

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

CS/CS/HB 1133 — Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

by Natural Resources & Disaster Subcommittee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee; and Rep. Shoaf

The bill creates the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Regional Representation Act (Act). The bill creates residency requirements for members of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) and requires the Governor to ensure compliance with the Act when appointing members to the Commission.

Additionally, the bill specifies that the members of the Commission, the executive director, and law enforcement officers may enter private land in the same manner and subject to the same requirements as a law enforcement officer.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 36-2; House 116-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2500 — SB 2500 - Appropriations

by Appropriations Committee

This bill provides for a total budget of \$115.1 billion, including:

- \$50.58 billion from the General Revenue Fund (GR)
- \$2.51 billion from the Education Enhancement Trust Fund
- \$1.45 billion from the Public Education Capital Outlay Trust Fund (PECO TF)
- \$60.59 billion from other trust funds (TF)
- 111,885.06 full time equivalent positions (FTE)

Debt Reduction and Increased Reserves

- \$830 million total authorized to retire outstanding state debt (including SB 1906)
- \$12.4 billion Total Reserves (not including trust fund balances)
 - \$7.0 billion General Revenue Unallocated
 - \$4.9 billion Budget Stabilization Fund (\$430 million added)
 - \$500 million added to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund

Compensation and Benefits

- 2 percent Pay Increase for all State Employees (minimum \$1,000 increase)
- Additional Pay Increases for:
 - State Law Enforcement Officers - Total of 10 percent or 15 percent increase with 5 years of service
 - State Firefighters - Total of 10 percent or 15 percent increase with 5 years of service
 - Assistant State Attorneys and Public Defenders
 - Department of Transportation
- State Employee and Retiree Health Insurance Premiums held constant

Education Capital Outlay

- Total: \$977.4 million
 - State University System Projects - \$427.7 million
 - Florida College System Projects - \$113.9 million
 - Charter School Repairs and Maintenance - \$248.6 million
 - Small School District Special Facilities - \$144.7 million
 - Developmental Research School Repairs and Maintenance - \$10 million

Pre-K - 12 Education Appropriations

Total Appropriations: \$20.9 billion [\$16.1 billion GR; \$4.8 billion TF]

Total Funding - Including Local Revenues: \$34.6 billion [\$20.9 billion state/federal funds; \$13.7 billion local funds]

Major Issues

Early Learning Services

Total: \$1.6 billion [\$605.1 million GR; \$1.01 billion TF]

- Partnerships for School Readiness - \$34.2 million
- School Readiness Program - \$42 million increase
- Voluntary Prekindergarten Program - \$431.4 million
 - Decrease of 1,396 fewer students - (\$2.6 million)

Public Schools/K12 FEFP

Total Funding: \$29.6 billion [\$15.9 billion state funds; \$13.7 billion local funds]

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$945.2 million or 3.31 percent
- FEFP increase in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$142.74, a 1.59 percent increase (from \$8,987.67 to \$9,130.41)
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$41.62 or 0.78 percent
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$529.7 million; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.087 mills

Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP

Total: \$500.8 million [\$492.6 million GR; \$8.2 million TF]

- Coach Aaron Feis, Chris Hixon, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program - \$6.5 million
- School Recognition Program - \$135 million
- Mentoring Programs - \$13.6 million
- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers - \$8.7 million
- Teacher Professional Development - \$13.7 million
- School District Foundation Matching Grants - \$7 million
- Florida Safe Schools Canine Program - \$3.3 million
- District Threat Management Coordinators - \$5 million
- Regional Literacy Teams - \$5 million
- Charity for Change - \$4.7 million
- SEED School of Miami - \$12.2 million
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants - \$47.1 million
- Exceptional Education - \$12.4 million
- Florida School for the Deaf and Blind - \$80.3 million
- Capital Outlay Funding - \$30.4 million
- Jewish Day School Security - \$20 million
- School Hardening - \$20 million

State Board of Education

Total: \$322.5 million [\$169.5 million GR; \$153 million TF]

- Assessment and Evaluation - \$132.2 million
- ACT and SAT Exam Administration - \$8 million

Higher Education Appropriations

Total Appropriations: \$8.9 billion [\$6.7 billion GR; \$2.2 billion TF]

Total Funding - Including Local Revenues: \$11.7 billion [\$8.9 billion state/federal funds; \$2.8 billion local funds]

Major Issues***Vocational Rehabilitation***

Total: \$265.6 million [\$60.2 million GR; \$205.4 million TF]

- Client Services Increase - \$9.0 million [\$1.9 million GR; \$7.1 million TF]

Blind Services

Total: \$79.8 million [\$25.5 million GR; \$54.4 million TF]

- Client Services Increase - \$8 million [\$1.4 million GR; \$5.1 million TF]

Private Colleges

Total: \$193.4 million GR

- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) - \$31.9 million
- Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) - \$135.9 million

Student Financial Aid

Total: \$1.08 billion [\$326.9 million GR; \$748.5 million TF]

- Bright Futures - \$637.7 million
 - Workload increase - \$20.8 million
- Benacquisto Scholarship Program - \$38.1 million
 - Workload decrease - (\$927,050)
- Children/Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans - \$29.1 million
 - Workload increase - \$7.6 million
- Florida First Responder Scholarship Program - \$10 million
- Open Door Grant Program - \$35 million

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- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Scholarship - \$7 million

School District Workforce

Total: \$771.5 million [\$433.2 million GR; \$295.6 million TF; \$42.7 million tuition/fees]

- Workforce Development - \$467.4 million
 - Workload increase - \$18 million
- Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program for apprenticeships - \$20 million
 - Increase for “Grow Your Own Teacher” Apprenticeship Program - \$5 million
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds - \$20 million
- Workforce Capitalization Incentive Grants - \$40 million
- Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program - \$5 million
- No tuition increase

Florida College System

Total: \$2.5 billion [\$1.6 billion GR; \$254.8 million TF; \$704.6 million tuition/fees]

- CAPE Incentive Funds for students who earn Industry Certifications - \$20 million
- College System Program Fund - \$1.7 billion
 - Workload increase - \$60 million
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds- \$40 million
- Student Success Incentive Funds - \$30 million
 - 2+2 Student Success Incentive Funds - \$17 million
 - Work Florida Incentive Funds - \$13 million
- No tuition increase

State University System

Total: \$6.8 billion [\$4.1 billion GR; \$656 million TF; \$2.0 billion tuition/fees]

- Lastinger Center for Learning at University of Florida - \$50.2 million
 - Workload increase for the New Worlds Tutoring Program - \$20 million
- PIPELINE Nursing Incentive Funds- \$40 million
- Community School Grant Program - \$20.1 million
- Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program for Students with Unique Abilities - \$12.5 million
- Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment at University of Florida - \$10 million; funding to support the implementation of SB 112
- University of Florida - IFAS - \$207 million
 - Workload increase - \$3.5 million
- No required tuition increase

Board of Governors

Total: \$12.2 million [\$10.6 million GR; \$1.5 million TF]

Health and Human Services Appropriations

Total Budget: \$47.6 billion [\$17.7 billion GR; \$29.8 billion TF]; 30,991 positions

Major Issues

Agency for Health Care Administration

Total: \$36.5 billion [\$12.3 billion GR; \$24.2 billion TF]; 1,549 positions

- Fully Fund Florida's Medicaid and KidCare Programs - \$35.6 billion
- Medicaid Provider Rate Increases - \$279.6 million
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics - \$15.4 million
 - Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care Centers - \$12.6 million
 - Nursing Home Quality Incentive Program - \$246.7 million
 - Targeted Case Management - \$5 million
- Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program - \$44.2 million
- Graduate Medical Education - \$38.1 million
- Program for All-inclusive Care of the Elderly (PACE) - \$16.8 million
- Audits for Nursing Homes and Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) - \$1 million
- Federal Reporting for Adult Behavioral Health and Child Care Set - \$0.9 million
- Florida Health Care Connections (FX) - \$143.2 million

