DAC currently participates in, receives, or would be reasonably expected to participate in after reaching the age of majority. The bill also establishes new support guidelines for courts to use in support calculations for a DAC.

CS/SB 286 - Legal Instruments

By: Banking and Insurance; Powell

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 237

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

**Category: Civil Justice; Real Property** 

Florida law specifically authorizes the use of remote online witnesses for the execution of estate planning documents, including wills, if specified requirements are met. Most of these documents do not require notarization, but all must be witnessed by either two attesting or subscribing witnesses. Florida law also authorizes a mortgage to provide for an assignment of rents of real property as security for repayment of the mortgage. If such an assignment is made, the mortgagee has a lien on the rents, allowing the mortgagee to collect rent payments from the mortgagor's tenants should the mortgagor default on mortgage payments. However, courts have held that such assignment is unenforceable against third parties who acquire real property subject to a mortgage lien without assuming the mortgage loan's obligations. Thus, the mortgagee may be unable to collect payments from the third party during a foreclosure action.

The Florida Supreme Court has long held that a junior lienholder may not foreclose a senior lienholder's lien. However, in 2021, the Fourth DCA held that a junior lienholder can foreclose the lien of a senior lienholder under certain circumstances. Under Florida law, an improper foreclosure remedy is only available to a senior mortgage lienholder, who may bring a claim for monetary damages against the party responsible for the improper action.

## The bill:

- amends online notarization law to clarify that "witness" means someone whose electronic signature is affixed to an electronic record to attest to a principal's signature on such record.
- modifies foreclosure law to define "mortgagor" to include third parties who acquire title to or an
  interest in a mortgaged property, with exceptions, to allow an assignment of rents provision to
  be enforceable against such third parties.
- allows any senior lienholder whose interest was improperly foreclosed to bring a claim for monetary damages against the party responsible for the improper action and adds a two-way prevailing party attorney fees provision in certain foreclosure actions to disincentivize improperly foreclosing a senior lienholder's interests.

CS/CS/HB 331 - Liens and Bonds

By: Regulatory Reform & Economic Development Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Overdorf

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 624

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

**Subcommittee**; Judiciary Committee

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice; Real Property

Persons who provide services, labor, or materials for improving, repairing, or maintaining real property may generally place a construction lien on the property if they are not paid for their services in certain situations and if they follow certain procedures set forth in Florida's construction lien law. The bill modifies and clarifies Florida's construction lien law and related provisions in various ways, including by:

- modifying the notice of commencement, notice of termination, and notice of nonpayment forms and requiring the building permit issuing authority to accept a recorded notice of commencement if it is in the statutorily-specified form.
- allowing licensed general or building contractors providing construction or program management services to claim construction liens for such services.
- modifying recording and service requirements.
- modifying the available alternative forms of security that may be filed in lieu of a payment bond for public projects.
- specifying that the methods for discharging a lien may also be used to release a lien.
- increasing the bond amount and documentation necessary to deposit or file with the clerk's office to transfer a lien to a security.
- entitling the prevailing party in an action to enforce a lien transferred to a security to recover reasonable attorney fees.
- increasing the contract amount which excuses a building permit applicant from filing a copy of the notice of commencement with the issuing authority, from \$2,500 to \$5,000.
- providing a method for computing time periods for recording a document or filing an action under the construction lien law and tolling such time periods in emergency circumstances.

CS/SB 360 (ch. 2023-22, L.O.F.) - Causes of Action Based on Improvements to Real Property

By: Judiciary; Hutson Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 85

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Rules

**Category: Civil Justice; Real Property** 

The bill relates to causes of action relating to construction defects and:

- Modifies the time periods within which a construction defect cause of action must be brought by:
  - Changing the point from which the four-year statute of limitations begins to run for patent defects to the date of the earliest of the following events:
    - Issuance of a temporary certificate of occupancy.
    - Issuance of a certificate of occupancy.
    - Issuance of a certificate of completion.
    - Construction's abandonment, if not completed.
  - Decreasing the statute of repose from ten years to seven years, generally running from the earliest of the listed triggering events for the statute of limitations.
  - Specifying how to determine the limitations period for each building in a multi-building improvement and for a single-dwelling residential building used as a model home.
  - Giving plaintiffs a set period of time to file suit if these changes by the bill would otherwise cut off their rights.
- Limits the statutory Building Code violation cause of action to a "material" violation.

The bill became law on April 13, 2023, chapter 2023-22, Laws of Florida, and took effect on that date.

CS/CS/HB 437 (ch. 2023-64, L.O.F.) - Property Owners' Right to Install, Display, and Store Items

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Buchanan and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1454

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

Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee Category: Military; Real Property

Under current Florida law, a condominium unit owner may, notwithstanding any rules or requirements, display one portable, removable U.S. flag in a respectful manner, and may also display multiple U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard flags on specified patriotic holidays.

Further, a homeowner may, regardless of any homeowners' association (HOA) covenants or rules, display one U.S. or State of Florida flag; and one POW-MIA flag or a flag representing a specified branch of the U.S. Armed Forces. A homeowner may also set up a flagpole no more than 20 feet high on his or her property, and display from that flagpole one U.S. or State of Florida flag; and one POW-MIA flag or a flag representing a specified branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The bill provides that notwithstanding any HOA covenant or rule, a homeowner may display up to two of the following flags in a respectful manner:

- The U.S. flag
- The official flag of the State of Florida
- A flag that represents the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard
- A POW-MIA flag
- A first responder flag

# The bill also:

- provides that a homeowner may fly one U.S. flag and one flag from the list above from a freestanding flagpole.
- provides that an HOA may not restrict parcel owners or their tenants from installing, displaying, or storing any items which are not visible from the parcel's frontage or an adjacent parcel.
- adds Patriot Day (September 11) to the list of days when a condominium unit owner may display armed forces flags.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-64, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

HB 441 - Removal of Unknown Parties in Possession

By: Brackett and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 522

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration; Courts** 

When a landowner or landlord serves a summons for the removal of persons wrongfully occupying his or her property, the summons must be issued to "Unknown Party in Possession" if the identity of the occupant or occupants is unknown. A separate summons must be issued for each such unknown occupant.

The bill clarifies that a summons must be issued in the name of "Unknown Parties in Possession" rather than "Unknown Party." Therefore, one summons can apply to all of the unknown occupants on a property and serve to put any and all unknown occupants on notice of the legal action.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 574 - Termination of Agreements by a Servicemember

By: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Burgess

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 73

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

**Rules** 

**Category: Civil Justice; Military** 

In 2003, the Legislature enacted the Florida Uniformed Servicemembers Protection Act (FUSPA). As part of the FUSPA, the Legislature expanded servicemembers' rights in relation to terminating rental agreements. One provision within FUSPA allows a servicemember to terminate a rental agreement upon receiving orders to move into "government quarters."

The bill provides a definition of "government quarters" applicable to the termination of a rental agreement by a servicemember. Under the bill, "government quarters" is defined as "any military housing option that is available to a servicemember, including privatized military housing that is owned, operated, or managed by a private sector company." Practically speaking, the bill clarifies conditions in which an active duty servicemember may break his or her rental lease.

CS/CS/SB 600 - Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors

By: Rules; Judiciary; Martin

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 491

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

**Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Civil Justice** 

Chapter 727, F.S., provides a uniform procedure for assignments for the benefit of creditors, a process for administering insolvent businesses under Florida law that is similar to Chapter 7 bankruptcy proceedings. To begin an administration for the benefit of creditors, the insolvent business ("assignor") must make an irrevocable assignment of the business's assets ("estate") in writing to a third party ("assignee"). After recording the assignment in the public records of the county in which the assignor had its principal place of business and a certified copy of the assignment in each county where estate assets are located, the assignee must collect all estate assets in the possession of others, except for certain creditors, and liquidate such assets to ensure full reporting to the estate's creditors and the equal distribution of assets to such creditors in accordance with statutorily-specified priorities. The assignee may also operate the insolvent business for specified time periods and reject an unexpired lease of personal or nonresidential real property in which the business was the lessee.

Upon distribution of all estate assets, the assignee must petition the court for his or her discharge, which petition must include an annexed final report setting forth all receipts and disbursements of the estate. Proceedings may not be brought against the assignee except as provided in ch. 727, F.S.

## The bill:

- clarifies that the intent of ch. 727, F.S., is, in part, to provide a uniform procedure for an insolvent business's orderly liquidation.
- modifies the procedures for an assignment's recording.
- limits an assignee's personal liability for actions relating to the administration and liquidation of an insolvent business under ch. 727, F.S.
- specifies which creditors do not have to turn over estate assets in their possession upon notice by the assignee of the assignment proceedings.
- provides that an assignee's service of a notice of rejection of an unexpired lease of personal property or nonresidential real property on the property's owner or lessor and, for personal property, on the landlord of the premises on which the property is located, may be by negative notice, which, unless a response is filed within 21 days after the date of service of the notice, allows certain actions set forth in the notice to occur without a hearing.

CS/CS/HB 775 - Shared Parental Responsibility after Establishment of Paternity

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Benjamin; Hawkins and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1146

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Civil Justice; Courts** 

Current law requires an alleged father to first establish paternity before being able to petition a court to determine parental responsibility and timesharing.

The bill clarifies that, after the birth of a child, a parent may request a determination of parental responsibility and child support and for the creation of a parenting plan and timesharing schedule. The bill also requires that in an action to establish paternity, the court must also determine parental responsibility and a parenting plan, and establish a timesharing schedule in addition to an order determining a child support obligation.

The bill clarifies that an unwed mother and a father who has established paternity are the natural guardians of the child and, as such, have the rights and responsibilities associated with raising a child. The bill also clarifies that the Department of Revenue may continue to establish child support by administrative order.

CS/CS/HB 837 (ch. 2023-15, L.O.F.) - Civil Remedies

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Gregory; Fabricio and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 236

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Civil Justice; Insurance** 

The bill makes the following changes to Florida's civil justice system:

- changes Florida's comparative negligence system from a "pure" comparative negligence system to a "modified" system, except for medical negligence cases, so that a plaintiff who is more than 50% at fault for his or her own injuries generally may not recover any damages.
- provides uniform standards to assist juries in calculating the accurate value of medical damages in personal injury or wrongful death actions.
- modifies Florida's "bad faith" framework to:
  - allow an insurer to avoid third-party bad faith liability if the insurer tenders the policy limits or the amount demanded by the claimant within 90 days after receiving actual notice of the claim.
  - clarify that mere negligence alone is not enough to demonstrate bad faith.
  - require an insured and a claimant to act in good faith with respect to furnishing information, making demands, setting deadlines, and attempting to settle the claim.
  - allow an insurer, when there are multiple claimants in a single action, to limit the insurer's bad faith liability by paying the total amount of the policy limits at the outset.
- provides that a contingency fee multiplier for an attorney fee award is appropriate only in a rare and exceptional circumstance, essentially adopting the federal standard.
- repeals Florida's one-way attorney fee statutes, except that the one-way attorney fee structure still applies in certain actions:
  - for declaratory relief to determine insurance coverage after an insurer has made a total coverage denial of a claim.
  - involving bonds for construction contracts.
- clarifies that the offer of judgment statute applies in any civil action involving an insurance contract.
- requires the trier of fact in certain negligent security actions to consider the fault of all persons
  who contributed to the injury and establishes a presumption against liability in certain
  situations.
- reduces the statute of limitations for general negligence cases from 4 years to 2 years, with this change applying to causes of action accruing after the effective date of the bill.
- clarifies that certain actions involving a servicemember are subject to a stay of proceedings.

The bill also provides that it:

- may not be construed to impair any right under an insurance contract in effect on or before the bill's effective date.
- applies to causes of action filed after the bill's effective date, except as provided within.

The bill became law on March 24, 2023, chapter 2023-15, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/HB 977 - Clerks of Court

By: Justice Appropriations Subcommittee; Botana and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1130

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Civil Justice; Court Administration** 

The bill provides for the redirection of specified revenue from the General Revenue Fund, totaling approximately \$25.6 million annually over the next five years, for deposit into specified trust funds for use by the clerks of the circuit court in performing court-related functions. The bill also changes the remissions period for the submission of budget allocation overages from monthly to quarterly to address cash flow problems sometimes created by the monthly remittance requirement.

CS/SB 978 - Secured Transactions By: Community Affairs; Bradley

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 901

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

**Category: Civil Justice; Commerce; Consumer Protection** 

A security interest arises when, in exchange for a loan, a borrower pledges as collateral in a security agreement specified assets he or she owns that the lender may take if the borrower defaults on the loan. Historically, assets exempt from a creditor's reach under Florida law, such as an individual retirement account ("IRA"), remained exempt in the case of a default unless specifically pledged in a security agreement. However, a recent court case decision broke with this rule by holding that a security agreement granting a security interest in "all assets and rights of the Pledgor" pledged the debtor's IRA as security for a loan even though the IRA in question was not specifically identified in the agreement. The bill provides that a general description only by collateral type is insufficient to pledge the following statutorily-exempt assets for the purposes of a security agreement:

- Funds held in an IRA and other tax-exempt accounts.
- The cash surrender value of a life insurance policy and the proceeds of an annuity contract.
- Funds held in qualified tuition programs and medical, Coverdell education, and hurricane savings accounts.
- Disability income benefits.
- A deceased person's wages and unemployment compensation benefits.
- Homestead property and certain personal property items.
- Social security benefits; unemployment compensation or public assistance benefits; veterans' benefits; alimony, support, or separate maintenance; and stock or pension plans under specified circumstances.

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

CS/HB 1205 - Advertisements for Legal Services
By: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Andrade and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 1246** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Civil Justice; Consumer Protection; Health** 

In 2019, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") noted that the Food and Drug Administration's ("FDA") Adverse Event Reporting System contained reports of consumers who had viewed attorney advertisements warning about the prescription medications they were taking and discontinued taking such medications, suffering adverse consequences as a result. The FTC warned that advertisements that cause, or are likely to cause, viewers to discontinue taking prescription medications may constitute an unfair or deceptive trade act or practice under federal law.

# The bill:

- prohibits a person or entity issuing a legal services advertisement from taking specified actions, including presenting the advertisement as a medical alert or as offering advice from a state or federal governmental entity.
- requires a person or entity issuing a legal services advertisement to solicit clients who may allege injury from an FDA-approved prescription drug or medical device to include specified statements and information in the advertisement.
- prohibits a person or entity from using, causing to be used, obtaining, selling, transferring, or
  disclosing a consumer's protected health information to another person or entity for the
  purpose of soliciting the consumer for legal services without the consumer's written
  authorization, except to an individual's legal representative under specified circumstances.
- provides that a violation of the bill is a Florida Deceptive or Unfair Trade Practice Act violation.
- specifies that the bill does not limit or otherwise affect the Florida Bar's authority to regulate the practice of law, enforce its rules of professional conduct, or discipline any person admitted to the practice of law.
- specifies that the bill does not apply to an advertisement that has been reviewed and approved by the Florida Bar in accordance with its rules of professional conduct.

CS/HB 1301 - Parenting and Time-sharing of Minor Children

By: Judiciary Committee; Persons-Mulicka and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1292

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Civil Justice** 

In every case for modifying a parenting plan, including a timesharing schedule, the best interest of the child at issue is a primary consideration. Under current Florida law, a court may only modify a parenting plan and timesharing schedule after a substantial, material, and unanticipated change in circumstances has been established.

## The bill:

- removes the requirement that the alleged substantial and material change in circumstances which warrants modification must also be unanticipated.
- creates a rebuttable presumption that equal timesharing is in the best interest of the child at issue.
- creates a presumption that if the parents of a child reside more than 50 miles apart and one parent relocates within 50 miles of the other parent, that move is a substantial and material change in circumstances for which modification of timesharing may be allowed.

CS/SB 1318 - Spaceflight Entity Liability

By: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Wright

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 839

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

Category: Civil Justice; Commerce; Technology; Transportation

Under current Florida law, a spaceflight entity is generally not liable for the injury to or death of a spaceflight participant resulting from the inherent risks of spaceflight activities, as long as a required warning statement is given to and signed by the participant.

The bill extends the limited immunity from liability held by spaceflight entities against suits brought by participants to also include suits brought by crew members who sign the waiver provided for in current law. The bill provides that an exception to the immunity applies if the spaceflight entity is grossly negligent, knows of an extraordinarily dangerous condition that is not inherent in spaceflight activities, or intentionally injures the participant or crew. The bill also:

- expands the liability protection to cover injury or death resulting from spaceflight activities, regardless of whether the injury or death resulted from the "inherent risks" of such activities.
- modifies the definitions of "spaceflight entity" and "spaceflight activities" and adds a definition
  of "crew."

CS/SB 1416 - Dissolution of Marriage

**By: Fiscal Policy; Gruters** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1409

Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy; Rules

**Category: Civil Justice; Courts** 

Chapter 61, F.S., governs domestic relations, including actions for dissolution of marriage (DOM), child custody, child support, and alimony. Alimony is a court-ordered payment from one spouse to another, most commonly awarded for support or maintenance during a pending action for DOM and after a DOM is final. Current law provides guidelines to assist courts in determining matters related to parenting and time-sharing of minor children in actions under ch. 61, F.S., in accordance with the best interests of the child while balancing the rights of parents.

The bill prohibits the award of permanent alimony and modifies the current presumptions relating to the length of a marriage and the type of alimony available based upon the duration of the marriage. The bill also modifies the process by which an award of alimony, support, or maintenance may be reduced or terminated, especially with respect to situations where there is a supportive relationship or where the obligor has reached retirement age or is six months from reaching retirement age.

The bill amends current law regarding the modification of a parenting plan and removes the requirement that the alleged substantial and material change in circumstances which warrants modification must also be unanticipated. The bill also clarifies that a parent's relocation to be closer to his or her child, under certain circumstances, is a substantial and material change in circumstances for the purpose of modifying the time-sharing schedule and parenting plan.

The changes made by the bill to s. 61.08, F.S., relating to alimony, are only applicable to initial petitions for dissolution of marriage or petitions for support unconnected to dissolution of marriage filed or pending as of July 1, 2023.

**CS/HB 1417 - Residential Tenancies** 

By: Judiciary Committee; Esposito; McClure and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1586

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special

**Districts Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Civil Justice; Local Government; Real Property

Part II of chapter 83, F.S., known as the "Florida Residential Landlord and Tenant Act" ("Act"), governs residential tenancies and the landlord-tenant relationship. Moreover, the Florida Constitution grants county and municipal governments broad home rule authority. Under current law, local governments may regulate residential tenancies and the landlord-tenant relationship to the extent such regulations do not conflict with state law or applicable federal law.

#### The bill:

- expressly preempts to the state the regulation of residential tenancies, the landlord-tenant relationship, and all other matters covered by the Act.
- specifies that it supersedes any local government regulations on matters covered under the Act.
- modifies the time for giving notice of termination of a tenancy for month-to-month tenancies and tenancies of a specified duration.

