

LOCAL VOICES MAKING LOCAL CHOICES

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

MEETING DETAILS

DATE	Friday, November 13, 2026
TIME	10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. ET
ROOM	Florida Ballroom 4
VENUE	Hilton Orlando
ADDRESS	6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, FL 32819

FLC STAFF CONTACT

Sam Wagoner



Agenda

Municipal Operations Legislative Policy Committee
Friday, November 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Hilton Orlando – Meeting Room: Florida Ballroom 4
6001 Destination Parkway, Orlando, Florida

AGENDA

I. Introduction and Opening Remarks..... **Vice Chair Charlotte Gillis**
Councilwoman, City of Edgewater

II. Potential 2027 Priority and Policy Issues..... **Sam Wagoner, FLC Staff**

a. Sovereign Immunity
b. Automated License Plate Readers
c. Public Records and Sunshine Law
d. Interoperable Emergency Communications
e. Public Records Exemptions for Municipal Clerks

III. Ranking of Proposed Policies..... **Sam Wagoner, FLC Staff**

IV. Additional Information..... **Vice Chair Charlotte Gillis**
Councilwoman, City of Edgewater

a. FLC Legislative Conference Registration
b. Key Legislative Dates
c. Key Contacts – Click HERE to sign up
d. 2026 Legislative Session Final Report
e. State Municipal Reporting Requirements

V. Closing Remarks..... **Vice Chair Charlotte Gillis**
Councilwoman, City of Edgewater

VI. Adjournment

Breakfast and Lunch provided by the Florida League of Cities

Wi-Fi is Available
Network: FLCPC1126
Access Code: FLCPC1126



Committee Roster

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

2026-2027 Municipal Operations Committee



CHAIR
Shannon Hayes
Councilmember
City of Crestview



VICE CHAIR
Charlotte Gillis
Vice Mayor
City of Edgewater



STAFF SUPPORT
Sam Wagoner
FLC Legislative Advocate

Kyle Battie
Commissioner
City of Sarasota

Brian Benton
City Manager
City of Sebastian

Jacqueline Borja
Town Clerk
Town of Lake Hamilton



Sammie Brown
District Chief of Staff/Legislative Aide
City of Riviera Beach



Patricia Burke
Town Clerk-Manager
Town of Palm Shores



Jacob Burnett
Commissioner
City of Safety Harbor



Ricky Butler
Vice Mayor
City of Pinellas Park



Phyllis Butlien
Vice Mayor
City of DeBary



Rosemarie Call
City Clerk
City of Clearwater



Carmen Capezzuto
Director of Neighborhood Services
City of Port St. Lucie



Michael Chambliss
Government Relations Coordinator
City of Daytona Beach



Shanna Church
Councilmember
City of Williston

Kristina Ciuperger
Assistant City Manager
City of Port St. Lucie

Linda Cox
City Clerk
City of Fort Pierce

Robert Daniels
Town Manager
Town of Sewall's Point



Kevin Docherty
Council President
Town of Ocean Breeze

Darrel Donatto
Fire Chief
Town of Jupiter



William Dugard
Commissioner
City of Dunedin

David Duval
Commissioner
City of North Port



Brenda Fettrow
City Manager
City of Rockledge



Sam Fite
Mayor
City of Bowling Green



Michael Fowler
City Manager
City of Daytona Beach Shores



Mac Fuller
Mayor
City of Lake Alfred



Elizabeth Garcia-Beckford
City Clerk
City of Wilton Manors



Donna Gardner
City Clerk
City of Casselberry



Elmon Garner
Town Manager
Town of White Springs



Kimberly Glas-Castro
Assistant Village Manager
Village of Palm Springs



Erik Gleason
Councilman
City of Westlake



Sandy Golding
Councilmember
City of Jacksonville Beach



Aisha Gordon
Vice Mayor
City of Oakland Park



Christian Gowan
City Clerk
City of DeLand



Angelia Guy
City Clerk
City of Dade City



Leslie Guyer
City Clerk
City of Gulf Breeze



Phyllis Hall
Mayor
Town of Lake Hamilton



Michael Hensley
Vice Mayor
Town of Lake Park



Joseph Hightower
Fire Chief
City of Mount Dora



Denise Horland
Councilmember
City of Plantation



Traci Houchin
City Clerk
City of Sanford



Michael Howard
Councilor
Town of Indian Shores



Anne Huffman
Commissioner
City of Haines City



Nzeribe Ihekwaba
City Manager
City of Homestead



Isabelle J. McDonald
Vice Mayor
City of Pahokee



Lewrissa Johns
Mayor
City of Chiefland



Christopher Johnson
Commissioner
City of Largo



Jennifer Jorgensen
Deputy City Manager
City of Sarasota



Bridget Keating
Councilmember
Town of Lake Clarke Shores



Barbara King
Commissioner
City of South Bay



Thomas Kirk
Commissioner
City of Casselberry



Marshall Labadie
Town Manager
Town of Highland Beach



William Laurie
Vice Mayor
City of Crescent City



Sharon Lauther
City Clerk
City of Haines City



Austin Lee
Director of Communications &
Governmental Affairs
City of Greenacres



Andrea McCue
City Manager
City of Greenacres



Nicole McDowell
City Manager/City Clerk
City of Frostproof



Lori McWilliams
Village Clerk
Village of Tequesta



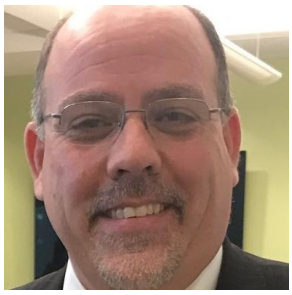
Henry Mead
Vice Mayor
City of Weston



L. Tracy Mercer
Mayor Pro Tem
City of Winter Haven



Olivia Minshew
City Manager
City of Wauchula



Brian Moree
City Manager
City of Atlantis



Bernard Oder
Councilmember
City of Mary Esther



Steve Parker
Chief of Police
City of Davenport



Emory Payne
City Manager
City of Belle Glade



Gwen Peirce
City Clerk
City of Satellite Beach



Robert Rease
Commissioner
City of Belle Glade



Williams Aaron Rhodes
Assistant Chief
City of Orlando



Mary Richardson
Commissioner
Town of Dundee



Cal Rolfson
Councilmember
City of Mount Dora



Arlene Schwartz
Commissioner
City of Margate



Elchonon Shagalov
Councilmember
Town of Bay Harbor Islands



Brian Sherman
Partner
Goren, Cherof, Doody, and Ezrol PA



Heidi Siegel
Town Manager
Town of Jupiter Inlet Colony



Alexis Silcox
City Clerk
City of Belleair Bluffs



Marcus Smith
Councilmember
City of Melbourne



Suzy Sofer
Commissioner
City of Belleair Bluffs



Mike Staffopoulos
City Manager
City of Jacksonville Beach



Alisa Stafford
Councilmember
City of Orange City



Tracey Stevens
Town Administrator
Town of Haverhill



Monique Taylor
Councilmember
City of Waldo



Tijauna Warner
City Clerk
City of LaBelle



Erin West
City Clerk
City of Green Cove Springs



Trina Wilborn
Commissioner
City of Florida City



Sovereign Immunity

Florida League of Cities

Municipal Operations Policy Committee

DRAFT Policy Statement Recommendation

Sovereign Immunity

Draft Statement: The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS maintaining reasonable limits or 'caps' on monetary damages recoverable in negligence claims against government entities. These protections are crucial to safeguard Florida's taxpayers.

Background: Sovereign immunity is a principle under which a government cannot be sued without its consent. Article X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution allows the Legislature to waive this immunity. Under Article X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution, s. 768.28(1), Florida Statutes, allows for suits in tort against the state and its agencies and subdivisions for damages resulting from the negligence of government employees acting in the scope of employment. This liability exists only where a private person would be liable for the same conduct.

Since 2011, Florida caps tort recovery from a governmental entity at $200,000 per person and $300,000 per accident. Prior to 2011, caps were previously set at $100,000 and $200,000, respectively. A judgment may be awarded above the statutory caps. However, recovering damages above these caps requires a special claim bill passed by the Legislature for a claimant to collect.

Capping tort claims against Florida’s government entities is necessary to protect taxpayers while ensuring that cities can continue to provide essential services. Services such as police and fire carry an inherent high degree of risk. However, these services are essential for all Floridians. The ability to collect larger settlements or judgments against government entities will serve to increase liability exposure and incentivize litigation, threatening the ability to provide the same level of services.

Local government entities are limited by state law in their ability to generate revenue or increases taxes. City budgets are already stretched thin. Increasing the sovereign immunity limits to unreasonably high levels puts cities at risk of a huge financial burden. To compound the gravity of these potential impacts, the insurance market in Florida is currently incredibly volatile. Securing adequate insurance has been difficult for cities. Florida’s government entities have seen very large increases to insurance premiums over the last couple of years. Increasing the sovereign immunity limits will have a dramatic financial impact to all of Florida’s government entities, and especially Florida's cities, which have limited resources.

HB 145 (McFarland) sought to raise the statutory caps to $500,000 per person and $1 million per incident for claims occurring between October 1, 2026, and October 1, 2031.

For claims occurring after October 1, 2031, the caps would rise to $600,000 per person and $1.2 million per incident.

After amendments, the Legislature passed HB 145 with the Senate language. The Senate language provided that caps would increase to $350,000 per person and $500,000 per incident. The amended bill also provided that attorney fees collected in a claim against the government were limited to 25 percent of any funds recovered as a result of the judgement.

Despite passing the Legislature, the Governor vetoed the bill on June 30, 2026.

