Bills Effective July 1, 2025 **No. 25-054**

DATE:	June 27, 2025	**CONTACT:**	FCCC Government Relations
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CATEGORY:	Clerk and Comptroller Administration, Comptroller Duties, Courts, Human Resources, Clerk Finance, Clerk IT, Records and Recording, Traffic, VAB		

This is a list of bills, effective July 1, 2025, that may have some effect on the office operations of, or be of other interest to, Florida's Clerks of the Circuit Court and Comptrollers.

These bills passed the 2025 Regular Session of the Florida Legislature, and most have been acted on by Governor Ron DeSantis. Please make sure to read the text of the entire bill to assess the full impact on your operations.

Additional information related to the 2025 legislative session may be found on the Florida Court Clerks & Comptrollers Legislative Information webpage. An advisory detailing those bills effective October 1, 2025, and later is forthcoming. For information related to those bills effective upon becoming a law, please see Advisory Bulletin 25-045.

Board Side

CS/CS/HB 551 Fire Prevention
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 3, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-115
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill expands the types of fire alarm system projects eligible for the simplified building permit process. The bill requires local governments to issue simplified building permits within a certain period; perform an inspection within a certain period of receiving a request; establish a simplified permitting process by October 1, 2025; and refund permit fees when they fail to meet statutory deadlines.

Clerk Point:
This bill amends s. 553.7932, F.S., to require local governments to refund a contractor's building permit fees by 10 percent for each business day the local government fails to meet the deadline to issue a permit or perform an inspection for a simplified permitting process fire alarm system or fire sprinkler project unless the parties agree in writing to a reasonable extension; the delay is caused by the permit applicant; or the delay is attributable to a force majeure or other extraordinary circumstance. Each 10 percent refund is based on the original amount of the permit fee.

CS/CS/HB 669 Israeli Bonds
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-174
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill prohibits a local government's investment policy from requiring a minimum bond rating for investing in bonds issued by the Israeli government.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided for information as it relates to Clerk's local government investment policies.

CS/CS/CS/HB 683 Construction Regulations
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-140
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill provides a number of new requirements, standards, and procedures for local governments related to construction regulations.

Clerk Point:
Of interest, the bill creates s. 218.755, F.S., to provide that for construction contracts entered into after July 1, 2025, if a local government entity receives a price quote for a change order from its contractor, which meets all statutory and contractual requirements, the local government must provide written notice to the contractor approving or denying the price quote within 35 days.

If a local government denies the price quote, the written notice must specify the alleged deficiencies in the quote and list the actions necessary to remedy the deficiencies. If a local government fails to provide such information in the written denial notice, then the change order and price quote are deemed approved and the local government must pay the contractor the amount stated in the price quote upon the completion of the change order. A contract between a local government and a contractor may not alter these provisions.

The bill amends s. 255.0992, F.S., to provide that the state or any political subdivision, when scoring or evaluating bids for a public works project, may not penalize a bidder for performing a larger volume of construction work for the state or political subdivision, or reward a bidder for performing a smaller volume of construction work for the state or political subdivision, except as required by federal or state law.

The bill amends s. 553.79, F.S., to also prohibit a local government from requiring a copy of a contract between a builder and an owner or any associated documents, including, but not limited to, letters of intent, material costs lists, labor costs, or overhead or profit statements, as a requirement to apply for or receive a building permit.

CS/CS/SB 1678 Entities that Boycott Israel
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 26, 2025
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill expands Florida's public investment and contracting prohibitions on entities that boycott Israel to include educational institutions, nonprofits, local governments, foreign governments, and academic boycotts.

The bill requires the Florida State Board of Administration (SBA) to determine which "other entities" boycott Israel and, if necessary, place them on the Scrutinized Companies or Other Entities that Boycott Israel List (Boycott Israel List). The bill defines "other entity" to mean an educational institution, a nonprofit organization, an agency, a local government, including any of its public investment funds, public pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, or other government-sponsored investment funds. The bill requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to collaborate with the SBA to identify companies and other entities with which the state currently contracts or has a grant agreement. If any of those entities are placed on the Boycott Israel List, DMS must notify them that they may be barred from receiving future state contracts or grant awards.

Additionally, the bill imposes new compliance requirements for arts and cultural grants, with penalties and prohibitions for applicants who engage in boycotts or antisemitic discrimination.

Clerk Point:
Current law prohibits companies on the Boycott Israel List or determined to be engaged in a boycott of Israel from bidding on, submitting a proposal for, or entering into a contract with state or local governments in any amount. The bill expands the prohibition to include "other entities" and sets a threshold amount of $100,000 over which a state or local government may not contract. Contracts entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2025, must contain a provision allowing for termination if a company or other entity is found to be engaged in such a boycott.

Budget / Finance

CS/SB 538 State Court System ***(Also of interest to Court Side)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 20, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-163
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill makes several changes that impact court administration. The bill mandates, for duty judges, at least one circuit judge in each judicial circuit be available at all times to hold and conduct hearings. However, the bill authorizes such hearings to be held and conducted in a location other than the judge's chambers. The bill also provides an alternative means for a judge to authenticate a certificate of proof or acknowledgment, by providing their signature and printing their name, title, and court. This change allows a judge to authenticate such a certificate or acknowledgment without the use of their seal of office or court. Additionally, the bill removes the statutory cap on arbitrator compensation, providing broader discretion to the chief judge of each judicial circuit to set the fees for arbitrator services.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill amends s. 28.35, F.S., to require the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) to include in its annual budget request to the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC) the anticipated amount necessary for reimbursement of petitions for protective injunction against domestic violence; repeat, sexual, or dating violence; stalking; and exploitation of a vulnerable adult. This mirrors the current process for seeking reimbursement for Marchman Act, Baker Act, and Sexually Violent Predator cases.

SB 2500 Appropriations
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:

Summary:
This bill, the General Appropriations Act (GAA), sets the state appropriation levels for all agencies funded by the state budget for an annual period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, totaling approximately $115.1 billion.

Clerk Point:
See Section 4, line 734A, page 180: Appropriates $400,000 in nonrecurring funds in Specific Appropriation 734A for distribution to the Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC) for the purpose of continuing operations and maintenance requirements of the Guardianship Transparency Database, as authorized in s. 744.2112, F.S.

See Section 4, line 739, page 181: Appropriates $11.7 million in Specific Appropriation 739 for reimbursement of expenditures related to circuit and county juries required by statute.

See Section 6, line 2200, page 396: Restates the requirement for the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to audit all court-related expenditures of the Clerks of Court, pursuant to ss. 28.241 and 28.35, F.S. DFS must report quarterly the audit findings to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor's Office of Policy and Budget.

DFS must submit such report on August 1, 2025, for the period beginning April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, and quarterly thereafter.

See Section 7, line 2971, pages 486: Reappropriates $370,000 in Specific Appropriation 2971 for the operation, maintenance, and enhancement of an information technology platform that electronically transmits alert reminders and information to individuals involved in the state courts system.

