

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/SB 474, 1st Eng. — Military Affairs

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senator Wright

The bill makes the following changes relating to the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and military service generally:

- Revises provisions concerning leaves of absence for military service for state and local government employees to:
 - Expand eligibility to include members of the Coast Guard;
 - Clarify that the 90 consecutive days of service required to qualify for a paid leave of absence must be on a single order; and
 - Authorize local governments to provide additional paid leave for reserve and National Guard training provided certain requirements are met.
- Revises which employees of the DMA are eligible for participation in the Senior Management Service Class of the Florida Retirement System.
- Repeals provisions related to the defunct About Face and Forward March programs.
- Revises eligibility for the Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Program and requires an annual external financial audit and bylaw review.

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 105-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

HB 1031 — Customer Service Callback Queues

by Rep. Rosenwald and others (CS/SB 1192 by Appropriations Committee and Senators Polsky and Arrington)

The bill amends the Florida Customer Service Standards Act and creates a callback queue pilot program for certain calls made to the Department of Commerce. Under the pilot program, the Department of Commerce must give a caller the option to be placed in a callback queue to receive a call at a later time while maintaining his or her place in line, as opposed to waiting on hold. Calls must be returned in the order in which they were received and by the end of the next business day. The Department of Commerce currently already uses a callback queue system.

On or before December 31, 2027, the Department of Commerce must submit a report on the effectiveness of the pilot program, any suggested changes to the program, and a recommendation as to whether the program should be continued. The report must be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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 109-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/CS/HB 1085 — Local Government Cyber Security

by State Affairs Committee; Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee; and Rep. Miller (CS/SB 576 by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and Senator Harrell)

The bill codifies the Local Government Cybersecurity Protection Program, which will be administered by the Florida Digital Service (FLDS), to provide information technology (IT) commodities and services to local government participants to develop and enhance their cybersecurity risk management programs consistent with s. 282.3185, F.S., and to assist local governments with mitigation and defense against cybersecurity threats, including ransomware incidents. The FLDS is permitted to apply for and accept any agency, department, or federal funds or grants in furtherance of the program.

The program will be administered based on objective eligibility and evaluation criteria and will prioritize fiscally constrained counties. The FLDS must award grants under the program by December 1 each year. A local government is permitted to purchase IT commodities from the program regardless of its participation in the grant program.

The FLDS must enter into a data-sharing agreement with a participating local government, as necessary, to support the detection, prevention, and response to cybersecurity incidents consistent with s. 282.318, F.S., the State Cybersecurity Act.

The FLDS must submit an annual report on the implementation and outcomes of the program to the Executive Office of Policy and Budget and the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees.

The program will repeal on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved by the Legislature.

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 104-1

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

CS/CS/SB 1296, 1st Eng. — Public Employees Relations Commission

by Fiscal Policy Committee; Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee; and Senator Martin

The bill amends several provisions relating to ch. 447, F.S., which governs public employee collective bargaining in the state.

The bill updates the statutory requirements for registration, certification, and recertification of employee organizations (unions) by the Public Employee Relations Commission. Specifically:

- A showing of interest form submitted with a union's application for certification or recertification must be signed by a bargaining unit employee within the last 12 months of the application filing.
- The threshold for employee approval for a non-public safety union's certification, recertification, and decertification is changed to require at least 50 percent of the total bargaining unit to participate in the election and at least 50 percent of those participants to vote affirmatively on the question.
- A combination of election methods (mail or on-site) may be used for a certification, recertification, or decertification election, based on specified considerations such as the number of available on-site polling locations, the commission's workload, and the size of the bargaining unit.
- The commission must conduct an election for certification, recertification, or decertification by mail ballot, if a party to the election so requests. In any mail ballot election, the commission must, subject to appropriation, include a return envelope with prepaid postage affixed.

Additionally, the bill:

- Clarifies the bargaining unit process which allows determination of the unit after a change in case or statutory law.
- Provides a general prohibition that a public employer cannot compensate or provide leave or benefits to a non-public safety unit employee for the purpose of engaging in employee organization activities, with specified exceptions. For example, such employees may engage in representational employee organization activities (duties such as engaging in collective bargaining, participating in grievances, or representing other employees in disciplinary proceedings) without a loss of pay or benefits if the employer and bargaining agent agree. Additionally, if an employee organization fully reimburses the public employer, an employee may engage in employee organization activities (duties such as promoting or soliciting membership in a union, seeking certification as a bargaining agent, or engaging in specific political activity) as agreed to pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement. This prohibition does not apply to unions representing public safety field workers, whose members may still engage in paid union leave for these activities without the union having to fully reimburse the public employer.
- Requires a public employer to allow equal access to communal spaces or internal communications systems by any employee organization or petitioning public employee.

