

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [HB 5003](#) [PCB BUC 26-02](#)
TITLE: Implementing the 2026-2027 General
Appropriations Act
SPONSOR(S): McClure

COMPANION BILL: None
LINKED BILLS: None
RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Orig. Comm.: Budget](#)
23 Y, 2 N

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill provides the statutory authority necessary to implement and execute the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The statutory changes are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1, 2027, or revert to the language as it existed before the changes made by the bill.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

Because this bill implements provisions of the GAA for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, there are no direct fiscal impacts created by this bill.

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Section 1 provides legislative intent that the implementing and administering provisions of this act apply to the GAA for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Section 2 incorporates the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) work papers by reference for the purpose of displaying the calculations used by the Legislature.

Section 3 incorporates the school readiness provider rates included in the document titled "School Readiness Program Reimbursement Rates Fiscal Year 2026-2027", consistent with the requirements of state law, in making appropriations for the school readiness program allocation.

Sections 4 & 5 amend [s. 1011.62, F.S.](#), to revise the Safe School Allocation and the Educational Enrollment Stabilization fund and to reduce from 90% to 85% the total amount of a school district's FEFP funds provided by local property taxes.

Sections 6 & 7 amends [s. 1011.45, F.S.](#), to require universities to designate 12 percent of their annual state operating budget carry forward (as authorized by [s. 1011.45, F.S.](#)) to be applied towards the completion of previously-funded PECO projects, as funded pursuant to [s. 1001.706\(12\), F.S.](#)

Sections 8 & 9 amend [s. 1009.26, F.S.](#), to modify the fee waivers for students enrolled in a Program of Strategic Emphasis or a state-approved teacher preparation program to specify that a university must waive 100 percent of the student's out-of-pocket expenses for tuition and fees after all aid is applied.

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Sections 10 & 11 amend [s. 1004.89, F.S.](#), to remove the requirement that Miami-Dade College partners with the Adam Smith Center for Economic Freedom and approve a direct service organization for the Institute for Freedom in the Americas.

Section 12 allows a university board of trustees that is beginning an approved capital outlay project with a healthcare provider to accept the healthcare provider's procurement methods and construction contracts and reimburse the healthcare provider for its initial expenses from bond proceeds.

Section 13 authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to submit a budget amendment to realign funding priorities within the Medicaid program appropriation categories to address any projected surpluses and deficits and to maximize the use of state trust funds.

Section 14 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment to realign funding within the Florida KidCare program appropriation categories to address projected surpluses and deficits within the program or to maximize the use of state trust funds.

Section 15 authorizes the AHCA to submit budget amendments to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program for hospitals statewide, the Indirect Medical Education Program, and a nursing workforce expansion and education program, contingent upon federal approval.

Section 16 authorizes the AHCA to submit budget amendments to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program and fee-for-service supplemental payments for cancer hospitals that meet certain federal criteria, contingent upon federal approval.

Section 17 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment that includes specified information to implement the Low Income Pool Program.

Section 18 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment to implement a Supplemental Payment Plan for physicians and subordinate licensed health care practitioners employed with a medical or dental school, or a public hospital, contingent upon federal approval.

Section 19 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment requesting budget authority for public emergency transportation services, contingent upon federal approval.

Section 20 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment requesting additional spending authority to implement the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program. The budget amendment must include a proposed distribution model by entity and a listing of entities contributing intergovernmental transfers and certified public expenditures to support the state match required.

Section 21 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment requesting spending authority to implement a Supplemental Payment Plan for specialty children's hospitals, contingent upon federal approval.

Section 22 authorizes the AHCA to submit a budget amendment to request additional budget authority to implement the Florida School-Based Services Program.

Section 23 authorizes the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to submit a budget amendment to realign funding between guardianship assistance payments, foster care Level 1 board payments, and relative caregiver assistance payments for current caseload.

Section 24 authorizes the DCF, AHCA, and the Department of Health (DOH) to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority as needed to meet caseload requirements for the Refugee Programs administered by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. Requires the DCF to submit a quarterly report on caseloads and expenditures.

