

**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.)

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

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BILL: SB 1058

INTRODUCER: Senator Gruters

SUBJECT: Gulf of America

DATE: March 10, 2025

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	White	McVaney	GO	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			AED	
3.			RC	

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**I. Summary:**

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;” and each district school board and charter school, beginning July 1, 2025, must adopt and acquire materials reflecting the renaming. The Department of Transportation is directed to rename what is currently designated as the “Tamiami Trail” to the “Gulf of America Trail” and erect suitable markers designating the stretch of road as the Gulf of America Trail.

The bill will require state and local governmental 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.

## **Tamiami Trail**

The Tamiami Trail, also known as U.S. Highway Route 41, connects Tampa to Miami. Once the only paved highway between Tampa and Miami, today this portion of the 275-mile trail provides a practical way to maneuver among some of the most desirable cities on Florida's so-called Cultural Coast.<sup>1</sup>

## **Legislative Designations of Transportation Facilities**

Section 334.071, F.S., provides that a legislative designation of a transportation facility is for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Such a designation is not to be construed as requiring any action by local governments or private parties regarding the changing of any street signs, mailing addresses, or 911 emergency telephone number system listings, unless the legislation specifically provides for such changes.<sup>2</sup>

When the Legislature establishes a road or bridge designation, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated by the law creating the designation and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility.<sup>3</sup>

The FDOT may not erect the markers for honorary road or bridge designations unless the affected city or county commission enacts a resolution supporting the designation. When the designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, each affected local government must pass a resolution supporting the designation before the installation of the markers.<sup>4</sup>

## **Public School Instructional Materials**

Florida Statutes addresses instructional materials for K-12 public education.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup>

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.<sup>8</sup> The Florida Department of Education (DOE) facilitates the statewide instructional materials adoption process. Expert reviewers chosen by the DOE objectively evaluate materials with

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<sup>1</sup> Dalia Colon, *Florida Scenic Highway: Tamiami Trail, Window to the Gulf Coast*, <https://www.visitflorida.com/travel-ideas/articles/tamiami-trail-florida-scenic-drives/> (last visited Mar. 6, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> Section 334.071(1), F.S.

<sup>3</sup> Section 334.071(2), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 334.071(3), F.S.

<sup>5</sup> *See* ss. 1006.28-1006.42, F.S.

<sup>6</sup> 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.).

<sup>7</sup> Section 1006.28(2)(b), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 1106.28(2)(a)1., F.S.

Florida’s state-adopted standards in mind,<sup>9</sup> and based on reviewer recommendations, the Commissioner of Education selects and adopts instructional materials for each grade and subject under consideration.<sup>10</sup>

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.]”.<sup>11</sup> 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.<sup>12</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> A library media center is any collection of books, ebooks, periodicals, or videos maintained and accessible on the site of a school.<sup>14</sup>

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.<sup>15</sup>

### **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.<sup>16</sup> Applications for charter schools must be approved by the Charter School Review Commission, with the Department of Education,<sup>17</sup> or by sponsoring district school boards.<sup>18</sup> Charter schools are exempted from many public-school regulations and are organized a nonprofit organization.<sup>19</sup>

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** creates an unnumbered section of law directing each “state agency” to update its “geographic materials” to reflect the new federal designation of the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America.” Each district school board and charter school governing board, beginning July 1, 2025, must adopt and acquire instructional materials and library media center collections that also reflect this new federal designation.

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<sup>9</sup> Section 1006.31, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 1006.34(2), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section 1106.28(2), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 1106.28(1)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>13</sup> Section 1006.28(2)(d), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> Section 1006.28(1)(a)3., F.S.

<sup>15</sup> Section 1006.29(5), F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 1002.23(1), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1002.3301, F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 1002.33(6)(b), F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Sections 1002.33 and 1022.33, F.S.

**Section 2** creates an unnumbered section of law designating the portion of U.S. 41 between S.R. 60 and U.S. 1, currently designated as the Tamiami Trail, as the “Gulf of America Trail.” The FDOT must erect suitable markers designating the Gulf of America Trail.

**Section 3** 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.

#### **V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None identified.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

Requiring the purchase of new materials to reflect the changes mandated by this bill may positively impact businesses and individuals who make or edit geographic materials, educational materials, and markers used by the Department of Transportation to indicate designated trails. Collateral and ancillary services, such as workers to erect the signs designating the Gulf of America Trail, may also experience a positive fiscal 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, schools, and the Department of Transportation 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:**

This bill creates an undesignated section of law, meaning there is no relevant pre-existing definitions section that may provide guidance on certain meaning of words. Accordingly, the sponsor may wish to define the term “state agency” (line 18). Without clearly delineating which agencies have the responsibility to update their “geographic materials,” whether that designation specifically refers to just state entities, and if the designation expands beyond executive branch entities.

Additionally, 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 Changes:**

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

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.