An act relating to claims against the government; amending s. 768.28, F.S.; increasing the statutory limits on the liability of the state and its agencies and subdivisions for tort claims; revising exceptions relating to instituting actions on tort claims against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions; revising the period after which the failure of certain entities to make a final disposition of a claim shall be deemed a final denial of the claim for certain purposes; revising the statute of limitations for tort claims against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions and exceptions thereto; deleting obsolete language; making technical changes; providing applicability; amending ss. 29.0081, 39.8297, 343.811, and 944.713, F.S.; conforming cross references; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; reenacting ss. 45.061(5), 95.11(6)(f), 110.504(4), 111.071(1)(a), 125.01015(2)(b), 163.01(3)(h) and (15)(k), 190.043, 213.015(13), 252.51, 252.89, 252.944, 260.0125(2), 284.31, 284.38, 322.13(1)(b), 337.19(1), 341.302(17), 343.811(3), 351.03(4)(c), 373.1395(6), 375.251(3)(a), 381.0056(9), 393.075(3), 394.9085(7), 395.1055(10)(g), 403.706(17)(c), 409.175(15)(b), 409.993(1), (2)(a), and (3)(a),

420.504(8), 455.221(3), 455.32(5), 456.009(3), 456.076(15)(a), 471.038(3), 472.006(11)(b), 497.167(7), 513.118(2), 548.046(1), 556.106(8), 589.19(4)(e), 627.7491(3) and (4), 723.0611(2)(c), 760.11(5), 766.1115(4), 766.112(2), 768.1355(3), 768.1382(7), 768.295(4), 946.5026, 946.514(3), 961.06(8), 984.09(3), 1002.33(12)(h), 1002.333(6)(b), 1002.34(17), 1002.37(2), 1002.55(3)(l), 1002.83(10), 1002.88(1)(p), 1006.24(1), and 1006.261(2)(b), F.S., relating to offers of settlement; limitations other than for the recovery of real property; volunteer benefits; payment of judgments or settlements against certain public officers or employees; office of the sheriff; the Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969; suits against community development districts; taxpayer rights; liability; tort liability; tort liability; limitation on liability of private landowners whose property is designated as part of the statewide system of greenways and trails; scope and types of coverages; effect of waiver of sovereign immunity; driver license examiners; suits by and against the Department of Transportation; rail program; power to assume indemnification and insurance obligations; railroad-highway grade-crossing warning signs and signals; limitation on liability of a water

management district with respect to areas made available to the public for recreational purposes without charge; limitation on liability of persons making available to the public certain areas for recreational purposes without charge; school health services program; general liability coverage; behavioral provider liability; rules and enforcement; local government solid waste responsibilities; licensure of family foster homes, residential child-caring agencies, and child-placing agencies; lead agencies and subcontractor liability; the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; legal and investigative services; the Management Privatization Act; legal and investigative services; impaired practitioner programs; the Florida Engineers Management Corporation; the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; administrative matters; conduct on premises and refusal of service; physician's attendance at match; liability of the member operator, excavator, and system; creation of certain state forests, naming of certain state forests, and the Operation Outdoor Freedom Program; official law enforcement vehicles and motor vehicle insurance requirements; the Florida Mobile Home Relocation Corporation; administrative and civil remedies and

construction; health care providers and creation of agency relationship with governmental contractors; comparative fault; the Florida Volunteer Protection Act; streetlights, security lights, and other similar illumination and limitation on liability; Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP) prohibited; sovereign immunity in tort actions; liability of corporation for inmate injuries; compensation for wrongful incarceration; punishment for contempt of court and alternative sanctions; charter schools; persistently low-performing schools; charter technical career centers; the Florida Virtual School; school-year prekindergarten program delivered by private prekindergarten providers; early learning coalitions; school readiness program provider standards and eligibility to deliver the school readiness program; tort liability and liability insurance; and use of school buses for public purposes, respectively, to incorporate changes made to s. 768.28, F.S., in references thereto; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 768.28, Florida Statutes, is amended to

read:

768.28 Waiver of sovereign immunity in tort actions; recovery limits; civil liability for damages caused during a riot; limitation on attorney fees; statute of limitations; exclusions; indemnification; risk management programs.—

(1) In accordance with s. 13, Art. X of the State Constitution, the state, for itself and for its agencies or subdivisions, hereby waives sovereign immunity for liability for torts, but only to the extent specified in this section ~~act~~. Actions at law against the state or any of its agencies or subdivisions to recover damages in tort for money damages against the state or its agencies or subdivisions for injury or loss of property, personal injury, or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the agency or subdivision while acting within the scope of the employee's office or employment under circumstances in which the state or such agency or subdivision, if a private person, would be liable to the claimant, in accordance with the general laws of this state, may be prosecuted subject to the limitations specified in this section ~~act~~. Any authorized ~~such~~ action may be brought in the county where the property in litigation is located or, if the affected agency or subdivision has an office in the ~~such~~ county for the transaction of its customary business, where the cause of action accrued. However, an ~~any such~~ action against a state university board of trustees must

~~shall~~ be brought in the county in which that university's main campus is located or in the county in which the cause of action accrued if the university maintains ~~therein~~ a substantial presence for the transaction of its customary business in that county.

(2) As used in this act, "state agencies or subdivisions" include the executive departments, the Legislature, the judicial branch (including public defenders), and the independent establishments of the state, including state university boards of trustees; counties and municipalities; and corporations primarily acting as instrumentalities or agencies of the state, counties, or municipalities, including the Florida Space Authority.

(3) Except for a municipality and the Florida Space Authority, the affected agency or subdivision may, at its discretion, request the assistance of the Department of Financial Services in the consideration, adjustment, and settlement of any claim under this section ~~act~~.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this section, any state agency or subdivision may ~~shall have the right to~~ appeal any award, compromise, settlement, or determination to the court of appropriate jurisdiction.

(5)(a) The state and its agencies and subdivisions are ~~shall be~~ liable for tort claims in the same manner and to the same extent as a private individual under like circumstances,

but liability may ~~shall~~ not include punitive damages or interest for the period before judgment. ~~Neither~~ The state and ~~nor~~ its agencies or subdivisions are not ~~shall be~~ liable to pay a claim or a judgment by any one person which exceeds the sum of $350,000 ~~$200,000~~ or any claim or judgment, or portions of a claim or judgment ~~thereof~~, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments paid by the state or its agencies or subdivisions arising out of the same incident or occurrence, exceeds the sum of $500,000 ~~$300,000~~. However, a judgment or judgments may be claimed and rendered in excess of these amounts and may be settled and paid pursuant to this section ~~act~~ up to $350,000 ~~$200,000~~ or $500,000. Any ~~$300,000, as the case may be; and that~~ portion of the judgment that exceeds these amounts may be reported to the Legislature, but may be paid in part or in whole only by further act of the Legislature.

(b) Notwithstanding the limited waiver of sovereign immunity in paragraph (a) ~~provided herein~~, the state or an agency or subdivision of the state ~~thereof~~ may agree, within the limits of insurance coverage provided, to settle a claim made or a judgment rendered against it without further action by the Legislature, but the state or agency or subdivision of the state may ~~thereof shall~~ not be deemed to have waived any defense of sovereign immunity or to have increased the limits of its liability as a result of its obtaining insurance coverage for tortious acts in excess of the $350,000 ~~$200,000~~ or $500,000

~~$300,000~~ waiver in paragraph (a) ~~provided above~~.

(c) The limitations of liability ~~set forth~~ in this subsection ~~shall~~ apply to the state and its agencies and subdivisions whether or not the state or its agencies or subdivisions possessed sovereign immunity before July 1, 1974.

(d) ~~(b)~~ A municipality has a duty to allow the municipal law enforcement agency to respond appropriately to protect persons and property during a riot or an unlawful assembly based on the availability of adequate equipment to its municipal law enforcement officers and relevant state and federal laws. If the governing body of a municipality or a person authorized by the governing body of the municipality breaches that duty, the municipality is civilly liable for any damages, including damages arising from personal injury, wrongful death, or property damages proximately caused by the municipality's breach of duty. The sovereign immunity recovery limits in paragraph (a) do not apply to an action under this paragraph.

(6)(a) An action may not be instituted on a claim against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions unless the claimant presents the claim in writing to the appropriate agency, and also, except as to any claim against a municipality, county, or the Florida Space Authority, presents the ~~such~~ claim in writing to the Department of Financial Services, within 18 months ~~3 years~~ after the ~~such~~ claim accrues and the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency denies the claim

in writing; except that, if:

1. The ~~Such~~ claim is for contribution pursuant to s. 768.31, it must be ~~so~~ presented within 6 months after the judgment against the tortfeasor seeking contribution has become final by lapse of time for appeal or after appellate review or, if there is no final ~~such~~ judgment, within 6 months after the tortfeasor seeking contribution has either discharged the common liability by payment or agreed, while the action is pending against her or him, to discharge the common liability; or

2. The ~~Such~~ action arises from a violation of s. 794.011 involving a victim who was younger than 16 years of age at the time of the act, the claimant may present the claim in writing at any time. This subparagraph applies to any action other than an action that would have been time barred on or before October 1, 2026 ~~is for wrongful death, the claimant must present the claim in writing to the Department of Financial Services within 2 years after the claim accrues~~.

(b) For purposes of this section, the requirements of notice to the agency and denial of the claim pursuant to paragraph (a) are conditions precedent to maintaining an action but may ~~shall~~ not be deemed to be elements of the cause of action and do ~~shall~~ not affect the date on which the cause of action accrues.

(c) The claimant shall also provide to the agency the claimant's date and place of birth and social security number if

the claimant is an individual, or a federal identification number if the claimant is not an individual. The claimant shall also state the case style, tribunal, the nature and amount of all adjudicated penalties, fines, fees, victim restitution fund, and other judgments in excess of $200, whether imposed by a civil, criminal, or administrative tribunal, owed by the claimant to the state, its agency, officer or subdivision. If there exists no prior adjudicated unpaid claim in excess of $200, the claimant shall so state.

(d) For purposes of this section, complete, accurate, and timely compliance with the requirements of paragraph (c) must ~~shall~~ occur before ~~prior to~~ settlement payment, close of discovery, or commencement of trial, whichever is earlier ~~sooner~~; provided the ability to plead setoff is not precluded by the delay. This setoff applies ~~shall apply~~ only against that part of the settlement or judgment payable to the claimant, minus claimant's reasonable attorney ~~attorney's~~ fees and costs. Incomplete or inaccurate disclosure of unpaid adjudicated claims due the state, or~~,~~ its agency, officer, or subdivision, may be excused by the court upon a showing by the preponderance of the evidence of the claimant's lack of knowledge of an adjudicated claim and reasonable inquiry by, or on behalf of, the claimant to obtain the information from public records. Unless the appropriate agency had actual notice of the information required to be disclosed by paragraph (c) in time to assert a setoff, an

unexcused failure to disclose shall, upon hearing and order of court, cause the claimant to be liable for double the original undisclosed judgment and, upon further motion, the court shall enter judgment for the agency in that amount. Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, the failure of the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency to make final disposition of a claim within 4 ~~6~~ months after it is filed shall be deemed a final denial of the claim for purposes of this section. For purposes of this subsection, in medical malpractice actions and in wrongful death actions, the failure of the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency to make final disposition of a claim within 90 days after it is filed shall be deemed a final denial of the claim. The statute of limitations ~~for medical malpractice actions and wrongful death actions~~ is tolled as to all prospective defendants for the period of time taken by the Department of Financial Services or the appropriate agency to deny the claim. ~~The provisions of~~ This subsection does ~~do~~ not apply to ~~such~~ claims that ~~as~~ may be asserted by counterclaim pursuant to s. 768.14.

(7) In actions brought pursuant to this section, process must ~~shall~~ be served upon the head of the agency concerned and also, except as to a defendant municipality, county, or the Florida Space Authority, upon the Department of Financial Services.~~; and~~ The department or the agency served has ~~concerned shall have~~ 30 days within which to file responsive pleadings

CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

~~plead thereto~~.

(8) An ~~No~~ attorney may not charge, demand, receive, or collect, for services rendered, fees in excess of 25 percent of any funds recovered as a result of judgment or settlement.

(9)(a) An officer, employee, or agent of the state or of any of its subdivisions may not be held personally liable in tort or named as a party defendant in any action for any injury or damage suffered as a result of any act, event, or omission of action in the scope of her or his employment or function, unless the ~~such~~ officer, employee, or agent acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property. However, the ~~such~~ officer, employee, or agent shall be considered an adverse witness in a tort action for any injury or damage suffered as a result of any act, event, or omission of action in the scope of her or his employment or function. The exclusive remedy for injury or damage suffered as a result of an act, event, or omission of an officer, employee, or agent of the state or any of its subdivisions or constitutional officers is by action against the governmental entity, or the head of such entity in her or his official capacity, or the constitutional officer of which the officer, employee, or agent is an employee, unless the ~~such~~ act or omission was committed in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property. The state or its

subdivisions are not liable in tort for the acts or omissions of an officer, employee, or agent committed while acting outside the course and scope of her or his employment or committed in bad faith or with malicious purpose or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard of human rights, safety, or property.