CS/CS/HB 1419 - Real Property Fraud

By: Judiciary Committee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Robinson, W. and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1436

Committee(s) of Reference: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Civil Justice; Courts; Local Government; Real Property

No deed is effective unless it is properly recorded in the official records of the clerk of the circuit court where the property lies, and the clerk may not record a deed unless certain statutory requirements are met. Recently, there has been an increase in fraudulent real property conveyances in which a fraudster executes and records a deed purporting to convey title to or an interest in real property to himself or herself or a third party without the property owner's knowledge or consent. However, under current law, the clerk cannot look beyond the four corners of a deed presented to determine its validity; thus, if it appears on the deed's face that the statutory requirements are met, the clerk must record the deed.

#### The bill:

- requires the clerks to offer a free recording notification service on or before July 1, 2024, to
  provide property owners who register for the service with early notice that a land record has
  been filed on their property.
- prescribes the form for a quitclaim deed.
- modifies Florida law relating to quiet title actions to expressly state that a quiet title action may
  be based on a title fraud allegation; require the clerks to provide a simplified form for the filing
  of such action; entitle a petitioner bringing such action to expedited timeframes; and require a
  court to award a prevailing plaintiff with the same title and rights to the land that he or she
  enjoyed before the title fraud.
- modifies requirements to record instruments affecting real property.
- creates the Title Fraud Prevention Through Identity Verification Pilot Program, in which the Lee County, Florida, clerk may require the production of a government-issued photographic identification card in connection with the filing of specified instruments.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

SB 1442 - Terrorism By: Collins and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 1501

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Criminal Justice; Rules

**Category: Civil Justice; Courts** 

Federal law creates a cause of action for a tort related to terrorism. The federal cause of action allows any United States citizen injured by an act of international terrorism, or his or her estate, survivors, or heirs, to sue in United States district court and recover treble damages and the cost of the suit, including attorney fees. Under federal law, recovery by a U.S. national against a terrorist may include any asset of that terrorist party, including assets of an agency or instrumentality of that party, seized or frozen by the U.S. pursuant to federal law. Florida law also provides a civil remedy for terrorism.

The bill creates a narrow exception to the state statutory right to a jury trial in a postjudgment execution proceeding in state court based on a prior award of damages to a victim of terrorism. The bill also prohibits a defendant in such proceeding, and any entities owned or controlled by the defendant, from using the resources of state courts in furtherance of a defense or objection to postjudgment collection proceedings if he or she:

- purposely leaves the jurisdiction of the state of Florida or of the United States
- declines to enter or reenter Florida or the United States to submit to its jurisdiction
- otherwise evades the jurisdiction of the court in which a criminal case is pending

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

CS/SB 1458 (ch. 2023-56, L.O.F.) - Roller Skating Rink Safety

By: Commerce and Tourism; Yarborough and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

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Companion Bills: CS/HB 1129

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

**Category: Civil Justice** 

The bill creates s. 768.395, F.S., to provide statutory standards for owners and operators of skating rinks, as well as for roller skaters, for a court to apply in civil litigation. The bill limits the liability of a skating rink owner or operator who meets certain standards and requirements, as long as there is no gross negligence. The bill also specifies that an operator, skater, or spectator who takes or fails to take certain actions acts negligently.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-56, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

# **Criminal Justice Subcommittee**

CS/CS/HB 67 - Protection of Specified Personnel

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Gottlieb and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 174

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Criminal Justice; Public Employees** 

The bill expands the current first degree misdemeanor offense of threatening specified personnel with serious bodily harm or death to also include justices, judicial assistants, clerks of court, clerk personnel, and family members of such persons as protected personnel. The bill specifies that to commit the offense, a person must act knowingly and willfully when making such a threat.

The bill also creates a new first degree misdemeanor offense, to prohibit a person from knowingly and willfully harassing a law enforcement officer, a state attorney, an assistant state attorney, a firefighter, a judge, a justice, a judicial assistant, a clerk of court, clerk personnel, or an elected official, with the intent to intimidate or coerce such a person to perform or refrain from performing a lawful duty.

The bill defines a "judicial assistant" as a court employee assigned to the office of a specific judge or justice responsible for providing administrative, secretarial, and clerical support to the assigned judge or justice.

CS/HB 95 - Rights of Law Enforcement Officers and Correctional Officers

By: Judiciary Committee; Duggan; Plasencia and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 618

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Employees** 

The bill defines a "Brady identification system" as a list or identification, in whatever form, of the name or names of law enforcement officers or correctional officers about whom a prosecuting agency is in possession of impeachment evidence as defined by court decision, statute, or rule. The bill requires a prosecuting agency that maintains a Brady identification system to adopt specified written policies outlining protections for officers, which at a minimum, must include the right of a law enforcement officer or correctional officer to:

- receive written notice before or contemporaneously with a prosecuting agency including the name and information of an officer in a Brady identification system, unless a pending criminal case requires immediate disclosure or providing notice would jeopardize a pending investigation.
- request reconsideration of the prosecuting agency's decision to include the name and information of the officer in a Brady identification system and his or her right to submit documents and evidence in support of the request for reconsideration.

If a prosecuting agency determines that the law enforcement officer or correctional officer should not be included in a Brady identification system, the bill requires the prosecuting agency to:

- remove such officer's name from the Brady identification system and send written notice of such decision to the officer's current or last known employing agency confirming that the officer's name has been removed from the Brady identification system, and
- notify all parties to the pending criminal case of the officer's removal from the Brady identification system if a law enforcement officer or correctional officer's name was previously included in a Brady identification system and his or her name was disclosed in a pending criminal case.

If a prosecuting agency fails to comply with the provisions in the bill, an officer may petition a court for a writ of mandamus to compel the prosecuting agency to comply with the procedures created by the bill. The bill does not limit the duty of a prosecuting authority to provide Brady evidence in all cases and does not create a private cause of action against a prosecuting agency or employee of a prosecuting agency.

The bill prohibits a law enforcement officer's or correctional officer's employing agency from discharging, suspending, demoting, or otherwise disciplining an officer solely as a result of a prosecuting agency determining that the officer withheld exculpatory evidence or because his or her name was included in a Brady identification system. The bill does not prohibit an officer's employing agency from taking disciplinary action against the officer based on the underlying actions of the officer, subject to any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

**HB 119 - Visiting County and Municipal Detention Facilities** 

By: Benjamin and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1510

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Local Government** 

The bill authorizes certain persons who are elected or appointed to serve the county or municipality in which a county or municipal detention facility is located, to visit such facility at their pleasure, including members of the governing body of the county or municipality, members of the Legislature, state court judges, the state attorney, the public defender, and the regional counsel.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 164 - Controlled Substance Testing

By: Rules; Polsky and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 165

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Judiciary; Rules Category: Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill excludes narcotic-drug-testing products used solely to test a controlled substance for fentanyl or other fentanyl analogues or fentanyl derivatives from the definition of drug paraphernalia. This exclusion does not apply to a narcotic-drug-testing product that can measure or determine the quantity, weight, or potency of a controlled substance.

CS/SB 232 - Exploitation of Vulnerable Persons

**By: Criminal Justice; Garcia** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 603

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice** 

The bill prohibits exploitation of a person 65 years of age or older by:

- obtaining or using, endeavoring to obtain or use, or conspiring with another to obtain or use, through deception or intimidation, the property of a person 65 years of age or older:
  - with the intent to temporarily or permanently deprive that person of the use, benefit, or possession of the property or to benefit someone other than the property owner.
  - through intentional modification, alteration, or fraudulent creation of a plan of distribution or disbursement expressed in a will, trust instrument, or other testamentary devise of the person 65 years of age or older.
- depriving, endeavoring to deprive, or conspiring with another to deprive, with the intent to
  defraud and by means of bribery or kickbacks, a person 65 years of age or older of his or her
  intangible right to honest services provided by a person with whom he or she has a legal or
  fiduciary relationship.

The bill provides if the funds, assets, or property involved in the exploitation of the person 65 years of age or older is valued at:

- \$50,000 or more, the offender commits a first degree felony.
- \$10,000 or more, but less than \$50,000, the offender commits a second degree felony.
- Less than \$10,000, the offender commits a third degree felony.

Related to the offense of exploitation of a person 65 years of age or older, the bill:

- prohibits an offender from raising lack of knowledge of the victim's age as a defense.
- requires a prosecution to be commenced within five years after the offense is committed, but specifies that if fraud or breach of fiduciary duty is a material element of the offense, a prosecution may be commenced within five years after discovery of the offense.
- authorizes the state to motion the court to advance a trial on the court's docket and requires
  the court to consider the victim's age and health in determining whether to advance the trial.

The bill authorizes a person 65 years of age or older who is in imminent danger of being exploited to petition for an injunction for protection against exploitation.

CS/CS/HB 269 (ch. 2023-24, L.O.F.) - Public Nuisances

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Caruso; Fine and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 994

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Criminal Justice; Post-Secondary Education; Public Safety

The bill makes several changes relating to public nuisances by:

- prohibiting a person from intentionally dumping litter onto private property for the purpose of intimidating or threatening the owner, resident, or invitee of such property.
- prohibiting a person from willfully and maliciously harassing or intimidating another person based on the person's wearing or displaying of any indicia relating to any religious or ethnic heritage.
- creating a new prohibition against knowingly and intentionally displaying or projecting, using
  any medium, an image onto a building, structure, or other property without the written consent
  of the owner of the building, structure, or property.

A violation of any of these provisions is a first degree misdemeanor. If a person makes a credible threat while violating any of these provisions, he or she commits a third degree felony.

The bill creates a new trespass offense if a person who is not authorized, licensed, or invited willfully enters the campus of a state university or Florida College System institution for the purpose of threatening or intimidating another person, and is warned by the state university or Florida College System institution to depart and refuses to do so. A violation is punishable as a first degree misdemeanor.

The bill amends an existing prohibition against disturbing schools and religious assemblies to require a violation to be both willful and malicious and:

- adds an additional prohibition against willfully and maliciously interrupting or disturbing any assembly of people met for the purpose of acknowledging the death of an individual.
- increases the penalty for a violation from a second degree misdemeanor to a first degree misdemeanor.

If a person makes a credible threat while willfully and maliciously disturbing a school, religious assembly, any assembly of people met for the purpose of acknowledging the death of an individual, or for any other lawful purpose, the bill increases the penalty to a third degree felony.

The bill requires a violation of any of the offenses created by the bill to be reported as a hate crime if the penalty is reclassified because an offender evidenced prejudice in committing the offense.

The bill became law on May 1, 2023, chapter 2023-24, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/CS/SB 306 - Catalytic Converters

By: Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Criminal Justice; Boyd and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 185

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice;

**Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Business and Professional Regulation; Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill creates the Catalytic Converter Antitheft Act, which prohibits a person from knowingly purchasing a detached catalytic converter unless he or she is a registered secondary metals recycler and requires a registered secondary metals recycler that purchases a detached catalytic converter to keep specified records and provides penalties for noncompliance. The bill also prohibits a secondary metals recycler from processing or removing from its place of business a detached catalytic converter purchased by the secondary metals' recycler within 10 business days after the date of purchase, unless the person selling the catalytic converter meets an exemption.

The bill prohibits a person from knowingly possessing, purchasing, selling, or installing a stolen catalytic converter; a catalytic converter that has been removed from a stolen motor vehicle; a catalytic converter with a removed, altered, or defaced identification number; or a detached catalytic converter without proof of ownership, unless the person meets an exemption. A person who violates any of these provisions commits a third degree felony.

The bill provides an inference that a person who is in possession of two or more detached catalytic converters, unless satisfactorily explained, knows or should have known that the catalytic converters may have been stolen or fraudulently obtained.

The bill prohibits a person from knowingly importing, manufacturing, purchasing for the purpose of reselling or installing, selling, offering for sale, or installing or reinstalling in a motor vehicle a counterfeit, fake, or nonfunctional catalytic converter, a violation of which is punishable as a second degree felony.

CS/HB 319 - Interference With Sporting or Entertainment Events

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Yarkosky and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 764

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety** 

The bill creates the crime of interfering with a sporting or entertainment event to prohibit a person from:

- intentionally touching or striking a covered participant during a covered event against the will of the covered participant, or intentionally causing bodily harm to a covered participant during a covered event.
- willfully entering or remaining in a restricted area during a covered event without being authorized, licensed, or invited to enter or remain in such a restricted area.

A violation of any of these provisions is punishable as a first degree misdemeanor and a maximum fine of \$2,500. A person who solicits another person to violate any of these provisions by offering money or any other thing of value to such person to engage in specific conduct that constitutes such a violation commits a third degree felony.

The bill defines the following terms:

- "Covered event" means an athletic competition or practice, including one conducted in a public venue or a live artistic, theatrical, or other entertainment performance event. The duration of such event includes the period from the time when a venue is held open to the public for such an event until the end of the athletic competition or performance event
- "Covered participant" means an umpire, officiating crew member, player, coach, manager, groundskeeper, or any artistic, theatrical, or other performer or sanctioned participant in a covered event. The term includes event operations and security employees working at a covered event
- "Restricted area" means any area designated for use by players, coaches, officials, performers, or other personnel administering a covered event that is on, or adjacent to, the area of play or performance

The bill prohibits a convicted person from realizing any profit or benefit, whether directly or indirectly, from any violation, and provides any such profit or benefit payable to or accruing to a person convicted of violating the provisions of the bill is subject to seizure and forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

CS/HB 329 - Electronic Monitoring of Persons Charged with or Convicted of Offenses Involving Schools or Students

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Maggard and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 496

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill requires a court to consider whether it is appropriate to impose electronic monitoring and a prohibition on being within 1,000 feet of a school as a condition of pretrial release or a condition of probation or community control on a defendant charged with or convicted of a specified crime involving violence or a threat of violence at or against a school or against a student at school. The bill applies to any probationer or community controllee whose crime was committed on or after October 1, 2023.

The bill defines "school" as the grounds or facility of any early learning, prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, junior high school, secondary school, career center, or postsecondary school, whether public or private.

CS/CS/HB 365 - Controlled Substances

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Plakon and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 280

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill revises the causation standard required to prove the crime of death caused by the unlawful distribution of a controlled substance to require that such distribution is proven to "have caused, or is proven to have been a substantial factor in producing the death of the user." "Substantial factor" is defined to mean the "use of the substance or mixture alone is sufficient to cause death, regardless of whether any other substance or mixture used is also sufficient to cause death."

The bill prohibits a person 18 years of age or older from distributing heroin, alfentanil, carfentanil, fentanyl, sufentanil, fentanyl derivatives, or an analog or mixture containing such substances, when such substances cause or are a substantial factor in causing an overdose or serious bodily injury to the user. A person commits a violation regardless of whether the distribution is made directly or indirectly through another person to the person who overdosed or suffered a serious bodily injury. A violation is punishable as a second degree felony and is ranked as a Level 6 offense on the offense severity ranking chart. A second or subsequent conviction is punishable as a first degree felony.

The administration of medical care, including the administration of an emergency opioid antagonist, by an emergency responder, including, but not limited to, a law enforcement officer, a paramedic, or an emergency medical technician is prima facie evidence that the person receiving medical care experienced an overdose or suffered a serious bodily injury.

CS/CS/SB 376 - Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records and Making Confidential and Exempt

**Related Court Records** 

By: Rules; Criminal Justice; Burgess and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 593

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Rules

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Law Enforcement

The bill revises the eligibility requirements for automatic sealing of criminal history records by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) by requiring:

- All counts charged to be dismissed or nolle prosequi when an indictment, information, or other charging document was filed in the case giving rise to the criminal history record, or
- A defendant to be acquitted of all counts charged by a verdict of not guilty or by a judgment of acquittal.

The bill requires FDLE to notify the clerk of court upon the automatic sealing of a criminal history record and subsequently requires the clerk of court to automatically keep the related court record in the case that gave rise to FDLE's sealing of the criminal history record confidential and exempt from public record requirements.

Under the bill, a record that is automatically sealed by FDLE and made confidential and exempt by the clerk of court may be disclosed in the same manner as a record sealed under the court ordered sealing process. The bill retains the requirement under current law for other criminal justice agencies to continue to maintain any automatically sealed criminal history record.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 384 - Violent Offenses Committed Against Criminal Defense Attorneys

By: Criminal Justice; Bradley and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 71

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Rules Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill requires a sentencing multiplier to be applied when computing the lowest permissible sentence for an offender who commits an enumerated violent offense against a public defender, regional counsel, court-appointed counsel, or a defense attorney in a criminal proceeding acting in his or her capacity as defense counsel. In order for the sentencing multiplier to apply, the violent offense must arise out of or in the scope of the public defender or regional counsel acting in his or her capacity as defense counsel or the court-appointed counsel or defense attorney in a criminal proceeding acting in his or her capacity as defense counsel.

CS/SB 404 (ch. 2023-44, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Photograph or Video or Audio Recording of the Killing of a Minor/Autopsy Reports of Minors

By: Rules; Perry Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 273

Committee(s) of Reference: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs; Governmental Oversight and

**Accountability**; Rules

**Category: Criminal Justice; Government in the Sunshine** 

The bill amends s. 406.135, F.S., creating the Rex and Brody Act, to make an autopsy report of a minor whose death was related to an act of domestic violence confidential and exempt from public record requirements when held by a medical examiner.

The bill also amends s. 119.071(2)(p), F.S., to make a photograph or video or audio recording that depicts or records the killing of a minor confidential and exempt from public record requirements when held by an agency.

The bill includes an exception for both exemptions permitting a surviving parent of the deceased minor to view and copy or to listen to and copy such records. In relation to an autopsy report of a minor, the surviving parent must not have committed the domestic violence which caused the minor's death. Additionally, the bill requires, for both exemptions, the surviving parent to be notified of any petition filed to view or copy or listen to or copy such records, to be given a copy of the petition, and to be given an opportunity to be present and heard at any hearing on such a petition. The bill requires any other person who requests to copy, view, or listen to such records to comply with specified requirements.

The bill provides for retroactive application of the newly-created public record exemptions. The bill provides the public record exemptions are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. The bill also provides the constitutionally required public necessity statement for each exemption.

This bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-44, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/HB 431 - Solicitation of Minors to Commit Lewd or Lascivious Act

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker; Daniels and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 486

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety** 

The bill creates a new crime to prohibit a person 24 years of age or older from soliciting a minor who is 16 or 17 years of age in writing to commit a lewd or lascivious act as a third degree felony. The bill captures all forms of written solicitation, regardless of the method used to solicit such a minor. The bill ranks the offense as a level 3 offense on the Criminal Punishment Code offense severity ranking chart.

CS/CS/SB 450 (ch. 2023-23, L.O.F.) - Death Penalty By: Rules; Criminal Justice; Ingoglia and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 555

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Rules

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill revises Florida's capital sentencing scheme by requiring:

- a jury to recommend a sentence of death to the court if at least eight jurors determine a defendant should be sentenced to death.
- the court to enter a written order, after imposing sentence, addressing specified sentencing factors and, when applicable, including the reasons the court did not accept a jury's recommended sentence.

