

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

BILL: SB 528

INTRODUCER: Senator Truenow

SUBJECT: Manufacturing

DATE: January 12, 2026

REVISED: _____

| ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION |
|------------------|----------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. <u>Renner</u> | <u>McKay</u> | <u>CM</u> | <u>Pre-meeting</u> |
| 2. _____ | _____ | <u>ATD</u> | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ | <u>AP</u> | _____ |

I. Summary:

SB 528 designates a Chief Manufacturing Officer (CMO) among the Department of Commerce (department) senior leadership to support, promote, and coordinate manufacturing statewide. Duties include serving as subject-matter expert for manufacturing, promoting and coordinating manufacturing efforts statewide, working with state and federal agencies to support manufacturing, and collaborating with education/training entities to promote manufacturing career paths.

The bill creates the Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program (program) within the department to fund proposed projects, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, that support small manufacturers in Florida in deploying new technologies or cybersecurity infrastructure, and to strengthen the manufacturing workforce pipeline from elementary education through postsecondary training and workforce reentry.

The bill establishes the voluntary Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign (campaign) within the department to increase consumer awareness of manufacturing activities in Florida and expand exposure for products and goods manufactured in Florida.

The bill authorizes the department to adopt rules to administer the program and campaign.

The bill may have an indeterminate impact on state expenditures. It does not appear to impact local government revenues or expenditures. *See Section V, Fiscal Impact Statement.*

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Manufacturing

According to the Department of Commerce, Florida has more than 430,000 manufacturing jobs, and experienced the highest growth in manufacturing employment among large states from 2014-2022. In 2024, Florida's manufacturing output grew to \$80.7 billion. Manufacturing jobs generally pay higher wages than those in other industries and are economically resilient against downturns. Manufacturing jobs also create seven jobs for every one manufacturing job.¹

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is the standard used by federal statistical agencies to classify businesses by industry for statistical data collection and analysis on the U.S. economy.² NAICS Sector Codes 311-339 include unique manufacturing industries in Florida that have outpaced the nation in job growth, which include, but are not limited to, the following:³

- Food manufacturing
- Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing
- Textile mills and textile product mills
- Apparel manufacturing
- Leather and allied product manufacturing
- Wood product and paper manufacturing
- Printing and related support activities
- Petroleum and coal products manufacturing
- Chemical manufacturing
- Plastics and rubber products manufacturing
- Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing
- Primary metal manufacturing
- Fabricated metal product manufacturing
- Machinery manufacturing
- Computer and electronic product manufacturing
- Electrical equipment and appliances
- Transportation equipment manufacturing
- Furniture and related product manufacturing
- Miscellaneous 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.⁴

¹ Department of Commerce analysis for SB 528 (2026). On file with Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee.

² United States Census Bureau, *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)*, available at <https://www.census.gov/naics/>, (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

³ Department of Commerce, *2023 Florida Manufacturing*, 114, available at <https://www.floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/communicationsfiles/2023-florida-manufacturing-report.pdf> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

⁴ *Id.* at 47

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.⁵ Local governments may establish a manufacturing master development plan review process that allows new or expanding manufacturing businesses to go through a single local-level master development plan process and, upon approval, proceed to development without requiring additional approvals or permits, except for building permits.⁶ The approval process must be coordinated with the department.⁷ 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.⁸ Currently, only Manatee and Volusia County have adopted an ordinance.⁹

Workforce Training Programs

CareerSource Florida, a not-for-profit corporation administratively housed within the department,¹⁰ 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.¹¹ Workforce training is administered through the 21 local workforce development boards.

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 selected by the Governor to meet workforce or infrastructure needs in the communities to which they are awarded.¹²

Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP)

The MEP National Network is a public-private partnership that delivers comprehensive solutions to U.S. manufacturers, fueling growth and advancing the U.S. manufacturing sector.¹³ MEP is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).¹⁴ The MEP National Network, the mission of which is to strengthen and empower U.S. manufacturers, 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

⁵ Section 163.3252, F.S.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Section 163.3253, F.S.

⁸ Section 163.3252, F.S.

⁹ 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).

¹⁰ Section 445.004(1), F.S.

¹¹ See CareerSource Florida, *About Us*, available at <https://careersourceflorida.com/> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

¹² See s. 288.101, F.S.