Section 211, page 525: Reverts and appropriates any unexpended balance of funds provided to the Department of Management Services (DMS) to provide nonrecurring assistance to local governments for the development and enhancement of cybersecurity risk management programs.

SB 2502 Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act ***(Also of interest to Board Side)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill serves as the implementing bill for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act (GAA), providing statutory authority and administrative provisions to execute Florida's budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2025. It modifies various state laws, authorizes budget amendments, and sets temporary policies to support education, healthcare, social services, criminal justice, environmental programs, and state operations. The statutory changes are effective for only one year and either expire on July 1, 2026, or revert to the language as it existed before the changes made by the bill.

Clerk Point:
See Section 49: This section reenacts and amends s. 215.18, F.S., to provide the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court with the authority to request a trust fund loan to ensure the state court system has sufficient funds to meet its appropriations contained in the GAA.

See Section 50: This section requires the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to ensure that counties fulfill the financial responsibilities required in s. 985.6865, F.S., related to juvenile detention, and requires DJJ to report any deficiencies to the Florida Department of Revenue (DOR). If DJJ determines that a county has not met its obligations, DOR is directed to deduct the amount owed to

DJJ from the shared revenue funds provided to a county under s. 218.23, F.S., which shall be deposited in DJJ's Shared County/State Juvenile Detention Trust Fund.

This section also includes procedures to provide assurance to holders of bonds issued by counties before July 1, 2025, for which shared revenue fund distributions are pledged.

See Sections 51–43: Section 51 reenacts changes to s. 27.40, F.S., made by prior years' implementing bills, to continue the requirement that the appointment of the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel be made only after the public defender has certified to the court in writing that s/he is unable to provide representation due to a conflict of interest. These sections also require the public defender to report the specific basis of all conflicts of interest certified to the court on a quarterly basis to the Justice Administrative Commission (JAC).

Similarly, private counsel may only be appointed after the office of criminal conflict and civil regional counsel has certified to the court, in writing, that a conflict of interest exists. This information must also be reported quarterly to the JAC.

In addition, this section makes certain requirements of the JAC related to billing and compensation for court-appointed counsel.

Section 27.5304, F.S., sets the statutory compensation limits for fees paid to court-appointed attorneys in noncapital, nonlife felony, and life felony cases. Section 53 reinstates the current statutory compensation for state FY 2025–2026.

Section 53 also reenacts the changes to s. 27.5304, F.S., made by prior years' implementing bills to continue to provide that objections by or on behalf of the JAC to records, documents, or claims for payment by an attorney seeking compensation shall be presumed correct by the court unless the court makes a written determination that competent and substantial evidence exists to justify overcoming the presumption. In addition, motions to exceed the flat fee are required to be served on the JAC at least 20 business days before the hearing date—rather than 5 business days—and the JAC may appear at such hearing either in person or telephonically.

Sections 52 and 54 provide that the changes to ss. 27.40 and 27.5304, F.S., as carried forward from prior years' implementing bills, expire July 1, 2026, when the text of this paragraph shall revert back to that in existence on June 30, 2019.

See Section 113: This section provides that costs for lodging associated with a meeting, conference, or convention organized by a state agency or the judicial branch may not exceed $225 per day, and allows an employee to expend their own funds for any such expenses in excess of this cap. Travel activities for conducting an audit, examination, inspection, or investigation, or that relating to a litigation or emergency response, are exempted.

See Section 118: This section exempts each state executive agency and the judicial branch from the requirement to develop or post a long-range program plan by September 30, 2025, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, except in circumstances outlined by the Executive Office of the Governor in consultation with the chairs of the legislative appropriations committees.

See Section 119: This section extends to July 1, 2026, the requirement for each state agency and the judicial branch, as part of each year's 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. The inventory must include the name of the technology system, a brief description of the system's purpose and function and goals of the project, the initiation date of the project, key performance indicators and other metrics to evaluate the project's health and status, the original and current baseline estimated end dates of the project, the original and current estimated costs of the project, total funds appropriated or allocated to the project and the current realized cost for the project by fiscal year.

See Section 124. This section authorizes the Office of Policy and Budget (OPB) within the Executive Office of the Governor to conduct a review of the functions, procedures, expenditures, and policies of a local government and to submit a report to the Governor, Chief Financial Officer, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 13, 2026.

The report must, at a minimum: identify each local government reviewed; summarize each review; provide any specific instances of the use of resources for initiatives supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion inconsistent with law; provide any specific evidence of potential gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of resources; identify duplicative or redundant government functions; recommend any opportunities for good governance and methods to improve fiscal responsibility and streamline government services. OPG must also provide the Legislative Auditing Committee with any information related to gross overspending, waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement of resources.

To complete its review, OPG is authorized access to:

- Any personnel costs, administrative overhead costs, contracts and subcontracts, programs, grants and subgrants, any outsourcing with a non-government organization, and any other expenditures.
- Any financial documents, including but not limited to annual financial audits; annual budgets; millage reports; annual financial reports; audits of any financial accounts or records including reports on compliance, internal controls, and management letters; and financial statements, audits, accountability, or status reports for local projects funded by any source.
- Any document setting forth personnel standards and expectations, position responsibilities, and employee training and development standards and materials.

Each local government receiving state funding during the current or previous fiscal year, must, within 7 business days of a request, provide OPG access to its responsive personnel and subject matter experts; its physical premises, subject to appropriate security considerations; and its data systems

and related data subject to appropriate security considerations. Failure to comply may result in a $1,000 per day fine of the local government.

SB 2508 Judges ***(Also of interest to Court Side)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
This bill amends ss. 26.031 and 34.022, F.S., to create 22 new circuit court judgeships and 15 new county court judgeships. The bill also creates two appellate court judgeships in the Sixth District Court of Appeal and provides for reduction by attrition of two appellate court judgeships from the Second District Court of Appeal.

Clerk Point:
This bill increases the number of circuit judges and county judges in multiple jurisdictions across the state, as follows:

- For circuit court judgeships, increases:
  - Second Circuit from 16 to 17
  - Fourth Circuit from 35 to 37
  - Fifth Circuit from 31 to 34
  - Seventh Circuit from 27 to 29
  - Eighth Circuit from 13 to 14
  - Ninth Circuit from 46 to 48
  - Tenth Circuit from 28 to 30
  - Eleventh Circuit from 80 to 83
  - Twelfth Circuit from 22 to 24
  - Fourteenth Circuit from 13 to 14
  - Fifteenth Circuit from 35 to 37
  - Nineteenth Circuit from 19 to 20

- For county court judgeships, increases:
  - Bay County from 4 to 5
  - Clay County from 2 to 3
  - Hernando County from 2 to 3
  - Lake County from 4 to 5
  - Manatee County from 4 to 5
  - Marion County from 4 to 5
  - Miami-Dade County from 43 to 47
  - Nassau County from 1 to 2
  - Osceola County from 4 to 5
  - Palm Beach County from 19 to 20

- Polk County from 10 to 11
- Sumter County from 1 to 2

HJR 5019 Budget Stabilization Fund
Effective Date: January 5, 2027, if approved by the state's electorate during the November 2026 General Election
Approved: Signed by Officers and filed with the Secretary of State
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the state's existing budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of General Revenue collections; require the Legislature to annually transfer the lesser of $750 million or the amount required to reach 25% of the General Revenue collections each year unless certain conditions are met; and allow the Legislature to withdraw funds for critical state needs.

