

Agenda Order

<b>Tab 2</b>	<b>SB 174</b> by <b>Rodriguez</b> ; Similar to CS/H 00033 Transportation Facility Designations/Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue					
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<b>Tab 3</b>	<b>CS/SB 1342</b> by <b>CA, Rouson</b> ; Similar to H 01183 Transportation Infrastructure Land Development Regulations					
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470678	A	S	ATD, Rouson	Delete L.132 - 357:	02/16 05:32 PM
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<b>Tab 4</b>	<b>CS/SB 1334</b> by <b>EE, Grall</b> ; Compare to CS/H 00991 Elections					
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221298	A	S	L	ATD, Grall	Delete L.986 - 990:	02/17 11:36 AM
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638692	A	S	L	ATD, Grall	Delete L.136 - 712:	02/17 11:36 AM
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<b>Tab 5</b>	<b>CS/SB 1362</b> by <b>TR, Harrell</b> ; Similar to CS/CS/H 01093 Advanced Air Mobility					
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<b>Tab 6</b>	<b>CS/SB 1602</b> by <b>MS, Wright</b> ; Similar to CS/CS/H 01481 Housing for Veterans					
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259898	D	S	ATD, Wright	Delete everything after	02/16 04:28 PM
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<b>Tab 7</b>	<b>CS/SB 1604</b> by <b>MS, Wright</b> ; Similar to CS/H 01483 Trust Funds/Vacancy Relief Trust Fund/Risk Mitigation Trust Fund					
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126594	D	S	ATD, Wright	Delete everything after	02/16 04:29 PM
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The Florida Senate  
**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

**APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,  
 TOURISM, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Senator DiCeglie, Chair  
 Senator Polsky, Vice Chair**

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, February 18, 2026

**TIME:** 8:30—10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Building

**MEMBERS:** Senator DiCeglie, Chair; Senator Polsky, Vice Chair; Senators Arrington, Avila, Bernard, Bracy Davis, Grall, Leek, Martin, Mayfield, McClain, Smith, Truenow, and Wright

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
1	Review and Discussion of Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Issues Relating to: Department of Commerce Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Department of Military Affairs Department of State Department of Transportation Division of Emergency Management		
2	<b>SB 174</b> Rodriguez (Similar CS/H 33)	Transportation Facility Designations/Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue; Providing an honorary designation of a certain transportation facility in a specified county; directing the Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers, etc.  TR 01/12/2026 Favorable ATD 02/18/2026 FP	
3	<b>CS/SB 1342</b> Community Affairs / Rouson (Similar H 1183)	Transportation Infrastructure Land Development Regulations; Creating the "Transit-Oriented Development Act" for a specified purpose; requiring the governing body of a county or municipality to adopt an ordinance, and the governing body of a special district to adopt a resolution, establishing specified transit-oriented development (TOD) zones by a certain date; prohibiting a local government from imposing certain regulations in specified TOD zones; providing a private cause of action for certain property owners and housing organizations; encouraging public transit providers and public agencies to develop land within specified TOD zones, etc.  CA 02/03/2026 Fav/CS ATD 02/18/2026 RC	

**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 8:30—10:00 a.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
4	<b>CS/SB 1334</b> Ethics and Elections / Grall (Compare CS/H 991)	Elections; Revising the information the statewide voter registration application is designed to elicit from an applicant to include a certain acknowledgment; requiring that the online voter registration system transmit specified information to the supervisor of elections under specified circumstances; requiring that if the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that an applicant is not a United States citizen or has not submitted evidence of citizenship, the online voter registration system must notify the supervisor of the applicant's legal status and transmit the application to the supervisor; requiring the Department of State to identify certain voters by comparing or receiving information from specified sources; requiring the supervisor to adhere to specified procedures to remove the voter's name from the statewide voter registration system, etc.  EE 02/04/2026 Fav/CS ATD 02/18/2026 RC	
5	<b>CS/SB 1362</b> Transportation / Harrell (Similar CS/CS/H 1093)	Advanced Air Mobility; Citing this act as the "Advanced Air Mobility Competitiveness and Infrastructure Act"; providing that certain vertiport operators are considered an agency or subdivision of this state for certain purposes and are entitled to sovereign immunity to a specified extent; authorizing the department to fund up to specified percentages of vertiport project costs; requiring the department to expeditiously approve certain vertiports; preempting the regulation of vertiport design, aeronautical operations, and aviation safety to the state, etc.  TR 02/03/2026 Fav/CS ATD 02/18/2026 AP	
6	<b>CS/SB 1602</b> Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security / Wright (Similar CS/CS/H 1481, Compare CS/H 1483, Linked CS/S 1604)	Housing for Veterans; Creating the "Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program"; establishing the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program in certain counties for a specified purpose; authorizing certain landlords to apply to the corporation to receive funding from the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund under certain circumstances; providing the purpose of such trust funds; providing a requirement to apply for the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, etc.  MS 01/26/2026 Fav/CS ATD 02/18/2026 AP	

**COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA**

Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 8:30—10:00 a.m.

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
7	<b>CS/SB 1604</b> Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security / Wright (Similar CS/H 1483, Compare CS/CS/H 1481, Linked CS/S 1602)	Trust Funds/Vacancy Relief Trust Fund/Risk Mitigation Trust Fund; Creating the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for a specified purpose; authorizing any unexpended balance in either trust fund at a specified time to revert and be reappropriated for a certain purpose; providing for future review and termination or recreation of the trust funds, etc.  MS 01/26/2026 Fav/CS ATD 02/18/2026 AP	

Other Related Meeting Documents

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
		FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
1	COMMERCE									1
2	STARTUP (OPERATING)	1,488.00	62,518,518	62,518,518		64,077,681	706,548,917	770,626,598	833,145,116	2
3	STARTUP RECURRING FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY (DEBT SERVICE/OTHER)		-	-		5,000,000		5,000,000	5,000,000	3
4	TRANSFER EMERGENCY HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS		-	-			6,400,000	6,400,000	6,400,000	4
5	REALIGN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - ADD		-	-			420,000	420,000	420,000	5
6	REALIGN RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - DEDUCT		-	-			(420,000)	(420,000)	(420,000)	6
7	REALIGN BUDGET AUTHORITY TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES - DEDUCT		-	-			(65,860)	(65,860)	(65,860)	7
8	REALIGN BUDGET AUTHORITY TO MORE ACCURATELY REFLECT PROGRAM EXPENDITURES - ADD		-	-			65,860	65,860	65,860	8
9	DIRECT BILLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS		-	-			(56,869)	(56,869)	(56,869)	9
10	VACANT POSITION REDUCTIONS	(15.00)	-	-				-	-	10
11	FUND SOURCE REALIGNMENT - DEDUCT		-	-			(6,637,154)	(6,637,154)	(6,637,154)	11
12	FUND SOURCE REALIGNMENT - ADD		6,637,154	6,637,154				-	6,637,154	12
13	FLORIDA PLANNING, ACCOUNTING, AND LEDGER MANAGEMENT (PALM) READINESS		1,291,800	-	1,291,800			-	1,291,800	13
14	PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT DEPARTMENT-WIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY NEEDS		750,000	-	750,000			-	750,000	14
15	CYBERSECURITY		107,000	107,000				-	107,000	15
16	REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE		521,901	521,901				-	521,901	16
17	SPACE FLORIDA - FINANCING PROGRAM FOR AEROSPACE INDUSTRY		3,000,000	-	3,000,000			-	3,000,000	17
18	FLORIDA JOB GROWTH GRANT FUNDING		50,000,000	-	50,000,000			-	50,000,000	18
19	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLS		4,000,000	-	4,000,000	16,000,000	2,500,000	18,500,000	22,500,000	19
20	COMMERCE LOCAL INITIATIVES		11,490,640	-	11,490,640			-	11,490,640	20
21	UTILITY RELOCATION REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM		150,000	150,000				-	150,000	21
22	AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS		-	-			70,770,000	70,770,000	70,770,000	22
23	FLORIDA HOMETOWN HEROES HOUSING PROGRAM		75,000,000	-	75,000,000			-	75,000,000	23
24	STATE HOUSING INITIATIVES PARTNERSHIP (SHIP) PROGRAM		18,800,000	-	18,800,000		165,670,000	165,670,000	184,470,000	24
25	SAIL INNOVATIVE HOUSING		150,000,000	-	150,000,000			-	150,000,000	25
26	RURAL WORKFORCE PROGRAM FUNDING		5,000,000	-	5,000,000			-	5,000,000	26
27	LAW ENFORCEMENT RECRUITMENT BONUS PROGRAM		20,000,000	-	20,000,000			-	20,000,000	27
28	SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)		-	-			5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	28
29	FEDERAL REEMPLOYMENT TAX SERVICES CONTRACT		4,631,162	-	4,631,162			-	4,631,162	29

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
	ISSUE TITLE	FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
30	OFFICE OF RURAL PROSPERITY	17.00	2,479,918	1,827,591	652,327			-	2,479,918	30
31	RENAISSANCE GRANTS PROGRAM		7,000,000	7,000,000				-	7,000,000	31
32	RURAL TOOLKIT PROGRAM		-	-			250,000	250,000	250,000	32
33	RURAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVOLVING LOAN FUND		5,000,000	1,000,000	4,000,000			-	5,000,000	33
34	PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SMART TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM		-	-			500,000	500,000	500,000	34
35	SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER		1,000,000	1,000,000				-	1,000,000	35
36	RURAL HOUSING REHABILITATION		30,000,000	-	30,000,000			-	30,000,000	36
37	GRANTS AND AIDS - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY		-	-				-	-	37
38	HOUSING AND COMM DEV - FCO		71,142,100	-	71,142,100			-	71,142,100	38
39	WORKFORCE PROJECTS - FCO		2,900,000	-	2,900,000			-	2,900,000	39
40	SPACE, DEFENSE, RURAL INFR		45,000,000	5,000,000	40,000,000			-	45,000,000	40
41	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR		-	-				-	-	41
42	REED ACT PROJECT-STATEWIDE		11,170,650	-	11,170,650			-	11,170,650	42
43	COMMERCE	1,490.00	589,590,843	85,762,164	503,828,679	85,077,681	950,944,894	1,036,022,575	1,625,613,418	43
44										44
45	HIGHWAY SAFETY									45
46	STARTUP (OPERATING)	4,097.00	-	-			638,733,837	638,733,837	638,733,837	46
47	REALIGN EXISTING BUDGET WITHIN THE MOTORIST SERVICES PROGRAM - ADD		-	-			1,885,000	1,885,000	1,885,000	47
48	REALIGN EXISTING BUDGET WITHIN THE MOTORIST SERVICES PROGRAM - DEDUCT		-	-			(1,885,000)	(1,885,000)	(1,885,000)	48
49	DATA PROCESSING NONRECURRING ADJUSTMENT		-	-			(17,601)	(17,601)	(17,601)	49
50	ADDITIONAL TROOPER EQUIPMENT FOR THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL		-	-			292,500	292,500	292,500	50
51	SAFETY EQUIPMENT UPGRADES FOR FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL		-	-			529,012	529,012	529,012	51
52	ENHANCED PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL		-	-			483,000	483,000	483,000	52
53	FORENSIC ROBOTIC MAPPING SYSTEM FOR FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL		-	-			351,305	351,305	351,305	53
54	AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS FOR FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL		-	-			4,180,000	4,180,000	4,180,000	54
55	REPLACEMENT OF PURSUIT VEHICLES WITH 100,000 MILES FOR THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL		-	-			7,116,000	7,116,000	7,116,000	55
56	REPLACEMENT OF NON-PURSUIT VEHICLES PER DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES CRITERIA		-	-			384,000	384,000	384,000	56

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
	ISSUE TITLE	FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
57	DIRECT BILLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS		-	-	-		(17,172)	(17,172)	(17,172)	57
58	INCREASED FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL OPERATING COSTS		-	-	-		1,025,000	1,025,000	1,025,000	58
59	ENHANCEMENT OF TACTICAL AVIATION COMMAND	2.00	-	-	-		4,963,664	4,963,664	4,963,664	59
60	FLORIDA PLANNING, ACCOUNTING, AND LEDGER MANAGEMENT (PALM) READINESS		-	-	-		523,549	523,549	523,549	60
61	ENTERPRISE DATA INFRASTRUCTURE		-	-	-		3,100,000	3,100,000	3,100,000	61
62	SECURITY AND FRAUD PREVENTION		-	-	-		2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	62
63	REVENUE COLLECTION AND DISTRIBUTION REPLACEMENT		-	-	-		818,960	818,960	818,960	63
64	APPLICATION CLOUD ENVIRONMENT		-	-	-		1,901,130	1,901,130	1,901,130	64
65	AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM AND SECURE PAYMENT SOLUTION		-	-	-		1,721,000	1,721,000	1,721,000	65
66	CRITICAL SOFTWARE LICENSES AND APPLICATIONS		-	-	-		1,663,606	1,663,606	1,663,606	66
67	FIELD OFFICE EQUIPMENT REFRESH		-	-	-		2,140,000	2,140,000	2,140,000	67
68	CYBERSECURITY RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT		-	-	-		800,000	800,000	800,000	68
69	ADDITIONAL FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND BUDGET AUTHORITY		-	-	-		1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	69
70	PROVIDE INCREASED FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL LICENSE PLATE PURCHASES		-	-	-		2,080,771	2,080,771	2,080,771	70
71	FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL AVIATION SUPPORT		-	-	-		2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	71
72	<b>HIGHWAY SAFETY</b>	<b>4,099.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>678,272,561</b>	<b>678,272,561</b>	<b>678,272,561</b>	72
73										73
74	<b>MILITARY AFFAIRS</b>									74
75	<b>STARTUP (OPERATING)</b>	<b>448.00</b>	<b>26,429,302</b>	<b>26,429,302</b>			<b>44,392,039</b>	<b>44,392,039</b>	<b>70,821,341</b>	75
76	REALIGN POSITIONS BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS-DEDUCT	(7.00)	-	-	-		(423,002)	(423,002)	(423,002)	76
77	REALIGN POSITIONS BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS-ADD	7.00	-	-	-		423,002	423,002	423,002	77
78	FUNDING SOURCE CORRECTIONS - DEDUCT		-	-	-		133,249	133,249	133,249	78
79	FUNDING SOURCE CORRECTIONS - ADD		-	-	-		(133,249)	(133,249)	(133,249)	79
80	REALIGN AUTHORITY TO ANOTHER CATEGORY - DEDUCT		-	-	-		(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)	80
81	REALIGN AUTHORITY TO ANOTHER CATEGORY - ADD		-	-	-		100,000	100,000	100,000	81
82	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT - LIFECYCLE COMPUTER REPLACEMENT		85,000	-	85,000			-	85,000	82
83	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT - TRAINING AIDS		250,000	-	250,000			-	250,000	83
84	INCREASED WORKLOAD FOR FLORIDA STATE GUARD		901,378	-	901,378			-	901,378	84
85	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR AIR NATIONAL GUARD	1.00	70,356	65,299	5,057			-	70,356	85
86	REALIGN POSITIONS FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND TO GENERAL REVENUE-DEDUCT		-	-	-		(946,078)	(946,078)	(946,078)	86

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
		FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
87	REALIGN POSITIONS FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND TO GENERAL REVENUE-ADD		946,078	946,078				-	946,078	87
88	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - SERVER/CLOUD UPGRADE		144,000	144,000				-	144,000	88
89	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - FLORIDA STATE GUARD		493,584	-	493,584			-	493,584	89
90	ENTERPRISE CYBERSECURITY RESILIENCY		302,000	-	302,000			-	302,000	90
91	INCREASE NATIONAL GUARD TUITION ASSISTANCE		2,000,000	2,000,000				-	2,000,000	91
92	ARMORY OPERATIONS EXPENSE		1,400,000	1,400,000				-	1,400,000	92
93	ADDITIONAL BUDGET AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT FEDERAL COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS		-	-			1,600,000	1,600,000	1,600,000	93
94	TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT RESOURCES		5,840,683	-	5,840,683			-	5,840,683	94
95	FLORIDA STATE GUARD - POSITIONS TO SUPPORT OPERATIONS	32.00	4,633,928	-	4,633,928			-	4,633,928	95
96	FLORIDA STATE GUARD - AVIATION OPERATING EXPENSES		15,258,399	-	15,258,399			-	15,258,399	96
97	FLORIDA STATE GUARD - MARITIME OPERATING EXPENSES		1,688,312	-	1,688,312			-	1,688,312	97
98	FLORIDA STATE GUARD - CRISIS RESPONSE AND SPECIAL MISSIONS OPERATING EXPENSES		3,170,000	-	3,170,000			-	3,170,000	98
99	FLORIDA STATE GUARD - OPERATING EXPENSES		1,611,716	-	1,611,716			-	1,611,716	99
100	STATE MATCH FOR THE AIR GUARD		275,000	275,000				-	275,000	100
101	STATE MATCH FOR YOUTH CHALLENGE		200,000	200,000				-	200,000	101
102	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR		-	-				-	-	102
103	MINOR REPAIRS/IMPROV-STATE		2,000,000	-	2,000,000			-	2,000,000	103
104	MAIN/REP/CONST-STATEWIDE		4,460,200	-	4,460,200			-	4,460,200	104
105	SPECIAL PURPOSE		-	-				-	-	105
106	CB READINESS CENTER		500,000	-	500,000			-	500,000	106
107	CAMP BLANDING - LEVEL II		10,000,000	-	10,000,000			-	10,000,000	107
108	<b>MILITARY AFFAIRS</b>	<b>481.00</b>	<b>82,659,936</b>	<b>31,459,679</b>	<b>51,200,257</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45,045,961</b>	<b>45,045,961</b>	<b>127,705,897</b>	108
109										109
110	<b>DEPT OF STATE</b>									110
111	<b>STARTUP (OPERATING)</b>	<b>450.00</b>	<b>63,928,848</b>	<b>63,928,848</b>			<b>23,666,036</b>	<b>23,666,036</b>	<b>87,594,884</b>	111
112	DIRECT BILLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS		3,305	3,305				-	3,305	112
113	INCREASE IN CLOUD COMPUTING COSTS		600,000	600,000				-	600,000	113
114	REPLACEMENT OF DESKTOP COMPUTING EQUIPMENT		200,000	-	200,000			-	200,000	114
115	VOTING SYSTEM AUTOMATED INDEPENDENT AUDIT PROGRAM		-	-			4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	115
116	INCREASED OPERATIONAL COST FOR HISTORICAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT		-	-			185,000	185,000	185,000	116
117	ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL COST FOR VEHICLE FLEET AND VESSEL MAINTENANCE FOR THE BUREAU OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH		-	-			50,000	50,000	50,000	117



# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS							Row#
	ISSUE TITLE	FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	
118	MUSEUM COLLECTIONS STORAGE		-	-			100,000	100,000	118
119	ABANDONED AND HISTORIC CEMETERIES		446,010	-	446,010			-	119
120	SUPPORT STAFF FOR THE FLORIDA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE PRESERVATION NETWORK	1.00	800,000	800,000				-	120
121	CULTURAL AND MUSEUM GRANTS		11,851,376	-	11,851,376			-	121
122	CULTURE BUILDS FLORIDA		3,058,968	-	3,058,968			-	122
123	LIBRARY COOPERATIVE GRANT PROGRAM		1,000,000	-	1,000,000			-	123
124	DEPT OF STATE LOCAL INITIATIVES		1,560,000	-	1,560,000			-	124
125	DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS ELECTRONIC IMAGING CONVERSION PROJECT		500,000	-	500,000			-	125
126	DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS CALL CENTER SERVICES		2,700,000	-	2,700,000			-	126
127	VOTER ASSISTANCE HOTLINE		800,000	-	800,000			-	127
128	REIMBURSEMENTS TO COUNTIES FOR SPECIAL ELECTIONS		2,500,000	-	2,500,000			-	128
129	ADVERTISING PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS		1,500,000	-	1,500,000			-	129
130	GRANTS AND AIDS - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY		-	-				-	130
131	LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION GRNTS		5,000,000	-	5,000,000			-	131
132	G/A-SPEC CAT-CUL FAC PROG		28,536,656	-	28,536,656			-	132
133	G/A-SPEC CAT-ACQ, REST/HIS		3,420,238	-	3,420,238			-	133
134	MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR		-	-				-	134
135	HISTORIC STRUC REN		1,350,000	-	1,350,000			-	135
136	FACILITIES REPAIR & MAINT		750,000	-	750,000			-	136
137	INCREASED CAPACITY		-	-				-	137
138	FACILITIES CONSTRCTN/RENOV		5,500,000	-	5,500,000			-	138
139	DEPT OF STATE	451.00	136,005,401	65,332,153	70,673,248	-	28,501,036	28,501,036	139
140									140
141	DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION								141
142	STARTUP (OPERATING)	5,907.00	-	-			1,031,083,403	1,031,083,403	142
143	STARTUP RECURRING FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY (DEBT SERVICE/OTHER)		-	-			310,185,307	310,185,307	143
144	REALIGN EXISTING POSITIONS BETWEEN BUDGET ENTITIES - DEDUCT SIDE	(37.00)	-	-			(3,765,633)	(3,765,633)	144
145	REALIGN EXISTING POSITIONS BETWEEN BUDGET ENTITIES - ADD SIDE	37.00	-	-			3,765,633	3,765,633	145
146	REALIGN EXISTING POSITIONS BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS WITHIN SAME BUDGET ENTITY - DEDUCT	(24.00)	-	-			(1,685,888)	(1,685,888)	146
147	REALIGN EXISTING POSITIONS BETWEEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS WITHIN SAME BUDGET ENTITY - ADD	24.00	-	-			1,685,888	1,685,888	147

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
		FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
148	REALIGN BASE BETWEEN BUDGET ENTITIES - DEDUCT		-	-			(547,247)	(547,247)	(547,247)	148
149	REALIGN BASE BETWEEN BUDGET ENTITIES - ADD		-	-			547,247	547,247	547,247	149
150	REALIGN BASE BETWEEN ENTITIES AND CATEGORIES - DEDUCT		-	-			(1,337,640)	(1,337,640)	(1,337,640)	150
151	REALIGN BASE BETWEEN ENTITIES AND CATEGORIES - ADD		-	-			1,337,640	1,337,640	1,337,640	151
152	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT		-	-			9,562,000	9,562,000	9,562,000	152
153	REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR MATERIALS AND TESTING LABORATORIES		-	-			1,245,080	1,245,080	1,245,080	153
154	DIRECT BILLING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS		-	-			13,324	13,324	13,324	154
155	OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY	(20.00)	-	-				-	-	155
156	FLORIDA PLANNING, ACCOUNTING, AND LEDGER MANAGEMENT (PALM) READINESS		-	-			9,154,634	9,154,634	9,154,634	156
157	DATA INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION		-	-			5,347,708	5,347,708	5,347,708	157
158	SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM		-	-			607,320	607,320	607,320	158
159	VIRTUAL MOBILITY DATA MANAGEMENT		-	-			384,000	384,000	384,000	159
160	MIGRATION OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT SCHEDULING TO THE CLOUD		-	-			927,944	927,944	927,944	160
161	SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED		-	-			10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	161
162	CODE CORRECTIONS		-	-				-	-	162
163	MINOR REPAIRS/IMPROV-STATE		-	-			15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	163
164	DEBT SERVICE		-	-				-	-	164
165	DEBT SERVICE		-	-			61,447,622	61,447,622	61,447,622	165
166	ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS		-	-				-	-	166
167	ENVIRON SITE RESTORATION		-	-			485,000	485,000	485,000	167
168	SUPPORT FACILITIES		-	-				-	-	168
169	MINOR REPAIRS/IMPROV-STATE		-	-			15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	169
170	MIAMI EOC-CONSTRUCTION		-	-			8,034,739	8,034,739	8,034,739	170
171	TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM		-	-				-	-	171
172	SIB LOAN REPAYMENTS		-	-			61,440,798	61,440,798	61,440,798	172
173	SM CTY RESURFACE ASSIST PG		-	-			25,850,001	25,850,001	25,850,001	173
174	SM COUNTY OUTREACH PROGRAM		-	-			81,940,710	81,940,710	81,940,710	174
175	G/A-MAJOR DISASTERS - WP		-	-			26,374,145	26,374,145	26,374,145	175
176	COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PRGS		-	-			69,701,194	69,701,194	69,701,194	176
177	BOND GUARANTEE		-	-			500,000	500,000	500,000	177
178	TRANSP PLANNING CONSULT		-	-			86,503,035	86,503,035	86,503,035	178
179	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE CONTR		-	-			806,980,886	806,980,886	806,980,886	179

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
	ISSUE TITLE	FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
180	INTRASTATE HIGHWAY CONSTR		-	-			3,671,888,210	3,671,888,210	3,671,888,210	180
181	ARTERIAL HIGHWAY CONSTR		-	-			397,613,196	397,613,196	397,613,196	181
182	CONSTRUCT INSPECT CONSULT		-	-			671,337,546	671,337,546	671,337,546	182
183	AVIATION DEV/GRANTS		-	-			388,815,731	388,815,731	388,815,731	183
184	PUBLIC TRANSIT DEV/GRANTS		-	-			460,046,401	460,046,401	460,046,401	184
185	RIGHT-OF-WAY LAND ACQ		-	-			524,598,356	524,598,356	524,598,356	185
186	SEAPORT - ECONOMIC DEV		-	-			15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	186
187	SEAPORTS ACCESS PROGRAM		-	-			10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	187
188	SEAPORT GRANTS		-	-			120,324,833	120,324,833	120,324,833	188
189	HIWAY SAFETY CONSTR/GRANTS		-	-			269,210,229	269,210,229	269,210,229	189
190	RESURFACING		-	-			1,447,133,556	1,447,133,556	1,447,133,556	190
191	BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION		-	-			872,959,076	872,959,076	872,959,076	191
192	SEAPORT INVESTMENT PRG		-	-			10,161,599	10,161,599	10,161,599	192
193	RAIL DEVELOPMENT/GRANTS		-	-			233,174,280	233,174,280	233,174,280	193
194	INTERMODAL DEVELOP/GRANTS		-	-			85,236,218	85,236,218	85,236,218	194
195	CONTRACT MAINT W/ DOC		-	-			500,000	500,000	500,000	195
196	PRELIMINARY ENGR CONSULT		-	-			1,249,884,214	1,249,884,214	1,249,884,214	196
197	HWY BEAUTIFICATION GRANTS		-	-			1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	197
198	RIGHT-OF-WAY SUPPORT		-	-			56,298,447	56,298,447	56,298,447	198
199	TRANSPORT PLANNING GRANTS		-	-			75,628,725	75,628,725	75,628,725	199
200	MATERIALS AND RESEARCH		-	-			35,548,851	35,548,851	35,548,851	200
201	LOCAL TRANSPORTATION PROJ		-	-			100,000,000	100,000,000	100,000,000	201
202	BRIDGE INSPECTION		-	-			34,459,224	34,459,224	34,459,224	202
203	TRAFFIC ENGR CONSULTANTS		-	-			366,729,672	366,729,672	366,729,672	203
204	LOCAL GOVERNMENT REIMBURSE		-	-			19,970,115	19,970,115	19,970,115	204
205	TOLL OPERATION CONTRACTS		-	-			228,138,545	228,138,545	228,138,545	205
206	TURNPIKE SYS EQUIP & DEVEL		-	-			20,650,380	20,650,380	20,650,380	206
207	TOLLS SYS EQUIP & DEVELOP		-	-			73,755,075	73,755,075	73,755,075	207
208	DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION	5,887.00	-	-	-	-	14,077,831,329	14,077,831,329	14,077,831,329	208
209										209
210	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT									210
211	STARTUP (OPERATING)	225.00	15,544,446	15,544,446			72,128,532	72,128,532	87,672,978	211
212	STARTUP RECURRING FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY (DEBT SERVICE/OTHER)		-	-			3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	212
213	STATEWIDE WEBEOC INITIATIVE		500,000	500,000				-	500,000	213
214	IDENTITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT		342,362	-	342,362			-	342,362	214

# Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations

Row#	AGENCY / DEPARTMENT	CHAIRMAN'S RECOMMENDATIONS								Row#
		FTE	GR TOTAL	REC GR	NR GR	SEED TF	OTHER TFs	ALL TRUST	ALL FUNDS	
215	STATEWIDE EMERGENCY ALERT AND NOTIFICATION SYSTEM		2,096,959	2,096,959				-	2,096,959	215
216	STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY PROGRAM		250,000	-	250,000			-	250,000	216
217	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LOCAL INITIATIVES		3,100,000	-	3,100,000			-	3,100,000	217
218	GRANTS AND AIDS - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY		-	-				-	-	218
219	EM MGMT CRIT FAC NDS		15,154,150	-	15,154,150			-	15,154,150	219
220	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	225.00	36,987,917	18,141,405	18,846,512	-	75,128,532	75,128,532	112,116,449	220
221		12,633.00	845,244,097	200,695,401	644,548,696	85,077,681	15,855,724,313	15,940,801,994	16,786,046,091	221

Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Project Funding

Row #	LFIR #	Project Title	General Revenue	Trust Fund	Budget Entity
1	1026	Hope Partnership Community Safety and Stability Project	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
2	1038	Burt Aaronson South County Regional Park Improvements	850,000	-	Department of Commerce
3	1075	Anna Maria Public Works Building	1,250,000	-	Department of Commerce
4	1096	Talent Bridge: Empowering Florida's Workforce, Strengthening Florida's Economy	650,000	-	Department of Commerce
5	1206	Non-Custodial Parent Employment Program	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
6	1213	Secure Defense Communications and Innovation - Florida Tech	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
7	1236	Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative - Space Technology Program	250,000	-	Department of Commerce
8	1278	Manufacturing Talent Asset Pipeline (TAP)	400,000	-	Department of Commerce
9	1292	Florida-Israel Business Accelerator - Israeli Tech Solutions Solving Florida Industry Challenges	300,000	-	Department of Commerce
10	1296	Manatee County Habitat for Humanity Affordable Townhome Infrastructure	750,000	-	Department of Commerce
11	1490	Liberty County Industrial Land Acquisition & Site Development Initiative	1,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
12	1495	Franklin County Comprehensive Plan Update	104,900	-	Department of Commerce
13	1598	St. Cloud Hopkins Park Community Center	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
14	1609	Osceola County School District AAA High School Aquatic Center	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
15	1662	Las Olas Chabad Jewish Center Friendship Circle Grill - Job Skills Training	280,000	-	Department of Commerce
16	1694	Central County Sports Field House	1,250,000	-	Department of Commerce
17	1721	Safety Harbor City Hall Security Improvements	160,000	-	Department of Commerce
18	1725	Corporation to Develop Communities of Tampa - Bay Works FabLab	1,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
19	1738	Big Brothers Big Sisters - School to Work Program	950,000	-	Department of Commerce
20	1848	Titusville Cybersecurity and Data Security Enhancements	184,000	-	Department of Commerce
21	1899	Trout Lake Nature Center New Education Complex - Final Phase	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
22	1914	Mount Dora - Community Resource & Recreation Center Technology Lab	400,000	-	Department of Commerce
23	1937	Habitat for Humanity Lake-Sumter - Affordable Housing and Construction Education	180,000	-	Department of Commerce
24	1957	South Florida Home Health Workforce Development Program	220,000	-	Department of Commerce
25	1960	Gulf County Veteran and First Responder Service Dog Training Center	459,740	-	Department of Commerce
26	1966	JARC Community Works Program	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
27	2003	Habitat for Humanity of Greater Volusia County - Legacy Woods Affordable Homeownership	400,000	-	Department of Commerce
28	2012	Cape Coral YMCA Community Health & Youth Development Center	750,000	-	Department of Commerce
29	2050	Palm Beach Gardens Economic Development Infrastructure	300,000	-	Department of Commerce
30	2075	Coconut Creek Public Courtyard Renovations	593,000	-	Department of Commerce
31	2159	SCORE Florida	400,000	-	Department of Commerce
32	2160	Samaritan Resource Center - East Orange Opportunity Pathway	200,000	-	Department of Commerce
33	2165	Greater Malibu Groves Home Repair Program	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
34	2207	Acquisition and Renovation of Housing for Disabled Adults and Seniors Experiencing Homelessness	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
35	2221	Home Builders Institute (HBI) Building Careers for Veterans	475,000	-	Department of Commerce
36	2281	Habitat for Humanity of Tampa Bay Hillsborough - Resilient Homes for Heroes	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
37	2282	Wesley Chapel Family YMCA Community Center	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
38	2290	OCEARCH Mayport Research and Operations Center	551,100	-	Department of Commerce
39	2351	Screen Production Marketing & Workforce Development	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
40	2354	The IDDeal Place - Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled Permanent Housing	550,000	-	Department of Commerce
41	2398	Micanopy Comprehensive Planning Study	85,000	-	Department of Commerce
42	2435	YMCA of Southwest Florida - Babcock Ranch Community Wellness Facility	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
43	2464	Gulf Coast Jewish Federation Security Initiative	380,000	-	Department of Commerce

Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Project Funding

Row #	LFIR #	Project Title	General Revenue	Trust Fund	Budget Entity
44	2469	Veterans Project for Job Recovery	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
45	2477	South Pasadena City Hall Hardening & Resiliency	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
46	2481	Gulf Coast JFCS Renovation for Security and Technology Enhancements - Phase II	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
47	2484	Belleair Bluffs Public Works Facility PD&E	750,000	-	Department of Commerce
48	2535	Florida Keys Trumbo Affordable Workforce Housing Project	5,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
49	2566	Veteran Futures Academy – Workforce Training & Civic Resource Center	200,000	-	Department of Commerce
50	2663	Cox Science Center and Aquarium Expansion	850,000	-	Department of Commerce
51	2730	Evara Health - Addressing Medical Workforce Shortage in Florida	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
52	2731	Clearwater Marine Aquarium Renovation	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
53	2756	Urban League Regional Entrepreneurship Centers	650,000	-	Department of Commerce
54	2759	Seafarers' House: Supporting the Maritime Community & the Port Workers	260,000	-	Department of Commerce
55	2767	Push the Line Job Readiness, Workforce Resilience, Civic Re-Entry, and Wellness Initiative	75,000	-	Department of Commerce
56	2771	Pine Hills Storefront and Corridor Revival Program	75,000	-	Department of Commerce
57	2772	The Q on Dollins Avenue Housing Project	400,000	-	Department of Commerce
58	2811	Villages of South Florida Autism	1,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
59	2896	From Market to Mainstream	250,000	-	Department of Commerce
60	2906	YMCA of the Suncoast and Pinellas County Schools Co-located Facility	650,000	-	Department of Commerce
61	2938	Northeast Florida Builders Association Workforce Education Expansion	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
62	2939	Northeast Florida Builders Association Workforce Education Expansion Operations	100,000	-	Department of Commerce
63	3031	Culinary Institute of America - Downtown Jacksonville Campus	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
64	3078	Earlington Heights Metrorail and Bus Station	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
65	3140	Sebring City Hall Hardening and Design	1,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
66	3141	Sebring Consolidated Facilities Complex Design	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
67	3207	Wausau - Possum Palace Renovation Phase III	650,000	-	Department of Commerce
68	3248	Port Panama City Intermodal Distribution Center	650,000	-	Department of Commerce
69	3265	Habitat for Humanity Tampa Bay Gulfside - Century Drive	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
70	3271	Brooksville-Tampa Bay Regional Airport (BKV) Taxiway and Infrastructure Project	750,000	-	Department of Commerce
71	3378	Speros Site Readiness Program for Economic Growth	5,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
72	3381	Goodwill SWFL's Collier Community Resource Center	1,150,000	-	Department of Commerce
73	3468	AMI - Cybersecurity Training for Critical Infrastructure	950,000	-	Department of Commerce
74	3537	Land and Building for American Legion Babcock Ranch Post 415	1,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
75	3551	Hardee County Governmental Services Complex - Phase 2	4,500,000	-	Department of Commerce
76	3552	Hardee County Annex 1 Facility Hardening Resiliency Improvements	4,200,000	-	Department of Commerce
77	3553	Hardee County Multi-Government Complex Parking Garage	9,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
78	3555	Hardee County Services Extension Office Improvements	4,500,000	-	Department of Commerce
79	3556	Hardee County Facilities Maintenance Warehouse Building	1,900,000	-	Department of Commerce
80	3560	Hardee County Public Safety Complexes Critical Hardening	5,200,000	-	Department of Commerce
81	3663	Zolfo Springs - Main Street Improvements	500,000	-	Department of Commerce
82	3713	Northwest Florida Workforce & Military Rental Housing Initiative	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
83	3747	Employer Collaborative Workforce Initiative	350,000	-	Department of Commerce
84	3748	Downtown Wauchula Historic Preservation and Revitalization Initiative	6,000,000	-	Department of Commerce
85	3790	Palm Beach County Airport Renaming	2,750,000	-	Department of Commerce
86	1024	Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden Expansion - Morikami Amanohashidate Bridge	500,000	-	Department of State

Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Project Funding

Row #	LFIR #	Project Title	General Revenue	Trust Fund	Budget Entity
87	1275	Theater Sound System Renovation at Dr. Phillips Center	850,000	-	Department of State
88	1356	Orlando Museum of Art Building Renovation Completion	750,000	-	Department of State
89	1380	Dance Alive National Ballet's Khoury Family Center for the Arts	1,015,000	-	Department of State
90	1424	Resistance: Courageous Acts in Desperate Times During the Holocaust Exhibit	500,000	-	Department of State
91	1591	Sanford Civic Center Improvements	500,000	-	Department of State
92	1623	MOCA North Miami General Operating Support	500,000	-	Department of State
93	1716	Ruth Eckerd Hall: Emergency Upgrades for Community & Public Safety	485,238	-	Department of State
94	2342	Lake Alfred Public Library Expansion	500,000	-	Department of State
95	2510	The Florida Holocaust Museum: Elie Wiesel Exhibition and Learning Center	2,500,000	-	Department of State
96	2511	The Florida Holocaust Museum: Advancing Holocaust Education & Research	350,000	-	Department of State
97	2528	The Florida Museum of Black History - Phase 1B	1,000,000	-	Department of State
98	2656	Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council, Inc. - Drew Rehabilitation	350,000	-	Department of State
99	2861	The Dali: Expanding Education, Innovation & Community Engagement	350,000	-	Department of State
100	2898	The Florida Orchestra's Center for Music Education & Innovation (CMEI)	350,000	-	Department of State
101	3069	Historic Oneida Bungalow Court	650,000	-	Department of State
102	3333	The Navy Seal Museum - Warfare Archival Preservation Initiative	995,000	-	Department of State
103	3336	ex-USS Orleck (DD 886) Project: Improving Public Access, And Safety for Naval Museum	782,000	-	Department of State
104	3383	Opera Naples Luciano Pavarotti Foundation Arts Center	1,100,000	-	Department of State
105	3473	Historic Pensacola	250,000	-	Department of State
106	3554	Hardee County New County Library Facility	9,500,000	-	Department of State
107	3609	The Lincoln Cemetery	300,000	-	Department of State
108	3623	Arts and Agriculture Program	350,000	-	Department of State
109	3776	Village of Indiantown Seminole Inn Historic Preservation, Rehabilitation, and Seminole Tribe Museum	4,000,000	-	Department of State
110	1025	South Bay - Palm Beach Road Improvements and Beautification Project	-	900,000	Department of Transportation
111	1077	Southwest Ranches - Safety Guardrail	-	694,000	Department of Transportation
112	1101	Coral Gables - Traffic Calming and Safety Improvements	-	400,000	Department of Transportation
113	1185	Brevard County - North Banana River Drive South Bridge Replacement	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
114	1360	Palm Bay - Malabar Road SE and Emerson Drive Intersection Improvements Project	-	600,000	Department of Transportation
115	1361	Palm Bay - Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Traffic Enhancement Project	-	750,000	Department of Transportation
116	1372	Pompano Beach - North Riverside Drive Multimodal Safety and Resilience Corridor	-	895,000	Department of Transportation
117	1377	Palmetto Bay - SW 82 Avenue Multi-Modal Safety Improvements	-	142,725	Department of Transportation
118	1383	Miami - Wagner Creek Embankment & Right-of-Way Improvements	-	2,000,000	Department of Transportation
119	1404	Surfside - Safe Streets Project	-	700,000	Department of Transportation
120	1499	Dixie County Middle High School Access Road	-	744,288	Department of Transportation
121	1600	Osceola County Waterlin Boulevard Interchange	-	1,250,000	Department of Transportation
122	1649	Fort Lauderdale - Galt Ocean Mile Corridor Improvements Final Phase	-	1,250,000	Department of Transportation
123	1653	Fort Lauderdale - Roadway Resurfacing Project	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
124	1682	Sarasota County Lorraine Road, Segment C, Phase 2 Capacity and Mobility Improvement Project	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
125	1718	Pasco County Rangeland Boulevard Extension	-	3,000,000	Department of Transportation
126	1723	Pinellas County East Lake Road - Phase I Capacity Improvements	-	7,500,000	Department of Transportation
127	1751	Miami - Southwest 15th Road Drainage & Roadway Improvements	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
128	1771	Miami Shores Village - NE 94 Street Roadway Improvements	-	750,000	Department of Transportation
129	1798	Delray Beach - Swinton Ave & Atlantic Ave Intersection Improvements	-	650,000	Department of Transportation
130	1875	Palm Springs - Dolan Road Safety Improvements	-	750,000	Department of Transportation

Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Project Funding

Row #	LFIR #	Project Title	General Revenue	Trust Fund	Budget Entity
131	1904	Windermere - Upgrade Roundabout - 6th Avenue and Main St. - Phase I	-	784,000	Department of Transportation
132	1985	Aventura - NE 191 Street Roadway Improvements	-	650,000	Department of Transportation
133	1993	Manatee County Fort Hamer Interchange	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
134	2023	Palm Beach County CR 880 Bridge Replacements	-	10,000,000	Department of Transportation
135	2037	Port Richey - Grand Blvd and US Hwy 19 Multi-Vehicle Crossing Construction	-	250,000	Department of Transportation
136	2099	Jupiter - Toney Penna & Central Boulevard Intersection Improvements	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
137	2185	Miami Lakes - NW 155th Street Roadway Improvements	-	790,000	Department of Transportation
138	2193	Miami Springs - Westward Drive Roadway Improvements	-	1,150,000	Department of Transportation
139	2195	Miami Springs - Oakwood Drive Roadway Safety Improvements	-	650,000	Department of Transportation
140	2225	Doral - NW 117th Avenue from NW 25 St to NW 34 St Improvements	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
141	2284	Zephyrhills - Municipal Airport FBO	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
142	2323	Polk County Power Line Road Segment 2 Right-of-Way	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
143	2352	Belleair - Scour Critical Bridge Project	-	400,000	Department of Transportation
144	2361	West Palm Beach - Old Okeechobee Rail Safety Intersection Improvements	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
145	2417	Cedar Key - Dock Street Protection	-	1,150,000	Department of Transportation
146	2424	Lee County I-75 Interchange Justification Report and PD&E Study	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
147	2434	Cape Coral - Evacuation Route Improvements - NE 24th Avenue	-	800,000	Department of Transportation
148	2437	Sanibel - Shared Use Path Reconstruction - Hurricane Recovery	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
149	2463	Hillsborough County East 26th Avenue Road Improvements	-	3,900,000	Department of Transportation
150	2466	Gulfport - Police & Fire Rapid Response Roadway Reconstruction	-	377,987	Department of Transportation
151	2492	Madeira Beach - Area 6 Roadway Project	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
152	2494	Clearwater - Elevate Bayshore	-	650,000	Department of Transportation
153	2533	Manatee County 51st Street West Extension – 53rd Ave W to El Conquistador Pkwy	-	3,000,000	Department of Transportation
154	2538	PortMiami North Bulkhead Improvement Project	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
155	2561	St. Johns County State Road 16 - Phase 2	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
156	2599	Miami-Dade County Ludlam Trail Corridor	-	1,250,000	Department of Transportation
157	2622	Jacksonville - Regional Corridor - I-295 to US-1	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
158	2627	Improving Safety & Security in Downtown Jacksonville	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
159	2630	Volusia County North Beach Street Flood Mitigation Upgrades for Design/Construction	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
160	2657	Miami-Dade - Biscayne-Everglades Greenway	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
161	2683	Nassau County CR 107 Widening & Intersection Improvements - Right-of-Way Acquisition/Construction	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
162	2800	I-95 Interchange / SR-442 Stormwater Resilience Project	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
163	2932	St. Pete Beach - Boca Ciega Drive Reconstruction	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
164	2955	Clay County CR 218 Expansion	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
165	2994	Estero - Williams Road & Atlantic Gulf Drive Improvements	-	800,000	Department of Transportation
166	3040	Clewiston - Berner Road Culvert Reconstruction	-	250,000	Department of Transportation
167	3104	Panama City - Bay County Airport and Industrial District North Terminal Expansion Program	-	1,150,000	Department of Transportation
168	3119	Jacksonville - Hogan Street Emerald Trail from Union Street to 1st Street	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation
169	3163	Jacksonville - Baymeadows Road Crosswalk Improvements	-	972,000	Department of Transportation
170	3193	Fort Walton Beach - Design Phase for U.S. 98 "Around the Mound"	-	750,000	Department of Transportation
171	3264	Citrus County Halls River Multi-Use Path Construction Phase	-	1,000,000	Department of Transportation
172	3323	Downtown West Palm Beach Signalization Upgrades - Phase 3	-	800,000	Department of Transportation
173	3467	Crestview - SR 85 Traffic Alleviation Project	-	1,500,000	Department of Transportation



Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development  
Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Project Funding

Row #	LFIR #	Project Title	General Revenue	Trust Fund	Budget Entity
174	3469	Santa Rosa County Whiting Aviation Park - Taxiway Extension	-	500,000	Department of Transportation
175	3545	Wauchula - Municipal Airport Taxi Lane and T-Hangars Improvements - Phase 2	-	5,000,000	Department of Transportation
176	3668	Charlotte County Intersection Hardening/Resiliency	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
177	3669	Charlotte County CyberLock Security for Traffic Signal Cabinets	-	325,000	Department of Transportation
178	3670	Belleair - Barbara Circle Reconstruction (Carl & Shirley PH 2)	-	4,200,000	Department of Transportation
179	3673	Industrial Park Connector at Punta Gorda Airport (PGD)	-	4,200,000	Department of Transportation
180	3680	DeSoto County CR 769 Expansion	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
181	3681	Wauchula - Critical Citywide Roadway Improvements	-	2,500,000	Department of Transportation
182	3726	Escambia County - South Navy Boulevard Improvements	-	350,000	Department of Transportation
183	3755	City of Oldsmar Patty/Country Club Drive	-	3,000,000	Department of Transportation
184	1130	Cutler Bay - Sheriff Emergency Operations Command Center (Legacy Park Municipal Complex)	1,000,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
185	1233	The Center at Vista Park	1,000,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
186	1252	City of North Port Emergency Operations Center Outfitting	400,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
187	1258	Florida Civil Air Patrol Volunteers: Education, Training and Emergency Services Mission Support	250,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
188	1471	Nathan Benderson Park Secondary-Post Storm Shelter and Support Facility	1,000,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
189	1483	Suwannee County Regional Shelter Master Planning & Design Project	2,500,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
190	1788	City of Homestead Joint Operations Center	650,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
191	1963	City of Live Oak - Flood Alert, Monitoring, and Analytics	450,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
192	2325	Polk County Emergency Operations Center Expansion	750,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
193	2356	Multi-Mission Aircraft - Emergency Response Expansion for Palm Beach County	650,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
194	2419	Levy County Government Complex Permanent Generators	1,000,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
195	2486	City of Treasure Island Public Safety Building	1,500,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
196	2513	Menorah Life St. Petersburg - Security & Safety Initiative	490,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
197	2557	Sarasota Manatee Jewish Housing Council - Aviva Safe and Secure Campus	927,150	-	Division of Emergency Management
198	2853	Good Counsel Camp Safety and Resilience Initiative: Protecting Florida's Youth and Property	950,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
199	2962	Eastern Central Florida Emergency Shelter Hardening	1,000,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
200	3230	Florida Severe Weather Mesonet – Operational Readiness and Training Enhancements	1,900,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
201	3233	Data Analytics Software for Hurricane Preparedness, Response and Recovery	500,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
202	3572	SendMeMissions - Disaster Volunteer Village	987,000	-	Division of Emergency Management
203	3678	Charlotte County Emergency Operations Center Improvements	350,000	-	Division of Emergency Management

**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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

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BILL: SB 174

INTRODUCER: Senator Rodriguez

SUBJECT: Transportation Facility Designations/Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue

DATE: February 17, 2026

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Johnson	Vickers	TR	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	Griffin	Nortelus	ATD	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
3.			FP	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 174 designates that portion of S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W. 24th Street and S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street in Miami-Dade County as “Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue” and directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect suitable markers.

The FDOT estimates its cost to install the required designation markers is \$2,400, which can be absorbed within existing resources. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

**II. Present Situation:**

Section 334.071, F.S., provides that legislative designations of transportation facilities are for honorary or memorial purposes or to distinguish a particular facility. Such designations may not 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>1</sup>

When the Legislature establishes road or bridge designations, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is required to place markers only at the termini specified for each highway segment or bridge designated and to erect any other markers it deems appropriate for the transportation facility.<sup>2</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

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

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

designated road or bridge segment is located in more than one city or county, each affected local government must pass resolutions supporting the designations before the installation of the markers.<sup>3</sup>

### **Charlie Kirk**

Born in 1993, Charlie Kirk founded Turning Point USA, which mobilized young conservatives across the United States. He also wrote books, hosted a radio show, organized conferences, and appeared on college campuses, where he engaged in political debate. Mr. Kirk was assassinated in Utah on September 10, 2025.<sup>4</sup>

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

**Section 1** creates an undesignated section of Florida law designating that portion of S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W. 24th Street and S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street in Miami-Dade County as “Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue” and directs the FDOT to erect suitable markers.

**Section 2** provides that this bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

#### **D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

#### **E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None identified.

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

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 316.071(3), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Charlie Kirk, *Britannica.com*, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charlie-Kirk#ref440983> (last visited January 5, 2026).

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The FDOT estimates that its cost to erect the designation markers required by this bill to be \$2,400. This assumes that a minimum of two markers are required at the FDOT's cost of no less than \$1,200 each.<sup>5</sup> This estimate includes labor, materials, manufacturing, and installation. The FDOT expects to absorb this cost within existing resources.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**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.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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<sup>5</sup> Email from Jack Rogers, Legislative Affairs Director, Florida Department of Transportation, RE. Transportation Facility Designation Costs, December 9, 2024. (On file with Senate Committee on Transportation). Confirmed by an email from Jack Rogers, RE SB 174 – Charlie Kirk Designation, October 22, 2025. (On file with Senate Committee on Transportation).

By Senator Rodriguez

40-00403-26

2026174\_\_

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to transportation facility  
designations; providing an honorary designation of a  
certain transportation facility in a specified county;  
directing the Department of Transportation to erect  
suitable markers; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue designated;  
Department of Transportation to erect suitable markers.-

(1) That portion of S.R. 985/S.W. 107th Avenue between S.W.  
24th Street and S.R. 90/S.W. 8th Street in Miami-Dade County is  
designated as "Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue."

(2) The Department of Transportation is directed to erect  
suitable markers designating Charlie Kirk Memorial Avenue as  
described in subsection (1).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

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BILL: CS/SB 1342

INTRODUCER: Community Affairs Committee and Senator Rouson

SUBJECT: Transportation Infrastructure Land Development Regulations

DATE: February 17, 2026

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Hackett</u>	<u>Fleming</u>	<u>CA</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1342 creates the “Transit-Oriented Development Act,” a framework for preempting how local governments approach zoning in the vicinity of transit stops.

Under the bill, a local government must adopt new zoning for all lots partly within one-half mile of a permanent transportation stop, authorizing mixed use residential and commercial development. For affected lots, a local government may not impose any limitation, restriction, or prohibition regarding any type of single-family or multifamily use, including maximum density or minimum dwelling unit size, and the bill provides limits on local land use regulations such as height, setbacks, and parking.

The bill contemplates standards for judicial proceedings under the bill, and entitles a prevailing plaintiff to attorney fees and costs. The bill also provides legislative intent and a framework for public investment in transit-oriented development zones.

This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on local governments. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **The Community Planning Act**

Adopted in 1985, the Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act,<sup>1</sup> also known as Florida's Growth Management Act, was significantly revised in 2011, becoming the Community Planning Act.<sup>2</sup> The Community Planning Act governs how local governments create and adopt their local comprehensive plans.

Local comprehensive plans must include principles, guidelines, standards, and strategies for the orderly and balanced future land development of the area and reflect community commitments to implement the plan. The Community Planning Act intends that local governments manage growth through comprehensive land use plans that facilitate adequate and efficient provision of transportation, water, sewage, schools, parks, recreational facilities, housing, and other requirements and services.<sup>3</sup> A housing element is required as part of every comprehensive plan in the state. Among other things, the housing element must address "the creation or preservation of affordable housing to minimize the need for additional local services and avoid the concentration of affordable housing units only in specific areas of the jurisdiction."<sup>4</sup>

Municipalities established after the effective date of the Community Planning Act must adopt a comprehensive plan within three years after the date of incorporation.<sup>5</sup> The county comprehensive plan controls until a municipal comprehensive plan is adopted.<sup>6</sup>

The comprehensive plan is implemented via land development regulations. Each county and municipality must adopt and enforce land development regulations, such as zoning or other housing-related ordinances, which are consistent with and implement their adopted comprehensive plan.<sup>7</sup>

### **Land Development Regulations**

Comprehensive plans are implemented via land development regulations. Land development regulations are ordinances enacted by governing bodies for the regulation of any aspect of development and includes any local government zoning, rezoning, subdivision, building construction, or sign regulations or any other regulations controlling the development of land.<sup>8</sup>

Each county and municipality must adopt and enforce land development regulations which are consistent with and implement their adopted comprehensive plan.<sup>9</sup> Local governments are encouraged to use innovative land development regulations<sup>10</sup> and may adopt measures for the

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<sup>1</sup> See ch. 85-55, s. 1, Laws of Fla.

<sup>2</sup> See ch. 2011-139, s. 17, Laws of Fla.

<sup>3</sup> Section 163.3161(4), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> Section 163.3177(6)(f) l.g., F.S.

<sup>5</sup> Section 163.3167(3), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Section 163.3202, F.S.

<sup>8</sup> Section 163.3164, F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 163.3202, F.S.

<sup>10</sup> Section 163.3202(3), F.S.

purpose of increasing affordable housing using land-use mechanisms.<sup>11</sup> Land development regulations relating to all public and private development, including special district projects, must be consistent with the local comprehensive plan.<sup>12</sup>

### **Sovereign Immunity**

Sovereign immunity is “[a] government’s immunity from being sued in its own courts without its consent.”<sup>13</sup> The doctrine had its origin with the judge-made law of England. The basis of the existence of the doctrine of sovereign immunity in the United States was explained as follows: A sovereign is exempt from suit, not because of any formal conception or obsolete theory, but on the logical and practical ground that there can be no legal right as against the authority that makes the law on which the right depends.<sup>14</sup>

Article X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution authorizes the Legislature to enact laws that permit suits against the State and its subdivisions, thereby waiving sovereign immunity. Currently, Florida law allows tort lawsuits against the State and its subdivisions<sup>15</sup> for damages that result from the negligence of government employees acting in the scope of their employment, but limits payment of judgments to \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident.<sup>16</sup> This liability exists only where a private person would be liable for the same conduct.<sup>17</sup> Harmed persons who seek to recover amounts in excess of these limits may request that the Legislature enact a claim bill to appropriate the remainder of their court-awarded judgment.<sup>18</sup> Article VII, s. 1(c) of the Florida Constitution prohibits funds from being drawn from the State Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law. However, local governments and municipalities are not subject to this provision, and therefore may appropriate their local funds according to their processes.

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

The bill creates s. 163.32035, F.S., the “Transit-Oriented Development Act.” The bill presents a wide-ranging zoning preemption requiring a framework of special zoning areas encouraging development surrounding transit infrastructure.

The bill requires that by December 1, 2026, counties and municipalities adopt an ordinance establishing two tiers of transit-oriented development (TOD) zones, each with specific requirements and limitations on regulation. This area encompasses any lot partly within one-half

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<sup>11</sup> Sections 125.01055 and 166.04151, F.S.

<sup>12</sup> See ss. 163.3161(6) and 163.3194(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>13</sup> BLACK’S LAW DICTIONARY (11th ed. 2019).

<sup>14</sup> *Cauley v. City of Jacksonville*, 403 So. 2d 379, 381 (Fla. 1981) (quoting *Kawananakoa v. Polyblank*, 205 U.S. 349, 353 (1907)).

<sup>15</sup> Section 768.28(2), F.S., defines “state agencies or subdivisions” to include “executive departments, the Legislature, the judicial branch (including public defenders), and the independent establishments of the state, including state university boards of trustees; counties and municipalities; and corporations primarily acting as instrumentalities or agencies of the state, counties, or municipalities, including the Florida Space Authority.”

<sup>16</sup> Section 768.28, F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 768.28(1), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 768.28(5)(a), F.S. See also, s. 11.066, F.S., which states that state agencies are not required to pay monetary damages under a court’s judgment except pursuant to an appropriation made by law.



mile of a permanent transportation stop.<sup>19</sup> Once TOD zones are established, they may not be reduced or eliminated, including following the closure of the permanent public transit stop which created the zone.

The local government must zone all lots within any of the zones for mixed use. For affected lots, a local government may not impose any limitation, restriction, or prohibition regarding any type of single-family or multifamily use, including maximum density or minimum dwelling unit size beyond those required by the Florida Building Code.

Additionally, a local government may not impose a regulation that prohibits, limits, or otherwise restricts residential or commercial development on any lot that contains historic property except regulations related to building design elements otherwise permitted by law, or regulations to restrict demolition or alteration of a structure or building that is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or a contributing structure within a historic district listed before January 1, 2000.

Any lot partly or wholly within a one-quarter mile radius of a permanent public transit stop is included in the “Tier 1 TOD zone.” For any lot within such a zone, a local government may not impose any of the following land use regulations:

- A maximum building height of less than 8 stories or 85 feet, or less than 4 stories or 45 feet for lots adjacent to a single-family home.
- A maximum floor area ratio for residential use of less than 6.0, or less than 3.0 for lots adjacent to a single-family home.
- A maximum floor area ratio for commercial use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for lots adjacent to a single-family home.
- Any minimum setback requirement for the side, front, and rear property lines.
- A requirement that greater than 10 percent of the lot area be reserved for open space or permeable surface.
- A required minimum number of parking spaces.

Maximum building heights and floor area ratios specified above are doubled for a lot located at least partly within a county with a population exceeding 800,000, or within a municipality with a population exceeding 75,000.

Any lot partly or wholly within a one-half mile radius of a permanent public transit stop and not included in Tier 1 is included in the “Tier 2 TOD zone.” For any lot within such a zone, a local government may not impose any of the following:

- A maximum building height of less than 4 stories or 45 feet, or less than 3 stories or 35 feet for lots adjacent to a single-family home.
- A maximum floor area ratio for residential use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for lots adjacent to a single-family home.
- A maximum floor area ratio for commercial use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for lots adjacent to a single-family home.
- Any minimum setback requirement for the side, front, and rear property lines.

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<sup>19</sup> To include a stop or station for a bus rapid transit service, a rail service, a commuter rail service, an intercity rail, or a fixed-guideway transportation system.

- A requirement that greater than 20 percent of the lot area be reserved for open space or permeable surface.
- A required minimum number of parking spaces.

Maximum building heights and floor area ratios specified above are doubled for a lot located at least partly within a county with a population exceeding 800,000, or within a municipality with a population exceeding 75,000.

A property owner or housing association may maintain a cause of action for damages for regulations adopted in violation of the bill. In such a proceeding the bill provides that a court may intervene to prevent a violation of the bill, and entitles a prevailing plaintiff to recover reasonable attorney fees and costs.

The bill provides that a public transit provider<sup>20</sup> is encouraged to develop land within Tier 1 and Tier 2 TOD zones. Net proceeds from such development shall be kept in the public transit agency's fund for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. Public agencies such as local governments are also encouraged to develop such land, and to transfer a portion of net proceeds to the public transit agency's fund for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements.

The bill also amends s. 163.3164(49), F.S., to revise the community planning act's definition of "transit-oriented development."<sup>21</sup> The current definition includes projects in areas identified in a local government comprehensive plan served by existing or planned transit service, which shall be compact, moderate to high density developments of mixed-use character designed to support certain transit options. The bill revises this to remove the requirement that such areas be identified in a comprehensive plan (as the bill requires them to be recognized via ordinance), notes that they may be high intensity as well as density in character, and expounds upon applicable transit systems to specify rail includes both commuter and intercity.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

##### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

##### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

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<sup>20</sup> The bill refers to s. 341.031(1), F.S., defining the term as a public agency providing public transit service, including rail authorities.

<sup>21</sup> The term "transit-oriented development" is not actually utilized within the community planning act, though the concept may be utilized by local governments' comprehensive plans.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill will have an indeterminate, negative fiscal impact as local governments reconfigure their entire framework of zoning and land use regulations. This includes the requirement that each local governments adopt ordinances, policies, and potentially conforming comprehensive plan amendments, as well as long-term reaction in terms of infrastructure to areas made accessible to far greater development than prior to the bill.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill amends section 163.3164 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates section 163.32035 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

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

**Committee Substitute by Community Affairs on February 3, 2026:**

The committee substitute:

- Refines the definition of "transit-oriented development" within the Community Planning Act to comport with the Transit-Oriented Development Act;
- Amends various definitions used in the bill;
- Expounds on allowable commercial uses in mixed use TOD zones;
- Deletes provisions regarding rural transit zones, simplifying the framework to TOD zones only;
- Includes an exception to preemption related to historic properties to allow regulations related to building design elements; and
- Removes provisions creating judicial standards for proceedings under the bill, and waiving sovereign immunity.

B. Amendments:

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and  
Economic Development (Rouson) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 132 - 357

and insert:

(f) "Comprehensive plan" has the same meaning as in s.  
163.3164.

(g) "Development" has the same meaning as in s. 380.04(1)  
and includes the division of a parent parcel into two lots.

(h) "Development application" means an application for  
approval of any of the following:



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- 11       1. A lot split or subdivision.  
12       2. A plat or replat.  
13       3. A development bonus for additional height, density, or  
14 floor area ratio.  
15       4. The demolition of an existing structure, if the  
16 demolition objectively complies with applicable regulations.  
17       5. Any other development order or development permit as  
18 those terms are defined in s. 163.3164, except for building  
19 permits.  
20       (i) "Eligible lot" means a lot that is:  
21       1. Zoned for residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed  
22 use; or  
23       2. Partly or wholly located within a flexibly zoned area  
24 where development is permitted for a use thereof.  
25  
26 The term does not include a lot that is located within an area  
27 of critical state concern designated pursuant to s. 380.05 or a  
28 lot that contains a structure or building that is individually  
29 listed in the National Register of Historic Places or that is a  
30 contributing structure or building within a historic district  
31 which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places  
32 before January 1, 2000.  
33       (j) "Impose" means request or adopt, enact, establish,  
34 maintain, enforce, mandate, compel, force, or otherwise require.  
35       (k) "Land development regulation" has the same meaning as  
36 in s. 163.3164.  
37       (l) "Local government" means a county, municipality, or  
38 special district.  
39       (m) "Lot" means a parcel, tract, tier, block, site, unit,



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or any other division of land.

(n) "Objectively" means in a way that involves no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and that is uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the local government and the development applicant, development proponent, or property owner, as applicable.

(o) "Parent parcel" means the original lot from which subsequent lots are created.

(p) "Permanent public transit stop" means a stop or station for passenger use of a bus rapid transit service, a commuter rail service as defined in s. 341.301, an intercity rail transportation system as defined in s. 341.301, a fixed-guideway transportation system as defined in s. 341.031(2), or a streetcar system. The term does not include any of the following:

1. A stop or station for a people-mover system in a public-use airport as defined in s. 332.004.

2. A stop or station that is used exclusively for a freight rail service as defined in s. 343.545(1).

3. A stop or station in a rural community as defined in s. 288.0656(2) for an intercity rail transportation system.

(q) "Regulation" means any of the following:

1. A comprehensive plan, development order, land development regulation, development agreement, or land development code. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "development order" has the same meaning as in s. 163.3164.

2. An ordinance, a resolution, a policy, an action, a procedure, or a condition that governs development or land use.



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For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "land use" has the same meaning as in s. 163.3164.

(r) "Tier 1 TOD zone" means the area of all eligible lots partly or wholly within a one-quarter mile radius of a permanent public transit stop.

(s) "Tier 2 TOD zone" means the area of all eligible lots partly or wholly within a one-quarter mile to one-half mile radius of a permanent public transit stop, excluding any eligible lot within a Tier 1 TOD zone.

(t) "Transit-oriented development" or "TOD" has the same meaning as in s. 163.3164.

