

Committee on Rules

HB 167 — Former Phosphate Mining Lands

by Reps. McClure and Gentry

The bill establishes a defense from strict liability in lawsuits brought by the Department of Environmental Protection or others for a cause of action based on a natural geological substance on the site of a former phosphate mine.

For a defendant to be exempt from strict liability under the defense created by the bill, the defendant must prove that:

- A notice identifying the property as a former phosphate mine has been recorded within the county where the property is located; and
- The Department of Health has conducted a gamma radiation survey of the land parcel at the request of a landowner.

For any lawsuit based on strict liability, negligence, or similar conduct related to an alleged discharge of hazardous substances or condition of pollution related to phosphate mining, the bill requires the plaintiff to include a radiation survey meeting certain requirements with the complaint.

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 32-4; House 87-24

Committee on Rules

CS/HB 245 — Child Pornography Terminology

by Criminal Justice Subcommittee and Rep. Baker and others (CS/SB 398 by Criminal Justice Committee and Senator Leek)

The bill amends numerous Florida Statutes relating to child pornography terminology, replacing the term “child pornography” with “child sexual abuse material.”

Additionally, the bill includes legislative intent providing that the change in the term from “child pornography” to “child sexual abuse material” is not intended to change or amend the definition of the term or the elements of any offense relating to child pornography. Using the term “child sexual abuse material” represents the nature of the sexually abusive content, emphasizing that the child is a victim of such content.

Any prior judicial interpretations or findings from state or federal case law relating to child pornography must be applied in the same manner to any offense relating to child sexual abuse material.

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 37-1; House 110-0