Clerk Point:
This bill is provided primarily for your information, as it relates to future potential impacts on state revenues.

SB 7022 Retirement ***(Also of interest to Office Operations/Employment)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
Florida Retirement System (FRS) employers are responsible for contributing a set percentage of a member's monthly compensation to the Division of Retirement. The annual valuation for the coming year includes a set of employer contributions for Regular Cost and a supplemental set of employer contributions for the Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL). This bill establishes the employer contribution rates for FRS for state FY 2025–2026 in ss. 121.71(4) and (5), F.S. No change is made to employee contribution rates, which remain at 3% for all classes.

Note that the Florida Department of Management Services Division of Retirement provides information directly to all FRS Agency Heads and Retirement Coordinators following each legislative session. The amendments made by this bill should be read in conjunction with any materials provided to your office by the Division of Retirement related to FRS changes.

Clerk Point:
The highlighted portion in the chart below lists the newly established rates in ss. 121.71(4) and (5), F.S., for state FY 2025–2026 for those membership classes that may be of specific interest to Clerks' offices.

Membership Class	Normal Cost Contribution Rates		Unfunded Actuarial Liability (UAL) Contribution Rates	
	Current	Effective July 1, 2025	Current	Effective July 1, 2025
Regular Class	6.73%	7.10%	4.84%	4.87%
Elected County Officers	12.39%	11.79%	44.23%	40.72%
Senior Management	8.56%	8.73%	23.90%	22.45%
DROP	8.49%	9.37%	10.64%	10.65%

Note, this chart does not include the current or proposed Health Insurance Subsidy Contribution or Administrative Fee.

HB 7031 Taxation ***(Also of interest to Board Side and Value Adjustment Board)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025, except as otherwise expressly provided
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
This comprehensive bill provides for a number of tax reductions and modifications for families and businesses, including a repeal of the state's business rent tax and codification of a permanent back-to-school sales holiday for the month of August each year. Items of specific interest to Clerks and Comptrollers are provided below.

Clerk Point:

- Section 1 amends s. 125.0104, F.S., to allow fiscally constrained counties adjacent to the Gulf of America or the Atlantic Ocean to use tourist development tax (TDT) revenues for public facilities and allows all counties adjacent to the Gulf of America or the Atlantic Ocean to use TDT revenues for beach lifeguards.
- Section 3 amends s. 193.4516, F.S., to limit the assessment of tangible personal property owned and operated by a citrus packinghouse or processor to its salvage value for the 2025 tax roll if the property is no longer used in the operation of a facility due to the effects of citrus greening. Applicants denied the limited assessment by the property appraiser may petition the value adjustment board (VAB) on or before the 25th day after the Truth in Millage Statement is mailed. *Note, this section is effective upon becoming law and applies retroactively to January 1, 2025.*
- Section 7 amends s. 194.011, F.S., related to evidence exchange, to require the property appraiser to provide a VAB petitioner with evidence at least 15 days prior to the hearing, rather than 7 days. The bill removes the current law requirement that a petitioner must

provide a written request to receive the property appraiser's evidence. *Note, this section is effective September 1, 2025.*

- Section 8 amends s. 194.013, F.S., to increase the VAB petition filing fee from $15 per parcel to $50 per parcel.
- Section 10 amends s. 194.032, F.S., to allow any party to a VAB hearing to appear telephonically, by video conference, or by other electronic means, if a petitioner submits a written request to appear in such manner at least 10 calendar days before the date of the hearing. The Clerk must ensure that all parties are notified of the request. The bill also requires the VAB to create uniform methods for conducting electronic hearings that are open to the public; provide sufficient equipment to allow clear communication and to create any necessary hearing records; petitioners must submit evidence that can be processed, viewed, printed, and archived. Counties with a population of less than 75,000 may opt out of electronic VAB hearings. The Clerk shall notify any petitioner requesting an electronic hearing of such opt out. *Note, this section is effective January 1, 2026.*
- Section 11 amends s. 194.171, F.S., to allow a taxpayer that received a final action by the VAB to bring an action within 30 days after recertification by the property appraiser if the roll was extended. These changes first apply to the 2026 tax roll.
- Section 97 requires the state's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) to conduct a study of Florida's property tax structure and the expenditure of property tax revenues by local governments, focusing on the taxation of homestead property. EDR is required to submit a report, and an array of policy options for eliminating or reducing the property tax burden on homestead property while mitigating negative fiscal consequences and reduction of services, by November 1, 2025, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Court Side – Civil

CS/CS/SB 322 Property Rights ***(Also of interest to Court Side – Criminal)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 3, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-112
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates a process for the immediate removal of certain unauthorized persons from commercial property that mirrors the current process available to owners of residential real property. An owner of commercial property or their authorized agent may submit a verified complaint to the sheriff in the county where the commercial property is located to request the immediate removal of such unauthorized persons if certain conditions are met. The bill establishes processes and procedures for verification of ownership, removal of certain persons, and fees for the sheriff's services. The bill creates a cause of action for a person wrongfully removed from commercial property.

The bill amends the current limited alternative remedy for removal of certain persons from residential real property to require the affidavit used to report unlawful occupants to include consent for the sheriff to enter the property using reasonably necessary force and search the property. This provision is also included in new s. 82.307, F.S., for unlawful occupants on commercial property.

The bill expands certain existing criminal offenses related to property to include the commission of such offenses against or upon commercial or other property.

Clerk Point:
The bill provides new provisions relating to actions for possession of real property. A property owner seeking a civil court order for removal of an unlawful occupant from the owner's property may file an action for possession in county or civil court. If the owner prevails in their case, the Clerk will issue a writ of possession to the sheriff commanding the sheriff to return possession of the property to the owner.

HB 513 Electronic Transmittal of Court Orders
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: April 22, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-10
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill requires Clerks to electronically transmit specified petitions, notices of hearings, summons, and orders within six hours, including orders for involuntary examination under the Baker Act, summons on respondents in petitions for involuntary services under the Marchman Act, and risk protection orders (RPOs). The bill also requires Clerks to certify electronic copies of RPOs and requires that such copies be served in the same manner as certified copies.