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Total: \$1.3 billion [\$1.2 billion GR; \$0.1 billion TF]; 2,709 positions

- Enhanced Funding and Services for Developmental Disability Centers - \$13.7 million
- Information Technology - \$6 million
- iBudget Waiver Algorithm Study - \$1 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for People with Developmental Disabilities - \$1.2 million

Department of Children and Families

Total: \$4.8 billion [\$2.9 billion GR; \$1.9 billion TF]; 12,520 positions

- Support Core Child Welfare Programs - \$40.3 million
 - Adoption and Guardianship Assistance Subsidies - \$27.4 million
 - Extended Foster Care - \$5.3 million
 - Therapeutic Safe Foster Home Pilot - \$3 million
 - Foster Care Board Rate Cost of Living Adjustment - \$1.6 million

- Free Online Child Care Provider Coursework and Licensing Exam - \$3 million
- Transfer Children's Advocacy Centers from Department of Legal Affairs - \$5 million
- Funding for Quality Care and Facility Management in Florida's State Mental Health Treatment Facilities - \$92.2 million
- Community-Based Mental Health/Substance Use Prevention Initiatives - \$36 million
 - Integrated Behavioral Health Residential Treatment Beds - \$10 million
 - Central Receiving Facilities - \$6.2 million
 - Criminal Justice Mental Health/Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant - \$6 million
 - Managing Entity Financial System Upgrade and Audits - \$11.1 million
 - 988 Behavioral Health and Veterans Crisis Support Lines - \$2.7 million
- Opioid Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Efforts - \$201.5 million
- Florida System and Child Welfare Information System Modernization - \$46.3 million

Department of Elder Affairs

Total: \$507.2 million [\$268.7 million GR; \$238.4 million TF]; 425 positions

- Alzheimer's Disease Initiative - Frail Elders Waiting for Services - \$3 million
- Serve Additional Clients in the Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) and Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) Programs - \$10.5 million
- Increased Resources for Aging and Disability Resource Centers - \$1.0 million
- Information Technology Projects - \$3.1 million

Department of Health

Total: \$4.1 billion [\$1 billion GR; \$3.1 billion TF]; 12,276 positions

- Pediatric Cancer Research - Cancer Connect Collaborative Incubator - \$30 million
- Statewide Healthcare Screening Marketing Campaign - \$1 million
- School Health Services - \$8.1 million
- Swimming Lesson Voucher Program - \$1 million
- Funding for Intestinal Transplant Support - \$15 million
- Increased Funding for the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program - \$1.8 million
- Increased Funding for Healthy Start Coalitions - \$3.4 million
- Early Steps Program Quality Improvement and Enhancement - \$8.9 million
- Information Technology - \$21.9 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for County Health Department Facilities - \$4 million

Department of Veterans Affairs

Total: \$239.9 million [\$52.4 million GR; \$187.5 million TF]; 1,511 positions

- Enhanced Operational Support and equipment for State Veterans' Nursing Homes - \$6.9 million
- Increased Bureau of Field Services staffing - \$0.5 million; 5 positions

- Florida is for Veterans Program - \$2.1 million
- Veterans Dental Care Grant Program - \$1 million
- Information Technology \$1.4 million
- Fixed Capital Outlay for State Veterans' Nursing Homes - \$20.8 million

Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations

Total Budget: \$7.6 billion [\$6.6 billion GR; \$1 billion TF]; 45,291.5 positions

Major Issues

- DOC Operational Deficit - \$57.2 million
- Criminal Justice Estimating Conference Prison Population Increase - \$43.4 million
- DOC Health Services Increase - \$23.3 million
- DJJ Increase Residential Commitment Capacity - \$15.5 million
- Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS) - \$1.2 million
- Salary Increases for Law Enforcement Officers of Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$5 million
- FDLE Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program - \$2.5 million
- Certification of Additional Judgeships - \$18.8 million; 97 positions

Department of Corrections

Total: \$3.8 billion [\$3.7 billion GR; \$73.1 million TF]; 23,438 positions

- Operational Deficit - \$57.2 million
- Criminal Justice Estimating Conference Prison Population Increase - \$43.4 million
- Technology Restoration Plan - \$6.8 million
- Food Service Contract - \$10.5 million
- Contracted Inmate Health Services - \$23.3 million
- Health Services Operations for New Dorms- \$11 million
- Certified Officers Public Safety Initiative (Communications) - \$2 million

Attorney General/Legal Affairs

Total: \$353.8 million [\$114.5 million GR; \$239.3 million TF]; 1,275.5 positions

- IT Modernization Program - \$5.1 million
- IT Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery - \$0.4 million

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Total: \$539.0 million [\$363.4 million GR; \$175.6 million TF]; 2,024 positions

- Fort Myers Regional Operations Center Facility - \$5 million

- Salary Increases for Law Enforcement Officers in Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$5 million
- Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program - \$2.5 million
- Aviation Operations and Maintenance - \$3.6 million
- Office of Wellness Expansion - \$0.5 million; 3 positions
- Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Technology Upgrade - \$1.9 million

Department of Juvenile Justice

Total: \$756.5 million [\$582.7 million GR; \$173.8 million TF]; 3,229.5 positions

- Increase Residential Commitment Bed Capacity - \$15.5 million
- Children in Need of Services/Families in Need of Services (CINS/FINS) - \$1.2 million
- Crossover Youth Behavioral Health Services Pilot Program - \$2.7 million
- Florida Scholars Academy - \$2.4 million
- Pace Center for Girls - \$2.4 million
- Medical and Food Contract Increases - \$4.1 million
- Broward Detention Facility - \$2.4 million

Justice Administration

Total: \$1.3 billion [\$1.1 billion GR; \$242.5 million TF]; 10,458.5 positions

- Due Process Costs for Public Defenders - \$2.3 million
- GAL - Increase Staff to Represent All Children - \$0.5 million; 6 positions
- Increase Title IV-E Trust Fund Authority - \$2.6 million; 10 positions
- Guardianship Database - \$0.4 million
- Condominium/HOA Criminal Fraud Task Force - \$0.6 million

State Court System

Total: \$795.2 million [\$669.1 million GR; \$126.1 million TF]; 4,702 positions

- Certification of Additional Judgeships - \$18.8 million; 97 positions
- Due Process Resources - \$2.5 million
- Court Reporting Resources - \$2.5 million
- Appellate Technology Resources - \$1.2 million
- 5th District Court of Appeal Security Upgrades - \$2.3 million
- 6th District Court of Appeal Courthouse - \$2.0 million

Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Total Budget: \$17.9 billion [\$652 million GR; \$17.2 billion TF]; 12,647 positions

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Major Issues

Department of Commerce

Total: \$1.5 billion [\$282.5 million GR; \$1.3 billion TF]; 1,488 positions

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

Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Total: \$623.9 million TF; 4,097 positions

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

Department of Military Affairs

Total: \$130.7 million [\$85.4 million GR; \$45.2 million TF]; 480 positions

- Additional Budget Authority to Support Federal Cooperative Agreements - \$1.5 million TF
- Florida State Guard:
 - Training and Recruitment Resources - \$5.8 million GR
 - Operating Expenses - \$25.7 million GR
- Revitalization of Armories (REVAMP) - \$3 million GR
- Camp Blanding - Level II FCO - \$16.5 million GR

Department of State

Total: \$144.2 million [\$120.9 million GR; \$23.3 million TF]; 450 positions

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

- Local Initiatives - \$26.8 million GR

Department of Transportation

Total: \$15.1 billion [\$110.4 million GR; \$15.0 billion TF]; 5,907 positions

- Transportation Work Program - \$13.5 billion TF
- Information Technology
 - Florida Planning, Accounting, and Ledger Management (PALM) Readiness - \$11.7 million TF
 - Data Infrastructure Modernization - \$5.1 million TF
- Increase Operation Costs Department-wide - \$10.0 million TF
- Fixed Capital Outlay Projects - \$28.5 million TF
- Equipment Replacement - \$9.2 million TF

