

THE FLORIDA SENATE  
2026 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED  
**Committee on Commerce and Tourism**

**CS/HB 273 — Special District Funding**

by State Affairs Committee and Rep. Johnson (CS/CS/SB 214 by Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; and Senator McClain)

Current law requires agreements for state or federal funds between a state agency and a county or municipality that is a rural community or rural area of opportunity to allow for the state agency to pay invoices to the local government for verified and eligible performance under the agreement. The bill adds special districts located entirely within a county or municipality, or to an independent special district that provides water and wastewater services within a rural area of opportunity, to such agreement requirements. Additionally, the bill clarifies that the provision is not intended to require reimbursement to a rural county, municipality, or special district, but to allow the agency to pay invoices as they become due and to expedite payment requests for these local governments.

The bill revises the definition of “rural community” for the purposes of the Rural Economic Development Initiative to include special districts located in rural counties, as well as to include independent special districts that provide water and wastewater services within a rural area of opportunity. This inclusion will allow these special and independent districts to participate in state financial assistance programs, such as the Rural Infrastructure Fund.

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 34-0; House 108-0*

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**CS/CS/HB 679 — Registration of Trademarks**

by Commerce Committee; Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee; and Rep. Greco (CS/SB 696 by Rules Committee and Senator Martin)

The bill aligns Florida’s trademark registration system with federal law and international standards. The bill mandates the Department of State use the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s system of classification of goods and services set forth in 37 C.F.R. s. 6.1, as amended, rather than the general classes for trademarks for goods and services set in current law.

The bill also requires the department to create an online registration system for registering and renewing trademarks. Currently, trademark registration is only available through a printed application mailed to the department. The new system must make the online application available by December 31, 2027, giving the department time to procure a system that meets the requirements of the new law.

The bill allows for verification of applications to be made via a written declaration, electronically, or other statutorily accepted methods rather than a notary public. The bill requires that every online application be accompanied by an electronic copy of the specimen which complies with the requirements of the department, showing the mark as actually used.

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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**CS/CS/HB 797 — Nonprofit Corporations**

by Commerce Committee; Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee; and Rep. Tuck (CS/SB 554 by Fiscal Policy Committee and Senator Bernard)

The bill comprehensively revises ch. 617, F.S., the Florida Nonprofit Corporation Act (the Act), which incorporates updates from the Model Nonprofit Corporation Act and harmonizes the Act with the Florida Business Corporation Act.

The bill modifies and creates several provisions regarding governance of nonprofits. Importantly, the bill:

- Modifies the process for filing and correcting documents;
- Alters the provisions for corporations to change a registered agent or office;
- Consolidates share distribution prohibitions into one section;
- Modernizes the service of process provisions;
- Changes membership and meeting requirements, including allowing remote meetings and proxy voting;
- Allows directors and officers to bring derivative actions;
- Amends standards of conduct and liability for directors and officers;
- Updates the process to amend a nonprofit's articles of incorporation;
- Modifies the processes of judicial dissolution of a nonprofit and appointment of receivers and custodians made in the process thereof;
- Parallels processes for foreign nonprofits to those of domestic nonprofits;
- Updates a nonprofit's duties to maintain and provide access to corporate records;
- Clarifies what constitutes a director's conflict of interest;
- Modernizes provisions regarding mergers, conversions, and dissolutions; and
- Makes conforming changes to parallel the Florida Business Corporation Act.

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 36-0; House 114-0*

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**CS/SB 1004 — Domestic Animals**

by Rules Committee and Senators Gaetz and Arrington

The bill implements consumer protections related to the sale of cats and dogs in the state by:

- Increasing the time that a consumer can invoke certain rights to be 30 days, instead of 14 days, after certain veterinarian findings and the time the consumer must notify the pet dealer of the veterinarian's determination from two business days to seven business days.
- Mandating that a pet dealer selling a dog or cat must ensure that a pet financing arrangement is terminated without penalty to the consumer if the animal is found to be unfit for purchase due to illness or disease and the consumer elects to return the animal and allowing refund of interest and fees in addition to other purchase costs.
- Allowing buyers to receive reimbursement for veterinary treatment of a sick animal within one year after purchase.
- Requiring all financing terms to be disclosed to a consumer.
- Relieving a pet dealer of the requirement to provide a refund or exchange for a sick animal if the consumer signs a notification that indicates the animal had an identified congenital or hereditary disorder at the time of sale.
- Requiring a pet dealer to provide copies of certain medical records to a consumer purchasing a dog or cat.
- Allowing a consumer to initiate action in county court small claims court division if the consumer and pet dealer cannot agree on refund, exchange, or reimbursement. The consumer may collect punitive damages, which must be at least \$2,500.
- Altering a notice given to a consumer regarding consumer rights in pet sales and requiring the notice be on a separate form from the contract to purchase the pet.
- Excluding non-profit entities, that do not purchase dogs or cats from a breeder or broker, from the definition of a pet dealer.
- Increasing the amount of sales to be defined as a pet dealer, from the sale of more than two litters or 20 pets in a year to the public to three litters or 30 pets in a year.
- Requiring a pet dealer to maintain records provided to a consumer for seven years after the sale.
- Providing that a violation of s. 828.29, F.S., is a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act.