Clerk Point:
The bill requires Clerks to electronically transmit:

- A court order for involuntary examination (Baker Act) within six hours after the court issues the order to the sheriff or a law enforcement agency in the county where the order is to be served.
- A summons and, if applicable, a copy of the petition and notice of hearing, related to a petition for involuntary services (Marchman Act), within six hours after the summons is issued to a law enforcement agency to effect service on the individual who is sought for admission to involuntary services.
- A court order requiring a hearing to be held on a petition for a RPO, a copy of the petition, and notice of hearing within six hours after the court issues such an order and notice of hearing to the appropriate law enforcement agency for service on the respondent.
- A copy of the notice of hearing, the petition, and the temporary ex parte RPO or final RPO within six hours after the court issues such an order to the sheriff of the county where the respondent resides or can be found, who shall serve it on the respondent.

CS/CS/HB 515 Uniform Commercial Code
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-92
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates Chapter 669, F.S., within Florida's Uniform Commercial Code, to incorporate newly-promulgated Article 12 of the Model Uniform Commercial Code. In doing so, the bill provides updated rules for commercial transactions involving virtual currencies, distributed ledger technologies, artificial intelligence, and other technological developments, and establishes a baseline framework allowing creditors to secure liens against digital assets owned by debtors.

Clerk Point:
This bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/HB 901 Court-appointed Psychologists
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-80
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill clarifies the process a parent must follow when seeking to disqualify a court-appointed psychologist. The bill clarifies moving to disqualify the psychologist is not a condition precedent to filing a supplemental legal action against the psychologist. The bill also provides that before a parent can file an administrative complaint against a court-appointed psychologist, the parent must first move the court in their underlying family law case to disqualify the psychologist and appoint a different, alternative psychologist to replace them.

The bill clarifies that a two-way attorney fee shifting provision applies in any supplemental legal actions against the psychologist in their capacity as a court appointee, not to the underlying legal action.

Clerk Point:
The bill may increase court filings associated with parents moving to disqualify court-appointed psychologists by petitioning the judge to appoint a new, alternative psychologist.

CS/SB 830 Disposition of Migrant Vessels
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 20, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-34
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill prohibits a person, firm, or corporation from leaving any migrant vessel upon the waters of the state. The bill defines "migrant vessel" in s. 823.11, F.S., to mean certain vessels used for the purpose of undocumented immigrant transportation built or assembled using certain materials and that meet specified criteria. Additionally, the bill amends s. 705.103, F.S., to provide public notice and removal procedures for migrant vessels.

The bill authorizes state funding and federal disaster grant funding to be used for the removal, storage, destruction, and disposal of migrant vessels.

Clerk Point:
This bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/HB 915 Advertisements for Representation Services
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-82
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill amends s. 117.05, F.S, to prohibit a notary public who is not authorized to represent a person in an immigration matter from using specified terms, such as "notario público," or any designation or title, in any language, which conveys or implies they possess professional legal skills in immigration law when advertising their notary public services. The bill also creates s. 501.1391, F.S., to require a person offering immigration services who is not authorized to practice law or represent others in a federal immigration matter to post a specified disclaimer about their limited authority on a main website and at their place of business in English and in every other language in which the person provides immigration services.

The bill creates a civil cause of action for a person aggrieved by a violation of this prohibition.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1219 Employment Agreements
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates the Contracts Honoring Opportunity, Investment, Confidentiality, and Economic Growth (CHOICE) Act in Chapter 542, F.S., to provide narrow protections applicable to confidential information and client relationships by establishing two types of agreements: covered garden leave agreements and covered noncompete agreements.

The agreements protect the confidentiality of information and client relationships for up to 4 years, either while the covered employee remains employed (covered garden leave agreement) or after the covered employee has left employment (covered noncompete agreement). The bill creates a framework for such agreements and provides that such agreements do not violate public policy or antitrust laws when used under certain narrow conditions.

Clerk Point:
This bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/CS/HB 1559 Vexatious Litigants
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 6, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-128
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill expands the scope of the Florida Vexatious Litigant Law to apply to family law, small claims cases, adversarial probate proceedings, and instances where a person was found to be a vexatious litigant in another state or in federal court. The bill expands the lookback period to count those determinations from five to seven years. The court is authorized to find a pro se person to be a vexatious litigant according to certain criteria, including:

- After an action has been finally and adversely decided against them, repeatedly relitigates or attempts to relitigate the validity of the determination, cause of action, claim, controversy, or any issues of fact or law against the same person;
- Repeatedly files pleadings, motions, and other papers subject of a previous ruling by the court;
- Repeatedly files unmeritorious pleadings, motions, and other papers, or engages in other tactics frivolous or solely intended to cause unnecessary delay; or
- Has been found to be a vexatious litigant in another state or federal court.

Further, the bill expands the definition of a vexatious litigant by allowing the court to designate a "party" as vexatious, not just the plaintiff or petitioner. This amendment may increase the number of persons designated as a vexatious litigant because defendants may be deemed vexatious.

Clerk Point:
Current law requires the court to order a vexatious litigant to post security (a bond) to ensure payment of the defendant's anticipated litigation expenses. The bill expands remedies available against a vexatious litigant when they do not pay the security.

The bill preserves the prohibition against a Clerk filing a new action from a vexatious litigant. The bill also preserves the Clerk's protection when they mistakenly file an action and amends this protection to apply to *any new* action.

CS/CS/SB 1730 Affordable Housing
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-172
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill amends various provisions of the "Live Local Act," which became law in 2023, and preempts certain county and municipal zoning and land use decisions to encourage development of affordable multifamily rental housing in targeted land use areas.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, if a civil action is filed against a local government (*see* s. 125.01055(7), F.S., for counties, and s. 166.04151(7), F.S., for municipalities) for a violation of Florida's affordable housing development laws, the bill requires courts to prioritize any such action over other pending cases; render a preliminary or final decision as expeditiously as possible; and assess and award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party, not to exceed $250,000.

Similarly, if a civil action is filed against a local government for a violation of the bill's prohibition against a local government enforcing an affordable housing building moratorium that delays the permitting or construction of a multifamily or mixed-use residential development, the bill requires the court to assess and award reasonable attorney fees and costs to the prevailing party, not to exceed $250,000.

For both types of civil actions, the bill prohibits a prevailing party from recovering any attorney fees or costs directly incurred by or associated with litigation to determine the award of reasonable attorney fees or costs.

Court Side – Criminal

CS/CS/SB 56 Geoengineering and Weather Modification Activities
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-157
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill prohibits geoengineering and weather modification and provides updated criminal penalties for public and private organizations. The bill also stipulates the Department of Environmental Protection's collection and sharing of information regarding related investigations and complaints.

Clerk Point:
Of interest to Clerks, the bill amends s. 403.411, F.S., to specify that any person who engages in prohibited geoengineering and weather modification services commits a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine up to $100,000. If a public or private corporation violates the prohibition, the officers, directors, or employees of the corporation commit a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine up to $100,000. If the violator is an aircraft operator or controller, the penalty is a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a fine up to $5,000.