The bill removes the current requirement for a jury to be unanimous in recommending a death sentence and also requires the court to provide a written order addressing specified sentencing factors, even when imposing a life sentence.

The bill retains the requirements for: a jury to unanimously find at least one aggravating factor was proven beyond a reasonable doubt to make a defendant eligible for a death sentence, and a court to impose a sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole when a jury recommends such a sentence. The bill also retains the ability of the court, upon receiving a jury's recommendation of a death sentence, to consider specified factors and impose either a sentence of life imprisonment or a death sentence.

The bill became law on April 20, 2023, chapter 2023-23, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

SB 508 - Problem-solving Courts

By: Rouson Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 1227

Committee(s) of Reference: Judiciary; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal

**Policy** 

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Mental Health; Public Safety; Substance Abuse

The bill revises standards related to the operations, and eligibility for participating in, specified problem-solving court programs. Specifically, the bill:

- requires a drug court program coordinator, rather than the circuit court, to collect specified programmatic information and client-level data and annually report such information to the Office of the State Courts Administrator.
- eliminates the requirement that a substance abuse education and treatment intervention program have a duration of at least one year.
- removes the ability of a court or a state attorney to deny a defendant admission to a substance abuse education and treatment intervention program if he or she previously rejected an offer to enter such a program.
- allows a person with a prior felony conviction to participate in a mental health court program.
- revises the eligibility requirements for participation in a misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program to authorize a person charged with any misdemeanor offense to participate in such a program if he or she is also identified as having a substance abuse problem and was not previously convicted of a felony.

CS/HB 537 - Custody and Supervision of Specified Offenders

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Silvers

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 528

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill makes several changes relating to the custody and supervision of certain offenders to align the sentencing and supervision requirements for a person who attempts, solicits, or conspires to commit specified offenses with the sentencing and supervision requirements for a person who commits the same specified offenses by:

- prohibiting the Department of Corrections (DOC) from granting basic gain-time to a person who commits, or attempts, solicits, or conspires to commit a sexual battery on or after July 1, 2023.
- prohibiting DOC from granting incentive gain-time to a person who commits, or attempts, solicits, or conspires to commit specified offenses on or after July 1, 2023.
- requiring a court, for an offense committed on or after July 1, 2023, to sentence a person to
  certain additional conditions of probation if the person is convicted of attempting, soliciting, or
  conspiring to commit an enumerated offense that would otherwise require a person to be
  sentenced to additional conditions of probation in the same manner as if he or she committed
  the underlying offense.

The bill prohibits a court from reducing the supervision term of a person who is on probation or community control after being convicted of a criminal offense that is a predicate offense for designation as a sexual predator or a sexual offender, or if the person is a violent felony offender of special concern.

CS/HB 605 - Expunction of Criminal History Records

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Smith; Gottlieb and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 504

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice** 

The bill creates an exception to court-ordered expunction's one-time eligibility limitation for a person seeking to expunge a criminal history record when he or she has received a prior specified court-ordered expunction. The bill allows a subsequent court-ordered expunction when:

- the prior expunction was granted for an offense that was committed when the person was a minor, provided he or she was not charged as an adult, and
- the criminal history record is otherwise eligible for expunction.

The bill also makes a person ineligible for a court-ordered expunction if the case giving rise to the criminal history record was dismissed by a court because the defendant was found incompetent to proceed.

CS/HB 667 - Victims of Crime

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker; Yarkosky and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 510; includes parts of CS/HB 1037

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Courts; Criminal Justice** 

The bill requires that each victim be notified that he or she has the right, if contacted to obtain information relating to a criminal proceeding by an attorney, investigator, or any other agent acting on behalf of the criminal defendant, to be informed of:

The person's name and employer

The fact that such person is acting on behalf of the defendant

The bill also requires a court, before the defendant may take a discovery deposition in a criminal proceeding of a victim of a sexual offense who is under the age of 16, to conduct a hearing to determine whether it is appropriate to take a deposition of the victim and, if so, whether to order any limitations or other specific conditions under which the victim's deposition may be conducted. The bill provides a presumption that the taking of a victim's deposition is not appropriate if the victim of a sexual offense is under the age of 12 and:

- The state has not filed a notice of intent to seek the death penalty
- A forensic interview of the sexual offense victim is available to the defendant

The bill includes factors a court must consider in determining whether it is appropriate to take a deposition of a victim of a sexual offense who is under the age of 16 and requires the court to enter a written order finding whether the taking of such a deposition is appropriate.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

**SB 736 - Controlled Substances** 

By: Brodeur Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1135

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice** 

The bill adds nitazene derivatives to the list of Schedule I controlled substances including, but not limited to: butonitazene, clonitazene, etodesnitazene, etonitazene, flunitazene, isotodesnitazene, isotonitazene, metodesitazene, metonitazene, nitazene, N-desethyl etonitazene, N-desethyl isotonitazene, N-piperidino etonitazene, N-pyrrolidino etonitazene, and protonitazene. As such, under the bill, a person is generally prohibited from selling, manufacturing, delivering, or possessing such nitazene derivatives.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

**HB 825 - Assault or Battery on Hospital Personnel** 

By: Berfield and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 568** 

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Criminal Justice; Health Care Practitioners; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill includes hospital personnel as a specified type of officer or employee for which an assault or battery offense is reclassified to the next highest level when such an offense is committed against hospital personnel while they are engaged in the lawful performance of a duty. The bill defines "hospital personnel" as a health care practitioner as defined in s. 456.001, F.S., an employee, an agent, or a volunteer who is employed, under contract, or otherwise authorized by a hospital, as defined in s. 395.002, F.S., to perform duties directly associated with the care and treatment rendered by any department of a hospital or with the security thereof.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 1045 - Certified Peer Specialist Gateway Pilot Program

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Hart; Jacques and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1012

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Corrections; Substance Abuse** 

The bill creates the Certified Peer Specialist Gateway Pilot Program (Program) within the Department of Corrections (DOC) to provide participating inmates with a path to become certified peer specialists by offering such inmates the necessary training hours and experience needed for certification while incarcerated, assisting participants with completing any examinations necessary to become a certified peer specialist, and assisting inmates who complete the Program with post-incarceration employment.

The bill requires DOC to develop criteria for selecting qualified applicants for the Program, including prohibiting a person from participating in the Program if he or she has been convicted of any offense that would prohibit the person from becoming a certified peer specialist.

The bill exempts a person who completed the Program from specified background screening requirements for certified peer specialists.

The bill requires a person who completes the Program to provide his or her prospective employer with a copy of his or her incarceration record prior to being hired. A person who completes the Program must also receive a signed informed consent form from any potential client seeking treatment that notifies the client that he or she has completed the Program's requirements and is a certified peer specialist.

The Program expires on June 30, 2026.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1047 - Offenses Against Certain Animals

By: Judiciary Committee; Killebrew; Smith and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1300

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement** 

The bill increases the criminal penalties for:

- actually and intentionally maliciously touching, striking, or causing bodily harm to a police, fire, or search and rescue (SAR) canine, or police horse from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony and ranks the offense as a level 2 offense on the offense severity ranking chart.
- intentionally or knowingly maliciously harassing, teasing, interfering with, or attempting to
  interfere with a police, fire, or SAR canine, or police horse while the animal is performing its
  duties from a second degree misdemeanor to a first degree misdemeanor.

Additionally, the bill prohibits a person from knowingly and willfully resisting, obstructing, or opposing any police canine or police horse, working at the direction of or in tandem with an officer or legally authorized person, by offering to do violence to the police canine or police horse as a third degree felony and ranks the offense as a level 2 offense on the offense severity ranking chart.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1105 - Rapid DNA Grant Program

By: Judiciary Committee; Temple and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1140

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement** 

The bill creates the Rapid DNA Grant Program within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to annually award grants, from funds specifically appropriated to the grant program, to county jails or sheriffs' offices to procure Rapid DNA machines and other necessary supplies required to rapidly process DNA samples in support of the statewide DNA database. The bill 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, 2023.

SB 1210 (ch. 2023-84, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Human Trafficking Victims

By: Burgess Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 841

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

Category: Courts; Criminal Justice; Government in the Sunshine

The bill makes a petition for human trafficking victim expunction and all related pleadings and documents confidential and exempt from public record requirements. The public record exemption is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will be repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. The bill also provides the constitutionally required public necessity statement.

The bill became law on May 16, 2023, chapter 2023-84, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 1297 (ch. 2023-25, L.O.F.) - Capital Sexual Battery

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 1342

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill authorizes a death sentence for capital sexual battery crimes committed on or after October 1, 2023, and requires a court to conduct a separate sentencing proceeding to determine whether a defendant convicted of a capital sexual battery offense for which the state is seeking the death penalty should be sentenced to death or life imprisonment.

The bill establishes statutory aggravating factors and mitigating circumstances specific to capital sexual battery and requires a jury to determine if the state has proven, beyond a reasonable doubt, the existence of at least two aggravating factors. If the jury does not unanimously find at least two aggravating factors exist, the defendant is ineligible for a death sentence. If the jury unanimously finds the existence of at least two aggravating factors, the defendant is eligible for death and the jury must recommend to the court whether the defendant should be sentenced to life imprisonment or to death.

If at least eight jurors determine the defendant should be sentenced to death, the bill requires the jury's recommendation to the court to be a sentence of death, and authorizes the court, after considering specified sentencing factors, to impose a sentence of life imprisonment or a death sentence. If fewer than eight jurors determine the defendant should be sentenced to death, the bill requires the jury's recommendation to the court to be a sentence of life imprisonment, which the court must impose. Upon imposing a sentence, the bill requires the court to enter a written order addressing specified sentencing factors and, when applicable, including the reasons the court did not accept a jury's recommended sentence.

The bill provides legislative findings including that both the Florida Supreme Court's (FSC) and the United States Supreme Court's (USSC) prior case holdings declaring the death penalty unconstitutional for the crime of capital sexual battery were wrongly decided and an egregious infringement of the state's power to punish the most heinous of crimes. The bill requires a court to impose a death sentence notwithstanding such existing case law. However, in any case for which the FSC or the USSC reviews a death sentence imposed for a capital sexual battery offense, and in making such a review reconsiders their prior relevant holdings, and determines a sentence of death remains unconstitutional, the court having jurisdiction over the person previously sentenced to death must resentence the person to life imprisonment. The bill authorizes the state to appeal a sentence of life imprisonment that resulted from a court's failure to comply with the sentencing procedures in the bill.

The bill became law on May 1, 2023, chapter 2023-25, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1327 - Pub. Rec./Investigative Genetic Genealogy Information and Materials

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Anderson and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1402

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Ethics, Elections & Open Government

**Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Consumer Protection; Criminal Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Law Enforcement

The bill makes investigative genetic genealogy (IGG) information and materials confidential and exempt from public record requirements. "IGG information and materials" means the information, records, and DNA records created or collected by or on behalf of a law enforcement agency conducting IGG research, and includes the names and personal identifying information (PII) of persons identified through the use of genealogy databases, traditional genealogical methods, or other investigative means.

The bill does not protect the name or PII of the donor of a biological sample attributable to a perpetrator or a person identified through IGG who is a witness to or has personal knowledge related to the crime under investigation. The bill provides an exception to the confidential and exempt status of IGG information and materials for law enforcement agencies to: allow an agency to disclose IGG information and materials in furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities or to another government agency in furtherance of its official duties and responsibilities; and require an agency to disclose IGG information and materials pursuant to a court order to further a criminal prosecution. The recipient of such a disclosure must maintain the confidential and exempt status of the information and materials, unless further disclosure is court-ordered.

The bill provides for retroactive application of the newly-created public record exemption. The public record exemption created by the bill is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and will automatically repeal on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature. The bill also provides the constitutionally required public necessity statement.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 1332 (ch. 2023-54, L.O.F.) - Missing Persons

By: Criminal Justice; Martin

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1039

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Rules

Category: Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Public Safety

The bill requires a law enforcement agency receiving a report of a missing child from a parent or guardian, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), a community-based care provider, or a sheriff's office providing investigative services for DCF, or receiving a credible report of a missing adult to transmit the report to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) within two hours. The bill also requires law enforcement agencies in the state to adopt policies related to standards for maintaining and clearing computer data of information concerning a missing child or missing adult which is stored in NamUs. The standards must require, at a minimum, a monthly review of each case and a determination of whether the case should be maintained in NamUs. The bill prohibits the removal of a missing child or missing adult entry on the NamUs database based solely on the age of the missing person.

The bill also requires a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction over a case involving a missing endangered person to immediately purge case information from the NamUs database upon locating the missing endangered person.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-54, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 1359 (ch. 2023-26, L.O.F.) - Offenses Involving Fentanyl or Fentanyl Analogs

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Abbott and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/SB 1226

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Controlled Substances; Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill creates a new offense, punishable as a first degree felony and subject to a three year minimum mandatory term of imprisonment, if a person sells, manufactures, or delivers, or possesses with the intent to sell, manufacture, or deliver, specified fentanyl or fentanyl derivatives if the fentanyl or derivative is in a form that resembles, or is mixed, granulated, absorbed, spray-dried, aerosolized, as or onto, coated on in whole or in part, or solubilized with or into, a product, if the product or its packaging further has at least one of the following attributes:

- Resembles the trade dress of a branded food product, consumer food product, or logo food product
- Incorporates an actual or fake registered copyright, service mark, or trademark
- Resembles candy, cereal, a gummy, a vitamin, or a chewable product, such as a gum or gelatinbased product
- Contains a cartoon character imprint

The bill requires a court to sentence a person to a mandatory minimum term of not less than 25 years and not exceeding life imprisonment and to impose a \$1 million fine if a person 18 years of age or older is convicted of trafficking in dangerous fentanyl or fentanyl analogues by knowingly selling or delivering to a minor at least four grams of fentanyl or a fentanyl analog if such substance or a mixture containing such a substance has any of the attributes listed above.

The bill became law on May 1, 2023, chapter 2023-26, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1375 - Battery by Strangulation

By: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Baker and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1334

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

**Category: Criminal Justice; Public Safety** 

The bill creates a new crime to prohibit battery by strangulation as a third degree felony and rank the offense as a level 4 offense on the Criminal Punishment Code offense severity ranking chart. Under the bill, a person commits battery by strangulation if he or she knowingly and intentionally, against the will of another person, impedes the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of that person, so as to create a risk of or cause great bodily harm by applying pressure on the throat or neck of the other person or by blocking the nose or mouth of the other person. The bill provides an exemption for any act of medical diagnosis, treatment, or prescription. The newly created crime makes strangulation of any victim regardless of the offender-victim relationship a third degree felony.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

CS/HB 1465 (ch. 2023-87, L.O.F.) - Firearm and Destructive Device Offenses

By: Judiciary Committee; Garrison; Snyder and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1456

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

**Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill makes several changes relating to the possession or use of a firearm by a juvenile by:

- revising the juvenile Detention Risk Assessment Instrument to consider a juvenile's use of a firearm, in addition to the possession of a firearm, to determine whether a juvenile should be placed in detention care
- requiring a juvenile who is charged with any offense involving the possession or use of a firearm to be held in secure detention until the juvenile's detention hearing, which must occur within 24 hours after a juvenile is taken into custody
- authorizing a court to hold a juvenile in secure detention for more than 21 days if he or she is charged with any offense involving the possession or use of a firearm and the court makes specified findings
- increasing the time a court may order a juvenile to serve in secure detention if he or she unlawfully possesses a firearm as follows:
  - for a first violation, from three days to five days
  - for a second or subsequent violation, from 15 days to 21 days

The bill makes other changes relating to offenses involving firearms and destructive devices by:

- adding the offense of human trafficking to the offenses that make a person eligible for mandatory minimum sentences if a person possessed or discharged a firearm, destructive device, semiautomatic firearm, or machine gun while committing the offense, commonly known as "10-20-Life."
- creating a new offense, punishable as a second degree felony, for a second or subsequent conviction for grand theft of a firearm.
- increasing the ranking for grand theft of a firearm from a Level 4 offense to a Level 6 offense on the offense severity ranking chart (OSRC) and ranking the new offense of a second or subsequent conviction for grand theft of a firearm as a Level 7 offense on the OSRC.

The bill became law on May 16, 2023, chapter 2023-84, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 1478 - Criminal Sentencing

By: Criminal Justice; Simon

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1263

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice;

**Fiscal Policy** 

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Public Safety; Sentencing

The bill revises provisions related to probation and the alternative sanctioning program (ASP) by:

- requiring a probation officer to resolve a probation violation under the ASP if a probationer or
  offender commits a first or second low-risk violation, unless the court directs the probation
  officer to file an affidavit of violation.
- requiring a court to impose the sanction recommended by a probation officer for a first or second low-risk violation under the ASP unless the court finds specific risks to public safety.
- requiring a court to hold a hearing on a violation of probation within 30 days after a
  probationer's or offender's arrest or after counsel appears for the probationer or offender,
  whichever occurs later, or to release the probationer or offender without bail unless the court
  determines that the hearing was not held in the applicable time frame due to circumstances
  attributable to the probationer or offender.

The bill prohibits a community sanction violation that was resolved through the ASP from being used when determining an offender's lowest permissible sentence for a violation of probation if probation is revoked.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

**CS/HB 1571 - Juvenile Court Proceedings** 

By: Judiciary Committee; Silvers; Gottlieb and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1440

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee
Category: Court Administration; Courts; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Technology

The bill amends various sections of law related to juvenile court proceedings to bring Florida statutes in line with the recently amended Rules of Juvenile Procedure, including by:

- Authorizing persons to appear at or attend dependency proceedings through audio or audiovideo communication technology in specified circumstances;
- Requiring parties to provide their primary e-mail address to the court for notice purposes unless an exemption applies;
- Allowing parties to consent to service or notice by e-mail for all dependency proceedings;
- Requiring notices and summons for shelter, disposition, and termination of parental rights
  hearings to include instructions for parties to attend hearings through audio or audio-video
  communication technology when applicable;
- Requiring notice to any person who is a party to a dependency proceeding that failure to appear
  at hearings either in person or through audio-video communication technology constitutes
  consent to adjudicating a child as dependent or the termination of parental rights;
- Allowing for the testimony of a victim or witness under the age of 18 or who has an intellectual
  disability to be taken outside of the courtroom and shown by means of audio-video
  communication technology if the court makes specified findings; and
- Requiring a summons in a juvenile delinquency proceeding to provide instructions on how to attend the hearing if it is to be held through audio or audio-video communication technology.