Division of Emergency Management (Executive Office of the Governor)

Total: \$343.5 million [\$52.7 million GR; \$290.8 million TF]; 225 positions

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

Agriculture, Environment, and General Government Appropriations

Total Budget: \$9.7 billion [\$2.3 billion GR; \$1.3 billion LATF; \$6.1 billion Other TF]; 20,428 positions

Major Issues

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Total: \$3.4 billion [\$743.6 million GR; 2.7 billion TF]; 3,820 positions

- Rural and Family Lands Protection Program - \$250 million
- Agriculture and Aquaculture Natural Disaster Loan Program - \$40 million
- Feeding Programs - \$53.7 million
- Forestry - \$41.4 million
- Statewide Water Restoration Agricultural Projects - \$20.0 million
- Citrus Protection and Research - \$124.5 million
 - Citrus Health Response Program - \$6 million

- Citrus Packing Equipment - \$10 million
- Citrus Research and Field Trials - \$104.5 million
- Agriculture Education and Promotion Facilities - \$15.7 million
- Conner Complex Construction - \$172 million
- State Farmers Markets - \$20.0 million
- Florida State Fair - \$13.7 million GR

Department of Citrus

Total: \$35.2 million [\$13.4 million GR; \$21.8 million TF]; 28 positions

- Citrus Marketing - \$5 million
- Citrus Recovery Program - \$2 million

Department of Environmental Protection

Total: \$2.6 billion [\$666.7 million GR; \$1.9 billion TF]; 3,126 positions

- Everglades Restoration - \$691.5 million
- Water Quality Improvements - \$675.2 million
 - Indian River Lagoon WQI - \$25 million
 - Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvements - \$20 million
 - Water Projects - \$436 million
 - C-51 Reservoir - \$65 million
 - Non-Point Source Planning Grants - \$13.6 million
 - Alternative Water Supply - \$50 million
 - Water Quality Improvements - Blue Green Algae Task Force - \$10.8 million
 - Innovative Technology Grants for Harmful Algal Blooms - \$10 million
 - Harmful Algal Bloom Management - \$5 million
 - Springs Restoration - \$50 million
- Flood and Sea-Level Rise and Planning Grant Programs - \$170 million
- Land Acquisition - \$84 million
 - Division of State Lands - \$18 million
 - Federal Grants - \$15 million
 - Local Acquisitions - \$51 million
- Florida Keys Area of Critical State Concern - \$20 million
- Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern - \$5 million
- Coral Reef Restoration - \$17.5 million
- Petroleum Tanks Cleanup Program - \$195 million
- Hazardous Waste and Dry Clean Site Cleanup - \$14 million
- Beach Management Funding Assistance - \$53 million
- Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan Programs - \$2.4 billion
- Small County Wastewater Treatment Grants - \$8 million
- State and Local Parks - \$28.2 million

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Total: \$569 million [\$165.6 million GR; \$403.5 million TF]; 2,159 positions

- Motor Vehicle/Vessel Replacement - \$3.6 million
- Nuisance Wildlife Control - \$6.8 million
- Land Management - \$19 million
- Derelict Vessel Removal - \$4.5 million
- Florida Boating Improvement Program - \$3.0 million
- Artificial Reef Program - \$0.6 million

Department of Business and Professional Regulation

Total: \$299.5 million [\$8.9 million GR; \$290.6 million TF]; 1,649 positions

- Resources for Implementation of HB 913 - \$1 million

Florida Gaming Control Commission

Total: \$31.9 million TF; 197 positions

Department of Financial Services

Total: \$731.7 million [\$177.3 million GR; \$554.4 million TF]; 2,639.50 positions

- My Safe Florida Home Program - \$280.0 million
- PALM (FLAIR Replacement) - \$43.2 million
- PALM Readiness - \$9.8 million and 15.0 positions
- Information Technology Upgrades, Systems and Contract Increases - \$10.9 million
- Law Enforcement, Fire Marshal and Disaster Response Training, Vehicles and Technology Upgrades and Equipment - \$8.1 million
- Local Government Fire and Firefighter Services - \$66.3 million
- University of Miami - Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center/Firefighter Cancer Initiative - \$3.5 million
- Other Local Government Grants - \$4.6 million

Department of the Lottery

Total: \$234.3 million TF; 437 positions

- Increase Advertising Agency Fees - \$.5 million
- Increase to Gaming System Contract - \$.8 million

Department of Management Services

Total Budget: \$832.6 million [\$156.3 million GR; \$676.3 million TF]; 1,014 positions

- Florida Facilities Pool (FFP) Fixed Capital Outlay - \$104.5 million

- Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) Issues - \$3.5 million
- Florida PALM Readiness - \$8.6 million
- E-Rate Telecommunications - \$1.3 million
- Emergency 911 Public Safety Answering Points Upgrade - \$1.8 million

Division of Administrative Hearings

Total Budget: \$39.6 million TF; 235 positions

Public Service Commission

Total: \$31.6 million TF; 268 positions

Department of Revenue

Total: \$857.7 million [\$333.3 million GR; \$524.4 million TF]; 4,856.25 positions

- Fiscally Constrained Counties - \$76.5 million
- IT Issues - \$43.6 million

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025, except as otherwise provided, or, if these provisions fail to become a law until after that date, they shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 103-2

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2502 — SB 2502 - Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act

by Appropriations Committee

This bill provides the following substantive modifications for the 2025-2026 fiscal year:

Section 1 provides legislative intent that the implementing and administering provisions of this act apply to the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Section 2 incorporates the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) work papers by reference for the purpose of displaying the calculations used by the Legislature.

Section 3 incorporates the School Readiness Program Reimbursement work papers by reference for the purpose of displaying the rates used in making appropriations for the school readiness program allocation.

Section 4 requires universities to designate a percentage of their annual state operating budget carry forward (as authorized by s. 1011.45, F.S.) to be applied towards the completion of previously funded public education capital outlay (PECO) projects pursuant to s. 1001.706(12), F.S., or deferred maintenance.

Section 5 provides that the amendments to s. 1011.45, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of that provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 6 amends s. 1009.26, F.S., to modify the fee waivers for students enrolled in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a state-approved teacher preparation program to specify that a university shall waive 100 percent of a student's out-of-pocket expenses for tuition and fees after all aid is applied.

Section 7 provides that the amendments to s. 1009.26(18), F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of that provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 8 amends s. 1004.89, F.S., to remove that requirement that Miami-Dade College partners with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom and approve a direct-support organization for the Institute for Freedom in the Americas.

Section 9 provides that the amendments to s. 1004.89, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of that provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 10 allows a university board of trustees that is beginning an approved capital outlay project with a healthcare provider to accept the healthcare provider's procurement methods and construction contracts and reimburse the healthcare provider for its initial expenses using the proceeds from a bond issuance approved by the Board of Governors.

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Section 11 notwithstanding ss. 1011.45 and 1012.975, F.S., to allow the Board of Trustees of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University to use carry forward or non-state funds for presidential remuneration.

Section 12 authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to submit a budget amendment to realign funding within the Medicaid program appropriation categories to address any projected surpluses and deficits for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Section 13 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment to realign funding within the Florida KidCare program appropriation categories, or to increase budget authority in the Children's Medical Services Network category, to address projected surpluses and deficits within the program or to maximize the use of state trust funds. A single budget amendment must be submitted in the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Section 14 amends s. 381.986(17), F.S., to provide that the Department of Health (DOH) is not required to prepare a statement of estimated regulatory costs when adopting rules relating to medical marijuana testing laboratories, and any such rules adopted prior to July 1, 2026, are exempt from the legislative ratification provision of s. 120.541(3), F.S. Medical marijuana treatment centers are authorized to use a laboratory that has not been certified by the department until rules relating to medical marijuana testing laboratories are adopted by the department, but no later than July 1, 2026.

