

# FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## BILL ANALYSIS

*This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.*

**BILL #:** [HB 483](#)

**TITLE:** Manufacturing

**SPONSOR(S):** Cobb

### Committee References

[Housing, Agriculture & Tourism](#)



[Careers & Workforce](#)



[Commerce](#)

## SUMMARY

### Effect of the Bill:

The bill designates the Chief Manufacturing Officer among the Department of Commerce senior leadership to support Florida's manufacturing ecosystem and coordinate education, workforce, and interagency initiatives; creates the Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program to fund projects that support small manufacturers and strengthen the manufacturing workforce pipeline; establishes the Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign to market manufactured products and inspire future generations to build and grow domestic businesses and manufacturing operations in Florida.

### Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None.

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

## ANALYSIS

### EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires the Department of Commerce (Department), in coordination with the [Chief Manufacturing Officer \(CMO\)](#), to encourage and oversee [manufacturing](#) in Florida. (Section 1).

The bill designates the CMO among the senior leadership of the Department to support the manufacturing ecosystem in Florida. (Section 2).

The CMO is required to perform the following duties related to supporting and promoting manufacturing in Florida:

- Serve as the state's subject-matter expert on manufacturing.
- Promote and coordinate manufacturing efforts in Florida and identify gaps in state-supported activities.
- Provide strategic direction for interagency and cross-disciplinary initiatives.
- Work with federal, state, regional, local governmental and nongovernmental entities to align priorities.
- Engage with state agencies and water management districts to develop processes, programs, decision frameworks, and reporting systems.
- Collaborate with the Department of Education, providers, and workforce entities to advance career pathways, including:
  - Supporting curriculum development and career-awareness programs in elementary and middle schools.
  - Establishing [technology demonstration sites](#), work-based learning opportunities, and partnerships with career exploration programs.
  - Preserving and expanding high school manufacturing programs, dual enrollment, and industry certifications, and ensuring course selection and grade point average weighting policies encourage students to pursue manufacturing tracks.

- Funding and supporting regional manufacturing training centers to provide multiple entry points for careers in manufacturing, including initiatives for underrepresented populations and individuals reentering the workforce.
- Reenergizing the promotion of manufacturing careers with the Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign using messaging tailored to today's youth. (Section 2).

The bill requires all state and local governmental entities to assist the CMO to the extent permitted by law and budgetary constraints. (Section 2).

The Department must prepare a report, in consultation with the CMO and the [National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership \(NIST MEP\)](#) on the state's manufacturing efforts. The report must be submitted to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House by December 15, 2027, and every two years thereafter, and must describe the strength and economic significance of Florida's manufacturing industry. (Section 2).

The bill creates the Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program (Program) within the Department, under the direction of the CMO, in consultation with the NIST MEP. The Program is designed to fund proposed projects, subject to legislative appropriation, that support small manufacturers with new technologies or cybersecurity infrastructure and strengthen the workforce pipeline from elementary education through postsecondary training and workforce reentry. (Section 3).

The Department, in coordination with the CMO and NIST MEP, shall:

- Review applications and select projects that create strategic investments in workforce training and education partnerships to facilitate the deployment of new technologies or cybersecurity infrastructure, and expand career awareness across K-12, postsecondary, and [workforce training systems](#).
  - Final grant awards are made at the Department's sole discretion.
- Establish and publish ranking metrics for reviewing grants and awarding them on a competitive basis. Metrics may include:
  - Number of employees,
  - Matching funds pledged by the applicant, and
  - Expected benefits from the award of the grant.
- Priority must be given to projects with innovative plans, advanced technologies, and development strategies for small manufacturers across this state and that include at least one of the following:
  - Establishment or expansion of regional manufacturing training centers.
  - Partnerships with the Department of Education, school districts, charter schools, technical colleges, and state colleges to support manufacturing curricula, dual enrollment, and industry certification programs.
  - Development of elementary and middle school career awareness programs, including technology demonstration centers and guidance counselor resources.
  - Outreach and training programs targeting underrepresented populations, including workforce reentry populations.
  - Marketing and promotion of manufacturing careers consistent with the Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign. (Section 3).