- Institutes a fast-track impasse process for local government salary increases specifically appropriated by the Legislature which require modification of a bargaining agreement. This process does not apply to salary increases appropriated for employees in public safety bargaining units.
- Conforms various hearing procedures and timeframes to those in ss. 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., of the Administrative Procedures 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 20-14; House 73-37

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

SB 7024, 1st Eng. — OGSR/Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Operational Technology Information

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

The bill consolidates several agency-specific cybersecurity public records and public meeting exemptions into the agency-wide cybersecurity public records and public meeting exemption codified in s. 119.0725, F.S. This, therefore, expands the following agency-specific cybersecurity-related public records exemptions to apply to each state or local governmental agency and any private entity that is acting on its behalf:

- Information relating to processes or practices designed to protect data, information, or existing or proposed information technology (IT) or operational technology.
- Portions of risk assessments, evaluations, audits, and other reports of an agency's cybersecurity program.
- Login credentials.
- Internet protocol addresses, geolocation data, and other information describing how and when users access public-facing portals.
- Insurance and self-insurance coverage limits, deductibles, and other coverages acquired for the protection of IT, operational technology, or data of an agency.

The exemption repeals on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved by the Legislature.

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

Vote: Senate 36-1; House 107-0

Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability

SB 7026 — OGSR/Trade Secret Held by an Agency

by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee

The bill maintains the confidential and exempt status for trade secrets held by an agency by deleting the scheduled October 2, 2026, repeal date in s. 119.0715, F.S., and deletes duplicative exemptions from public records inspection and copying requirements for trade secrets codified elsewhere in the Florida Statutes. The duplicative agency-specific exemptions repealed by this bill include the following:

- Section 287.137, F.S., relating to trade secrets obtained by the Attorney General in investigations relating to the antitrust violator vendor list.
- Section 288.075, F.S., relating to trade secrets held by an economic development agency.
- Section 334.049, F.S., relating to trade secrets regarding the methods of process, production, or manufacture obtained by the Department of Transportation “as a result of research and development projects.”
- Section 408.185, F.S., relating to trade secrets obtained by the Attorney General from a member of the health care community pursuant to the request for an antitrust no-action letter.
- Section 409.91196, F.S., relating to trade secrets identified and held by the Agency for Health Care Administration for use in Medicaid supplemental rebate agreement negotiations.
- Section 440.108, F.S., relating to trade secrets in workers’ compensation investigative records created by the Department of Financial Services.
- Section 497.172, F.S., relating to trade secrets held by the Department of Financial Services or Board of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services in the course of their development of licensure examinations, investigation of a licensee, and inspection of a facility.
- Sections 501.171, 501.1735, 501.2041, and 501.722, F.S., relating to trade secrets obtained by the Department of Legal Affairs during investigations into certain unfair and deceptive trade practices and certain breaches of data security.
- Section 520.9965, F.S., relating to trade secret information obtained by the Office of Financial Regulation of the Financial Services Commission or the Department of Financial Services during an investigation into certain actions prohibited in retail sales.
- Section 548.062, F.S., relating to trade secrets of a promoter to the Florida Athletic Commission.
- Section 559.5558, F.S., relating to trade secret information held by the Office of Financial Regulation of the Financial Services Commission pursuant to an investigation or examination of a violation of the Florida Consumer Collection Practices Act.
- Section 569.215, F.S., relating to trade secrets controlled by a tobacco company that is a signatory to the settlement agreement in *State v. American Tobacco Company* and obtained by certain officials during negotiations of the case or during verification of settlement payments related to the case.

- Section 627.0628, F.S., relating to trade secrets used in designing and constructing a hurricane or flood loss model for Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology.
- Section 1004.4472, F.S., relating to trade secrets obtained by the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition, Inc., in the course of research conducted by or through the corporation or a subsidiary, and business transactions resulting from such research.

The trade secrets are still protected from public records disclosure by s. 119.0715(5), F.S., which is saved from repeal by the bill.

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

Vote: Senate 33-3; House 106-3