Section 15 amends s. 14(1), ch. 2017-232, L.O.F., to extend emergency rulemaking authority for the DOH and applicable boards to implement s. 381.986, F.S.; exempts emergency rules from certain findings and procedures under ch. 120, F.S.; requires initiation of nonemergency rulemaking by September 1, 2025; prohibits further use of emergency rulemaking under this section after December 31, 2025.

Section 16 provides that the amendments to s. 14(1) of ch. 2017-232, L.O.F., expire on January 1, 2026, and the text of that provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2019.

Section 17 authorizes the AHCA to submit budget amendments to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program for hospitals statewide, the Indirect Medical Education Program, and a nursing workforce expansion and education program.

Section 18 authorizes the AHCA to submit budget amendments to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program and fee-for-service supplemental payments for cancer hospitals that meet certain federal criteria.

Section 19 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment, including specified information, to implement the Low Income Pool Program.

Section 20 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment to implement fee-for-service supplemental payments and manage a supplemental payment plan to support physicians and

subordinate licensed health care practitioners employed by or under contract with a Florida medical or dental school, or a public hospital.

Section 21 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment to implement a certified expenditure program for emergency medical transportation services.

Section 22 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment requesting spending authority to implement the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program.

Section 23 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment requesting spending authority to implement a Supplemental Payment Plan for specialty children's hospitals.

Section 24 authorizes the AHCA to submit budget amendments to request additional budget authority to implement the Florida School-Based Services Program.

Section 25 amends s. 409.908, F.S., to increase the nursing home prospective payment methodology for the Medicaid Quality Incentive Program Payment Pool and revise the quality score threshold for facilities to qualify for incentive payments.

Section 26 provides that the amendments to s. 409.908, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of those provisions reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 27 authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to submit a budget amendment to realign funding between guardianship assistance payments, foster care Level 1 board payments, and relative caregiver assistance payments for current caseload.

Section 28 authorizes the DCF, the DOH, and the AHCA to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority as necessary to meet caseload requirements for Refugee Programs administered by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. This section requires the DCF to submit quarterly reports on caseload and expenditures.

Section 29 authorizes the DCF to submit budget amendments to increase funding for the following federal grants: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, American Rescue Plan (ARP) Grant, State Opioid Response Grant, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, Mental Health Block Grant, Chafee Grant for independent living services, Education and Traditional Voucher Grant, Title IV-B Subparts 1 and 2 Grant, Elder Justice Act, STOP (Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Grant, and Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing Grant.

Section 30 authorizes the DCF to submit budget amendments pursuant to ch. 216, F.S., to transfer funds and increase budget authority as needed to support the Automated Community Connection to Economic Self-Sufficiency (ACCESS) system.

Section 31 amends s. 393.066, F.S., to establish a monthly reimbursement rate for Life Skills Development Levels 3 and 4 iBudget services for recipients attending at least 16 days per month, with existing hourly rates retained for fewer days. This section requires fiscal monitoring and quarterly reports. It also revises provider data reporting requirements, allowing providers to use their own systems if data is electronically transmitted in agency-approved formats, and updates billing, technical, and staff training requirements.

Section 32 provides that the amendments to s. 393.066, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of those provisions reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 33 provides that funding appropriated to the Managing Entities from the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 shall be exempt from the eight-percent carry forward threshold pursuant to s. 394.9082(9)(a), F.S.

Section 34 amends s. 409.9913, F.S., to require the DCF to develop and report on an alternative tiered funding methodology to allocate to lead agencies and submit a detailed report to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2025.

Section 35 authorizes the DOH to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Child Care Food Program if additional federal revenues become available.

Section 36 authorizes the DOH to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Program if additional federal revenues become available.

Section 37 authorizes the DOH to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for COVID-19 grants if additional federal revenues become available.

Section 38 requires the AHCA to replace the current Florida Medicaid Management Information System and provides requirements of the system. This section also establishes the executive steering committee (ESC) membership, duties and the process for ESC meetings and decisions. Provides requirements for deliverable-based fixed price contracts.

Section 39 requires the AHCA, in consultation with the DOH, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), the DCF, and the Department of Corrections (DOC), to competitively procure a contract with a vendor to negotiate prices for prescription drugs, including insulin and epinephrine, for all participating agencies. The contract must require that the vendor be compensated on a contingency basis paid from a portion of the savings achieved through the negotiation and purchase of prescription drugs.

Section 40 authorizes the APD to submit budget amendments to transfer funding from salaries and benefits to contractual services in order to support additional staff augmentation at the Developmental Disability Centers.

Section 41 authorizes the APD to submit budget amendments to request funds from the Lump Sum Home and Community Based Services Waiver category necessary to address any deficits or funding shortfalls within its existing appropriation.

Section 42 authorizes the AHCA to submit budget amendments as needed, notwithstanding ss. 216.181 and 216.292, F.S., to increase budget authority to implement the home and community-based services Medicaid waiver program of the APD.

Section 43 provides that the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), subject to Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) approval, may request authority to establish positions in excess of the number authorized by the Legislature, increase appropriations from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, or provide necessary salary rate sufficient to provide for essential staff for veterans' nursing homes, if the DVA projects that additional direct care staff are needed to meet its staffing ratios.

Section 44 amends s. 409.915(1), F.S., to provide that the term "state Medicaid expenditures" does not include funds specially assessed by any local governmental entity and used as the nonfederal share for the hospital Directed Payment Program after July 1, 2021.

Section 45 authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to submit budget amendments pursuant to ch. 216, F.S., subject to federal approval, requesting additional spending authority to support the development and construction of a new State Veterans Nursing Home and Adult Day Health Care Center in Collier County.

Section 46 authorizes the Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Adult Care Food Program, if additional federal revenues will be expended in the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Section 47 amends s. 766.314, F.S., to authorize the Neurological Injury Compensation Association to accept new claims during Fiscal Year 2025-2026, in excess of the total of all current estimates for the fiscal year.

Section 48 amends s. 216.262(4), F.S., to allow the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG) to request additional positions and appropriations from unallocated general revenue during Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for the DOC if the actual inmate population of the DOC exceeds certain Criminal Justice Estimating Conference forecasts. The additional positions and appropriations may be used for essential staff, fixed capital improvements, and other resources to provide classification, security, food services, health services, and other variable expenses within the institutions, to accommodate the estimated increase in the inmate population, and are subject to LBC review and approval.

Section 49 amends s. 215.18(2), F.S., to provide the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with the authority to request a trust fund loan.

Section 50 requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to review county juvenile detention payments to ensure that counties are fulfilling their financial responsibilities. If the DJJ determines that a county has not met its obligations, the Department of Revenue (DOR) must deduct the amount owed to the DJJ from shared revenue funds provided to the county under s. 218.23, F.S.

Section 51 reenacts s. 27.40(1), (2)(a), (3)(a), and (5)-(7), F.S., to continue to require written certification of conflict by the public defender or regional conflict counsel before a court may appoint private conflict counsel.

Section 52 provides that the amendments to s. 27.40(1)(2)(a)(3)(a)(5)-(7), F.S., expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 30, 2019.

Section 53 amends s. 27.5304(6) and (13), F.S., to create a rebuttable presumption of correctness for objections to billings made by the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) and provides requirements for payments to private counsel. This section reenacts s. 27.5304(1)(3)(7)(11)(12)(a)-(e), F.S., to increase caps for compensation of court appointed counsel in criminal cases.