Applicants may seek funding for workforce development and operations; however, grants may not be used for salaries, benefits, or general business and office expenses. Grants are administered from the Economic Development Trust Fund. (Section 3).

The Department must annually provide a list to the public of awarded projects, describing each project's benefits, progress, and alignment with Program goals, and include this information in the annual incentives report.<sup>1</sup> (Section 3).

The bill creates the Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign (Campaign) within the Department and requires the CMO to administer the Campaign in coordination with NIST MEP. The Campaign is a voluntary marketing program to promote manufacturing products and businesses in Florida. (Section 4).

The bill requires the Department to:

- Develop campaign logos and authorize the use of such logos by rule.
- Create promotional materials.
- Register Campaign participants.
- Develop in-kind advertising programs.
- Contract with media representatives to distribute promotional materials. (Section 4).

The bill establishes that a person who produces manufactured products may participate in the Campaign only by registering annually with the Department, and requires the Department to establish by rule the form and manner of registration. (Section 4).

The bill requires the Department to adopt rules to:

- Implement and administer the Campaign.
- Establish official logos or product identifiers for use in the Campaign.
- Ensure compliance with the Campaign.
- Govern participant registration. (Section 4).

The bill requires the Department to prepare an annual report on the success of the Campaign, which must:

- Include detailed performance measures and outcomes;
- Identify sources of in-kind advertising;
- Report contracts related to disbursement of promotional materials;
- Provide the names of Campaign participants; and
- Other information about the Campaign. (Section 4).

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2026. (Section 5).

#### **RULEMAKING:**

The bill delegates authority to the Department of Commerce to adopt rules to implement the Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program and the Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign.

***Lawmaking is a legislative power; however, the Legislature may delegate a portion of such power to executive branch agencies to create rules that have the force of law. To exercise this delegated power, an agency must have a grant of rulemaking authority and a law to implement.***

#### **FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:**

#### **STATE GOVERNMENT:**

The Department of Commerce has determined that there is an indeterminate fiscal impact on state government because the newly created Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program is subject to

---

<sup>1</sup> S. 288.0065, F.S., requires that by December 30 of each year, the Department shall provide the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a detailed incentives report quantifying the economic benefits for all of the economic development incentive programs administered by the Department and its public-private partnerships.

appropriations.

A request for a formal analysis was submitted to the Department of Education on December 1, 2025.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The Department of Commerce has determined that there is no fiscal impact on local governments.

#### PRIVATE SECTOR:

The Department of Commerce has determined that there is an indeterminant positive impact in the private sector due to the promotional Campaign.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

#### SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

##### Chief Manufacturing Officer

The Department of Commerce has designated its Deputy Secretary of Economic Development as the Chief Manufacturing Officer – responsible for meeting with manufacturers to walk through ways Florida can support their growth, giving presentations on Florida's interest in growing manufacturing, developing targeted initiatives to grow manufacturing in the state, coordinating with other agencies such as the Department of Education and Department of Transportation to support manufacturing, and overseeing the state's biannual manufacturing report.<sup>2</sup>

##### Manufacturing

Florida's manufacturing industry has over 429,800 jobs as of March 2025 and is the nation's 10<sup>th</sup> largest manufacturing employer.<sup>3</sup> Since 2019, Florida has increased manufacturing employment by 32 percent<sup>4</sup> and the real GDP for manufacturing has increased at an annual rate of 4.7%, the fourth-fastest in the nation.<sup>5</sup> Manufacturing jobs generally pay higher wages than those in other industries. In 2024, the average *quarterly* wage for manufacturing employment was \$21,722, compared to an average quarterly wage of \$18,011 across all industries statewide.<sup>6</sup>

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by federal statistical agencies to classify businesses by industry type for the purpose of statistical data collection and analysis related to the U.S. economy.<sup>7</sup> The Manufacturing Industry Cluster is composed of 10 durable goods sectors and 11 nondurable goods sectors, as follows:<sup>8</sup>

##### **Durable Goods:**

- Wood Product Manufacturing,

---

<sup>2</sup> Department of Commerce, *2026 Agency Legislative Bill Analysis for HB 483 (2026)*. On file with the Housing, Agriculture, & Tourism Subcommittee.