Sections 25 and 26 amend [s. 409.909, F.S.](#), to utilize the Statewide Medicaid Residency formula to calculate annual funding allocations to hospitals, qualifying institutions, and behavioral health teaching hospitals eligible for the Slots for Doctors Program and the Behavioral Health Teaching Hospital Slots for Doctors Program.

Section 27 authorizes the DCF to submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of [s. 216.177, F.S.](#), to increase budget authority to support federal grant programs including: the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Grant Program, Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer, American Rescue Plan Grant, State Opioid Response Grant, Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, and Mental Health Block Grant.

Sections 28 & 29 amend [s. 393.066\(2\), F.S.](#), to remove the requirement for providers to utilize the iConnect system to bill for the APD client services and remove the training requirement for providers that choose to maintain data in their own data management system.

Section 30 amends [s. 394.9082, F.S.](#), to authorize a managing entity to carry forward funds from the State Opioid Settlement Trust Fund and provides that such funds are exempt from the 8 percent carry forward cap only for the Non-Qualified County amounts.

Section 31 authorizes the DOH to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority if additional federal grant revenues specific to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program and the Child Care Food program will be expended.

Section 32 authorizes the DOH to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Program if additional federal revenues specific to the program become available.

Section 33 directs the AHCA to immediately suspend all development activities related to modular replacement of FMMIS for any components that have not achieved operation status and federal certifications; requires the agency to maintain components that are currently certified and operational.

Section 34 authorizes the AHCA and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to submit a budget amendment at least three days before the effective date of the action to increase budget authority to support the implementation of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Medicaid Waiver Program of the APD.

Section 35 provides that the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA), subject to Legislative Budget Commission (LBC) approval, may request authority to establish positions in excess of the number authorized by the Legislature, increase appropriations from the Operations and Maintenance Trust Fund, or provide necessary salary rate sufficient to provide for essential staff for veterans' nursing homes, if the FDVA projects that additional direct care staff are needed to meet its staffing ratios.

Section 36 provides that, notwithstanding [s. 409.915, F.S.](#), the term "state Medicaid expenditures" does not include funds specially assessed by a local government entity and used as the nonfederal share for the Directed Payment Program.

Section 37 authorizes the FDVA to submit a budget amendment, subject to federal approval, requesting additional spending authority to support the development and construction of a new State Veteran's Nursing Home and Adult Health Care Center in Collier County.

Section 38 authorizes the Department of Elder Affairs to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Adult Care Food Program if additional federal revenues will be expended in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Section 39 amends [s. 766.314, F.S.](#), to authorize the association to accept new claims in excess of the total of all current estimates for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Sections 40 & 41 amend [s. 409.990\(5\), F.S.](#), to cap carry forward funds at 8 percent of the annual amount of the contract amount, not 8 percent of the total contract amount.

Section 42 amends [s. 216.262, F.S.](#) to allow the Executive Office of the Governor (EOG) to request additional positions and appropriations from unallocated general revenue during the fiscal year for the Department of Corrections (DOC) if the actual inmate population of the DOC exceeds certain Criminal Justice Estimating Conference forecasts. The additional positions and appropriations may be used for essential staff, fixed capital improvements, and other resources to provide classification, security, food services, health services, and other variable expenses within the institutions to accommodate the estimated increase in the inmate population, and are subject to LBC review and approval.

Section 43 amends [s. 215.18, F.S.](#) to provide the chief justice the authority to request a trust fund loan.

Section 44 requires the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to review county juvenile detention payments to ensure that counties are fulfilling their financial responsibilities. If the department determines that a county has not met its obligations, the Department of Revenue must deduct the amount owed to the DJJ from shared revenue funds provided to the county under [s. 218.23, F.S.](#)

Sections 45 & 46 reenact [s. 27.40, F.S.](#), relating to the provision and compensation of court-appointed counsel and the oversight thereof by the Justice Administrative Commission.