(4)(a)1. By December 1, 2026, the governing body of each county or municipality shall adopt an ordinance, and the governing body of each special district shall adopt a resolution, establishing Tier 1 TOD zones and Tier 2 TOD zones for each permanent public transit stop that was open for public use within the local government's jurisdiction during at least one day between January 1, 2026, and July 1, 2026, or that received a notice to proceed for construction within the local government's jurisdiction before July 1, 2026. By December 1, 2026, the local government shall incorporate TOD zones into its comprehensive plan, notwithstanding s. 163.3184, land development regulations, and any other applicable regulations.

2. After December 1, 2026, the governing body of each county or municipality shall adopt an ordinance, and the governing body of each special district shall adopt a resolution, establishing Tier 1 TOD zones and Tier 2 TOD zones for each permanent public transit stop that opens for public use within the local government's jurisdiction after July 1, 2026,





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or that receives a notice to proceed for construction within the local government's jurisdiction after July 1, 2026. The local government shall establish such TOD zones within 6 months after the permanent public transit stop opens for public use or receives a notice to proceed for construction, whichever occurs first.

(b)1. In addition to other existing and lawful uses, the local government shall zone all eligible lots located within a Tier 1 TOD zone or a Tier 2 TOD zone for mixed use. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "mixed use" means that single-family and multifamily residential use, commercial use, and a combination thereof are allowable uses by right, and the term "commercial use" means activities associated with the sale, rental, or distribution of products or the performance of services related thereto, including, but not limited to, retail sales and services; wholesale sales; rentals of equipment, goods, or products; offices; restaurants; hotels as described in s. 509.242(1)(a); food service vendors; sports arenas; theaters; tourist attractions; and other for-profit business activities.

The term "commercial use" does not include:

a. Home-based businesses or cottage food operations undertaken on residential property, vacation rentals as described in s. 509.242(1)(c), or uses that are accessory, ancillary, incidental to the allowable uses, or allowed only on a temporary basis; or

b. Farms or farm operations as those terms are defined in s. 823.14(3) or uses associated therewith, including the packaging and sale of products raised on the premises.

2. In Tier 1 TOD zones, a local government may not impose



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regulations that require any of the following:

a. A maximum building height of less than 8 stories or 85 feet, or less than 4 stories or 45 feet for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

b. A maximum floor area ratio for residential use of less than 6.0, or less than 3.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

c. A maximum floor area ratio for commercial use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

d. Any minimum setback requirement for the side, front, and rear property lines.

e. A requirement that greater than 10 percent of the lot area be reserved for open space or permeable surface.

f. A required minimum number of parking spaces.

The maximum building heights and floor area ratios specified in this subparagraph are doubled for any eligible lot located partly or wholly within a county with a population that exceeds 800,000, calculated according to the most recent decennial United States Census, or partly or wholly within a municipality that is in such a county.

3. In Tier 2 TOD zones, a local government may not impose regulations that require any of the following:

a. A maximum building height of less than 4 stories or 45 feet, or less than 3 stories or 35 feet for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

b. A maximum floor area ratio for residential use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a



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single-family home.

c. A maximum floor area ratio for commercial use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

d. Any minimum setback requirement for the side, front, or rear property lines.

e. A requirement that greater than 20 percent of the lot area be reserved for open space or permeable surface.

f. A required minimum number of parking spaces.

The maximum building heights and floor area ratios specified in this subparagraph are doubled for any eligible lot located partly or wholly within a county with a population that exceeds 800,000, calculated according to the most recent decennial United States Census, or partly or wholly within a municipality that is in such a county.

4. For an eligible lot within a Tier 1 TOD zone or Tier 2 TOD zone, a local government may not impose any of the following:

a. Any limitation, restriction, or prohibition on single-family or multifamily dwellings.

b. A maximum density, including, but not limited to, a maximum number of dwelling units per lot or per acre.

c. A minimum size for dwellings or dwelling units greater than that required by the Florida Building Code.

(c) A TOD zone established pursuant to this subsection may not be reduced or eliminated thereafter, including for the closure of a permanent public transit stop after the TOD zone is established.



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(5) A public transit provider as defined in s. 341.031(1) is encouraged to develop land within Tier 1 and Tier 2 TOD zones in accordance with this section. Any net proceeds from such development shall be kept in the public transit agency's fund for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. Public agencies, such as the Department of Transportation and local governments, are also encouraged to develop the land within Tier 1 and Tier 2 TOD zones in accordance with this section and to transfer a portion of the net proceeds to the public transit agency's fund for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements.

(6) Except as otherwise provided in this section, residential or commercial development authorized within a TOD zone under this section must comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations. This section does not preempt or replace any protection currently existing for a property located within the boundaries of any of the following areas:

(a) The Wekiva Study Area, as described in s. 369.316.

(b) The Everglades Protection Area, as defined in s. 373.4592(2).

(c) The Florida wildlife corridor, as defined in s. 259.1055(4).

(d) A military installation or range identified in s. 163.3175(2).

(e) An area with environmentally sensitive lands designated in the local government's comprehensive plan.

(7) If any provision of this section or its application to

===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====



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214 And the title is amended as follows:

215 Delete lines 27 - 39

216 and insert:

217 establishment; encouraging public transit providers  
218 and public agencies to develop land within specified  
219 TOD zones; requiring that net proceeds from such  
220 development be kept in a specified fund for certain  
221 purposes; requiring that certain residential or  
222 commercial development comply with certain laws and  
223 regulations; providing construction;

By the Committee on Community Affairs; and Senator Rouson

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transportation infrastructure land development regulations; amending s. 163.3164, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "transit-oriented development"; creating s. 163.32035, F.S.; creating the "Transit-Oriented Development Act" for a specified purpose; providing a short title; providing legislative findings; defining terms; requiring the governing body of a county or municipality to adopt an ordinance, and the governing body of a special district to adopt a resolution, establishing specified transit-oriented development (TOD) zones by a certain date; requiring that such TOD zones be incorporated into the local government comprehensive plan and land development regulations; requiring the governing body of a county or municipality to adopt ordinances, and the governing body of a special district to adopt resolutions, establishing specified TOD zones for permanent public transit stops that open for public use or receive notices to proceed for construction after a specified date; requiring a local government to zone eligible lots within TOD zones for mixed use; defining the terms "mixed use" and "commercial use"; prohibiting a local government from imposing certain regulations in specified TOD zones; prohibiting the reduction or elimination of TOD zones after establishment; prohibiting a local government from imposing certain regulations for eligible lots that contain historic property; providing exceptions;

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30 providing a private cause of action for certain  
31 property owners and housing organizations; defining  
32 the term "housing organization"; specifying the  
33 procedure for such actions; authorizing the award of  
34 specified relief; providing that a prevailing  
35 plaintiff is entitled to attorney fees and costs;  
36 encouraging public transit providers and public  
37 agencies to develop land within specified TOD zones;  
38 requiring that net proceeds from such development be  
39 kept in a specified fund for certain purposes;  
40 providing severability; providing an effective date.

41  
42 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

43  
44 Section 1. Subsection (49) of section 163.3164, Florida  
45 Statutes, is amended to read:

46 163.3164 Community Planning Act; definitions.—As used in  
47 this act:

48 (49) "Transit-oriented development" or "TOD" means a  
49 project or projects, ~~in areas identified in a local government~~  
50 ~~comprehensive plan,~~ that are ~~is~~ or will be served by existing or  
51 planned transit service. These ~~designated~~ areas must allow ~~shall~~  
52 ~~be~~ compact, moderate to high density or intensity developments,  
53 of mixed-use character which are, ~~interconnected with other land~~  
54 ~~uses,~~ bicycle and pedestrian friendly, ~~and designed to support~~  
55 or allow the use ~~frequent transit service operating through,~~  
56 collectively or separately, of any of the following:

57 (a) A bus rapid transit service as defined in s.  
58 163.32035(3)(d).

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(b) A commuter rail service as defined in s. 341.301.

(c) An intercity rail transportation system as defined in s. 341.301.

(d) A fixed-guideway transportation system as defined in s. 341.031(2).

(e) A streetcar system.

(f) A bus system ~~rail, fixed guideway, streetcar, or bus systems~~ on dedicated facilities or available roadway connections.

Section 2. Section 163.32035, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

163.32035 Transit-Oriented Development Act.—The Transit-Oriented Development Act is created to make homeownership, renting, and leasing more affordable for the residents of this state and reduce chronic traffic congestion for the residents of this state, by increasing the supply of housing and allowing more residential and commercial development near transit infrastructure.

(1) This section may be cited as the "Transit-Oriented Development Act" or the "TOD Act."

(2) The Legislature finds that:

(a) The median price of homes in this state increased steadily in the decade preceding 2026, rising at a greater rate of increase than the median income in this state.

(b) There is a housing shortage in this state which has caused the costs of homeownership, renting, and leasing to often exceed an amount that is affordable for residents of this state.

(c) There is chronic traffic congestion on roadways in this state which constrains economic activity across this state.



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88       (d) Constructing housing near transit infrastructure, such  
89 as rail systems and rapid transit systems, will minimize the  
90 traffic congestion caused by new residents and maximize state  
91 and local government investments in transit infrastructure.

92       (e) The important public purpose sought to be achieved by  
93 allowing an increase in residential and commercial development  
94 near transit infrastructure is to increase the supply of housing  
95 near transit infrastructure and reduce chronic traffic  
96 congestion, which will make homeownership, renting, and leasing  
97 more affordable for residents of this state, increase economic  
98 activity across this state, and maximize state and local  
99 government investments in transit infrastructure.

100       (3) As used in this section, the term:

101       (a) "Adjacent" means that two lots share more than one  
102 point of a property line. Lots are not adjacent if separated by  
103 a body of water, including manmade lakes or ponds, or by a  
104 public easement or other right-of-way, including roads,  
105 railroads, or canals.

106       (b) "Adjacent to a single-family home" means adjacent to a  
107 lot that is one of at least 25 contiguous residential lots, all  
108 of which contain single-family detached homes on the date a  
109 development application is submitted.

110       (c) "Building height" means the number of stories or the  
111 number of feet measured above grade or, if applicable, above the  
112 base flood elevation established by the Federal Emergency  
113 Management Agency.

114       (d) "Bus rapid transit service" means a bus service with  
115 headways of 15 minutes or less during peak periods which  
116 operates in business access and transit lanes or in a right-of-

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way or lanes dedicated for public transit. If a bus service meets the criteria of this paragraph for one or more parts, but not all, of its route, the term includes only the parts of the route which meet the criteria. As used in this paragraph, the term "dedicated for public transit" means dedicated for at least 4 hours per business day. The term "business day" means all calendar days except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays under s. 110.117(1).

(e) "By right" means administrative approval by a local government of a development application that objectively complies with applicable zoning regulations and for which the local government may not impose a public hearing; any action by a governing body, reviewing body, or quasi-judicial body; a variance; a conditional use permit, special permit, or special exception; or any other discretionary regulation.

(f) "Development" has the same meaning as in s. 380.04(1) and includes the division of a parent parcel into two or more lots.

(g) "Development application" means an application for approval of any of the following:

1. A lot split or subdivision.
2. A plat or replat.
3. A development bonus for additional height, density, or floor area ratio.
4. The demolition of an existing structure, if the demolition objectively complies with applicable regulations.
5. Any other development order or development permit as those terms are defined in s. 163.3164, except for building permits.

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146       (h) "Eligible lot" means a lot that is:

147       1. Zoned for residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed  
148 use; or

149       2. Partly or wholly located within a flexibly zoned area  
150 where development is permitted for a use thereof,

151  
152 and is not located within an area of critical state concern  
153 designated pursuant to s. 380.05.

154       (i) "Impose" means request or adopt, enact, establish,  
155 maintain, enforce, mandate, compel, force, or otherwise require.

156       (j) "Local government" means a county, municipality, or  
157 special district.

158       (k) "Lot" means a parcel, tract, tier, block, site, unit,  
159 or any other division of land.

160       (l) "Objectively" means in a way that involves no personal  
161 or subjective judgment by a public official and that is  
162 uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform  
163 benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the local  
164 government and the development applicant, development proponent,  
165 or property owner, as applicable.

166       (m) "Parent parcel" means the original lot from which  
167 subsequent lots are created.

168       (n) "Permanent public transit stop" means a stop or station  
169 for passenger use of a bus rapid transit service, a commuter  
170 rail service as defined in s. 341.301, an intercity rail  
171 transportation system as defined in s. 341.301, a fixed-guideway  
172 transportation system as defined in s. 341.031(2), or a  
173 streetcar system. The term does not include any of the  
174 following:

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175       1. A stop or station for a people-mover system in a public-  
176 use airport as defined in s. 332.004.

177       2. A stop or station that is used exclusively for a freight  
178 rail service as defined in s. 343.545(1).

179       3. A stop or station in a rural community as defined in s.  
180 288.0656(2) for an intercity rail transportation system.

181       (o) "Population" means, for a county or municipality, the  
182 highest of the following population estimates:

183           1. The most recent decennial United States Census.

184           2. The most recent United States Census Bureau American  
185 Community Survey 5-year estimate.

186           3. The most recent United States Census Bureau American  
187 Community Survey 1-year estimate.

188       (p) "Regulation" means a comprehensive plan, a development  
189 order, or a land development regulation as those terms are  
190 defined in s. 163.3164 or any other local government ordinance,  
191 resolution, policy, action, procedure, condition, guideline,  
192 development agreement, or land development code.

193       (q) "Tier 1 TOD zone" means the area of all eligible lots  
194 partly or wholly within a one-quarter mile radius of a permanent  
195 public transit stop.

196       (r) "Tier 2 TOD zone" means the area of all eligible lots  
197 partly or wholly within a one-quarter mile to one-half mile  
198 radius of a permanent public transit stop, excluding any  
199 eligible lot within a Tier 1 TOD zone.

200       (s) "Transit-oriented development" or "TOD" has the same  
201 meaning as in s. 163.3164.

202       (4)(a)1. By December 1, 2026, the governing body of each  
203 county or municipality shall adopt an ordinance, and the

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governing body of each special district shall adopt a resolution, establishing Tier 1 TOD zones and Tier 2 TOD zones for each permanent public transit stop that was open for public use within the local government's jurisdiction during at least one day between January 1, 2026, and July 1, 2026, or that received a notice to proceed for construction within the local government's jurisdiction before July 1, 2026. By December 1, 2026, the local government shall incorporate TOD zones into its comprehensive plan, notwithstanding s. 163.3184, land development regulations, and any other applicable regulations.

2. After December 1, 2026, the governing body of each county or municipality shall adopt an ordinance, and the governing body of each special district shall adopt a resolution, establishing Tier 1 TOD zones and Tier 2 TOD zones for each permanent public transit stop that opens for public use within the local government's jurisdiction after July 1, 2026, or that receives a notice to proceed for construction within the local government's jurisdiction after July 1, 2026. The local government shall establish such TOD zones within 6 months after the permanent public transit stop opens for public use or receives a notice to proceed for construction, whichever occurs first.

(b)1. In addition to other existing and lawful uses, the local government shall zone all eligible lots located within a Tier 1 TOD zone or a Tier 2 TOD zone for mixed use. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "mixed use" means that single-family and multifamily residential use, commercial use, and a combination thereof are allowable uses by right, and the term "commercial use" means activities associated with the sale,

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233 rental, or distribution of products or the performance of  
234 services related thereto, including, but not limited to, retail  
235 sales and services; wholesale sales; rentals of equipment,  
236 goods, or products; offices; restaurants; hotels as described in  
237 s. 509.242(1)(a); food service vendors; sports arenas; theaters;  
238 tourist attractions; and other for-profit business activities.  
239 The term "commercial use" does not include:

240 a. Home-based businesses or cottage food operations  
241 undertaken on residential property, vacation rentals as  
242 described in s. 509.242(1)(c), or uses that are accessory,  
243 ancillary, incidental to the allowable uses, or allowed only on  
244 a temporary basis; or

245 b. Farms or farm operations as those terms are defined in  
246 s. 823.14(3) or uses associated therewith, including the  
247 packaging and sale of products raised on the premises.

248 2. In Tier 1 TOD zones, a local government may not impose  
249 regulations that require any of the following:

250 a. A maximum building height of less than 8 stories or 85  
251 feet, or less than 4 stories or 45 feet for eligible lots  
252 adjacent to a single-family home.

253 b. A maximum floor area ratio for residential use of less  
254 than 6.0, or less than 3.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a  
255 single-family home.

256 c. A maximum floor area ratio for commercial use of less  
257 than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a  
258 single-family home.

259 d. Any minimum setback requirement for the side, front, and  
260 rear property lines.

261 e. A requirement that greater than 10 percent of the lot

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area be reserved for open space or permeable surface.

f. A required minimum number of parking spaces.

The maximum building heights and floor area ratios specified in this subparagraph are doubled for any eligible lot located partly or wholly within a county with a population that exceeds 800,000 or within a municipality with a population that exceeds 75,000.

3. In Tier 2 TOD zones, a local government may not impose regulations that require any of the following:

a. A maximum building height of less than 4 stories or 45 feet, or less than 3 stories or 35 feet for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

b. A maximum floor area ratio for residential use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

c. A maximum floor area ratio for commercial use of less than 3.0, or less than 2.0 for eligible lots adjacent to a single-family home.

d. Any minimum setback requirement for the side, front, or rear property lines.

e. A requirement that greater than 20 percent of the lot area be reserved for open space or permeable surface.

f. A required minimum number of parking spaces.

The maximum building heights and floor area ratios specified in this subparagraph are doubled for any eligible lot located partly or wholly within a county with a population that exceeds 800,000 or within a municipality with a population that exceeds

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291 75,000.

292 4. For an eligible lot within a Tier 1 TOD zone or Tier 2  
293 TOD zone, a local government may not impose any of the  
294 following:

295 a. Any limitation, restriction, or prohibition on single-  
296 family or multifamily dwellings.

297 b. A maximum density, including, but not limited to, a  
298 maximum number of dwelling units per lot or per acre.

299 c. A minimum size for dwellings or dwelling units greater  
300 than that required by the Florida Building Code.

301 (c) A TOD zone established pursuant to this subsection may  
302 not be reduced or eliminated thereafter, including for the  
303 closure of a permanent public transit stop after the TOD zone is  
304 established.

305 (5) A local government may not impose a regulation that  
306 prohibits, limits, or otherwise restricts residential or  
307 commercial development authorized within a TOD zone under this  
308 section for any eligible lot that contains historic property as  
309 defined in s. 267.021, except:

310 (a) Regulations relating to building design elements which  
311 may be applied pursuant to s. 163.3202(5)(a)1.; or

312 (b) Regulations that prohibit, limit, or otherwise restrict  
313 demolition or alteration of a structure or building that is  
314 individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places  
315 or that is a contributing structure or building within a  
316 historic district which was listed in the National Register of  
317 Historic Places before January 1, 2000.

318 (6)(a) A property owner or housing organization that is  
319 aggrieved or adversely affected by a regulation imposed by a



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320 local government in violation of this section may maintain a  
321 cause of action for damages in the county in which the property  
322 is located. As used in this paragraph, the term "housing  
323 organization" means a trade or industry group that constructs or  
324 manages housing units, a nonprofit organization that provides or  
325 advocates for increased access or reduced barriers to housing,  
326 or a nonprofit organization that is engaged in public policy  
327 research, education, or outreach that includes housing-policy-  
328 related issues.

329 (b) In a proceeding under this subsection, an aggrieved or  
330 adversely affected party is entitled to the summary procedure  
331 provided in s. 51.011, and the court shall advance the cause on  
332 the calendar. The court shall review the evidence de novo and  
333 enter written findings of fact based on the preponderance of the  
334 evidence that a local government has imposed a regulation in  
335 violation of this section.

336 (c) The court may do any of the following:

337 1. Enter a declaratory judgment as provided by chapter 86.

338 2. Issue a writ of mandamus.

339 3. Issue an injunction to prevent a violation of this  
340 section.

341 4. Remand the matter to the land development regulation  
342 commission for action consistent with the judgment.

343 (d) A prevailing plaintiff is entitled to recover  
344 reasonable attorney fees and costs, including reasonable  
345 appellate attorney fees and costs.

346 (7) A public transit provider as defined in s. 341.031(1)  
347 is encouraged to develop land within Tier 1 and Tier 2 TOD zones  
348 in accordance with this section. Any net proceeds from such

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development shall be kept in the public transit agency's fund for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. Public agencies, such as the Department of Transportation and local governments, are also encouraged to develop the land within Tier 1 and Tier 2 TOD zones in accordance with this section and to transfer a portion of the net proceeds to the public transit agency's fund for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements.

(8) If any provision of this section or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect any other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this section are severable.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

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BILL: CS/SB 1334

INTRODUCER: Ethics and Elections Committee and Senator Grall

SUBJECT: Elections

DATE: February 17, 2026

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Biehl</u>	<u>Roberts</u>	<u>EE</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Wells</u>	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1334 makes various revisions to election laws, including:

- Revising voter registration processes to elicit additional citizenship information from voters, require documentation of citizenship status, and require the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to verify a voter registration applicant's status as a U.S. citizen.
- Expanding voter list maintenance requirements to prescribe additional actions governmental entities must take to identify registered voters who may not be U.S. citizens, and to require supervisors of elections to conduct notice and voter registration removal proceedings for such persons.
- Revising definitions related to ballots and voting systems, authorizing the use of ballot-on-demand technology for production of early voting ballots, and specifying that voting must be done by paper ballot unless a voter requests to use a voter interface device.
- Authorizing an office of the supervisor to close for other federal, state, or local-approved holidays, in addition to legal holidays, if the supervisor's duties do not otherwise require the office to remain open.
- Providing a substantive prohibition against qualifying for nomination as a candidate for a political party if the person has not been a member of the party for the 365 days preceding the qualifying period, as well as a substantive prohibition against qualifying as a candidate with no party affiliation if the person has not been registered without party affiliation for the 365 days preceding the qualifying period.

- Providing that a person may not qualify as a candidate if he or she has, in the 365 days preceding the qualifying period, changed his or her name via the general statutory petition process.
- Revising the time at which the Elections Canvassing Commission shall meet and clarifying existing election returns reporting requirements.
- Prescribing a five-year statute of limitations for a prosecution for a felony violation of the Florida Election Code.

The bill also requires that:

- By July 1, 2027, a Florida driver license or Florida identification card issued to a U.S. citizen must include the person's legal citizenship status.
- The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must, at no charge, issue a renewal or replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification card if a licensee or cardholder timely updates his or her legal status upon becoming a U.S. citizen.

This bill has an indeterminate, likely significant, fiscal impact on private and government sectors. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

## **II. Present Situation:**

### **Department of State/Division of Elections**

The Secretary of State,<sup>1</sup> Florida's Chief Elections Officer,<sup>2</sup> has the responsibility to:

- Obtain and maintain uniformity in the interpretation and implementation of the election laws.
- Provide uniform standards for the proper and equitable implementation of the registration laws.
- Actively seek out and collect the data and statistics necessary to knowledgeably scrutinize the effectiveness of election laws.
- Provide technical assistance to the supervisors of elections on voting systems and on voter education and election personnel training services.
- Provide voter education assistance to the public.
- Coordinate the state's responsibilities under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA).
- Provide training to all affected state agencies on necessary procedures for proper implementation of voter registration laws.
- Ensure that all registration applications and forms prescribed or approved by the Department of State (DOS) are in compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the NVRA.
- Create and administer a statewide voter registration system as required by the Help America Vote Act of 2002.
- Maintain a voter fraud hotline and provide election fraud education to the public.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 20.10(1), F.S. The head of the Department of State is the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State is appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

<sup>2</sup> Section 97.012, F.S. *See also* s. 97.035, F.S.

- Designate an office within the DOS, and coordinate with the United States Department of Defense, to provide information regarding and administer voting by armed services members.
- Bring and maintain such actions at law or in equity by mandamus or injunction to enforce the performance of any duties of a county supervisor of elections or any official performing duties with respect to chs. 97-102 and 105, F.S., or to enforce compliance with a DOS election-related rule.

The Department of State's Division of Elections (division)<sup>3</sup> provides administrative support to the Secretary of State to ensure that Florida has fair and accurate elections.<sup>4</sup> The division consists of three bureaus – the Bureau of Election Records, the Bureau of Voter Registration Services, and the Bureau of Voting Systems Certification. Through these bureaus and the Director's Office,<sup>5</sup> the division ensures compliance with the election laws, provides statewide coordination of election administration, and promotes public participation in the electoral process. The division also assists county supervisors of elections in their duties, including providing technical support.

### **Supervisors of Elections**

Supervisors of elections are county constitutional officers<sup>6</sup> responsible for registering voters, maintaining current and accurate voter registration rolls, and conducting elections.

### **Additional Current Law**

See "Effect of Proposed Changes."

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

### **Voter Registration (Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7)**

#### ***Present Situation***

##### Eligibility of an Applicant for Voter Registration

A person may become registered to vote only if that person:

- Is at least 18 years of age.
- Is a citizen of the U.S.
- Is a legal resident of the State of Florida.
- Is a legal resident of the county in which that person seeks to be registered.
- Registers pursuant to the Florida Election Code.<sup>7</sup>

The following persons, who might be otherwise qualified, are not entitled to register or vote:

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<sup>3</sup> Section 20.10(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>4</sup> See Department of State, Division of Elections, "About Us," available at <https://dos.fl.gov/about-the-department/> (last visited February 2, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* The mission of the Director's Office is to provide statewide coordination and direction for the interpretation and enforcement of election laws and to provide supervision to the division's bureaus.

<sup>6</sup> Article VIII, s. 1(d), FLA. CONST.

<sup>7</sup> Section 97.041(1)(a), F.S.

- A person who has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in this or any other state and who has not had his or her right to vote restored.
- A person who has been convicted of any felony by any court of record and who has not had his or her right to vote restored.<sup>8</sup>

#### Uniform Statewide Voter Registration Application

Current law requires a Florida's voter registration application to elicit all of the following information from an applicant:

- Last, first, and middle name, including any suffix.
- Date of birth.
- Address of legal residence.
- Mailing address, if different.
- E-mail addresses and whether the applicant wishes to receive sample ballots by e-mail.
- County of legal residence.
- Race or ethnicity that best describes the applicant.
- State or country of birth.
- Sex.
- Party affiliation.
- Whether the applicant needs assistance in voting.
- An indication, if applicable, that the applicant has not been issued a Florida driver license, a Florida identification card, or a social security number.
- Telephone number (optional).<sup>9</sup>
- Signature of the applicant under penalty for false swearing.<sup>10</sup>
- Whether the applicant is a citizen of the United States by asking the question "Are you a citizen of the United States of America?" and providing boxes for the applicant to check whether the applicant is or is not a U.S. citizen.
- Whether the applicant has been convicted of a felony and, if so, has had his or her voting rights restored by including the statement "I affirm that I am not a convicted felon or, If I am, my right to vote has been restored," and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.
- Whether the applicant has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or, if so adjudicated, has had his or her right to vote restored by including the statement "I affirm I have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting, or, if I have my competency has been restored," and providing a box for the applicant to check to affirm the statement.

The voter application also must contain the following constitutionally required oath:<sup>11</sup>

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida, and that I am qualified to register as an elector under the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Section 97.041(2), F.S.

<sup>9</sup> Section 97.052(2), F.S.

<sup>10</sup> See s. 104.011, F.S., for penalties for false swearing.

<sup>11</sup> Section 97.052(3)(a), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Article VI, s. 3, FLA. CONST.; see also s. 97.051, F.S.

### Acceptance of Voter Registration Application

A voter registration application is complete and becomes the official voter registration record of that applicant when all information necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility<sup>13</sup> is received by a voter registration official and verified.

If the applicant fails to complete his or her voter registration application prior to the date of book closing for an election, then such applicant is not eligible to vote in that election.<sup>14</sup>

If a completed voter registration application has been received by the book-closing deadline but the applicant's driver license number, Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of the provided social security number cannot be verified, the applicant must be notified and must provide evidence to the supervisor to verify the number. If the applicant provides the necessary evidence, the supervisor must place the applicant's name on the registration rolls as an active voter. If the applicant has not provided the necessary evidence or the number has not otherwise been verified prior to the applicant presenting himself or herself to vote, the applicant must vote by a provisional ballot.<sup>15</sup> The provisional ballot will be counted only if the number is verified by 5 p.m. of the second day following the election.<sup>16</sup>

All voter registration applications received by a voter registration official must be entered into the statewide voter registration system within 13 days after receipt.<sup>17</sup>

### Statewide Voter Registration System and Online Voter Registration System

The Secretary of State, supported by the DOS, is responsible for implementing, operating, and maintaining a single, uniform, official, centralized, interactive, and computerized statewide voter registration system (known as the Florida Voter Registration System, or FVRS).<sup>18</sup> The FVRS serves as the official list of registered voters in the state and must:

- Contain the names and registration information of every legally registered voter in the state and assign each voter a unique identifier.
- Enable voter registration officials to provide, access, and update voter registration information.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Section 97.053(5), F.S., provides that voter registration application is complete if it contains the following information of an applicant: name; address of legal residence; date of birth; affirmation of U.S. citizenship; current and valid Florida driver license, identification card, or last four digits of social security number; affirmation of no felony convictions or that voting rights have been restored; affirmation of not being adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or that voting rights have been restored; and original signature or digital signature transmitted to DHSMV swearing under the penalty of false swearing.

<sup>14</sup> Section 97.053(2), F.S. The voter registration books must be closed on the 29th day before each election and must remain closed until after that election. If an election is called and there are fewer than 29 days before that election, the registration books must be closed immediately. Section 97.055, F.S.

<sup>15</sup> "Provisional ballot" means a conditional ballot, the validity of which is determined by the canvassing board (s. 97.021(32), F.S.). A provisional ballot is provided to a voter for whom a final determination of eligibility (for any reason) has not been made. A person casting a provisional ballot has the right to present written evidence supporting his or her eligibility to vote to the supervisor of election by not later than 5 p.m. on the second day following the election. Section 101.048, F.S.

<sup>16</sup> Section 97.053(6), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 97.053(7), F.S.

<sup>18</sup> Section 98.035, F.S.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

The Online Voter Registration System (OVRs) is the internet website supported by the DOS, where an applicant may submit a voter registration application, update his or her voting record, and submit information necessary to establish his or her eligibility to vote.<sup>20</sup> The OVRs has the capability to compare the Florida driver license number or Florida identification number submitted with information maintained by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) to confirm that the name and date of birth on the application are consistent with the records of the DHSMV.<sup>21</sup> If the applicant's name and date of birth are consistent with the records of the DHSMV, the OVRs transmits the applicant's registration application, along with the digital signature of the applicant on file with the DHSMV, to the supervisor of elections.<sup>22</sup> If the applicant's name and date of birth cannot be verified by the records of the DHSMV, or if the applicant indicated that he or she has not been issued a Florida driver license or Florida identification card, the OVRs must populate the applicant's information into a printable voter registration application and direct the applicant to print, sign, and date the application and deliver the application to the supervisor for disposition.<sup>23</sup> Upon submission of a completed OVRs application, the website must generate an immediate electronic confirmation that the supervisor has received the application and provide instructions regarding the ability of a registrant to check the status of the application.<sup>24</sup>

#### National Voter Registration Act of 1993

Congress passed the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) in 1993<sup>25</sup> "to establish procedures that will increase the number of eligible citizens who register to vote in elections for Federal office," while also ensuring "that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained."<sup>26</sup> The NVRA requires, among other things, that each a state allow a driver's license application, or a renewal application, submitted to a state motor vehicle authority to also serve as a voter registration application with respect to elections for Federal office, unless the applicant fails to sign the voter registration application.<sup>27</sup> A voter registration application submitted to a state motor vehicle authority by a person who has already registered to vote is considered as updating the person's voter registration.<sup>28</sup>

In addition to voter registration at the time of drivers' license applications, the NVRA requires states to provide two more forms of voter registration procedures for federal elections – federal mail-in voter registration applications and voter registration at public assistance agencies and other state-designated offices.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Section 97.0525(2), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> Section 97.0525(4)(a), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> Section 97.0525(4)(b), F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Section 97.0525(4)(c), F.S.

<sup>24</sup> Section 97.0525(5), F.S.

<sup>25</sup> National Voter Registration Act of 1993, P.L. 103-31.

<sup>26</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 20501.

<sup>27</sup> 52 U.S.C. § 20504(a)(1). This provision of the NVRA has given the act the colloquial designation by which the bill is most commonly known: the "Motor Voter" law.

<sup>28</sup> 52 U.S.C. §20504(a)(2).

<sup>29</sup> 52 U.S.C. §20505 and §20506.