Monies collected pursuant to this section must be deposited in the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund and used only for the purposes of air pollution control, as defined in the bill.

SB 130 Compensation of Victims of Wrongful Incarceration
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill amends Chapter 961, F.S., the Victims of Wrongful Incarceration Act (Act), to allow a person with any prior criminal convictions to receive compensation according to certain criteria. It extends the deadline to petition for the status as a "wrongfully incarcerated person" from 90 days to 2 years from an order being vacated. The bill authorizes a person to file a petition by July 1, 2027, if they were previously precluded from filing because their case was not dismissed or otherwise resolved prior to the 90-day filing deadline; or they were previously ineligible because of the "clean hands" requirement.

The bill also removes provisions prohibiting a wrongfully incarcerated person from bringing both a civil lawsuit and filing for compensation under the Act. The bill provides an offset provision whereby

the person must repay the state if they receive a monetary award both under the Act and through a civil lawsuit.

Clerk Point:
This bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/SB 164 Vessel Accountability
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-147
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill revises various provisions relating to derelict vessels, vessels at risk of becoming derelict vessels, and long-term vessel anchoring.

Clerk Point:
This bill amends the existing noncriminal infraction in s. 327.4107, F.S, and expands the conditions required for a vessel to be determined to be at risk of becoming derelict.

The bill creates a noncriminal infraction in new s. 327.4111, F.S., for a person who engages in long-term anchoring of a vessel within the waters of this state without a valid long-term anchoring permit, and creates a tiered penalty for first, second, and third or subsequent offenses in s. 327.73(1)(gg), F.S. The bill provides, for the purposes of this paragraph, failure to appear at a hearing or failure to pay the required civil penalty required constitutes a disposition other than acquittal or dismissal, unless such failure to appear or such nonpayment is excused or set aside by the court for good cause shown.

The bill also creates criminal penalties in s. 823.11(6) and (7), F.S., for leaving a derelict vessel in state waters for more than 24 hours, and for persons who reside on a vessel determined by a court or administrative order to be derelict.

CS/HB 255 Aggravated Animal Cruelty
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 29, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-102
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
Cited as "Dexter's Law," this bill creates a sentence multiplier for specific aggravated animal cruelty offenses to include offenses involving the knowing and intentional torture or torment of an animal injured, mutilated, or killed.

The bill also amends s. 828.12, F.S., to require, by January 1, 2026, the Department of Law Enforcement to share a searchable database on its website of names of individuals who have been convicted of, or who have entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, regardless of adjudication, animal cruelty offenses.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/CS/HB 279 False Reporting
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 22, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-60
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill expands the scope of the prohibition against a person accessing the 911 system for the purpose of making a false alarm or complaint or reporting false information that could result in an emergency response by any public safety agency. The bill prohibits a person from causing another party to access the 911 system for the purpose of making such a false alarm or complaint or reporting false information.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates new felony offenses in s. 365.172, F.S., and reduces the number of prior convictions needed to enhance the penalty for misusing the 911 system.

The bill also requires a court to order any person convicted of a violation to pay costs of prosecution, investigation, and restitution for the cost of the emergency or law enforcement response. A similar change is made to s. 837.05, F.S., related to false reports to law enforcement authorities.

CS/CS/HB 383 Purchase and Possession of Firearms by Law Enforcement Officers, Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Servicemembers
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 5, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-120
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill defines a "holder of a concealed weapons or concealed firearms license" to include law enforcement officers, correctional officers, correctional probation officers, and servicemembers; thus, the bill exempts such officers and servicemembers from the mandatory three-day waiting period between the retail purchase and delivery of a firearm. As such, under the bill, a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, correctional probation officer, or servicemember is authorized to take immediate possession of a firearm purchased at retail from a federal firearms

licensee following successful completion of a background check in the same manner as a person who holds a concealed weapons or concealed firearms license, and in the same manner as such officers and servicemembers are currently authorized to take immediate possession of a rifle or shotgun.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/HB 593 Dangerous Dogs
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 22, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-61
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates the "Pam Rock Act" within Chapter 767, F.S., revising provisions relating to dangerous dogs by requiring:

- An animal control authority to humanely euthanize a dangerous dog in certain instances.
- A dog owner who has knowledge of a dog's dangerous propensities to securely confine the dog in a proper enclosure as if the dog had been determined to be "dangerous."
- Animal control authorities to hold dogs during the course of a dangerous dog investigation in certain instances.
- Dogs that have been declared dangerous to be microchipped and spayed or neutered.
- The owner of a dangerous dog to obtain at least $100,000 of liability insurance.

Clerk Point:
The bill makes the intentional removal of a microchip from a dangerous dog a third-degree felony. It makes resisting or obstructing an animal control authority investigation into a dangerous dog a first-degree misdemeanor. The bill increases criminal penalties for the owners of dogs that severely injure or cause the death of a person if the dog has previously been declared dangerous or the owner knew of dog's dangerous propensities. The bill also increases the maximum fine for violations of the dangerous dog statute from $500 to $1,000.

CS/SB 612 Unlawful Distribution of Controlled Substances Resulting in Death
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-69
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill defines "dangerous fentanyl or fentanyl analogs" to mean any controlled substance listed in s. 893.135(1)(c)4.a.(I)–(VII), F.S., which includes the following substances: fentanyl, alfentanil, carfentanil, sufentanil, or other fentanyl derivatives or analogs. The bill defines "distribute" to mean to deliver, other than by administering or dispensing, a controlled substance.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates s. 782.04(5), F.S., and makes an additional offense of third-degree murder if:

- A person under 18 years of age unlawfully distributes a substance or mixture that they knew or should have known contained dangerous fentanyl or fentanyl analogs; and
- The substance or mixture is proven to have caused, or is proven to have been a substantial factor in producing, the death of the user.

HB 653 Aggravating Factors for Capital Felonies
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 13, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-138
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill authorizes a jury, during sentencing proceedings, to consider whether a capital felony was committed against a head of a state or whether, in an attempt to commit such crime, the defendant committed a capital felony against another individual. The bill creates these elements as an aggravating factor in determining whether a defendant who has been convicted of a capital felony is eligible to receive a death sentence and whether to recommend a sentence of death or life imprisonment for such a defendant.

Under the bill, a "head of state" includes, but is not limited to, the President or the Vice President of the United States or the Governor of this or another state.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/CS/CS/SB 700 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ***(Also of interest to Board Side)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 20, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-22
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill addresses numerous, distinct issues related to agriculture and matters under the jurisdiction of the state's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS).

Clerk Point:
The bill amends s. 163.3162, F.S., to prohibit a governmental entity from adopting or enforcing any legislation, regulation, or ordinance to inhibit the construction or installation of housing for legally verified agricultural workers on land classified as agricultural land pursuant to s. 193.461, F.S., which is operated as a bona fide farm, except as provided by law.