(b) As used in this subsection, the term:

1. "Employee" includes any volunteer firefighter.

2. "Officer, employee, or agent" includes, but is not limited to, any health care provider when providing services pursuant to s. 766.1115; any nonprofit independent college or university located and chartered in this state which owns or operates an accredited medical school, and its employees or agents, when providing patient services pursuant to paragraph (10)(f); any public defender or her or his employee or agent, including an assistant public defender or an investigator; and any member of a Child Protection Team, as defined in s. 39.01, or any member of a threat management team, as described in s. 1006.07(7), when carrying out her or his duties as a team member under the control, direction, and supervision of the state or any of its agencies or subdivisions.

(c) For purposes of the waiver of sovereign immunity only, a member of the Florida National Guard is not acting within the scope of state employment when performing duty under the provisions of Title 10 or Title 32 of the United States Code or

other applicable federal law; and ~~neither~~ the state or ~~nor~~ any individual may not be named in any action under this chapter arising from the performance of such federal duty.

(d) The employing agency of a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10 is not liable for injury, death, or property damage effected or caused by a person fleeing from a law enforcement officer in a motor vehicle if:

1. The pursuit is conducted in a manner that does not involve conduct by the officer which is so reckless or wanting in care as to constitute disregard of human life, human rights, safety, or the property of another;

2. At the time the law enforcement officer initiates the pursuit, the officer reasonably believes that the person fleeing has committed a forcible felony as defined in s. 776.08; and

3. The pursuit is conducted by the officer pursuant to a written policy governing high-speed pursuit adopted by the employing agency. The policy must contain specific procedures concerning the proper method to initiate and terminate high-speed pursuit. The law enforcement officer must have received instructional training from the employing agency on the written policy governing high-speed pursuit.

(10)(a) Health care providers or vendors, or any of their employees or agents, that have contractually agreed to act as agents of the Department of Corrections to provide health care services to inmates of the state correctional system shall be

considered agents of the State of Florida, Department of Corrections, for the purposes of this section, while acting within the scope of and pursuant to guidelines established in their contracts ~~said contract~~ or by rule. The contracts must ~~shall~~ provide for the indemnification of the state by the agent for any liabilities incurred up to the limits set out in this chapter.

(b) This subsection may ~~shall~~ not be construed as designating persons providing contracted health care services to inmates as employees or agents of the state for the purposes of chapter 440.

(c) For purposes of this section, regional poison control centers created in accordance with s. 395.1027 and coordinated and supervised under the Division of Children's Medical Services Prevention and Intervention of the Department of Health, or any of their employees or agents, shall be considered agents of the State of Florida, Department of Health. Any contracts with poison control centers must provide, to the extent permitted by law, for the indemnification of the state by the agency for any liabilities incurred up to the limits set out in this chapter.

(d) For the purposes of this section, operators, dispatchers, and providers of security for rail services and rail facility maintenance providers in the South Florida Rail Corridor, or any of their employees or agents, performing ~~such~~ services under contract with and on behalf of the South Florida

Regional Transportation Authority or the Department of Transportation shall be considered agents of the state while acting within the scope of and pursuant to guidelines established in their contracts ~~said contract~~ or by rule.

(e) For purposes of this section, a professional firm that provides monitoring and inspection services of the work required for state roadway, bridge, or other transportation facility construction projects, or any employee of a firm performing those ~~such~~ services, is considered an agent of the Department of Transportation while acting within the scope of the firm's contract with the Department of Transportation to ensure that the project is constructed in conformity with the project's plans, specifications, and contract provisions. This paragraph applies to a professional firm that is in direct contract with the Department of Transportation, as well as any professional firm providing monitoring and inspection services as a consultant to the professional firm that is in direct contract with the Department of Transportation. Any contract with a professional firm must, to the extent permitted by law, provide for the indemnification of the Department of Transportation for any liability, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred up to the limits set out in this chapter to the extent caused by the negligence of the firm or its employees. This paragraph may not be construed as designating persons who provide monitoring and inspection services as employees or agents of the state for

purposes of chapter 440. This paragraph is not applicable to the professional firm or its employees if involved in an accident while operating a motor vehicle. This paragraph is not applicable to a firm engaged by the Department of Transportation for the design or construction of a state roadway, bridge, or other transportation facility construction project or to its employees, agents, or subcontractors.

(f) For purposes of this section, any nonprofit independent college or university located and chartered in this state which owns or operates an accredited medical school, or any of its employees or agents, and which has agreed in an affiliation agreement or other contract to provide, or permit its employees or agents to provide, patient services as agents of a teaching hospital, is considered an agent of the teaching hospital while acting within the scope of and pursuant to guidelines established in the affiliation agreement or other contract. To the extent allowed by law, the contract must provide for the indemnification of the teaching hospital, up to the limits set out in this chapter, by the agent for any liability incurred which was caused by the negligence of the college or university or its employees or agents. The contract must also provide that those limited portions of the college, university, or medical school which are directly providing services pursuant to the contract and which are considered an agent of the teaching hospital for purposes of this section are

deemed to be acting on behalf of a public agency as defined in s. 119.011(2).

1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

a. "Employee or agent" means an officer, employee, agent, or servant of a nonprofit independent college or university located and chartered in this state which owns or operates an accredited medical school, including, but not limited to, the faculty of the medical school, any health care practitioner or licensee as defined in s. 456.001 for which the college or university is vicariously liable, and the staff or administrators of the medical school.

b. "Patient services" means:

(I) Comprehensive health care services as defined in s. 641.19, including any related administrative service, provided to patients in a teaching hospital;

(II) Training and supervision of interns, residents, and fellows providing patient services in a teaching hospital; or

(III) Training and supervision of medical students in a teaching hospital.

c. "Teaching hospital" means a teaching hospital as defined in s. 408.07 which is owned or operated by the state, a county or municipality, a public health trust, a special taxing district, a governmental entity having health care responsibilities, or a not-for-profit entity that operates such facility as an agent of the state, or a political subdivision of

the state, under a lease or other contract.

2. The teaching hospital or the medical school, or its employees or agents, must provide notice to each patient, or the patient's legal representative, that the college or university that owns or operates the medical school and the employees or agents of that college or university are acting as agents of the teaching hospital and that the exclusive remedy for injury or damage suffered as the result of any act or omission of the teaching hospital, the college or university that owns or operates the medical school, or the employees or agents of the college or university, while acting within the scope of duties pursuant to the affiliation agreement or other contract with a teaching hospital, is by commencement of an action pursuant to the provisions of this section. This notice requirement may be met by posting the notice in a place conspicuous to all persons.

3. This paragraph does not designate any employee providing contracted patient services in a teaching hospital as an employee or agent of the state for purposes of chapter 440.

(g) For the purposes of this section, the executive director of the Board of Nursing, when serving as the state administrator of the Nurse Licensure Compact pursuant to s. 464.0095, and any administrator, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Interstate Commission of Nurse Licensure Compact Administrators, when acting within the scope of their employment, duties, or responsibilities in this

state, are considered agents of the state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay any such claims or judgments.

(h) For purposes of this section, the individual appointed under s. 491.004(8) as the state's delegate on the Counseling Compact Commission, when serving in that capacity pursuant to s. 491.017, and any administrator, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission, when acting within the scope of his or her employment, duties, or responsibilities in this state, is considered an agent of the state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay those ~~any such~~ claims or judgments.

(i) For purposes of this section, the individual appointed under s. 490.004(7) as the state's commissioner on the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission, when serving in that capacity pursuant to s. 490.0075, and any administrator, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact Commission, when acting within the scope of his or her employment, duties, or responsibilities in this state, is considered an agent of the state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay those ~~any such~~ claims or judgments.

(j) For purposes of this section, the representative

appointed from the Board of Medicine and the representative appointed from the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, when serving as commissioners of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission pursuant to s. 456.4501, and any administrator, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission, when acting within the scope of their employment, duties, or responsibilities in this state, are considered agents of the state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay those ~~any such~~ claims or judgments.

(k) For purposes of this section, the individuals appointed under s. 468.1135(4) as the state's delegates on the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact Commission, when serving in that capacity pursuant to s. 468.1335, and any administrator, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission, when acting within the scope of his or her employment, duties, or responsibilities in this state, is considered an agent of the state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay those ~~any such~~ claims or judgments.

(l) For purposes of this section, the individual appointed under s. 486.023(5) as the state's delegate on the Physical Therapy Compact Commission, when serving in that capacity

pursuant to s. 486.112, and any administrator, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Physical Therapy Compact Commission, when acting within the scope of his or her employment, duties, or responsibilities in this state, is considered an agent of the state. The commission shall pay any claims or judgments pursuant to this section and may maintain insurance coverage to pay those ~~any such~~ claims or judgments.

(11)(a) Providers or vendors, or any of their employees or agents, that have contractually agreed to act on behalf of the state as agents of the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide services to children in need of services, families in need of services, or juvenile offenders are, solely with respect to such services, agents of the state for purposes of this section while acting within the scope of and pursuant to guidelines established in the contract or by rule. A contract must provide for the indemnification of the state by the agent for any liabilities incurred up to the limits set out in this chapter.

(b) This subsection does not designate a person who provides contracted services to juvenile offenders as an employee or agent of the state for purposes of chapter 440.

(12)(a) A health care practitioner, as defined in s. 456.001(4), who has contractually agreed to act as an agent of a state university board of trustees to provide medical services to a student athlete for participation in or as a result of intercollegiate athletics, to include team practices, training,

and competitions, shall be considered an agent of the respective state university board of trustees, for the purposes of this section, while acting within the scope of and pursuant to guidelines established in that contract. The contracts must ~~shall~~ provide for the indemnification of the state by the agent for any liabilities incurred up to the limits set out in this chapter.

(b) This subsection may ~~shall~~ not be construed as designating persons providing contracted health care services to athletes as employees or agents of a state university board of trustees for the purposes of chapter 440.

(13) Laws allowing the state or its agencies or subdivisions to buy insurance are still in force and effect and are not restricted in any way by the terms of this section ~~act~~.

(14) A ~~Every~~ claim against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions for damages for a negligent or wrongful act or omission pursuant to this section is ~~shall be forever~~ barred unless the civil action is commenced by filing a complaint in the court of appropriate jurisdiction:

(a) Within 2 years for an action founded on negligence.

(b) Within the limitations provided in s. 768.31(4) for an action for contribution.

(c) Within the limitations provided in s. 95.11(5) for an action for damages arising from medical malpractice or wrongful death.

(d) At any time for an action arising from an act constituting a violation of s. 794.011 involving a victim who was under the age of 16 years at the time of the act. This paragraph applies to any such action other than an action that would have been time barred on or before October 1, 2026.