### Duties of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

The Florida Election Code<sup>30</sup> implements the NVRA by requiring the DHSMV<sup>31</sup> to provide an applicant “the opportunity to register to vote or to update a voter registration record” when he or she does any of the following actions:

- Applies for or renews a driver license.
- Applies for or renews an identification card (I.D. card).<sup>32</sup>
- Changes an address on an existing driver license or I.D. card.<sup>33</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

#### Eligibility of an Applicant for Voter Registration

The bill provides that if the latest voter registration records show that an applicant was previously removed for ineligibility, the supervisor must verify applicant voting eligibility within 13 days after receiving such application. To determine and verify eligibility, the supervisor must review the information required to be provided by other governmental entities for the purpose of identifying potentially ineligible voters. The supervisor must deny the voter registration application and notify the applicant if the supervisor determines that the applicant is ineligible.

#### Uniform Statewide Voter Registration Application

The bill adds to the list of information the voter registration application must elicit. Specifically, it provides that the application must elicit acknowledgement, by providing a box for the applicant to check, that it is a third-degree felony to falsely swear or affirm or otherwise submit false information on a voter registration application.

#### Online Voter Registration System

The bill provides that if the DHSMV records indicate that an applicant has provided documents acceptable as evidence of U.S. citizenship (along with the existing requirement that the applicant’s name and date of birth be consistent with information provided on the application), the OVRs must transmit the application to the supervisor of elections. The applicant’s legal status as a U.S. citizen must be recorded in the FVRS.

If the applicant’s name and date of birth match the DHSMV records, but the DHSMV records indicate the applicant is not a U.S. citizen or has not provided documents acceptable as evidence of U.S. citizenship, the OVRs must notify the supervisor that the applicant’s status as a U.S. citizen could not be verified and transmit to the supervisor the applicant’s registration application, along with the digital signature on file with the DHSMV.

If the applicant indicates that he or she has not been issued a Florida driver license or identification card, or chooses to use the system to prepopulate an application to print, sign, and deliver to the supervisor, the OVRs must populate the applicant’s information into a printable voter registration application and direct the applicant to print, sign, and date the application and deliver the application to the supervisor for disposition.

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<sup>30</sup> Chapters 97-106, F.S., are known as the Florida Election Code. Section 97.011, F.S.

<sup>31</sup> The DHSMV and certain county tax collectors have entered into statutorily authorized contracts, whereby tax collectors may deliver full or limited driver license services on behalf of the DHSMV. See s. 322.02, F.S.

<sup>32</sup> See s. 322.051, F.S.

<sup>33</sup> Section 97.057(1), F.S.

The bill specifies that if an applicant's name and date of birth cannot be verified by the DHSMV records and the OVRs must therefore populate the applicant's information into a printable voter registration application, the populated information shall not include the applicant's Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, or social security number.

#### Acceptance of Voter Registration Applications

The bill:

- Provides that the registration date for a valid application to update the voter's record with a change of address, name, or party affiliation is retroactive to the date the application was initially received once the required sufficient evidence is verified.
- Adds U.S. citizenship to the types of information which, if unable to be verified, require a voter registration applicant to vote a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot will be counted only if acceptable evidence of U.S. citizenship is presented by 5 p.m. on the second day following the election.
- Provides that upon receipt of a voter registration application, including an application with a change in name, address, or party affiliation, which indicates that the applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license, Florida identification card, or social security number, or if the DHSMV records indicate that the applicant is not a U.S. citizen or has not provided documents acceptable as evidence of U.S. citizenship, the supervisor shall verify the voter's legal status as a U.S. citizen using available state and federal governmental sources. If applicable, the supervisor shall initiate notice and FVRS removal proceedings.

#### Department of Highway Safety and Vehicles Responsibilities

The bill adds a person's legal status as a U.S. citizen to the information the DHSMV is required to match with the DOS. It also requires the DOS to include in the FVRS the type of documentary proof that the licensee or cardholder provided as evidence as U.S. citizenship.

The bill expands the duty of the DHSMV to assist the DOS in identifying changes in residence address of persons who may be voters to also require the DHSMV to assist in identifying changes in the Florida driver license or Florida identification card number of such persons.<sup>34</sup>

### **Voter List Maintenance (Sections 8 and 9)**

#### ***Present Situation***

Current law prescribes voter list maintenance activities to ensure accurate and current voter registration records.

Each supervisor must conduct a general voter address list maintenance program.<sup>35</sup> Each program must be conducted, at a minimum, once each year, and must be completed no later than 90 days prior to the start of any federal election,<sup>36</sup> as required by the National Voter Registration Act.

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<sup>34</sup> As of August 1, 2024, all Floridians being issued an original, renewal, or replacement driver license or identification card are assigned a new number complying with s. 322.14(1)(a), F.S.

<sup>35</sup> Section 98.065(1), F.S.

<sup>36</sup> Section 98.065(3), F.S.

Each supervisor must incorporate in the program at least one of the following options for identifying change-of-address information:

- Information supplied by the U.S. Postal Service through its licensees to identify registered voters whose addresses might have changed.
- Information identified from returned nonforwardable return-if-undeliverable address confirmation requests sent to all registered voters in the county.<sup>37</sup>

In addition, the DOS must identify, using information from specified other governmental entities:<sup>38</sup>

- Duplicate registrations.
- Voters who are deceased.
- Voters who have been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting and who have not had their voting rights restored.
- Voters who have been convicted of a felony and who have not had their voting rights restored.<sup>39</sup>

The DOS and supervisors also must act upon any information from a governmental entity that identifies a registered voter who may be ineligible due to age, citizenship, or address.<sup>40</sup>

Once a supervisor receives notice of a voter who is potentially ineligible due to mental incapacity, felony conviction, age, citizenship, or address, he or she must begin prescribed procedures for removal of such voter from the FVRS. The procedures require notice and specified information to be provided to the voter and for the voter to be given an opportunity to have a hearing and to provide proof of eligibility.<sup>41</sup>

There is currently no requirement regarding the sharing of information with the federal court system for the purpose of identifying potentially ineligible voters.<sup>42</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill expands the categories of potentially ineligible voters the DOS must take affirmative action to identify to specifically include persons who may not be U.S. citizens. To do so, the DOS must use information from the DHSMV, clerks of state and federal courts, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The DOS must review such information and make an initial

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<sup>37</sup> Section 98.065(2), F.S.

<sup>38</sup> Other governmental entities required to report specified information to the DOS or supervisors include the Department of Health, clerks of the circuit court, U.S. attorneys, the Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Commission on Offender Review, the Department of Corrections, and the DHSMV (s. 98.093, F.S.).

<sup>39</sup> Section 98.075(2)-(5), F.S.

<sup>40</sup> Section 98.075(6), F.S.

<sup>41</sup> Section 98.075(7), F.S.

<sup>42</sup> Currently, federal courts use a state's voter registration lists to select prospective jurors. To be qualified for Federal Jury Service, an individual juror must be an 18-year-old citizen of the United States who has resided for one year within the judicial district; able to read, write, and understand the English language with a degree of proficiency to complete the juror qualification form; able to speak the English language; both mentally and physically capable of rendering satisfactory jury service; and not have a pending charge or state or federal conviction for a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year. See United States Courts, "Juror Selection Process," available at <https://www.uscourts.gov/court-programs/jury-service/juror-selection-process> (last visited February 2, 2026).

determination as to whether the information is credible and reliable. If the DOS determines that the information is credible and reliable, it must notify the relevant supervisor and provide a copy of the supporting documentation indicating potential ineligibility of the voter to be registered.

Upon receipt of the notice that the DOS has made a determination of initial credibility and reliability, the supervisor must adhere to the existing prescribed notice and removal procedures before the removal of a registered voter's name from the FVRS.

The bill adds to the list of information that must be provided to voters for whom notice and removal procedures have begun, to include the following list of acceptable documents or evidence of U.S. citizenship:

- An original or certified copy of a U.S. birth certificate.
- A valid, unexpired U.S. passport.
- A naturalization certificate issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- A Consular Report of Birth Abroad provided by the U.S. Department of State.
- A current and valid Florida driver license or Florida identification card issued by the DHSMV, if such license or card indicates U.S. citizenship.
- A current and valid photo identification issued by the federal government or the state which indicates U.S. citizenship.
- An order from a federal court granting U.S. citizenship.
- If the applicant's legal name is different from the name that appears on one of the acceptable documents, official legal documentation providing proof of the legal name change.

The type of document provided or used to verify citizenship must be recorded in the statewide voter registration system.

The bill expands the information about potentially ineligible persons the DHMSV is required to report weekly to the DOS to also include:

- Information identifying those persons who during the preceding week presented evidence of U.S. citizenship upon being issued a new, renewed, or replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification card.
- Information identifying a change in residence address on the Florida driver license or Florida identification card of any person who declined to register or update his or her voter record.
- Information identifying new, renewed, or replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification card numbers issued to persons who declined to register or update their voter record. Within 7 days, the DOS must report such information to the appropriate supervisor, who must update the voter registration records.

The bill adds federal courts to the specified types of governmental entities from which information identifying potentially ineligible voters may be received by the DOS. Specifically, the bill provides that upon receipt of information from a federal jury coordinator that a person was disqualified or potentially disqualified from jury service due to not having U.S. citizenship, being convicted of a felony, being deceased, being a nonresident of Florida, or being a nonresident of the county, the DOS must use such information to identify registered voters or voter registration applicants who may be potentially ineligible.

## Ballots and Voting Systems (Sections 1, 12, and 14)

### *Present Situation*

#### General Definitions

Current law defines the following terms:

- “Ballot” or “official ballot,” when used in reference to:
  - “Electronic or electromechanical devices” means a ballot that is voted by the process of electronically designating, including by touchscreen, or marking with a marking device for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment.
  - “Marksense ballots” means that printed sheet of paper, used in conjunction with an electronic or electromechanical vote tabulation voting system, containing the names of candidates, or a statement of proposed constitutional amendments or other questions or propositions submitted to the electorate at any election, on which sheet of paper an elector casts his or her vote.<sup>43</sup>
- “Voter interface device” means any device that communicates voting instructions and ballot information to a voter and allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and issues. A voter interface device may not be used to tabulate votes. Any vote tabulation must be based upon a subsequent scan of the marked marksense ballot or the voter-verifiable paper output after the voter interface device process has been completed.<sup>44</sup>
- “Voting system” means a method of casting and processing votes that functions wholly or partly by use of electromechanical or electronic apparatus or by use of marksense ballots and includes, but is not limited to, the procedures for casting and processing votes and the programs, operating manuals, supplies, printouts, and other software necessary for the system’s operation.<sup>45</sup>

#### Use of Ballot-on-Demand

Polling places and early voting sites may employ a ballot-on-demand production system to print individual marksense ballots, including provisional ballots, for eligible voters. Ballot-on-demand technology may be used to produce marksense vote-by-mail and election-day ballots.<sup>46</sup>

#### Voting Methods/Disability Voting

Current law specifies that for the purpose of designating ballot selections, all voting must be by marksense ballot, using a marking device or a voter interface device that produces a voter-verifiable paper output and meets the voter accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities under state and federal law.<sup>47</sup>

### *Effect of Proposed Changes*

#### General Definitions

The bill redefines the term “ballot” or “official ballot” to mean a printed sheet of paper, containing contests including offices and candidates, constitutional amendments, and other public measures, upon which a voter's selections will be marked by using the pen or marker

<sup>43</sup> Section 97.021(6), F.S.

<sup>44</sup> Section 97.021(43), F.S.

<sup>45</sup> Section 97.021(47), F.S.

<sup>46</sup> Section 101.151(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>47</sup> Section 101.56075, F.S.

recommended by the voting system vender. A ballot includes a voter-verifiable paper output upon which a voter's selections are marked by a voter interface device that meets voter accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities.

The bill eliminates the terms “marksense ballots” and “electronic or electromechanical device.”

The bill revises the term “voting system” to mean a method of casting and processing votes that includes, but is not limited to:

- Equipment, hardware, firmware, and software.
- Ballots.
- Procedures for casting and processing votes.
- Programs, operating manuals, and supplies.
- Reports, printouts, and other documentation necessary for the system's operation.

#### Use of Ballot-on-Demand

The bill clarifies that the use of ballot-on-demand technology may be used for production of early voting ballots.

#### Voting Methods/Disability Voting

The bill revises allowable methods of designating ballot selections to:

- Require all voting to be by official ballot, using a pen compatible with or recommended for use with the voting system; unless
- A voter requests to vote using a voter interface device.

### **Election Returns Reporting and Canvassing (Section 17)**

#### ***Present Situation***

##### County Canvassing Board

The county canvassing board is the body that tabulates and canvasses the vote for an election in that county. The board is composed of three members: the supervisor; a county court judge, who acts as chair; and the chair of the board of county commissioners.<sup>48</sup> The board is responsible for a number of activities in the conduct of elections and in results processing and reporting.<sup>49</sup>

##### Election Returns Reporting

Each supervisor must upload into the county's election management system by 7 p.m. on the day before the election the results of all early voting and vote-by-mail ballots that have been canvassed and tabulated by the end of the early voting period.<sup>50</sup>

The canvassing board must report all early voting and all tabulated vote-by-mail results to the DOS within 30 minutes after the polls close. Thereafter, the canvassing board must report, with

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<sup>48</sup> Section 102.141(a), F.S.

<sup>49</sup> Florida Division of Elections, “Canvassing Board Membership and Activities,” available at <https://soe.dos.state.fl.us/pdf/DE%20Guide%200020-Canvassing%20Board%20Membership%20and%20Activities%20FINAL%2020220830.pdf> (last visited February 2, 2026).

<sup>50</sup> Section 102.141(4)(a), F.S.

the exception of provisional ballot results, updated precinct election results to the DOS at least every 45 minutes until all results are completely reported.<sup>51</sup>

#### Elections Canvassing Commission

The Elections Canvassing Commission is composed of the Governor and two members of the Cabinet selected by the Governor. Current law prescribes that the commission meets at 8 a.m. on the 9th day after a primary election and at 8 a.m. on the 14th day after a general election to certify the returns of the election for each federal, state, and multicounty office and for each constitutional amendment.<sup>52</sup>

#### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

##### Election Returns and Reporting

The bill clarifies that:

- The 7 p.m. deadline the day before the election for each supervisor's submission of early voting and vote-by-mail results is 7 p.m. local time.
- The supervisor reports early voting and tabulated vote-by-mail reports to the DOS, on behalf of the canvassing board.
- Required reporting of updated precinct election results are provided to the DOS via uploading.

#### Elections Canvassing Commission

The bill revises to 9 a.m. the time at which the commission shall meet, except for days the Legislature convenes for organization session,<sup>53</sup> in which case the meeting time will remain at 8 a.m.

#### Conforming Changes

The bill conforms existing law to the bill's changes to the definition of "ballot."

### **Qualifying for Office and Placement on the Ballot (Section 10)**

#### ***Present Situation***

##### Required Oaths and Affirmations

Each candidate for an elected office in Florida must take and subscribe to an oath or affirmation in writing.<sup>54</sup> Current law specifies oath formats for a candidate for federal office,<sup>55</sup> a candidate for a non-federal office other than a judicial office,<sup>56</sup> and a candidate for a state judicial office.<sup>57</sup> Generally, the oath or affirmation must, in substance:

- Provide the name of the office for which the candidate is running;

<sup>51</sup> Section 102.141(4)(b), F.S.

<sup>52</sup> Section 102.111, F.S.

<sup>53</sup> Art. III, s. 3(a) of the FLA. CONST. provides that on the 14th day following each general election, the Legislature shall convene for the exclusive purpose of organization and selection of officers.

<sup>54</sup> Sections 99.021(1)(a) and 105.031(4), F.S.

<sup>55</sup> Section 99.021(1)(a)2., F.S.

<sup>56</sup> Section 99.021(1)(a)1., F.S.

<sup>57</sup> Section 105.031(4)(b), F.S.

- Affirm that the candidate is a qualified elector of the county or court jurisdiction, as applicable;
- Affirm that the candidate is qualified under the State Constitution and laws of Florida to hold the office for which he or she is running;
- Affirm that the candidate has not qualified for any other public office in the state for which the term runs concurrently and that he or she has resigned from any office from which he or she is required to resign;<sup>58</sup> and
- Affirm that the candidate will support the constitutions of the United States and the State of Florida.<sup>59</sup>

In addition, any person seeking to qualify for nomination as a candidate of any political party must, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, also state in writing certain information about his or her party affiliation. The writing must specifically state:

- The party of which the person is a member;
- That the person has been a registered member of the political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which the person seeks to qualify; and
- That the person has paid the assessment levied against him or her, if any, as a candidate for said office by the executive committee of the party of which he or she is a member.<sup>60</sup>

Similarly, a person seeking to qualify for office as a candidate with *no* party affiliation must state in writing that he or she:

- Is registered without a party affiliation; and
- Has not been a registered member of any political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which the person seeks to qualify.<sup>61</sup>

Although current law requires candidates to provide the information required, there does not appear to be a mechanism by which the provision can be enforced if the person seeking to qualify did not actually comply with the requirement.<sup>62</sup> Therefore, a person who complies with the facial requirement of completing and filing the written statement cannot be disqualified from placement on the ballot, even if his or her statement is untrue.

#### Requirements related to Candidate Names

Current law requires each candidate to designate in his or her oath or affirmation the name that he or she wishes to have printed on the ballot, or, in the case of a write-in candidate, the name that he or she wishes to have voter write in on a ballot. Such designation must include the candidate's legal given name or name, a shortened form of the candidate's legal given name, an

<sup>58</sup> Section 99.012(3)(a), F.S., states, "No officer may qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county, or municipal public office if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other without resigning from the office he or she presently holds."

<sup>59</sup> Sections 99.021(1)(a)1. and 105.031(4), F.S.

<sup>60</sup> Section 99.021(1)(b), F.S.

<sup>61</sup> Section 99.021(c), F.S.

<sup>62</sup> See *Jones v. Schiller*, 345 So.3d 406 (Fla. 1st DCA 2020), holding that the requirements regarding statement of party affiliation do not have an implied disqualification mechanism. Similarly, *Torres v. Shaw*, 345 So.3d 970 (Fla. 1st DCA 2022), held that voters and a political party had no private right of action to challenge the qualifications of a congressional candidate under the candidate oath requirement.



initial or initials of the candidate's legal given name or names, or a bona fide nickname customarily related to the candidate and by which the candidate is commonly known, immediately followed by the candidate's legal surname.<sup>63</sup>

If a candidate wishes to designate a nickname, the candidate must file an affidavit that must be verified under oath or affirmation, attesting that the nickname complies with requirements of that section of law. A designated nickname may not:

- Be used to mislead voters.
- Imply the candidate is some other person.
- Constitute a political slogan or otherwise associate the candidate with a cause or an issue.
- Be obscene or profane.<sup>64</sup>

#### Disqualification from the Ballot

Current law provides that a candidate shall or may be disqualified from placement on the ballot if he or she:

- Does not comply with resign-to-run<sup>65</sup> requirements.<sup>66</sup>
- Is convicted of knowingly and willfully accepting a contribution that exceeds prescribed limits, failing to report any contribution required to be reported, falsely reporting or deliberately failing to include information required to be reported, or making or authorizing a prohibited expenditure.<sup>67</sup>
- Is convicted of a felony or adjudicated to be mentally incompetent and has not had his or her rights restored or had the disability removed.<sup>68</sup>
- Does not comply with financial disclosure requirements.<sup>69</sup>

#### *Effect of Proposed Changes*

The bill creates restrictions on qualifying by providing that:

- A person may not qualify for nomination as a candidate of a political party if he or she has not been a registered member of that party for the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying; or as a candidate with no party affiliation if he or she has not been registered without party affiliation for the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. This substantive requirement mirrors the existing oath/affirmation requirements regarding party affiliation.
- A person may not qualify as a candidate for public office, whether federal, state, district, county, or municipal, if he or she has legally changed his or her name through the general statutory petition process<sup>70</sup> during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. The provision does not apply to a name change due to divorce, marriage, or adoption.

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<sup>63</sup> Section 99.0215(1), F.S.

<sup>64</sup> Section 99.0215(2), F.S.

<sup>65</sup> Section 99.012, F.S., provides that no officer may qualify as a candidate for another state, district, county, or municipal public office if the terms or any part thereof run concurrently with each other without resigning from the office he or she presently holds.

<sup>66</sup> Section 99.012(6), F.S.

<sup>67</sup> Sections 106.18 and 106.19, F.S.

<sup>68</sup> Article VI, s. 4(a), FLA. CONST.

<sup>69</sup> Section 112.317(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>70</sup> Section 68.07, F.S., grants courts jurisdiction to change the name of any person residing in Florida on petition of the person filed in the county in which he or she resides. Before the court hearing on such a petition, the petitioner must submit

The bill locates the two new provisions in the resign-to-run statute in order to apply an existing mechanism for disqualification for the ballot. Specifically, the existing statute provides that if a final order of a court determines that a person did not comply with the section, the person shall not be qualified as a candidate and his or her name may not appear on the ballot.<sup>71</sup>

## **Office Hours of Supervisors of Elections (Section 6)**

### ***Present Situation***

Current law requires an office of the supervisor to be open Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays, for a period of not less than 8 hours per day, beginning no later than 9 a.m.<sup>72</sup> In addition, each supervisor must conduct early voting beginning on the 10th day before an election that contains state or federal races and ending on the 3rd day before the election, for no less than 8 hours and no more than 12 hours a day.<sup>73</sup> Other duties of the supervisor, such as those related to qualifying periods and special elections, may also require offices to be open on specified days.

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill revises the general office hours requirement for supervisors to provide that an office may close to observe legal holidays and other federal, state, or county-approved holidays, if the office is not otherwise required to be open to fulfill official duties under the Florida Election Code. This change will allow an office of the supervisor to close when other governmental entities necessary for conducting the supervisor's work, such as tax collectors and other county offices, are also closed.

## **Time Limitations for Prosecutions of Election Violations (Section 20)**

### ***Present Situation***

Current law provides time limitations for commencement of prosecution of criminal offenses, including the following time limitations for felonies:

- For a capital felony, a life felony, or a felony that result in a death – prosecution may be commenced at any time.
- For a first-degree felony – prosecution must be commenced within 4 years after the felony is committed.
- For any other felony – prosecution must be commenced within 3 years after the felony is committed.<sup>74</sup>

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fingerprints submitted for a state and national criminal history records check, except if a former name is being restored. In addition, the petition must show specified information, including, but not limited to, residence, date and place of birth, occupation, and any prior criminal history.

<sup>71</sup> Section 99.012(6), F.S.

<sup>72</sup> Section 98.015(4), F.S.

<sup>73</sup> Section 101.657(1), F.S.

<sup>74</sup> Section 775.15, F.S.

***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill creates a new section of law in ch. 104, F.S.,<sup>75</sup> providing that a prosecution for a felony violation under the Florida Election Code must be commenced within 5 years after the date the violation is committed.

**Driver Licenses (Section 21)*****Present Situation***

Current law does not require driver licenses or identification cards to include the legal status of the licensee or cardholder on the physical copy of such identifications. However, current law requires that a driver update his or her driver license within 30 days of becoming a U.S. citizen and provides that a person who is an unauthorized alien or undocumented immigrant cannot be issued a driver license or identification card. As such, applicants for driver licenses and identification cards must provide sufficient REAL ID compliant documentation that supports their legal status.<sup>76</sup>

A renewal and replacement fee for an identification card is \$25.<sup>77</sup> A renewal driver license costs \$48<sup>78</sup> and a replacement driver license costs \$25.<sup>79</sup>

***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill creates a new section of law governing citizenship status designation on state-issued driver licenses and identification cards. The bill:

- Provides that by July 1, 2027, a Florida driver license or Florida identification card issued to a qualified applicant who is a U.S. citizen as last recorded in the system must include the applicant's legal citizenship status at the time of new issuance, renewal, or replacement.
- Requires the DHMSV to, at no charge, issue a renewal or replacement driver license or identification card if a licensee or cardholder timely updates his or her legal status upon becoming a U.S. citizen.

**Conforming Changes and Reenactments and Drafting Clarifications (Sections 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 22, 23, and 24)**

The bill amends ss. 99.021, 101.151, 101.5606, 101.5608, 101.5612, 102.166, 121.121, F.S., and reenacts ss. 98.065(6) and 101.69(2)(a), F.S., to:

- Revise or reenact statutes to conform to the substantive changes made by the bill.
- Clarify portions of existing law.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

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<sup>75</sup> Chapter 104, F.S., specifies criminal penalties for numerous violations of the Election Code.

<sup>76</sup> Chapter 2025-1, L.O.F

<sup>77</sup> Section 322.21(1) (f), F.S.

<sup>78</sup> Section 322.21(1)(c), F.S.

<sup>79</sup> Section 322.21(1)(e), F.S.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:****A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

Not applicable. Bills that affect state or local elections are exempt from the requirements of Art. VII, s. 18 of the State Constitution.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

**D. State Tax or Fee Increases:**

None.

**E. Other Constitutional Issues:**

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

The creation of the new restrictions on candidate qualifying may have a fiscal impact in the form of legal fees for persons who file or defend against related lawsuits.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill will have an indeterminate impact on the DHSMV as it requires that department to, without charging applicants a fee for renewal, include on any new or renewal of a Florida driver license or identification card, the legal status of the applicant. A renewal and replacement identification card costs \$25 and a renewal driver license costs \$48. A replacement driver license costs \$25. The fiscal impact of this requirement is indeterminate. Additionally, the DHSMV estimates the fiscal impact to be \$173,445 for contracted services and \$147,500 for programming implementation.<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> DHSMV, *Elections CS for SB 1334* (Feb. 5, 2025) (on file with the Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development).

The bill will have a negative impact on the DOS, as it requires the department to make changes to the statewide voter registration system. However, the costs to implement the changes can be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill will likely have an indeterminate fiscal impact on local governments relating to implementation of the bill's provisions concerning voter list maintenance.

## **VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

## **VII. Related Issues:**

### Citizenship and Voter Registration

The bill creates requirements relating to documentation of U.S. citizenship for registered voters and voter registration applicants. Requiring proof of U.S. citizenship as a condition of voter registration is the subject of political efforts at state and federal levels and of ongoing litigation.

One area of litigation turns on whether state laws requiring applicants to present documentary proof of citizenship as a condition for registering to vote in federal elections are preempted by Congress's power to regulate federal elections.<sup>81</sup> The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) requires that states "accept and use" a uniform federal form to register voters for federal elections (Federal Form). That form requires an individual to attest under penalty of perjury that he or she is a citizen but does not require documentary proof. In 2013, the Supreme Court ruled on a challenge to an Arizona law requiring voter-registration officials to "reject" any application for registration, including a Federal Form,<sup>82</sup> that was not accompanied by concrete evidence of citizenship. The Court held that as applied to Federal Form applicants, Arizona's evidence-of-citizenship requirement was preempted by the NVRA's mandate that states "accept and use" the Federal Form.<sup>83</sup> After the ruling, Arizona began registering Federal Form registrants who do not supply documentary proof of citizenship as "federal-only" voters, who are eligible to vote only in federal races. However, reforms to Arizona voter-registration laws enacted in 2022 are now the subject of ongoing litigation; one such reform provides that voters who have not provided documentary proof of citizenship may not vote for president or by mail.<sup>84</sup> In addition, litigation challenging a New Hampshire law requiring new voter applicants to provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote<sup>85</sup> is ongoing.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> The "Elections Clause" of the U.S. Constitution (art. I, s. 4) provides that: "The Times, Places, and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations, except to the Places of choosing Senators."

<sup>82</sup> Ariz. Rev. Stat. §16-166(F).

<sup>83</sup> *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1 (2013).

<sup>84</sup> *Republican National Committee, et al. v. Mi Familia Vota, et al.*, Emergency Application for Stay, available at [https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/24/24A164/322042/20240808153155295\\_Emerg.%20App.%20for%20Stay.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/24/24A164/322042/20240808153155295_Emerg.%20App.%20for%20Stay.pdf) (last visited February 2, 2026).

<sup>85</sup> N.H. Rev. Stat. §654:7; §654:12.

<sup>86</sup> *New Hampshire Youth Movement v. Scanlan and Coalition for Open Democracy v. Scanlan*, U.S District Court for the District of New Hampshire (2024-ongoing).

Other litigation implicating the NVRA and the Federal Form stems from President Trump’s 2025 executive order<sup>87</sup> that, in part, directed the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to require documentary proof of U.S. citizenship in the Federal Form. The NVRA assigns to the EAC the responsibility for creating the Federal Form.<sup>88</sup> A federal district judge recently enjoined enforcement of that provision on the grounds that it is “inconsistent with the constitutional separation of powers.”<sup>89</sup> Further litigation in the case is likely to occur.

#### Disqualification from the Ballot

The bill provides a mechanism for disqualification from the ballot of a person who:

- Violates requirements regarding party affiliation in the 365 days prior to the beginning of qualifying.
- Legally changes his or her name through the general statutory petition process during the 365 days prior to the beginning of qualifying.

The U.S. Supreme Court has established that candidacy is not a “fundamental right,” and has stated that a determination of the legality of a restriction on candidacy is a matter of degree that involves “a consideration of the facts and circumstances behind the law, the interests the State seeks to protect by placing restrictions on candidacy, and the nature of the interests of those who may be burdened by the restrictions.”<sup>90</sup>

Examples of state interests furthered by regulation of candidate ballot access include, but are not limited to:

- Holding orderly elections with serious, rather than frivolous, contenders.
- Promoting electoral integrity.
- Limiting voter confusion caused by lengthy ballots.
- Preventing fraudulent candidacies.<sup>91</sup>

### **VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 97.021, 97.052, 97.0525, 97.053, 97.057, 98.015, 98.045, 98.075, 98.093, 99.012, 99.021, 101.151, 101.5606, 101.56075, 101.5608, 101.5612, 102.111, 102.141, 102.166, and 121.121.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 104.51 and 322.034.

<sup>87</sup> “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections,” available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/03/preserving-and-protecting-the-integrity-of-american-elections/> (last visited February 2, 2026).

<sup>88</sup> 52 U.S.C. §20508(a)(2).

<sup>89</sup> Consolidated cases *League of United Latin American Citizens, et al. v. Executive Office of the President, et al.*; *Democratic National Committee, et al., v. Donald J. Trump*; and *League of Women Voters Education Fund, et al., v. Donald J. Trump*; Memorandum Opinion, issued January 30, 2026, available at <https://www.democracymarket.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/236-2026-01-30-Memorandum-opinion.pdf> (last visited February 2, 2026).

<sup>90</sup> See, for example, *Clements v. Fashing*, 457 U.S. 957 (1982).

<sup>91</sup> See *Lubin v. Panish*, 415 U.S. 709 (1974).

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**  
(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)**CS by Ethics and Elections on February 4, 2026:**

The committee substitute:

- Deletes the bill’s addition of “documentation required by the Election Assistance Commission or federal law” to the information the state voter registration application must elicit and adds that the application must elicit acknowledgement, by providing a box for the applicant to check, that it is a third degree felony to falsely swear or affirm or otherwise submit false information on a voter registration application.
- Deletes the bill’s addition of new content to the oath to which voter registration applicants must subscribe.
- Makes drafting changes to clarify the new citizenship-verification duties and processes related to the DHSMV and the online voter registration system.
- Increases to 13 from 10 the number of days a supervisor of elections has to verify eligibility of a voter registration applicant who was previously removed for ineligibility.
- Revises the types of documents that are acceptable evidence of U.S. citizenship.
- Revises the bill’s provisions regarding information about potentially ineligible voters that is received from federal jury coordinators to remove the affirmative duty of the federal jury coordinator to provide such information.
- Creates a substantive requirement that a person seeking nomination as a candidate of a political party must have been a member of that party for the 365 days preceding qualifying, and that a person running with no party affiliation must not have been a member of a political party for the 365 days preceding qualifying (in addition to current law’s requirement that such a person affirm he or she has or has not been such a member).
- Adds to the bill a provision that a person may not qualify as a candidate for public office if he or she has legally changed his or her name through the statutory petition process during the 365 days preceding qualifying. This prohibition does not apply to a change of name arising from marriage, divorce, or adoption.
- Revises the bill’s limitation of use of a voter interface device to persons with disabilities to instead require use of a paper ballot unless a voter requests to use a voter interface device.
- Deletes from the bill provisions replacing the existing recount or audit process with an independent, precertification vote validation process, and deletes related changes to election reports.
- Deletes the bill’s addition of a new authorization for each political party to designate one computer expert to be allowed in the central counting room when a manual review is being conducted and when the official votes are being counted.
- Adds a revision to the existing statutory requirement for the minimum hours an office of the supervisor of elections must be open, to expand an exception for legal holidays to also include other federal, state, or county-approved holidays.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and  
Economic Development (Grall) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment**

Delete lines 986 - 990

and insert:

Section 19. Subsection (1) of section 102.166, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.—

(1) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to s.  
102.141 indicates that a candidate for



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and  
Economic Development (Grall) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete lines 136 - 712

and insert:

Section 1. Present subsections (10) through (47) of section  
97.021, Florida Statutes are redesignated as subsections (11)  
through (48), respectively, a new subsection (10) is added to  
that section, and subsection (6) and present subsections (43)  
and (47) of that section are amended, to read:

97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except



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where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

(6) "Ballot" or "official ballot" means a printed sheet of paper containing contests, including offices and candidates, constitutional amendments, and other public measures, upon which a voter's selections will be marked by using a pen compatible with or recommended for use with the voting system, for tabulation by the voting system. The term includes a voter-verifiable paper output upon which a voter's selections are marked by a voter interface device that meets voter accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities under s. 301 of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and s. 101.56062 ~~when used in reference to:~~

~~(a) "Electronic or electromechanical devices" means a ballot that is voted by the process of electronically designating, including by touchscreen, or marking with a marking device for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data processing equipment.~~

~~(b) "Marksense ballots" means that printed sheet of paper, used in conjunction with an electronic or electromechanical vote tabulation voting system, containing the names of candidates, or a statement of proposed constitutional amendments or other questions or propositions submitted to the electorate at any election, on which sheet of paper an elector casts his or her vote.~~

(10) "Document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship" means any of the following documents:

(a) An original or certified copy of a United States birth certificate.