A property owner who violates this provision is subject to a Class I fine pursuant to s. 570.971, F.S., not to exceed $1,000, for the first violation, and a Class II fine, not to exceed $5,000, for any subsequent violations. The bill requires the fines to be collected by the Clerk of Court of the county in which the violation occurred.

The bill amends s. 330.41, F.S., and creates criminal penalties in subsections (6) and (7) for certain prohibited drone-related activities on agricultural lands and private property and state hunting lands and private property.

The bill also creates s. 812.136, F.S., and new criminal penalties in subsection (4) for mail theft.

SB 878 Probation for Misdemeanor Offenses
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-70
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill authorizes a court to sentence a defendant who is found guilty of any offense other than a felony (i.e., a misdemeanor) to a term of probation of up to one year if the court finds that a controlled substance as defined in s. 893.02, F.S.; a controlled substance analog as described in s. 893.0356, F.S.; or a chemical substance as described in s. 877.111(1), F.S.; is a significant factor in the commission of the offense.

Since a court may currently sentence a defendant to a term of probation of up to one year for committing a first-degree misdemeanor, the bill only increases the maximum term of probation for those defendants who commit second-degree misdemeanors and only where the court finds that a controlled substance, controlled substance analog, or a chemical substance is a significant factor. Such authority is consistent with the court's existing sentencing authority for second-degree misdemeanors in which alcohol is a significant factor.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/CS/CS/HB 1371 Law Enforcement Officers and Other Personnel
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-176
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill makes several changes related to law enforcement officers and other personnel.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates s. 316.2675, F.S., to prohibit the use of vehicle kill switches, except in specified circumstances. The bill creates a second-degree misdemeanor in subsection (2).

The bill amends s. 775.0823, F.S., requires a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 25 years if a person is convicted of committing attempted first-degree murder of specified justice system personnel.

The bill also amends s. 933.05, F.S., to increase the time frame a search warrant issued for a computer, computer system, or electronic device in possession of a law enforcement agency must be returned to the court from 10 days to 45 days.

CS/HB 1487 Emergency Services
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-94
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill revises the criteria required for a faith-based, nonprofit, volunteer ambulance service to obtain an exemption from the certificate of public convenience and necessity (COPCN) requirement in state law.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates a new first-degree misdemeanor penalty in s. 401.25, F.S., for a person who submits an affidavit fraudulently attesting to the requirements for exemption of (COPCN) ambulance services requirements.

CS/CS/HB 1525 Prearranged Transportation Services
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 22, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-66
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill makes certain changes related to transportation network companies (TNC), entities operating in Florida using a digital network to connect a rider to a TNC driver, who provides prearranged rides.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates s. 316.2021, F.S., to prohibit a person from impersonating a TNC driver. The bill provides a second-degree misdemeanor penalty in subsection (2)(a) and a third-degree felony in (2)(b) for willfully impersonating a TNC driver during the commission of, or to facilitate the commission of, a separate felony offense.

CS/CS/SB 1768 Stem Cell Therapy
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 25, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-185
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates a regulatory framework for physicians in Florida to perform stem cell therapies not approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The bill aims to advance regenerative medicine for orthopedics, wound care, and pain management while ensuring ethical sourcing of stem cells (excluding those from aborted fetuses) and protecting patients through transparency and informed consent.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates third-degree felony penalties in ss. 458.3245 and 459.0127, F.S., for physicians who act in violation of the new state laws regulating stem cell therapy.

Ethics and Elections

CS/SB 348 Ethics
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 27, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-85
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates s. 112.3131, F.S., in the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees relating to "stolen valor." Specifically, the bill prohibits a candidate, an elected or appointed public officer, or a public employee from knowingly making false, fictious, or fraudulent statements or representations, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of material gain, regarding military service, military decorations, medals, titles, honors, military qualifications or occupational specialties, or wartime service. The bill further prohibits the unauthorized wearing of military uniforms, medals, and insignia.

The bill authorizes the Chief Financial Officer or the governing body of the appropriate county, municipality, school district, or special district to impose wage garnishment on a public officer's or public employee's salary who has an outstanding delinquent civil penalty or restitution penalty imposed for a violation of the Code of Ethics. The bill further authorizes the Attorney General to take any action to collect any unpaid civil penalty or restitution penalty imposed within 20 years after the date such penalty is imposed.

Clerk Point:
As an elected public officer, subject to the Code of Ethics, this bill is provided primarily for your information.

CS/HB 1445 Public Officers and Employees
Effective Date: July 1, 2025, except as otherwise expressly provided
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
Effective October 1, 2025, the bill creates s. 20.71, F.S., to require certain state officers to be United States citizens and Florida residents.

The bill amends. 104.31, F.S., to expand existing political activity prohibitions to bar a state or local officer or employee from using their official authority or influence to coerce, attempt to coerce, command, solicit, or advise any other person to contribute, pay, or lend anything of value to a political party, candidate, committee, organization, agency, or person. However, the bill allows a state or local officer or employee to suggest in a noncoercive manner that a person may voluntarily make political contributions. The bill also expands the prohibition for a state or local employee participating in a political campaign for elective office while on duty to include participating in any political campaign.

The bill eliminates an exception in current law that allows officials appointed as the heads or directors of state administrative agencies, boards, commissions, or committees or the members of state boards, commissions, or committees from using their official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering with an election or a nomination of office or coercing or influencing another person's vote or affecting the results thereof.

Clerk Point:
As an elected public officer, this bill is provided primarily for your information.

Juvenile

CS/CS/CS/SB 1344 Juvenile Justice
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-153
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill repeals and amends numerous sections of Chapter 984, F.S., to distinguish between services provided to truants, runaways, and children who are beyond the control of their parents from the services designed to meet the needs of abandoned, abused, neglected, and delinquent children.

Clerk Point:
For a child in need of services proceeding, the bill requires the Clerk to notify the appropriate school when the presiding judge issues one of the following court orders:

- An order requiring the student to attend school.
- An order requiring the student, and an accompanying parent, to attend school.
- An order requiring the student's parent to participate in parent-teacher conferences, Section 504 plan meetings, or individualized education plan meetings to address the student's disability.

For a child placed in a shelter by the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), if the court finds an inadequate level of support or participation by the parent, legal guardian, or custodian, the bill requires the court to treat the child as a dependent child; this means the court must transfer jurisdiction of the child's case to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and DJJ must coordinate with DCF to accomplish the transfer. The bill requires the Clerk to notify DCF of any court order of referral.

Office Operations / Employment

HB 827 Statewide Study of Automation and Workforce Impact
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill requires the Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research (WSER) at the Department of Commerce to study the economic impact of automation, artificial intelligence (AI), and robotics on employment in Florida, focusing on job losses and gains due to AI and automation. The study will analyze projected job displacement, vulnerable geographic regions, at-risk demographics, wage impacts, economic benefits, workforce training, policy recommendations, and the rate and scale of job loss caused by AI compared to other forms of automation. The WSER may consult with business, academic, and local economic experts to complete the study.