Sections 47 & 48 reenact and amend [s. 27.5304, F.S.](#) to increase caps for compensation of court appointed counsel in criminal and civil dependency cases.

Section 49 amends [s. 908.1033, F.S.](#), to clarify that county correctional officers are eligible for bonus payments provided to local law enforcement from the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program.

Section 50 authorizes the Department of Legal Affairs to submit budget amendments, subject to the notice, review, and objection procedures of [s. 216.177, F.S.](#), to increase budget authority to support Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) assistance grants if additional federal revenues specific to VOCA assistance services become available in the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Section 51 requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to conduct a payment scam study and provide a report to the Legislature, and public, on details relating to the study; provide legislative or regulatory recommendations to enhance detection and prevention of payment scams; and provide recommendations to enhance cooperation among other parties on data collection, reporting requirements, number of complaints and consumers affected, and evaluation of effectiveness of anti-scam training programs.

Section 52 requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) and agencies to utilize a tenant broker to renegotiate private lease agreements for office or storage space, in excess of 2,000 square feet, expiring between July 1, 2027, and June 30, 2029.

Section 53 prohibits agencies from transferring funds from a data center appropriation category to a category other than a data center appropriation category or cloud computing category.

Section 54 authorizes the EOG to transfer funds in the appropriation category "Special Categories-Risk Management Insurance" between departments in order to align the budget authority granted with the premiums paid by each department for risk management insurance.

Section 55 authorizes the EOG to transfer funds in the appropriation category "Special Categories-Transfer to Department of Management Services-Human Resources Services Purchased Per Statewide Contract" of the GAA

between departments in order to align the budget authority granted with the assessments that must be paid by each agency to the DMS for human resources management services.

Section 56 authorizes the DMS to use 5% of facility disposition funds after selling a state office building to offset relocation expenses associated with the disposition of state office buildings.

Section 57 provides the scope for the FLAIR replacement project and specifies the governance structure.

Sections 58 & 59 reenact [s. 282.709, F.S.](#), to carryforward the DMS's authority to execute a 15-year contract with the SLERS operator.

Section 60 authorizes state agencies and other eligible users to use the DMS SLERS contract to purchase equipment and services.

Section 61 reduces the transaction fee collected for use of the online procurement system from 1 percent to 0.7 percent.

Sections 62 & 63 amend [s. 24.105\(9\)\(i\), F.S.](#), to provide that lottery ticket sale commissions will be 6 percent for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

Section 64 amends s. 627.351(6)(II), F.S., to authorize Citizen's Property Insurance Corp. to adopt policy forms authorizing claim determination disputes to come before the Division of Administrative Hearings.

Section 65 amends [s. 112.215, F.S.](#) to authorize the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to provide for the deferral of an employee's compensation on either a pre-tax basis or an after-tax (Roth) basis under a qualified program pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 66 amends [s. 110.116, F.S.](#), specifying that, in order to maintain continuity of operations for the People First System and to ensure the successful completion of the PALM System, the DMS must prepare for the required People First system upgrade, assist agencies in the transition, and submit its planning and cost estimates to the Legislature.

Section 67 amends [s. 215.5586, F.S.](#), to revise the eligibility requirements for the My Safe Florida Home Program and provides that hurricane mitigation inspections must have occurred within the previous 24 months from the date of application.

Section 68 prevents funds from local government fire equipment and services from reverting at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 69 authorizes the EOG to transfer funds in the appropriation category "Northwest Regional Data Center" between departments in order to align the budget authority granted based on the estimated costs for data processing services.

Section 70 provides that auxiliary assessments charged to state agencies related to contract management services provided to Northwest Regional Data Center may not exceed 3 percent.

Section 71 reenacts [s. 284.51, F.S.](#), directing the Division of Risk Management at the DFS to select a provider to establish a statewide pilot program to make electroencephalogram combined transcranial magnetic stimulation (eTMS) available for veterans, first responders, and immediate family members thereof with substance use disorders, mental illness, sleep disorders, traumatic brain injuries, sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress disorder, and accompanying comorbidities, concussions, other brain trauma, as well as other quality of life issues affecting human performance, including issues related to or resulting from problems with cognition and problems maintaining attention, concentration, or focus.