(b) A valid, unexpired United States passport.



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40       (c) A naturalization certificate issued by the United  
41 States Department of Homeland Security.

42       (d) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad provided by the  
43 United States Department of State.

44       (e) A current and valid Florida driver license or Florida  
45 identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety  
46 and Motor Vehicles, if such license or identification card  
47 indicates United States citizenship.

48       (f) A current and valid photo identification issued by the  
49 Federal Government or the state which indicates United States  
50 citizenship.

51       (g) An order from a federal court granting United States  
52 citizenship.

53  
54 If the voter registration applicant's or the voter's legal name  
55 is different from the name that appears on the document,  
56 official legal documentation providing proof of legal name  
57 change is also required to constitute acceptable evidence of  
58 United States citizenship.

59       ~~(44)(43)~~ "Voter interface device" means any device that  
60 communicates voting instructions and ballot information to a  
61 voter and allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and  
62 issues. A voter interface device may not be used to tabulate  
63 votes. Any vote tabulation must be based upon a subsequent scan  
64 of the marked ~~marksense~~ ballot or the voter-verifiable paper  
65 output after the voter interface device process has been  
66 completed.

67       ~~(48)(47)~~ "Voting system" means a method of casting and  
68 processing votes which ~~that functions wholly or partly by use of~~



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~~electromechanical or electronic apparatus or by use of marksense ballots and~~ includes, but is not limited to, the equipment, hardware, firmware, and software; the ballots; the procedures for casting and processing votes; and the programs, operating manuals, and supplies; and the reports, printouts, and other documentation ~~software~~ necessary for the system's operation.

Section 2. Present paragraphs (q) through (u) of subsection (2) of section 97.052, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as paragraphs (r) through (v), respectively, and a new paragraph (q) is added to that subsection, to read:

97.052 Uniform statewide voter registration application.—

(2) The uniform statewide voter registration application must be designed to elicit the following information from the applicant:

(q) Acknowledgment, by providing a box for the applicant to check, that it is a third degree felony under state and federal law to falsely swear or affirm or otherwise submit false information on a voter registration application.

Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 97.0525, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

97.0525 Online voter registration.—

(4)(a) The online voter registration system must ~~shall~~ compare the Florida driver license number or Florida identification number submitted pursuant to s. 97.052(2)(n) with information maintained by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to confirm that the name and date of birth on the application are consistent with the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

(b) If the applicant's name and date of birth are



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consistent with the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that the applicant has provided a document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the online voter registration system must ~~shall~~ transmit, using the statewide voter registration system maintained pursuant to s. 98.035, the applicant's registration application, along with the digital signature of the applicant on file with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, to the supervisor of elections. The applicant's digital signature satisfies the signature requirement of s. 97.052(2)(r) ~~s. 97.052(2)(a)~~. The applicant's legal status as a United States citizen must be recorded in the statewide voter registration system.

(c) If the applicant's name and date of birth match the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, but the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate the applicant is not a United States citizen or has not provided a document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the online voter registration system must notify the supervisor of elections that the applicant's legal status as a United States citizen could not be verified and transmit, using the statewide voter registration system maintained pursuant to s. 98.035, the applicant's registration application, along with the digital signature of the applicant on file with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, to the supervisor of elections. The applicant's digital signature satisfies the signature requirement of s. 97.052(2)(r).



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127        (d) If the applicant's name and date of birth cannot be  
128 verified by the records of the Department of Highway Safety and  
129 Motor Vehicles, ~~or if the applicant indicated that he or she has~~  
130 ~~not been issued a Florida driver license or Florida~~  
131 ~~identification card,~~ the online voter registration system must  
132 ~~shall~~ populate the applicant's information, except for the  
133 applicant's Florida driver license number, Florida  
134 identification card number, or social security number, into a  
135 printable voter registration application pursuant to s.  
136 97.052(2) which ~~and direct~~ the applicant may ~~to~~ print, complete,  
137 sign, and date, ~~the application~~ and deliver ~~the application~~ to  
138 the supervisor of elections for disposition pursuant to s.  
139 97.073.

140        (e) If the applicant indicates that he or she has not been  
141 issued a Florida driver license or identification card, or  
142 chooses to use the system to prepopulate an application to  
143 print, sign, date, and deliver to the supervisor, the online  
144 voter registration system must populate the applicant's  
145 information into a printable voter registration application  
146 pursuant to s. 97.052(2) and direct the applicant to print,  
147 sign, and date the application and deliver the application to  
148 the supervisor for disposition under s. 97.073.

149        Section 4. Subsections (2), (4), and (6) of section 97.053,  
150 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

151        97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

152        (2) A voter registration application is complete and  
153 becomes the official voter registration record of that applicant  
154 when all information necessary to establish the applicant's  
155 eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041 is received by a voter



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registration official and verified pursuant to subsection (6).  
Except as provided in subsection (6), if the applicant fails to  
complete his or her voter registration application on or before  
~~prior to~~ the date of book closing for an election, ~~then~~ such  
applicant ~~is shall~~ not be eligible to vote in that election.

(4)(a) The registration date for a valid initial voter  
registration application that has been mailed to a driver  
license office, a voter registration agency, an armed forces  
recruitment office, the division, or the office of any  
supervisor in the state and bears a clear postmark is the date  
of that postmark. If an initial voter registration application  
that has been mailed does not bear a postmark or if the postmark  
is unclear, the registration date is the date the application is  
received by any supervisor or the division, unless it is  
received within 5 days after the closing of the books for an  
election, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in  
which case the registration date is the book-closing date.

(b) The registration date for a valid application to update  
the voter's record with a change of address, name, or party  
affiliation is retroactive to the date the application was  
initially received once the required sufficient evidence is  
verified.

(6)(a) A voter registration application, including an  
application with a change in name, address, or party  
affiliation, may be accepted as valid only after the department  
has verified the authenticity or nonexistence of the Florida  
driver license number, the Florida identification card number,  
or the last four digits of the social security number provided  
by the applicant. If a completed voter registration application





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has been received by the book-closing deadline but the Florida driver license number, the Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of the social security number provided by the applicant cannot be verified, or if the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that the applicant is not a United States citizen or has not provided a document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the applicant must ~~shall~~ be notified and ~~that the number cannot be verified and that the applicant~~ must provide evidence to the supervisor sufficient to verify the authenticity of the applicant's Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, or last four digits of the social security number or, if applicable, must provide a document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship. If the applicant provides the necessary evidence, the supervisor must ~~shall~~ place the applicant's name on the registration rolls as an active voter. If the applicant has not provided the necessary evidence or the number has not otherwise been verified prior to the applicant presenting himself or herself to vote, the applicant must ~~shall~~ be provided a provisional ballot. The provisional ballot must ~~shall~~ be counted only if the number is verified by the end of the canvassing period or if the applicant presents evidence to the supervisor of elections sufficient to verify the authenticity of the applicant's Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, or last four digits of the social security number or, if applicable, presents a document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship no later than 5 p.m. of the second day following the election.

(b) Upon receipt of a voter registration application,



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including an application with a change in name, address, or  
party affiliation, which indicates that the applicant has not  
been issued a current and valid Florida driver license, Florida  
identification card, or social security number, or if the  
records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
indicate that the applicant is not a United States citizen or  
has not provided a document acceptable as evidence of United  
States citizenship, the supervisor of elections shall verify the  
voter's legal status as a United States citizen using available  
state and federal governmental sources and, if applicable,  
initiate notice pursuant to s. 98.075(7).

Section 5. Subsections (11) and (13) of section 97.057,  
Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway  
Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

(11) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles  
shall enter into an agreement with the department to match  
information in the statewide voter registration system with  
information in the database of the Department of Highway Safety  
and Motor Vehicles to the extent required to verify the accuracy  
of the Florida driver license number, Florida identification  
number, or last four digits of the social security number and  
the legal status as a United States citizen, provided on  
applications for voter registration as required in s. 97.053.  
The department shall also include in the statewide voter  
registration system the type of documentary proof that the  
licensee or cardholder provided as evidence of United States  
citizenship.

(13) Notwithstanding declinations to register or to update



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a voter registration pursuant to paragraph (2)(b), the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, in accordance with s. 98.093(8), shall ~~must~~ assist the Department of State in regularly identifying changes in residence address on the Florida driver license or Florida identification card or changes in the Florida driver license or Florida identification card number of such persons who may be voters of a voter. The Department of State ~~must report each such change to the appropriate supervisor of elections who must change the voter's registration records in accordance with s. 98.065(4).~~

Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 98.015, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of office, compensation, custody of registration-related documents, office hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy supervisors; duties.—

(4)(a) At a minimum, the office of the supervisor must be open Monday through Friday, ~~excluding legal holidays~~, for a period of not less than 8 hours per day, beginning no later than 9 a.m.

(b) The office of the supervisor may close to observe legal holidays and other federal, state, or county-approved holidays, if the office is not otherwise required to be open to fulfill official duties under the Florida Election Code.

Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 98.045, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

(1) ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT.—

(a) The supervisor shall ~~must~~ ensure that any eligible



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applicant for voter registration is registered to vote and that each application for voter registration is processed in accordance with law. The supervisor shall determine whether a voter registration applicant is ineligible based on any of the following:

1.~~(a)~~ The failure to complete a voter registration application as specified in s. 97.053.

2.~~(b)~~ The applicant is deceased.

3.~~(c)~~ The applicant has been convicted of a felony for which his or her voting rights have not been restored.

4.~~(d)~~ The applicant has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to the right to vote and such right has not been restored.

5.~~(e)~~ The applicant does not meet the age requirement pursuant to s. 97.041.

6.~~(f)~~ The applicant is not a United States citizen.

7.~~(g)~~ The applicant is a fictitious person.

8.~~(h)~~ The applicant has provided an address of legal residence that is not his or her legal residence.

9.~~(i)~~ The applicant has provided a Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of a social security number that is not verifiable by the department.

(b) If the latest voter registration records show that a new applicant was previously registered but subsequently removed for ineligibility pursuant to s. 98.075(7), the supervisor must verify the current eligibility of the applicant to register within 13 days after receipt of such records by reviewing the information provided by a governmental entity listed in s.



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98.075 or s. 98.093 to determine whether the applicant remains ineligible. If the supervisor determines that the applicant is ineligible, the supervisor must deny the application and notify the applicant pursuant to s. 97.073.

Section 8. Subsection (6) and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 98.075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

98.075 Registration records maintenance activities; ineligibility determinations.—

(6) ELIGIBILITY.—

(a) Citizenship.—The department shall identify those registered voters who are potentially ineligible based on their legal status regarding United States citizenship by comparing or receiving information from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, clerks of state and federal courts, and the United States Department of Homeland Security, as provided in s. 98.093. The department shall review such information and make an initial determination as to whether the information is credible and reliable. If the department determines that the information is credible and reliable, the department must notify the supervisor and provide a copy of the supporting documentation indicating potential ineligibility of the voter to be registered. Upon receipt of the notice that the department has made a determination of initial credibility and reliability, the supervisor must adhere to the procedures set forth in subsection (7) before the removal of a registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system. If the voter provides a document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the supervisor must record the type of document in the statewide voter registration system.



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330        (b) Other bases for ineligibility ~~OTHER BASES FOR~~  
331 ~~INELIGIBILITY.~~—Subsections (2)-(6) ~~(2)-(5)~~ do not limit or  
332 restrict the department or the supervisor in his or her duty to  
333 act upon direct receipt of, access to, or knowledge of  
334 information from any governmental entity that identifies a  
335 registered voter as potentially ineligible. If the department or  
336 supervisor receives information from any governmental entity  
337 other than those identified in subsections (2)-(6) ~~(2)-(5)~~ that  
338 a registered voter is ineligible because the voter is deceased,  
339 adjudicated a convicted felon without having had his or her  
340 voting rights restored, adjudicated mentally incapacitated  
341 without having had his or her voting rights restored, does not  
342 meet the age requirement pursuant to s. 97.041, is not a United  
343 States citizen, is a fictitious person, or has listed an address  
344 that is not his or her address of legal residence, the  
345 supervisor must adhere to the procedures set forth in subsection  
346 (7) before the removal of the name of a registered voter who is  
347 determined to be ineligible from the statewide voter  
348 registration system.

349        (7) PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL.—

350        (a) If the supervisor receives notice or information  
351 pursuant to subsections (4)-(6), the supervisor of the county in  
352 which the voter is registered must:

353            1. Notify the registered voter of his or her potential  
354 ineligibility by mail within 7 days after receipt of notice or  
355 information. The notice must include:

356            a. A statement of the basis for the registered voter's  
357 potential ineligibility and a copy of any documentation upon  
358 which the potential ineligibility is based. Such documentation



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must include any conviction from another jurisdiction determined to be a similar offense to murder or a felony sexual offense, as those terms are defined in s. 98.0751.

b. A statement that failure to respond within 30 days after receipt of the notice may result in a determination of ineligibility and in removal of the registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

c. A return form that requires the registered voter to admit or deny the accuracy of the information underlying the potential ineligibility for purposes of a final determination by the supervisor.

d. A statement that, if the voter is denying the accuracy of the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the voter has a right to request a hearing for the purpose of determining eligibility.

e. Instructions for the registered voter to contact the supervisor of elections of the county in which the voter is registered if assistance is needed in resolving the matter.

f. Instructions for seeking restoration of civil rights pursuant to s. 8, Art. IV of the State Constitution and information explaining voting rights restoration pursuant to s. 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution following a felony conviction, if applicable.

g. A list of the documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship.

h. The following statement: "If you attempt to vote at an early voting site or your normal election day polling place, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot. If you vote by mail, your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot. In



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either case, your ballot may not be counted until a final determination of eligibility is made. If you wish for your ballot to be counted, you must contact the supervisor of elections office within 2 days after the election and present evidence that you are eligible to vote."

2. If the mailed notice is returned as undeliverable, the supervisor must, within 14 days after receiving the returned notice, either publish notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the voter was last registered or publish notice on the county's website as provided in s. 50.0311 or on the supervisor's website, as deemed appropriate by the supervisor. The notice must contain the following:

a. The voter's name and address.

b. A statement that the voter is potentially ineligible to be registered to vote.

c. A statement that failure to respond within 30 days after the notice is published may result in a determination of ineligibility by the supervisor and removal of the registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

d. An instruction for the voter to contact the supervisor no later than 30 days after the date of the published notice to receive information regarding the basis for the potential ineligibility and the procedure to resolve the matter.

e. An instruction to the voter that, if further assistance is needed, the voter should contact the supervisor of elections of the county in which the voter is registered.

f. A statement that, if the voter denies the accuracy of the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the voter has a right to request a hearing for the purpose of





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determining eligibility.

g. The following statement: "If you attempt to vote at an early voting site or your normal election day polling place, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot. If you vote by mail, your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot. In either case, your ballot may not be counted until a final determination of eligibility is made. If you wish for your ballot to be counted, you must contact the supervisor of elections office within 2 days after the election and present evidence that you are eligible to vote."

3. If a registered voter fails to respond to a notice pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the supervisor must make a final determination of the voter's eligibility within 7 days after expiration of the voter's timeframe to respond. If the supervisor determines that the voter is ineligible, the supervisor must remove the name of the registered voter from the statewide voter registration system within 7 days. The supervisor shall notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination and action.

4. If a registered voter responds to the notice pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and admits the accuracy of the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the supervisor must, as soon as practicable, make a final determination of ineligibility and remove the voter's name from the statewide voter registration system. The supervisor shall notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination and action.

5. If a registered voter responds to the notice issued pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and denies the



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accuracy of the information underlying the potential ineligibility but does not request a hearing, the supervisor must review the evidence and make a determination of eligibility no later than 30 days after receiving the response from the voter. If the supervisor determines that the registered voter is ineligible, the supervisor must remove the voter's name from the statewide voter registration system upon such determination and notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination and action and that the removed voter has a right to appeal a determination of ineligibility pursuant to s. 98.0755. If such registered voter requests a hearing, the supervisor must send notice to the registered voter to attend a hearing at a time and place specified in the notice. The supervisor shall schedule and issue notice for the hearing within 7 days after receiving the voter's request for a hearing and shall hold the hearing no later than 30 days after issuing the notice of the hearing. A voter may request an extension upon showing good cause by submitting an affidavit to the supervisor as to why he or she is unable to attend the scheduled hearing. Upon hearing all evidence presented at the hearing, the supervisor shall make a determination of eligibility within 7 days. If the supervisor determines that the registered voter is ineligible, the supervisor must remove the voter's name from the statewide voter registration system and notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination and action and that the removed voter has a right to appeal a determination of ineligibility pursuant to s. 98.0755.

Section 9. Present subsection (9) of section 98.093, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (10), a new



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subsection (9) is added to that section, and subsection (8) of that section is amended, to read:

98.093 Duty of officials to furnish information relating to deceased persons, persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated, persons convicted of a felony, and persons who are not United States citizens.—

(8) DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES.—The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall furnish weekly to the department the following information:

(a) Information identifying those persons whose names have been removed from the Florida driver license or Florida identification card database during the preceding week because they have been licensed or been issued an identification card in another state. The information must contain the person's name, last known Florida address, date of birth, sex, last four digits of his or her social security number, and Florida driver license number or Florida identification card number and, if available, the address and the state in which the person is now licensed.

(b) Information identifying those persons who during the preceding week presented evidence of non-United States citizenship upon being issued a new or renewed Florida driver license or Florida identification card. The information must contain the person's name; address; date of birth; last four digits of the social security number, if applicable; Florida driver license number or Florida identification card number, as available; and alien registration number or other legal status identifier.

(c) Information identifying those persons who during the preceding week presented a document acceptable as evidence of



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United States citizenship upon being issued a new, renewed, or replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification card. The information must contain the person's name; address; date of birth; last four digits of the social security number, if applicable; Florida driver license number or Florida identification card number, as available; type of documentary proof provided in support of citizenship; and, if applicable, alien registration number or other legal status identifier.

(d) Information identifying a change in residence address on the Florida driver license or Florida identification card of any person who declined pursuant to s. 97.057(2) to register or update his or her voter record. The information must contain the person's name; date of birth; last four digits of the social security number, if available; and Florida driver license number or Florida identification card number, as available, in order to identify a voter's registration record. The Department of State must report each such change in residence address to the appropriate supervisor, who must change the voter's registration records in accordance with s. 98.065(4).

(e) Information identifying new, renewed, or replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification card numbers issued to persons who declined pursuant to s. 97.057(2) to register or update their voter record. The information must contain the person's name; date of birth; last four digits of the social security number, if available; and the prior, if applicable, and current Florida driver license number or Florida identification card number in order to identify a voter's registration record. Within 7 days, the Department of State shall report such information to the appropriate supervisor, who



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533 must update the voter registration records.

534 (f) Information identifying those persons for which it has  
535 received official information during the preceding week that the  
536 person is deceased. The information must contain the name,  
537 address, date of birth, last four digits of the social security  
538 number, Florida driver license number or Florida identification  
539 card number, and date of death of each such person.

540 (9) FEDERAL COURTS.—Upon receipt of information from a jury  
541 coordinator that a person was disqualified or potentially  
542 disqualified as a prospective juror from jury service due to not  
543 having United States citizenship, being convicted of a felony,  
544 being deceased, being a nonresident of this state, or being a  
545 nonresident of the county, the department shall use such  
546 information to identify registered voters or applicants for  
547 voter registration who may be potentially ineligible based on  
548 information provided in accordance with s. 98.075.

549 Section 10. Present subsections (5) through (8) of section  
550 99.012, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (7)  
551 through (10), respectively, and new subsections (5) and (6) are  
552 added to that section, to read:

553 99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public  
554 office.—

555 (5) A person may not qualify for nomination as a candidate  
556 of a political party if he or she has not been a registered  
557 member of that party for the 365 consecutive days immediately  
558 preceding the beginning of qualifying; or as a candidate with no  
559 party affiliation if he or she has not been registered without  
560 party affiliation, or has been a registered member of any  
561 political party, for the 365 consecutive days immediately



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preceding the beginning of qualifying.

(6) A person may not qualify as a candidate for public office, whether federal, state, district, county, or municipal, if he or she has legally changed his or her name through a petition pursuant to s. 68.07 during the 365 consecutive days immediately

===== T I T L E   A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete lines 3 - 75

and insert:

F.S.; revising definitions; defining the term "document acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship"; amending s. 97.052, F.S.; revising the information the uniform statewide voter registration application is designed to elicit from an applicant to include a certain acknowledgment; amending s. 97.0525, F.S.; requiring that the online voter registration system transmit specified information to the supervisor of elections under specified circumstances; requiring that the applicant's legal status as a United States citizen be recorded in the statewide voter registration system; requiring that if the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that an applicant is not a United States citizen or has not provided acceptable evidence of citizenship, the online voter registration system must notify the supervisor of the applicant's legal status and transmit the application to the supervisor;



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providing that an applicant's digital signature satisfies a certain requirement; providing that if an applicant's name and date of birth cannot be verified, the system must populate certain information into a printable version of the registration application; requiring the applicant to print, complete, sign, date, and deliver such application to the supervisor; requiring that the online voter registration system populate an applicant's information and direct the applicant to perform specified actions under specified conditions; conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 97.053, F.S.; providing that applications to update a voter's record are retroactive under a specified condition; requiring supervisors to verify a voter's legal status as a United States citizen using specified sources and initiate a certain notice if applicable; amending s. 97.057, F.S.; requiring that an agreement between the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of State match information regarding the legal status as a United States citizen of applicants applying to vote; requiring the Department of State to include specified information in the statewide voter registration system; requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to assist the Department of State in identifying certain changes in information for persons who may be voters; deleting a provision requiring the Department of State to report certain changes to supervisors; amending s. 98.015, F.S.; authorizing the



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office of the supervisor of elections to close to  
observe certain holidays under a specified condition;  
amending s. 98.045, F.S.; requiring supervisors to  
verify the current eligibility of certain applicants  
within a specified timeframe by reviewing specified  
information provided by governmental entities to make  
a determination under specified conditions; requiring  
the supervisor to deny the application and notify the  
applicant if a certain determination is made; amending  
s. 98.075, F.S.; requiring the Department of State to  
identify certain voters by comparing or receiving  
information from specified sources; requiring the  
Department of State to review such information and  
make an initial determination; requiring the  
department to notify the supervisor if certain  
information is credible and reliable and provide a  
copy of specified documentation to the supervisor;  
requiring the supervisor to adhere to specified  
procedures to remove the voter's name from the  
statewide voter registration system; requiring the  
supervisor to record in the statewide voter  
registration system the type of document provided as  
evidence of United States citizenship; amending s.  
98.093, F.S.; revising the information that the  
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is  
required to furnish weekly to the Department of State;  
requiring the Department of State



By the Committee on Ethics and Elections; and Senator Grall

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to elections; amending s. 97.021,  
F.S.; revising definitions; amending s. 97.052, F.S.;  
revising the information the statewide voter  
registration application is designed to elicit from an  
applicant to include a certain acknowledgment;  
amending s. 97.0525, F.S.; requiring that the online  
voter registration system transmit specified  
information to the supervisor of elections under  
specified circumstances; requiring that the  
applicant's legal status as a United States citizen be  
recorded in the statewide voter registration system;  
requiring that if the records of the Department of  
Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that an  
applicant is not a United States citizen or has not  
submitted evidence of citizenship, the online voter  
registration system must notify the supervisor of the  
applicant's legal status and transmit the application  
to the supervisor; providing that an applicant's  
digital signature satisfies a certain requirement;  
providing that if an applicant's name and date of  
birth cannot be verified, the system must populate  
certain information into a printable version of the  
registration application; requiring the applicant to  
print, complete, sign, date, and deliver such  
application to the supervisor; requiring that the  
online voter registration system populate an  
applicant's information and direct the applicant to  
perform specified actions under specified conditions;

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conforming a cross-reference; amending s. 97.053,  
F.S.; providing that applications to update a voter's  
record are retroactive under a specified condition;  
requiring supervisors to verify a voter's legal status  
as a United States citizen using specified sources and  
initiate a certain notice if applicable; amending s.  
97.057, F.S.; requiring that an agreement between the  
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and  
the Department of State match information regarding  
the legal status as a United States citizen of  
applicants applying to vote; requiring the Department  
of State to include specified information in the  
statewide voter registration system; requiring the  
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to  
assist the Department of State in identifying certain  
changes in information for persons who may be voters;  
deleting a provision requiring the Department of State  
to report certain changes to supervisors; amending s.  
98.015, F.S.; authorizing the office of the supervisor  
of elections to close to observe certain holidays  
under a specified condition; amending s. 98.045, F.S.;  
requiring supervisors to verify the current  
eligibility of certain applicants within a specified  
timeframe by reviewing specified information provided  
by governmental entities to make a determination under  
specified conditions; requiring the supervisor to deny  
the application and notify the applicant if a certain  
determination is made; amending s. 98.075, F.S.;  
requiring the Department of State to identify certain

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voters by comparing or receiving information from specified sources; requiring the Department of State to review such information and make an initial determination; requiring the department to notify the supervisor if certain information is credible and reliable and provide a copy of specified documentation to the supervisor; requiring the supervisor to adhere to specified procedures to remove the voter's name from the statewide voter registration system; specifying acceptable documents or evidence of United States citizenship which must be recorded in the statewide voter registration system; amending s. 98.093, F.S.; revising the information that the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is required to furnish weekly to the Department of State; specifying documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship; requiring the Department of State to report certain information to supervisors within a specified timeframe and for supervisors to update the voter registration records; requiring that the Department of State use certain information from federal jury coordinators to identify voters and applicants who are potentially ineligible; amending s. 99.012, F.S.; prohibiting a person from qualifying for nomination as a candidate of a political party if the person has not been a registered member of such party for a specified timeframe; prohibiting a person from qualifying for specified public office if the person has changed his or her name within a specified

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timeframe; providing applicability; amending s.  
99.021, F.S.; revising the form of candidate oath to  
conform to changes made by the act; amending ss.  
101.151 and 101.5606, F.S.; conforming provisions to  
changes made by the act; amending s. 101.56075, F.S.;  
requiring that all voting be done by official ballot  
using certain pens; providing an exception; amending  
s. 101.5608, F.S.; deleting the requirement that the  
stub be removed from the ballot and placed in an  
envelope; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
act; amending s. 101.5612, F.S.; conforming provisions  
to changes made by the act; amending s. 102.111, F.S.;  
revising the meeting times of the Elections Canvassing  
Commission to certify elections returns; amending s.  
102.141, F.S.; requiring that supervisors upload  
certain results by a specified local time; requiring  
the supervisors, on behalf of the canvassing boards,  
to report all early voting and all tabulated vote-by-  
mail ballots to the department; requiring canvassing  
boards to periodically report updated precinct  
election results by uploading the results to the  
department; conforming provisions to changes made by  
the act; amending s. 102.166, F.S.; conforming  
provisions to changes made by the act; creating s.  
104.51, F.S.; requiring that certain prosecutions be  
commenced within a specified timeframe after a  
specified violation is committed; creating s. 322.034,  
F.S.; requiring, by a specified date, that Florida  
driver licenses and Florida identification cards

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issued to qualified applicants include the legal citizenship status of the applicant on the license or card; requiring the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue, at no charge, Florida driver licenses and Florida identification cards to certain licensees and cardholders; amending s. 121.121, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; reenacting s. 98.065(6), F.S., relating to registration list maintenance programs, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 98.075, F.S., in a reference thereto; reenacting s. 101.69(2)(a), F.S., relating to the offices of the supervisor of elections being open during elections to receive vote-by-mail ballots in secure ballot intake stations, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 98.015, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (6), (43), and (47) of section 97.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

97.021 Definitions.—For the purposes of this code, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise, the term:

(6) “Ballot” or “official ballot” means a printed sheet of paper containing contests, including offices and candidates, constitutional amendments, and other public measures, upon which a voter’s selections will be marked by using a pen compatible with or recommended for use with the voting system, for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data processing

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146 equipment that is part of the voting system. The term includes a  
147 voter-verifiable paper output upon which a voter's selections  
148 are marked by a voter interface device that meets voter  
149 accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities  
150 under s. 301 of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and s.  
151 101.56062 ~~when used in reference to:~~

152 ~~(a) "Electronic or electromechanical devices" means a~~  
153 ~~ballot that is voted by the process of electronically~~  
154 ~~designating, including by touchscreen, or marking with a marking~~  
155 ~~device for tabulation by automatic tabulating equipment or data~~  
156 ~~processing equipment.~~

157 ~~(b) "Marksense ballots" means that printed sheet of paper,~~  
158 ~~used in conjunction with an electronic or electromechanical vote~~  
159 ~~tabulation voting system, containing the names of candidates, or~~  
160 ~~a statement of proposed constitutional amendments or other~~  
161 ~~questions or propositions submitted to the electorate at any~~  
162 ~~election, on which sheet of paper an elector casts his or her~~  
163 ~~vote.~~

164 (43) "Voter interface device" means any device that  
165 communicates voting instructions and ballot information to a  
166 voter and allows the voter to select and vote for candidates and  
167 issues. A voter interface device may not be used to tabulate  
168 votes. Any vote tabulation must be based upon a subsequent scan  
169 of the marked ~~marksense~~ ballot or the voter-verifiable paper  
170 output after the voter interface device process has been  
171 completed.

172 (47) "Voting system" means a method of casting and  
173 processing votes which ~~that functions wholly or partly by use of~~  
174 ~~electromechanical or electronic apparatus or by use of marksense~~

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175 ~~ballots and~~ includes, but is not limited to, the equipment,  
176 hardware, firmware, and software; the ballots; the procedures  
177 for casting and processing votes; and the programs, operating  
178 manuals, and supplies; and the reports, printouts, and other  
179 documentation ~~software~~ necessary for the system's operation.

180 Section 2. Present paragraphs (q) through (u) of subsection  
181 (2) of section 97.052, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as  
182 paragraphs (r) through (v), respectively, and a new paragraph  
183 (q) is added to that subsection, to read:

184 97.052 Uniform statewide voter registration application.—

185 (2) The uniform statewide voter registration application  
186 must be designed to elicit the following information from the  
187 applicant:

188 (q) Acknowledgment, by providing a box for the applicant to  
189 check, that it is a third degree felony under state and federal  
190 law to falsely swear or affirm or otherwise submit false  
191 information on a voter registration application.

192 Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 97.0525, Florida  
193 Statutes, is amended to read:

194 97.0525 Online voter registration.—

195 (4)(a) The online voter registration system must ~~shall~~  
196 compare the Florida driver license number or Florida  
197 identification number submitted pursuant to s. 97.052(2)(n) with  
198 information maintained by the Department of Highway Safety and  
199 Motor Vehicles to confirm that the name and date of birth on the  
200 application are consistent with the records of the Department of  
201 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

202 (b) If the applicant's name and date of birth are  
203 consistent with the records of the Department of Highway Safety

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and Motor Vehicles and the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that the applicant has provided documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the online voter registration system must ~~shall~~ transmit, using the statewide voter registration system maintained pursuant to s. 98.035, the applicant's registration application, along with the digital signature of the applicant on file with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, to the supervisor of elections. The applicant's digital signature satisfies the signature requirement of s. 97.052(2)(r) ~~s. 97.052(2)(q)~~. The applicant's legal status as a United States citizen must be recorded in the statewide voter registration system.

(c) If the applicant's name and date of birth match the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, but the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate the applicant is not a United States citizen or has not provided documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the online voter registration system must notify the supervisor of elections that the applicant's legal status as a United States citizen could not be verified and transmit, using the statewide voter registration system maintained pursuant to s. 98.035, the applicant's registration application, along with the digital signature of the applicant on file with the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, to the supervisor of elections. The applicant's digital signature satisfies the signature requirement of s. 97.052(2)(r).

