

CS/HB 975

2026

A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to the Capitol Center and Complex;  
amending s. 272.12, F.S.; providing that the  
Department of Management Services is responsible for  
the aesthetics of the Capitol Center for visitors;  
amending s. 272.121, F.S.; requiring the department to  
consider certain factors when developing a specified  
plan; amending s. 272.16, F.S.; requiring the  
department, in consultation with the Capitol Police,  
to establish enhanced security measures in certain  
parking areas; amending s. 943.61, F.S.; authorizing  
the Capitol Police to patrol the area surrounding the  
Capitol Complex to ensure the safety of certain  
persons; defining the term "area surrounding the  
Capitol Complex"; providing a requirement for a  
certain operational plan; requiring the Capitol Police  
to provide a certain report to the Legislature;  
amending s. 943.64, F.S.; authorizing certain ex  
officio agents to patrol the Capitol Complex and the  
area surrounding the Capitol Complex; amending s.  
943.601, F.S.; conforming a cross-reference; providing  
an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

26       **Section 1. Subsection (3) is added to section 272.12, Florida Statutes, to read:**

27       272.12 Florida Capitol Center Planning District.—

28       (3) The Department of Management Services is responsible for the aesthetics of the Capitol Center for visitors.

29       **Section 2. Paragraph (e) is added to subsection (1) of section 272.121, Florida Statutes, to read:**

30       272.121 Capitol Center long-range planning.—

31       (1) The Department of Management Services shall develop a comprehensive and long-range plan for the development of state-owned property within the Capitol Center. In developing this plan, the department shall consider:

32       (e) The security of the Capitol Center and surrounding areas and the need to keep those spaces safe.

33       **Section 3. Subsection (4) of section 272.16, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (5) and amended, and a new subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:**

34       272.16 Parking areas within Capitol Center area.—

35       (4) The Department of Management Services, in consultation with the Capitol Police, shall establish enhanced security measures to protect members of the Legislature, state officers, employees, and visitors in such parking areas.

36       (5)-(4) The Department of Management Services shall adopt such rules as are necessary to implement carry out the purposes of subsections (1), and (3), and (4).

51       **Section 4. Section 943.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
52       **read:**

53       943.61 Powers and duties of the Capitol Police.—

54       (1) (a) There is created the Capitol Police within the  
55 Department of Law Enforcement, to serve the safety and security  
56 needs of both the legislative and executive branches of state  
57 government. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Capitol  
58 Police serve as a specially trained and highly effective  
59 security and law enforcement agency serving the Capitol Complex  
60 and the state. It shall be the primary responsibility of the  
61 Capitol Police to protect the security of the Governor, the  
62 Lieutenant Governor, the members of the Cabinet, and the members  
63 of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, and those  
64 employees assigned to assist such state officials in the  
65 performance of their official duties, and to ensure their access  
66 to buildings and premises within the Capitol Complex, thereby  
67 providing for the continuous operation of the government of the  
68 State of Florida.

69       (b) (2) The Capitol Police shall also provide security and  
70 protection for other state officials, employees, and visitors to  
71 the Capitol Complex and shall maintain a reasonable degree of  
72 safety and security within the Capitol Complex while ensuring  
73 reasonable access to buildings and premises within the Capitol  
74 Complex by state officials, employees, and visitors. The Capitol  
75 Police shall also ensure that adequate signs and personnel are

76 in place to inform and assist the occupants of and visitors to  
77 buildings within the Capitol Complex.

78 (c) To enforce this subsection, the Capitol Police may  
79 patrol and conduct law enforcement activities in the area  
80 surrounding the Capitol Complex between the hours of 7:00 a.m.  
81 and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

82 (d) For purposes of this section, the term "area  
83 surrounding the Capitol Complex" means the area extending north  
84 from the northern boundary of the Capitol Complex, up to and  
85 including East Park Avenue and West Park Avenue, and bounded on  
86 the east and west by the existing eastern and western boundaries  
87 of the Capitol Complex.

88 (2)-(3) Nothing herein limits the ability of the Capitol  
89 Police to provide mutual aid to other law enforcement agencies  
90 as authorized by law unless such a limitation is expressly  
91 included in the operational security plans provided for herein.

92 (3)-(4) The Capitol Police shall have the following  
93 responsibilities, powers, and duties:

94 (a) To develop, in consultation with the Governor, Cabinet  
95 officers, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the  
96 House of Representatives, written operational plans for basic  
97 and enhanced security measures and actions related to the  
98 Capitol Complex. Such plans must address crime and vagrancy in  
99 the area surrounding the Capitol Complex. Such plans and any  
100 changes or amendments thereto may ~~shall~~ not be implemented

CS/HB 975

2026

101 unless presented in writing in final form to the Governor, the  
102 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of  
103 Representatives and all three grant their approval in writing.  
104 The approval of any officer required herein shall expire 60 days  
105 after such officer vacates his or her office, and the written  
106 approval of the successor in office must be obtained before  
107 ~~prior to~~ the continuation of operations under such plans. Upon  
108 the request of the Governor, a Cabinet officer, the President of  
109 the Senate, or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
110 Capitol Police shall activate previously approved enhanced  
111 security measures and actions in accordance with the approved  
112 operational plans specific to the requesting officer's  
113 responsibilities and to the facilities occupied by such officer  
114 and employees responsible to such officer. Upon an emergency  
115 threatening the immediate safety and security of occupants of  
116 the Capitol Complex, so declared by the Governor, plans not  
117 approved as required by this paragraph may be implemented for a  
118 period not to exceed 15 days, provided such plans do not  
119 substantially interfere with the ability of the Senate and the  
120 House of Representatives to assemble for any constitutional  
121 purpose.