¹³ National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), *MEP National Network*, available at <https://www.nist.gov/mep/mep-national-network> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

¹⁴ *Id.*

access to resources they need to succeed.¹⁵ FloridaMakes is the official representative of the MEP National Network and NIST MEP in the state of Florida.¹⁶

The department collaborates with FloridaMakes to promote and support the growth of Florida's manufacturing sector by providing resources, data, and partnership opportunities to manufacturers, often highlighting the industry's economic impact through initiatives like the "Florida Manufacturing Report", which is developed jointly by both entities.¹⁷

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Chief Manufacturing Officer

Section 1 amends s. 20.60, F.S., expanding the department's responsibilities to encourage and oversee manufacturing in the state in coordination with the newly created Chief Manufacturing Officer (CMO).

Section 2 creates s. 20.602, F.S., to designate a CMO among the department's senior leadership to promote manufacturing statewide. Duties of the CMO include:

- Serving as the subject-matter expert on manufacturing;
- Promoting and coordinating manufacturing efforts in the state and identifying gaps across state-supported activities;
- Providing strategic direction for interagency and cross-disciplinary initiatives to promote and support manufacturing in the state;
- Working with federal, state, regional, and local governmental entities and nongovernmental entities to align manufacturing priorities;
- Engaging with state agencies and water management districts to create processes, programs, decision frameworks, and reporting mechanisms intended to support manufacturing in the state;
- Collaborating with the Department of Education, elementary, middle, and high schools, technical colleges, and workforce boards to promote manufacturing career paths through career development initiatives and funding manufacturing training centers.

The bill requires the department to submit a report by December 15, 2027, and every two years thereafter, on the strength and economic importance of Florida's manufacturing industry.

Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program

Section 3 creates s. 288.103, F.S., establishing the Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program (program) within the department, under the direction of the CMO in consultation with the state's National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership organization. The purpose of the program is to support small manufacturers in Florida in deploying new technologies or cybersecurity infrastructure, and to strengthen the manufacturing workforce pipeline from elementary education through postsecondary training

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ FloridaMakes, *About Us*, available at <https://www.floridamakes.com/about-us/how-we-help> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

¹⁷ FloridaMakes, *News, Blogs & Events*, available at <https://www.floridamakes.com/blogs/frances-nevill/2024/06/04/spotlight-on-floridas-inaugural-manufacturing-report> (last visited Jan. 12, 2026).

and workforce reentry. Grants may be used for workforce and development operations, subject to appropriations.

The bill establishes ranking metrics for the program, including the number of employees, applicants' matching funds, and expected benefits from the grant awards. Priority must be given to projects with innovative plans, advanced technologies, development strategies focusing on workforce development for small manufacturers, and must include one or more of the following:

- Regional manufacturing training center establishment or expansion;
- Partnerships with school districts, technical and state colleges to support manufacturing curricula, dual enrollment, and industry certification programs;
- Development of career awareness programs in elementary and middle schools;
- Outreach and training programs targeting underrepresented populations, including reentry populations; and
- Marketing and promotion of manufacturing careers.

The department must include project grant awards and each project's status in its annual incentives report.

The department may adopt rules to implement this provision.

Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign

Section 4 creates s. 288.1031, F.S., establishing the Florida Manufacturing Promotional Campaign to:

- Increase consumer awareness of manufacturing;
- Expand market exposure for manufactured products and goods; and
- Inspire future generations of entrepreneurs, fabricators, and skilled workers to build and grow domestic businesses and manufacturing operations.

The campaign is voluntary, managed by the department, and coordinated with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership. The department must develop logos, promotional materials, register participants, create in-kind advertising, and contract with the media. The department must prepare an annual report on campaign performance (submitted as part of the department's annual report) that includes performance measures and outcomes, sources of in-kind advertising, contracts, participant names, and other relevant information.

The bill defines a "manufactured product" as any durable or non-durable tangible personal property or consumer good that has been processed, fabricated, or produced through industrial or mechanical processes. This includes items sold or leased to consumers.

The department may adopt rules to implement and administer the campaign, establish logos or product identifiers used in the campaign, ensure compliance with the campaign, and govern participant registration.

Section 5 provides an effective date of July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Manufacturing businesses may see increased demand due to receiving a Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant and/or participating in the voluntary Manufacturing Promotional Campaign.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The bill has an indeterminate fiscal impact on the department because the Florida Manufacturers' Workforce Development Grant Program is subject to legislative appropriation.

The bill does not appear to impact local government revenues and expenditures.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends section 20.60 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates sections 20.602, 288.103, and 288.1031 of the Florida Statutes.

IX. Additional Information:**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.