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

CS/HB 1577 - Crime Victim Compensation Claims By: Judiciary Committee; Alvarez and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1104

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

Judiciary Committee
Category: Criminal Justice

The bill authorizes the Department of Legal Affairs to waive any crime victim compensation claim filing deadline if it is shown that the delay in filing a claim for compensation occurred because of a delay in the testing of, or a delay in the DNA matching from, a sexual assault kit or biological material collected as evidence related to a sexual offense. The bill brings Florida's Crime Victim Compensation Program in line with the requirements under the Federal Victims of Crime Act that the state must meet to continue receiving federal funding.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 1616 (ch. 2023-58, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Transportation and Protective Services

By: Rules; Martin Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1495

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

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Law Enforcement

The bill creates a public record exemption for records held by a law enforcement agency relating to security or transportation services provided by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), or by FDLE in coordination with another law enforcement agency, to the Governor and his or her immediate family, other specified government officials and their families, or certain other persons in the public interest. The public record exemption created by the bill is retroactive and applies to any records held by a law enforcement agency before, on, or after the effective date of the bill.

The bill provides for repeal of the public record exemption on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. The bill provides a public necessity statement, as required by the Florida Constitution.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-58, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

CS/CS/HB 1627 (ch. 2023-27, L.O.F.) - Pretrial Release and Detention

By: Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Garrison and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1534

Committee(s) of Reference: Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

Category: Corrections; Courts; Criminal Justice; Public Safety

The bill makes several changes related to bail, pretrial detention, and pretrial release. Specifically, the bill:

- requires the Florida Supreme Court (FSC) to develop a uniform statewide bond schedule by January 1, 2024.
- prohibits the chief judge of a judicial circuit from establishing a bond schedule that sets a lower bond amount for a criminal offense than the uniform statewide bond schedule without FSC approval.
- prohibits a person from being released prior to his or her first appearance hearing if he or she has been arrested for committing any capital felony, life felony, first degree felony, or second degree felony; another specified offense; or otherwise meets specified criteria.
- requires a court to consider the same criteria used for determining bail when determining whether to impose nonmonetary conditions of pretrial release in addition to or in lieu of monetary bond.
- specifies examples of nonmonetary conditions of pretrial release that a court may impose.
- authorizes a court to revoke pretrial release and order pretrial detention if a defendant violates a condition of pretrial release in a material respect.
- adds driving under the influence (DUI) manslaughter, boating under the influence (BUI)
  manslaughter, trafficking in dangerous fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, extortion, and written
  threats to kill to the list of dangerous crimes which may subject a defendant to pretrial
  detention.
- prohibits a court from granting nonmonetary pretrial release at a first appearance hearing if a
  defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime and the court determines there is probable cause to
  believe the defendant committed the offense.
- requires a state attorney, or a court on its own motion, to motion for pretrial detention if a
  defendant is arrested for a dangerous crime that is a capital felony, a life felony, or a first degree
  felony and the court determines there is probable cause to believe that the defendant
  committed the offense.
- requires a court to order pretrial detention of a defendant who is arrested for a dangerous
  crime if the court finds a substantial probability that the defendant committed the offense and
  that no conditions of release or bail will reasonably protect the community from risk of physical
  harm, ensure the presence of the defendant at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial
  process.

The bill became law on May 1, 2023, chapter 2023-27, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective January 1, 2024.

CS/SB 7014 (ch. 2023-59, L.O.F.) - Juvenile Justice

By: Appropriations; Criminal Justice

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 939

**Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations** 

Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice; Juvenile Justice; Pre-K through 12 Education

The bill requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to establish the Florida Scholars Academy (Academy) to deliver educational opportunities to students served in residential commitment programs. The bill requires DJJ to contract with an education service provider to provide educational pathways including a K-12 education, high school equivalency diploma, career and technical education credential, and enrollment in a degree program at a state college or university, with an emphasis on attaining an industry-recognized credential of value from the Master Credentials List.

The bill requires the DJJ Secretary to oversee the establishment of the Academy, creates a five-member board of trustees (Board) to govern the Academy, and provides the specified powers and duties of the Board. The bill grants the Board and DJJ rulemaking authority related to the operation of the Academy and requires the Academy to comply with specified accounting and auditing requirements.

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the bill provides a recurring appropriation of \$12 million from the General Revenue Fund to DJJ to carry out the requirements of the bill.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-59, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 7016 - Department of Corrections

By: Fiscal Policy; Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Criminal Justice

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 929

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Corrections; Criminal Justice** 

The bill prohibits any volunteer in, or employee of a contractor or subcontractor of, the Department of Corrections (DOC) or a private correctional facility from engaging in sexual misconduct, without committing sexual battery, with an inmate or an offender supervised by DOC in the community. Under the bill, a volunteer or employee of a contractor or subcontractor of DOC or a private correctional facility commits a third degree felony if he or she engages in sexual misconduct with an inmate or a supervised offender.

The bill provides an exception to the criminal penalty for engaging in sexual misconduct if any volunteer, or employee of a contractor or subcontractor, of DOC or a private correctional facility is legally married to an inmate or a supervised offender or if the volunteer or specified employee has no knowledge, or reason to know, the person with whom he or she engaged in sexual misconduct was an inmate or supervised offender.

The bill defines a "volunteer" as a person registered with DOC or a private correctional facility who is engaged in specific voluntary service activities on an ongoing or continual basis.

The bill transfers the functions, duties, and responsibilities relating to the oversight and operation of private correctional facilities from the Department of Management Services to DOC via a type two transfer.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

# **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

# Rules Committee Representative Daniel Perez, Chair Representative Linda Chaney, Vice Chair

## **2023 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION**



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Rule	es Committee	303
	SB 32 (ch. 2023-8, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	
	SB 34 (ch. 2023-9, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	307
	SB 36 (ch. 2023-10, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	308
	SB 38 (ch. 2023-11, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	308
	SB 40 (ch. 2023-12, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	309
	SB 42 (ch. 2023-13, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	309
	SB 44 (ch. 2023-14, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes	310

SB 32 (ch. 2023-8, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7011

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 March 24, 2023, Chapter 2023-8, Laws of Florida. The effective date of this bill is on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023), except as otherwise provided.

SB 34 (ch. 2023-9, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7013

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 2023 Florida Statutes only through a reviser's bill duly enacted by the Legislature.

The bill became law on March 24, 2023, chapter 2023-9, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023).

SB 36 (ch. 2023-10, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7015

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 March 24, 2023, Chapter 2023-10, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023).

SB 38 (ch. 2023-11, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7017

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules Category: Government Operations

The reviser's bill deletes provisions providing for apportionment of the districts of the state Senate and House of Representatives that have been superseded by adoption of CS/SJR 100 (2022).

The bill became law on March 24, 2023, chapter 2023-11, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023).

SB 40 (ch. 2023-12, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: HB 7019** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules Category: Government Operations

The bill prospectively adopts all statutes of a general and permanent nature passed through the May 23-27, 2022, special session and printed in the 2022 edition, together with corrections, changes, and amendments to and repeals of the provisions of the 2022 Florida Statutes enacted in additional Reviser's bill(s) by the 2023 Legislature. The bill adopts as official statutory law of the state those portions of the statutes that are carried forward from the regular edition published in 2022, which thus serve as the best evidence of the law.

The bill became law on March 24, 2023, Chapter 2023-12, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023).

SB 42 (ch. 2023-13, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7021

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules Category: Government Operations

The bill changes the term "Next Generation Sunshine State Standards" in Florida Statutes with the phrase "state academic standards," as directed by s. 10, ch. 2022-16, Laws of Florida.

The bill became law on March 24, 2023, chapter 2023-13, Laws of Florida, and will become effective on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023), except as otherwise provided.

SB 44 (ch. 2023-14, L.O.F.) - Florida Statutes

By: Mayfield Tied Bills: None

Companion Bills: HB 7023

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules Category: Government Operations

The bill replaces in Florida Statutes references to "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and other derivative references, such as "the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools," and "the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges" with the broader phrase, "an accrediting agency or association recognized by the database created and maintained by the United States Department of Education." The changes are made pursuant to the directive in s. 7, ch. 2022-70, Laws of Florida.

The bill became law on March 24, 2023, chapter 2023-14, Laws of Florida, and will become effective on the 60th day after adjournment *sine die* (July 4, 2023).

The Rules Committee has no subcommittees under it.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# State Affairs Committee Representative Lawrence McClure, Chair Representative Michael A. Caruso, Vice Chair

#### **2023 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION**



## Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee

Representative Spencer Roach, Chair Representative Webster Barnaby, Vice Chair

#### Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee

Representative Juan Alfonso Fernandez-Barquin, Chair Representative Rick Roth, Vice Chair

Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka, Chair Representative Kaylee Tuck, Vice Chair

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Sta	te Affairs Committee	
	CS/CS/HB 1285 - Florida State Guard	315
	CS/SB 7050 - Elections	316
Co	nstitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee  CS/CS/CS/HB 49 - Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries	
	CS/CS/SB 110 - State Board of Administration	317
	CS/SB 234 (ch. 2023-41, L.O.F.) - Statutorily Required Reports	318
	CS/SB 242 - Fiscal Accountability	318
	CS/CS/SB 256 (ch. 2023-35, L.O.F.)- Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees	319
	CS/CS/SB 258 (ch. 2023-32, L.O.F.) - Prohibited Applications on Government-issued Devices	319
	CS/CS/HB 535 - Funeral Service Benefits for Public Safety Officers	320
	CS/HB 543 (ch. 2023-18, L.O.F.) - Public Safety	321
	CS/CS/HB 935 - Chiefs of Police	322
	CS/SB 946 (ch. 2023-52, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Department of State Electronically Filed Records	322
	SB 948 (ch. 2023-53, L.O.F.) - Records Electronically Filed with the Department of State	323
	CS/CS/HB 1121 - Florida Retirement System	323
	CS/CS/SB 1188 - Contract Liability	323
	CS/HB 1189 - Monuments	324
	CS/CS/SB 1310 - Substitution of Work Experience for Postsecondary Education Requirements	324
	CS/HB 1441 (ch. 2023-72, L.O.F.) - Florida Museum of Black History	325
	CS/CS/SB 1480 - Grants for Nonprofit Organization Safety	325
	CS/SB 7024 - Retirement	326
Eth	cs/HB 199 - Ethics Requirements for Officers and Employees of Special Tax Districts	
	HB 411 (ch. 2023-101, L.O.F.) - Residency of Local Elected Officials	327
	CS/SB 666 (ch. 2023-46, L.O.F.) - Form of Candidate Oath	328
	CS/CS/SB 774 (ch. 2023-49, L.O.F.) - Ethics Requirements for Public Officials	328
	SB 7000 - OGSR/Current or Former Public Guardians	329

	HB 7003 (ch. 2023-74, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Water Management District Surplus Lands	329
	SB 7006 - OGSR/Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network	329
	HB 7007 (ch. 2023-75, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Security and Firesafety System Plans	330
	SB 7008 - OGSR/Building Plans, Blueprints, Schematic Drawings, and Diagrams	330
	CS/SB 7020 (ch. 2023-60, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Mobile Suspicious Activity Reporting Tool	331
	SB 7022 (ch. 2023-61, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission/Safe-school Officers	331
	HB 7031 (ch. 2023-107, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Address of a Victim of an Incident of Mass Violence	332
	HB 7035 (ch. 2023-76, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Citizens Property Insurance Corporation/ Cybersecurity Data and Information	332
Loc	cal Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee	
	CS/CS/SB 170 - Local Ordinances	334
	CS/HB 339 - Education of Dependents of Deceased or Disabled Servicemembers,  Prisoners of War, and Persons Missing in Action	334
	CS/CS/SB 346 - Public Construction	335
	CS/HB 485 - Veterans' Services and Recognition	335
	CS/CS/SB 540 - Local Government Comprehensive Plans	336
	CS/HB 621 - Death Benefits for Active Duty Servicemembers	336
	CS/HB 635 - Dental Services for Veterans	337
	CS/CS/SB 718 - Local Government	337
	SM 848 - People of Iran	337
	SB 942 - Authorization of Restrictions Concerning Dogs	338
	SM 1036 - Florida National Guard	338
	CS/CS/HB 1367 - Unlawful Dumping	339
	HB 1373 - County Constitutional Officers	340
	SM 1382 - United States Department of Defense	340
	CS/CS/CS/HB 1595 - Law Enforcement Operations	341
	CS/CS/SB 1604 (ch. 2023-31, L.O.F.) - Land Use and Development Regulations	342

CS/SB 102 (ch. 2023-17, L.O.F.) - Housing By: Appropriations; Calatayud and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 627; includes part(s) of SB 220, HB 229, HB 771, and SB 772

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Appropriations

Category: Budget; Local Government; Real Property

The bill provides additional annual funding to the State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program for certain purposes, establishes a dedicated revenue source for the funding, and provides a 2033 sunset for certain provisions. It also provides a sales tax refund of up to \$5,000 for building materials used for units funded by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), creates a tax donation program to allow corporate taxpayers to direct up to \$100 million annually to the SAIL program, and codifies and revises the Florida Hometown Hero Program. The bill increases the membership of the FHFC Board of Directors and revises certain FHFC processes and procedures.

The bill revises the State Housing Strategy to align with current best practices and goals, updates policies concerning state-owned lands to increase the availability of lands for affordable housing, expands eligibility for the Job Growth Grant Fund, increases tax credits available through the Community Contribution Tax Credit Program, and creates new ad valorem property tax exemptions related to affordable housing.

The bill preempts certain local government requirements to allow for streamlined development of affordable housing in commercial, industrial, and mixed-use zoned areas under certain circumstances; removes a local government's ability to approve affordable housing on residential parcels by bypassing state and local laws that may otherwise preclude such development; removes the ability of local governments to impose rent controls; requires local governments to electronically publish on their websites the inventory of publicly-owned properties that may be appropriate for affordable housing and policies for issuing expedited building orders and development permits; and provides an exception to evacuation time requirements for the Keys Workforce Housing Initiative.

The bill became law on March 29, 2023, chapter 2023-17, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

CS/CS/HB 1285 - Florida State Guard

By: Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee; Giallombardo and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: None** 

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee; Appropriations Committee; Appropriations

**Category: Budget; Government Operations; Military** 

The bill permanently codifies the Florida State Guard in law, revises its governance structure, and increases the maximum number of members.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 7050 - Elections

By: Fiscal Policy; Ethics and Elections; and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 7067; includes HB 7005 Committee(s) of Reference: Fiscal Policy

**Category: Elections** 

The bill makes the following changes to the Florida Election Code:

- Authorizes certain notices to be made on specified websites as an alternative to publication in a newspaper.
- Revises and creates additional requirements for third-party voter registration organizations.
- Requires additional information be included on voter information cards.
- Maintains a public record exemption for certain voter registration information.
- Revises processes to be used by supervisors of elections (supervisors) and the Department of State (DOS) in voter registration list maintenance activities and alters the information other governmental entities must submit for such purposes as well as the frequency of submittal.
- Requires supervisors to coordinate with clerks of court to receive updates on persons convicted
  of felonies and requires supervisors to have direct access to the Department of Highway Safety
  and Motor Vehicles driver information system.
- Requires a voter to vote a provisional ballot if he or she has been issued a notice of potential ineligibility to vote.
- Revises requirements for post-election reports and precinct boundary data.
- Creates a new candidate disclosure requirement for outstanding fines exceeding \$250 related to ethics and campaign finance violations.
- Creates methods for candidates to use nicknames on the ballot.
- Requires DOS to adopt a uniform application for written vote-by-mail ballot requests.
- Requires certain public, tax-supported buildings to be made available as early voting locations.
- Clarifies that certain restrictions on individuals qualifying for public office do not apply to persons seeking the office of President or Vice President of the United States.
- Provides that a presidential elector's refusal or failure to vote for the candidates of the party he or she was nominated to represent constitutes resignation of the position.
- Revises the frequency of campaign finance reporting, preempts local governments from enacting different reporting schedules, and provides that text messages do not constitute contributions towards specified contribution limits.
- Creates a new framework regulating use of voter guides and requires a disclaimer.
- Increases fines that may be imposed for certain election law violations and attaches fines
  against a political committee jointly and severally to the chair of the political committee.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

### Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee

CS/CS/CS/HB 49 - Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries

By: State Affairs Committee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; Constitutional

Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Driskell and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 430

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

**Category: Budget; Government Operations** 

The bill creates the Historic Cemeteries Program (program) within the Division of Historical Resources, established within the Department of State (DOS), for the purpose of providing grants to certain entities to conduct research, repair, restore, or maintain abandoned African-American cemeteries. The bill also creates the Historic Cemeteries Program Advisory Council within DOS to provide guidance and recommendations regarding the duties and responsibilities of the program. Finally, the bill provides an appropriation for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for the program.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

#### CS/CS/SB 110 - State Board of Administration

By: Appropriations; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Hooper

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1139

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations

**Category: Financial Services; Government Operations; Retirement** 

The bill authorizes the State Board of Administration (SBA) to hold certain interests in real property through limited liability entities or joint ventures and issue securities and borrow money through such entities; increases the percentage of funds the SBA may invest in alternative investments; and requires the SBA to divest the public fund from any company placed on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List. The bill also authorizes the SBA to develop investment products to be offered under the Florida Retirement System Investment Plan.

If an investment plan member selects a primary beneficiary other than his or her spouse, the bill allows the SBA to waive the requirement that the member's spouse acknowledge such designation under certain circumstances. The bill also prohibits the SBA from distributing certain investment plan benefits to a member convicted of certain felonies.

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

CS/SB 234 (ch. 2023-41, L.O.F.) - Statutorily Required Reports

By: Fiscal Policy; Avila

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1009

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Budget; Government Operations** 

The bill requires the Division of Library and Information Services (division) within the Department of State (DOS) to implement and maintain a publicly available, Internet-based system to which certain government entities must electronically submit statutorily required reports. The bill also establishes reporting requirements for the division. The bill provides an appropriation to DOS for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 for purposes of implementing and maintaining the Internet-based system.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-41, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

#### CS/SB 242 - Fiscal Accountability

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Garcia

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 955

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations

**Category: Government Operations** 

The bill provides that each contract between a public agency and a nonprofit organization must require the contractor to provide documentation indicating the amount of state funds used for remuneration to any member of the board of directors or an officer of the contractor. The bill requires the remuneration information to be included on the Florida Accountability Contract Tracking System and on the contractor's website, if the contractor maintains a website.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 256 (ch. 2023-35, L.O.F.) - Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees

By: Fiscal Policy; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Ingoglia

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1445

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Government Operations; Public Employees** 

The bill requires a public employee who desires to join an employee organization to sign and date a membership authorization form containing certain information. The bill prohibits a certified bargaining agent from having its dues and uniform assessments deducted from a public employee's salary and collected by the public employer, and makes certain changes to the employee organization registration and registration renewal process. The bill exempts certain employee organizations from these requirements; however, every employee organization must provide its members with an annual audited financial report and include an annual audited financial statement in its registration renewal application. In addition, every employee organization is prohibited from offering certain gifts or other compensation to public officers.

The bill authorizes the Public Employees Relations Commission to waive certain provisions of the bill for employee organizations that represent mass transit employees under certain circumstances.

The bill became law on May 9, 2023, chapter 2023-35, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date, except as otherwise provided.