(e) Within 4 years for any other action not specified in this subsection ~~4 years~~ after the ~~such~~ claim accrues~~; except that an action for contribution must be commenced within the limitations provided in s. 768.31(4), and an action for damages arising from medical malpractice or wrongful death must be commenced within the limitations for such actions in s. 95.11(5)~~.

(15) An ~~No~~ action may not be brought against the state or any of its agencies or subdivisions by anyone who unlawfully participates in a riot, unlawful assembly, public demonstration, mob violence, or civil disobedience if the claim arises out of the ~~such~~ riot, unlawful assembly, public demonstration, mob violence, or civil disobedience. ~~Nothing in~~ This subsection does not ~~act shall~~ abridge traditional immunities pertaining to statements made in court.

(16)(a) The state and its agencies and subdivisions are authorized to be self-insured, to enter into risk management programs, or to purchase liability insurance for whatever coverage they may choose, or to have any combination thereof, in anticipation of any claim, judgment, and claims bill that ~~which~~

they may be liable to pay pursuant to this section. Agencies or subdivisions, and sheriffs, that are subject to homogeneous risks may purchase insurance jointly or may join together as self-insurers to provide other means of protection against tort claims, any charter provisions or laws to the contrary notwithstanding.

(b) Claims files maintained by any risk management program administered by the state, its agencies, and its subdivisions are confidential and exempt from the provisions of s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until termination of all litigation and settlement of all claims arising out of the same incident, although portions of the claims files may remain exempt, as otherwise provided by law. Claims files records may be released to other governmental agencies upon written request and demonstration of need. Any~~; such~~ records held by the receiving agency remain confidential and exempt as provided ~~for~~ in this paragraph.

(c) Portions of meetings and proceedings conducted pursuant to any risk management program administered by the state, its agencies, or its subdivisions, which relate solely to the evaluation of claims filed with the risk management program or which relate solely to offers of compromise of claims filed with the risk management program are exempt from the provisions of s. 286.011 and s. 24(b), Art. I of the State Constitution. Until termination of all litigation and settlement of all claims

arising out of the same incident, persons privy to discussions pertinent to the evaluation of a filed claim are ~~shall~~ not ~~be~~ subject to subpoena in any administrative or civil proceeding with regard to the content of those discussions.

(d) Minutes of the meetings and proceedings of any risk management program administered by the state, its agencies, or its subdivisions, which relate solely to the evaluation of claims filed with the risk management program or which relate solely to offers of compromise of claims filed with the risk management program are exempt from ~~the provisions of~~ s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until termination of all litigation and settlement of all claims arising out of the same incident.

(17) ~~This section, as amended by chapter 81-317, Laws of Florida, shall apply only to causes of actions which accrue on or after October 1, 1981.~~

~~(18)~~ A ~~No~~ provision of this section, or of any other section of the Florida Statutes, whether read separately or in conjunction with any other provision, may not ~~shall~~ be construed to waive the immunity of the state or any of its agencies from suit in federal court, as that ~~such~~ immunity is guaranteed by the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, unless the ~~such~~ waiver is explicitly and definitely stated to be a waiver of the immunity of the state and its agencies from suit in federal court. This subsection may ~~shall~~ not be construed to

mean that the state has at any time previously waived, by implication, its immunity, or that of any of its agencies, from suit in federal court through any statute in existence before ~~prior to~~ June 24, 1984.

(18)~~(19)~~ ~~Neither~~ The state or an ~~nor any~~ agency or subdivision of the state does not waive ~~waives~~ any defense of sovereign immunity, or increase ~~increases~~ the limits of its liability, upon entering into a contract ~~contractual relationship~~ with another agency or subdivision of the state. The ~~Such a~~ contract may ~~must~~ not contain any provision that requires one party to indemnify or insure the other party for the other party's negligence or to assume any liability for the other party's negligence. This does not preclude a party from requiring a nongovernmental entity to provide ~~such~~ indemnification or insurance. The restrictions of this subsection do not prohibit ~~prevent~~ a regional water supply authority from indemnifying and assuming the liabilities of its member governments for obligations arising from past acts or omissions at or with property acquired from a member government by the authority and arising from the acts or omissions of the authority in performing activities contemplated by an interlocal agreement. The ~~Such~~ indemnification may not be considered to increase or otherwise waive the limits of liability to third-party claimants established by this section.

(19)~~(20)~~ Every municipality, and any of its agencies

~~agency thereof~~, may ~~is authorized to undertake to~~ indemnify those employees who ~~that~~ are exposed to personal liability pursuant to the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, 42 U.S.C.A. ss. 7401 et seq., and all rules and regulations adopted to implement that act, for acts performed within the course and scope of their employment with the municipality or its agency, including, but not limited to, indemnification pertaining to the holding, transfer, or disposition of allowances allocated to the municipality's or its agency's electric generating units, and the monitoring, submission, certification, and compliance with permits, permit applications, records, compliance plans, and reports for those units, when those ~~such~~ acts are performed within the course and scope of their employment with the municipality or its agency. The authority to indemnify under this section covers every act by an employee which is ~~when such act~~ is performed within the course and scope of her or his employment with the municipality or its agency, but does not cover any act of willful misconduct or any intentional or knowing violation of any law by the employee. The authority to indemnify under this section includes, but is not limited to, the authority to pay any fine and provide legal representation in any action.

Section 2. This act applies to causes of action that accrue on or after October 1, 2026.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section

29.0081, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

29.0081 County funding of additional court personnel.—

(2) The agreement shall, at a minimum, provide that:

(b) The personnel whose employment is funded under the agreement are hired, supervised, managed, and fired by personnel of the judicial circuit. The county shall be considered the employer for purposes of s. 440.10 and chapter 443. Employees funded by the county under this section and other county employees may be aggregated for purposes of a flexible benefits plan pursuant to s. 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The judicial circuit shall supervise the personnel whose employment is funded under the agreement; be responsible for compliance with all requirements of federal and state employment laws, including, but not limited to, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. s. 1983, the Family Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, chapters 447 and 760, and ss. 112.3187, 440.105, and 440.205; and fully indemnify the county from any liability under such laws, as authorized by s. 768.28(18) ~~s. 768.28(19)~~, to the extent such liability is the result of the acts or omissions of the judicial circuit or its agents or employees.

Section 4. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 39.8297, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

39.8297 County funding for guardian ad litem employees.—

(2) The agreement, at a minimum, must provide that:

(b) The persons who are employed will be hired, supervised, managed, and terminated by the executive director of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office. The statewide office is responsible for compliance with all requirements of federal and state employment laws, and shall fully indemnify the county from any liability under such laws, as authorized by s. 768.28(18) ~~s. 768.28(19)~~, to the extent such liability is the result of the acts or omissions of the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office or its agents or employees.

Section 5. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 343.811, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

343.811 Power to assume indemnification and insurance obligations.—

(3) ASSUMPTION OF OBLIGATIONS; PURCHASE OF INSURANCE.—In conjunction with the development or operation of a commuter rail service on the Coastal Link corridor, an agency may:

(a) Assume obligations pursuant to the following:

1.a. The agency may assume the obligation by contract to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless FECR and its officers, agents, and employees from and against:

(I) Any liability, cost, and expense, including, but not limited to, the agency's passengers and other rail corridor invitees in, on, or about the Coastal Link corridor, regardless of whether the loss, damage, destruction, injury, or death

giving rise to any such liability, cost, or expense is caused in whole or in part, and to whatever nature or degree, by the fault, failure, negligence, misconduct, nonfeasance, or misfeasance of such freight rail operator, its successors, or its officers, agents, and employees, or any other person or persons whomsoever.

(II) Any loss, injury, or damage incurred by other rail corridor invitees up to the amount of the self-insurance retention amount with respect to limited covered accidents caused by the agency.

b. The agency may assume the obligation by contract to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Brightline and its officers, agents, and employees from and against:

(I) Any liability, cost, and expense, including, but not limited to, the agency's passengers and rail corridor invitees in the Coastal Link corridor, regardless of whether the loss, damage, destruction, injury, or death giving rise to any such liability, cost, or expense is caused in whole or in part, and to whatever nature or degree, by the fault, failure, negligence, misconduct, nonfeasance, or misfeasance of Brightline, its successors, or its officers, agents, and employees, or any other person or persons whomsoever.

(II) Any loss, injury, or damage incurred by other rail corridor invitees up to the amount of the self-insurance retention amount with respect to limited covered accidents

caused by the agency.

2. The assumption of liability of the agency by contract pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.a. or sub-subparagraph 1.b. may not in any instance exceed the following parameters of allocation of risk:

a. The agency may be solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to the agency's passengers, or rail corridor invitees, third parties, or trespassers, regardless of circumstances or cause, subject to sub-subparagraph b. and subparagraphs 3., 4., and 5.

b.(I) In the event of a limited covered accident caused by FECR, the authority of an agency to protect, defend, and indemnify FECR for all liability, cost, and expense, including punitive or exemplary damages, in excess of the self-insurance retention amount exists only if FECR agrees, with respect to such limited covered accident caused by FECR, to protect, defend, and indemnify the agency for the amount of the self-insurance retention amount.

(II) In the event of a limited covered accident caused by Brightline, the authority of an agency to protect, defend, and indemnify Brightline for all liability, cost, and expense, including punitive or exemplary damages, in excess of the self-insurance retention amount exists only if Brightline agrees, with respect to such limited covered accident, to protect, defend, and indemnify the agency for the amount of the self-

insurance retention amount.

3. When only one train is involved in an incident and:

a. The train is an agency's train, including an incident with trespassers or at-grade crossings, the agency may be solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage.

b. The train is FECR's train, including an incident with trespassers or at-grade crossings, FECR is solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage, except for the agency's passengers and other rail corridor invitees, which are the responsibility of the agency, and Brightline's passengers and other rail corridor invitees, which are the responsibility of Brightline.

c. The train is Brightline's train, including an incident with trespassers or at-grade crossings, Brightline is solely responsible for any loss, injury, or damage, except for the agency's passengers or rail corridor invitees, which are the responsibility of the agency, and FECR's rail corridor invitees, which are the responsibility of FECR.

4. When an incident involves more than one operator, each operator is responsible for:

a. Its property; passengers; employees, excluding employees who are, at the time of the incident, rail corridor invitees of another operator; and other rail corridor invitees.

b. Its proportionate share of any loss or damage to the joint infrastructure.

c. Its proportionate share of any loss, injury, or damage to:

(I) Rail corridor invitees who are not rail corridor invitees of operators, provided that the agency shall always be responsible for its passengers and its rail corridor invitees regardless of whether the agency was involved in the incident.

(II) Trespassers or third parties outside the Coastal Link corridor as a result of the incident.

5. Any such contractual duty to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless FECR or Brightline with respect to claims by rail passengers shall expressly include a specific cap on the amount of the contractual duty, which amount may not exceed $323 million per occurrence and shall be adjusted so that the per-occurrence insurance requirement is equal to the aggregate allowable awards to all rail passengers, against all defendants, for all claims, including claims for punitive damages, arising from a single accident or incident in accordance with 49 U.S.C. s. 28103, or any successor provision, without prior legislative approval.

6. Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the liabilities of the agency to the state or any other agency shall be as set forth in an agreement among such entities and limited by s. 768.28(18) ~~s. 768.28(19)~~.

Neither the assumption by contract to protect, defend,

indemnify, and hold harmless; the purchase of insurance; nor the establishment of a self-insurance retention fund shall be deemed to be a waiver of any defense of sovereign immunity for tort claims or deemed to increase the limits of the agency's liability for tort claims as provided in s. 768.28.

Section 6. Subsection (2) of section 944.713, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

944.713 Insurance against liability.—

(2) The contract shall provide for indemnification of the state by the private vendor for any liabilities incurred up to the limits provided under s. 768.28(5). The contract shall provide that the private vendor, or the insurer of the private vendor, is liable to pay any claim or judgment for any one person which does not exceed the applicable maximum amount provided in s. 768.28(5) ~~sum of $100,000 or any claim or judgment, or portions thereof, which, when totaled with all other claims or judgments arising out of the same incident or occurrence, does not exceed the sum of $200,000~~. In addition, the contractor must agree to defend, hold harmless, and indemnify the department against any and all actions, claims, damages and losses, including costs and attorney's fees.

Section 7. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (5) of section 45.061, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

45.061 Offers of settlement.—

(5) Sanctions authorized under this section may be imposed notwithstanding any limitation on recovery of costs or expenses which may be provided by contract or in other provisions of Florida law. This section shall not be construed to waive the limits of sovereign immunity set forth in s. 768.28.

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section 95.11, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

95.11 Limitations other than for the recovery of real property.—Actions other than for recovery of real property shall be commenced as follows:

(6) WITHIN ONE YEAR.—

(f) Except for actions described in subsection (9), or a petition challenging a criminal conviction, all petitions; extraordinary writs; tort actions, including those under s. 768.28(14); or other actions which concern any condition of confinement of a prisoner filed by or on behalf of a prisoner as defined in s. 57.085. Any petition, writ, or action brought under this paragraph must be commenced within 1 year after the time the incident, conduct, or conditions occurred or within 1 year after the time the incident, conduct, or conditions were discovered, or should have been discovered.

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment

made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (4) of section 110.504, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

110.504 Volunteer benefits.—

(4) Volunteers shall be covered by state liability protection in accordance with the definition of a volunteer and the provisions of s. 768.28.

Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 111.071, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

111.071 Payment of judgments or settlements against certain public officers or employees.—

(1) Any county, municipality, political subdivision, or agency of the state which has been excluded from participation in the Insurance Risk Management Trust Fund is authorized to expend available funds to pay:

(a) Any final judgment, including damages, costs, and attorney's fees, arising from a complaint for damages or injury suffered as a result of any act or omission of action of any officer, employee, or agent in a civil or civil rights lawsuit described in s. 111.07. If the civil action arises under s. 768.28 as a tort claim, the limitations and provisions of s. 768.28 governing payment shall apply. If the action is a civil rights action arising under 42 U.S.C. s. 1983, or similar

federal statutes, payments for the full amount of the judgment may be made unless the officer, employee, or agent has been determined in the final judgment to have caused the harm intentionally.

Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 125.01015, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

125.01015 Office of the sheriff.—

(2) To ensure the successful transfer of the exclusive policing responsibility and authority to the sheriff in a county, as defined in s. 125.011(1), the board of county commissioners shall:

(b) After the election of the sheriff is certified:

1. Provide funding for all of the necessary staff and office space for the sheriff-elect to establish an independent office of the sheriff, so that the office may effectively operate and perform all of the functions required by general law when the sheriff-elect takes office.

2. Provide funding for the sheriff-elect to select any necessary insurances not provided by the county through the interlocal agreement required under sub-subparagraph 6.d. to allow the sheriff to effectively operate and perform all of the functions required by general law when he or she takes office.

3. Provide funding for the sheriff-elect to establish bank

and other accounts, as necessary, in his or her official capacity as sheriff, so that such accounts become operational when he or she takes office.

4. Unless otherwise transferable based on existing surety bonds for the sheriff's deputies, provide funding for and facilitate procurement of the required surety bonds for deputy sheriffs pursuant to s. 30.09, so that such bonds are in place when the sheriff-elect takes office.

5. Prepare and deliver to the office of the sheriff all documents, property, and other items listed in subsection (4).

6. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, for a term commencing on January 7, 2025, and ending on or after September 30, 2028, provide the sheriff-elect taking office with, and require the sheriff-elect taking office to use, not less than the substantially and materially same support services, facilities, office space, and information technology infrastructure provided to county offices or departments performing the duties to be performed by the sheriff-elect upon taking office in the 1-year period before he or she takes office.

a. As used in this subparagraph, the term "support services" includes:

(I) Property and facilities, and the management and maintenance for such property and facilities.

(II) Communications infrastructure, including telephone

and Internet connectivity.

(III) Risk management, including processing, adjusting, and payment of all claims and demands, including those made under s. 768.28. The county shall provide the sheriff with all required general liability, property, and other insurance coverage through its self-insurance program, a self-insurance risk pool, or commercial insurance. If the county provides insurance through a self-insurance program, the county must also provide the sheriff with commercial stop-loss coverage in an amount and with a self-insured retention agreed upon by the sheriff and the county.

(IV) Legal representation and advice through the office of the county attorney for all claims, demands, and causes of action brought against the sheriff, his or her deputies, or other personnel in their official and individual capacities, while acting in their official and individual capacities, including any required outside counsel due to conflicts of interest. This sub-sub-subparagraph does not prohibit the sheriff from employing or retaining his or her own legal representation as he or she deems necessary.

(V) Purchasing and procurement services using procedures under the laws and ordinances applicable to the county for purchases requiring competitive procurement.

(VI) Budget and fiscal software and budget development services.

(VII) Human resource services, including, but not limited to, facilitation of the hiring process, including employee applicant screening and employee applicant background checks, and employee benefit administration. The county may provide human resource services to the sheriff. However, the sheriff is the employer of his or her employees, and the sheriff retains full and complete control and authority over the hiring of his or her employees and the terms and conditions of employment, including employee discipline and termination of employment. The provision of human resource services by the county to the sheriff does not create a joint-employer relationship. The sheriff's employees shall remain members of the county's health insurance and workers' compensation plans for at least the term set forth in this subparagraph.

(VIII) Fleet management, including procurement of all vehicles and other mobile assets such as boats and aircraft, and all vehicle repair and maintenance.

b. As used in this subparagraph, the term "information technology infrastructure" includes:

(I) All hardware, including computers.

(II) Budget and fiscal software, including payroll and purchasing software.

(III) Computer-aided dispatch.

c. Under a cost allocation plan agreed to by the county and the sheriff, the sheriff shall pay the county for such

support services and information technology infrastructure from his or her general fund budget, except for any support services and information technology infrastructure costs that general law otherwise and expressly requires the county to fund outside the sheriff's budget.

d. To satisfy compliance with this subsection and to establish the office of the sheriff in a manner that minimizes unnecessary financial expenditures, the county and the sheriff shall execute an interlocal agreement addressing the requirements of this subsection and other expenditures, including an appropriate phase-in period for identification of the sheriff's assets with the sheriff's markings to minimize the cost to taxpayers. The interlocal agreement shall have a term that ends no earlier than September 30, 2028, and may be amended, renewed, extended, or newly adopted at any time following the expiration or termination of the agreement. After the initial period ending no earlier than September 30, 2028, an interlocal agreement may be entered into between the county and the sheriff which provides for the same or different requirements as set forth in this subsection.

Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, paragraph (h) of subsection (3) and paragraph (k) of subsection (15) of section 163.01, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

163.01 Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969.—

(3) As used in this section:

(h) "Local government liability pool" means a reciprocal insurer as defined in s. 629.011 or any self-insurance program created pursuant to s. 768.28(16), formed and controlled by counties or municipalities of this state to provide liability insurance coverage for counties, municipalities, or other public agencies of this state, which pool may contract with other parties for the purpose of providing claims administration, processing, accounting, and other administrative facilities.

(15) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section or of any other law except s. 361.14, any public agency of this state which is an electric utility, or any separate legal entity created pursuant to the provisions of this section, the membership of which consists only of electric utilities, and which exercises or proposes to exercise the powers granted by part II of chapter 361, the Joint Power Act, may exercise any or all of the following powers:

(k) The limitations on waiver in the provisions of s. 768.28 or any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the Legislature, in accordance with s. 13, Art. X of the State Constitution, hereby declares that any such legal entity or any public agency of this state that participates in any electric project waives its sovereign immunity to:

1. All other persons participating therein; and

2. Any person in any manner contracting with a legal entity of which any such public agency is a member, with relation to:

a. Ownership, operation, or any other activity set forth in sub-subparagraph (b)2.d. with relation to any electric project; or

b. The supplying or purchasing of services, output, capacity, energy, or any combination thereof.

Section 13. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 190.043, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

190.043 Suits against the district.—Any suit or action brought or maintained against the district for damages arising out of tort, including, without limitation, any claim arising upon account of an act causing an injury or loss of property, personal injury, or death, shall be subject to the limitations provided in s. 768.28.

Section 14. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (13) of section 213.015, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

213.015 Taxpayer rights.—There is created a Florida Taxpayer's Bill of Rights to guarantee that the rights, privacy, and property of Florida taxpayers are adequately safeguarded and

protected during tax assessment, collection, and enforcement processes administered under the revenue laws of this state. The Taxpayer's Bill of Rights compiles, in one document, brief but comprehensive statements which explain, in simple, nontechnical terms, the rights and obligations of the Department of Revenue and taxpayers. Section 192.0105 provides additional rights afforded to payors of property taxes and assessments. The rights afforded taxpayers to ensure that their privacy and property are safeguarded and protected during tax assessment and collection are available only insofar as they are implemented in other parts of the Florida Statutes or rules of the Department of Revenue. The rights so guaranteed Florida taxpayers in the Florida Statutes and the departmental rules are:

(13) The right to an action at law within the limitations of s. 768.28, relating to sovereign immunity, to recover damages against the state or the Department of Revenue for injury caused by the wrongful or negligent act or omission of a department officer or employee (see s. 768.28).

Section 15. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 768.28, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 252.51, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

252.51 Liability.—Any person or organization, public or private, owning or controlling real estate or other premises who voluntarily and without compensation, other than payment or

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FINAL BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: HB 145	**COMPANION BILL:** CS/SB 1366 (Brodeur)
TITLE: Claims Against the Government	**LINKED BILLS:** None
SPONSOR(S): McFarland	**RELATED BILLS:** None

FINAL HOUSE FLOOR ACTION: 108 **Y's** 1 **N's** **GOVERNOR'S ACTION:** Vetoed

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

HB 145 increases the caps on the recovery of awards against a governmental entity. The cap is increased to $350,000 per person from $200,000 and the cap for multiple claims or judgments arising out of the same incident is increased to $500,000 from $300,000.

The bill clarifies that the amount of attorney fees that may be collected in a claim against the government is 25 percent of any funds recovered as a result of judgment or settlement.

The bill also revises certain statutes of limitation and presuit procedures for certain types of claims against government entities.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

The bill will likely have an indeterminate, significant negative fiscal impact on state and local governments.

