

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 Regulated Industries

BILL: SB 936

INTRODUCER: Senator McClain

SUBJECT: Temporary Door Locking Devices

DATE: February 3, 2026

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Tolmich</u>	<u>Fleming</u>	<u>CA</u>	Favorable
2.	<u>Baird</u>	<u>Imhof</u>	<u>RI</u>	Favorable
3.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u>RC</u>	<u> </u>

I. Summary:

SB 936 allows a temporary door locking device to be installed at any height above the finished floor of a building.

The bill defines “temporary door locking device” as a device that prevents a door from opening and meets all of the following criteria:

- Is meant only for temporary use during an emergency situation;
- Can be engaged or removed without opening the door;
- Can be engaged and removed from the egress side of the door without the use of a key and can be removed from the ingress side of the door with the use of a key or other credential;
- Does not modify the door closer, panic hardware, or fire exit hardware;
- Is not permanently mounted to the door assembly; however, individual parts of the temporary door locking device, including, but not limited to, bolts, stops, brackets, or pins, which do not prevent normal ingress and egress through the door, may be permanently mounted to the door;
- Does not affect the fire rating of the door and complies with the fire rating standards of the National Fire Protection Association; and
- Can be removed with a single operation when engaged.

The bill requires the Florida Building Commission (commission) to incorporate into the Florida Building Code (Building Code) standards for temporary door locking devices that meet the specified requirements. The bill also requires that the use of a temporary door locking device must be integrated into building safety plans, safety drills, and training programs so that the employees or staff of the building in which the device is installed have inservice training on the use of the temporary door locking device.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

II. Present Situation:

Temporary Door Locks in School Classrooms and Instructional Spaces

Temporary door locks are devices that prevent a door from opening that are typically used in emergency situations. Current law provides for temporary door locks in school classrooms and instructional spaces. All school classrooms and instructional spaces with a permanently installed door lock may also use a temporary door lock during an active assailant incident.¹ The temporary door lock must be:

- Able to be engaged or removed without opening the door;
- Easily removed in a single operation from the egress side of the door without the use of a key and from the ingress side of the door with the use of a key or other credential;
- In compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code; and
- Integrated into the active assailant response plan.²

Current law also provides that such temporary door locks may be installed at any height.³

Several other states, including Michigan⁴ and Montana,⁵ have adopted laws that allow for the use of temporary door locking devices in classrooms during emergency situations. The purpose of this type of legislation is to make schools and other buildings safer during emergency situations, such as an active shooter event.⁶

The Florida Building Code

In 1974, Florida adopted legislation requiring all local governments to adopt and enforce a minimum building code that would ensure that Florida's minimum standards were met. Local governments could choose from four separate model codes. The state's role was limited to adopting all or relevant parts of new editions of the four model codes. Local governments could amend and enforce their local codes, as they desired.⁷

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew demonstrated that Florida's system of local codes did not work. Hurricane Andrew easily destroyed those structures that were allegedly built according to the strongest code. The Governor eventually appointed a study commission to review the system of local codes and make recommendations for modernizing the system. The 1998 Legislature adopted the study's commission recommendations for a single state building code and enhanced the oversight role of the state over local code enforcement. The 2000 Legislature authorized

¹ Section 1006.07(6)(f)2.a., F.S.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ LegiScan, *Michigan House Bill 5701*, available at: <https://legiscan.com/MI/text/HB5701/id/2556156> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

⁵ LegiScan, *Montana House Bill 651 (2025)*, available at: <https://legiscan.com/MT/text/HB651/2025> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

⁶ Daily Montanan, *Senate passes measure allowing temporary door locks in schools to enhance safety*, available at: <https://dailymontanan.com/2025/04/14/senate-passes-measure-allowing-temporary-door-locks-in-schools-to-enhance-safety/> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

⁷ The Florida Building Commission Report to the 2006 Legislature, *Florida Department of Community Affairs*, p. 4, http://www.floridabuilding.org/fbc/publications/2006_Legislature_Rpt_rev2.pdf (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

implementation of the Building Code, and that first edition replaced all local codes on March 1, 2002.⁸ The current edition of the Building Code is the eighth edition, which is referred to as the 2023 Florida Building Code.⁹

Chapter 553, part IV, F.S., is known as the “Florida Building Codes act” (act). The purpose and intent of the act is to provide a mechanism for the uniform adoption, updating, interpretation, and enforcement of a single, unified state building code. The Building Code must be applied, administered, and enforced uniformly and consistently from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.¹⁰

The commission was statutorily created to implement the Building Code. The commission, which is housed within the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), is a 19-member technical body made up of design professionals, contractors, and government experts in various disciplines covered by the Building Code. The commission reviews several International Codes published by the International Code Council,¹¹ the National Electric Code, and other nationally adopted model codes to determine if the Building Code needs to be updated and adopts an updated Building Code every three years.¹²