CS/CS/SB 258 (ch. 2023-32, L.O.F.) - Prohibited Applications on Government-issued Devices

By: Fiscal Policy; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Burgess

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 563

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Fiscal Policy Category: Cybersecurity; Government Operations; Public Employees; Technology

The bill requires the Department of Management Services to create a list of applications prohibited for use on government-issued devices. The bill also requires public employers to block or restrict access to prohibited applications on their networks and devices and retain the ability to remotely wipe and uninstall prohibited applications from a compromised government-issued device. All persons are prohibited from downloading prohibited applications on government-issued devices, with certain exceptions.

The bill became law on May 8, 2023, chapter 2023-32, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/HB 535 - Funeral Service Benefits for Public Safety Officers

By: State Affairs Committee; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

**Subcommittee; Botana and others** 

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 364

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee

Category: Corrections; Government Operations; Law Enforcement; Public Employees

The bill allows the head of a law enforcement agency to grant up to eight hours of administrative leave to a law enforcement officer in order for the officer to attend a funeral service within Florida of another law enforcement officer who was killed in the line of duty and authorize travel expenses to attend such funeral service. The bill also permits a state law enforcement officer to use his or her state vehicle to attend such funeral service if authorized by the agency head.

The bill increases the amount that must be paid towards funeral or burial expenses of a state law enforcement, correctional, or correctional probation officer who is killed in the line of duty under certain circumstances.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

CS/HB 543 (ch. 2023-18, L.O.F.) - Public Safety

By: Judiciary Committee; Brannan, Payne, and others

Tied Bills: HB 7025

Companion Bills: CS/SB 150

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

**Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Budget; Criminal Justice; Law Enforcement; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill authorizes a person to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm (CWCF) if he or she has a valid concealed weapons license (CWL) or does not have a CWL, but otherwise satisfies the criteria for receiving and maintaining a CWL, except that such person is not required to demonstrate competency with a firearm or affirmatively state he or she desires a legal means to carry a CWCF for lawful self-defense. A person carrying a CWCF without a CWL must carry valid identification while in actual possession of a CWCF and obey the prohibition against carrying a CWCF in certain locations.

The bill improves school safety and security by requiring the Department of Education (DOE) to implement new behavioral threat management operational processes, a threat assessment instrument, and a threat management portal; updating the membership and responsibilities of school district and charter school threat assessment teams; authorizing private schools to partner with a law enforcement or security agency to establish a safe-school officer program; requiring DOE to adopt emergency rules establishing which School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting incidents require referral to law enforcement; establishing the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program; and requiring all law enforcement agencies to adopt a written active assailant response policy.

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the bill provides appropriations to DOE to fund programs and initiatives established by the bill and for school hardening grant programs and provides an appropriation to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to implement a grant program for local law enforcement agencies to provide firearm safety training.

The bill became law on April 3, 2023, chapter 2023-18, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

CS/CS/HB 935 - Chiefs of Police

By: Judiciary Committee; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee;

Jacques, Giallombardo, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 998

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

**Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee** 

Category: Government Operations; Law Enforcement; Local Government; Public Employees

The bill prohibits a municipality from terminating the police chief without providing the police chief with written notice of the termination and allowing the police chief to appear at the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the municipal governing body to provide a full and complete response to his or her termination. The bill prohibits an employment contract between a municipality and the police chief from waiving or modifying the requirements of the bill or including a nondisclosure clause prohibiting the police chief from responding to the termination.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 946 (ch. 2023-52, L.O.F.) - Public Records/Department of State Electronically Filed Records

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Grall

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 911

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Governmental Oversight and Accountability;

**Rules** 

Category: Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine; Technology

The bill creates a public record exemption for email addresses and secure login credentials held by the Department of State. The bill provides for retroactive application of the exemption, provides for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption, and provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-52, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

SB 948 (ch. 2023-53, L.O.F.) - Records Electronically Filed with the Department of State

By: Grall

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 909

Committee(s) of Reference: Commerce and Tourism; Governmental Oversight and Accountability;

**Rules** 

**Category: Cybersecurity; Government Operations; Technology** 

The bill authorizes the Department of State to implement a password protected system for the electronic filing of certain records, require those using the password protected system to verify their identity and credentials, and send notice to certain e-mail addresses about participation in the system.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-53, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

#### CS/CS/HB 1121 - Florida Retirement System

By: State Affairs Committee; Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; Bartleman, Tomkow, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1156

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee Category: Government Operations; Public Employees; Retirement

The bill authorizes a Florida Retirement System (FRS) employer to establish a post-employment volunteer program that allows FRS retirees to provide civic, charitable, and humanitarian services during the first 12 months following retirement. The volunteer program must meet certain criteria.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 1188 - Contract Liability

By: Fiscal Policy; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Boyd

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1159

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Government Operations** 

The bill requires the written agreement for an agency procurement of contractual services in excess of \$35,000 to include a provision limiting the contractor's liability for breach of contract and includes the specific provisions that must be part of the limited liability provision.

CS/HB 1189 - Monuments

By: State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; Salzman and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1020

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 establishes the Florida Space Exploration Monument to be administered by the Department of Management Services (DMS). The bill requires DMS to develop a plan for the design, cost, creation, and proper placement of the monument and submit the plan to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2024.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 1310 - Substitution of Work Experience for Postsecondary Education Requirements

By: Rules; Community Affairs; DiCeglie and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 1109

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Community Affairs; Rules

**Category: Government Operations; Local Government; Public Employees** 

The bill provides that a public employer may only include a postsecondary degree as a baseline requirement for a job as an alternative to a specified number of years of direct experience to qualify for the job. The bill allows an agency to substitute verifiable, related work experience in lieu of postsecondary education requirements when contracting for services if the person seeking the contract is otherwise qualified for such contract.

CS/HB 1441 (ch. 2023-72, L.O.F.) - Florida Museum of Black History

By: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee; Antone and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1606

Committee(s) of Reference: Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations

Subcommittee; Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

**Category: Government Operations** 

The bill creates the Black History Task Force (task force) within the Department of State for the purpose of providing recommendations for the planning, construction, operation, and administration of a Florida Museum of Black History. The bill requires the task force to submit a report detailing its plan and recommendations to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2024, at which point the task force expires.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-72, Laws of Flroida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

#### CS/CS/SB 1480 - Grants for Nonprofit Organization Safety

By: Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Calatayud

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 1615

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

Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Fiscal Policy

**Category: Emergency Management; Government Operations; Public Safety** 

The bill requires the Division of Emergency Management within the Executive Office of the Governor to establish a state based Nonprofit Security Grant Program (program), subject to legislative appropriation, that provides grants to nonprofit organizations at high risk of violent attacks or hate crimes in order to increase security and safety. The bill provides that the program repeals on January 1, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal by the Legislature.

CS/SB 7024 - Retirement

By: Appropriations; Governmental Oversight and Accountability

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 239

Committee(s) of Reference: Appropriations

Category: Budget; Public Employees; Retirement

The bill revises the Florida Retirement System (FRS) normal retirement date for Special Risk Class members initially enrolled in the FRS on or after July 1, 2011, to be the earlier of 25 years of creditable service or age 55. The bill modifies the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) by removing the 12-month DROP election limitation period, extending the amount of time eligible members may participate in DROP, and increasing the annual interest rate accruing in a DROP participant's account. The bill also increases the allocations to FRS Investment Plan accounts for each membership class by 2% and revises the FRS employer contribution rates. Finally, the bill increases the monthly retiree health insurance subsidy.

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

#### **Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee**

CS/HB 199 - Ethics Requirements for Officers and Employees of Special Tax Districts By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Hunschofsky and Daley

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/SB 620

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

**Category: Ethics; Local Government; Public Employees** 

For public officers or employees of water control districts and certain special tax districts, the bill provides that conduct constituting a misuse of public position or violating the prohibition on disclosing information not otherwise available to the public for their own personal benefit is considered an impermissible conflict of interest. The bill also requires elected local officers of independent special districts to complete four hours of ethics training annually.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

HB 411 (ch. 2023-101, L.O.F.) - Residency of Local Elected Officials

By: Steele and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 444; includes SB 1080 and HB 7069

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Choice & Innovation

**Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee** 

**Category: Elections; Local Government; Redistricting** 

The bill aligns county, municipal, and district school board redistricting processes to the same standards, prohibits these districts from being drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a candidate or incumbent based on his or her residential address, and prohibits district boundary changes from being made during a certain period.

The bill requires an elected candidate for district school board member to reside in the district school board member residence area by the date she or he assumes office instead of upon qualifying for such office. The bill also requires each candidate who qualifies to have her or his name placed on the ballot to be listed according to the district school board member residence area in which she or he is a candidate, rather than the residence area in which she or he currently resides.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-101, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/SB 666 (ch. 2023-46, L.O.F.) - Form of Candidate Oath

By: Ethics and Elections; Collins

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HB 707

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Rules

**Category: Elections** 

The bill specifies that the address in the oath or affirmation that candidates for nomination or election to state, local, or judicial office take must be the candidate's address of legal residence.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-46, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 774 (ch. 2023-49, L.O.F.) - Ethics Requirements for Public Officials

By: Rules; Ethics and Elections; Brodeur

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 37

Committee(s) of Reference: Ethics and Elections; Rules Category: Ethics; Local Government; Public Employees

The bill requires members of the Commission on Ethics (Commission), mayors, and elected members of a municipal governing body to file the Form 6 disclosure starting January 1, 2024. The bill maintains the requirement to electronically file Form 6 disclosures as of January 1, 2023, and requires the electronic filing of Form 1 disclosures starting January 1, 2024. The bill clarifies that federal income tax returns and other attachments may be included with the electronic submissions.

The bill requires the Commission to investigate any lobbying firm, lobbyist, principal, agency, officer, or employee only when individuals or entities have intentionally failed to disclose a material fact or knowingly submitted false information. The bill authorizes the Commission to dismiss certain complaints or investigations in certain instances. Lastly, the bill increases the civil penalty that may be assessed for a violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-49, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

SB 7000 - OGSR/Current or Former Public Guardians

By: Children, Families, and Elder Affairs

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: HB 7037** 

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

**Category: Government in the Sunshine; Social Services** 

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for certain identifying and location information of current and former public guardians and employees with fiduciary responsibility, and their spouses and children. The bill removes the exemption for places of employment and photographs of current public guardians and employees with fiduciary responsibility.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

HB 7003 (ch. 2023-74, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Water Management District Surplus Lands

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Griffitts

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 7004

Committee(s) of Reference: Agriculture, Conservation & Resiliency Subcommittee; State Affairs

Committee

Category: Environmental Protection; Government in the Sunshine; Government Operations; Real

**Property** 

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for written valuations of water management district land determined to be surplus, documents used to form or that pertain to the valuation, as well as written offers to purchase such surplus land.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-74, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

SB 7006 - OGSR/Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability

**Tied Bills: None** 

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Companion Bills: HB 7001

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Emergency Management; Government in the Sunshine; Law Enforcement; Utilities and

**Communications** 

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for certain information relating to the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network held by an agency.

HB 7007 (ch. 2023-75, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Security and Firesafety System Plans

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Jacques

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7040

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee Category: Government in the Sunshine; Public Safety

The bill saves from repeal the public record and public meeting exemption for security or firesafety system plans and repeals duplicative exemptions for such information.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-75, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

SB 7008 - OGSR/Building Plans, Blueprints, Schematic Drawings, and Diagrams

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 7009

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules

Category: Government in the Sunshine; Public Safety

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for building plans, blueprints, schematic drawings, and diagrams held by an agency, which depict the internal layout or structural elements of an attractions and recreation facility, an entertainment or resort complex, an industrial complex, a retail and service development, an office development, a health care facility, or a hotel or motel development.

CS/SB 7020 (ch. 2023-60, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Mobile Suspicious Activity Reporting Tool By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Education Pre-K -12 and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: HB 7033** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules Category: Government in the Sunshine; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for the identity of a reporting party and any other information received through FortifyFL and held by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, law enforcement agencies, or school officials. The bill expands the exemption to include such information received by the Department of Education, provides for retroactive application of the exemption, provides for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption, and provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-60, Laws of Florida, and became effective on that date.

SB 7022 (ch. 2023-61, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety

Commission/Safe-school Officers
By: Education Pre-K -12 and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: HB 7029** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules Category: Government in the Sunshine; Pre-K through 12 Education; Public Safety

The bill saves from repeal the public meeting exemption for any portion of a meeting of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission at which exempt or confidential and exempt information is discussed, as well as the public record exemption for any information held by a law enforcement agency, school district, or charter school that would identify whether a particular individual has been appointed as a safe-school officer.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-61, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

HB 7031 (ch. 2023-107, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Address of a Victim of an Incident of Mass Violence

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Porras and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: SB 7012** 

Committee(s) of Reference: State Affairs Committee

Category: Criminal Justice; Government in the Sunshine; Public Safety

The bill saves from repeal the public record exemption for the address of a victim of an incident of mass violence.

The bill became law on May 17, 2023, chapter 2023-107, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

HB 7035 (ch. 2023-76, L.O.F.) - OGSR/Citizens Property Insurance Corporation/Cybersecurity Data and Information

By: Ethics, Elections & Open Government Subcommittee; Griffitts and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7042

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

**Category: Cybersecurity; Government in the Sunshine** 

The bill saves from repeal the public record and public meeting exemption for certain portions of risk assessments, evaluations, audits, and other reports of Citizens Property Insurance Corporation's (Citizen's) cybersecurity program, and removes redundant public record and public meeting exemptions for certain information held by Citizens.

The bill became law on May 11, 2023, chapter 2023-76, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective on October 1, 2023.

### Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee

CS/SM 160 - Redesignation of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization

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

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/HM 167

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

**Category: Federal Government** 

The memorial declares the Florida Legislature is firm in its commitment to Colombia and urges the United States Secretary of State to re-designate the Revolutionary Forces of Colombia as a foreign terrorist organization.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State.

CS/CS/SB 170 - Local Ordinances

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Trumbull and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HB 1515

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Rules

Category: Civil Justice; Government Operations; Local Government

The bill requires counties and municipalities (local governments) to prepare a business impact estimate before adopting an ordinance, with certain exceptions. The business impact estimate must be posted on the local government's website and include certain information.

The bill provides that if a civil action is filed against a local government to challenge the adoption of a local ordinance on the grounds it is arbitrary or unreasonable, the court may assess and award up to \$50,000 in attorney fees, costs, and damages. The prevailing plaintiff may not recover any such fees or costs associated with litigation to determine an award of reasonable attorney fees or costs. The bill also provides procedures to challenge an ordinance on the grounds it is preempted by state law or the Florida Constitution or is arbitrary or unreasonable, with certain exceptions, and provides for an expedited court review of such challenges.

Finally, the bill provides that properly noticed consideration of a proposed ordinance may be continued to a subsequent meeting under certain circumstances without further publication, mailing, or posted notice.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

CS/HB 339 - Education of Dependents of Deceased or Disabled Servicemembers, Prisoners of War, and **Persons Missing in Action** 

By: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Yarkosky and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 550

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee; Fiscal Policy Category: Higher Education and Employment; Military; Post-Secondary Education

The bill replaces the one-year residency requirement for the children and spouses of deceased or disabled veterans state scholarship program with methods to prove eligibility for such program. The bill also makes similar conforming changes to provisions concerning dependent children of prisoners of war, persons missing in action, or persons who died or were disabled during certain military operations.

CS/CS/SB 346 - Public Construction

By: Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Community Affairs; DiCeglie

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 383

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

**Category: Government Operations; Local Government** 

The bill requires each contract for construction services between a governmental entity and a contractor to include the estimated cost to complete each item on the statutorily required punch list. The bill also revises timelines for payment and dispute resolution to ensure timely payment. Finally, the bill revises the definition of "public works project" to include any construction, maintenance, repair, renovation, remodeling, or improvement that uses any amount of state-appropriated funds.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 485 - Veterans' Services and Recognition

By: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Salzman, Smith, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 824

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee

**Category: Health; Military** 

The bill creates the Division of Long-term Care within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA). The bill creates the Veterans' Adult Day Health Care of Florida Act, which provides standards for the operation of veterans' adult day health care programs, requires the executive director of FDVA to appoint operators responsible for the overall operation of such programs, and provides eligibility and priority of admittance criteria for the programs.

The bill revises the eligibility requirements a board of county commissioners may consider when employing a county or city veteran service officer.

The bill designates the week of November 11 of each year as "Veterans Week."

CS/CS/SB 540 - Local Government Comprehensive Plans

By: Rules; Judiciary; DiCeglie

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 359

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Judiciary; Rules

Category: Administrative Procedure; Government Operations; Local Government

The bill provides that a prevailing party in a challenge to a comprehensive plan, plan amendment, or small scale plan amendment is entitled to recover attorney fees, including reasonable appellate attorney fees and costs. The bill limits the scope of review in a development order challenge to inconsistencies between the comprehensive plan and the development order's alteration of the use or density or intensity of use on a property. Lastly, the bill provides that land development regulations, with some exceptions, do not apply to Florida College System institutions.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/HB 621 - Death Benefits for Active Duty Servicemembers By: State Affairs Committee; Barnaby, Maney, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1094

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

**Appropriations Committee; State Affairs Committee** 

**Category: Military** 

The bill provides a uniform death benefit for active duty servicemembers, requires the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to establish a process for designating a beneficiary, and requires DMA to request the Chief Financial Officer to draw a warrant from the General Revenue Fund for payment of the death benefit.

CS/HB 635 - Dental Services for Veterans

By: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Maney, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 366

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

**Category: Health; Military** 

The bill creates the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program within the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) to provide oral health care to veterans who reside in Florida. The bill requires FDVA to contract with a statewide direct-support organization to distribute grants to eligible nonprofits with experience providing dental care to veterans.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

CS/CS/SB 718 - Local Government

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Yarborough

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/HB 41; includes part(s) of CS/HB 653 and SB 856

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

**Category: Government Operations; Local Government** 

The bill prohibits an initiative or referendum process for any land development regulation. It also revises the municipal annexation and contraction process by requiring a feasibility study and changes the contraction process to mirror the process for annexation.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

SM 848 - People of Iran By: Powell and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HM 531

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

**Category: Federal Government** 

The memorial urges the United States Congress to stand in support of the fight for freedom of the people of Iran.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State.

SB 942 - Authorization of Restrictions Concerning Dogs

By: Calatayud and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

**Companion Bills: HB 941** 

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Agriculture; Rules

**Category: Local Government; Public Safety** 

The bill allows public housing authorities (PHAs) to adopt policies imposing restrictions or additional requirements on owners of dogs deemed dangerous and develop procedures or criteria to aid in the implementation of these policies. The bill expands the current prohibition on local governments adopting breed-specific regulations to include a prohibition on regulations based on size or weight of the dog, provides that these same restrictions apply to policies adopted by PHAs, and removes an exception for breed-specific ordinances adopted before October 1, 1990.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is October 1, 2023.