JUMP TO SUMMARY ANALYSIS RELEVANT INFORMATION

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

Statutory Caps

HB 145 amends s. 768.28, F.S., relating to the state's limited waiver of sovereign immunity which allows for suits in tort against the state and its agencies and subdivisions, subject to statutory caps. The bill increases the statutory caps on judgments against the state or an agency or subdivision thereof. The caps are increased from $200,000 per person and $300,000 per incident to $350,000 per person and $500,000 per incident. (Section 1).

Attorney Fees

The bill clarifies that the maximum amount of attorney fees that may be collected in a claim against the government is 25 percent of any funds recovered as a result of judgment or settlement. (Section 1).

Timeframes for Filing an Action

The bill changes the current general four-year statute of limitations for filing a claim against the state or its agencies or subdivisions to the following timeframes:

- For claims based on negligence: the claim must be filed within two years.[1]
- For claims based on contribution: the claim must be filed within the limitations established in s. 768.31(4), F.S.
- For claims based on medical malpractice or wrongful death: the claim must be filed within the limitations established in s. 95.11(4), F.S.

[1] This two-year period is the same as the statute of limitations for bringing a negligence claim against a private party. *See* s. 95.11(4)(a), F.S.

- For claims based on sexual battery on a victim under 16: the claim may be filed at any time; however, this does not resuscitate any claims that may have already been time barred by previous statutes of limitations.
- For any other claim: the claim must be filed within four years. (Section 1).

To accommodate these changes in the statutes of limitation, the bill decreases the allotted presuit notice period for a claimant to present the required written notice of the claim to the appropriate agency from three years to 18 months. Similarly, the bill decreases the time period in which a claimant must present written notice of a claim for wrongful death from two years to 18 months. However, if the claim is based on a sexual battery of a victim under the age of 16, in violation of s. 794.011, F.S., the claimant may present written notice of the claim at any time. (Section 1).

The bill also decreases from six months to four months the time period in which the Department of Financial Services (DFS) or the appropriate agency must dispose of a presuit notice of a claim. As such, the responding agency must dispose of a claim within four months of a claim being filed or it is deemed a final denial (thus allowing the claimant to move forward with a civil suit). However, the bill does not change the time period by which an agency must dispose of a claim for medical malpractice or wrongful death. As such, a final disposition for a claim made for medical malpractice or wrongful death must still be made within 90 days from the date of filing or it is deemed a final denial of the claim. (Section 1).

The bill provides that the statute of limitations for all prospective defendants, not just those in medical malpractice or wrongful death actions, is tolled for the period of time taken by the agency to deny the claim.[2] (Section 1).

The bill amends s. 944.713(2), F.S., clarifying that when a private vendor contracts to build, lease, or operate a correctional facility, it must agree to indemnify the state for certain incurred liabilities up to the amount of the sovereign immunity caps as provided in the bill. (Section 6).

Application and Other Changes

The changes made by the bill apply to all causes of action that accrue on or after October 1, 2026. (Section 2).

The bill makes technical changes and also reenacts a number of statutes for the purpose of incorporating the changes made by the language of the bill. (Sections 3-5 and 7-67).

The effective date of the bill was October 1, 2026, however, the bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 30, 2026. (Section 68).

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

STATE GOVERNMENT:

By increasing the sovereign immunity caps, the bill increases the possibility that the state and its agencies will spend more of their resources to satisfy tort claims. The provision of larger payments in satisfaction of tort claims, however, may also reduce the demand for other government services that would have otherwise been necessary to assist claimants.

By reducing the statute of limitations for negligence suits against the government, the bill may reduce the number of cases initiated and consequently the potential damages sought by claimants from the government. Further, by reducing the pre-suit time period for a government entity or DFS to review and dispose of a claim against the state, the bill may affect the pre-suit settlement process.

[2] "To toll" means to stop the running of a time period, especially a time period set by a statute of limitations. Cornell Law School: Legal Information Institute, *Toll*, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/toll#:~:text=To%20toll%20means%20to%20stop,by%20a%20statute%20of%20limitations%20. (last visited March 16, 2026).

By increasing the statute of limitations for sexual battery on a victim under 16 to an indefinite period in which an alleged victim may bring a claim, the bill may increase the number of claims against the government for such sexual battery.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

By increasing sovereign immunity caps, the bill will likely have a negative fiscal impact on local governments.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

The bill may enable more individuals who have tort claims against the state or one of its agencies or subdivisions to receive larger payments without the need to pursue a claim bill. The ability to collect larger settlements or judgments against government entities may also serve as an incentive for private attorneys to represent claimants in these matters. However, the bill may reduce government services to the public in proportion to additional amounts required from the budget to satisfy tort claims.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Civil Tort Action

One of the goals of the civil justice system is to redress tortious conduct, or "torts." A tort is a wrong for which the law provides a remedy. Torts are generally divided into two categories, as follows:

- An intentional tort, examples of which include an assault, battery, or false imprisonment.
- Negligence, which is a tort that is unintentionally committed. To prevail in a negligence lawsuit, the party seeking the remedy, the "plaintiff," must demonstrate that the:
  - Defendant had a legal duty of care requiring the defendant to conform to a certain standard of conduct for the protection of others, including the plaintiff, against unreasonable risks;
  - Defendant breached his or her duty of care by failing to conform to the required standard;
  - Defendant's breach caused the plaintiff to suffer an injury; and
  - Plaintiff suffered actual damage or loss resulting from such injury.[3]

Sovereign Immunity

Sovereign immunity is a principle under which a government cannot be sued without its consent.[4] Article X, section 13 of the Florida Constitution allows the Legislature to waive this immunity. In accordance with art. X, s. 13 of the Florida Constitution, Florida law allows for suits in tort against the state and its agencies and subdivisions for damages resulting from the negligence of government employees acting in the scope of employment.[5] This liability exists only where a private person would be liable for the same conduct. The waiver of sovereign immunity provided under section 768.28, F.S., applies only to "injury or loss of property, personal injury, or death caused by the negligent or wrongful act or omission of any employee of the agency or subdivision while acting within the scope of the employee's office or employment."[6]

Individual government employees, officers, or agents are immune from suit or liability for damages caused by any action taken in the scope of employment, unless the damages result from the employee's acting in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard for human rights, safety, or property.[7] A government entity is not liable for any damages resulting from actions by an employee outside the scope of his or

[3] 6 *Florida Practice Series* s. 1.1; *see Barnett v. Dept. of Fin. Serv.*, 303 So. 3d 508 (Fla. 2020).
[4] *Sovereign immunity*, Legal Information Institute, https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/sovereign_immunity (last visited March 16, 2026).
[5] S. 768.28(1), F.S.
[6] *City of Pembroke Pines v. Corrections Corp. of America, Inc.*, 274 So. 3d 1105, 1112 (Fla. 4th DCA 2019) (quoting s. 768.28(1), F.S.) (internal punctuation omitted).
[7] S. 768.28(9)(a), F.S.

her employment, and is not liable for damages resulting from actions committed by the employee in bad faith, with malicious purpose, or in a manner exhibiting wanton and willful disregard for human rights, safety, or property.[8]

Statutory Caps on Recovery of Damages

Section 768.28(5), F.S., caps damages recoverable in a tort action against a governmental entity at $200,000 per person and $300,000 per incident.[9] Although a court may enter an excess judgment, absent a claim bill passed by the Legislature, a claimant may not actually collect more than the caps provide.[10]

State Agency

A state agency means any department, agency, or instrumentality of a state or of a political subdivision of a state. Generally, a state agency is a government department, office, or board that operates within a state; state agencies are responsible for carrying out laws enacted by the state legislature. Some examples of current state agencies include:

- Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA);
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD);
- Commission on Ethics;
- Department of Management Services (DMS);
- Department of Military Affairs (DMA);
- Division of Administrative Hearings (DOAH);
- Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU);
- Florida Atlantic University (FAU);
- Florida Citrus;
- Florida Commerce (formerly the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity or DEO);
- Florida Commission on Human Relations (FCHR);
- Florida Commission on Offender Review (Parole Commission);
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS);
- Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR);
- Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF);
- Florida Department of Corrections (DOC);
- Florida Department of Education (DOE);
- Florida Department of Elder Affairs;
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP);
- Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS);
- Florida Department of Health (DOH);
- Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV);
- Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ);
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE);
- Florida Department of Legal Affairs (Office of the Attorney General or AOG);
- Florida Department of Revenue (DOR);
- Florida Department of State (DOS);
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT);
- Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs;
- Florida Division of Emergency Management;
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC);
- Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU);
- Florida Housing Finance Corporation;
- Florida International University (FIU);
- Florida Lottery;

[8] S. 768.28, F.S.
[9] S. 768.28(5), F.S.
[10] *Breaux v. City of Miami Beach*, 899 So. 2d 1059 (Fla. 2005).

- Florida Office of Financial Regulation (OFR);
- Florida Office of Insurance Regulation (FLOIR);
- Florida Polytechnic University;
- Florida Public Service Commission (PSC);
- Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind;
- Florida State University (FSU);
- New College of Florida;
- University of Central Florida (UCF);
- University of Florida (UF);
- University of North Florida (UNF);
- University of South Florida (USF); and
- University of West Florida (UWF).[11]

Subdivision

A political subdivision is a separate legal entity of the State which usually has specific governmental functions.[12] Section 218.077(2)(f), F.S., defines a political subdivision as a county, municipality, department, commission, district, board, or other public body, whether corporate or otherwise, created by or under state law. Local governments are incorporated by special acts of the Florida Legislature and include counties, municipalities, school districts, and special districts.[13]

Legislative Claim Bill

A plaintiff may recover an amount greater than the caps described in s. 768.28(5), F.S., by way of a legislative claim bill. A claim bill is not an action at law, but rather is a legislative measure that directs the Chief Financial Officer, or if appropriate, a unit of local government, to pay a specific sum of money to a claimant to satisfy an equitable or moral obligation.[14] Such obligations typically arise from the negligence of officers or employees of the State or a local governmental entity.[15] Legislative claim bills are typically pursued after procurement of a judgment or settlement in an action at law where the full amount of damages awarded cannot be satisfied because of statutory caps.[16] The amount awarded is based on the Legislature's concept of fair treatment of a person who has been injured or damaged but who is without a complete judicial remedy or who is not otherwise compensable.[17] Unlike civil judgments, claim bills are not obtainable by right; rather, they are granted as a matter of legislative grace.[18]

Once a legislative claim bill is formally introduced, a special master[19] usually conducts a quasi-judicial hearing.[20] This hearing may resemble a trial during which the claimant offers testimony as well as documentary and physical evidence necessary to establish the claim. Trial records may be substituted for witness testimony. Testifying witnesses are sworn and subject to cross-examination.[21] A respondent may present a defense to contest the claim, and the special master may then prepare a report with an advisory recommendation to the Legislature if the bill is placed on an agenda.[22]