The bill also mandates that Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) include specified information about individuals who violate animal cruelty laws on its website by January 1, 2027. The bill requires clerks of court and county detention facilities provide FDLE with any information necessary under the bill.

Last, the bill requires the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) to develop a list of best management practices that dog breeders may voluntarily adopt and implement. DBPR must post specified information on its website relating to best management practices and animal cruelty laws.

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 36-0; House 110-0*

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**CS/SB 1074 — One-cent Piece**

by Finance and Tax Committee and Senator Gaetz

The bill allows sales tax dealers to round cash transactions to the nearest nickel if the one-cent piece is no longer in production. The bill specifies that rounding applies to cash transactions only. For mixed tender transactions, rounding only applies to the extent that cash is dispersed to the purchaser. Rounding may apply to the amount of the transaction or to the amount of change tendered to the purchaser. Rounding to the nickel does not alter the sales price, the amount of tax collected under ch. 212, F.S., or any surcharges, assessments, or fees imposed on the sale.

The bill provides that the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act does not apply to rounding a consumer sale to the nearest nickel if the one-cent piece is no longer in production.

Additionally, the bill provides that any cash payment made to a secondary metals recycler under s. 538.235, F.S., shall be made in the full amount due or rounded up to the nearest nickel if the one-cent piece is no longer in production.

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

*Vote: Senate 36-0; House 111-1*

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**CS/CS/CS/HB 1081 — Cybersecurity Experiential Learning**

by Education & Employment Committee; Budget Committee; Careers & Workforce Subcommittee; and Rep. Sirois (CS/CS/SB 1266 by Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Commerce and Tourism Committee; and Senator Calatayud)

The bill requires the Florida Center for Cybersecurity (Cyber Florida) at the University of South Florida to develop a Cybersecurity Experiential Learning Program and:

- Identify specific cybersecurity internship and experiential learning opportunities;
- Consult with employers in the state with openings in cybersecurity roles;
- Review best practices for cybersecurity learning opportunities at other National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity-designated educational institutions;
- Establish minimum qualifications that a student should possess prior to enrolling in the Cybersecurity Experiential Learning program; and
- Identify educational institutions seeking to participate in the program and the projected number of students to be served at each participating institution.

Implementation of the bill is subject to appropriation. Additionally, Cyber Florida must publish a report annually on its website, beginning July 1, 2028, containing specified data on the program and recommendations for program improvements.

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 112-0*

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**CS/SB 7014 — OGSR/Social Media Platform Investigations**

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Commerce and Tourism Committee

The bill delays the repeal dates from October 2, 2026, to October 2, 2031, for two public record exemptions related to investigations into social media platforms. The public record exemptions make confidential and exempt from public inspection and copying requirements information received by the Department of Legal Affairs (DLA) or a law enforcement agency into whether a social media platform has committed an antitrust violation or failed to meet certain transparency and notification requirements.

All information received by the DLA pursuant to an investigation by the DLA or a law enforcement agency is confidential and exempt from public record requirements, until such time as the investigation is completed or ceases to be active. During an active investigation, confidential information may be disclosed by the DLA in the performance of its official duties and responsibilities or to another governmental entity in performance of its duties and responsibilities. Once an investigation is complete or once an investigation ceases to be active, the following information received by the DLA remains confidential and exempt from public record requirements:

- All information to which another public records exemption applies.
- Personal identifying information.
- A computer forensic report.
- Information that would otherwise reveal weaknesses in a business' data security.
- Proprietary business information.

The bill saves the exemptions from repeal by delaying the scheduled repeal dates, thereby maintaining the confidential and exempt status of the information until October 2, 2031.

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

*Vote: Senate 33-2; House 105-2*

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**SB 7016 — OGSR/Administration of Small Business Loan Programs Held by an Economic Development Agency**

by Commerce and Tourism Committee

SB 7016 saves from repeal the current public records exemption that exempts from public inspection and copying requirements certain financial information held by an economic development agency pursuant to the administration of a state or federally funded small business loan program. The exemption protects tax returns, financial information, and credit information.

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

*Vote: Senate 31-4; House 106-0*