Section 54 provides that the amendments to s. 27.5304(1), (3), (6), (7), (11), and (12)(a)-(e), F.S., expire July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 30, 2019.

Section 55 amends s. 934.50(7)(f), F.S., notwithstanding subsection (7), to create the drone program within the Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and authorize the FDLE to provide any drones turned in to the Florida Center for Cybersecurity for analysis.

Section 56 amends s. 908.1033, F.S., to clarify that the eligibility for bonus payments provided to local law enforcement from the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program includes county correctional officers.

Section 57 requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) and agencies to utilize a tenant broker to renegotiate private lease agreements, in excess of 2,000 square feet, expiring between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2028, and submit a report by November 1, 2025.

Section 58 provides that, notwithstanding s. 216.292(2)(a), F.S., which authorizes transfers of up to five percent of approved budget between categories, agencies may not transfer funds from a data processing category to a category other than another data processing category or a cloud computing category for information technology resources hosted outside of an agency.

Section 59 authorizes the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG) to transfer funds in the appropriation category “Special Categories-Risk Management Insurance” between departments in order to align the budget authority granted with the premiums paid by each department for risk management insurance.

Section 60 authorizes the EOG to transfer funds in the appropriation category “Special Categories - Transfer to DMS - Human Resources Services Purchased per Statewide Contract” of the GAA between departments, in order to align the budget authority granted with the assessments that must be paid by each agency to the DMS for human resources management services.

Section 61 authorizes the DMS to use five percent of facility disposition funds from the Architects Incidental Trust Fund to offset relocation expenses associated with disposition of state office buildings.

Section 62 to ensure continued operations, and notwithstanding the provisions of ch. 287, part I, F.S., all agencies defined in s. 287.012(1), F.S., subject to appropriation, may purchase the current productivity and cybersecurity tools and services from a qualified provider under the state master agreement. The DMS shall ensure that the state master agreement for the current tools and services remains active and available for agencies to use when negotiating enterprise agreements.

Section 63 defines the components of the Florida Accounting Information Resource subsystem (FLAIR) and Cash Management System (CMS) included in the Department of Financial Services Planning Accounting and Ledger Management (PALM) system. This section also provides the executive steering committee membership and the procedures for executive steering committee meetings and decisions.

Section 64 reenacts s. 282.709(3), F.S., to carry forward the DMS’s authority to execute a 15-year contract with the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) operator.

Section 65 provides that the amendment to s. 282.709(3), F.S., expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 1, 2021.

Section 66 authorizes state agencies and other eligible users of the SLERS network to utilize the DMS state SLERS contract for the purchase of equipment and services.

Section 67 authorizes a reduction of the MyFloridaMarketPlace (MFMP) transaction fee from one percent to .70 percent for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Section 68 amends s. 24.105(9)(i), F.S., to require the commission for lottery ticket sales to be set at 6 percent of the purchase price of each ticket sold or issued as a prize by a retailer.

Section 69 provides that the text of s. 24.105(9)(i), F.S., expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 30, 2023.

Section 70 amends s. 627.351(6)(II), F.S., to authorize Citizen’s Property Insurance Corporation to adopt policy forms authorizing disputes regarding claim determinations to come before the Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH).

Section 71 authorizes the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to provide for the deferral of an employee's compensation on either a pre-tax basis or an after-tax Roth contribution basis under a qualified program pursuant to s. 402a of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 72 amends s. 110.116, F.S., to require the DMS to contract with an independent software quality assurance testing provider to produce documentation for the People First system.

Section 73 amends s. 215.5586, F.S., to revise the eligibility requirements for the My Safe Florida Home Program. This section also provides that hurricane mitigation inspections must have occurred within the previous 24 months from the date of application.

Section 74 notwithstanding s. 216.031, F.S., to prevent funds for local government fire equipment and services funded through the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 General Appropriations Act from reverting at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 75 authorizes the EOG to submit a budget amendment to transfer funds appropriated in the "Northwest Regional Data Center" category between departments in order to align the budget authority granted based on the estimated costs for data processing services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Section 76 provides that auxiliary assessments charged to state agencies related to contract management services provided to Northwest Regional Data Center shall not exceed three percent.

Section 77 reenacts s. 284.51, F.S., directing the Division of Risk Management at the DFS to select a provider to establish a statewide pilot program to make electroencephalogram combined transcranial magnetic stimulation (eTMS) available for veterans, first responders, and immediate family members thereof with certain medical conditions. The section also amends s. 284.51, F.S., to revise, for the purposes of this section, the definition of a first responder.

Section 78 authorizes the DFS to renew the existing eTMS contract for a period of two years and directs the DFS to amend the existing contract language to clarify that any funds paid by the Department pursuant to the contract do not constitute state financial assistance as provided in s. 215.97, F.S.

Section 79 notwithstanding the deadline in ch. 2024-231, L.O.F., for child support guideline review and modifies the report date to December 1, 2025.

Section 80 authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority to support the National School Lunch Program.

Section 81 amends s. 215.18(3), F.S., to authorize loans to land acquisition trust funds within several state agencies.

Section 82 provides that, in order to implement specific appropriations from the land acquisition trust funds within the DACS, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), and the Department of State (DOS), the DEP will transfer a proportionate share of revenues in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the DEP on a monthly basis, after subtracting required debt service payments, to each agency and retain a proportionate share within the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the DEP. Total distributions to a land acquisition trust fund within the other agencies may not exceed the total appropriations for the fiscal year. The section further provides that the DEP may advance funds from the beginning unobligated fund balance in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) to the LATF within the FWC for cash flow purposes.

Section 83 amends s. 259.105(3), F.S., to notwithstanding the Florida Forever statutory distribution and authorize the use of funds from the trust fund as provided in the GAA.

Section 84 extends the current requirement that the DEP adopt by rule statewide cleanup target levels for PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, and soil if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not finalized standards by January 1, 2026.

Section 85 provides that the amendment to s. 376.91(2), F.S., expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 86 amends s. 376.3071(13), F.S., to notwithstanding the requirements of the program relating to deductibles, copayments, and monetary caps and provide that all costs relating to the program be absorbed by the Inland Protection Trust Fund.

Section 87 amends s. 376.3072, F.S., to notwithstanding the requirements of the program relating to deductibles, copayments, and monetary caps and provide that all costs relating to the program can be absorbed by the Inland Protection Trust Fund.

Section 88 amends s. 376.3071(15)(g), F.S., to revise the requirements for the usage of the trust fund for ethanol or biodiesel damage.

Section 89 provides that the amendment to s. 376.3071(15)(g), F.S., expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on July 1, 2020.

Section 90 provides that, notwithstanding ch. 287, F.S., the Department of Citrus is authorized to enter into agreements to expedite the increased production of citrus trees that show tolerance or resistance to citrus greening.

Section 91 amends s. 380.5105, F.S., to clarify that grants under the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfront program may be awarded for capital expenditure projects to support the commercial and marine aquaculture industries.

Section 92 provides that the amendment to s. 380.5105, F.S., expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 30, 2024.

Section 93 amends s. 10, ch. 2022-272, L.O.F., to carry forward the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program.

Section 94 authorizes the FWC to use funds appropriated for derelict vessel removal for grants to local governments to remove themselves or pay private contractors to, remove, store, destroy, and dispose of derelict vessels or vessels declared a public nuisance.

Section 95 notwithstanding ss. 403.0673 and 403.890, F.S., to authorize funds appropriated the Water Protection and Sustainability Program Trust Fund to be used for projects as provided in the GAA.

Section 96 amends s. 375.041(3)(b), F.S., to provide that the distribution from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund is according to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act.

Section 97 amends s. 288.80125(3), F.S., to allow funds to be used for the Rebuild Florida Revolving Loan Fund Program to provide assistance to businesses impacted by Hurricane Michael as provided in the GAA.