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[11] Florida Executive Office of the Governor, *Info Center: State Agencies*, https://www.flgov.com/eog/info/agencies (last visited March 16, 2026).
[12] Social Security Administration, *How to Determine an Entity's Legal Status*, https://www.ssa.gov/section218training/advanced_course_9.htm#3 (last visited March 16, 2026).
[13] Susan A. MacManus, et al, *Politics in Florida*, (4th ed. 2015).
[14] *Wagner v. Orange Cty.*, 960 So. 2d 785, 788 (Fla. 5th DCA 2007).
[15] *Id.*
[16] *City of Miami v. Valdez,* 847 So. 2d 1005 (Fla. 3d DCA 2003).
[17] *Wagner*, 960 So. 2d at 788 (citing Kahn, Legislative Claim Bills, Fla. B. Journal (April 1988)).
[18] *United Servs. Auto. Ass'n v. Phillips*, 740 So. 2d 1205, 1209 (Fla. 2d DCA 1999).
[19] The "Special Master" is a role appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senate President, respectively. The special master oversees factfinding, which may include holding a de novo hearing on the claim which is administrative in nature, and may prepare a report and recommendation to the respective chamber. *See* House Rule 5.6.
[20] *Wagner*, 960 So. 2d at 788 (citing Kahn at 26).
[21] *Id.*
[22] *Id.*

Alternatively, a government entity may, without the need for a claim bill, settle a claim or pay a judgment against it for an amount in excess of the caps in s. 768.28, F.S., but only if that amount is within the limits of its insurance coverage.[23]

Accrual of a Claim

An important date for the purpose of a claim bill is the date the claim accrues. Under s. 95.031(1), F.S., a claim accrues when the last element constituting the cause of action occurs. In a negligence claim, the cause of action accrues "upon the happening of an accident and the attendant injuries."[24] Further, s. 768.28(6)(b), F.S., specifies that the requirements of notice to an agency and denial of the claim required under sovereign immunity are not deemed to be elements of the cause of action and do not affect the date on which the cause of action accrues.

Statutes of Limitations

A statute of limitations is an absolute bar to the filing of a lawsuit after a date set by law. A statute of limitations specifies when such time period begins, how long the limitation period runs, and the circumstances by which the running of the statute may be "tolled," or suspended. A statute of limitations usually begins to run when a cause of action accrues, which generally, is when the harm occurs.

Section 95.11(3)(a), F.S., currently provides that general actions against a private citizen or entity founded on negligence are subject to a two-year statute of limitations. But general actions based on negligence against the government are subject to a four-year statute of limitations.[25]

Contribution

Section 768.31, F.S., provides for the right to contribution. Generally, contribution is a legal action that allows a tortfeasor to collect from others responsible for the same tort after the tortfeasor has paid more than his or her pro rata share of the damages. No single tortfeasor is compelled to make contribution beyond his or her own pro rata share of the entire liability.[26]

An action for contribution must be filed within one year after the judgment has become final by lapse of time for appeal or after appellate review.[27]

Medical Malpractice

Section 766.102, F.S., provides for the recovery of damages based on the death or personal injury of any person in which it is alleged the injury resulted from the negligence of a health care provider. In a medical malpractice case, the claimant has the burden of proving by a greater weight of the evidence that the alleged actions of the provider represented a breach in the prevailing professional standard of care for that healthcare provider.[28]

An action for medical malpractice must be filed within two years from the time the incident giving rise to the action occurred or within two years from the time the incident is discovered, or should have been discovered with the exercise of due diligence.[29] However, generally, no medical malpractice action may be filed more than four years after the date of the incident or occurrence out of which the cause of action accrued.[30]

Wrongful Death

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[23] S. 768.28(5), F.S.
[24] *Dep't. of Transp. v. Soldovere*, 519 So. 2d 616 (Fla. 1988).
[25] S. 768.28(4), F.S.
[26] S. 768.31, F.S.
[27] S. 768.31(4)(c), F.S.
[28] S. 766.102(1), F.S.
[29] S. 766.102(1), F.S.
[30] S. 95.11(5)(c), F.S.

Generally, an action for wrongful death may be brought when a person dies due to the wrongful act, negligence, default, or breach of contract or warranty of any person, and the event would have entitled the person injured to bring an action and recover damages if the death had not ensued.[31] An action for wrongful death must be initiated within two years from the death of the subject person.[32]

Civil Claim for Sexual Battery

Section 794.011, F.S., establishes the criminal offense of sexual battery. Pursuant to statute, sexual battery means oral, anal, or female genital penetration, by or union with, the sexual organ of another or the anal or female genital penetration of another by any other object. The definition of sexual battery, however, does not include an act done for a bona fide medical purpose. Sexual battery by an adult (18 years of age or older) upon another adult is a first-degree felony punishable, in general, by imprisonment for up to 30 years and a fine of up to $10,000.[33] The penalties for sexual battery are increased for victims under the age of 18, vulnerable victims, and habitual offenders.

Section 95.11, F.S., provides statutes of limitation for various types of civil actions. In 2010, the Legislature amended s. 95.11, F.S., to remove any statute of limitations applying to a civil action against a private entity for sexual battery if the victim was under 16 at the time of the crime.[34] The Legislature provided, however, that this amendment would not resuscitate any civil claims that were already barred by the statute of limitations at the time.[35]

Presuit Procedures

Before a claimant files a lawsuit against a government entity, the claimant generally must present the claim in writing to the government entity within a time period prescribed by law, which is generally three years; but if the claim is for wrongful death, the notice must be given to the Department of Financial Services (DFS) within two years.[36] If the claim is brought against the state, the claimant must also present the claim to DFS. The government entity generally then has six months to review the claim. If the government entity does not dispose of the claim within that six-month period, the claimant may generally proceed with the lawsuit.[37]

Private Correctional Facility Vendor Indemnification

Pursuant to s. 944.713, F.S., a private vendor who submits a bid to contract for the construction, lease, or operation of a correctional facility to the state must provide proof of certain insurance coverage to cover liability for any claim or judgment which arises. Under current law, such private vendor must provide insurance for claims up to $100,000 for a single person or $200,000 for the total aggregate claims arising out of a single incident or occurrence.[38]

A "private correctional facility" is defined as any facility, which is not operated by the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC), for the incarceration of adults or juveniles who have been sentenced by a court and committed to the custody of the DOC.[39]

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[31] S. 768.19, F.S.
[32] S. 95.11(5)(e), F.S.
[33] Ss. 775.082, F.S. and 775.083, F.S.
[34] Ch. 2010-54, s. 1, Laws of Fla.; s. 95.11(9), F.S.
[35] *Id.* ("This subsection applies to any such action other than one which would have been time barred on or before July 1, 2010").
[36] *See* s. 768.28(6)(a), F.S.
[37] *See* s. 768.28(6)(d), F.S.
[38] S. 944.713(2), F.S.
[39] S. 944.710(3), F.S.

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2025	CS/HB 301	McFarland *DiCeglie*	The bill died in the Senate.

OTHER RESOURCES:

Legislative Claim Bill Manual 2024

National Association of Attorneys General: State Sovereign Immunity Nationwide

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

June 30, 2026

Secretary Cord Byrd
Secretary of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Byrd:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution, I do hereby veto and transmit my objection to House Bill 145 (HB 145), enacted during the 128th Session of the Legislature of Florida during the Regular Session of 2026 and entitled:

An act Relating to Claims Against the Government

HB 145 imposes new costs on taxpayers by increasing the damage caps awarded in lawsuits against local governmental entities. Florida law already provides a well-established and thoughtful claims bill process to review and ultimately determine if a judgement above the statutory limits should be awarded.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of HB 145 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis
Governor

FILED
2026 JUN 30 PM 4:20
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FL

THE CAPITOL
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 717-9249

FLC

FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

Automated License Plate Readers

Florida League of Cities

Municipal Operations Policy Committee

DRAFT Policy Statement Recommendation

Automated License Plate Readers

Draft Statement: The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS the continued availability and responsible use of automated license plate reader (ALPR) technology by law enforcement for legitimate public-safety and investigative purposes. Any statewide policy should be vendor-neutral and include reasonable, workable safeguards, including authorized individual access, training, searchable audit trails, periodic audits, appropriate data-retention limits, controlled sharing, and consequences for intentional misuse.

Background: Automated license plate reader technology allows law enforcement to compare vehicle information with information associated with criminal investigations and public-safety alerts. The technology can assist investigations involving stolen vehicles, wanted or dangerous individuals, missing or endangered persons, Amber and Silver Alerts, violent crimes, burglaries, property crimes, and other vehicle-related investigations. ALPR technology does not replace police work, but can help investigators develop leads, identify vehicles of interest, and focus limited law-enforcement resources.

ALPR systems are sometimes referred to as “Flock cameras,” but Flock Safety is only one vendor providing this technology. Legislation or statewide policy should therefore apply to ALPR technology generally and should not be written around a specific manufacturer or provider.

Florida should preserve legitimate law-enforcement access while requiring authorized use, user identification, searchable audit logs, periodic audits, misuse investigations, and accountability for intentional violations. Access should require individual credentials, and audit trails should record the user, time, search, and purpose. Agencies should audit unusual activity, invalid justifications, watchlist changes, exports, and sharing.

Agencies should adopt written policies governing ALPR access, use, storage, retention, and sharing; train authorized users; and discipline intentional misuse. Statewide policy should retain ALPR data only as needed and allow sharing solely for authorized governmental or criminal-justice purposes.

Florida law allows qualifying ALPR systems in State Highway System rights-of-way for active investigations, bars their use for traffic citations, protects ALPR data from public disclosure, and permits authorized criminal-justice sharing.

Potential misuse warrants accountability, not prohibition. Reasonable safeguards can preserve both public trust and investigative value.

Briefing Sheet: Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)

The Florida State Fraternal Order of Police supports the continued use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology by Florida law enforcement agencies. These systems are sometimes commonly referred to as “Flock cameras,” because Flock Safety is one vendor providing this technology. However, Flock is only one of several companies providing automated license plate recognition systems, and any legislation or statewide policy should be vendor-neutral and apply to ALPR technology generally rather than to a specific manufacturer or provider.

ALPR technology has become an important investigative tool for law enforcement. It can assist officers and investigators in identifying vehicles associated with stolen vehicles, wanted persons, missing or endangered individuals, violent crimes and other legitimate criminal investigations. The FOP believes Florida should preserve law enforcement's ability to use this technology while establishing reasonable guardrails that protect both the integrity of the system and the public's confidence in its use.

SUPPORT THE TECHNOLOGY - PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY

The FOP does not support eliminating, banning, or unnecessarily restricting ALPR technology. Instead, the FOP supports establishing safeguards similar to those already used for other sensitive law-enforcement information systems, including Florida's Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID).

DAVID provides authorized law-enforcement personnel access to sensitive driver and vehicle information. Activity within DAVID is subject to monitoring and audits designed to detect inappropriate or unauthorized access. Florida has also established penalties, training requirements, and accountability standards regarding improper access to electronic databases by law-enforcement officers. The FOP believes a comparable accountability model can be applied to ALPR systems.

Random Auditing of ALPR Searches

Law-enforcement agencies utilizing ALPR databases should conduct periodic random audits of user searches, similar to the auditing procedures used for DAVID. The purpose of an audit should be to verify that database searches were conducted for a legitimate law-enforcement purpose and consistent with agency policy. Importantly, auditing should function as an accountability mechanism rather than creating unnecessary administrative obstacles that interfere with an officer's ability to use ALPR information during an active investigation.