<sup>3</sup> Florida Chamber Foundation, *2025 Florida Business & Economic Mid-Year Report*, p.12 (July 2025)

<https://www.flipsnack.com/flchamber/2025-florida-business-economic-mid-year-report/full-view.html> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> Florida Commerce, *FloridaCommerce Announces Florida Manufacturing Industry Gains Jobs for Fifth Consecutive Month*, (Apr. 18, 2025) <https://floridajobs.org/news-center/DEO-Press/2025/04/18/floridacommerce-announces-florida-manufacturing-industry-gains-jobs-for-fifth-consecutive-month#:~:text=in%20March%202025,->

[Florida's%20labor%20force%20of%20nearly%2011.2%20million%20increased%20by%2062%2C000,increase%20since%20first%20quarter%202019.](https://floridajobs.org/news-center/DEO-Press/2025/04/18/floridacommerce-announces-florida-manufacturing-industry-gains-jobs-for-fifth-consecutive-month#:~:text=in%20March%202025,-) (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> *Supra* note 2, p. 2.

<sup>6</sup> Florida Commerce, *Florida Quarterly Employment and Wages by Industry*, p. 1 (Aug. 2024)

<https://www.floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/state-program-reports/2024-state-program-reports/q1-2024-qcew-release.pdf?> (last visited Jan 12, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> United States Census Bureau, *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)*, <https://www.census.gov/naics/> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> Florida Commerce, *Florida Manufacturing Industry*, p. 2 (2024)

<https://lmsresources.labormarketinfo.com/library/pubs/industryprofile/manufacturing.pdf> (last visited Jan 12, 2026).

- Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing,
- Primary Metal Manufacturing,
- Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing,
- Machinery Manufacturing,
- Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing,
- Electrical Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing,
- Transportation Equipment Manufacturing,
- Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing, and
- Miscellaneous Manufacturing.

#### **Nondurable Goods**

- Food Manufacturing,
- Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing,
- Textile Mills,
- Textile Product Mills,
- Apparel Manufacturing,
- Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing,
- Paper Manufacturing,
- Printing and Related Support Activities,
- Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing,
- Chemical Manufacturing, and
- Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing.

Additionally, manufacturing sectors with a high value-added component, such as aviation and aerospace, defense, microelectronics, medical devices and equipment, marine, fabricated metal products, and industrial machinery, have helped Florida's small and mid-size manufacturers grow quickly.<sup>9</sup>

Under the Local Manufacturing Development Program, a local government may adopt an ordinance establishing a local manufacturing development program through which the local government may grant master development approval for developing or expanding sites operated by manufacturers.<sup>10</sup> Local governments may establish procedures for a manufacturing development program that allows manufacturers to submit and, upon approval of a master development plan, proceed with development without requiring additional local approvals, except for building permits.<sup>11</sup> The approval process must be coordinated with the Department.<sup>12</sup> Additionally, the Department has developed a model local manufacturing development program ordinance to guide local governments that intend to establish a local manufacturing development program.<sup>13</sup> Currently, only Manatee and Volusia counties have adopted such an ordinance.<sup>14</sup>

Nationally a shortage of up to 1.9 million workers in manufacturing is predicted by 2033 with 65% of manufacturers already citing attracting and retaining talent as their primary business challenge.<sup>15</sup> In Florida, more than 50% of the manufacturing workforce is 45 or older, and the industry is expected to be disproportionately affected by retirements as the workforce ages.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Department of Commerce, 2023 Florida Manufacturing,