Section 98 amends s. 339.135(7)(h), F.S., to authorize the chair and vice chair of the LBC to approve, pursuant to s. 216.177, F.S., a Department of Transportation (DOT) work program amendment that adds a new project, or a phase of a new project, in excess of \$3 million, if the LBC does not meet or consider, within 30 days of submittal, the amendment by the DOT.

Section 99 authorizes flexibility for the DOT to rebalance funds within the Work Program based on lower projected revenues. This section authorizes the DOT to advance or defer up to \$200 million in programmed projects in the Adopted Work Program, in order to realign resources and ensure a balanced financial plan.

Section 100 amends s. 288.0655(6), F.S., to authorize rural Florida Panhandle counties to participate in the Rural Infrastructure Fund grant program as authorized in the GAA.

Section 101 authorizes the Division of Emergency Management (DEM) to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority for projected expenditures due to federal reimbursements from federally declared disasters.

Section 102 exempts the DEM from s. 282.201, F.S., relating to the use of the state data center.

Section 103 amends s. 251.001, F.S., to specify the transfer of State Guard aircraft to the FDLE for training and operational use, except in specific times of natural emergencies.

Section 104 amends s. 443.1113, F.S., to clarify that enhancements to the Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System are subject to appropriation and to revise submission timelines and annual reporting requirements for future modernization efforts.

Section 105 provides that the amendments to s. 443.1113, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of that provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 106 amends s. 445.08, F.S., to modify the July 1, 2025 expiration date of the Law Enforcement Recruitment Program. This section provides a definition for the term “break in service” and establishes time periods related to employment requirements.

Section 107 amends s. 420.5096, F.S., to limit eligibility for the Florida Hometown Hero Program, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to borrowers employed in certain professions or who are servicemembers or veterans.

Section 108 requires the DMS to assess an administrative health assessment to each state agency equal to the employer’s cost of individual employee health care coverage for each vacant position.

Section 109 provides that, notwithstanding s. 11.13, F.S., salaries of legislators must be maintained at the same level as July 1, 2010.

Section 110 reenacts s. 215.32(2)(b), F.S., in order to implement the transfer of moneys to the General Revenue Fund from trust funds in the GAA.

Section 111 provides that the amendment to s. 215.32(2)(b), F.S., expires July 1, 2026, and the text of that section reverts to that in existence on June 30, 2011.

Section 112 provides that funds appropriated for travel by state employees be limited to travel for activities that are critical to each state agency’s mission. The section prohibits funds from being used to travel to foreign countries, other states, conferences, staff training, or other administrative functions unless the agency head approves in writing. The agency head is required to consider the use of teleconferencing and electronic communication to meet the needs of the activity before approving travel.

Section 113 provides that, notwithstanding s. 112.061, F.S., costs for lodging associated with a meeting, conference, or convention organized or sponsored in whole or in part by a state agency or the judicial branch may not exceed \$225 per day. An employee may expend his or her own funds for any lodging expenses in excess of \$225.

Section 114 authorizes the LBC to approve budget amendments for new fixed capital outlay projects or increase the amounts appropriated to state agencies for fixed capital outlay projects.

Section 115 requires that reviews for transfers comply with ch. 216, F.S., maximize the use of available and appropriate funds, and not be contrary to legislative policy and intent.

Section 116 provides that, notwithstanding ch. 287, F.S., state agencies are authorized to purchase vehicles from non-State Term Contract vendors provided certain conditions are met.

Section 117 amends s. 11.52, F.S., to require state agencies to provide information about the status of implementation of recently enacted legislation.

Section 118 amends s. 216.013, F.S., to provide that state executive agencies and the judicial branch are not required to develop or post a long-range program plan by September 30, 2025, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, except in circumstances outlined in any updated written instructions prepared by the EOG in consultation with the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees.

Section 119 amends s. 216.023, F.S., to require each state agency and the judicial branch, as part of their legislative budget request, to include an inventory of all ongoing technology-related projects that have a cumulative estimated or realized cost of more than \$1 million. The inventory must include specified information.

Section 120 provides that the use of state funds must be consistent with certain principles of individual freedom.

Section 121 prohibits a state agency from using state funds or contracting with certain advertising agencies or other contractors who use the services of media reliability and bias monitors.

Section 122 amends s. 440.13, F.S., to specify that, until the three-member panel adopts a schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances, certain emergency services will be reimbursed for 75 percent of usual and customary charges, unless there is a contract.

Section 123 provides that the amendments to s. 440.13, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of the provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 124 authorizes the Office of Policy and Budget within the EOG to conduct a review of the functions, procedures, expenditures, and policies of a local government and to submit a report to the Governor, Chief Financial Officer, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 13, 2026.

Section 125 amends s. 551.118, F.S., to require the Gaming Control Commission's contract for the provision of services related to the prevention of compulsive and addictive gambling to be for one year.

Section 126 amends s. 373.0421, F.S., to specify that agricultural producers who implement best management practices adopted in s. 403.0667(7)(c)2., F.S., shall be presumed to be in compliance with the recovery or prevention strategy.

Section 127 provides that the amendments to s. 373.0421, F.S., expire on July 1, 2026, and the text of the provision reverts back to that in existence on June 30, 2025.

Section 128 freezes the interior space and parking space allotted to the Governor, the Cabinet officers, and the Legislature as of June 1, 2025, including space that the DMS must offer for lease to the House of Representatives within the Capitol Building, and provides for coordination between the DMS and the Legislature for construction projects.

Section 129 specifies that no section shall take effect if the appropriations and proviso to which it relates are vetoed.

Section 130 provides that, if any other act passed during the 2025 Regular Session contains a provision that is substantively the same as a provision in this act, but removes or otherwise is not subject to the future repeal applied by this act, the intent is for the other provision to take precedence and continue to operate.

Section 131 provides for severability.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025, except as otherwise expressly provided, or, if these provisions fail to become a law until after that date, they shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 24-8; House 87-18

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2504 — SB 2504 - State Employees (Collective Bargaining)

by Appropriations Committee

This bill directs the resolution of the collective bargaining issues at impasse for the 2025-2026 fiscal year regarding state employees. These issues will be resolved based on the spending decisions included in the General Appropriations Act for the 2025-2026 fiscal year or resolved in accordance with the personnel rules in effect on June 14, 2025, and by otherwise maintaining the status quo under the language of the applicable current collective bargaining agreement.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 33-0; House 105-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2506 — Natural Resources

by Appropriations Committee

SB 2506, relating to Natural Resources, provides conforming changes necessary to implement the Senate’s General Appropriations Act for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

The bill amends s. 17.71, F.S., to remove the requirement that revenue sharing payments received by the state under the gaming compact be distributed to the trust fund.

The bill amends s. 253.0251, F.S., to require that all applications for full fee simple acquisition projects identify, within their acquisition plans, why the project requires a full fee simple interest to achieve public policy goals, together with the reasons full title is determined to be necessary.

The bill amends s. 259.032, F.S., to include water control districts existing pursuant to ch. 298, F.S., to those governmental entities that may contract with state agencies for land management activities.

The bill amends s. 259.037(7), F.S., to modify the requirements of the land management report that the Land Management Uniform Accounting Council is required to submit.

The bill amends s. 259.1055(6), F.S., relating to the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to enter into voluntarily agreements for environmental services to manage land, to remove the cross reference to s. 380.095, F.S.

The bill repeals s. 260.0145, F.S., relating to the Local Trail Management Grant Program and amends s. 373.026, F.S., to conform a cross reference.

The bill amends s. 373.1501, F.S., to provide a legislative declaration that acquiring land for water storage north of Lake Okeechobee is in the public interest, for a public purpose, and necessary for the public health and welfare and further provides that any acquisition of real property for a reservoir project constitutes a public purpose for which it is in the public interest to expend public funds. The amendment directs that any land necessary for implementing a reservoir project may only be acquired in accordance with law relating to acquisition of real property by a district and laws relating to eminent domain.