(d) If the applicant's name and date of birth cannot be



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verified by the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, ~~or if the applicant indicated that he or she has not been issued a Florida driver license or Florida identification card,~~ the online voter registration system must ~~shall~~ populate the applicant's information, except for the applicant's Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, or social security number, into a printable voter registration application pursuant to s. 97.052(2) which ~~and direct~~ the applicant may ~~to~~ print, complete, sign, and date, ~~the application~~ and deliver ~~the application~~ to the supervisor of elections for disposition pursuant to s. 97.073.

(e) If the applicant indicates that he or she has not been issued a Florida driver license or identification card, or chooses to use the system to prepopulate an application to print, sign, date, and deliver to the supervisor, the online voter registration system must populate the applicant's information into a printable voter registration application pursuant to s. 97.052(2) and direct the applicant to print, sign, and date the application and deliver the application to the supervisor for disposition under s. 97.073.

Section 4. Subsections (2), (4), and (6) of section 97.053, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

97.053 Acceptance of voter registration applications.—

(2) A voter registration application is complete and becomes the official voter registration record of that applicant when all information necessary to establish the applicant's eligibility pursuant to s. 97.041 is received by a voter registration official and verified pursuant to subsection (6).

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262 Except as provided in subsection (6), if the applicant fails to  
263 complete his or her voter registration application on or before  
264 ~~prior to~~ the date of book closing for an election, ~~then~~ such  
265 applicant is ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ eligible to vote in that election.

266 (4) (a) The registration date for a valid initial voter  
267 registration application that has been mailed to a driver  
268 license office, a voter registration agency, an armed forces  
269 recruitment office, the division, or the office of any  
270 supervisor in the state and bears a clear postmark is the date  
271 of that postmark. If an initial voter registration application  
272 that has been mailed does not bear a postmark or if the postmark  
273 is unclear, the registration date is the date the application is  
274 received by any supervisor or the division, unless it is  
275 received within 5 days after the closing of the books for an  
276 election, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in  
277 which case the registration date is the book-closing date.

278 (b) The registration date for a valid application to update  
279 the voter's record with a change of address, name, or party  
280 affiliation is retroactive to the date the application was  
281 initially received once the required sufficient evidence is  
282 verified.

283 (6) (a) A voter registration application, including an  
284 application with a change in name, address, or party  
285 affiliation, may be accepted as valid only after the department  
286 has verified the authenticity or nonexistence of the Florida  
287 driver license number, the Florida identification card number,  
288 or the last four digits of the social security number provided  
289 by the applicant. If a completed voter registration application  
290 has been received by the book-closing deadline but the Florida

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291 driver license number, the Florida identification card number,  
292 or the last four digits of the social security number provided  
293 by the applicant cannot be verified, or if the records of the  
294 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that  
295 the applicant is not a United States citizen or has not provided  
296 documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship,  
297 the applicant must ~~shall~~ be notified and ~~that the number cannot~~  
298 ~~be verified and that the applicant~~ must provide evidence to the  
299 supervisor sufficient to verify the authenticity of the  
300 applicant's Florida driver license number, Florida  
301 identification card number, or last four digits of the social  
302 security number or, if applicable, must provide documents  
303 acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship. If the  
304 applicant provides the necessary evidence, the supervisor must  
305 ~~shall~~ place the applicant's name on the registration rolls as an  
306 active voter. If the applicant has not provided the necessary  
307 evidence or the number has not otherwise been verified prior to  
308 the applicant presenting himself or herself to vote, the  
309 applicant must ~~shall~~ be provided a provisional ballot. The  
310 provisional ballot must ~~shall~~ be counted only if the number is  
311 verified by the end of the canvassing period or if the applicant  
312 presents evidence to the supervisor of elections sufficient to  
313 verify the authenticity of the applicant's Florida driver  
314 license number, Florida identification card number, or last four  
315 digits of the social security number or, if applicable, presents  
316 documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship no  
317 later than 5 p.m. of the second day following the election.

318 (b) Upon receipt of a voter registration application,  
319 including an application with a change in name, address, or

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party affiliation, which indicates that the applicant has not been issued a current and valid Florida driver license, Florida identification card, or social security number, or if the records of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles indicate that the applicant is not a United States citizen or has not provided documents acceptable as evidence of United States citizenship, the supervisor of elections shall verify the voter's legal status as a United States citizen using available state and federal governmental sources and, if applicable, initiate notice pursuant to s. 98.075(7).

Section 5. Subsections (11) and (13) of section 97.057, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

97.057 Voter registration by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.—

(11) The Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall enter into an agreement with the department to match information in the statewide voter registration system with information in the database of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the extent required to verify the accuracy of the Florida driver license number, Florida identification number, or last four digits of the social security number and the legal status as a United States citizen, provided on applications for voter registration as required in s. 97.053. The department shall also include in the statewide voter registration system the type of documentary proof that the licensee or cardholder provided as evidence of United States citizenship.

(13) Notwithstanding declinations to register or to update a voter registration pursuant to paragraph (2)(b), the

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349 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, in accordance  
350 with s. 98.093(8), shall ~~must~~ assist the Department of State in  
351 ~~regularly~~ identifying changes in residence address on the  
352 Florida driver license or Florida identification card or changes  
353 in the Florida driver license or Florida identification card  
354 number of such persons who may be voters ~~of a voter. The~~  
355 ~~Department of State must report each such change to the~~  
356 ~~appropriate supervisor of elections who must change the voter's~~  
357 ~~registration records in accordance with s. 98.065(4).~~

358 Section 6. Subsection (4) of section 98.015, Florida  
359 Statutes, is amended to read:

360 98.015 Supervisor of elections; election, tenure of office,  
361 compensation, custody of registration-related documents, office  
362 hours, successor, seal; appointment of deputy supervisors;  
363 duties.—

364 (4)(a) At a minimum, the office of the supervisor must be  
365 open Monday through Friday, ~~excluding legal holidays,~~ for a  
366 period of not less than 8 hours per day, beginning no later than  
367 9 a.m.

368 (b) The office of the supervisor may close to observe legal  
369 holidays and other federal, state, or county-approved holidays,  
370 if the office is not otherwise required to be open to fulfill  
371 official duties under the Florida Election Code.

372 Section 7. Subsection (1) of section 98.045, Florida  
373 Statutes, is amended to read:

374 98.045 Administration of voter registration.—

375 (1) ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT.—

376 (a) The supervisor shall ~~must~~ ensure that any eligible  
377 applicant for voter registration is registered to vote and that

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each application for voter registration is processed in accordance with law. The supervisor shall determine whether a voter registration applicant is ineligible based on any of the following:

~~1.(a)~~ The failure to complete a voter registration application as specified in s. 97.053.

~~2.(b)~~ The applicant is deceased.

~~3.(c)~~ The applicant has been convicted of a felony for which his or her voting rights have not been restored.

~~4.(d)~~ The applicant has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to the right to vote and such right has not been restored.

~~5.(e)~~ The applicant does not meet the age requirement pursuant to s. 97.041.

~~6.(f)~~ The applicant is not a United States citizen.

~~7.(g)~~ The applicant is a fictitious person.

~~8.(h)~~ The applicant has provided an address of legal residence that is not his or her legal residence.

~~9.(i)~~ The applicant has provided a Florida driver license number, Florida identification card number, or the last four digits of a social security number that is not verifiable by the department.

(b) If the latest voter registration records show that a new applicant was previously registered but subsequently removed for ineligibility pursuant to s. 98.075(7), the supervisor must verify the current eligibility of the applicant to register within 13 days after receipt of such records by reviewing the information provided by a governmental entity listed in s. 98.075 or s. 98.093 to determine whether the applicant remains

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ineligible. If the supervisor determines that the applicant is ineligible, the supervisor must deny the application and notify the applicant pursuant to s. 97.073.

Section 8. Subsection (6) and paragraph (a) of subsection (7) of section 98.075, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

98.075 Registration records maintenance activities; ineligibility determinations.—

(6) ELIGIBILITY.—

(a) Citizenship.—The department shall identify those registered voters who are potentially ineligible based on their legal status regarding United States citizenship by comparing or receiving information from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, clerks of state and federal courts, and the United States Department of Homeland Security, as provided in s. 98.093. The department shall review such information and make an initial determination as to whether the information is credible and reliable. If the department determines that the information is credible and reliable, the department must notify the supervisor and provide a copy of the supporting documentation indicating potential ineligibility of the voter to be registered. Upon receipt of the notice that the department has made a determination of initial credibility and reliability, the supervisor must adhere to the procedures set forth in subsection (7) before the removal of a registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

(b) Other bases for ineligibility ~~OTHER BASES FOR INELIGIBILITY.—~~Subsections (2)-(6) ~~(2)-(5)~~ do not limit or restrict the department or the supervisor in his or her duty to act upon direct receipt of, access to, or knowledge of

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information from any governmental entity that identifies a registered voter as potentially ineligible. If the department or supervisor receives information from any governmental entity other than those identified in subsections (2)-(6) ~~(2)-(5)~~ that a registered voter is ineligible because the voter is deceased, adjudicated a convicted felon without having had his or her voting rights restored, adjudicated mentally incapacitated without having had his or her voting rights restored, does not meet the age requirement pursuant to s. 97.041, is not a United States citizen, is a fictitious person, or has listed an address that is not his or her address of legal residence, the supervisor must adhere to the procedures set forth in subsection (7) before the removal of the name of a registered voter who is determined to be ineligible from the statewide voter registration system.

(7) PROCEDURES FOR REMOVAL.—

(a) If the supervisor receives notice or information pursuant to subsections (4)-(6), the supervisor of the county in which the voter is registered must:

1. Notify the registered voter of his or her potential ineligibility by mail within 7 days after receipt of notice or information. The notice must include:

a. A statement of the basis for the registered voter's potential ineligibility and a copy of any documentation upon which the potential ineligibility is based. Such documentation must include any conviction from another jurisdiction determined to be a similar offense to murder or a felony sexual offense, as those terms are defined in s. 98.0751.

b. A statement that failure to respond within 30 days after



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465 receipt of the notice may result in a determination of  
466 ineligibility and in removal of the registered voter's name from  
467 the statewide voter registration system.

468 c. A return form that requires the registered voter to  
469 admit or deny the accuracy of the information underlying the  
470 potential ineligibility for purposes of a final determination by  
471 the supervisor.

472 d. A statement that, if the voter is denying the accuracy  
473 of the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the  
474 voter has a right to request a hearing for the purpose of  
475 determining eligibility.

476 e. Instructions for the registered voter to contact the  
477 supervisor of elections of the county in which the voter is  
478 registered if assistance is needed in resolving the matter.

479 f. Instructions for seeking restoration of civil rights  
480 pursuant to s. 8, Art. IV of the State Constitution and  
481 information explaining voting rights restoration pursuant to s.  
482 4, Art. VI of the State Constitution following a felony  
483 conviction, if applicable.

484 g. A list of the following acceptable documents or evidence  
485 of United States citizenship which, if provided or used to  
486 verify the voter as a United States citizen, must be recorded in  
487 the statewide voter registration system:

488 (I) An original or certified copy of a United States birth  
489 certificate.

490 (II) A valid, unexpired United States passport.

491 (III) A naturalization certificate issued by the United  
492 States Department of Homeland Security.

493 (IV) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad provided by the

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494 United States Department of State.

495 (V) A current and valid Florida driver license or Florida  
496 identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety  
497 and Motor Vehicles, if such driver license or identification  
498 card indicates United States citizenship.

499 (VI) A current and valid photo identification issued by the  
500 Federal Government or the state which indicates United States  
501 citizenship.

502 (VII) An order from a federal court granting United States  
503 citizenship.

504 (VIII) If the applicant's legal name is different from the  
505 name that appears on one of the documents specified in this sub-  
506 paragraph, official legal documentation providing proof of  
507 legal name change.

508 h. The following statement: "If you attempt to vote at an  
509 early voting site or your normal election day polling place, you  
510 will be required to vote a provisional ballot. If you vote by  
511 mail, your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot. In  
512 either case, your ballot may not be counted until a final  
513 determination of eligibility is made. If you wish for your  
514 ballot to be counted, you must contact the supervisor of  
515 elections office within 2 days after the election and present  
516 evidence that you are eligible to vote."

517 2. If the mailed notice is returned as undeliverable, the  
518 supervisor must, within 14 days after receiving the returned  
519 notice, either publish notice once in a newspaper of general  
520 circulation in the county in which the voter was last registered  
521 or publish notice on the county's website as provided in s.  
522 50.0311 or on the supervisor's website, as deemed appropriate by

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the supervisor. The notice must contain the following:

a. The voter's name and address.

b. A statement that the voter is potentially ineligible to be registered to vote.

c. A statement that failure to respond within 30 days after the notice is published may result in a determination of ineligibility by the supervisor and removal of the registered voter's name from the statewide voter registration system.

d. An instruction for the voter to contact the supervisor no later than 30 days after the date of the published notice to receive information regarding the basis for the potential ineligibility and the procedure to resolve the matter.

e. An instruction to the voter that, if further assistance is needed, the voter should contact the supervisor of elections of the county in which the voter is registered.

f. A statement that, if the voter denies the accuracy of the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the voter has a right to request a hearing for the purpose of determining eligibility.

g. The following statement: "If you attempt to vote at an early voting site or your normal election day polling place, you will be required to vote a provisional ballot. If you vote by mail, your ballot will be treated as a provisional ballot. In either case, your ballot may not be counted until a final determination of eligibility is made. If you wish for your ballot to be counted, you must contact the supervisor of elections office within 2 days after the election and present evidence that you are eligible to vote."

3. If a registered voter fails to respond to a notice

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552 pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2., the supervisor  
553 must make a final determination of the voter's eligibility  
554 within 7 days after expiration of the voter's timeframe to  
555 respond. If the supervisor determines that the voter is  
556 ineligible, the supervisor must remove the name of the  
557 registered voter from the statewide voter registration system  
558 within 7 days. The supervisor shall notify the registered voter  
559 of the supervisor's determination and action.

560 4. If a registered voter responds to the notice pursuant to  
561 subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and admits the accuracy of  
562 the information underlying the potential ineligibility, the  
563 supervisor must, as soon as practicable, make a final  
564 determination of ineligibility and remove the voter's name from  
565 the statewide voter registration system. The supervisor shall  
566 notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination  
567 and action.

568 5. If a registered voter responds to the notice issued  
569 pursuant to subparagraph 1. or subparagraph 2. and denies the  
570 accuracy of the information underlying the potential  
571 ineligibility but does not request a hearing, the supervisor  
572 must review the evidence and make a determination of eligibility  
573 no later than 30 days after receiving the response from the  
574 voter. If the supervisor determines that the registered voter is  
575 ineligible, the supervisor must remove the voter's name from the  
576 statewide voter registration system upon such determination and  
577 notify the registered voter of the supervisor's determination  
578 and action and that the removed voter has a right to appeal a  
579 determination of ineligibility pursuant to s. 98.0755. If such  
580 registered voter requests a hearing, the supervisor must send

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581 notice to the registered voter to attend a hearing at a time and  
582 place specified in the notice. The supervisor shall schedule and  
583 issue notice for the hearing within 7 days after receiving the  
584 voter's request for a hearing and shall hold the hearing no  
585 later than 30 days after issuing the notice of the hearing. A  
586 voter may request an extension upon showing good cause by  
587 submitting an affidavit to the supervisor as to why he or she is  
588 unable to attend the scheduled hearing. Upon hearing all  
589 evidence presented at the hearing, the supervisor shall make a  
590 determination of eligibility within 7 days. If the supervisor  
591 determines that the registered voter is ineligible, the  
592 supervisor must remove the voter's name from the statewide voter  
593 registration system and notify the registered voter of the  
594 supervisor's determination and action and that the removed voter  
595 has a right to appeal a determination of ineligibility pursuant  
596 to s. 98.0755.

597 Section 9. Present subsection (9) of section 98.093,  
598 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (10), a new  
599 subsection (9) is added to that section, and subsection (8) of  
600 that section is amended, to read:

601 98.093 Duty of officials to furnish information relating to  
602 deceased persons, persons adjudicated mentally incapacitated,  
603 persons convicted of a felony, and persons who are not United  
604 States citizens.—

605 (8) DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAY SAFETY AND MOTOR VEHICLES.—The  
606 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles shall furnish  
607 weekly to the department the following information:

608 (a) Information identifying those persons whose names have  
609 been removed from the Florida driver license or Florida

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610 identification card database during the preceding week because  
611 they have been licensed or been issued an identification card in  
612 another state. The information must contain the person's name,  
613 last known Florida address, date of birth, sex, last four digits  
614 of his or her social security number, and Florida driver license  
615 number or Florida identification card number and, if available,  
616 the address and the state in which the person is now licensed.

617 (b) Information identifying those persons who during the  
618 preceding week presented evidence of non-United States  
619 citizenship upon being issued a new or renewed Florida driver  
620 license or Florida identification card. The information must  
621 contain the person's name; address; date of birth; last four  
622 digits of the social security number, if applicable; Florida  
623 driver license number or Florida identification card number, as  
624 available; and alien registration number or other legal status  
625 identifier.

626 (c) Information identifying those persons who during the  
627 preceding week presented documents acceptable as evidence of  
628 United States citizenship upon being issued a new, renewed, or  
629 replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification  
630 card. The information must contain the person's name; address;  
631 date of birth; last four digits of the social security number,  
632 if applicable; Florida driver license number or Florida  
633 identification card number, as available; the type of  
634 documentary proof provided in support of citizenship; and, if  
635 applicable, the alien registration number or other legal status  
636 identifier. Any of the following documents are acceptable as  
637 evidence of United States citizenship:

638 1. An original or certified copy of a United States birth

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639 certificate.

640 2. A valid, unexpired United States passport.

641 3. A naturalization certificate issued by the United States  
642 Department of Homeland Security.

643 4. A Consular Report of Birth Abroad provided by the United  
644 States Department of State.

645 5. A current and valid Florida driver license or Florida  
646 identification card issued by the Department of Highway Safety  
647 and Motor Vehicles, if such driver license or identification  
648 card indicates United States citizenship.

649 6. A current and valid photo identification issued by the  
650 Federal Government or the state which indicates United States  
651 citizenship.

652 7. An order from a federal court granting United States  
653 citizenship.

654 8. If the applicant's legal name is different from the name  
655 that appears on one of the documents specified in this  
656 paragraph, official legal documentation providing for proof of  
657 legal name change.

658 (d) Information identifying a change in residence address  
659 on the Florida driver license or Florida identification card of  
660 any person who declined pursuant to s. 97.057(2) to register or  
661 update his or her voter record. The information must contain the  
662 person's name; date of birth; sex; last four digits of the  
663 social security number, if available; and Florida driver license  
664 or Florida identification card number, as available, in order to  
665 identify a voter's registration record. The Department of State  
666 must report each such change in residence address to the  
667 appropriate supervisor, who must change the voter's registration

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records in accordance with s. 98.065(4).

(e) Information identifying new, renewed, or replacement Florida driver license or Florida identification card numbers issued to persons who declined pursuant to s. 97.057(2) to register or update their voter record. The information must contain the person's name; date of birth; last four digits of the social security number, if available; and the prior, if applicable, and current Florida driver license or Florida identification card number in order to identify a voter's registration record. Within 7 days, the Department of State shall report such information to the appropriate supervisor, who must update the voter registration records.

(f) Information identifying those persons for which it has received official information during the preceding week that the person is deceased. The information must contain the name, address, date of birth, last four digits of the social security number, Florida driver license number or Florida identification card number, and date of death of each such person.

(9) FEDERAL COURTS.—Upon receipt of information from a jury coordinator that a person was disqualified or potentially disqualified as a prospective juror from jury service due to not having United States citizenship, being convicted of a felony, being deceased, being a nonresident of this state, or being a nonresident of the county, the department shall use such information to identify registered voters or applicants for voter registration who may be potentially ineligible based on information provided in accordance with s. 98.075.

Section 10. Present subsections (5) through (8) of section 99.012, Florida Statutes, are redesignated as subsections (7)



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through (10), respectively, and new subsections (5) and (6) are added to that section, to read:

99.012 Restrictions on individuals qualifying for public office.—

(5) A person may not qualify for nomination as a candidate of a political party if he or she has not been a registered member of that party for the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying; or as a candidate with no party affiliation if he or she has not been registered without party affiliation, or has been a registered member of any political party, for the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying.

(6) A person may not qualify as a candidate for public office, whether federal, state, district, county, or municipal, if he or she has legally changed his or her name through a petition pursuant to s. 68.07 during the 365-day period preceding the beginning of qualifying. This subsection does not apply to any change of name in proceedings for dissolution of marriage or adoption of children or based on a change of name conducted with a marriage certificate.

Section 11. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of section 99.021, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

99.021 Form of candidate oath.—

(1)

(b) In addition, any person seeking to qualify for nomination as a candidate of any political party shall, at the time of subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing:

1. The party of which the person is a member.

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726           2. That the person has been a registered member of the  
727 political party for which he or she is seeking nomination as a  
728 candidate for at least 365 consecutive days preceding ~~before~~ the  
729 beginning of qualifying before ~~preceding~~ the general election  
730 for which the person seeks to qualify.

731           3. That the person has paid the assessment levied against  
732 him or her, if any, as a candidate for said office by the  
733 executive committee of the party of which he or she is a member.

734           (c) In addition, any person seeking to qualify for office  
735 as a candidate with no party affiliation shall, at the time of  
736 subscribing to the oath or affirmation, state in writing that he  
737 or she is registered without any party affiliation and that he  
738 or she has not been a registered member of any political party  
739 for at least 365 consecutive days preceding ~~before~~ the beginning  
740 of qualifying before ~~preceding~~ the general election for which  
741 the person seeks to qualify.

742           Section 12. Subsection (1) of section 101.151, Florida  
743 Statutes, is amended to read:

744           101.151 Specifications for ballots.—

745           (1)(a) ~~Marksense~~ Ballots must ~~shall~~ be printed on paper of  
746 such thickness that the printing cannot be distinguished from  
747 the back and must ~~shall~~ meet the specifications of the voting  
748 system that will be used to tabulate the ballots.

749           (b) Polling places and early voting sites may employ a  
750 ballot-on-demand production system to print individual ~~marksense~~  
751 ballots, including provisional ballots, for eligible electors.  
752 Ballot-on-demand technology may be used to produce ~~marksense~~  
753 vote-by-mail, early voting, and election-day ballots.

754           Section 13. Subsection (4) of section 101.5606, Florida

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Statutes, is amended to read:

101.5606 Requirements for approval of systems.—No electronic or electromechanical voting system shall be approved by the Department of State unless it is so constructed that:

(4) ~~For systems using marksense ballots,~~ It accepts a rejected ballot pursuant to subsection (3) if a voter chooses to cast the ballot, but records no vote for any office that has been overvoted or undervoted.

Section 14. Section 101.56075, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.56075 Voting methods.—For the purpose of designating ballot selections, all voting must be by official marksense ballot, using a pen compatible with or recommended for use with the voting system, unless a voter requests to vote using marking device ~~or~~ a voter interface device that produces a voter-verifiable paper output and meets the voter accessibility requirements for individuals with disabilities under s. 301 of the federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 and s. 101.56062.

Section 15. Section 101.5608, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

101.5608 Voting at the polls ~~by electronic or electromechanical method~~; procedures.—

(1) Each voter ~~elector~~ desiring to vote must ~~shall~~ be identified to the clerk or inspector of the election as a duly qualified voter ~~elector~~ of such election and must ~~shall~~ sign his or her name on the precinct register or other form or device provided by the supervisor. The inspector shall compare the signature with the signature on the identification provided by the voter ~~elector~~. If the inspector is reasonably sure that the

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person is entitled to vote, the inspector must ~~shall~~ provide the person with a ballot.

(2) When an electronic or electromechanical voting system uses ~~utilizes~~ a ballot card or ~~marksense~~ ballot, the following procedures must ~~shall~~ be followed:

(a) After receiving a ballot from an inspector, the voter ~~elector~~ shall, without leaving the polling place, retire to a booth or compartment and mark the ballot. After marking his or her ballot, the voter must ~~elector shall~~ place the ballot in a secrecy envelope so that the ballot will be deposited in the tabulator without exposing the voter's choices.

(b) Any voter who spoils his or her ballot or makes an error may return the ballot to the election official and secure another ballot, except that in no case shall a voter be furnished more than three ballots. If the vote tabulation device has rejected a ballot, the ballot must ~~shall~~ be considered spoiled and a new ballot must ~~shall~~ be provided to the voter unless the voter chooses to cast the rejected ballot. The election official, without examining the original ballot, shall state the possible reasons for the rejection and shall provide instruction to the voter pursuant to s. 101.5611. A spoiled ballot must ~~shall~~ be preserved, without examination, in an envelope provided for that purpose. ~~The stub shall be removed from the ballot and placed in an envelope.~~

(c) The supervisor of elections shall prepare for each polling place at least one ballot box to contain the ballots of a particular precinct, and each ballot box must ~~shall~~ be plainly marked with the name of the precinct for which it is intended.

(3) The Department of State shall promulgate rules

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813 regarding voting procedures to be used when an electronic or  
814 electromechanical voting system is of a type which does not use  
815 ~~utilize~~ a ballot card ~~or marksense~~ ballot.

816 (4) In any election in which a write-in candidate has  
817 qualified for office, the supervisor of elections shall provide  
818 for write-in voting pursuant to rules adopted by the Division of  
819 Elections.

820 Section 16. Subsection (5) of section 101.5612, Florida  
821 Statutes, is amended to read:

822 101.5612 Testing of tabulating equipment.—

823 (5) Any tests involving ~~marksense~~ ballots pursuant to this  
824 section must ~~shall~~ employ test ballots created by the supervisor  
825 of elections using actual ballots that have been printed for the  
826 election. If ballot-on-demand ballots will be used in the  
827 election, the supervisor must ~~shall~~ also create test ballots  
828 using the ballot-on-demand technology that will be used to  
829 produce ballots in the election, using the same paper stock as  
830 will be used for ballots in the election.

831 Section 17. Subsection (2) of section 102.111, Florida  
832 Statutes, is amended to read:

833 102.111 Elections Canvassing Commission.—

834 (2) The Elections Canvassing Commission shall meet ~~at 8~~  
835 ~~a.m.~~ on the 9th day after a primary election and ~~at 8 a.m.~~ on  
836 the 14th day after a general election to certify the returns of  
837 the election for each federal, state, and multicounty office and  
838 for each constitutional amendment. The meeting must be at 9  
839 a.m., except for days the Legislature convenes for organization  
840 session pursuant to s. 3(a), Art. III of the State Constitution,  
841 on which days the meeting must be at 8 a.m. If a member of a

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county canvassing board that was constituted pursuant to s. 102.141 determines, within 5 days after the certification by the Elections Canvassing Commission, that a typographical error occurred in the official returns of the county, the correction of which could result in a change in the outcome of an election, the county canvassing board must certify corrected returns to the Department of State within 24 hours, and the Elections Canvassing Commission must correct and recertify the election returns as soon as practicable.

Section 18. Subsections (3) through (7) of section 102.141, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

102.141 County canvassing board; duties.—

(3) The canvass, except the canvass of absent voters' ~~electors'~~ returns and the canvass of provisional ballots, must ~~shall~~ be made from the returns and certificates of the inspectors as signed and filed by them with the supervisor, and the county canvassing board may ~~shall~~ not change the number of votes cast for a candidate, nominee, constitutional amendment, or other measure submitted to the electorate of the county, respectively, in any polling place, as shown by the returns. All returns must ~~shall~~ be made to the board on or before 2 a.m. of the day following any primary, general, or other election. If the returns from any precinct are missing, if there are any omissions on the returns from any precinct, or if there is an obvious error on any such returns, the canvassing board must ~~shall~~ order a retabulation of the returns from such precinct. Before canvassing such returns, the canvassing board shall examine the tabulation of the ballots cast in such precinct and determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast.

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871 If there is a discrepancy between the returns and the tabulation  
872 of the ballots cast, the tabulation of the ballots cast must  
873 ~~shall~~ be presumed correct and such votes must ~~shall~~ be canvassed  
874 accordingly.

875 (4) (a) The supervisor of elections shall upload into the  
876 county's election management system by 7 p.m. local time on the  
877 day before the election the results of all early voting and  
878 vote-by-mail ballots that have been canvassed and tabulated by  
879 the end of the early voting period. Pursuant to ss. 101.5614(8),  
880 101.657, and 101.68(2), the tabulation of votes cast or the  
881 results of such uploads may not be made public before the close  
882 of the polls on election day.

883 (b) The supervisor, on behalf of the canvassing board,  
884 shall report all early voting and all tabulated vote-by-mail  
885 results to the Department of State within 30 minutes after the  
886 polls close. Thereafter, the canvassing board shall report, with  
887 the exception of provisional ballot results, updated precinct  
888 election results by uploading such results to the department at  
889 least every 45 minutes until all results are completely  
890 reported. The supervisor of elections shall notify the  
891 department immediately of any circumstances that do not permit  
892 periodic updates as required. Results must ~~shall~~ be submitted in  
893 a format prescribed by the department.

894 (5) The canvassing board shall submit on forms or in  
895 formats provided by the division unofficial returns to the  
896 Department of State for each federal, statewide, state, or  
897 multicounty office or ballot measure no later than noon on the  
898 third day after any primary election and no later than noon on  
899 the fourth day after any general or other election. Such returns

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900 ~~must shall~~ include the canvass of all ballots, including write-  
901 in votes, as required by subsection (2).

902 (6) If the county canvassing board determines that the  
903 unofficial returns may contain a counting error in which the  
904 vote tabulation system failed to count votes that were properly  
905 marked in accordance with the instructions on the ballot, the  
906 county canvassing board must shall:

907 (a) Correct the error and retabulate the affected ballots  
908 with the vote tabulation system; or

909 (b) Request that the Department of State verify the  
910 tabulation software. When the Department of State verifies such  
911 software, the department shall compare the software used to  
912 tabulate the votes with the software filed with the department  
913 pursuant to s. 101.5607 and check the election parameters.

914 (7) If the unofficial returns reflect that a candidate for  
915 any office was defeated or eliminated by one-half of a percent  
916 or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for  
917 retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by  
918 one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question  
919 of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was  
920 approved or rejected by one-half of a percent or less of the  
921 votes cast on such measure, a recount shall be ordered of the  
922 votes cast with respect to such office or measure. The Secretary  
923 of State is responsible for ordering recounts in races that are  
924 federal or, state races that are, ~~and~~ multicounty and any other  
925 multicounty races. The county canvassing board or the local  
926 board responsible for certifying the election is responsible for  
927 ordering recounts in all other races. A recount need not be  
928 ordered with respect to the returns for any office, however, if



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the candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated from contention for such office by one-half of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not be made.

(a) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount shall put each ~~marksense~~ ballot through automatic tabulating equipment and determine whether the returns correctly reflect the votes cast. If any ~~marksense~~ ballot is physically damaged so that it cannot be properly counted by the automatic tabulating equipment during the recount, a true duplicate shall be made of the damaged ballot pursuant to the procedures in s. 101.5614(4). Immediately before the start of the recount, a test of the tabulating equipment shall be conducted as provided in s. 101.5612. If the test indicates no error, the recount tabulation of the ballots cast shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly. If an error is detected, the cause therefor shall be ascertained and corrected and the recount repeated, as necessary. The canvassing board shall immediately report the error, along with the cause of the error and the corrective measures being taken, to the Department of State. No later than 11 days after the election, the canvassing board shall file a separate incident report with the Department of State, detailing the resolution of the matter and identifying any measures that will avoid a future recurrence of the error. If the automatic tabulating equipment used in a recount is not part of the voting system and the ballots have already been processed through such equipment, the canvassing board is not required to put each ballot through any automatic tabulating equipment again.

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(b) Each canvassing board responsible for conducting a recount where touchscreen ballots were used shall examine the counters on the precinct tabulators to ensure that the total of the returns on the precinct tabulators equals the overall election return. If there is a discrepancy between the overall election return and the counters of the precinct tabulators, the counters of the precinct tabulators shall be presumed correct and such votes shall be canvassed accordingly.

(c) The canvassing board shall submit on forms or in formats provided by the division a second set of unofficial returns to the Department of State for each federal, statewide, state, or multicounty office or ballot measure. The returns shall be filed no later than 3 p.m. on the 5th day after any primary election and no later than 3 p.m. on the 9th day after any general election in which a recount was ordered by the Secretary of State. If the canvassing board is unable to complete the recount prescribed in this subsection by the deadline, the second set of unofficial returns submitted by the canvassing board shall be identical to the initial unofficial returns and the submission shall also include a detailed explanation of why it was unable to timely complete the recount. However, the canvassing board shall complete the recount prescribed in this subsection, along with any manual recount prescribed in s. 102.166, and certify election returns in accordance with the requirements of this chapter.

