

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2026 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Regulated Industries

CS/CS/HB 89 — Veterinary Prescription Disclosure

by Commerce Committee; Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee; and Rep. Brackett and others (SB 1050 by Senator Calatayud)

The bill requires a licensed veterinarian or an authorized member of their staff to notify clients of their right to receive a written prescription that can be filled by a pharmacy of the client’s choice or by the veterinary establishment if it can be filled onsite.

The bill requires either a verbal or electronic disclosure, requires a one-time signed acknowledgment from the client, and necessitates the posting of a conspicuous sign within veterinary establishments informing clients of their right to have prescriptions filled elsewhere.

The bill provides exceptions for emergency situations and for prescriptions for controlled substances that are restricted by federal and state law.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 38-0; House 114-0

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SB 288 — Rural Electric Cooperatives

by Senator Rodriguez

SB 288 amends s. 425.041, F.S., which prohibits certain bylaws, tariffs, and policies to be utilized by rural electric cooperatives. Specifically, the section provides that a cooperative may not adopt, enact, or enforce any bylaw, tariff, or policy, or take any other action, that restricts or prohibits or has the effect of restricting or prohibiting the following:

- The types or fuel sources of energy production which may be used, delivered, converted, or supplied by the entities listed in s. 366.032(1), F.S., to serve customers that those entities would be authorized to serve. These entities would be:
 - o Investor-owned electric utilities;
 - o Municipal electric utilities;
 - o Rural electric cooperatives;
 - o Entities formed by interlocal agreement to generate, sell, and transmit electrical energy;
 - o Investor-owned gas utilities;
 - o Gas districts;
 - o Municipal natural gas utilities;
 - o Natural gas transmission companies; and
 - o Category I liquefied petroleum (LP) gas dealers, category II LP gas dispensers, or category III LP gas cylinder exchange operators.
- The use of an appliance,¹ including a stove or grill, which uses the types or fuel sources of energy production which may be used, delivered, converted, or supplied by the entities listed in s. 366.032(1), F.S.

The bill revises s. 425.041, F.S., to limit the section’s applicability to only those cooperatives that sell electricity at retail.² It also revises types of actions to which the restrictions apply—eliminating the term “any other action” and adding “any fee, including a lot fee, developer fee, or surcharge.”

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 39-0; House 106-1

¹ “Appliance” is defined as “a device or apparatus manufactured and designed to use energy and for which the Florida Building Code or the Florida Fire Prevention Code provides specific requirements.”

² Florida currently has two cooperatives that are generation and transmission cooperatives and, thus, do not sell electricity at retail.

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CS/CS/SB 484 — Data Centers

by Rules Committee; Community Affairs Committee; and Senators Avila, Yarborough, and Gaetz

CS/CS/SB 484 revises the regulation of large-scale data centers and certain other large electricity users. Specifically, the bill:

- Effective upon becoming a law, maintains the authority of local governments to exercise the powers and responsibilities for comprehensive planning and land development regulation with respect to large load customers. The bill also establishes that large load customers may not be considered an electric substation for the purposes of s. 163.3208, F.S.
- Revises current law which provides a 12-month public records exemption, upon written request, for certain information held by economic development agencies when a business is considering locating, relocating, or expanding in Florida, with a possible 12-month extension upon written request. The bill eliminates the additional 12-month extension for projects that involve data centers.
- Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to implement large load customer tariff and service requirements for public electric utilities. The tariff requirements must reasonably ensure that large load customers (such as large data centers) pay for their own cost of service, the risk of nonpayment of such costs may not be borne by the general body of ratepayers, and include provisions to prevent a public utility from providing electric service to a foreign entity large load customer. To effectuate these requirements, the PSC may approve public utility tariffs that include utility industry-accepted ratemaking and other financial tools.
- Prohibits public utility customers from dividing up loads at a single location to avoid the large load customer tariff and service requirements.
- Provides that tariffs, contracts, or utility policies for large load customers may not prevent or hinder curtailment or interruption of service when necessary to maintain grid stability, limit broader outages, or protect public safety during emergencies or exceptional circumstances.
- Prohibits public electric utilities from knowingly providing service to large load facilities owned or controlled by foreign countries of concern.
- Requires each public utility to file a tariff for the PSC's approval by October 1, 2026.
- Establishes distinct large-scale data center consumptive use permit (CUP) requirements and an application process. The bill also authorizes water management districts or the Department of Environmental Protection to require large-scale data centers to use some portion of reclaimed water as part of a CUP approval.
- Specifies that CUP modifications involving a large-scale data center must be treated as new, initial applications.
- Requires the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability to contract for an independent, interdisciplinary study of policy considerations related to the construction and operation of large-scale data centers. The study must assess impacts on economic development and tax revenues; land, water, and other natural resources; energy

