

THE FLORIDA SENATE
2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Agriculture

HB 211 — Farm Products

by Reps. Cobb and Hunchofsky and others (SB 374 by Senator Truenow)

The bill clarifies that the definition of “farm product” in s. 163.3162, F.S., includes plants and plant products, regardless of whether such products are edible or nonedible. The bill also clarifies that the prohibition of a local government from exercising its powers to adopt or enforce any regulation or otherwise limit an activity of a bona fide farm operation applies to the collection, storage, processing, and distribution of a farm product.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 114-0

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2025 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION PASSED
Committee on Agriculture

CS/HB 593 — Dangerous Dogs

by Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and Rep. Sapp and others (CS/CS/SB 572 by Fiscal Policy Committee; Judiciary Committee; and Senators Collins and Wright)

The bill creates the “Pam Rock Act,” which revises the state regulation of dangerous dogs. The bill:

- Requires the confiscation and impoundment of an animal that is being investigated as a dangerous dog and that has killed a person or has bitten and left a mark that scores 5 or higher on the Dunbar bite scale.
- Permits the confiscation and impoundment of an animal that is subject to any other dangerous dog investigations.
- Requires an animal control authority to notify the owner of the final order classifying their dangerous dog by registered mail or certified hand delivery in conformance with the provisions of chapter 48 relating to service of process.
- Requires the owner of a dog classified as dangerous to obtain liability insurance of at least \$100,000 and implant a microchip in the dog. The bill creates a third degree felony for the removal of the microchip.
- Requires an animal control authority to humanely euthanize a dangerous dog that has killed a person or has bitten and left a mark that scores 5 or higher on the Dunbar bite scale and has been surrendered to an animal control authority.
- Authorizes an animal control authority to humanely euthanize any other dangerous dog that is surrendered to an animal control authority.
- Changes the current penalty for an owner from a third degree felony to a second degree felony when a dog that has previously been declared dangerous attacks and causes severe injury or death to a human.
- Requires a shelter offering a dog for adoption that has been classified as a dangerous dog to post a sign informing potential adopters of the requirements to keep a dangerous dog.
- Provides that any person who resists or obstructs an animal control authority commits a first degree misdemeanor and provides penalties.
- Provides that an owner who has knowledge of their dog’s dangerous propensities commits a first degree misdemeanor if their dog causes severe injury or the death of a human and the owner demonstrated a reckless disregard for such propensities under the circumstances. Current law provides this is a second degree misdemeanor.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor’s signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 36-0; House 112-0

THE FLORIDA SENATE
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Committee on Agriculture

CS/CS/CS/SB 700 — Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

by Fiscal Policy Committee; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Agriculture Committee; and Senator Truenow

The bill makes a number of changes to laws related to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (department) and related entities. Specifically, the bill:

- Prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any regulation that inhibits the construction of housing for legally verified agricultural workers and provides requirements for such housing.
- Requires any lands acquired by an electric utility which have been classified as agricultural lands at any time in the five years preceding the acquisition of the land by the electric utility to be offered for fee simple acquisition by the department before the land is offered for sale or transferred to a private individual or entity.
- Prohibits the use of drones on agricultural lands by unauthorized individuals and further enhances property owners' protections against harassment from drones.
- Permits the department to adopt rules for protecting public health, safety, and welfare to establish standards for the placement, design, installation, maintenance, and operation of electric vehicle charging stations.
- Prohibits the use of any additive to a public water supply that is not for the explicit purpose of improving water quality.
- Permits the department to provide pest control certificate examinations in person and remotely through a third-party vendor.
- Creates the Honest Service Registry to provide the residents of this state with the information necessary to make an informed choice when deciding which charitable organizations to support. In order to be included on the registry, a charitable organization may not solicit or accept contributions, funding, support, or services from a foreign source of concern and the organization's messaging and content may not be produced or influenced by a foreign source of concern.
- Provides it is unlawful to transport, import, sell, offer for sale, furnish, or give away spores or mycelium capable of producing mushrooms or other material which will contain a controlled substance, including psilocybin or psilocyn, during its lifecycle.
- Grants the department rulemaking authority to enforce the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) standard of identity for meat, poultry, and poultry products, to prohibit the sale of plant-based products mislabeled as meat, poultry, or poultry products in this state.
- Creates an annual petroleum registration program for petroleum owners or operators that own and operate vehicles for transporting petroleum products and permits the department to adopt rules detailing the requirements for such registration.
- Creates the Florida Retail Fuel Transfer Switch Modernization Grant Program.
- Prohibits local governments from restricting any activities of public educational facilities and auxiliary facilities constructed by a board for agricultural education, for Future Farmers of America or 4-H activities, or the storage of any animals or equipment therein.

- Establishes the Florida Aquaculture Foundation as a direct-support organization to conduct programs and activities related to the assistance, promotion, and furtherance of aquaculture and aquaculture producers and to identify and pursue methods to provide statewide resources and materials for these programs.
- Creates the Silviculture Emergency Recovery Program within the department to administer a grant program to assist timber landowners whose timber land was damaged as a result of a declared emergency.
- Changes the Viticulture Advisory Council to the Florida Wine Advisory Council and makes conforming changes related to the new name.
- Prohibits a financial institution from discriminating in the provision of financial services to an agriculture producer based, in whole or in part, upon an ESG factor. The bill also provides that if a financial institution has made any ESG commitment related to agriculture, there is an inference that the institution's denial or restriction of a financial service to an agriculture producer is discriminating against the agriculture producer based upon an ESG factor and provides a remedy for overcoming such inference.
- Permits the department to temporarily suspend a concealed carry license or application if notified by a government entity that the licensee or applicant is arrested or formally charged with a crime that would disqualify such person from having a license, until final disposition of the case.
- Revises the requirements related to the suspension or reinstatement of concealed carry licensees or applicants.
- Reduces the extended review period for a concealed carry applicant's criminal history screening from 90 to 45 days.
- Prohibits the possession of any form of a payment instrument that can be used to authorize a fuel transaction or obtain fuel with the intent to defraud the fuel retailer or the banking institution that issued the payment instrument financial account.
- Revises the definition of "mail depository" to include any other authorized receptacle.
- Revises the acts that constitute mail theft and the penalties for violations.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025, except where otherwise provided.

Vote: Senate 27-9; House 88-27

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CS/HJR 1215 — Ad Valorem Tax Exemption

by State Affairs Committee and Rep. Alvarez, D. and others (CS/SJR 318 by Finance and Tax Committee and Senator Truenow)

The joint resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property that is habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural; used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities; and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land.

The proposed amendment will be submitted to Florida's electors for approval or rejection at the next general election in November 2026.

If approved by at least 60 percent of the electors, the proposed amendment would first apply to assessments for tax years beginning January 1, 2027.

Vote: Senate 37-0; House 110-1