The bill amends s. 380.093, F.S., to require as a Tier 1 criteria within the scoring system used by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to rank projects in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience plan the degree to which the project reduces the flood risk and, thereby, increases credits awards to a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program’s Community Rating System.

The bill repeals s. 380.095, F.S., relating to the distribution of gaming compact revenues.

The bill amends s. 403.0673, F.S., to require the DEP to dedicate at least twenty-five percent of the funds to projects within a rural area of opportunity for the water quality improvement grant program. The amendment further requires the DEP to announce grant awards by November 1 of each fiscal year.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 29-5; House 91-13

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2508 — Judges

by Appropriations Committee

SB 2508 — Judges

by Appropriations Committee

The bill, relating to Judges, conforms law to the appropriations provided in SB 2500, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Specifically, the bill provides for the following:

Section 1 amends s. 26.031, F.S., to establish twenty-two new circuit court judgeships. The Second, Eighth, Fourteenth, and Nineteenth Judicial Circuit will each receive one additional judgeship. The Fourth, Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Twelfth, and Fifteenth Judicial Circuit will each receive two additional judgeships. The Fifth and the Eleventh Judicial Circuit will each receive three additional judgeships.

Section 2 amends s. 34.022, F.S., to establish fifteen new county court judgeships. Bay, Clay, Hernando, Lake, Manatee, Marion, Nassau, Osceola, Palm Beach, Polk, and Sumter County will each receive one additional judgeship. Miami-Dade County will receive four additional judgeships.

Section 3 amends s. 35.06, F.S., to establish two new district court of appeal judgeships in the sixth district and provides that the number of judgeships in the second district shall be reduced by one until 13 judges remain in the second district upon each occurrence of a vacancy.

Section 4 provides that the Legislature finds and declares that this act fulfills an important state interest.

Section 5 provides an effective date of July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 105-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2510 — Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education

by Appropriations Committee

SB 2510 — Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education

by Appropriations Committee

The bill conforms law to the appropriations provided in SB 2500, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026, for prekindergarten through grade 12 education. Specifically, the amendment provides for the following:

Section 1 amends s. 402.22, F.S., to conform cross-references related to the changes made in s. 1011.62, F.S., funds for operations of schools.

Section 2 modifies s. 1001.292, F.S., to require the third-party administrator to transfer funds from the Schools of Hope Revolving Loan Program to the Schools of Hope Program when the balance of the Schools of Hope Program falls below \$25 million, beginning July 1, 2027.

Section 3 amends s. 1002.32, F.S., to conform a cross-reference for developmental research (laboratory) schools related to the definition of programs under the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP).

Section 4 amends s. 1002.33, F.S., to conform cross-references for charter schools related to the definition of programs and basic amounts for current operations under the FEFP.

Section 5 modifies s. 1002.333, F.S., related to persistently low-performing schools. The amendment:

- Expands the definition of a persistently low performing school.
- Expands the allowable location for a school of hope based on the availability of underused, vacant, or surplus property.
- Allows state universities and Florida Colleges System institutions to sponsor schools of hope.
- Allows a school of hope to co-locate in an underused, vacant, or surplus public school facility and requires the school district to provide facility-related services.
- Specifies that school of hope use of underused, vacant, or surplus property is at no cost.
- Provides for continuation of schools of hope funding based on performance metrics set by the State Board of Education (SBE).
- Requires reporting of schools of hope enrollment and performance data.

Section 6 amends s. 1002.37, F.S., to conform a cross-reference related to the calculation of full-time equivalent (FTE) student membership in the FEFP for students in the Florida Virtual School.

Section 7 amends s. 1002.411, F.S., to remove new student eligibility for the New Worlds Scholarship Accounts program, but allow parents to spend the remaining funds in an account on qualifying expenditures and revises the terms of account closure from 3 years of inactivity to 1 year.

Section 8 amends s. 1002.45, F.S., to conform cross-references related to the calculation of FTE student membership and basic amounts for current operations in the FEFP for students in district virtual instruction programs.

Section 9 amends s. 1003.4201, F.S., to authorize the school district reading plan to include parent resources for struggling students and information about student eligibility for the New Worlds Reading Initiative.

Section 10 amends s. 1003.4203, F.S., relating to CAPE Digital Tool certificates and industry certifications, to:

- Limit eligibility for CAPE Digital Tool certificates to students in elementary grades, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.
- Remove requirements related to middle school students and CAPE Digital Tool certificates.
- Rename “CAPE industry certifications” as “Basic CAPE industry certifications” and establish CAPE Basic Non-articulated industry certifications and CAPE Basic Articulated industry certifications.
- Establish CAPE Pathways industry certifications issued to high school students who complete at least three courses and earn an industry certification within a single career and technical education program or program of study, and who exit with a standard high school diploma. Such industry certifications are eligible for additional FEFP funding.

Section 11 amends s. 1003.4935, F.S., to conform cross-references related to the removal of CAPE Digital Tool certificates for middle grades students and to FTE bonus funding.

Section 12 amends s. 1003.498, F.S., to conform a cross-reference related to the calculation of FTE student membership in the FEFP for school district virtual course offerings.

Section 13 amends s. 1007.271, F.S., to conform a cross-reference in the dual enrollment program for the calculation of FTE student membership in the FEFP.

Section 14 amends s. 1008.44, F.S., to revise provisions relating to the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List. The amendment:

- Clarifies the assignment of industry certifications to the funding list based on categories.

- Removes the Commissioner of Education responsibility to recommend revised FTE bonus funding.
- Requires, rather than authorizes, the Commissioner of Education to limit certifications on the funding list to students in certain grades, beginning in Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Section 15 amends s. 1010.20, F.S., to conform cross-references relating to how districts may later transfer or repurpose certain categorical funds under the FEFP.

Section 16 amends s. 1011.61, F.S., to remove the definition of a “full-time equivalent student” relating to a student participating in a student-teacher advisor program, and to conform cross-references related to the FEFP.

Section 17 amends s. 1011.62, F.S., to:

- Require school districts to report unduplicated counts of FTE students, including Family Empowerment Scholarship students.
- Require the discretionary millage compression supplement, state-funded discretionary contribution, supplemental allocation for juvenile justice education programs, and safe schools allocation to be recalculated during the fiscal year based on actual FTE student membership.
- Modify the calculation of the educational enrichment allocation and remove a requirement to prorate the allocation in certain conditions.
- Remove the requirement to prorate the exceptional student education guaranteed allocation if recalculated amounts exceed the appropriation.

The section also replaces the weighted FTE funding for specified acceleration options with a new Academic Acceleration Options Supplement as a categorical fund, appropriated annually in the General Appropriations Act. Under the new supplement:

- Each school district receives funding based on its proportionate share of statewide academic acceleration values.
- The student funding weights and teacher bonus amounts assigned to dual enrollment, early graduation, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced International Certificate of Education, and CAPE industry certification outcomes remain consistent with current values, but funded through the supplement rather than the FEFP base allocation.
- The CAPE Pathways industry certification bonus is modified to require a standard high school diploma.
- Each school district must annually report its prior-year expenditures of supplement funds to the Legislature, beginning September 1, 2026.

Section 18 amends s. 1011.65, F.S., to remove the requirement for an FEFP allocation conference, and instead require the Department of Education to submit recalculated FEFP data to the Legislature and Governor for written approval prior to releasing the recalculated allocations to school districts.

Section 19 requires the DOE to make recommendations, no later than July 1, 2028, on a Title I performance incentive program to reward Title I schools that have demonstrated excellence in student achievement and learning gains.