<https://www.floridajobs.org/docs/defaultsource/communicationsfiles/2023-florida-manufacturing-report.pdf> (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>10</sup> S. [163.3252, F.S.](#)

<sup>11</sup> S. [163.3252\(3\), F.S.](#)

<sup>12</sup> S. [163.3253, F.S.](#)

<sup>13</sup> S. [163.3252, F.S.](#)

<sup>14</sup> Department of Commerce, *Manufacturing Competitiveness Act Development Approval Program*, available at <https://floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/programs/community-planning-table-of-contents/manufacturing-competitiveness-act-development-approval-program> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>15</sup> *Supra* note 2, p. 2.

<sup>16</sup> *Supra* note 2, p. 2.

## **Workforce Training Programs**

CareerSource Florida, a not-for-profit corporation administratively housed within the Department,<sup>17</sup> is the statewide workforce policy and investment board comprised of business and government leaders that helps Floridians enter, remain in, and advance in the workplace so that they may become more highly skilled and successful. The program also connects employers with qualified and skilled employees.<sup>18</sup> Workforce training is administered through the 21 local workforce development boards.<sup>19</sup>

The Florida Job Growth Grant Fund is an economic development program that promotes public infrastructure and workforce training across the state. Proposals are reviewed by the department and chosen by the Governor to meet the demand for workforce or infrastructure needs in the communities they are awarded to.<sup>20</sup>

## **National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP)**

The MEP National Network is a public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive solutions to small and medium-sized manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing U.S. manufacturing.<sup>21</sup> MEP is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).<sup>22</sup> The MEP National Network is comprised of NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST MEP), the 51 MEP Centers located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, the MEP Advisory Board, MEP Center boards, and the Foundation for Manufacturing Excellence, as well as over 1,440 trusted advisors and experts at approximately 460 MEP service locations, providing any U.S. manufacturer with access to resources they need to succeed.<sup>23</sup>

## **FloridaMakes**

FloridaMakes is the official representative of the MEP National Network and NIST MEP in Florida.<sup>24</sup> In this role, it works with manufacturers to support their needs in supply chain, workforce training and efficient facility operations.<sup>25</sup> For the past several years FloridaMakes has developed supply chain mapping that it uses to help current manufacturers, and manufacturers interested in coming to Florida, identify suppliers.<sup>26</sup>

## **Technology Demonstration Centers and Regional Manufacturing Training Centers**

Technology demonstration centers are facilities, often housed at an educational institution, designed to showcase new or emerging technologies, allowing industry partners, stakeholders, and the public to observe innovations in action and understand their capabilities and potential applications. Regional manufacturing training centers deliver hands-on, industry-aligned technical training that leads to recognized credentials, helping individuals gain the skills most sought after by manufacturers and supporting workforce development.<sup>27</sup> There are a number of such centers throughout Florida, including:

- Indian River State College provides hands-on workforce training in industrial electrical and mechanical systems, fluid power, robotics, precision machining, and related advanced manufacturing skills.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>17</sup> S. [445.004\(1\), F.S.](#)

<sup>18</sup> See CareerSource Florida, *About Us*, <https://careersourceflorida.com/> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>19</sup> Florida Commerce, *Local Workforce Development Boards*, <https://www.floridajobs.org/local-workforce-development-board-resources/workforce-development-boards/local-workforce-development-boards> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>20</sup> S. 288.101, F.S.