(d) The Department of State shall adopt detailed rules prescribing additional recount procedures for each certified voting system, which shall be uniform to the extent practicable.

Section 19. Section 102.166, Florida Statutes, is amended

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to read:

102.166 Manual recounts of overvotes and undervotes.—

(1) If the second set of unofficial returns pursuant to ss. 101.591 and 102.141, ~~s. 102.141~~ indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office, that a candidate for retention to a judicial office was retained or not retained by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on the question of retention, or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-quarter of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, a manual recount of the overvotes and undervotes cast in the entire geographic jurisdiction of such office or ballot measure must ~~shall~~ be ordered unless:

(a) The candidate or candidates defeated or eliminated from contention by one-quarter of 1 percent or fewer of the votes cast for such office request in writing that a recount not be made; or

(b) The number of overvotes and undervotes is fewer than the number of votes needed to change the outcome of the election.

The Secretary of State is responsible for ordering a manual recount for federal or, state races that are multicounty, and any other multicounty races. The county canvassing board or local board responsible for certifying the election is responsible for ordering a manual recount for all other races. A manual recount consists of a recount of ~~marksense~~ ballots or of digital images of those ballots by a person.

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1016 Section 20. Section 104.51, Florida Statutes, is created to  
1017 read:

1018 104.51 Time limitation; election fraud.—A prosecution for a  
1019 felony violation under the Florida Election Code must be  
1020 commenced within 5 years after the date the violation is  
1021 committed.

1022 Section 21. Section 322.034, Florida Statutes, is created  
1023 to read:

1024 322.034 Legal status designation on state-issued driver  
1025 licenses and identification cards.—

1026 (1) By July 1, 2027, a Florida driver license or Florida  
1027 identification card issued to a qualified applicant who is a  
1028 United States citizen as last recorded in the system must  
1029 include his or her legal citizenship status at the time of new  
1030 issuance, renewal, or replacement.

1031 (2) Notwithstanding any other law, the department must, at  
1032 no charge, issue a renewal or replacement driver license or  
1033 identification card if a licensee or cardholder timely updates  
1034 his or her legal status upon becoming a citizen of the United  
1035 States as required in s. 322.19.

1036 Section 22. Subsection (2) of section 121.121, Florida  
1037 Statutes, is amended to read:

1038 121.121 Authorized leaves of absence.—

1039 (2) A member who is required to resign his or her office as  
1040 a subordinate officer, deputy sheriff, or police officer because  
1041 he or she is a candidate for a public office which is currently  
1042 held by his or her superior officer who is also a candidate for  
1043 reelection to the same office, in accordance with s. 99.012(7)  
1044 ~~s. 99.012(5)~~, shall, upon return to covered employment, be

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1045 eligible to purchase retirement credit for the period between  
1046 his or her date of resignation and the beginning of the term of  
1047 office for which he or she was a candidate as a leave of absence  
1048 without pay, as provided in subsection (1).

1049 Section 23. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
1050 made by this act to section 98.075, Florida Statutes, in a  
1051 reference thereto, subsection (6) of section 98.065, Florida  
1052 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1053 98.065 Registration list maintenance programs.—

1054 (6) The supervisor shall, at a minimum, conduct an annual  
1055 review of voter registration records to identify registration  
1056 records in which a voter is registered at an address that may  
1057 not be an address of legal residence for the voter. For those  
1058 registration records with such addresses that the supervisor has  
1059 reasonable belief are not legal residential addresses, the  
1060 supervisor shall initiate list maintenance activities pursuant  
1061 to s. 98.075(6) and (7).

1062 Section 24. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
1063 made by this act to section 98.015, Florida Statutes, in a  
1064 reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section  
1065 101.69, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1066 101.69 Voting in person; return of vote-by-mail ballot.—

1067 (2)(a) The supervisor shall allow an elector who has  
1068 received a vote-by-mail ballot to physically return a voted  
1069 vote-by-mail ballot to the supervisor by placing the return mail  
1070 envelope containing his or her marked ballot in a secure ballot  
1071 intake station. Secure ballot intake stations shall be placed at  
1072 the main office of the supervisor, at each permanent branch  
1073 office of the supervisor which meets the criteria set forth in

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s. 101.657(1)(a) for branch offices used for early voting and which is open for at least the minimum number of hours prescribed by s. 98.015(4), and at each early voting site. Secure ballot intake stations may also be placed at any other site that would otherwise qualify as an early voting site under s. 101.657(1). Secure ballot intake stations must be geographically located so as to provide all voters in the county with an equal opportunity to cast a ballot, insofar as is practicable. Except for secure ballot intake stations at an office of the supervisor, a secure ballot intake station may only be used during the county's early voting hours of operation and must be monitored in person by an employee of the supervisor's office. A secure ballot intake station at an office of the supervisor must be continuously monitored in person by an employee of the supervisor's office when the secure ballot intake station is accessible for deposit of ballots.

Section 25. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

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BILL: CS/SB 1362

INTRODUCER: Transportation Committee and Senator Harrell

SUBJECT: Advanced Air Mobility

DATE: February 17, 2026

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

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Vickers</u>	<u>TR</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1362 may be cited as the Advanced Air Mobility Competitiveness and Infrastructure Act. The bill includes the following provisions:

- Defines the term “vertiport.”
- Amends the definition of the term “qualifying projects” for purposes of public-private partnerships to include vertiports and charging stations.
- Provides sovereign immunity to vertiports collocated at public airports to the same extent as is currently applicable to the public airport operator.
- Incorporates vertiport-related infrastructure into commercial service airport infrastructure preservation programs.
- Authorizes the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to fund vertiport projects.
- Requires the FDOT to create a model vertiport siting code, establish vertiport demonstration corridors, and adopt rules for coordinating among various entities with respect to vertiports.
- Requires the FDOT to expeditiously approve vertiports adopting the model siting code.
- Preempts to the state the regulation of vertiport design, aeronautical operation, and aviation safety.
- Preempts to the state the regulation of electric aircraft charging stations and associated infrastructure.
- Requires local governmental entities to review certain permits for electric aircraft charging stations and provides an application for such a permit is deemed approved if certain action is not taken within 15 days.

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on private and governmental sectors. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Section.

This bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

## **II. Present Situation:**

For ease of organization and readability, the present situation is discussed below with the effect of proposed changes.

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

### **Short Title (Section 1)**

The bill creates the Advanced Air Mobility Competitiveness and Infrastructure Act.

### **Advanced Air Mobility**

Federal law defines the term “Advanced Air Mobility” (AAM) as a transportation system that transports people and property by air between two points in the United States using aircraft with advanced technologies, including electric aircraft or electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft, in controlled and uncontrolled airspace.<sup>1</sup>

AAM encompasses new technologies and business models designed to enable small, low-altitude aircraft operations at increasing scale and decreasing cost. It introduces new aircraft designs, including manned and unmanned aircraft with novel flight characteristics, control schemes, modes of operation and propulsion sources, that can fly quietly and efficiently.<sup>2</sup> AAM also includes air traffic management solutions to manage high volumes of aircraft safely, securely, and efficiently at low altitudes. Finally, AAM incorporates new and modified infrastructure that integrates flight networks into the hearts of communities.<sup>3</sup>

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is laying the groundwork to build an intercity AAM “Aerial Highway Network” connecting major metropolitan areas across Florida.<sup>4</sup> In addition to performing research and development at its SunTrax test facility, the FDOT is developing custom curriculums to establish unique requirements for licensing to safely operate within the AAM Network.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), *The Advanced Air Mobility National Strategy, A Bold Policy Vision for 2026-2036*, December 17, 2025, p. 1. Available at: [https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2025-12/AAM%20National%20Strategy%202025\\_508c\\_251201.pdf](https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2025-12/AAM%20National%20Strategy%202025_508c_251201.pdf) (last visited January 12, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> SunTrax Air, <https://suntraxfl.com/suntrax-air/> (last visited January 28, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Florida Department of Transportation, *From the Ground to the Skies: Florida’s Aerial Highway Network*, November 2025. Available at [https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/aviation/aam/fdot-2025-advanced-mobility\\_strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=19eb551c\\_1](https://fdotwww.blob.core.windows.net/sitefinity/docs/default-source/aviation/aam/fdot-2025-advanced-mobility_strategy.pdf?sfvrsn=19eb551c_1) (last visited January 28, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*



SunTrax, the FDOT’s research facility in Polk County, has been designated as the research and development testing hub of the Florida’s AAM program.<sup>6</sup> Early development phases of vertiport demonstration will consist of a passenger terminal, at-grade vertiports, access roads with vehicle staging, eVTOL parking positions and charging station, and research and development hangar.<sup>7</sup>

## **Vertiport Definition (Section 6)**

### ***Present Situation***

Generally, a vertiport is an area of land, water, or structure used, or intended to be used, to support the landing, takeoff, taxiing, parking, and storage of powered-lift aircraft or other aircraft that vertiport design and performance standards established by the FAA can accommodate.<sup>8</sup>

For the purposes of the Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program,<sup>9</sup> the term “vertiport” is defined to mean a system or infrastructure with supporting services and equipment used for landing, ground handling, and takeoff of manned or unmanned vertical takeoff and landing aircraft.<sup>10</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill creates s. 332.151(1), F.S. to define the term “vertiport” to mean an area of land, a body of water, or a structure used or intended to be used for the landing, takeoff, and surface maneuvering of vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, including electric, hybrid, or hydrogen-powered aircraft. The term includes associated buildings, facilities, and infrastructure necessary for the safe and efficient operation of such aircraft, including, but not limited to, electric charging and fueling systems, battery thermal management infrastructure, safety areas, and passenger terminals.

## **Public Private Partnerships (Section 2)**

### ***Present Situation***

Section 255.065, F.S., authorizes public-private partnerships between a responsible public entity<sup>11</sup> and a private entity<sup>12</sup> for a qualifying project. That statute provides requirements for project approval and agreements related to the partnership. For purposes of these partnerships, the term “qualifying project” is defined to mean:

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<sup>6</sup> Central Florida Development Council, SunTrax Named Florida’s Home for Advanced Air Mobility, Positioning Polk as Statewide Innovation Leader, November 18, 2025. <https://www.cfdc.org/suntrax-named-floridas-home-for-advanced-air-mobility-positioning-polk-as-statewide-innovation-leader/> (last visited January 28, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> SunTrax Air, <https://suntraxfl.com/suntrax-air/> (last visited January 28, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> Federal Aviation Administration, *Advanced Air Mobility Infrastructure*, [https://www.faa.gov/airports/new entrants/aam\\_infrastructure](https://www.faa.gov/airports/new entrants/aam_infrastructure) (last visited Jan. 27, 2026).

<sup>9</sup> The Supply Chain Innovation Grant Program is administered by the Florida Department of Commerce.

<sup>10</sup> Section 288.102(3)(d), F.S.

<sup>11</sup> Section 255.065(1)(j), F.S., defines the term “responsible public entity” to mean a county, municipality, school district, special district, or any other political subdivision of the state; a public body corporate and politic; or a regional entity that serves a public purpose and is authorized to develop or operate a qualifying project.

<sup>12</sup> Section 255.065(1)(g), F.S., defines the term “private entity” to mean any natural person, corporation, general partnership, limited liability company, limited partnership, joint venture, business trust, public benefit corporation, nonprofit entity, or other private business entity.

- A facility or project that serves a public purpose, including any ferry or mass transit facility, vehicle parking facility, airport or seaport facility, rail facility or project, fuel supply facility, oil or gas pipeline, medical or nursing care facility, recreational facility, sporting or cultural facility, or educational facility or other building or facility that is used or will be used by a public educational institution, or any other public facility or infrastructure that is used or will be used by the public at large or in support of an accepted public purpose or activity;
- An improvement of a building that will be principally used by a public entity or the public at large or that supports a service delivery system in the public sector;
- A water, wastewater, or surface water management facility or other related infrastructure; or
- For projects that involve a facility owned or operated by the governing board of a county, district, or municipal hospital or health care system, or projects that involve a facility owned or operated by a municipal electric utility, only those projects that the governing board designates as qualifying projects.<sup>13</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill amends s. 255.065(1)(i), F.S., to add vertiports and charging systems to the definition of the term of “qualifying project” for purposes of public-private partnerships.

### **Sovereign Immunity for Certain Public Vertiport Operators (Section 3)**

#### ***Present Situation***

##### *Civil Tort Action*

One of the goals of the civil justice system is to redress tortious conduct, or “torts.” A tort is a wrong for which the law provides a remedy. Torts are generally divided into two categories, as follows:

- An intentional tort, examples of which include an assault, battery, or false imprisonment.
- Negligence, which is a tort that is unintentionally committed. To prevail in a negligence lawsuit, the party seeking the remedy, the “plaintiff,” must demonstrate that the:
  - Defendant had a legal duty of care requiring the defendant to conform to a certain standard of conduct for the protection of others, including the plaintiff, against unreasonable risks.
  - Defendant breached his or her duty of care by failing to conform to the required standard.
  - Defendant’s breach caused the plaintiff to suffer an injury.
  - Plaintiff suffered actual damage or loss resulting from such injury.<sup>14</sup>

##### *Sovereign Immunity*

Sovereign immunity is a principle under which a government cannot be sued without its consent.<sup>15</sup> Article X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution allows the Legislature to waive this

<sup>13</sup> Section 255.065(1)(i), F.S.

<sup>14</sup> *Barnett v. Dept. of Fin. Serv.*, 303 So. 3d 508, 513-14 (Fla. 2020).

<sup>15</sup> Cornell Law School, Legal Information Institute, *Sovereign immunity*, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sovereign-immunity> (last visited February 2, 2026). Sovereign immunity is a common law doctrine under which a sovereign cannot be sued in its courts without its consent. *Id.* The doctrine had its origin with the judge-made law of England. During English feudal times, the king was the sovereign. One could not sue the king in his own courts; hence the phrase, “the king can do no

immunity. Consistent with this provision, Florida law allows for suits in tort against the state and its agencies and subdivisions for damages resulting from the negligence of government employees acting within the scope of their employment.<sup>16</sup> This liability exists only where a private person would be liable for the same conduct. The waiver of sovereign immunity provided under s. 768.28, F.S., applies only to “injury or loss of property, personal injury, or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the agency or subdivision while acting within the scope of the employee’s office or employment.”<sup>17</sup>

Individual government employees, officers, or agents are immune from suit or liability for damages caused by any action taken within the scope of their employment, unless the damages result from the employee’s acting in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard for human rights, safety, or property.<sup>18</sup> A government entity is not liable for any damages resulting from actions by an employee outside the scope of his or her employment, and is not liable for damages resulting from actions committed by the employee in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard for human rights, safety, or property.<sup>19</sup>

#### *Statutory Caps on Recovery of Damages*

Section 768.28(5), F.S., caps damages recoverable in a tort action against a state or local governmental entity at \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident.<sup>20</sup> Although a court may enter an excess judgment, absent a claim bill passed by the Legislature or private insurance, a claimant may not actually collect more than the caps provide.<sup>21</sup>

#### *State Agency and Political Subdivision*

For purposes of s. 768.28, F.S., the term “state agencies or subdivisions” includes the executive departments, the Legislature, the judicial branch (including public defenders), and the independent establishments of the state, including state university boards of trustees; counties and municipalities; and corporations primarily acting as instrumentalities or agencies of the state, counties, or municipalities, including the Florida Space Authority.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Private Parties as Agents of the State*

Sections 768.28(10)-(12), F.S., provides instances when specified private parties, including their employees or agents, are considered as agents of specified state agencies for sovereign immunity purposes. These instances include:

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wrong.” *Id.*; see also *Cauley v. City of Jacksonville*, 403 So. 2d 379, 381 (Fla. 1981). Today, the term “sovereign” in Florida refers to state agencies and subdivisions including local governments.

<sup>16</sup> Section 768.28(1), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> *City of Pembroke Pines v. Corrections Corp. of America, Inc.*, 274 So. 3d 1105, 1112 (Fla. 4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2019) (quoting s. 768.28(1), F.S.) (internal punctuation omitted).

<sup>18</sup> Section 768.28(9)(a), F.S.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

<sup>20</sup> Section 768.28(5), F.S.

<sup>21</sup> *Breaux v. City of Miami Beach*, 899 So. 2d 1059, 1061 fn. 2 (Fla. 2005).

<sup>22</sup> Section 768.28(2), F.S.

- Health care providers providing health care services to prison inmates as agents of the Department of Corrections.
- Regional poison control centers supervised by the Department of Health as agents of the Department of Health.
- Nonprofit independent colleges or universities owning or operating an accredited medical school that have entered into affiliation agreements to provide patient services at teaching hospitals, as agents of the teaching hospital.
- State delegates and administrators for specific interstate health care licensing compacts, while acting within the scope of their compact-related duties.
- Providers or vendors providing certain social services under contract with the Department of Juvenile Justice as agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice.
- Health care practitioners providing medical services to intercollege athletes as agents of the state university's board of trustees.
- Operators, dispatchers, and providers of security for rail services and rail facility maintenance providers in the South Florida Rail Corridor (Tri-Rail) performing such services under contract with and on behalf of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority or the FDOT.
- Professional firms that provide monitoring and inspection services for transportation-related construction projects as agents of the FDOT.

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill creates s. 330.412, F.S., to provide that for vertiports collocated with a public airport,<sup>23</sup> the vertiport operator is considered an agency or subdivision of this state for sovereign immunity purposes and is entitled to sovereign immunity to the same extent as a public airport operator.

The bill provides that this provision expires July 1, 2036, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

## **FDOT Airport Development and Assistance Act (Section 4)**

### ***Present Situation***

The Florida Airport Development and Assistance Act<sup>24</sup> provides the FDOT's statutory duties regarding aviation development and assistance. These duties include providing financial and technical assistance to airports<sup>25</sup> and encouraging the maximum allocation of federal funds to local airport projects.<sup>26</sup>

Each commercial service airport<sup>27</sup> must establish and maintain a comprehensive airport infrastructure program to ensure the ongoing preservation of airport infrastructure and facilities

<sup>23</sup> Section 330.27(11), F.S., defines the term "public airport" to mean an airport, publicly or privately owned, which is open for use by the public.

<sup>24</sup> Sections 332.003-332.007, F.S.

<sup>25</sup> Section 332.006(4), F.S.

<sup>26</sup> Section 332.006(8), F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 322.0075(1)(a), F.S., defines the term "commercial service airport" to mean an airport providing commercial service, including large, medium, small, and nonhub airports as classified by the Federal Aviation Administration.

in safe and serviceable condition.<sup>28</sup> For purposes of this program, the term “airport infrastructure” means the facilities, systems, and structural components of an airport necessary for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.<sup>29</sup>

Beginning November 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each commercial service airport must certify to FDOT that it has established and maintains a comprehensive airport infrastructure program, related to infrastructure investment and preventative maintenance.<sup>30</sup>

Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the FDOT is authorized to participate in the capital cost of certain public-use airport and aviation development projects. The local match requirement varies based on the project type and availability of federal funds.<sup>31</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill amends s. 332.007(2)(v), F.S., to include vertiport pads, safety zones, charging systems, grid upgrades, and resilience energy systems to the definition of the term “airport infrastructure” for purposes of commercial service airport comprehensive infrastructure programs.

The bill authorizes the FDOT, when federal funds are not available, to fund to 100 percent of the project cost for a public or private vertiport. If federal funds are available, the FDOT may fund up to 80 percent of the nonfederal share of such project costs.

## **FDOT Responsibilities - Advanced Air Mobility (Section 5)**

### ***Present Situation***

In 2025, the Legislature created s. 332.15, F.S., relating to advanced air mobility to require the FDOT to:

- Address the need for vertiports, advanced air mobility, and other advances in aviation technology in its statewide aviation system plan<sup>32</sup> and its work program.<sup>33</sup>
- Designate, within the FDOT, a subject matter expert on AAM to serve as a resource for local jurisdictions navigating advances in aviation technology.
- Conduct a review of airport hazard zone regulations.
- Provide coordination and assistance for the development of a viable AAM system plan in this state.<sup>34</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill amends s. 322.15, F.S., to require the FDOT to create a model vertiport siting code, establish vertiport demonstration corridors, and adopt rules for coordination among the FDOT, the FAA, and local governmental entities with respect to vertiports.

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<sup>28</sup> Section 332.007(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>29</sup> Section 332.007(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>30</sup> Section 332.007(2)(c), F.S.

<sup>31</sup> Section 332.007(7), F.S.

<sup>32</sup> The statewide aviation system plan is required under s. 332.006(1), F.S.

<sup>33</sup> FDOT’s work program is developed, adopted, and amended pursuant to s. 339.135, F.S.

<sup>34</sup> This is in coordination with the Florida Department of Commerce.

## **Vertiport Siting (Section 6)**

### ***Present Situation***

The term “vertiport” is included in the definition of “airport” for purposes of the Florida Airport Licensing Law.<sup>35</sup> Thus, vertiports are subject to the FDOT site approval, registration, certification, and licensure requirements.<sup>36</sup>

### ***State Preemption***

Local governments have broad authority to legislate on any matter that is not inconsistent with federal or state law. A local government enactment may be inconsistent with state law if (1) the Legislature “has preempted a particular subject area” or (2) the local enactment conflicts with a state statute. State preemption precludes a local government from exercising authority in that particular area.<sup>37</sup>

Florida law recognizes two types of preemption: express and implied. Express preemption requires a specific legislative statement; it cannot be implied or inferred.<sup>38</sup> Express preemption of a field by the Legislature must be accomplished by clear language stating that intent.<sup>39</sup> In cases where the Legislature expressly or specifically preempts an area, there is no problem with ascertaining what the Legislature intended.<sup>40</sup> In cases determining the validity of ordinances enacted in the face of state preemption, the effect has been to find such ordinances null and void.<sup>41</sup>

### ***Effect of Proposed Changes***

The bill creates s. 332.151, F.S., to require the FDOT to expeditiously approve vertiports adopting its model vertiport siting code.

The bill preempts to the state the regulation of vertiport design, aeronautical operations, and aviation safety to ensure consistency with federal regulations. This preemption does not apply to local land use and zoning authority or to reasonable noise compatibility ordinances, provided that such local regulations do not effectively prohibit the operation of AAM aircraft authorized by the FAA.

The bill preempts to the state regulation of electric aircraft charging stations and associated infrastructure. The bill prohibits a local governmental entity from enacting or enforcing an

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<sup>35</sup> Section 330.27(3), F.S.

<sup>36</sup> Section 330.30, F.S.

<sup>37</sup> Wolf, *The Effectiveness of Home Rule: A Preemptions and Conflict Analysis*, 83 Fla. B.J. 92 (June 2009), <https://www.floridabar.org/the-florida-bar-journal/the-effectiveness-of-home-rule-a-preemption-and-conflict-analysis/> (last visited January 28, 2026).

<sup>38</sup> See *City of Hollywood v. Mulligan*, 934 So. 2d 1238, 1243 (Fla. 2006); *Phantom of Clearwater, Inc. v. Pinellas County*, 894 So. 2d 1011, 1018 (Fla. 2d DCA 2005), approved in *Phantom of Brevard, Inc. v. Brevard County*, 3 So. 3d 309 (Fla. 2008).

<sup>39</sup> *Mulligan*, 934 So. 2d at 1243.

<sup>40</sup> *Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections, Inc. v. Browning*, 28 So. 3d 880, 886 (Fla. 2010).

<sup>41</sup> See, e.g., *Nat’l Rifle Ass’n of Am., Inc. v. City of S. Miami*, 812 So.2d 504 (Fla. 3d DCA 2002).

ordinance or regulation related to the design, construction, or installation of electric aircraft charging stations.

The bill requires local governmental entities to issue any required building permits for electric aircraft charging stations based solely upon the station's compliance with the FDOT-established standards.

The bill provides that if a local governmental entity does not approve or deny a permit application for an electric vehicle charging station within 15 business days after receiving a complete application, the application is deemed approved.

#### **Effective Date (Section 7)**

This bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

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

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Providing vertiports collocating at public airports with sovereign immunity protections may reduce their insurance costs.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The FDOT may incur indeterminate costs to establish a model vertiport siting code and establishing vertiport demonstration corridors. The FDOT may also incur costs to adopt rules required by the bill.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

Line 173 of the bill discusses electric aircraft charging stations based on compliance with the FDOT standards. However, the bill does not require the FDOT to establish such standards.

**VII. Related Issues:**

The bill may need to be amended to address licensing, certification, and registration of vertiports under the Florida Airport Licensing Law.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 255.065, 332.007, and 332.15.

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 330.412 and 332.151.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

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

**CS by Transportation on February 3, 2026:**

The committee substitute:

- Removes from the bill provisions creating a sales tax exemption for electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and related items.
- Replaces the liability protections for vertiport operators contained in the bill with a provision providing that vertiports collocated with a public airport are entitled to sovereign immunity to the same extent as the public airport operator.
- Provides that the sovereign immunity provision expires July 1, 2036, unless reenacted by the Legislature.

**B. Amendments:**

None.



By the Committee on Transportation; and Senator Harrell

596-02450-26

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to advanced air mobility; providing a short title; amending s. 255.065, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "qualifying project"; creating s. 330.412, F.S.; defining the term "vertiport"; providing that certain vertiport operators are considered an agency or subdivision of this state for certain purposes and are entitled to sovereign immunity to a specified extent; providing for future legislative review and repeal; amending s. 332.007, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "airport infrastructure"; authorizing the department to fund up to specified percentages of vertiport project costs; amending s. 332.15, F.S.; providing requirements for the department; creating s. 332.151, F.S.; defining the term "vertiport"; requiring the department to expeditiously approve certain vertiports; preempting the regulation of vertiport design, aeronautical operations, and aviation safety to the state; providing exceptions; preempting the regulation of electric aircraft charging stations and associated infrastructure to the state; prohibiting a local governmental entity from enacting or enforcing certain ordinances and regulations; requiring local governmental entities to issue certain building permits based solely upon compliance with specified standards; providing that a permit application for an electric aircraft charging station shall be deemed approved under certain circumstances; providing an

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effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Advanced Air Mobility Competitiveness and Infrastructure Act."

Section 2. Paragraph (i) of subsection (1) of section 255.065, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

255.065 Public-private partnerships.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(i) "Qualifying project" means:

1. A facility or project that serves a public purpose, including, but not limited to, any ferry or mass transit facility, vehicle parking facility, airport or seaport facility, rail facility or project, fuel supply facility, oil or gas pipeline, medical or nursing care facility, recreational facility, sporting or cultural facility, or educational facility or other building or facility that is used or will be used by a public educational institution, or any other public facility or infrastructure that is used or will be used by the public at large or in support of an accepted public purpose or activity;

2. An improvement, including equipment, of a building that will be principally used by a public entity or the public at large or that supports a service delivery system in the public sector;

3. A water, wastewater, or surface water management facility or other related infrastructure; ~~or~~

4. Notwithstanding any provision of this section, for projects that involve a facility owned or operated by the

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governing board of a county, district, or municipal hospital or health care system, or projects that involve a facility owned or operated by a municipal electric utility, only those projects that the governing board designates as qualifying projects pursuant to this section; or

5. Vertiports and charging systems.

Section 3. Section 330.412, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

330.412 Limitation of liability for certain public vertiport operators.—

(1) For purposes of this section, the term “vertiport” has the same meaning as in s. 332.151(1).

(2) For vertiports that are colocated with a public airport, the vertiport operator shall be considered an agency or subdivision of this state for purposes of s. 768.28 and is entitled to sovereign immunity to the same extent as a public airport operator.

(3) This section expires July 1, 2036, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

Section 4. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section 332.007, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (e) is added to subsection (6) of that section, to read:

332.007 Administration and financing of aviation and airport programs and projects; state plan.—

(2)

(c) Each commercial service airport as defined in s. 332.0075 shall establish and maintain a comprehensive airport infrastructure program to ensure the ongoing preservation of airport infrastructure and facilities in safe and serviceable

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condition. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "airport infrastructure" means the facilities, systems, and structural components of an airport necessary for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. The term includes vertiport pads, safety zones, charging systems, grid upgrades, and resilience energy systems. Beginning November 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, each commercial service airport shall provide a certification to the department, in a manner prescribed by the department, that it has established and maintains a comprehensive airport infrastructure program. The comprehensive airport infrastructure program report, and related documents and records, must be open to inspection by the department and maintained by the airport for at least 5 years. The comprehensive airport infrastructure program must, at a minimum, include all of the following:

1. Identification of airport infrastructure subject to inspection and the schedule for the completion of such inspections, taking into consideration the age, type, intended use, and criticality of the infrastructure to uninterrupted commercial or cargo operations.

2. A preventative maintenance program for routine maintenance of airport infrastructure, for both commercial and cargo operations.

3. A plan to complete any necessary repairs to, or rehabilitation or reconstruction of, airport infrastructure, including prioritization and anticipated timeframe for completion of the work.

4. A progress report of inspections and their outcomes, preventative maintenance, and previously identified repair to,

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or rehabilitation or reconstruction of, airport infrastructure.  
The progress report must include any changes in timeline for  
completion, changes in cost estimates, and reasons any  
inspection, preventative maintenance, or repair or  
rehabilitation did not take place.

(6) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the  
department may participate in the capital cost of eligible  
public-use airport and aviation development projects in  
accordance with the following rates, unless otherwise provided  
in the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill  
implementing the General Appropriations Act:

(e) When federal funds are not available, the department  
may fund up to 100 percent of the project costs of a public or  
private vertiport. If federal funds are available, the  
department may fund up to 80 percent of the nonfederal share of  
such project costs.

Section 5. Subsection (5) is added to section 332.15,  
Florida Statutes, to read:

332.15 Advanced air mobility.—The Department of  
Transportation shall:

(5) Create a model vertiport siting code, establish  
vertiport demonstration corridors, and adopt rules for  
coordination among the department, the Federal Aviation  
Administration, and local governmental entities with respect to  
vertiports.

Section 6. Section 332.151, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

332.151 Vertiport siting; preemption.—

(1) As used in this section, the term "vertiport" means an

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146 area of land, a body of water, or a structure used or intended  
147 to be used for the landing, takeoff, and surface maneuvering of  
148 vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, including electric,  
149 hybrid, and hydrogen-powered aircraft. The term includes  
150 associated buildings, facilities, and infrastructure necessary  
151 for the safe and efficient operation of such aircraft,  
152 including, but not limited to, electric charging and fueling  
153 systems, battery thermal management infrastructure, safety  
154 areas, and passenger terminals.

155 (2) The Department of Transportation shall expeditiously  
156 approve vertiports adopting the model vertiport siting code  
157 created pursuant to s. 332.15(5).

158 (3) The regulation of vertiport design, aeronautical  
159 operations, and aviation safety is preempted to the state to  
160 ensure consistency with federal regulations. This subsection  
161 does not apply to local land use and zoning authority or to  
162 reasonable noise compatibility ordinances, provided such local  
163 regulations do not effectively prohibit the operation of  
164 advanced air mobility aircraft authorized by the Federal  
165 Aviation Administration.

166 (4)(a) The regulation of electric aircraft charging  
167 stations and associated infrastructure is preempted to the  
168 state.

169 (b) A local governmental entity may not enact or enforce an  
170 ordinance or regulation related to the design, construction, or  
171 installation of electric aircraft charging stations.

172 (c) Local governmental entities shall issue any required  
173 building permits for electric aircraft charging stations based  
174 solely upon compliance with the standards established by the

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175 Department of Transportation under s. 332.15(5).

176 (d) If a local governmental entity does not approve or deny  
177 a permit application for an electric aircraft charging station  
178 within 15 business days after receipt of a complete application,  
179 the application shall be deemed approved.

180 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

**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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

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BILL: CS/SB 1602

INTRODUCER: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee and Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Housing for Veterans

DATE: February 17, 2026      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Proctor</u>	<u>Proctor</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1602 creates the “Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program” (pilot program) within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) for Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa counties.

The bill directs the FHFC, in consultation with the local public housing authority and case managers assigned to veterans, to establish and oversee the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund, the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, the applications for such trust funds, the document requirements, and all processes of the pilot program.

The pilot program provides that landlords may apply to the FHFC to receive funding from the:

- Vacancy Relief Trust Fund to hold a vacant dwelling for a veteran for up to 45 days; and
- Risk Mitigation Trust Fund to cover property loss at the dwelling unit caused by the veteran which extends beyond the amount of the deposit money up to \$2,000.

The bill requires veteran case managers to work with the FHFC to address veteran homelessness.

Funding provided from the pilot program is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the FHFC is directed to adopt rules for the pilot program.