Section 20 provides an effective date of July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 25-9; House 80-24

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

SB 2514 — Health and Human Services

by Appropriations Committee

The Conference Committee Amendment for SB 2514, relating to Health and Human Services, conforms statutes to funding decisions related to Health and Human Services in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Specifically, the amendment:

- Allows dental and dental hygiene students with job offers from eligible public health programs or private practices to apply for the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program prior to beginning employment.
- Revises the Cancer Connect Collaborative’s membership, establishes grant parameters and reporting requirements for the Cancer Innovation Fund, creates a five-year Research Incubator to fund targeted cancer research; and authorizes funding in the Casey DeSantis Research Program for cancer centers accredited as Comprehensive Community Cancer Program or Integrated Network Cancer Program.
- Establishes the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute VisionGen Initiative to advance genetic and epigenetic research on inherited eye diseases and ocular oncology.
- Revises suspension and revocation of patient and caregiver registrations for controlled substance offenses; allows reinstatement after sentencing with notarized attestation; penalizes false attestations.
- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to enhance nursing home governance through resident surveys, medical director standards, safety culture reviews, and improved health data exchange.
- Strengthens nursing home oversight with new reporting, quality tracking, and a third-party comprehensive study on national quality best practices due by January 5, 2026.
- Provides continuous Medicaid eligibility for aged and disabled recipients receiving institutional or home and community-based services during redetermination, unless a material change occurs; requires federal waiver submission by October 1, 2025, to eliminate annual redeterminations.
- Requires Statewide Medicaid Managed Care (SMMC) plans to cover medically necessary biomarker testing consistent with the state plan, establish authorization procedures, and require coverage of blood-based biomarker tests for colorectal cancer screening as specified in federal Medicare determinations.
- Modifies eligibility for obtaining residency slots under the Slots for Doctors Program and repeals the Graduate Medical Education Committee.
- Expands the Training, Education, and Clinicals in Health (TEACH) Funding Program to include certain nonprofits and provides for reimbursement of nursing students.
- Revises SMMC achieved savings rebate audit procedures and excludes hospital directed payment program administrative costs from allowable income calculations.
- Authorizes the AHCA to provide Medicaid premium assistance for employer-sponsored coverage; allows exceeding standard premium assistance for high-cost patients if cost-effective; requires annual legislative reporting beginning June 30, 2026.

- Allows Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provider to operate in a geographic service area which has an existing provider, if there is a need for additional service availability, as determined by the AHCA and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025, except where otherwise expressly provided.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 105-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

HB 5013 — State-funded Property Reinsurance Programs

by Budget Committee and Rep. McClure

HB 5013 reduces, from \$2 billion to \$900 million, the General Revenue (GR) Fund transfers authorized under the Reinsurance to Assist Policyholders (RAP) Program to reimburse eligible insurers for covered losses. The bill repeals the Florida Optional Reinsurance Assistance (FORA) Program, including \$1 billion of authorized General Revenue Fund transfers that are available under the program to reimburse eligible insurers for covered losses.

By reducing the cap for transfers to the RAP program and repealing the FORA program, the bill increases the amount of unallocated General Revenue funds available by \$2.1 billion.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect upon becoming law.

Vote: Senate 32-0; House 108-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

HB 5015 — HB 5015 - State Group Insurance

by Budget Committee and Rep. Lopez, V.

This bill amends provisions related to implementation of formulary management for prescription drugs and supplies under the State Employees' Prescription Drug Program.

The bill requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to submit recommendations to the Governor and the Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) by September 1, 2025, on the implementation of formulary management for prescription drugs and supplies for the 2026 plan year. The recommendations must relate to:

- Lists of excluded prescription drugs and supplies for a recommended formulary, with a comparison to the formulary in effect during the 2025 plan year. A recommended formulary is not required to authorize drugs to be made available for inclusion if a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant prescribing a pharmaceutical clearly states on the prescription that the excluded drug is medically necessary.
- Lists of included prescription drugs and supplies for a recommended formulary, with a comparison to the formulary in effect during the 2025 plan year.
- Prior authorization of specified prescription drugs and supplies.
- Step therapy of specified prescription drugs and supplies.

The DMS is required to submit supporting information for its recommendations: relevant information identifying the prescription drugs and supplies affected, the number of plan members and prescriptions affected for each identified drug or supply, and the cost savings expected for each recommended component implemented.

The bill prohibits prescription drugs and supplies first made available in the marketplace after January 1, 2026, from being covered by the prescription drug program until specifically included in the list of covered prescription drugs and supplies.

The LBC may consider the recommendations of the DMS in total or in part, and, beginning in the 2026 plan year, the DMS may only implement the recommendations approved by the LBC.

Effective January 1, 2026, and only if the LBC approves one or more of the recommendations of the DMS related to lists of excluded prescription drugs and supplies for a recommended formulary, the bill repeals the requirement for drugs excluded from the formulary to be available for inclusion if a physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant prescribing a pharmaceutical clearly states on the prescription that the excluded drug is medically necessary. Additionally, the directive to the DMS to make the recommendations to the LBC is repealed. If the LBC approves one or more of the recommendations of the DMS related to lists of excluded prescription drugs and supplies for a recommended formulary, it must notify the Division of Law Revision of such approval.

The bill requires the DMS to submit on an annual basis the list of prescription drugs and supplies that will be excluded from program coverage during the next plan year. This list must be submitted by September 1 each year, instead of October 1 as provided under current law. Further, the list must include, for informational purposes only, the list of prescription drugs and supplies that are recommended to be subject to a higher copayment for the next plan year. Any prescription drugs and supplies that will be excluded from program coverage, whether on the list submitted or as proposed by the DMS during the plan year, must be approved by the LBC.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2025, except as otherwise expressly provided.

Vote: Senate 25-9; House 98-5

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

HB 5017 — HB 5017 - Debt Reduction

by Rep. McClure (SB 1906 by Senator Brodeur)

The bill creates the Debt Reduction Program within the State Board of Administration for the purpose of reducing the state's tax-supported debt by accelerating the retirement of outstanding state bonds prior to maturity.

The bill authorizes the Division of Bond Finance to use the funds provided for the program to extinguish outstanding state bonds, other than state bonds of the Department of Transportation or the Florida Turnpike Enterprise. The bill requires the division to include information related to the bonds that were extinguished and a recommendation as to whether it is in the best interest of the state for the Legislature to continue the debt reduction program in its annual debt report.

The bill has a significant impact on state expenditures. The bill provides for an annual transfer of \$250 million from the General Revenue Fund for the Debt Reduction Program.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 34-0; House 101-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Appropriations

HJR 5019 — HJR 5019 - Budget Stabilization Fund

by Rep. McClure (SJR 1908 by Senator Hooper)

This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to raise the cap on the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF) from 10 percent of general revenue collections to a maximum of 25 percent of collections.

The constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters, will require the Legislature to transfer \$750 million each year until the BSF hits that maximum cap. The Legislature may suspend the annual transfer when funds are withdrawn from the BSF or when the Legislature determines that there is a critical state need. The Legislature may suspend the transfer once in every five years for a critical state need by passage of a separate bill for that purpose only by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each chamber.

The constitutional amendment provides a new method to withdraw funds to provide nonrecurring funding for a critical state need in a separate bill passed by a two-thirds vote. This option is not available to the Legislature until the principal balance of the BSF is 15 percent of revenue collections. Once that balance is met, the Legislature must pass a separate bill for that purpose only by a two-thirds vote to withdraw from the balance of the fund for the critical state need. The only limitation on Legislative withdrawals for a critical state need is that they cannot take the balance of the fund below 10 percent of revenue collections.

The constitutional amendment will be submitted to Florida's electors for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2026.

If approved by at least 60 percent of the electors, the proposed amendment would take effect January 5, 2027.

Vote: Senate 29-4; House 100-1