



THE FLORIDA SENATE
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**Senate Government Accountability Legislation Modernizes Long-Range Planning,
Enhances Cybersecurity, Protects Floridians' Data**

Tallahassee—The Senate Committee on Appropriations, chaired by Senator Ed Hooper (R-Clearwater), today published Senate Proposed Bill (SPB) 7026, Information Technology, and SPB 7024, State Budgeting and Planning. Both bills are part of the Florida Senate's government efficiency and accountability package for the 2025 Legislative Session, which modernizes and enhances Florida's robust government accountability framework. President Pro Tempore Jason Brodeur (R-Sanford) is the lead on SPB 7024. Senator Gayle Harrell (R-Stuart) is the lead on SPB 7026.

"Our state has been well served by the performance metrics, planning requirements, and accountability standards Governor Bush and legislative leaders put in place nearly 30 years ago," said Senate President Ben Albritton (R-Wauchula). "Florida has grown and changed a lot since that time, and today technology continues to revolutionize nearly every facet of our economy and our lives, at a pace never seen or felt before. It's not enough to know government is completing a task or providing a service, we need to know if that service is being provided well, which means we need to have new, innovative ways to measure performance. Additionally, when it comes to cybersecurity, Floridians' personal data, and the IT infrastructure of our state – our citizens expect us to get that right."

"The Government Efficiency Task Force, on which several Senators served, recommended modernizing the Long-Range Program Plan to improve flexibility, simplify processes, and shift a focus to measured outcomes as opposed to outputs," said President Pro Tempore Brodeur. "This bill takes the Long-Range Program Plans and simplifies them to key data points, removes provisions which haven't proven to be good measures, and updates the processes to produce and present the plans to the Legislature. By modernizing this system of accountability, our agencies will be better able to respond to changing situations quickly and efficiently, spending less time on paperwork and more time on their core missions."

"Over my years in the House and Senate, Florida has tried many different ways to manage Information Technology. We have implemented several different structures, but we continue to face challenges. This legislation creates the Agency for State Systems and Enterprise Technology as a cabinet agency, bringing consolidated consulting teams divided by program

areas to provide specific assistance to agencies and feedback to help develop guidelines and standards that will help make sure our data is protected,” said Senator Harrell.

SPB 7026, Information Technology

The bill establishes a central IT governance body through the creation of the Agency for State Systems and Enterprise Technology (ASSET) under the direction of the Cabinet, ensuring uniformity and efficiency across the enterprise.

Top talent to win the battle against those who seek to use technology to harm Florida

The State Chief Information Officer (CIO) will serve as the executive director of the ASSET, nominated by a CIO selection committee, appointed by the Cabinet via majority vote, and confirmed by the Senate. Once confirmed, removal is subject to a majority vote of the Cabinet.

Subject-matter expertise within state agencies to develop the best practices, guidelines, and standards that focus on security and efficiency

The ASSET consists of divisions and bureaus with the following subject matter expertise: agency operations, data, security, business analysis, quality assurance, project management, contract management, procurement, and workforce development. ASSET representatives from each subject matter would serve on consulting teams dedicated to the various state agencies, divided by the program areas of health and human services, education, government operations, criminal and civil justice, agriculture and natural resources, and transportation and economic development. The dedicated teams will provide assistance to state agencies and feedback to the ASSET to help with the development of guidelines and standards.

Laser focus on protecting Floridians’ personal data

The bill improves IT transparency and accountability with the addition of annual IT expenditure reporting, robust enterprise architecture standards, and agency assessments. Specifically, agencies conduct cybersecurity risk assessments on a biennial basis, including vulnerability and penetration testing and a written acknowledgment that agency leadership is aware of the risks included in the report. The bill also establishes required reporting when an IT project is one month late or \$1 million over budget.

Additionally, the bill enhances IT efficiency and modernization by requiring standardization and oversight of IT procurements, tracking and addressing technical debt to modernize outdated systems, and creating an IT test laboratory to ensure agencies understand what they need and the capabilities of tools and services they purchase. The bill ensures Florida invests in the state IT workforce by introducing the creation of structured career paths and training programs that build Florida’s IT talent pipeline through internships and scholarships.

SPB 7024, State Budgeting and Planning

Long-Range Program Plans submitted by state agencies have been in place since 2000 and provide a five-year plan for strategic goals and objectives, including explanations for budget

requests. The Government Efficiency Task Force, on which President Albritton, President Pro Tempore Brodeur, Chair Hooper, and Senators Darryl Rouson (D-St. Petersburg) and Colleen Burton (R-Lakeland) served, recommended modernizing Long-Range Program Plans to improve efficiency and accountability.

Monitoring implementation and ensuring new laws are incorporated into long-term planning

Under the bill, long-range program plans must include information about the implementation status of any law enacted in the previous legislative session. The implementation status must be provided until all provisions of the law related to the agency have been fully implemented. Initially, each agency must also provide information on recently enacted laws for the 2023 and 2024 Regular Sessions that have provisions not fully implemented. This reporting will make the Legislature aware of any impediment or delay in the implementation, including policy issues that need to be resolved to ensure timely and effective implementation.

New performance measures to improve transparency

The bill also outlines specific performance measures that must be included, such as administrative costs as a percentage of agency costs; percentage of corrective actions taken within 6 months after audit findings; totals and percentages spent on services by private attorneys; information on licensures and permits timeframes; and, contracting information.

State agencies must also develop at least five additional measures based on key agency functions that best and most accurately measure progress toward state goals and objectives, including analysis of any deviation from expected performance. Plans will include the past five years of data to identify trends. Agencies will bring any changes to their plans and performance measures to the Legislature at least 30 days before session starts, for review and approval.

SB 108 – Administrative Procedures

The Senate’s government efficiency and accountability package for the 2025 Legislative Session also includes Senate Bill (SB) 108, Administrative Procedures, by Senator Erin Grall (R-Vero Beach). The bill improves government oversight and accountability, creating a clear, consistent, annual process for review and repeal of administrative rules. SB 108 also increases transparency for state licensing by creating requirements for tracking agency compliance with statutory timeframes to ensure Floridians applying for a license are approved in a timely manner. The bill will be heard on the Senate floor later this week.

SB 108 amends the Administrative Procedures Act (APA), which provides a uniform set of procedures agencies must follow when exercising rulemaking authority delegated by the Legislature. The bill amends the APA rulemaking process and requires an agency review of existing rules.

The bill requires each agency, in coordination with the Legislature’s Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, to review administrative rules for consistency with the powers and duties

granted by the agency's enabling statutes and for any general need for updates. The bill requires agency annual regulatory plans to include an outline of the agency's proposed five-year schedule of rule review, with approximately 20 percent of the agency's total existing rules to be reviewed annually.

To improve and ensure transparency, the bill establishes a 90-day timeframe for an agency to publish a notice of a proposed rule from the effective date of legislation. All rules being adopted and reviewed must be published electronically with any changes coded in a strike-through and underlined format so Floridians can easily identify changes being proposed.

SB 108 also requires each agency issuing licenses to track compliance with the licensing timeframes established in law. Reports must include the number of license applications submitted to the agency in the following circumstances:

- Required requests for additional information;
- The applicant was non-responsive to requests for additional information;
- Not completed by the applicant;
- The agency requested an extension;
- The applicant requested an extension;
- Not approved or denied within the statutory timeframe;
- Final agency action was appealed and the number of hearings requested;
- The average and median number of days for approval or denial of a completed application.

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