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use and related cost and rate impacts; and public health and safety. The study must also include recommendations on facility siting and mitigation measures to reduce potential negative impacts.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions, except as otherwise provided, take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 31-6; House 92-16

THE FLORIDA SENATE
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CS/CS/SB 800 — Engineering

by Fiscal Policy Committee; Regulated Industries Committee; and Senator Mayfield

The bill amends s. 471.033, F.S., to provide an escalating fine schedule for second or subsequent violations of engaging in the unlicensed practice of engineering.

The escalating fees are as follows:

- For a second violation, a fine of \$10,000;
- For a third violation, a fine of \$15,000;
- For a fourth violation, a fine of \$20,000; and
- For a fifth and any subsequent violation, a fine of \$25,000.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 111-1

THE FLORIDA SENATE
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CS/HB 1137 — Deductions for Certain Losses of Alcoholic Beverages

by Ways & Means Committee and Reps. Robinson, W., Overdorf, and others (CS/SB 678 by Regulated Industries Committee and Senators Mayfield and Gaetz)

The bill allows alcoholic beverage distributors to deduct certain losses of unsalable products from their excise tax liability. Under the bill, distributors may deduct losses caused by warehouse breakage, spoilation, evaporation, expiration, or products becoming unfit for consumption, as follows:

- Vinous beverages (wine): 0.49 percent of gross tax.
- Spirituous beverages (liquor): 0.15 percent of gross tax.
- Malt beverages (beer): 0.20 percent of gross tax or the amount of actual breakage or spoilation.

For malt beverages, distributors must annually elect whether to use the percentage method or actual breakage or spoilation amount to determine the tax deduction amount. The election is binding for the calendar year unless the license is transferred or 100 percent of inventory is sold to a new owner. Distributors handling multiple alcohol types must calculate deductions separately under each category's rules.

The bill allows distributors to also deduct the actual gallonage of "extraordinary losses," defined as unusual losses from acts of God or nature not expected to recur, accidents during shipment between manufacturers, distributors, or retailers, or manufacturer recalls that require destruction.

Extraordinary losses do not include normal on-premises evaporation, breakage, or spoilation beyond the standard deduction limits. When an extraordinary loss occurs, distributors must immediately notify the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (division) within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and provide proof, such as an accident report or incident report for transit losses. They must also submit a statement confirming destruction, dumping, or recycling of the product, and other information specified in the bill such as the gallonage and tax category of alcohol destroyed. Additionally, distributors must certify that the excise tax was not recovered elsewhere and provide insurance claim documentation upon request by the division.

The bill requires distributors to use division-prescribed forms to record such breakage, spoilation, or evaporation. The division must retain these records for three years.

The bill authorizes the division to adopt rules to implement the bill.

The provisions of the bill apply retroactively to January 1, 2025.

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

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 116-0

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CS/CS/HB 1451 — Utility Services

by Commerce Committee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; and Rep. Busatta (CS/CS/SB 1724 by Community Affairs Committee; Regulated Industries Committee; and Senator Martin)

CS/CS/HB 1451 revises requirements for municipal utilities that provide water and sewer, natural gas, or electric services outside their corporate boundaries. The bill requires, before an agreement becomes effective, that new service agreements (or extensions, renewals, or material amendments of existing agreements) must be in writing and subject to public input through meetings held within each municipality and unincorporated areas to be served, as well as annual customer meetings thereafter.