Implementation of the pilot program is subject to annual legislative appropriations.



This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on private and government sectors. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026, if CS/SB 1604 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

## II. Present Situation:

### United States Department of Housing and Urban Development

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) administers programs that provide housing and community development assistance, and also works to ensure fair and equal housing opportunity.<sup>1</sup>

#### *Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program*

The HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program combines the HUD's Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VA provides these services for participating veterans at VA medical centers, community-based outreach clinics, through VA contractors, or through other VA designated entities.<sup>2</sup>

Each year, the HUD and the VA collaboratively award HUD-VASH vouchers based on current geographic need and public housing agency (PHA) performance. Since 2017, the allocation process for awarding HUD-VASH vouchers has changed to allow PHAs to self-identify their interest in the program. The HUD publishes an annual HUD-VASH Registration of Interest Notice containing detailed instructions that PHAs must follow if they are interested in receiving a portion of the available HUD-VASH vouchers. PHAs must have the support of a partnering VA facility and meet any utilization threshold requirements to be eligible for an award. After the registration period has closed, the HUD and the VA use a formula to determine relative need, and ultimately invite eligible PHAs to apply for a specific number of HUD-VASH vouchers. The associated funding awarded for HUD-VASH vouchers is determined by the actual average per unit cost at each PHA.<sup>3</sup>

There is at least one PHA currently administering HUD-VASH in each of the 50 states, in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Guam.<sup>4</sup> In Florida there are 97 PHA's working with the HUD.<sup>5</sup> HUD-VASH vouchers are renewed based on actual PHA leasing along with all other HCVs.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> USA.GOV, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), <https://www.usa.gov/agencies/u-s-department-of-housing-and-urban-development#:~:text=The%20Department%20of%20Housing%20and,equal%20housing%20opportunity%20for%20all>. (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), <https://www.hud.gov/helping-americans/housing-choice-vouchers-homeless-veterans> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Local Public Housing Authority, *PHA Contact Information*, available at [https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA\\_Contact\\_Report\\_FL.pdf](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PIH/documents/PHA_Contact_Report_FL.pdf) (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), <https://www.hud.gov/helping-americans/housing-choice-vouchers-homeless-veterans> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

Generally, the HUD-VASH program is administered in accordance with regular HCV and project based voucher program requirements.<sup>7</sup> However, the 2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act<sup>8</sup> allows the HUD to waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation affecting the HCV program in order to effectively deliver and administer HUD-VASH voucher assistance.

### **United States Department of Veterans Affairs**

The VA runs programs that benefit veterans and members of their families. It offers education opportunities and rehabilitation services and provides compensation payments for disabilities or death related to military service, home loan guaranties, pensions, burials, and health care that includes the services of nursing homes, clinics, and medical centers.<sup>9</sup>

#### ***VA Outreach & Case Management***

Community Resource and Referral Centers (CRRCs) are places where veterans who are experiencing homelessness or risk of homelessness can connect to stable housing and supportive services. CRRCs are collaborative, multi-agency programs that provide access to housing, health care, and a wide variety of services that veterans may need. These community-based storefront operations are located in areas of the city accessible to veterans and services are provided by both the VA and community partner staff.<sup>10</sup>

The National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans (NCHAV) developed this “one-stop shopping” homeless service model. Starting in 2012, the NCHAV staff and affiliated colleagues at the University of South Florida tested the program in 29 strategically located sites across the country. In 2015, the programs were successfully transitioned to the VA Homeless Programs Office operations. Today CRRCs are an important part of the VA’s community outreach efforts and a primary access point for veterans experiencing homelessness or risk.<sup>11</sup>

### **Department of Veterans’ Affairs**

The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs was created to provide assistance to all former, present, and future members of the Armed Forces of the United States and their spouses and dependents in preparing claims for and securing compensation, hospitalization, career training, and other benefits or privileges to which they are, or may become entitled to under federal or state law or regulation by reason of their service in the Armed Forces of the United States.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> 24 CFR Sections 982 and 983.

<sup>8</sup> Public Law 110-161.

<sup>9</sup> USA.GOV, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, available at <https://www.usa.gov/agencies/u-s-department-of-veterans-affairs> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans (NCHAV), available at <https://www.va.gov/homeless/nchav/index.html> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Section 292.05(1), F.S.

### ***Veterans in Florida***

Florida has the second largest population of veterans in the nation after Texas.<sup>13</sup> Nearly 1.4 million veterans reside in the state, which is 12 percent of the state’s population of adults aged 18 and over.<sup>14</sup>

Section 1.01(14), F.S., defines “veteran” to mean a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions only or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions, notwithstanding any action by the VA on individuals discharged or released with other than honorable discharges.

### ***Homelessness Among Veterans***

According to the Florida Council on Homelessness, reducing homelessness among veterans is an ongoing policy focus for local, state, and federal agencies.<sup>15</sup> Veterans experience homelessness at a higher rate than non-veterans, and the risk factors for veteran homelessness include substance abuse, mental health, poverty, and social isolation.<sup>16</sup> Preliminary 2025 data indicates the count of veterans experiencing homelessness in Florida decreased significantly from 2019 to 2025, and has seen a year over year decrease of 18.65 percent from 2024 to 2025, with data indicating that approximately 1,898 veterans were experiencing homelessness in Florida in 2025.<sup>17</sup>

Programs specifically aimed at reducing the number of veterans experiencing homelessness include the HUD-VASH program vouchers and the VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families.<sup>18,19</sup>

### ***Florida Housing Finance Corporation***

The FHFC is a public-private entity created by the Legislature in 1997 to assist in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities for Floridians.<sup>20</sup> The FHFC is a corporation held by the state and housed within the Department of Commerce. The FHFC is a separate budget entity and its operations are not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Department of

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<sup>13</sup> Dep’t of Veterans’ Affairs, Our Veterans, available at <https://www.floridavets.org/our-veterans/> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> Florida’s Council on Homelessness, *Florida’s Council on Homelessness Annual Report 2025*, available at (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>16</sup> National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, *Risk Factors for Homelessness Among US Veterans*, available at [https://www.nchv.org/images/uploads/RB%2095%20-%20Risk%20Factors%20for%20Homelessness%20Among%20US%20Veterans%20FINAL%20\(2\).pdf](https://www.nchv.org/images/uploads/RB%2095%20-%20Risk%20Factors%20for%20Homelessness%20Among%20US%20Veterans%20FINAL%20(2).pdf) (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>17</sup> Florida’s Council on Homelessness, *Florida’s Council on Homelessness Annual Report 2025*, available at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/sites/default/files/2025-07/Florida%20Council%20on%20Homelessness%20Annual%20Report%202025.pdf> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>18</sup> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH), <https://www.hud.gov/helping-americans/housing-choice-vouchers-homeless-veterans> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>19</sup> U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, <https://www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf/index.html> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>20</sup> Chapter 97-167, Laws of Fla. From 1980 through 1997, the former Florida Housing Finance Agency, placed within the former Department of Community Affairs, performed similar duties. See ch. 80-161, and ch. 97-167, s. 7, Laws of Fla.

Commerce.<sup>21</sup>

The goal of the FHFC is to increase the supply of safe, affordable housing for individuals and families with very low to moderate incomes by stimulating investment of private capital and encouraging public and private sector housing partnerships.<sup>22</sup> As a financial institution, the FHFC administers federal and state resources to finance the development and preservation of affordable rental housing and assist homebuyers with financing and down payment assistance.<sup>23</sup>

The FHFC administers several affordable housing programs, to include all of the following:

- State Apartment Incentive Loan Program.
- Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bonds Program.
- Florida Affordable Housing Guarantee Program.
- Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program.
- State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.
- Predevelopment Loan Program.
- Foreclosure Counseling Program.
- Affordable Housing Catalyst Program.
- Homebuyer Loan Program.
- Downpayment Assistance Program.
- Homeownership Pool Program.<sup>24</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill creates s. 83.684, F.S., to be cited as the “Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program.”

The bill defines the following terms:

- “Corporation” to mean the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
- “Ledger” to mean a historical, physical ledger that serves as the official records of a veteran, including a veteran’s eligibility for the HUD-VASH voucher with subsidy. The term also includes a digitized system that contains and stores the same information as the physical ledger.
- “Pilot program” to mean the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program.
- “Veteran” to have the same meaning as in s. 1.01(14), F.S.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Section 420.504(3), F.S.

<sup>22</sup> See ss. 420.502 and 420.511, F.S.

<sup>23</sup> Florida Housing Finance Corporation, *Overview of Florida Housing Finance Corporation*, 1 (July 2017) available at <https://www.floridahousing.org/docs/default-source/aboutflorida/august2017/august2017/tab8.pdf> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> Section 1.01(14), F.S., defines the term “veteran” to mean, in part, “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions only or who later received an upgraded discharge under honorable conditions, notwithstanding any action by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs on individuals discharged or released with other than honorable discharges.”

The bill establishes the pilot program in Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa Counties to provide landlords with incentives to address veteran homelessness, and provides that implementation of the pilot program is subject to annual legislative appropriations.

The bill directs the FHFC, in consultation with the local public housing authority and case managers assigned to veterans by the VA, to establish and oversee the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund, the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, the applications for such trust funds, the document requirements, and all processes of the pilot program.

The bill provides that a landlord who enters into a rental agreement with an eligible veteran may apply to the FHFC to receive funding from the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund created under s. 420.56, F.S. The purpose of the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund is to allow a landlord to hold a dwelling unit for a period of time, and still be compensated for the time that the dwelling unit is vacant, until the veteran is able to move in to the dwelling unit. The Vacancy Relief Trust Fund provides proportional rent to eligible landlords for a period of up to 45 days after the date the dwelling unit becomes available or until the actual date that the veteran moves into the dwelling unit, whichever is sooner.

To apply for the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund, a landlord must submit all required documentation to the FHFC within 60 days after the veteran moves into the dwelling unit. The case manager assigned to the veteran must assist the FHFC by facilitating trust fund requests from landlords and documentation compliance. At a minimum, a landlord must submit to the FHFC all of the following:

- A completed application, as determined by the FHFC.
- The signed rental agreement between the landlord and the veteran.
- The turnover paperwork for the dwelling unit.
- A move-in checklist with current photos of the dwelling unit.
- A copy of the veteran's ledger or other proof, as received by the FHFC, that the veteran is eligible for rental assistance under the HUD - VASH program, as implemented by the VA and public housing authorities.

The bill provides that if a veteran moves out of the dwelling unit during the first 12 months of a year-to-year rental agreement or after the expiration of a rental agreement for any duration, the landlord may apply to the FHFC to receive funding from the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund created under s. 420.56, F.S. The Risk Mitigation Trust Fund is designed to cover property loss at the dwelling unit caused by the veteran which extends beyond the amount of the deposit money. The landlord may apply for up to \$2,000 beyond the deposit money.

To apply for the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, a landlord must submit all required documentation to the FHFC within 60 days after the veteran moves into the dwelling unit. The case manager assigned to the veteran must assist the FHFC by facilitating trust fund requests from landlords and documentation compliance. At a minimum, a landlord must submit to the FHFC all of the following:

- A completed application, as determined by the FHFC.
- The signed rental agreement between the landlord and the veteran.
- The turnover paperwork for the dwelling unit.

- A move-in checklist with current photos of the dwelling unit.
- A copy of the veteran's ledger or other proof, as received by the FHFC, that the veteran is eligible for rental assistance under the HUD - VASH program, as implemented by the VA and public housing authorities.
- After the veteran vacates the dwelling unit, a copy of the move-out checklist with current photos of the dwelling unit and a copy of the written notice provided to the veteran by the landlord in accordance with s. 83.49(3)(a), F.S.

A landlord may apply for the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund only if the landlord previously applied to the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund.

The bill directs the FHFC to award funds for the pilot program on a first-come, first-served basis.

The bill directs the FHFC to adopt rules to implement the pilot program.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026, if CS/SB 1604 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

#### **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, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

##### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting for final passage of a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records disclosure requirements. The bill does not create or expand an exemption. Thus, the bill does not require an extraordinary vote for enactment.

##### **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:**

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact for landlords who participate in the pilot program.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill may have an indeterminate, though likely insignificant, negative fiscal impact on the FHFC for administration of the pilot program should it be implemented. However, implementation of the pilot program is subject to annual legislative appropriations.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None identified.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None identified.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 83.684 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

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

**CS by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on January 26, 2026:**

- Modifies the bill to reference the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and not the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- Directs the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to work in consultation with partners, instead of in conjunction with partners.
- Links the bill to CS/SB 1604 to provide an effective date of July 1, 2026, if CS/SB 1604 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

**B. Amendments:**

None.



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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and  
Economic Development (Wright) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 83.684, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

83.684 Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive  
Pilot Program.—

(1) This section may be cited as the "Homes for Veterans  
Property Management Incentive Pilot Program Act."





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11        (2) As used in this section, the term:

12        (a) "Corporation" means the Florida Housing Finance  
13 Corporation.

14        (b) "HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program" means  
15 a program that combines the United States Department of Housing  
16 and Urban Development's housing choice voucher rental assistance  
17 for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services  
18 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

19        (c) "Pilot program" means the Homes for Veterans Property  
20 Management Incentive Pilot Program.

21        (d) "Veteran" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01(14).

22        (3) The Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive  
23 Pilot Program is established in Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough,  
24 and Santa Rosa Counties to provide eligible landlords with  
25 incentives to lease eligible dwelling units to veterans who are  
26 participating in the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing  
27 program. Implementation of this pilot program is subject to  
28 annual legislative appropriation. The corporation, in  
29 consultation with the local public housing authority and case  
30 managers assigned to veterans by the United States Department of  
31 Veterans Affairs, shall establish and oversee the Vacancy Relief  
32 and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, the applications for such trust  
33 fund, the document requirements, and all processes of the pilot  
34 program. The corporation's responsibilities under this section  
35 are limited to program administration, including rulemaking,  
36 oversight, and establishing and executing contracts with one or  
37 more local public housing authorities, contracted program  
38 administrators, or other public or nonprofit entities that have  
39 experience administering the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive



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Housing program, supportive housing, or landlord mitigation programs to perform intake, documentation review, and claim verification functions to locally administer the funds in the Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund and to distribute funding to the contracted program administrator for payment of approved reimbursement requests. The corporation is not responsible for maintaining eligibility files, tenancy records, or other case-level documentation for the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. Such functions shall be maintained by the contracted program administrator.

(4) (a) A landlord who enters into a rental agreement with an eligible veteran may apply to a contracted program administrator to request funding from the Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund created under s. 420.56 for the purpose of allowing a landlord to hold a dwelling unit for a period of time, and still be compensated for the time that the dwelling unit is vacant, until the veteran is able to move into the dwelling unit. Such trust fund provides proportional rent to eligible landlords for a period of up to 45 days after the date the dwelling unit becomes available or until the actual date that the veteran moves into the dwelling unit, whichever is sooner.

(b) To apply for funding under paragraph (a), a landlord must submit all required documentation to the contracted program administrator within 60 days after the veteran moves into the dwelling unit. The case manager assigned to the veteran shall assist the contracted program administrator by facilitating trust fund requests from landlords and documentation compliance. The contracted program administrator shall maintain all



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documentation required under this subsection and provide the corporation with a certification of eligibility, tenancy dates, and verified costs within the timeframe established by the corporation by rule. At a minimum, a landlord shall submit documentation to the contracted program administrator in the form and manner established by the corporation. Required supporting documentation necessary to confirm eligibility for reimbursement and oversight shall be maintained by the entity responsible for case management or rental assistance administration in the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program.

(c) The corporation may rely on certifications, determinations, and documentation provided by public housing authorities, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, providers of Supportive Services for Veteran Families, continuums of care, or other entities responsible for administering or supporting the functions of the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program. The corporation's reliance on such certifications, determinations, and documentation satisfies the corporation's oversight and evaluation responsibilities of the functions, activities, and outcomes for the pilot program.

(5)(a) If a veteran moves out of the dwelling unit during the first 12 months of a year-to-year rental agreement or after the expiration of a rental agreement for any duration, the landlord may apply to the contracted program administrator for funding from the Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund created under s. 420.56 to cover property loss at the dwelling unit caused by the veteran which exceeds the amount of the



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98 deposit money. The landlord may apply for up to \$2,000 beyond  
99 the deposit money.

100 (b) To apply for funding under paragraph (a), a landlord  
101 must submit all required documentation to the contracted program  
102 administrator within 60 days after the veteran moves out of the  
103 dwelling unit. The case manager assigned to the veteran shall  
104 assist the contracted program administrator by facilitating  
105 trust fund requests from landlords and documentation compliance.  
106 The contracted program administrator shall maintain all  
107 documentation required under this subsection and provide the  
108 corporation, within the timeframe established by rule, a  
109 certification of eligibility, tenancy dates, verified damage  
110 amounts, and verified costs. Required supporting documentation  
111 necessary to confirm eligibility for reimbursement and oversight  
112 shall be maintained by the entity responsible for case  
113 management or rental assistance administration in the HUD-  
114 Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program.

115 (c) After the veteran vacates the dwelling unit, the  
116 landlord shall provide the contracted program administrator a  
117 copy of the move-out checklist with current photos of the  
118 dwelling unit and a copy of the written notice provided to the  
119 veteran by the landlord in accordance with s. 83.49(3)(a).

120 (d) A landlord may apply for funding under paragraph (a)  
121 only if the landlord previously applied for funding under  
122 paragraph (4)(a).

123 (6) Funding for the pilot program is limited, and the  
124 corporation shall award funds on a first-come, first-served  
125 basis. The corporation may suspend acceptance of applications  
126 when available appropriations are fully obligated. The



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corporation must notify contracted program administrators if  
intake of applications is suspended and when intake of  
applications is resumed.

(7) The corporation shall adopt rules to implement this  
section.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026, if SB  
1604 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative  
session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause  
and insert:

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to housing for veterans; creating s.  
83.684, F.S.; providing a short title; defining terms;  
establishing the Homes for Veterans Property  
Management Incentive Pilot Program in certain  
counties, subject to legislative appropriation;  
requiring the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, in  
consultation with other entities and persons, to  
establish and oversee specified aspects of the pilot  
program; providing the responsibilities of the  
corporation for the pilot program; requiring  
contracted program administrators to maintain certain  
functions of the pilot program; authorizing certain  
landlords to apply to a contracted program  
administrator to request funding from the Vacancy  
Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund under certain



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circumstances; providing the purpose of such trust fund; requiring a landlord to submit to the contracted program administrator required documentation within a specified time period to apply for the trust fund; requiring certain case managers to assist the contracted program administrator; requiring the contracted program administrator to maintain and provide certain documentation to the corporation; requiring the entity responsible for certain functions to maintain any supporting documentation; authorizing the corporation to rely on certifications, determinations, and documentation provided by specified entities; authorizing a landlord to apply for up to a specified dollar amount from the trust fund; providing requirements to apply for the trust fund; providing that funding for the pilot program is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; authorizing the corporation to suspend the acceptance of applications under certain circumstances; requiring specified notice; requiring the corporation to adopt rules; providing a contingent effective date.

**By** the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senator Wright

583-02213-26

20261602c1

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to housing for veterans; creating s. 83.684, F.S.; providing a short title; defining terms; establishing the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program in certain counties for a specified purpose; providing that implementation of the pilot program is subject to annual legislative appropriations; requiring the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, in consultation with other entities and persons, to oversee the pilot program; authorizing certain landlords to apply to the corporation to receive funding from the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund under certain circumstances; providing the purpose of such trust funds; requiring a landlord to submit to the corporation specified documentation within a specified timeframe to apply for either trust fund; requiring certain case managers to assist the corporation; authorizing a landlord to apply for up to a specified dollar amount from the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund; providing a requirement to apply for the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund; providing that funding is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; requiring the corporation to adopt rules; providing a contingent effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 83.684, Florida Statutes, is created to

583-02213-26

20261602c1

30 read:

31 83.684 Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive  
32 Pilot Program.—

33 (1) This section may be cited as the "Homes for Veterans  
34 Property Management Incentive Pilot Program."

35 (2) As used in this section, the term:

36 (a) "Corporation" means the Florida Housing Finance  
37 Corporation.

38 (b) "Ledger" means a historical, physical ledger that  
39 serves as the official records of a veteran, including a  
40 veteran's eligibility for the United States Department of  
41 Housing and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive  
42 Housing voucher with subsidy. The term also includes a digitized  
43 system that contains and stores the same information as the  
44 physical ledger.

45 (c) "Pilot program" means the Homes for Veterans Property  
46 Management Incentive Pilot Program.

47 (d) "Veteran" has the same meaning as in s. 1.01(14).

48 (3) The Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive  
49 Pilot Program is established in Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough,  
50 and Santa Rosa Counties to provide landlords with incentives to  
51 address veteran homelessness. Implementation of this pilot  
52 program is subject to annual legislative appropriations. The  
53 corporation, in consultation with the local public housing  
54 authority and case managers assigned to veterans by the United  
55 States Department of Veterans Affairs, shall establish and  
56 oversee the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund, the Risk Mitigation Trust  
57 Fund, the applications for such trust funds, the document  
58 requirements, and all processes of the pilot program.



583-02213-26

20261602c1

59       (4) (a) A landlord who enters into a rental agreement with  
60 an eligible veteran may apply to the corporation to receive  
61 funding from the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund created under s.  
62 420.56. The purpose of the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund is to allow  
63 a landlord to hold a dwelling unit for a period of time, and  
64 still be compensated for the time that the dwelling unit is  
65 vacant, until the veteran is able to move in to the dwelling  
66 unit. The Vacancy Relief Trust Fund provides proportional rent  
67 to eligible landlords for a period of up to 45 days after the  
68 date the dwelling unit becomes available or until the actual  
69 date that the veteran moves into the dwelling unit, whichever is  
70 sooner.

71       (b) To apply for the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund, a landlord  
72 must submit all required documentation to the corporation within  
73 60 days after the veteran moves into the dwelling unit. The case  
74 manager assigned to the veteran must assist the corporation by  
75 facilitating trust fund requests from landlords and  
76 documentation compliance. At a minimum, a landlord must submit  
77 to the corporation all of the following:

78           1. A completed application, as determined by the  
79 corporation.

80           2. The signed rental agreement between the landlord and the  
81 veteran.

82           3. The turnover paperwork for the dwelling unit.

83           4. A copy of the move-in checklist with current photos of  
84 the dwelling unit.

85           5. A copy of the veteran's ledger or other proof, as  
86 received by the corporation, that the veteran is eligible for  
87 rental assistance under the United States Department of Housing

583-02213-26

20261602c1

88 and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing  
89 program, as implemented by the United States Department of  
90 Veterans Affairs and public housing authorities.

91 (5) (a) If a veteran moves out of the dwelling unit during  
92 the first 12 months of a year-to-year rental agreement or after  
93 the expiration of a rental agreement for any duration, the  
94 landlord may apply to the corporation to receive funding from  
95 the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund created under s. 420.56. The Risk  
96 Mitigation Trust Fund is designed to cover property loss at the  
97 dwelling unit caused by the veteran which extends beyond the  
98 amount of the deposit money. The landlord may apply for up to  
99 \$2,000 beyond the deposit money.

100 (b) To apply for the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, a landlord  
101 must submit all required documentation to the corporation within  
102 60 days after the veteran moves into the dwelling unit. The case  
103 manager assigned to the veteran must assist the corporation by  
104 facilitating trust fund requests from landlords and  
105 documentation compliance. At a minimum, a landlord must submit  
106 to the corporation all of the following:

107 1. A completed application, as determined by the  
108 corporation.

109 2. The signed rental agreement between the landlord and the  
110 veteran.

111 3. The turnover paperwork for the dwelling unit.

112 4. A copy of the move-in checklist with current photos of  
113 the dwelling unit.

114 5. A copy of the veteran's ledger or other proof, as  
115 received by the corporation, that the veteran is eligible for  
116 rental assistance under the United States Department of Housing

583-02213-26

20261602c1

117 and Urban Development - Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing  
118 program, as implemented by the United States Department of  
119 Veterans Affairs and public housing authorities.

120 6. After the veteran vacates the dwelling unit, a copy of  
121 the move-out checklist with current photos of the dwelling unit  
122 and a copy of the written notice provided to the veteran by the  
123 landlord in accordance with s. 83.49(3)(a).

124 (c) A landlord may apply for the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund  
125 only if the landlord previously applied to the Vacancy Relief  
126 Trust Fund.

127 (6) Funding for the pilot program is limited and the  
128 corporation shall award funds on a first-come, first-served  
129 basis.

130 (7) The corporation shall adopt rules to implement this  
131 section.

132 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026, if SB  
133 1604 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative  
134 session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

**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 Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

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BILL: CS/SB 1604

INTRODUCER: Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security Committee and Senator Wright

SUBJECT: Trust Funds/Vacancy Relief Trust Fund/Risk Mitigation Trust Fund

DATE: February 17, 2026      REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Proctor</u>	<u>Proctor</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>Fav/CS</u>
2.	<u>Griffin</u>	<u>Nortelus</u>	<u>ATD</u>	<u>Pre-meeting</u>
3.	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>AP</u>	<u>                    </u>

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**Please see Section IX. for Additional Information:**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE - Substantial Changes

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**I. Summary:**

CS/SB 1604 creates the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC), to which the Legislature may appropriate funds for the purpose of implementing the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program under s. 83.684, F.S.

This bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on private and government sectors. See Section V., Fiscal Impact Statement.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026, if CS/SB 1602 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Trust Funds**

***Establishment of Trust Funds***

A trust fund may be created by law only by the Legislature and only if passed by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house in a separate bill for that purpose only. Except for trust funds being re-created by the Legislature, each trust fund must be created by statutory language that specifies at least the following:

- The name of the trust fund.
- The agency or branch of state government responsible for administering the trust fund.
- The requirements or purposes that the trust fund is established to meet.
- The sources of moneys to be credited to the trust fund or specific sources of receipts to be deposited in the trust fund.<sup>1</sup>

### ***Florida Constitutional Requirement for Trust Funds***

The Florida Constitution requires that state trust funds must terminate not more than four years after the effective date of the act authorizing the initial creation of the trust fund.<sup>2</sup> By law the Legislature may set a shorter time period for which any trust fund is authorized.<sup>3</sup>

However, under the Florida Constitution state trust funds that serve as clearing funds or accounts for the Chief Financial Officer or state agencies are not subject to the termination requirements.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Review of Trust Funds***

The Legislature must review all state trust funds at least once every four years,<sup>5</sup> prior to the regular session of the Legislature immediately preceding the date on which any executive or judicial branch trust fund is scheduled to be terminated,<sup>6</sup> or such earlier date as the Legislature may specify.<sup>7</sup>

The agency responsible for the administration of the trust fund and the Governor, for executive branch trust funds, or the Chief Justice, for judicial branch trust funds, must recommend to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives whether the trust fund should be allowed to terminate or should be re-created.<sup>8</sup> Each recommendation must be based on a review of the purpose and use of the trust fund and a determination of whether the trust fund will continue to be necessary.<sup>9</sup> A recommendation to re-create the trust fund may include suggested modifications to the purpose, sources of receipts, and allowable expenditures for the trust fund.<sup>10</sup>

When the Legislature terminates a trust fund, the agency or branch of state government that administers the trust fund must pay any outstanding debts or obligations of the trust fund as soon as practicable.<sup>11</sup> The Legislature may also provide for the distribution of moneys in that trust fund. If no such distribution is provided, the moneys remaining after all outstanding obligations of the trust fund are met must be deposited in the General Revenue Fund.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 215.3207, F.S.

<sup>2</sup> FLA. CONST., art. III, s. 19(f)(2).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> FLA. CONST., art. III, s. 19(f)(3).

<sup>5</sup> Section 215.3208(1), F.S.

<sup>6</sup> FLA. CONST., art. III, s. 19(f).

<sup>7</sup> Section 215.3206(1), F.S.

<sup>8</sup> *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> Section 215.3208(2)(a), F.S.

<sup>12</sup> Section 215.3208(2)(b), F.S.

### **Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program**

CS/SB 1602 creates the “Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program” within the FHFC for Broward, Escambia, Hillsborough, and Santa Rosa counties. The bill directs the FHFC, in consultation with the local public housing authority and case managers assigned to veterans, to establish and oversee the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund, the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, the applications for such trust funds, the document requirements, and all processes of the pilot program.

The pilot program provides that landlords may apply to the FHFC to receive funding from the:

- Vacancy Relief Trust Fund to hold a vacant dwelling for a veteran for up to 45 days; and
- Risk Mitigation Trust Fund to cover property loss at the dwelling unit caused by the veteran which extends beyond the amount of the deposit money up to \$2,000, if the landlord has previously applied for the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund.

Funding provided from the pilot program is on a first-come, first-served basis, and the FHFC is direct to adopt rules for the pilot program.

Implementation of the pilot program is subject to annual legislative appropriations.

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

The bill creates s. 420.56, F.S., to establish the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund within the FHFC for the purpose of implementing the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program established pursuant to s. 83.684, F.S.

The bill directs that notwithstanding s. 216.301, F.S., and pursuant to s. 216.351, F.S., any balance in either trust fund at the end of the fiscal year reverts and is appropriated to the FHFC for the next fiscal year for carrying out the purposes of the trust funds.

The bill provides that in accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State Constitution, the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund must, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2030. Before the scheduled termination of the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund, each trust fund must be reviewed as provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2), F.S.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026, if CS/SB 1602 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

### **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, nor reduce the percentage of state tax shared with counties or municipalities.

**B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

Article I, s. 24(c) of the State Constitution requires a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting for final passage of a bill creating or expanding an exemption to the public records disclosure requirements. The bill does not create or expand an exemption. Thus, the bill does not require an extraordinary vote for enactment.

**C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

Article III, s. 19(f)(1) of the Florida Constitution requires a bill that creates or re-creates a trust fund to pass by three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature in a separate bill for that purpose only.

**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:**

The bill may have an indeterminate positive fiscal impact for landlords who participate in the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program and receive funds from the newly created trust funds.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The bill does not directly impact state revenues or expenditures. However, the creation of the trust fund will allow implementation of the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program subject to annual legislative appropriations.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None identified.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None identified.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates section 420.56 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Substantial Changes:**

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

**CS by Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security on January 26, 2026:**

- Links the bill to CS/SB 1602 to provide an effective date of July 1, 2026, if CS/SB 1602 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate

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House

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The Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (Wright) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Section 420.56, Florida Statutes, is created to  
read:

420.56 Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund.—

(1) The Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund is  
created within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, to which  
the Legislature may appropriate funds for the purpose of



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implementing the Homes for Veterans Property Management  
Incentive Pilot Program under s. 83.684.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351,  
any balance in the trust fund at the end of the fiscal year must  
revert and be appropriated to the corporation for the next  
fiscal year for carrying out the purposes of the trust fund.

(3) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State  
Constitution, the Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation Trust Fund  
must, unless terminated sooner, be terminated on July 1, 2030.  
Before the scheduled termination of the Vacancy Relief and Risk  
Mitigation Trust Fund, the trust fund must be reviewed as  
provided in s. 215.3206(1) and (2).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026, but  
only if SB 1602 or similar legislation is adopted in the same  
legislative session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.

===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete everything before the enacting clause  
and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to trust funds; creating s. 420.56,  
F.S.; creating the Vacancy Relief and Risk Mitigation  
Trust Fund within the Florida Housing Finance  
Corporation for a specified purpose; authorizing any  
unexpended balance at a specified time to revert and  
be reappropriated for a certain purpose; providing for  
future review and termination or re-creation of the  
trust fund; providing a contingent effective date.

**By** the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; and Senator Wright

583-02214-26

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to trust funds; creating s. 420.56, F.S.; creating the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation for a specified purpose; authorizing any unexpended balance in either trust fund at a specified time to revert and be reappropriated for a certain purpose; providing for future review and termination or recreation of the trust funds; providing a contingent effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 420.56, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

420.56 Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program trust funds.—

(1) The Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund are created within the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, to which the Legislature may appropriate funds for the purpose of implementing the Homes for Veterans Property Management Incentive Pilot Program under s. 83.684.

(2) Notwithstanding s. 216.301 and pursuant to s. 216.351, any balance in either trust fund at the end of the fiscal year shall revert and be appropriated to the corporation for the next fiscal year for carrying out the purpose of the trust funds.

(3) In accordance with s. 19(f)(2), Art. III of the State Constitution, the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust Fund must, unless terminated sooner, be

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30 terminated on July 1, 2030. Before the scheduled termination of  
31 the Vacancy Relief Trust Fund and the Risk Mitigation Trust  
32 Fund, each trust fund must be reviewed as provided in s.  
33 215.3206(1) and (2).

34       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026, if SB  
35 1602 or similar legislation is adopted in the same legislative  
36 session or an extension thereof and becomes a law.