



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

Palatka Fire Department Truck

Replaces an aging 2001 aerial ladder truck that no longer meets safety standards. A new truck will improve firefighting and rescue capabilities for tall buildings and key facilities and help maintain the City's insurance services office Class 3 insurance rating.

\$375,000

Putnam/St. Johns Residential and Re-Entry Program

The 15-bed Residential and Re-Entry Program is a six-month recovery program for individuals with substance use disorders, including those leaving jail. It provides daily support such as therapy along with job readiness to help participants successfully return to the community.

\$500,000

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

Palatka - Runway 9-27 Extension

Extends Runway 9-27 from 6,000 to 7,500 feet to promote local and regional economic growth. The project will be completed in two phases and will help accommodate future aviation demand and business development opportunities.

\$450,000

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