The WSER is required to submit a report of its findings to the Governor and Legislature by December 1, 2025, and update the report every three years.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.

Probate / Guardianship

CS/SB 106 Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-158
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill authorizes service of process in a proceeding for an injunction for protection against the exploitation of a vulnerable adult to be made by substituted service when a respondent who is "unascertainable" has communicated with the vulnerable adult by means that makes the respondent untraceable. The bill defines an "unascertainable respondent" as a person whose identity cannot be ascertained or whose identity is unknown, and who has communicated with the vulnerable adult through any means that make tracing the person's identity impractical.

Clerk Point:
The bill creates a mechanism by which a petitioner may file a sworn affidavit with the court alleging that the respondent is an "unascertainable respondent" and provides details on how the respondent communicated with the vulnerable adult, the facts leading the petitioner to believe a transfer of funds is in response to a fraudulent request, and all identifying information known about the respondent. Upon acceptance of the affidavit by the court and the issuance of a temporary injunction for the protection of the vulnerable adult, the petitioner must "serve" the unascertainable respondent with notice of the injunction using the same manner of communication that the respondent used to contact the vulnerable adult. The petitioner must provide proof of such substituted service, including screenshots, to the court.

Upon order by the court to return funds to the vulnerable adult, a 30-day freeze on any proposed transfer of funds or property is initiated.

CS/CS/HB 903 Corrections ***(Also of interest to Court Side – Criminal)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-81
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill makes numerous changes relating to Department of Corrections (DOC) and prisoner/inmate provisions. Among others, the bill amends many sections of law relating to court petitions and proceedings for prisoners including the Prisoner Indigency Statute; lawsuits by inmates and petitions under 42 U.S.C. § 1983; 10-20-Life; and the Corrections Mental Health Act, amending the Baker Act petition process for inmates.

Clerk Point:

Of specific interest, the bill:

- Prisoner Indigency Statute (s. 57.058(10), F.S.):
  - Makes a challenge to prison disciplinary reports subject to the lien requirement in s. 57.058, F.S., the Prisoner Indigency Statute. Thus, an indigent prisoner initiating a judicial proceeding to challenge their prison disciplinary report will be subject to a lien on their trust account for the full amount of court costs and fees associated with filing such an action.
- Statute of Limitations (s. 95.11(6), F.S.):
  - Provides a one-year statute of limitation on specified petitions and tort actions, including those related to a claim against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions for damages for a negligent or wrongful act or omission, filed by an indigent prisoner.
- Lawsuits by inmates (new s. 760.701, F.S):
  - Requires a prisoner, or a person on the prisoner's behalf, from bringing an action relating to a prisoner's confinement conditions until all available administrative remedies are exhausted. The bill authorizes a court to dismiss such an action on its own motion or on the motion of another party, if the court is satisfied that the action is frivolous, malicious, fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. The court is required to review any such action filed by an indigent prisoner prior to the initiation of a judicial proceeding.
  - Prohibits a prisoner, or a person on their behalf, from bringing an action or any state tort action relating to the prisoner's confinement conditions for mental or emotional injury suffered by the prisoner while in custody without a prior showing of physical injury or the commission of a specified sexual act.
- 10-20-Life (s. 775.087(2), F.S.)
  - Clarifies that a court must impose mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment required under 10-20-Life, when a person commits a specified crime while possessing a firearm, destructive device, semiautomatic firearm and its high-capacity detachable box magazine, or machine gun, consecutively to each other.
  - Authorizes a court to impose a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment under 10-20-Life consecutively to any other term of imprisonment imposed for any other felony offense not subject 10-20-Life.
- Corrections Mental Health Act (ss. 945.40-945.49, F.S.):
  - Authorizes a warden to directly petition the circuit court for an order compelling an inmate to submit to emergency surgical intervention or other medical services when the inmate is competent but refusing necessary treatment and is engaging in active or ongoing self-injurious behavior that presents a threat to the safety of DOC staff or other inmates.
  - Upon determination from a clinician that involuntary confinement and treatment is necessary, requires the warden to initiate Baker Act proceedings and authorizes the

warden to petition the circuit court for involuntary placement and treatment of a mentally ill inmate simultaneously.

- The petition must be filed in the court in the county where the inmate is located. Upon the filing of such a petition, the Clerk is required to provide copies to the Department of Children and Families, the inmate, the state attorney, and public defender of the judicial circuit in which the inmate is located. The bill requires the court to appoint the public defender to represent the inmate within one court working day after the filing of such a petition.
- The bill prohibits a fee from being charged for the filing of such a petition.

CS/CS/HB 1091 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Care
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 16, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-143
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill makes numerous changes to civil and forensic mental health and substance use service programs.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill amends several provisions relating to Baker Act proceedings to include:

- In Baker Act proceedings for involuntary services under s. 394.467, F.S., the bill requires a patient to be represented at a hearing for continued involuntary services by a public defender of *the circuit in which the patient is receiving services*, unless the patient is otherwise represented or is ineligible. Current law requires the public defender to be appointed in *the circuit in which the initial petition for involuntary services was filed*, which may be different than the circuit in which the patient is receiving treatment.
  - The bill preserves the current requirement that the Clerk must immediately notify the public defender of the appointment.
- In Baker Act proceedings for involuntary outpatient services, the bill conforms a cross-reference in s. 394.4655, F.S., to clarify that the criteria for ordering a person to involuntary outpatient services and associated requirements are provided in s. 394.467, F.S.

The bill also authorizes a designated Baker Act receiving facility to retain a patient under specific circumstances for the remainder of the 72-hour involuntary examination period if the patient continues to meet the criteria for involuntary examination. This authority applies regardless of whether the transferring facility complied with the requirements in current law to notify the receiving facility at least two hours prior to transfer and transfer the patient within 12 hours after medical stabilization.

- Current law provides that if the transferring hospital fails to meet these requirements, a court may order the patient's release from the receiving facility even if the patient continues to meet the criteria for involuntary examination.

Public Records

CS/CS/SB 268 Public Records/Congressional Members and Public Officers
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved:
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
Section 119.071, F.S., provides general exemptions from inspection or copying of public records for certain personal identifying and locating information for a number of agency personnel, as well as information relating to the spouses and children of such personnel.

The bill creates a public record exemption in s. 119.071(z)(1), F.S., for the identification and location information – as defined in the bill – of current congressional members and public officers and their spouses and dependents. "Public officer" is defined by the bill to include the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Chief Financial Officer, Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner, state representative, state senator, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, school superintendent, school board member, mayor, city commissioner, or county commissioner.