SM 1036 - Florida National Guard

By: Wright
Tied Bills: None

**Companion Bills: HM 971** 

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 United States 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 1367 - Unlawful Dumping

By: Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee; Altman, Bartleman, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1368

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

Water Quality, Supply & Treatment Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Environmental Protection; Local Government** 

The bill prohibits a person from dumping litter in or on any water control district (district) property or canal right-of-way unless the district board of directors or the district manager has given prior consent and if any litter is thrown or discarded onto such property from a boat, provides that the owner or operator of the boat may be found in violation of the prohibition. A member of the district board of directors or a district manager who discovers a person has committed unlawful dumping on district property must report the incident to the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction and a law enforcement officer may enter any district canal right-of-way, property, or facility to respond to such incident.

The bill provides that a district complies with the posting requirement for the crime of trespassing by placing specified signs at or near the intersection of any district canal right-of-way and a road right-of-way.

**HB 1373 - County Constitutional Officers** 

By: Fernandez-Barquin and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: SB 1490

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

Judiciary Committee; State Affairs Committee Category: Civil Justice; Local Government

The bill prohibits a county from creating or expanding the powers or authority of any office, special district, or governmental unit for the purpose of exercising any power or authority allocated exclusively to a county constitutional officer by the Florida Constitution or by general law, and from including funding within its budget for such purpose. A county commissioner who votes in favor of a proposed ordinance for such creation or expansion of powers is guilty of misfeasance or malfeasance in office and if a county adopts such an ordinance, the state may withhold all or part of any distribution under local government revenue sharing during the period such ordinance is in force, except distributions exclusively for school purposes or required for existing bond debt service.

The bill authorizes a county constitutional officer or county resident to bring an action in circuit court against a county adopting such an ordinance and authorizes a court to enter a judgment awarding declaratory and injunctive relief, damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees to a prevailing county constitutional officer or county resident.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023.

SM 1382 - United States Department of Defense

By: Collins and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: HM 1319

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 prohibit social practices, such as mandatory vaccinations and policies encouraging the use of person-centered and gender-neutral language, and return to a merit-based system for military force development and composition.

The memorial will be filed with the Secretary of State.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1595 - Law Enforcement Operations

By: State Affairs Committee; Judiciary Committee; Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special

Districts Subcommittee; Yarkosky, Fernandez-Barquin, and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 1588

Committee(s) of Reference: Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee;

**Judiciary Committee; State Affairs Committee** 

Category: Administrative Procedure; Budget; Law Enforcement; Local Government

The bill codifies the jurisdictional powers of sheriffs by clarifying the sheriff has exclusive policing jurisdiction in the unincorporated areas of each county and concurrent jurisdiction with municipal or special district law enforcement agencies in the jurisdictions of those agencies. The bill prohibits a county from establishing or maintaining a separate police department or other policing entity to provide services in the unincorporated area of the county or from contracting with a municipal police department to provide law enforcement services. The bill also provides a process for the transfer of policing responsibility and authority to the sheriff in counties without an elected sheriff.

The bill revises the budget appeal process to challenge funding reductions in a municipal law enforcement agency's budget if certain factors are satisfied. The bill provides guidance for administrative law judges (ALJ) in considering petitions and requires the ALJ's final order be based on whether the proposed reduction in the law enforcement budget will impair a law enforcement agency's ability to ensure public safety.

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

CS/CS/SB 1604 (ch. 2023-31, L.O.F.) - Land Use and Development Regulations

By: Rules; Community Affairs; Ingoglia

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/CS/CS/HB 439

Committee(s) of Reference: Community Affairs; Rules Category: Local Government; Utilities and Communications

The bill revises local comprehensive planning requirements by increasing the required planning periods and prohibiting local governments that fail to update their comprehensive plan in accordance with the seven-year evaluation and appraisal process from initiating and adopting any publicly initiated plan amendments. The bill prescribes certain procedures for the Department of Economic Opportunity to apply when local governments remain out of compliance with comprehensive planning updates.

The bill prohibits local governments from requiring certain building design elements for single-family or two-family dwellings located in planned unit developments and master planned communities approved on or after July 1, 2023, and limits the application of those elements to dwellings located in a local government jurisdiction that has a design review board or an architectural review board to those with a board created before January 1, 2020.

The bill precludes an independent special district from complying with the terms of a development agreement, or any other agreements connected to the development agreement, adopted within three months preceding a law changing the selection method of the members of the governing body, and requires the new governing body to vote on whether to seek readoption of such development agreement within four months of taking office. These provisions expire on July 1, 2028, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.

The bill revises the existing process for the approval of new electric distribution substations to apply to all new or existing substations.

The bill became law on May 5, 2023, chapter 2023-31, Laws of Florida, and becomes effective July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

# Ways & Means Committee Representative Stan McClain, Chair Representative James Buchanan, Vice Chair

#### **2023 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION**



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Ways & Means Committee	343
CS/HB 619 - State Estate Tax	347
HB 7063 - Taxation	348

CS/HB 619 - State Estate Tax

By: Ways & Means Committee; Tant and others

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 278

Committee(s) of Reference: Ways & Means Committee; Judiciary Committee

**Category: Taxes** 

The bill amends sections 198.26 and 198.32, F.S., to provide that proof that a probate estate has paid the state estate tax or is exempt from the tax, and the filing of an affidavit that no estate tax is due, is inapplicable to estates of decedents who die after December 31, 2004, so long as upon the date of death there is no credit for state taxes available against the federal estate or generation-skipping transfer taxes. The bill applies to all probate proceedings that are opened on or after, or for which an order of final discharge has not been entered on or after, the effective date of the act.

HB 7063 - Taxation

By: Ways & Means Committee; McClain

**Tied Bills: None** 

Companion Bills: CS/SB 7062 Committee(s) of Reference: None

**Category: Taxes** 

The bill provides the following tax reductions and other tax-related modifications.

For sales tax, the bill includes permanent exemptions for: specified baby and toddler products and clothes, adult incontinence products, oral hygiene products, machinery and equipment to produce renewable natural gas, certain agricultural fencing, firearm safety devices, and small private investigative agency services. The bill provides the following temporary exemptions: a one-year exemption for certain ENERGY STAR certified appliances; a one-year exemption for gas ranges and cooktops; and an estimated 8-month reduction in the business rent tax from 5.5% to 4.5%. The bill also has the following tax holidays: two 14-day "back-to-school" tax holidays; two 14-day "disaster preparedness" tax holidays; a three-month "Freedom Summer" tax holiday for specified recreational items and activities; and a seven-day "Tool Time" tax holiday for tools/equipment used in skilled trades.

For property taxes, the bill makes several changes to expand, clarify, or correct provisions related to homestead benefits for permanently and totally disabled veterans, first responders, and surviving spouses of either; allows an educational facility to qualify for an exemption if it has a bona fide 98-year lease with nominal payments or has received an educational exemption for ten prior consecutive years; amends the property value and percentage thresholds which limit a property appraiser's authority to appeal certain decisions of the value adjustment board; and makes technical and clarifying changes to several sections of existing law.

For corporate income tax, the bill adopts the Internal Revenue Code in effect on January 1, 2023; creates temporary tax credits for homebuilders that purchase and install residential graywater systems and for companies that purchase machinery and equipment for use in the production of human breast milk fortifiers; and increases the annual cap for the Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit Program to \$35 million.

Additionally, the bill delays the imposition of natural gas fuel taxes; revises criteria for counties that may reimburse certain expenses from revenues received by a tourist development tax; requires that all tourist development taxes be enacted by referendum; requires expiring local taxes to be renewed at a general election within 48 months of the renewal date; exempts certain small business loans from duplicative documentary stamp and intangible tax treatment; authorizes the local food and beverage sales tax in Miami-Dade county to be levied in cities that impose the municipal resort tax if approved by referendum; clarifies the calculation of a certain penalty as related to the Florida Tax Credit Program, New Worlds Reading Initiative, and Strong Families Tax Credit programs; increases the annual cap of the Strong Families Tax Credit to \$20 million; distributes \$27.5 million for two fiscal years to promote the breeding and racing of horses in Florida; creates a credit against pari-mutuel taxes for certain federal assessments related to horseracing safety; and prohibits special assessments on agricultural lands.

The total state and local government impact of the bill in Fiscal Year 2023-24 is estimated to be -\$1,161.1 million (-\$303 million recurring).

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is July 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

The Ways & Means Committee has no subcommittees under it.