Florida Fire Prevention Code

The State Fire Marshal, by rule, adopts the Florida Fire Prevention Code (Florida Fire Code), which contains all firesafety laws and rules that pertain to the design, construction, erection, alteration, modification, repair, and demolition of public and private buildings, structures, and facilities, and the enforcement of such firesafety laws and rules.¹³ The State Fire Marshal adopts a new edition of the Florida Fire Code every three years.¹⁴ The Florida Fire Code is largely based on the *National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) Standard 1, Fire Prevention Code*, along with the current edition of the *Life Safety Code, NFPA 101*.¹⁵ The 8th edition took effect on December 31, 2023.¹⁶

State law requires all municipalities, counties, and special districts with firesafety responsibilities to enforce the Florida Fire Code as the minimum fire prevention code to operate uniformly among local governments and in conjunction with the Building Code.¹⁷ The Florida Fire Code applies to every building and structure throughout the state with few exceptions.¹⁸

Municipalities, counties, and special districts with firesafety responsibilities may supplement the Florida Fire Code with more stringent standards adopted in accordance with s. 633.208, F.S.¹⁹

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Florida Building Commission Homepage, <https://floridabuilding.org/c/default.aspx> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

¹⁰ Section 553.72(1), F.S.

¹¹ The International Code Council (ICC) is an association that develops model codes and standards used in the design, building, and compliance process to “construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures.” International Code Council, *About the ICC*, <https://www.iccsafe.org/about/who-we-are/> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

¹² Section 553.73(7)(a), F.S.

¹³ Fla. Admin. Code R. 69A-60.002.

¹⁴ Section 633.202(1), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 633.202(2), F.S.

¹⁶ Division of State Fire Marshal, *Florida Fire Prevention Code*, available at <https://myfloridacfo.com/division/sfm/bfp/florida-fire-prevention-code> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

¹⁷ Sections 633.108 and 633.208, F.S.

¹⁸ Section 633.208, F.S., and Fla. Admin. Code R. 69A-60.002(1).

¹⁹ Section 633.208(3), F.S., and Fla. Admin. Code R. 69A-60.002(2).

Door Assemblies and Means of Egress

Door assemblies serve several purposes that relate to the comfort and safety of building occupants.²⁰ Door assemblies provide protection from weather, prevent trespassing by unauthorized persons, and slow or stop the spread of fire and smoke.²¹

Egress refers to an unobstructed route from any point in a building to a public way,²² while ingress refers to the entrance into a room or building. In order to provide for the safety of persons in the event of an emergency, every component in the means of egress must be operable by, and under the control of, the occupants attempting egress.²³ If a locked door prevents egress, it can hinder evacuation time and prevent occupants from reaching safety.²⁴ As such, the National Fire Protection Association recommends several concepts that should be considered in all buildings regarding swinging egress door locking and latching:

- Door leaves must be arranged to be opened readily from the egress side whenever the building is occupied.
- Locks and latches cannot require the use of a key, tool, or special knowledge or effort to operate from the egress side.
- All locks, latches, and all other fastening devices on a door leaf must be provided with a releasing device that has an obvious method of operation and that is readily operated under all lighting conditions.
- The operation of the releasing mechanism must release all latching and all locking devices of the door leaf with not more than one motion in a single linear or rotational direction.²⁵

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 936 creates s. 553.8951, F.S., to allow a temporary door locking device to be installed at any height above the finished floor of a building.

The bill defines “temporary door locking device” as a device that prevents a door from opening and meets all of the following criteria:

- Is meant only for temporary use during an emergency situation;
- Can be engaged or removed without opening the door;
- Can be engaged and removed from the egress side of the door without the use of a key and can be removed from the ingress side of the door with the use of a key or other credential;
- Does not modify the door closer, panic hardware, or fire exit hardware;
- Is not permanently mounted to the door assembly; however, individual parts of the temporary door locking device, including, but not limited to, bolts, stops, brackets, or pins, which do not

²⁰ National Fire Protection Association, *The basics of swinging type egress door operation*, available at: <https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2021/04/09/basics-of-swinging-type-egress-door-operation> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

²¹ *Id.*

²² National Fire Protection Association, *Swinging egress door operation: Permissible egress door locking arrangements*, available at <https://www.nfpa.org/news-blogs-and-articles/blogs/2021/07/09/swinging-egress-door-operation-permissible-egress-door-locking-arrangements> (last visited Jan. 28, 2026).

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

prevent normal ingress and egress through the door, may be permanently mounted to the door;

- Does not affect the fire rating of the door and complies with the fire rating standards of the National Fire Protection Association; and
- Can be removed with a single operation when engaged.

The bill requires the commission to incorporate standards into the Building Code for temporary door locking devices that meet the specified requirements. A temporary door locking device may be used to secure a fire exit or an entranceway leading to a fire exit if the temporary door locking device is used only during an emergency situation and approved by the local enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the building in which the device is installed. A temporary door locking device may only be applied for a finite period of time during an emergency situation, including, but not limited to, a shelter-in-place order, an emergency lockdown, or a safety drill for such emergency situation.

The bill also requires that the use of a temporary door locking device must be integrated into building safety plans, safety drills, and training programs so that the employees or staff of the building in which the device is installed have inservice training on the use of the temporary door locking device.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

The bill does not appear to require counties and municipalities to expend funds or further limit their authority to raise revenue or receive state-shared revenues as specified by Article VII, s. 18, of the State Constitution.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates section 553.8951 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.