The bill provides that the partial home addresses and telephone numbers of current congressional members and public officers, as well as their spouses, are exempt from public record requirements. The term "partial home addresses" includes detailed location information such as mailing and street addresses, legal property descriptions, GPS coordinates, and any other data that could reveal such home address. However, the city and zip code of current congressional members and public officers, as well as their spouses, remain public.

The bill also provides a statement of public necessity, as required by the state constitution, as well as being subject for repeal on October 2, 2030, unless reviewed and saved from repeal.

Clerk Point:
The bill creates a new exemption under Ch. 119, F.S., for specified personal identifying and location information of current congressional members and public officers, as well as their spouses and children, and is provided for your information, as the custodian of records for Official Records.

CS/CS/SB 1652 Public Records/Pleading, Request for Relief, or Other Document Stricken by a Court
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 23, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-168
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill amends s. 119.0714, F.S., creating a public records exemption for material stricken from non-criminal cases. As such, if the court finds that the stricken matter is immaterial, impertinent, or sham, and would be defamatory, cause unwarranted damage to a person's good name or reputation, or jeopardize safety, such stricken information will be exempt from disclosure under Florida's public records laws.

The bill provides a statement of Legislative finding that such exemption from public records is a public necessity. Under the bill, the Legislature finds that the protection of such stricken information concerning an individual serves an identifiable public purpose justifying the creation of the exemption. Further, the bill provides that the harm that may result from the release of such stricken matter outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the stricken matter.

Clerk Point:
While the operational impact to Clerks is likely minimal, it appears the Florida Supreme Court would need to make a determination whether to add this exemption to Rule 2.420 of the Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration, the "Rule of 25" to make the exemption automatic. Without such action, the person seeking the exemption would need to file a Motion to Determine Confidentiality of a Court Record.

SB 7020 OGSR/Agency Cybersecurity Information
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 20, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-27
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill adjusts the scheduled repeal dates, created pursuant to the Open Government Sunset Review (OGSR) Act, for certain cybersecurity-related public record and public meeting exemptions.

Specifically, the bill moves the repeal date of the general cybersecurity public record and public meeting exemption from October 2, 2027, to October 2, 2026, and extends the public record and public meeting exemption for risk assessments, evaluations, external audits, and other reports of a state agency's cybersecurity program from October 2, 2025, to October 2, 2026. These changes align the repeal dates for both exemptions to provide for simultaneous review next year.

Clerk Point:
The bill makes a change to Chapter 119, F.S., and is provided primarily for your information.

Real Property and Recording

CS/CS/CS/SB 784 Platting
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 20, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-164
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill requires the local governing body responsible for reviewing and approving a plat to:

- Administratively approve plat or replat submissions, with no further action if the submittal complies with statutory requirements;
- Designate an administrative authority to receive, process, and review the plat or replat submittal; and
- Within 7 business days after receiving a submission, provide a written notice to the applicant acknowledging receipt of the submittal, identifying any deficiencies, and providing timeframes for reviewing, approving, and otherwise processing the plat or replat submittal.
    - Within the stated timeline, a decision of approval, conditional approval, or denial must be provided, with written justification for any denial.

Additionally, the bill prohibits an administrative authority from requesting an applicant to file a written request for an extension of time.

Clerk Point:
As the custodian of records for Official Records, this bill is provided primarily for your information.

Traffic / Motor Vehicles

CS/CS/CS/HB 351 Dangerous Excessive Speeding
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: May 22, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-77
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill creates penalties for dangerous excessive speeding if a driver exceeds the speed limit by 50 miles per hour (mph) or more or operates a motor vehicle at 100 mph or more in a manner that threatens the safety of other persons or property or interferes with the operation of any vehicle. The

bill also amends s. 318.19, F.S., to require a mandatory hearing for traffic infractions relating to speeding in excess of 50 mph.

Clerk Point:
The bill provides the following penalties in new s. 316.1922, F.S., for a person who commits the offense of dangerous excessive speeding, as follows:

- (2)(a): Upon a first conviction, up to 30 days in jail, a fine of $500, or both.
- (2)(b): Upon a second or subsequent conviction, up to 90 days in jail, a fine of $1,000, or both.
    - A person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of dangerous excessive speeding within five years after the date of a prior conviction for such an offense must have his or her driving privilege revoked for at least 180 days, but no more than one year.

CS/CS/CS/SB 462 Transportation ***(Also of interest to Board Side)***
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 19, 2025
Chapter Law: 2025-149
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill addresses several matters related to the Department of Transportation (DOT) and state transportation policy.

Clerk Point:
Of specific interest, the bill creates s. 218.3215, F.S., to require each county, annually by January 15 and by county fiscal year, to report to the state's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) certain, enumerated information for surtax revenues received pursuant to s. 212.055(1), F.S. Such information shall be compiled by EDR and provided to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Department of Transportation.

The bill also amends s. 316.173, F.S., to revise the current enforcement process for violations of law relating to passing a school bus with a stop signal displayed, as recorded by a school bus infraction detection system, by:

- Authorizing the owner of a motor vehicle who receives a notice of violation (NOV) to request an administrative hearing with the school district or county within 60 days after the NOV is sent, rather than being required to contest liability within 30 days and appearing in front of a court that has jurisdiction over traffic violations.
- Requiring a local hearing officer appointed by the school district or county, rather than a court, to determine during an administrative hearing whether a violation has occurred.
- Requiring the civil penalties imposed for such violations to be remitted to the school district at least monthly. [See Sections 9 and 10, amending ss. 318.18(5) and s. 318.21(21), F.S.]
- Providing procedures for the administrative hearing process.

- Authorizing any hearing for a contested notice of violation that is pending on the effective date of the bill to be conducted pursuant to the procedures created by the bill within one year of the bill's effective date.

Clerks in counties with school bus camera programs will not be able to retain 10 percent of the base penalty, pursuant to s. 28.37(6), F.S., when an NOV becomes a uniform traffic citation (UTC). The bill does not affect the distribution of any related court costs or the 10 percent retention for other photo-enforced infractions or on any school bus infraction UTCs written by law enforcement.

Miscellaneous

CS/SB 108 Administrative Procedures
Effective Date: July 1, 2025
Approved: June 26, 2025
Chapter Law:
Final Legislative Staff Bill Analysis

Summary:
The bill requires each agency, in coordination with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, to review its rules to determine, in part, whether the rules are a valid exercise of delegated legislative authority, have current statutory authority, and are consistent with expressed legislative intent. All rules adopted before July 1, 2025, must be reviewed by July 1, 2030. All rules adopted after July 1, 2025, must be reviewed five years after adoption.

The bill makes various changes to the state's rulemaking process including requiring an agency to file a notice of rule development at least seven days before providing a notice of a proposed rule; requiring an agency to withdraw any proposed rule when the agency has failed to adopt a rule within the required timeframes; and revising the emergency rulemaking process. The bill also requires agencies to include detailed licensure data as part of their annual regulatory plans.

Clerk Point:
The bill is provided primarily for your information.