Section 72 authorizes the DFS to renew the existing eTMS contract for a period of two years and directs the DFS to amend the existing contract language to clarify that any funds paid by the DFS do not constitute state financial assistance as provided in [s. 215.97, F.S.](#)

Section 73 amends [s. 717.123, F.S.](#), and requires the DFS to create a reserve for the one-time receipts and refunds associated with the implementation of ch. 2024-140, Laws of Florida.

Section 74 authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs (DACs) to submit a budget amendment to increase budget authority to support the National School Lunch Program.

Section 75 amends [s. 215.18, F.S.](#) to authorize loans to land acquisition trust funds.

Section 76 provides that, in order to implement specific appropriations from the land acquisition trust funds within the DACs, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), and the Department of State, the DEP will transfer a proportionate share of revenues in the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF) within the DEP on a monthly basis, after subtracting required debt service payments, to each agency and retain a proportionate share within the LATF within the DEP. Total distributions to a LATF within the other agencies may not exceed the total appropriations for the fiscal year. The section further provides that the DEP may advance funds from the beginning unobligated fund balance in the LATF to LATF within the FWC for cash flow purposes.

Sections 77 & 78 amend [s. 376.91, F.S.](#), to extend current requirements that the DEP adopt by rule statewide cleanup target levels for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water, groundwater, and soil if the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not finalized standards by January 1, 2027.

Section 79 amends [s. 376.3071, F.S.](#), to notwithstanding the requirements of the program relating to deductibles, copayments, and monetary caps for the Petroleum Cleanup Participation Program.

Section 80 amends [s. 376.3072, F.S.](#), to notwithstanding the requirements of the Florida Petroleum Liability and Restoration Insurance Program.

Sections 81 & 82 reenact [s. 376.3071\(15\)\(g\), F.S.](#), as it relates to the ethanol or biodiesel damage.

Sections 83 & 84 amend [s. 380.5105, F.S.](#), to clarify that grants under the Stan Mayfield Working Waterfronts program may be awarded for capital expenditure projects to support the commercial and marine aquaculture industries.

Section 85 authorizes the FWC to use funds appropriated for derelict vessel removal for grants to local governments to remove such vessels themselves or to pay private contractors for the removal.

Section 86 allows water initiatives funded in the GAA to be included in the Water Quality Improvement grant program.

Section 87 amends [s. 288.80125\(3\), F.S.](#) relating to the Triumph Gulf Coast Trust Fund to provide that funds shall be used for the Rebuild Florida Revolving Loan Fund Program to provide assistance to businesses impacted by Hurricane Michael as provided in the GAA.

Section 88 amends [s. 339.135\(7\)\(h\), F.S.](#), to authorize the chair and vice chair of the LBC to approve certain work program amendments under specified circumstances, pursuant to [s. 216.177, F.S.](#) Specifically, this section authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to adopt an amendment if a LBC meeting cannot be held within 30 days of submittal of the amendment that adds a new project, or a phase of a new project, in excess of \$3 million.

Section 89 provides the DOT authority to realign funds and submit budget amendments within the Work Program based on changes to revenue distributions.

Section 90 amends [s. 288.0655, F.S.](#) to specify Rural Infrastructure grant funds for Florida Panhandle counties shall be distributed pursuant to and for the purposes described the GAA.

Section 91 authorizes the Division of Emergency Management to submit budget amendments to increase budget authority for projected expenditures due to federal reimbursements from federally declared disasters.

Sections 92 & 93 amend [s. 443.1113, F.S.](#), to clarify that enhancements to the Reemployment Assistance Claims and Benefits Information System are subject to appropriation, and revises submission timelines and annual reporting requirements for future modernization efforts.

