



Senator Leek Policy Updates - 2026 Legislative Session

Protecting Law Enforcement Officers

SB 156, the *Officer Jason Raynor Act*, prohibits a person from using or threatening to use force to resist any arrest or detention, or to resist an officer engaged in the performance of his or her official duties, if the officer was acting in good faith.

(Passed)

Diversifying Florida's Insurance Market

SB 990 seeks to create more capacity within the insurance market by allowing a business, or a designated protected cell captive insurance company, to insure specific and specialized types of risk. A pool of assets and liabilities are insured separate from other assets and liabilities, with the goal to drive down premiums.

(Passed as HB 883)

Cementing School Board Members' Bill of Rights

SB 1620 clarifies School Board Members' oversight authority by allowing them to request information from the District CFO and other staff. It also expands what public records shall be kept with meeting minutes. Finally, school districts are prohibited from requiring or incentivizing district employees to sign an NDA.

(Passed as HB 1073)

SB 436 - Felony Battery

Fills a gap in the battery enhancement statute by adding "resisting an officer with violence" to the list of prior convictions that are eligible for enhancement as a repeat battery offense. This ensures that repeat violent offenders are treated as such.

(Passed)

SB 398 - Child Pornography Terminology

Removes all statutory references to "child pornography" and replaces it with "Child Sexual Abuse Material" (CSAM). This bill reinforces that any such material is a serious crime against a child.

(Passed as HB 245)

SB 434 - Windstorm Mitigation

Ensures that Floridians are not punished for home hardening by requiring that the increase in value attributable to improvements made to residences to increase the property's resistance to wind damage may not be considered when determining the assessed value.

(Passed Senate, died in the House)



Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights

SB 482 sought to protect the most vulnerable when it comes to AI. In particular, it would have provided protections related to "companion chatbots." These are not the bots you may run into to answer a routine question on a website, but instead they are created to sustain a relationship with a user that may seem real. The bill was narrowly drafted to provide protections for Floridians, while allowing AI to continue to be a valuable tool.

(Passed Senate, died in the House)



Senator Leek Budget Updates - 2026 Legislative Session

Putnam County School District- Engineering Pathways and Aviation Maintenance

Creates an Engineering Pathways Academy and Aviation Maintenance Academy at Interlachen Jr.-Sr. High School. These additional secondary workforce programs will support meeting the demands of high skill high wage workforce needs in Region 8 and throughout the state.

\$920,035

Putnam County Waste Water Treatment Expansion Phase I

This project upgrades the East Putnam Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant by adding one 150,000-gallon treatment trains, effluent sprayfields, and connecting piping, increasing capacity by 450,000 gallons per day.

\$1,000,000

Epic-Cure Food Security Distribution Center

This project builds a dock-height loading bay for a 10,550 sq. ft. food distribution center in St. Augustine. The loading dock will allow efficient semi-truck delivery of bulk food donations, helping Epic-Cure expand services as food banks and federal food programs decline, including outreach to food-insecure residents in Clay County.

\$600,000

Putnam County Enterprise System Update

Creates a new financial software system that provides Putnam County Board of Commissioners and the Putnam County Clerk of Court & Comptroller increased productivity, improved data security and accuracy, and improved customer service to both internal users as well as the citizens we serve.

\$975,000

Putnam County St. John's Harbor Water System Upgrades

Upgrades the St. Johns Harbor Water System, consists of reconstructing treatment ponds, replacing reverse osmosis filters, hydropneumatics tanks, and groundwater storage tank.

\$400,000

Acquisition of Mossman Hall

Finalizes the acquisition of the Mossman property, in order to preserve the historically significant buildings for the benefit of our small, rural community of Melrose.

\$200,000

Palatka Fire Department Ladder Truck.....	\$375,000
Putnam/St. Johns Residential and Re-Entry Program.....	\$500,000
Palatka - Runway 9-27 Extension.....	\$450,000