

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

BILL: CS/SB 1058

INTRODUCER: Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senator Gruters

SUBJECT: Gulf of America

DATE: March 12, 2025

REVISED: _____

| | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------|
| 1. | White | McVaney | GO | Fav/CS |
| 2. | | | AED | |
| 3. | | | RC | |

Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

I. Summary:

CS/SB 1058 directs state agencies, district school boards, and charter school governing boards to update, change, or create materials to rename the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America.” Each state agency must update its “geographic materials.” Instructional materials and additions to library media center collections acquired or adopted by a district school board or charter school on or after July 1, 2025, must reflect the renaming.

The bill will require state entities to incur costs to comply with the requirements of this bill. The magnitude of the costs is unknown at this time.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.

II. Present Situation:

Executive Order 14172: Gulf of America

On January 20, 2025, President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14172, entitled “Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness.” In relevant part, the President “direct[ed] that the [the Gulf of Mexico] officially be renamed the Gulf of America.” Additionally, the Executive Order instructs the Secretary of the Interior to take all appropriate actions to rename the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America.” The Secretary is directed to update the Geographic Names Information System to reflect such change. The Board on Geographic

Names, established by the Executive Order, provides guidance to ensure all federal references to the Gulf of America, including references included on agency maps, or in contracts and other documents and communications, shall reflect its renaming.

Public School Instructional Materials

Florida Statutes addresses instructional materials for K-12 public education.¹ Instructional materials are items having intellectual content that by design serve as a major tool for assisting in the instruction of a subject or course.² Instructional materials used must be consistent with the district goals and objectives as well as with the applicable state academic standards and course descriptions provided for in law.³

Each district school board is responsible for the content of all instructional materials and any other materials used in classrooms or otherwise made available in school libraries or resources.⁴ The Florida Department of Education (DOE) facilitates the statewide instructional materials adoption process. Expert reviewers chosen by the DOE objectively evaluate materials with Florida's state-adopted standards in mind,⁵ and based on reviewer recommendations, the Commissioner of Education selects and adopts instructional materials for each grade and subject under consideration.⁶

District school boards have “the constitutional duty and responsibility” to ensure the instructional materials it selects and provides are *adequate* “for all students in accordance with the requirements of [Part I of ch. 1006, F.S.]”.⁷ Providing adequate instructional materials means ensuring “a sufficient number of student or site licenses or sets of materials... that serve as the basis for instruction in the core subject areas” are available to students.⁸ School boards must also establish and maintain a program of school library media services for all public schools in the district, including school library media centers.⁹ A library media center is any collection of books, ebooks, periodicals, or videos maintained and accessible on the site of a school.¹⁰

Currently, there is no required timeline for DOE to adopt or publish a list of adopted instructional materials, often leading to the overlapping of the state-level adoption and district-level adoption of instructional materials. The DOE must provide training to instructional materials reviewers on competencies for making valid, culturally sensitive, and objective recommendations regarding the content and rigor of instructional materials prior to the beginning of the review and selection process.¹¹

¹ See ss. 1006.28-1006.42, F.S.

² Section 1006.29(2), F.S.; see s. 1006.28(1)(a)2., F.S. (referring the definition of instructional materials to align with s. 1006.29(2), F.S.).

³ Section 1006.28(2)(b), F.S.

⁴ Section 1106.28(2)(a)1., F.S.

⁵ Section 1006.31, F.S.

⁶ Section 1006.34(2), F.S.

⁷ Section 1106.28(2), F.S.

⁸ Section 1106.28(1)(a)1., F.S.

⁹ Section 1006.28(2)(d), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1006.28(1)(a)3., F.S.

¹¹ Section 1006.29(5), F.S.

Charter Schools

In Florida, charter schools are public schools and a part of Florida's public education program. A charter school may be formed by creating a new school or converting an existing public school to charter status.¹² Applications for charter schools must be approved by the Charter School Review Commission, with the Department of Education,¹³ or by sponsoring district school boards.¹⁴ Charter schools are exempted from many public-school regulations and are organized by a nonprofit organization.¹⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 creates an unnumbered section of law directing each "state agency," as defined in s. 11.45(1), F.S., to update its "geographic materials" to reflect the new federal designation of the "Gulf of Mexico" as the "Gulf of America." Instructional materials and additions to library media center collections adopted or acquired by a district school board or charter school governing board, on or after July 1, 2025, must also reflect this new federal designation.

Section 2 provides that the act takes effect July 1, 2025.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

Not applicable. The bill does not require counties or municipalities to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds, reduce the authority that counties or municipalities have to raise revenue in the aggregate, or reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None identified.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None identified.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None identified.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

¹² Section 1002.23(1), F.S.

¹³ Section 1002.3301, F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1002.33(6)(b), F.S.

¹⁵ Sections 1002.33 and 1022.33, F.S.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None identified.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Contracted education service providers and testing groups may need to update their materials and packages to reflect this change.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill directs state agencies and schools to make certain changes to acquire, provide, or create materials. The costs to comply with the requirements of this bill are indeterminate at this time.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

The term “geographic materials” is undefined and unclear. This term does not otherwise appear in the Florida Statutes.

VII. Related Issues:

None identified.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of law.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability on March 11, 2025:

- Defines state agency to align with s. 11.45(1), F.S.;
- Clarifies that the requirement regarding instructional materials and library media center collections applies only to materials adopted or acquired on or after July 1, 2025; and
- Removes section 2, which designated the portion of U.S. 41 between S.R. 60 and U.S. 1 as “Gulf of America Trail.”

B. Amendments:

None.