Section 94 amends [s. 445.08, F.S.](#), to modify the expiration date of the Law Enforcement Recruitment Program; continue the revised definition for the term "break in service"; establish time periods related to employment requirements; and limit eligibility to state law enforcement agencies and Florida residents.

Section 95 requires the DMS to collect an administrative health insurance assessment from each state agency equal to the employer's cost of individual employee health care coverage for each vacant position within such agency eligible for coverage through the Division of State Group Insurance.

Section 96 maintains salaries of legislators at the same level as July 1, 2010.

Section 97 & 98 amend [s. 215.32\(2\)\(b\), F.S.](#), in order to implement the transfer of moneys to the General Revenue Fund from trust funds in the GAA.

Section 99 allows state agencies and the judicial branch to set rates of per diem and subsistence allowance within the federal government limits.

Section 100 allows state agencies and the judicial branch to set mileage allowance for travel by privately owned vehicles for official travel within the federal government limits.

Section 101 provides that funds appropriated for travel by state employees shall be limited to travel for activities that are critical to each state agency's mission. Prohibits funds from being used to travel to foreign countries, other states, conferences, staff-training or other administrative functions unless agency head approves in writing. Requires agency head to consider use of teleconferencing and electronic communication to meet needs of activity before approving travel.

Section 102 amends [s. 216.181, F.S.](#), to authorize the LBC to increase amounts appropriated to state agencies for fixed capital outlay (FCO) projects or approve new FCO projects.

Section 103 amends [s. 216.292\(2\), F.S.](#) to specify that Legislature must review transfers to ensure compliance with ch. 216, F.S.; maximize the use of available and appropriate trust funds; and verify that such actions are not contrary to legislative policy and intent.

Section 104 amends [s. 11.52, F.S.](#), to require state agencies to provide information about the status of implementation of recently enacted legislation.

Section 105 amends [s. 216.013, F.S.](#), to exempt state executive agencies and the judicial branch from the requirement to develop or post a long-range program plan by September 30, 2026, for the 2027-2028 fiscal year,

except in circumstances outlined in any updated written instructions prepared by the EOG in consultation with the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees.

Section 106 amends [s. 216.023, F.S.](#), to require each state agency and the judicial branch, as part of their legislative budget request, to include an inventory of all ongoing technology-related projects that have a cumulative estimated or realized cost of more than \$1 million.

Section 107 requires the use of state funds to be consistent with principles of individual freedom.

Section 108 prohibits a state agency from using state funds or contracting with certain advertising agencies or other contractors who use the services of media reliability and bias monitors.

Sections 109 & 110 amend [s. 440.13, F.S.](#), to specify that until the three-member panel adopts a schedule of maximum reimbursement allowances, certain emergency services will be reimbursed for 75 percent of usual and customary charges, unless there is a contract.

Sections 111 & 112 amend [s. 373.0421, F.S.](#), to specify that agricultural producers who implement best management practices must be presumed to be in compliance with recovery and prevention strategies.

Section 113 provides that the Governor, Cabinet officers, and the Legislature are permanent tenants of the Capitol Complex and provides specified rights.

Section 114 specifies that no section of the act shall take effect if the appropriations and proviso to which it relates are vetoed.

Section 115 provides that a permanent change made by another law to any of the statutes amended by this act will take precedence over the provision in this act.

Section 116 provides a severability clause.

Section 117 provides effective dates.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Section 12 of Article III of the Florida Constitution](#) states that “[l]aws making appropriations for salaries of public officers and other current expenses of the state shall contain provisions on no other subject.” This language has been interpreted to defeat proviso language attached to appropriations that have the effect of amending general law. For this reason, when general law changes are required to effectuate appropriations, those changes are placed in a general bill implementing the appropriations act instead of in the General Appropriations Act (GAA). The changes made in the “implementing bill” are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1 of the next fiscal year or revert to the language as it existed before the changes made by the bill.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Orig. Comm.: Budget Committee	23 Y, 2 N	2/16/2026	Pridgeon	Harrington