## **Bill Number Index of Passed Legislation**

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 1	<u>HB 1</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 2	<u>SB 2</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 3	<u>HB 3</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 4	<u>SB 4</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 5	<u>HB 5</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 6	<u>SB 6</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 7	SB 300	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 8	<u>SB 8</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 10	SB 10	Judiciary Committee
SB 12	<u>SB 12</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 16	<u>SB 16</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 19	HB 19	Education & Employment Committee
HB 21	HB 21	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 23	SB 162	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 27	HB 27	Judiciary Committee
HJR 31	HJR 31	Education & Employment Committee
SB 32	SB 32	Rules Committee
HB 33	HB 33	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 34	<u>SB 34</u>	Rules Committee
HB 35	HB 35	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 36	SB 36	Rules Committee
HB 37	SB 774	State Affairs Committee
SB 38	SB 38	Rules Committee
SB 40	<u>SB 40</u>	Rules Committee
HB 41	SB 718	State Affairs Committee
SB 42	SB 42	Rules Committee
SB 44	<u>SB 44</u>	Rules Committee
HB 49	HB 49	State Affairs Committee
SB 50	<u>SB 50</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 52	HB 379	Education & Employment Committee
SB 56	HB 33	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 58	<u>HB 35</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 62	<u>SB 62</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 64	HB 425	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 67	<u>HB 67</u>	Judiciary Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 71	SB 384	Judiciary Committee
HB 73	SB 574	Judiciary Committee
HB 75	<u>SB 50</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 76	HB 109	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 85	SB 360	Judiciary Committee
HB 87	SB 144	Judiciary Committee
HB 89	HB 89	Commerce Committee
SJR 94	HJR 31	Education & Employment Committee
HB 95	HB 95	Judiciary Committee
SB 96	HB 21	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 97	SB 130	Judiciary Committee
SB 102	SB 102	State Affairs Committee
SB 106	SB 106	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 109	HB 109	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 110	SB 110	State Affairs Committee
HB 111	HB 111	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
HB 117	SB 218	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 119	HB 119	Judiciary Committee
HB 121	HB 121	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 125	HB 125	Commerce Committee
SB 130	SB 130	Judiciary Committee
HB 133	HB 133	Judiciary Committee
SB 136	HB 179	Commerce Committee
HB 139	HB 139	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 140	HB 385	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 141	SB 240	Education & Employment Committee
HB 141	SB 196	Education & Employment Committee
HB 143	SB 204	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 144	SB 144	Judiciary Committee
SB 150	HB 543	State Affairs Committee
SB 152	HB 7025	Judiciary Committee
SB 154	<u>SB 154</u>	Commerce Committee
HB 155	HB 155	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SM 160	SM 160	State Affairs Committee
SB 162	SB 162	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 164	<u>SB 164</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 165	<u>SB 164</u>	Judiciary Committee
HM 167	<u>SM 160</u>	State Affairs Committee
SB 170	<u>SB 170</u>	State Affairs Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 174	HB 67	Judiciary Committee
HB 179	HB 179	Commerce Committee
SB 180	SB 180	Commerce Committee
HB 185	SB 306	Judiciary Committee
SB 190	HB 225	Education & Employment Committee
SB 190	SB 190	Education & Employment Committee
SB 194	HB 125	Commerce Committee
SB 196	<u>SB 240</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 196	SB 196	Education & Employment Committee
SB 198	HB 155	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 199	HB 199	State Affairs Committee
SB 202	<u>HB 1</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 204	SB 204	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 210	SB 210	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 212	HB 301	Education & Employment Committee
HB 213	HB 213	Judiciary Committee
SB 214	<u>SB 214</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 218	SB 218	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 220	SB 102	State Affairs Committee
HB 221	SB 214	Commerce Committee
HB 223	SB 290	Education & Employment Committee
HB 225	HB 225	Education & Employment Committee
HB 225	SB 190	Education & Employment Committee
SB 226	SB 226	Judiciary Committee
HB 229	SB 102	State Affairs Committee
SB 230	SB 230	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 232	SB 232	Judiciary Committee
HB 233	HB 233	Commerce Committee
SB 234	SB 234	State Affairs Committee
SB 236	HB 837	Judiciary Committee
HB 237	SB 286	Judiciary Committee
SB 238	SB 238	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 239	SB 7024	State Affairs Committee
SB 240	<u>SB 240</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 240	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
SB 240	SB 196	Education & Employment Committee
SB 242	SB 242	State Affairs Committee
SB 244	<u>SB 266</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 244	HB 1035	Education & Employment Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 246	HB 121	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 249	SB 676	Education & Employment Committee
SB 250	SB 250	Commerce Committee
SB 252	SB 252	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 253	SB 180	Commerce Committee
SB 254	SB 254	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 256	SB 256	State Affairs Committee
HB 257	SB 598	Education & Employment Committee
SB 258	SB 258	State Affairs Committee
HB 259	HB 225	Education & Employment Committee
HB 259	SB 190	Education & Employment Committee
SB 262	SB 262	Commerce Committee
SB 264	SB 264	Judiciary Committee
HB 265	HB 265	Education & Employment Committee
SB 266	SB 266	Education & Employment Committee
SB 266	HB 1035	Education & Employment Committee
HB 267	HB 267	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 269	HB 269	Judiciary Committee
SB 272	SB 272	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 273	SB 404	Judiciary Committee
SB 274	SB 274	Education & Employment Committee
SB 278	HB 619	Ways & Means Committee
SB 280	HB 365	Judiciary Committee
SB 284	SB 284	Commerce Committee
SB 286	SB 286	Judiciary Committee
HB 287	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 289	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
SB 290	SB 290	Education & Employment Committee
SB 294	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 295	SB 210	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 298	HB 267	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 299	HB 299	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 300	SB 300	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 301	HB 301	Education & Employment Committee
SB 302	<u>HB 3</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 306	SB 306	Judiciary Committee
SB 308	HB 225	Education & Employment Committee
SB 308	<u>SB 190</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 312	SB 312	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 319	HB 319	Judiciary Committee
HB 327	HB 327	Commerce Committee
HB 329	HB 329	Judiciary Committee
HB 331	HB 331	Judiciary Committee
SB 334	HB 389	Education & Employment Committee
HB 339	HB 339	State Affairs Committee
HB 341	HB 341	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 344	HB 387	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 346	SB 346	State Affairs Committee
SB 348	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 351	SB 558	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 359	SB 540	State Affairs Committee
SB 360	SB 360	Judiciary Committee
SB 364	HB 535	State Affairs Committee
HB 365	HB 365	Judiciary Committee
SB 366	HB 635	State Affairs Committee
SB 376	SB 376	Judiciary Committee
HB 379	HB 379	Education & Employment Committee
HB 383	SB 346	State Affairs Committee
SB 384	SB 384	Judiciary Committee
HB 385	HB 385	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 387	HB 387	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 389	HB 389	Education & Employment Committee
HB 391	HB 391	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 398	HB 213	Judiciary Committee
SB 404	SB 404	Judiciary Committee
HB 407	HB 407	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 408	HB 327	Commerce Committee
SB 410	HB 793	Commerce Committee
HB 411	HB 411	State Affairs Committee
HB 415	SB 752	Commerce Committee
SB 418	SB 418	Commerce Committee
HB 425	HB 425	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 430	HB 49	State Affairs Committee
HB 431	HB 431	Judiciary Committee
HB 437	HB 437	Judiciary Committee
HB 439	SB 1604	State Affairs Committee
HB 441	HB 441	Judiciary Committee
SB 442	HB 737	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 443	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
SB 444	HB 411	State Affairs Committee
SB 450	SB 450	Judiciary Committee
SB 452	HB 391	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 454	HB 1133	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 459	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 465	SB 240	Education & Employment Committee
HB 477	<u>HB 477</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 478	SB 478	Education & Employment Committee
HB 483	SB 612	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 485	HB 485	State Affairs Committee
SB 486	HB 431	Judiciary Committee
HB 487	HB 487	Commerce Committee
SB 490	HB 233	Commerce Committee
HB 491	SB 600	Judiciary Committee
SB 494	HB 133	Judiciary Committee
SB 496	HB 329	Judiciary Committee
SB 504	HB 605	Judiciary Committee
HB 505	SB 418	Commerce Committee
SB 508	SB 508	Judiciary Committee
SB 510	HB 667	Judiciary Committee
SB 512	HB 89	Commerce Committee
SB 514	HB 795	Education & Employment Committee
HB 515	SB 596	Education & Employment Committee
HB 517	SB 274	Education & Employment Committee
SB 522	HB 441	Judiciary Committee
SB 528	HB 537	Judiciary Committee
HM 531	SM 848	State Affairs Committee
SB 532	HB 607	Commerce Committee
HB 535	HB 535	State Affairs Committee
SB 536	HB 1087	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 537	HB 537	Judiciary Committee
SB 538	SB 538	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 540	<u>SB 540</u>	State Affairs Committee
HB 541	SB 1002	Commerce Committee
HB 543	HB 543	State Affairs Committee
SB 546	HB 641	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 550	HB 339	State Affairs Committee
HB 551	HB 551	Education & Employment Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 552	<u>SB 552</u>	Commerce Committee
HB 555	<u>SB 450</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 558	<u>SB 558</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 563	SB 258	State Affairs Committee
SB 568	HB 825	Judiciary Committee
SB 574	<u>SB 574</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 580	HB 1267	Commerce Committee
HB 583	SB 230	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 585	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
SB 588	HB 657	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 593	SB 376	Judiciary Committee
SB 594	HB 799	Commerce Committee
SB 596	SB 596	Education & Employment Committee
SB 598	SB 598	Education & Employment Committee
HB 599	HB 599	Commerce Committee
SB 600	SB 600	Judiciary Committee
HB 601	SB 768	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 603	SB 232	Judiciary Committee
HB 605	HB 605	Judiciary Committee
HB 607	HB 607	Commerce Committee
SB 612	SB 612	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 614	SB 614	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 618	HB 95	Judiciary Committee
HB 619	HB 619	Ways & Means Committee
SB 620	HB 199	State Affairs Committee
HB 621	HB 621	State Affairs Committee
SB 622	HB 1573	Commerce Committee
SB 624	HB 331	Judiciary Committee
HB 625	HB 625	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 626	HB 1221	Commerce Committee
HB 627	SB 102	State Affairs Committee
SB 628	HB 599	Commerce Committee
HB 633	HB 633	Education & Employment Committee
HB 635	HB 635	State Affairs Committee
SB 636	HB 19	Education & Employment Committee
HB 637	HB 637	Commerce Committee
HB 639	HB 639	Commerce Committee
HB 641	HB 641	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
HB 643	<u>SB 726</u>	Appropriations Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 645	HB 645	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 653	SB 718	State Affairs Committee
HB 655	SB 914	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 657	HB 657	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 658	HB 1459	Commerce Committee
SB 662	SB 662	Education & Employment Committee
SB 664	SB 664	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 666	SB 666	State Affairs Committee
HB 667	HB 667	Judiciary Committee
SB 670	HB 721	Commerce Committee
SB 676	SB 676	Education & Employment Committee
SB 678	SB 678	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 679	SB 846	Education & Employment Committee
HB 699	SB 662	Education & Employment Committee
SB 702	HB 407	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 703	SB 478	Education & Employment Committee
SB 704	HB 783	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 707	SB 666	State Affairs Committee
SB 708	SB 708	Commerce Committee
HB 709	SB 838	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 712	HB 637	Commerce Committee
SB 718	SB 718	State Affairs Committee
HB 719	HB 719	Commerce Committee
HB 721	HB 721	Commerce Committee
SB 722	HB 719	Commerce Committee
SB 724	SB 724	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 726	SB 726	Appropriations Committee
SB 732	SB 732	Education & Employment Committee
HB 733	HB 733	Education & Employment Committee
SB 736	SB 736	Judiciary Committee
HB 737	HB 737	Commerce Committee
HB 741	SB 766	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
HB 743	SB 708	Commerce Committee
HB 745	SB 1418	Commerce Committee
SB 748	HB 881	Commerce Committee
SB 752	SB 752	Commerce Committee
HB 757	SB 664	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 761	HB 761	Commerce Committee
HB 763	SB 678	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 764	HB 319	Judiciary Committee
SB 766	SB 766	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 768	SB 768	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 770	SB 770	Commerce Committee
HB 771	SB 102	State Affairs Committee
SB 772	SB 102	State Affairs Committee
SB 774	SB 774	State Affairs Committee
HB 775	HB 775	Judiciary Committee
SB 782	HB 869	Commerce Committee
HB 783	HB 783	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 784	HB 1275	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 786	HB 1277	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 793	HB 793	Commerce Committee
HB 795	HB 795	Education & Employment Committee
HB 799	HB 799	Commerce Committee
SB 804	HB 551	Education & Employment Committee
HB 813	SB 226	Judiciary Committee
SB 824	HB 485	State Affairs Committee
HB 825	HB 825	Judiciary Committee
HB 829	HB 829	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 837	HB 837	Judiciary Committee
SB 838	SB 838	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 839	SB 1318	Judiciary Committee
HB 841	SB 1210	Judiciary Committee
HB 845	SB 732	Education & Employment Committee
SB 846	SB 846	Education & Employment Committee
HB 847	HB 847	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SM 848	SM 848	State Affairs Committee
SB 856	SB 718	State Affairs Committee
HB 857	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 857	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
SB 858	HB 139	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 861	SB 770	Commerce Committee
HB 869	HB 869	Commerce Committee
SB 880	HB 1405	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 881	HB 881	Commerce Committee
HB 891	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 891	HB 891	Education & Employment Committee
SB 892	SB 892	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 895	SB 1154	Commerce Committee
HB 897	HB 897	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 901	SB 978	Judiciary Committee
SB 902	SB 902	Commerce Committee
SB 904	SB 904	Commerce Committee
SB 908	HB 645	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 909	SB 948	State Affairs Committee
HB 911	SB 946	State Affairs Committee
SB 914	SB 914	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 915	SB 106	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 917	SB 892	Commerce Committee
HB 919	HB 919	Commerce Committee
HB 925	SB 1278	Education & Employment Committee
SB 926	HB 1597	Education & Employment Committee
HB 929	SB 7016	Judiciary Committee
HB 931	HB 931	Education & Employment Committee
HB 935	HB 935	State Affairs Committee
SB 938	HB 829	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 939	SB 7014	Judiciary Committee
SB 940	HB 897	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 941	SB 942	State Affairs Committee
SB 942	SB 942	State Affairs Committee
SB 946	SB 946	State Affairs Committee
SB 948	SB 948	State Affairs Committee
HB 949	HB 949	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 955	SB 242	State Affairs Committee
SB 958	HB 931	Education & Employment Committee
HB 959	HB 959	Commerce Committee
HB 965	HB 965	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
HB 967	HB 967	Health & Human Services Committee
HM 971	SM 1036	State Affairs Committee
HB 977	HB 977	Judiciary Committee
SB 978	SB 978	Judiciary Committee
SB 980	HB 341	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 986	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
SB 988	HB 967	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 990	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
SB 994	HB 269	Judiciary Committee
SB 998	HB 935	State Affairs Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 999	SB 266	Education & Employment Committee
HB 999	HB 1035	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1002	SB 1002	Commerce Committee
SB 1004	HB 265	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1007	SB 1064	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1009	SB 234	State Affairs Committee
SB 1012	HB 1045	Judiciary Committee
HB 1013	SB 252	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1015	SB 238	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1019	SB 1272	Appropriations Committee
SB 1020	HB 1189	State Affairs Committee
HB 1021	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1025	SB 284	Commerce Committee
HB 1035	SB 266	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1035	HB 1035	Education & Employment Committee
SM 1036	SM 1036	State Affairs Committee
HB 1037	HB 667	Judiciary Committee
HB 1039	SB 1332	Judiciary Committee
SB 1040	SB 1278	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1045	HB 1045	Judiciary Committee
HB 1047	HB 1047	Judiciary Committee
SB 1056	HB 959	Commerce Committee
HB 1059	SB 614	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1064	SB 1064	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1068	SB 1068	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1069	HB 1069	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1071	SB 1068	Infrastructure Strategies Committee
SB 1080	HB 411	State Affairs Committee
SB 1082	HB 847	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1087	HB 1087	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1091	HB 1091	Commerce Committee
SB 1094	HB 621	State Affairs Committee
SB 1098	HB 1119	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1101	SB 272	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1104	HB 1577	Judiciary Committee
HB 1105	HB 1105	Judiciary Committee
HB 1109	SB 1310	State Affairs Committee
SB 1110	HB 477	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1111	SB 312	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 1112	HB 733	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1114	HB 919	Commerce Committee
HB 1119	HB 1119	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1121	HB 1121	State Affairs Committee
HB 1123	HB 1123	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1125	HB 1125	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1127	HB 1127	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1129	SB 1458	Judiciary Committee
SB 1130	HB 977	Judiciary Committee
HB 1133	HB 1133	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1135	SB 736	Judiciary Committee
HB 1139	SB 110	State Affairs Committee
SB 1140	HB 1105	Judiciary Committee
SB 1146	HB 775	Judiciary Committee
SB 1150	HB 1307	Commerce Committee
SB 1154	SB 1154	Commerce Committee
HB 1155	SB 538	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1156	HB 1121	State Affairs Committee
HJR 1157	HJR 1157	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1158	HB 487	Commerce Committee
HB 1159	SB 1188	State Affairs Committee
HB 1161	HB 1161	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1164	HB 1279	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1166	HB 1215	Commerce Committee
SB 1170	HB 111	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1181	<u>SB 724</u>	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1182	HB 299	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1185	HB 1185	Commerce Committee
SB 1188	SB 1188	State Affairs Committee
HB 1189	HB 1189	State Affairs Committee
SB 1190	SB 1190	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1191	HB 1191	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1198	HB 1207	Appropriations Committee
HB 1203	HB 1203	Commerce Committee
HB 1205	HB 1205	Judiciary Committee
HB 1207	HB 1207	Appropriations Committee
HB 1209	HB 1209	Commerce Committee
SB 1210	SB 1210	Judiciary Committee
HB 1215	HB 1215	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 1219	SB 7018	Appropriations Committee
HB 1221	HB 1221	Commerce Committee
HB 1223	HB 1069	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1226	HB 1359	Judiciary Committee
HB 1227	SB 508	Judiciary Committee
SJR 1234	HJR 1157	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1236	HB 633	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1241	SB 902	Commerce Committee
SB 1242	HB 1203	Commerce Committee
HB 1243	SB 904	Commerce Committee
SB 1246	HB 1205	Judiciary Committee
SB 1256	HB 1281	Commerce Committee
SB 1258	HB 1191	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1259	HB 1259	Appropriations Committee
SB 1262	HB 639	Commerce Committee
HB 1263	SB 1478	Judiciary Committee
SB 1266	HB 1161	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1267	HB 1267	Commerce Committee
SB 1272	SB 1272	Appropriations Committee
HB 1275	HB 1275	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1277	HB 1277	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1278	SB 1278	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1279	HB 1279	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1281	HB 1281	Commerce Committee
HB 1285	HB 1285	State Affairs Committee
SB 1290	HB 949	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1292	HB 1301	Judiciary Committee
HB 1297	HB 1297	Judiciary Committee
SB 1300	HB 1047	Judiciary Committee
HB 1301	HB 1301	Judiciary Committee
HB 1305	HB 1305	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1307	HB 1307	Commerce Committee
SB 1308	HB 761	Commerce Committee
SB 1310	SB 1310	State Affairs Committee
SB 1318	SB 1318	Judiciary Committee
HM 1319	SM 1382	State Affairs Committee
SB 1320	HB 1069	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1322	SB 1322	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1327	HB 1327	Judiciary Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 1328	HB 1259	Appropriations Committee
SB 1332	SB 1332	Judiciary Committee
SB 1334	HB 1375	Judiciary Committee
HB 1337	SB 1190	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1342	HB 1297	Judiciary Committee
HB 1349	HB 1349	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1352	SB 1352	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1353	HB 1353	Commerce Committee
HB 1355	SB 264	Judiciary Committee
HB 1359	HB 1359	Judiciary Committee
HB 1367	HB 1367	State Affairs Committee
SB 1368	HB 1367	State Affairs Committee
HB 1373	HB 1373	State Affairs Committee
HB 1375	HB 1375	Judiciary Committee
HB 1377	<u>SB 1322</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1379	HB 1379	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SM 1382	SM 1382	State Affairs Committee
HB 1383	HB 1383	Commerce Committee
HB 1387	HB 1387	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1395	<u>SB 154</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 1396	SB 1396	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1397	HB 1397	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1398	HB 1185	Commerce Committee
SB 1402	HB 1327	Judiciary Committee
HB 1403	SB 1580	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1405	HB 1405	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 1409	SB 1416	Judiciary Committee
HB 1411	SB 1396	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1412	HB 1349	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1416	<u>SB 1416</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 1417	HB 1417	Judiciary Committee
SB 1418	SB 1418	Commerce Committee
HB 1419	HB 1419	Judiciary Committee
HB 1423	SB 1438	Commerce Committee
SB 1424	HB 7039	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1430	<u>SB 240</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1430	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1430	HB 891	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1436	HB 1419	Judiciary Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 1437	SB 552	Commerce Committee
SB 1438	SB 1438	Commerce Committee
SB 1440	HB 1571	Judiciary Committee
HB 1441	HB 1441	State Affairs Committee
SB 1442	SB 1442	Judiciary Committee
HB 1445	SB 256	State Affairs Committee
SB 1446	HB 1125	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1448	HB 1127	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1454	HB 437	Judiciary Committee
SB 1456	HB 1465	Judiciary Committee
SB 1458	SB 1458	Judiciary Committee
HB 1459	HB 1459	Commerce Committee
HB 1465	HB 1465	Judiciary Committee
HB 1471	HB 1471	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1475	SB 1676	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1478	SB 1478	Judiciary Committee
SB 1480	SB 1480	State Affairs Committee
HB 1481	SB 1352	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1482	HB 1209	Commerce Committee
HB 1489	HB 1489	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1490	HB 1373	State Affairs Committee
HB 1495	SB 1616	Judiciary Committee
HB 1501	SB 1442	Judiciary Committee
SB 1506	HB 1387	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1509	SB 1550	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1510	HB 119	Judiciary Committee
HB 1515	SB 170	State Affairs Committee
HB 1517	HB 1517	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1521	HB 1521	Commerce Committee
SB 1532	HB 1397	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1534	HB 1627	Judiciary Committee
HB 1537	SB 240	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1537	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1537	HB 891	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1540	<u>SB 1540</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1542	<u>SB 1542</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1547	<u>SB 262</u>	Commerce Committee
HB 1549	SB 1648	Commerce Committee
SB 1550	<u>SB 1550</u>	Health & Human Services Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 1552	<u>SB 1552</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1557	<u>SB 1690</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1564	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1564	HB 891	Education & Employment Committee
HB 1567	SB 1540	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1569	SB 1542	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1570	HB 1383	Commerce Committee
HB 1571	HB 1571	Judiciary Committee
HB 1573	HB 1573	Commerce Committee
SB 1574	HB 27	Judiciary Committee
HB 1575	HB 1575	Commerce Committee
HB 1577	HB 1577	Judiciary Committee
SB 1578	HB 625	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1580	<u>SB 1580</u>	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1586	HB 1417	Judiciary Committee
SB 1588	HB 1595	State Affairs Committee
SB 1594	HB 1517	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 1595	HB 1595	State Affairs Committee
HB 1597	HB 1597	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1604	SB 1604	State Affairs Committee
SB 1606	HB 1441	State Affairs Committee
SB 1614	HB 1575	Commerce Committee
HB 1615	SB 1480	State Affairs Committee
SB 1616	SB 1616	Judiciary Committee
HB 1617	SB 1718	Commerce Committee
HB 1621	SB 1278	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1624	HB 1353	Commerce Committee
HB 1627	HB 1627	Judiciary Committee
SB 1632	HB 1379	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1646	HB 1123	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1648	SB 1648	Commerce Committee
SB 1654	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1664	<u>HB 5</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 1674	HB 1521	Commerce Committee
SB 1676	SB 1676	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1686	HB 1489	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
SB 1690	SB 1690	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 1714	HB 443	Education & Employment Committee
SB 1718	SB 1718	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
SB 2500	SB 2500	Appropriations Committee
SB 2502	SB 240	Appropriations Committee
SB 2502	SB 2502	Appropriations Committee
SB 2504	SB 2504	Appropriations Committee
SB 2506	SB 2506	Appropriations Committee
SB 2510	SB 2510	Appropriations Committee
HB 5001	SB 2500	Appropriations Committee
HB 5003	SB 2502	Appropriations Committee
HB 5005	SB 2504	Appropriations Committee
HB 5101	HB 1069	Appropriations Committee
HB 5101	HB 5101	Appropriations Committee
HB 5105	HB 1035	Education & Employment Committee
HB 5201	SB 2506	Appropriations Committee
HB 5301	SB 7030	Appropriations Committee
HB 5303	HB 5303	Appropriations Committee
HB 6001	<u>SB 8</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 6005	SB 62	Judiciary Committee
HB 6007	<u>SB 2</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 6011	<u>SB 6</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 6015	SB 16	Judiciary Committee
HB 6017	<u>SB 4</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 6019	<u>SB 10</u>	Judiciary Committee
HB 6021	<u>SB 12</u>	Judiciary Committee
SB 7000	SB 7000	State Affairs Committee
HB 7001	SB 7006	State Affairs Committee
SB 7002	HB 7027	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 7003	HB 7003	State Affairs Committee
SB 7004	HB 7003	State Affairs Committee
HB 7005	SB 7050	State Affairs Committee
SB 7006	<u>SB 7006</u>	State Affairs Committee
HB 7007	HB 7007	State Affairs Committee
SB 7008	SB 7008	State Affairs Committee
HB 7009	SB 7008	State Affairs Committee
HB 7011	<u>SB 32</u>	Rules Committee
SB 7012	HB 7031	State Affairs Committee
HB 7013	<u>SB 34</u>	Rules Committee
SB 7014	SB 7014	Judiciary Committee
HB 7015	SB 36	Rules Committee
SB 7016	<u>SB 7016</u>	Judiciary Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 7017	SB 38	Rules Committee
SB 7018	SB 7018	Appropriations Committee
HB 7019	<u>SB 40</u>	Rules Committee
SB 7020	SB 7020	State Affairs Committee
HB 7021	SB 42	Rules Committee
SB 7022	SB 7022	State Affairs Committee
HB 7023	<u>SB 44</u>	Rules Committee
SB 7024	<u>SB 7024</u>	State Affairs Committee
HB 7025	HB 7025	Judiciary Committee
SB 7026	SB 7026	Education & Employment Committee
HB 7027	HB 7027	<u>Infrastructure Strategies Committee</u>
HB 7029	SB 7022	State Affairs Committee
SB 7030	SB 7030	Appropriations Committee
HB 7031	HB 7031	State Affairs Committee
HB 7033	SB 7020	State Affairs Committee
HB 7035	HB 7035	State Affairs Committee
HB 7037	SB 7000	State Affairs Committee
HB 7039	HB 7039	Education & Employment Committee
SB 7040	HB 7007	State Affairs Committee
HB 7041	HB 7041	Commerce Committee
SB 7042	HB 7035	State Affairs Committee
SB 7044	SB 7044	Commerce Committee
HB 7045	SB 7064	Judiciary Committee
SB 7046	HB 1091	Commerce Committee
SB 7048	HB 7041	Commerce Committee
HB 7049	SB 7054	Commerce Committee
SB 7050	SB 7050	State Affairs Committee
HB 7051	SB 240	Education & Employment Committee
HB 7051	HB 1537	Education & Employment Committee
HB 7051	<u>SB 196</u>	Education & Employment Committee
SB 7052	<u>SB 7052</u>	Commerce Committee
SB 7054	SB 7054	Commerce Committee
SB 7056	HB 7061	Health & Human Services Committee
HB 7057	<u>SB 250</u>	Commerce Committee
HB 7061	HB 7061	Health & Human Services Committee
SB 7062	HB 7063	Ways & Means Committee
HB 7063	HB 7063	Ways & Means Committee
SB 7064	SB 7064	Judiciary Committee
HB 7065	SB 7052	Commerce Committee

Bills	Passed As /In	Committee
HB 7067	<u>SB 7050</u>	State Affairs Committee
HB 7069	HB 411	State Affairs Committee
HB 7075	SB 7044	Commerce Committee