<sup>21</sup> National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), *MEP National Network*, <https://www.nist.gov/mep/mep-national-network> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> FloridaMakes, *About Us*, <https://www.floridamakes.com/about-us/how-we-help> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

<sup>25</sup> *Id.*

<sup>26</sup> *Id.*

<sup>27</sup> Charlotte County, *Southwest Florida Advanced Manufacturing Training Center Secures \$1.75M Boost*, <https://cleared4takeoff.com/southwest-florida-advanced-manufacturing-training-center-secures-1-75m-boost> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>28</sup> Indian River State College, *Available Programs*, [Advanced Manufacturing Training \(CNC & Automation\) | IRSC](#) (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

- Vertex at the Florida Institute of Technology provides industry partnerships, applied research, and workforce development using advanced technology and innovation facilities.<sup>29</sup>
- The Polk State Corporate College Advanced Manufacturing Institute provides hands-on workforce training in electrical, instrumentation, automation, mechanical, and industrial technologies for industry-aligned skill development.<sup>30</sup>
- Florida State University, with its Institute for Strategic Partnerships, Innovation, Research, and Education engages in industry-aligned advanced manufacturing demonstration and workforce development activities, including hands-on tours, professional learning courses, and partnerships designed to expose participants to advanced aerospace and manufacturing technologies and career pathways.<sup>31</sup>

### Project Lead the Way (PLTW)

Project Lead the Way is a nonprofit organization founded by educators in 1997 to equip students with the skills needed to succeed beyond high school.<sup>32</sup> PLTW supports teachers and students by providing curriculum, professional training, and resources that allow educators to focus on engaging and inspiring learning experiences.<sup>33</sup> During the 2024–25 school year, PLTW programs operated in approximately 20 percent of PreK–12 school districts nationwide, including 80 percent of the 300 largest districts.<sup>34</sup> In Addition, PLTW awarded 1,773 grants totaling more than \$18.6 million to schools in 45 states and Washington, D.C., trained 125,501 teachers across its programs, and reached 12,575 schools and 2,355,471 students through 16,192 programs.<sup>35</sup>

PLTW offers the following programs:<sup>36</sup>

- Launch Program: Introduces PreK–5 students to concepts through hands-on learning in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science.
- Gateway Program: Engages middle school students in real-world applications of engineering, computer science, biomedical science, and skilled trades.
- Algebra 1 Advantage Program: Connects Algebra instruction to real-world applications to strengthen mathematical understanding.
- Computer Science Program: Develops in-demand computer science knowledge along with transferable skills such as creative thinking and communication.
- Engineering Curriculum Program: Builds problem-solving and design skills through interdisciplinary, project-based engineering coursework.
- Biomedical Science Program: Introduces high school students to medical and health sciences to build biomedical knowledge and transferable skills such as problem-solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, and collaboration.

<sup>29</sup> Vertex, *Vertex Applied Innovation Hub at Florida Tech*, [Vertex Applied Innovation Hub > Vertex Applied Innovation Hub at Florida Tech | Florida Tech](#) (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>30</sup> Polk State Corporate College, *Advanced Manufacturing*, [Advanced Manufacturing | Polk State College](#) (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>31</sup> Florida State University, *InSPIRE*, <https://inspire.fsu.edu/> (last visited Jan. 23, 2026).

<sup>32</sup> Project Lead Lead the Way (PLTW), *2025 Annual Report*, p.2., [PLTW 2025 Annual Report | Career-Connected STEM Impact](#) (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>33</sup> PLTW, *Our Philosophy for Education*, [PLTW Approach & Impact | Empowering Future-Ready Learners](#) (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

<sup>34</sup> *Supra* note 32, p. 2.

<sup>35</sup> *Supra* note 32, p. 3.

<sup>36</sup> PLTW, *Explore Curriculum*, [Explore Transformative PreK-12 STEM Curriculum | PLTW](#) (last visited Jan. 22, 2026).

**BILL HISTORY**

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
<a href="#">Housing, Agriculture &amp; Tourism</a>			Curtin	Rodriguez
<a href="#">Subcommittee</a>				
<a href="#">Careers &amp; Workforce</a>				
<a href="#">Subcommittee</a>				
<a href="#">Commerce Committee</a>				