The bill also eliminates, for areas served by a municipal water or sewer utility (which are outside of the municipal boundaries), an authorized 25 percent surcharge and reduces the allowable rate differential cap from 50 percent to 25 percent above rates charged within the municipality providing the service. However, a municipal water or sewer utility may continue to impose the surcharge on consumers outside the municipal boundaries to the extent necessary to comply with the terms of any bond covenants in effect as of July 1, 2024, if such surcharge was in effect as of March 1, 2026. Such surcharges must be phased out by July 1, 2029, or upon the retirement, expiration, or refinancing of such applicable debt obligations, whichever occurs first.

By January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each municipality which provides water and sewer, natural gas, or electric services outside of their municipal boundaries, must report specific data points to the Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC must compile the results and provide a report to the Governor, President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 31, 2027, and annually thereafter.

Effective upon becoming a law, the bill also includes an express state preemption over the subject of a regional utilities authority created by the Legislature through charter amendment after January 1, 2023. The effect of this preemption is that it preempts the charter amendment passed by voters in the City of Gainesville in the Fall of 2025 that attempted to return the control of Gainesville Regional Utility Authority to the Gainesville City Commission.

The Legislature also finds and declares that CS/CS/HB 1451 fulfills an important state interest.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions, except as otherwise provided, take effect on July 1, 2027.

Vote: Senate 30-6; House 79-24

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HB 1509 — Veterinarian Licensure by Endorsement

by Rep. Johnson and others (SB 1708 by Senator Gaetz)

The bill changes the licensure by endorsement process for applicants seeking to be licensed in Florida as a veterinarian by removing the requirement that the applicant has held a valid and active license to practice veterinary medicine in another jurisdiction for the three years immediately preceding the application for licensure.

The bill also clarifies that an applicant must be in good standing in their current jurisdiction to be granted a licensure by endorsement.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect on July 1, 2026.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 113-0

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SB 7006 — OGSR/Florida Public Service Commission

by Regulated Industries Committee

SB 7006 saves from repeal the current public meeting and records exemptions codified in s. 350.01(9), F.S., for portions of a hearing conducted by the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) wherein proprietary confidential business information that is confidential or exempt from s. 119.07(1), F.S., pursuant to ss. 364.183, 366.093, 367.156, or 368.108, F.S., is discussed. Section 350.01(9), F.S., provides that such exempt portions of a meeting may not be off the record, and the exempt portions of such meetings must be recorded and transcribed. However, such recordings and transcripts are confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1), F.S., and Art. I, s. 24(a), State Constitution.

The exemptions allow the PSC to close portions of its meetings where confidential business information is discussed. The exemptions also allow the PSC to continue its specialized role of fact-finding and making decisions in the public interest in utility regulatory matters where the primary aspects of a matter are so inextricably intertwined with confidential information.

The Open Government Sunset Review Act requires the Legislature to review each public record and public meeting exemption five years after enactment. These exemptions are scheduled to repeal on October 2, 2026. The bill removes the scheduled repeals to continue the exempt status of the records and portions of the meetings.

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

Vote: Senate 32-3; House 99-8

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SB 7008 — OGSR/Florida Gaming Control Commission

by Regulated Industries Committee

The bill extends the current public meeting and public records exemptions codified in s. 16.716, F.S., for portions of a meeting conducted by the Florida Gaming Commission (commission) wherein exempt or confidential and exempt information that has been obtained by the commission is discussed. Section 16.716, F.S., provides that those exempt portions of a meeting may not be off the record, and the exempt portions of such meetings must be recorded. However, any such recording, minutes, and records generated during the closed portion of the meeting are confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying requirements.

The exemptions are subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act and stand repealed on October 2, 2026, unless reenacted by the Legislature. The bill saves the exemptions from repeal by deleting the scheduled repeal date, thereby maintaining the exempt status of the portions of commission meetings closed as a result of discussion of exempt or confidential and exempt information, as well as the confidential and exempt status of the recording, minutes, and records generated during closed portions of such meetings.

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

Vote: Senate 32-3; House 105-4