## **Subject Category Index of Passed Legislation**

Subject Category	Bills
Administrative Procedure	<u>SB 1438</u> , <u>SB 210</u> , <u>HB 1087</u> , <u>SB 1396</u> , <u>SB 1690</u> , <u>SB 230</u> , <u>SB 540</u> , <u>HB 1595</u>
Agriculture	HB 179, HB 959, HB 1307, HB 387, HB 1279, SB 1676, SB 264
Budget	SB 2500, SB 2502, HB 5303, SB 7030, SB 726, SB 7018, HB 1035, HB 1537,
	SB 240, SB 1190, SB 1690, HB 121, SB 300, HB 391, SB 1352, SB 1550, SB
	<u>102</u> , <u>HB 1285</u> , <u>HB 49</u> , <u>SB 234</u> , <u>HB 543</u> , <u>SB 7024</u> , <u>HB 1595</u>
Business and Professional	SB 250, SB 1438, SB 1718, SB 7044, HB 89, SB 154, HB 179, SB 262, HB
Regulation	327, HB 637, HB 639, HB 719, HB 737, SB 752, HB 761, HB 869, SB 892, SB
	902, <u>SB 904</u> , <u>HB 959</u> , <u>HB 1091</u> , <u>SB 1154</u> , <u>HB 1203</u> , <u>HB 1383</u> , <u>HB 1459</u> , <u>SB</u>
	238, SB 252, SB 1396, SB 1690, HB 139, SB 230, HB 385, HB 387, SB 1580,
	HB 1279, SB 264, HB 213, HB 331, SB 600, SB 306
Civil Justice	<u>SB 7052</u> , <u>SB 1002</u> , <u>SB 154</u> , <u>SB 262</u> , <u>HB 919</u> , <u>SB 1154</u> , <u>SB 252</u> , <u>HB 7061</u> , <u>HB</u>
	1119, SB 1322, HB 1349, SB 1540, SB 254, HB 391, HB 783, SB 1580, SB
	<u>264, SB 7064, HB 27, SB 50, SB 130, HB 133, SB 144, HB 213, SB 226, SB</u>
	286, HB 331, SB 360, HB 441, SB 574, SB 600, HB 775, HB 837, HB 977, SB
	978, HB 1205, HB 1301, SB 1318, SB 1416, HB 1417, HB 1419, SB 1442, SB
	<u>1458</u> , <u>SB 170</u> , <u>HB 1373</u>
Claim Bill	<u>SB 2, SB 4, SB 6, SB 8, SB 10, SB 12, SB 16, SB 62</u>
Commerce	HB 3, SB 250, SB 1438, SB 1718, SB 7044, SB 7054, SB 180, HB 487, HB
	599, HB 607, SB 708, HB 1353, SB 154, SB 214, SB 262, HB 327, HB 637,
	<u>HB 639, HB 719, HB 737, SB 752, HB 761, HB 869, SB 892, HB 919, HB</u>
	959, HB 1091, SB 1154, HB 1203, HB 1307, HB 1383, HB 1459, SB 1648,
	<u>HB 387, HB 1387, SB 978, SB 1318</u>
Constitutional Amendments	<u>HJR 31, HJR 1157</u>
Consumer Protection	<u>SB 7052, HB 599, HB 1185, HB 1267, HB 1573, HB 179, SB 214, SB 262, HB</u>
	761, <u>SB 770</u> , <u>SB 902</u> , <u>HB 1203</u> , <u>HB 1307</u> , <u>SB 1396</u> , <u>SB 1690</u> , <u>SB 230</u> , <u>SB</u>
	254, HB 387, SB 614, HB 783, HB 1387, HB 1279, SB 1676, HB 27, HB 133,
	<u>SB 978, HB 1205, SB 232, SB 306, HB 1327</u>
Controlled Substances	SB 210, HB 387, SB 558, HB 783, HB 1387, SB 164, HB 365, SB 736, HB
	<u>1359</u>
Corrections	HB 1207, SB 7018, HB 1521, HB 119, SB 450, HB 1045, HB 1297, SB 1478,
	<u>HB 1627, SB 7014, SB 7016, HB 535</u>

Subject Category	Bills
Court Administration	HB 1087, HB 1119, SB 1322, HB 1349, HB 1387, SB 144, HB 441, HB 977,
	<u>HB 1571</u>
Courts	SB 770, SB 664, HB 829, HB 1087, HB 1119, SB 1396, SB 254, SB 300, SB
	50, SB 130, SB 144, HB 441, HB 775, SB 1416, HB 1419, SB 1442, HB 329,
	SB 376, SB 508, HB 605, HB 667, SB 1210, HB 1571, HB 1627
Criminal Justice	HB 1207, SB 1438, SB 1718, SB 7052, HB 179, HB 233, HB 1521, SB 596,
	SB 204, HB 1349, SB 254, HB 783, HB 1161, SB 7064, HB 67, HB 95, HB
	119, SB 164, SB 232, HB 269, SB 306, HB 319, HB 329, HB 365, SB 376, SB
	384, <u>SB 404</u> , <u>HB 431</u> , <u>SB 450</u> , <u>SB 508</u> , <u>HB 537</u> , <u>HB 605</u> , <u>HB 667</u> , <u>SB 736</u> , <u>HB</u>
	825, <u>HB 1047</u> , <u>HB 1105</u> , <u>SB 1210</u> , <u>HB 1297</u> , <u>HB 1327</u> , <u>SB 1332</u> , <u>HB 1359</u> ,
	<u>HB 1375, HB 1465, SB 1478, HB 1571, HB 1577, HB 1627, SB 7014, SB</u>
	7016, HB 543, HB 7031
Cybersecurity	SB 262, SB 1648, SB 258, SB 946, SB 948, HB 7035
Early Learning	HB 5101, HB 443, SB 290, HB 1069, HB 7039, SB 538, HB 625
Economic Development	HB 5, HB 1209, HB 7041, SB 240, SB 1190, HB 139
Elections	HJR 31, HB 477, SB 7050, HB 411, SB 666
Emergency Management	SB 250, HB 341, SB 1480, SB 7006
Energy	SB 284, HB 1281
Environmental Protection	HB 111, HB 641, SB 724, HB 1161, HB 1279, HB 1489, HB 1191, SB 162,
	<u>HB 407, HB 1379, HB 1405, HB 7027, HB 7003, HB 1367</u>
Ethics	<u>SB 1396, SB 1580, HB 199, SB 774</u>
Federal Government	SB 1718, SB 7054, HB 1209, SB 538, HB 1087, HB 121, HB 139, SB 254, SB
	614, HB 1387, SM 160, SM 848, SM 1036, SB 1382
Financial Services	HB 3, SB 180, SB 312, HB 487, HB 599, HB 607, SB 708, HB 1185, HB 1267,
	<u>HB 1353</u> , <u>HB 1573</u> , <u>SB 110</u>
Gaming	<u>SB 7044</u>
Government in the Sunshine	SB 552, HB 1215, SB 1648, HB 1125, HB 1127, SB 238, HB 1275, HB 1277,
	<u>SB 1542</u> , <u>HB 35</u> , <u>SB 1552</u> , <u>HB 425</u> , <u>HB 1123</u> , <u>HB 7025</u> , <u>SB 376</u> , <u>SB 404</u> , <u>SB</u>
	1210, HB 1327, SB 1616, SB 946, SB 7000, HB 7003, SB 7006, HB 7007, SB
	7008, SB 7020, SB 7022, HB 7031, HB 7035
Government Operations	SB 2506, HB 3, HB 5, SB 284, SB 1418, SB 1278, HB 7061, SB 204, HB 829,
	<u>HB 33, HB 35, HB 341, HB 783, HB 111, HB 1279, HB 1489, SB 32, SB 34,</u>
	SB 36, SB 38, SB 40, SB 42, SB 44, HB 1285, HB 49, SB 110, SB 234, SB 242,
	SB 256, SB 258, HB 535, HB 935, SB 948, HB 1121, SB 1188, HB 1189, SB
	1310, HB 1441, SB 1480, HB 7003, SB 170, SB 346, SB 540, SB 718
Health	SB 2510, HB 5303, HB 389, SB 238, SB 252, SB 210, HB 829, SB 914, SB
	<u>1064, HB 1119, HB 1275, HB 1277, HB 1349, SB 1396, HB 1517, SB 1540,</u>
	HB 33, HB 35, HB 121, HB 139, SB 218, SB 230, SB 254, HB 267, HB 299,
	SB 300, HB 341, HB 385, HB 387, HB 391, SB 558, SB 612, SB 614, SB 768,

HB 7	83, <u>HB 897, HB 967, HB 1133, SB 1352</u> , <u>HB 1387</u> , <u>HB 1471, SB 1550</u> ,
<u>SB 1</u>	552, <u>SB 1580, HB 1205</u> , <u>HB 485</u> , <u>HB 635</u>
Health Care Facilities SB 2	510, SB 238, SB 252, HB 829, HB 1119, HB 1349, SB 1396, HB 1517,
<u>SB 1</u>	540, <u>SB 230, SB 254, HB 299, SB 300, HB 387, SB 558, SB 612, SB 614</u> ,
<u>SB 1</u>	352, HB 1471, <u>SB 1580</u>
Health Care Financing SB 7	68, <u>HB 897</u>
Health Care Practitioners SB 2	510, SB 274, SB 238, SB 252, HB 829, HB 1119, HB 1275, HB 1277, <u>SB</u>
1540	), <u>HB 33</u> , <u>HB 35</u> , <u>HB 139</u> , <u>SB 218</u> , <u>SB 230</u> , <u>SB 254</u> , <u>HB 267</u> , <u>SB 300</u> , <u>HB</u>
<u>385</u> ,	HB 387, HB 391, SB 558, SB 612, SB 614, SB 768, HB 783, HB 1133,
<u>SB 1</u>	352, HB 1387, HB 1471, SB 1580, HB 825
Health Financing HB 5	303, <u>SB 914, HB 1517, HB 121, SB 254, SB 300, HB 385, HB 391, HB</u>
<u>967</u> ,	SB 1550, SB 1552
Health Services SB 2	510, HB 5303, SB 238, SB 252, SB 210, SB 272, HB 625, HB 829, SB
914,	SB 1064, HB 1119, HB 1275, HB 1277, HB 1349, SB 1396, HB 1517,
<u>SB 1</u>	540, <u>SB 1690</u> , <u>HB 33</u> , <u>HB 35</u> , <u>HB 121, HB 139</u> , <u>SB 218</u> , <u>SB 230</u> , <u>SB 254</u> ,
HB 2	67, HB 299, SB 300, HB 341, HB 385, HB 387, HB 391, SB 558, SB 612,
<u>SB 6</u>	14, <u>SB 768, HB 783, HB 967</u> , <u>HB 1133, SB 1352</u> , <u>HB 1387</u> , <u>HB 1471, SB</u>
1550	, <u>SB 1552, SB 1580</u>
Higher Education and SB 1	272, <u>SB 7026</u> , <u>HB 1035</u> , <u>SB 240</u> , <u>SB 266</u> , <u>SB 274</u> , <u>SB 598</u> , <u>SB 732</u> , <u>HB</u>
Employment <u>625</u> ,	<u>SB 1190, SB 230, HB 339</u>
Highway Safety SB 1	718, HB 1275, HB 1277, HB 425, HB 657, SB 766, SB 838, HB 949, HB
<u>965</u>	
Insurance SB 7	052, <u>SB 312, SB 418, HB 487, HB 721, HB 793, HB 799, HB 881, SB</u>
1002	, <u>HB 1185</u> , <u>HB 1573</u> , <u>SB 154</u> , <u>HB 121</u> , <u>SB 254</u> , <u>HB 897</u> , <u>SB 1550</u> , <u>SB</u>
<u>1552</u>	, <u>SB 1580</u> , <u>HB 425</u> , <u>HB 965</u> , <u>HB 837</u>
Juvenile Justice HB 1	521, <u>HB 1275</u> , <u>HB 1277</u> , <u>HB 605</u> , <u>HB 1465</u> , <u>HB 1571</u> , <u>SB 7014</u>
Law Enforcement SB 1	718, <u>HB 233</u> , <u>HB 7061</u> , <u>SB 204</u> , <u>HB 829</u> , <u>SB 914</u> , <u>HB 1275</u> , <u>HB 1277</u> , <u>HB</u>
1349	, <u>SB 1540, HB 341, HB 783, HB 425, HB 645, HB 657, SB 766, HB 965</u> ,
<u>HB 1</u>	305, <u>HB 7025</u> , <u>SB 7064</u> , <u>HB 95</u> , <u>SB 376, HB 1047</u> , <u>HB 1105</u> , <u>HB 1327</u> ,
<u>SB 1</u>	332, <u>SB 1616</u> , <u>HB 535</u> , <u>HB 543</u> , <u>HB 935</u> , <u>SB 7006</u> , <u>HB 1595</u>
Library SB 7	<u>26</u>
Local Government HB 3	, <u>SB 250, SB 1438, HB 1281, SB 418, HB 1575, HB 89, SB 154, HB</u>
1209	, <u>HB 1383</u> , <u>HB 1521</u> , <u>HB 625</u> , <u>SB 914</u> , <u>HB 1275</u> , <u>HB 1277</u> , <u>SB 254</u> , <u>HB</u>
<u>341</u> ,	<u>HB 783, HB 111, HB 1489, HB 155, HB 425, HB 657, SB 678, HB 949,</u>
SB 10	068, <u>HB 1123, HB 1305, HB 1397, SB 4, SB 6, SB 10, SB 12, SB 16</u> , <u>HB</u>
1417	, <u>HB 1419</u> , <u>HB 119</u> , <u>SB 102</u> , <u>HB 935</u> , <u>SB 1310</u> , <u>HB 199</u> , <u>HB 411</u> , <u>SB 774</u> ,
<u>SB 1</u>	70, <u>SB 346, SB 540, SB 718, SB 942</u> , <u>HB 1367</u> , <u>HB 1373</u> , <u>HB 1595</u> , <u>SB</u>
1604	
Mental Health SB 2	72, <u>HB 829, SB 914, SB 1064, HB 1275, HB 1277, HB 1349, SB 1540</u> ,
<u>SB 1</u>	590, <u>HB 33</u> , <u>HB 35</u> , <u>HB 299</u> , <u>SB 300</u> , <u>HB 385</u> , <u>SB 508</u>

Subject Category	Bills
Military	<u>HB 1307, HB 1597, HB 633, HB 1035, SB 274, SB 732, SB 538, HB 139, HB</u>
	437, SB 574, HB 1285, HB 339, HB 485, HB 621, HB 635, SM 1036, SM
	<u>1382</u>
Natural Disasters	SB 250
Natural Resources	SB 106, HB 109, HB 111, HB 641, SB 724, HJR 1157, HB 1161, HB 1489, HB
	<u>1191, HB 847</u>
Post-Secondary Education	HB 1521, SB 7026, HB 1035, HB 1537, SB 240, SB 266, SB 274, SB 596, SB
	598, SB 732, SB 846, HB 931, SB 238, SB 252, SB 1190, HB 139, SB 230, SB
	254, HB 783, HB 1133, SB 1580, HB 269, HB 339
Pre-K through 12 Education	<u>HB 1259</u> , <u>HB 5101</u> , <u>HB 1521</u> , <u>SB 676</u> , <u>HB 1</u> , <u>HJR 31</u> , <u>SB 190</u> , <u>HB 301</u> , <u>HB</u>
	379, HB 443, HB 477, SB 478, HB 733, HB 891, HB 1597, HB 19, SB 196,
	<u>HB 225</u> , <u>HB 265</u> , <u>SB 290</u> , <u>HB 389</u> , <u>HB 551</u> , <u>HB 633</u> , <u>SB 662</u> , <u>HB 795</u> , <u>HB</u>
	1035, HB 1069, HB 1125, HB 1127, SB 1278, HB 1537, HB 7039, SB 240,
	SB 238, SB 252, SB 272, SB 538, HB 625, HB 829, SB 766, HB 7025, SB
	7014, <u>HB 543</u> , <u>SB 7020</u> , <u>SB 7022</u>
Public Employees	SB 2500, SB 2504, HB 1215, HB 1521, HB 7061, HB 829, SB 914, SB 1190,
	<u>HB 1275, HB 1277, SB 1396, SB 254, HB 341, HB 783, SB 1580, SB 50, HB</u>
	67, HB 95, SB 256, SB 258, HB 535, HB 935, HB 1121, SB 1310, SB 7024,
	<u>HB 199</u> , <u>SB 774</u>
Public Safety	SB 1718, SB 1418, HB 1575, SB 154, HB 1521, SB 676, HB 301, HB 443, HB
	1035, HB 7061, SB 204, HB 829, HB 1275, HB 1277, SB 1690, SB 254, HB
	341, HB 387, HB 783, HB 1387, HB 1161, HB 425, HB 657, SB 766, HB 949,
	<u>HB 1305, HB 7025, SB 164, HB 269, SB 306, HB 319, HB 329, HB 365, SB</u>
	384, HB 431, SB 450, SB 508, HB 537, HB 825, HB 1297, SB 1332, HB 1359,
	<u>HB 1375</u> , <u>HB 1465</u> , <u>SB 1478</u> , <u>HB 1627</u> , <u>HB 543</u> , <u>SB 1480</u> , <u>HB 7007</u> , <u>SB</u>
	7008, SB 7020, SB 7022, HB 7031, SB 942
Real Property	SB 154, SB 770, HB 869, HB 919, HB 1203, SB 678, HB 133, HB 213, SB
	286, HB 331, SB 360, HB 437, HB 1417, HB 1419, SB 102, HB 7003
Redistricting	HB 411
Repeals of Existing Laws	HB 5, HB 487, HB 7061, SB 914, HB 1517, HB 299, SB 300, HB 155, HB
	425, <u>HB 1305</u>
Research Integrity	HB 1387
Resiliency	SB 7052, HB 799, HB 881, HB 111, HB 641, SB 724, HB 1489
Retirement	<u>HB 7061, SB 110, HB 1121, SB 7024</u>
Safety	SB 902, SB 904, HB 379, SB 662, HB 1035, HB 7061, SB 204, SB 272, SB
	664, HB 829, HB 1119, HB 1275, HB 1277, SB 1540, SB 1690, SB 254, HB
	299, HB 341, HB 387, SB 558, SB 612, SB 614, HB 783, HB 1387, HB 657,
	SB 766, SB 838, HB 949, HB 1305
Sentencing	SB 7064, HB 329, SB 384, SB 450, HB 537, HB 825, HB 1297, HB 1359, HB
	<u>1465, SB 1478</u>

Subject Category	Bills
Social Services	<u>SB 1278, HB 7061, SB 204, SB 272, SB 538, HB 625, SB 664, HB 829, SB</u>
	914, SB 1064, HB 1087, HB 1119, SB 1190, HB 1275, HB 1277, SB 1322, SB
	1396, HB 1517, SB 1540, SB 1542, SB 1690, HB 121, SB 300, HB 391, HB
	783, SB 1352, SB 7000
Substance Abuse	SB 210, HB 829, SB 914, SB 1690, HB 33, HB 35, HB 783, SB 508, HB 1045
Taxes	SB 240, HB 1279, HB 619
Technology	<u>HB 1221</u> , <u>SB 214</u> , <u>SB 262</u> , <u>SB 1648</u> , <u>HB 379</u> , <u>SB 662</u> , <u>SB 914</u> , <u>HB 33</u> , <u>HB 35</u> ,
	<u>SB 218, HB 267, SB 300, HB 387, HB 967, HB 1387, HB 645, SB 1068, SB</u>
	1318, HB 1571, SB 258, SB 946, SB 948
Tourism	<u>HB 5, SB 106, HB 109</u>
Transportation	<u>HB 1349</u> , <u>SB 106</u> , <u>HB 21</u> , <u>HB 155</u> , <u>HB 425</u> , <u>HB 645</u> , <u>HB 657</u> , <u>SB 678</u> , <u>SB 838</u> ,
	<u>HB 949, SB 1068, HB 1123, HB 1191, HB 1305, HB 1397, SB 1318</u>
Utilities and Communications	SB 250, HB 125, SB 552, HB 1221, HB 1281, SB 1418, HB 267, SB 7006, SB
	<u>1604</u>