

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 #: [CS/HB 975](#)

TITLE: Capitol Center and Complex

SPONSOR(S): Botana

COMPANION BILL: [SB 1108](#) (Truenow)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Government Operations](#)

18 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Justice Budget](#)

13 Y, 1 N



[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill:

- Authorizes the Capitol Police to patrol the two-block area immediately north of the Capitol Complex on weekdays during specified hours.
- Requires the Capitol Police to submit a report to the Legislature containing recommendations to enhance safety in the area surrounding the Capitol Complex.
- Requires the Department of Management Services (DMS), when developing its comprehensive and long-range plan, to consider the security of the Capitol Center and surrounding areas.
- Requires DMS, in consultation with the Capitol Police, to establish enhanced security measures in the Capitol Center parking areas.
- Provides that DMS is responsible for the aesthetics of the Capitol Center for visitors.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill may have an indeterminate, but likely insignificant, negative fiscal impact on state government expenditures that is expected to be absorbed within existing resources.

[JUMP TO](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ANALYSIS](#)

[RELEVANT INFORMATION](#)

[BILL HISTORY](#)

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill authorizes the [Capitol Police](#) to patrol and conduct law enforcement activities in the area surrounding the [Capitol Complex](#)¹ between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Additionally, Capitol Police must submit a report to the Legislature containing recommendations to enhance safety in the surrounding area and requires Capitol Police's operational security plans to address crime and vagrancy in that area. (Section [4](#))

The bill authorizes law enforcement officers of other state and local agencies who are designated as *ex officio* agents of the Capitol Police to patrol the Capitol Complex and surrounding area when authorized by the executive director of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement or the director's designee. Patrols in the surrounding area are limited to weekdays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Section [5](#))

The bill provides that the Department of Management Services (DMS) is responsible for the aesthetics of the [Capitol Center](#) for visitors. In addition, when developing its comprehensive and long-range plan for state-owned property within the Capitol Center, DMS must consider the security of the Capitol Center and surrounding area and the need to keep those areas safe. The bill also requires DMS, in consultation with the Capitol Police, to establish

¹ The bill defines the "area surrounding the Capitol Complex" to mean the area extending two blocks north from the current northern boundary of the Capitol Complex—up to and including East Park Avenue and West Park Avenue—and bounded on the east and west by the existing boundaries.

STORAGE NAME: h0975b.JUB

DATE: 2/23/2026

enhanced security measures in Capitol Center parking areas to protect members of the Legislature, state officers, employees, and visitors. (Sections [1](#), [2](#), and [3](#))

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2026. (Section [7](#))

RULEMAKING:

The bill provides rulemaking authority to DMS to implement enhanced security measures in Capitol Center parking areas.

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 bill may have an indeterminate, but likely insignificant, negative fiscal impact on state government expenditures. The bill requires the Capitol Police to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature and authorizes, but does not require, limited patrol activity in a specified area. Additionally, DMS must consider security in its comprehensive, long-range plan and must establish enhanced security measures in the Capitol Center parking areas in consultation with the Capitol Police. Any costs associated with these requirements can likely be absorbed within existing resources, and any future funding needs, should they arise, can be addressed through the traditional Legislative Budget Request process outlined in [s. 216.023, F.S.](#)

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Capitol Center

The Florida Capitol Center Planning District (Capitol Center) encompasses the area of the City of Tallahassee surrounding the seat of state government.² State-owned buildings within the Capitol Center are under the general control and supervision of the Department of Management Services (DMS).³ Accordingly, DMS is authorized to allocate space among state entities, review maintenance budgets, and contract for utilities and related services.⁴ DMS may also provide for and maintain certain common-use features such as parks, drives, walkways, and parking within the Capitol Center area.⁵

Current law requires DMS to develop a comprehensive and long-range plan for the development of state property within the Capitol Center.⁶ In developing the plan, DMS must consider efficiency, architectural and aesthetic coordination with existing structures, effective use of space, and coordination with local planning. Legislative authorization is required for projects relating to land acquisition and building construction.⁷

Capitol Complex

The Capitol Complex includes the following state-owned buildings within the Capitol Center:

- Capitol.
- Historic Capitol.
- Senate Office Building.
- House Office Building.

² See [s. 272.12, F.S.](#)

³ [S. 272.03\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁴ [Ss. 272.04–272.06, F.S.](#)

⁵ See [ss. 272.07](#) and [272.16, F.S.](#)

⁶ [S. 272.121\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁷ [S. 272.122, F.S.](#)

- Knott Building.
- Pepper Building.
- Holland Building.
- Elliot Building.⁸

The Capitol Complex is bounded by “Calhoun Street, East Pensacola Street, Monroe Street, Jefferson Street, West Pensacola Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Gaines Street.” But the complex does not include the Supreme Court building.⁹

Capitol Police

The Capitol Police are designated as a specialized law enforcement agency responsible for protecting the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Cabinet members, legislators, and their assisting staff, and for ensuring secure access to buildings and premises within the Capitol Complex to allow for the continuous operation of state government.¹⁰ The Capitol Police are established in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).¹¹

In addition, the Capitol Police provide security for other state employees and visitors to the Capitol Complex and are responsible for maintaining a reasonable level of safety and security while ensuring public access.¹² The agency is authorized to develop and implement written operational security plans for basic and enhanced security measures, subject to written approval by the Governor and presiding officers of the Legislature.¹³ These plans govern security operations, emergency responses, and evacuation procedures and may be temporarily implemented without approval only during emergencies threatening immediate safety.

Capitol Police have full law enforcement authority within the Capitol Complex, including the power to make arrests, enforce traffic and parking regulations, and respond to criminal activity and security threats.¹⁴ The Capitol Police may also provide mutual aid to other law enforcement agencies and assign officers for the protection of legislators upon request of the presiding officers of the Legislature.¹⁵

Ex Officio

Current law designates certain law enforcement officers as ex officio agents of the Capitol Police, including officers of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, special agents or inspectors of FDLE, and law enforcement officers of other state agencies, counties, and municipalities.¹⁶ When authorized by the executive director of FDLE—or his or her designee—these officers may exercise the powers and duties of the Capitol Police.

⁸ [S. 272.09\(1\), F.S.](#) The Capitol Complex includes the associated parking garages and curtilage of these buildings, as well as the adjacent state-owned lands and public streets.

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ [S. 943.61\(1\), F.S.](#)

¹¹ FDLE is a statewide law enforcement agency headed by the Governor and Cabinet and administered by an executive director. *See* [s. 20.201, F.S.](#)

¹² [S. 943.61\(2\), F.S.](#)

¹³ [S. 943.61\(4\)\(a\), F.S.](#)

¹⁴ [S. 943.61\(4\)-\(5\), F.S.](#)

¹⁵ [S. 943.61\(3\) & \(4\)\(h\), F.S.](#)

¹⁶ [S. 943.64, F.S.](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Government Operations Subcommittee	18 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/11/2026	Toliver	Villa
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed a provision authorizing street closures under certain circumstances. • Removed a provision authorizing six full-time equivalent positions to establish a specified community group within the Capitol Police. • Removed a provision extending the boundaries of the Capitol Complex. • Authorized the Capitol Police to patrol a specified area during designated times. 			
Justice Budget Subcommittee	13 Y, 1 N	2/23/2026	Keith	Saag
State Affairs Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