122 (b) To provide and maintain the security of all property  
123 located in the Capitol Complex in a manner consistent with the  
124 security plans developed and approved under paragraph (a) and,  
125 in consultation with the State Fire Marshal, to provide for

126 evacuations, information, and training required for firesafety  
127 on such property in a manner consistent with s. 633.218.

128 (c) To develop plans for reporting incidents involving  
129 buildings and property within the Capitol Complex, emergency  
130 procedures and evacuation routes in the event of fire, security  
131 threats, incidents prompting a need for evacuation, acts of  
132 terrorism, or natural or manmade disaster and to make such  
133 procedures and routes known to those persons occupying such  
134 buildings.

135 (d) To employ officers who hold certification as law  
136 enforcement officers in accordance with the minimum standards  
137 and qualifications as set forth in s. 943.13 and ~~the provisions~~  
138 ~~of~~ chapter 110, and who have the authority to bear arms, make  
139 arrests, except as may be limited in the security plans  
140 established under paragraph (a), and apply for arrest warrants.

141 (e) To hire guards and administrative, clerical,  
142 technical, and other personnel as may be required.

143 (f) To train all officers and other employees in fire  
144 prevention, firesafety, emergency medical procedures, and  
145 preventing and responding to acts of terrorism.

146 (g) To respond to all complaints relating to criminal  
147 activity or security threats within the Capitol Complex, or  
148 against the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, a member of the  
149 Cabinet, a member of the Senate or of the House of  
150 Representatives, or an employee assisting such official.

CS/HB 975

2026

161 (i) To enforce rules of the Department of Management  
162 Services governing the regulation of traffic and parking within  
163 the Capitol Complex and to impound illegally or wrongfully  
164 parked vehicles.

165 (j) To establish policies for the organizational  
166 structure, principles of command, and internal operations of the  
167 Capitol Police, provided that such policies are not inconsistent  
168 with ~~the provisions of~~ ss. 943.61-943.68 or the security plans  
169 developed and approved under paragraph (a).

170 (k) To carry out the transportation and protective  
171 services functions described in s. 943.68.

172        (1) To provide to the Legislature a report with  
173 recommendations to enhance the safety of the area surrounding  
174 the Capitol Complex.

175 (4)-(5) Officers of the Capitol Police may make lawful

CS/HB 975

2026

176 arrests, consistent with the purposes, responsibilities, and  
177 limitations set forth in ss. 943.60-943.68. However, except with  
178 the prior approval of the appropriate presiding officer,  
179 officers of the Capitol Police shall have no power to prevent  
180 the convening or continuation of any meeting of the Legislature,  
181 legislative committees, or staff, nor shall they have the power  
182 to interfere with the legislative duties or rights of a member  
183 of the Legislature, or to interfere with the constitutional  
184 duties or rights of the Governor or a member of the Cabinet,  
185 except as may be necessary to protect the health and safety of  
186 any person from a clear and present danger, or as may be  
187 otherwise provided in the security plans developed and approved  
188 for fire prevention, firesafety, and emergency medical  
189 procedures under paragraph (3) (a) (4)(a). No employee of the  
190 Capitol Police shall be permitted in either legislative chamber  
191 without the specific permission of the presiding officer of that  
192 house of the Legislature, but may enter in the case of an  
193 emergency when the presiding officer is not able or available to  
194 consent.

195 **Section 5. Section 943.64, Florida Statutes, is amended to**  
196 **read:**

197 943.64 Ex officio agents.—Law enforcement officers of the  
198 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, special agents  
199 or inspectors of the Department of Law Enforcement, and law  
200 enforcement officers of other state agencies, counties, and

CS/HB 975

2026

201 municipalities are ex officio agents of the Capitol Police, and  
202 may, when authorized by the executive director of the department  
203 or the executive director's designee, enforce rules and laws  
204 applicable to the powers and duties of the Capitol Police to  
205 provide and maintain the security required by ss. 943.61-943.68,  
206 including patrolling the Capitol Complex and the area  
207 surrounding the Capitol Complex, as defined in s. 943.61(1) (d) .

208 **Section 6. Section 943.601, Florida Statutes, is amended  
209 to read:**

210 943.601 Preservation of legislative powers.—Except as may  
211 be agreed to by the presiding officers of both houses of the  
212 Legislature, nothing in this chapter shall limit or otherwise  
213 interfere with the rights and powers of the Senate or the House  
214 of Representatives, or the officers of either, to direct or  
215 command members or committees of the Legislature or legislative  
216 employees to attend any meeting or enter any area of the Capitol  
217 Complex for a legislative purpose, and the Capitol Police may,  
218 as provided by the security plans developed and approved under  
219 s. 943.61(3) (a) ~~s. 943.61(4) (a)~~, and upon request of the  
220 presiding officer of either house of the Legislature, ensure the  
221 ability of any member of the house presided over by such  
222 presiding officer to attend to such legislative business without  
223 wrongful interference from any person or government entity.

224 **Section 7.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.