Individual User Accountability

Access to ALPR databases should be limited to authorized users with individual credentials so that searches can be attributed to the person conducting them. Systems should maintain an electronic audit trail sufficient to identify the authorized user conducting the search, the date and time of the search, the plate or information searched and the legitimate law-enforcement purpose associated with the search.Require systems to log all user, vendor, and administrative activity, with random and exception-based audits triggered by unusual searches, missing or invalid justifications, watchlist changes, alert subscriptions, bulk exports, or dissemination.

Agency Policies and Training

Every law-enforcement agency using ALPR technology should maintain a written policy addressing appropriate access, use, storage and dissemination of ALPR information. Personnel authorized to access ALPR systems should receive appropriate instruction concerning permissible and impermissible uses of the database. FDLE's existing ALPR guidelines already recommend that Florida law-enforcement agencies establish policies governing operation, access, storage and retention and that stored ALPR information be searched only by authorized individuals for legitimate investigative purposes.

Protection Against Misuse

ALPR databases should be used for legitimate criminal justice and law-enforcement purposes. Intentional access for an unauthorized personal or otherwise improper purpose should be prohibited and subject to appropriate administrative or legal consequences. This protects not only the public but also the overwhelming majority of law-enforcement officers who use these systems professionally and appropriately.

Add FCIC/NCIC as an accountability model**.** Like DAVID, FCIC/NCIC shows that sensitive systems can remain available for legitimate law-enforcement purposes while requiring authorized access, training, audit trails, and consequences for misuse.

Reasonable Data Retention

Florida law already requires the Department of State, in consultation with FDLE, to establish a maximum retention period for records containing images and data generated by automated license plate recognition systems. ALPR records may not be retained beyond the maximum period established under that schedule. The FOP supports maintaining a reasonable statewide retention policy that preserves the investigative usefulness of ALPR data while preventing unnecessary indefinite storage.

Controlled Sharing of Information

ALPR information should remain protected criminal-justice information and should be shared only when authorized and for legitimate governmental or criminal-justice purposes. Current Florida law already provides significant protections. ALPR images and personally identifying information held by an agency are confidential and exempt from public disclosure, while

information may be shared by or with criminal justice agencies in the performance of their official duties.

WHY ALPR TECHNOLOGY MATTERS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

ALPR systems allow law enforcement to rapidly compare vehicle information against information associated with criminal investigations and public-safety alerts.

The technology can assist investigations involving, stolen vehicles, wanted or dangerous individuals, missing or endangered persons, Amber and Silver Alerts, violent crimes, burglaries and property crimes, vehicle-related criminal investigations and locating vehicles associated with developing criminal investigations. The technology does not replace police work. It provides investigators with another piece of information that can help establish leads, identify vehicles of interest and focus limited law-enforcement resources. Florida law already recognizes ALPR technology as a legitimate investigative tool. State law authorizes qualifying ALPR systems within State Highway System rights-of-way when requested by law enforcement for the collection of active criminal intelligence or investigative information. The law specifically prohibits using these systems to issue traffic citations.

Raw ALPR data is not automatically CJI. However, FDLE guidelines identify FCIC/NCIC and DHSMV extracts used by ALPR systems as CJI and require CJIS compliance for systems using those extracts or conducting secondary CJI/PII queries. Accordingly, “confidential law-enforcement information” may be more precise than labeling all ALPR data “protected criminal-justice information.”

DAVID PROVIDES A WORKABLE MODEL

Florida does not prohibit law-enforcement officers from accessing DAVID because the database contains sensitive information. Instead, Florida allows legitimate access while imposing controls designed to identify misuse. That is the model the FOP believes should guide ALPR policy.

1)Authorize legitimate law-enforcement use.
2)Track who accesses the system.
3)Maintain searchable audit logs.
4)Randomly audit usage.
5)Investigate suspected misuse.
6)Hold intentional violators accountable.
7)Do not undermine the technology's legitimate public-safety value.

This approach is already being used voluntarily by some Florida agencies. For example, during a May 2026 Palm Bay City Council discussion, police officials explained that the department had conducted a random audit of ALPR users and was seeking to mirror the type of auditing performed for DAVID.

FOP POLICY PRINCIPLE

Technology used to fight crime should not be eliminated simply because it has the potential to be misused. The appropriate response is accountability. Florida should preserve law enforcement's access to automated license plate recognition technology while establishing reasonable safeguards, including random audits similar to those used for DAVID, to ensure that access remains connected to legitimate law-enforcement purposes.

The Florida State Fraternal Order of Police supports the continued use and availability of Automated License Plate Reader technology for law enforcement. The FOP also supports reasonable, workable guardrails that strengthen public confidence without diminishing the technology's usefulness to officers and investigators.

The goal should be responsible use, not prohibition. FDLE/CJJIS guidelines already support trained and authorized users, role-based access, case-linked searches, annual audits, and enforcement procedures. The proposal can standardize these practices, with consequences for intentional misuse including access removal, agency discipline, CJSTC referral when appropriate, and criminal or civil referral when applicable.

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

ENGINEERING AND OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM NO. 26-01

DATE: August 31, 2026

TO: Local Agency Permitholders

FROM: Will Watts, P.E., Chief Operating Officer, Assistant Secretary

COPIES: State Agency Officials
Rudy Powell, P.E., Chief Engineer of Operations

SUBJECT: **Revocation of General Use Permits for Automated License Plate Readers**

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify local law enforcement agencies of updates related to the Florida Department of Transportation's (Department) authority regarding the placement or use of automated license plate recognition systems (LPR) within the right of way of a road on the State Highway System by local agencies.

Automated License Plate Recognition Systems (LPR)

Pursuant to s. 316.0777, Florida Statutes, FDOT is provided with broad authority to approve or deny a local law enforcement agency's request to place a LPR within the right-of-way of a road on the State Highway System—and the authority to remove such at the Department's discretion.

While Florida law limits the issuance of permits for LPR systems to law enforcement agencies, the recent exponential increase in deployments along our roadways, coupled with concerning reports of misuse, data privacy concerns, and surveillance schemes merit immediate action to preserve Floridians' sovereignty and quality of life.

Active Permits

Approvals for the placement of assets in state rights-of-way by the Department are considered temporary in nature. As such, all LPR-related LPR related approvals issued by the Department to a local law enforcement agency are hereby revoked and must be removed by the permittee within 30 days of the date of this memorandum. If such removal has not occurred within the 30-day period, the Department will remove any remaining devices subject to this memorandum.

To that end, nothing in this memorandum prevents or restricts the Department from immediately removing any individual LPR device that is an immediate safety concern or that is causing an unsafe condition.

Discontinuance of All Future LPR Placement Requests

Further, as of the date of this memorandum, the Department will use its discretionary authority to cease the issuance of all future requests for LPR systems within its jurisdictional authority.



Public Records and Sunshine Law

Florida League of Cities

Municipal Operations Policy Committee

DRAFT Policy Statement Recommendation

Public Records and Sunshine Law

Draft Statement: The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS reforms to Florida's public records and Sunshine Laws that modernize existing requirements, clarify statutory obligations, protect attorney-client and work-product communications, while preserving Florida's constitutional commitment to transparency and open government.

Background: Florida's public records and Sunshine Laws are essential to government transparency and accountability. Chapter 119, Florida Statutes provides broad access to public records, while s. 286.011, Florida Statutes, requires public meetings when boards and commissions take official action.

As technology and government operations have evolved, municipalities manage increasingly complex electronic records and respond to requests that require substantial staff time and technological resources. Statutory updates can help agencies administer these requirements consistently while preserving public access.

The proposed reforms would clarify that agencies must produce existing records but are not required to create new reports, compilations, summaries, data extractions, or other records that do not already exist. The legislation would also clarify the recovery of certain costs associated with requests requiring extensive information technology resources or clerical assistance.

The proposal would protect attorney-client communications and attorney work product, including records reflecting legal strategy, mental impressions, conclusions, or theories prepared for or in anticipation of litigation. These protections allow local governments to obtain candid legal advice and prepare for litigation while preserving access to records that remain subject to disclosure.

The legislation would also clarify Sunshine Law requirements by distinguishing legitimate communications from prohibited discussions of voting commitments, positions, consensus, or instructions among members of a public body. Public employees, attorneys, consultants, and other governmental agents should be able to provide factual information, legal advice, educational materials, and staff recommendations without inadvertently creating a Sunshine Law violation. At the same time, the proposed bill requires that public officials must not use these communications to reach decisions outside a properly noticed public meeting.

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; amending Chapter 119, Florida Statutes; providing requirements for written requests; requiring identification of requesters; limiting production to existing records; revising cost recovery provisions; clarifying definitions of public records; providing exemptions for attorney-client communications and attorney work product; requiring electronic records retention; providing an effective date.

<ADD IN LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS TO CLARIFY>

Section 1. This act may be cited as the "Public Records Modernization and Accountability Act."

Section 2. Subsection (12) of section 119.011, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119.011 Definitions.-As used in this chapter, the term:

(12) "Public Records" means all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, tapes, photographs, films, sound recordings, data processing software, or other existing material maintained by the agency, regardless of the physical form, characteristics, or means of transmission, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance or in connection with the transaction of official business by any agency.

Section 3. Section 119.021, Florida Statutes is amended to read:

119.021 Custodial requirements; maintenance, preservation, and retention of public records.—

(5) A public agency is required to retain a public record only for the period prescribed by the applicable records retention schedule adopted by the Division of Library and Information Services of the Department of State. Upon expiration

of the applicable retention period, the agency may dispose of the record in accordance with general law and is not required to retain or produce the record under chapter 119. A record retained beyond the applicable retention period is exempt from the requirements of chapter 119 and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

Section 4. Subsection (1), paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 119.07, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119.07 Inspection and copying of records; photographing public records; fees; exemptions.-

(1)

(j) An agency's obligation under this chapter is limited to providing access to public records that exist at the time a request is received. An agency is not required to create or compile a report, summary, or data extraction that does not exist at the time a request is received.

(k) An agency may establish procedures to verify that a request to inspect or copy public records is made by or on behalf of a person as defined in s. 1.01 and is not submitted solely by an autonomous technological system acting without the direction or authorization of a person.

(4) If the nature or volume of public records requested to be inspected or copied pursuant to this subsection is such as to require ~~extensive~~ use of information technology resources or ~~extensive~~ clerical or supervisory assistance by personnel of the agency involved, or both, the agency may charge, in addition to the actual cost of duplication, a special service charge, which shall be reasonable and shall be based on the cost incurred for such ~~extensive~~ use of information technology resources or the labor cost of the personnel providing the service that is actually incurred by the agency or attributable to the agency for the clerical and supervisory assistance required, or both.

Section 5. Paragraphs(d), (e), (f), and (g) of subsection (1) of section 119.071, Florida statutes is amended, and paragraphs (i) and (j) are created to read:

(1) AGENCY ADMINISTRATION.—

(d)1. A public record that was prepared by an agency attorney (including an attorney employed or retained by the agency or employed or retained by another public officer or agency to protect or represent the interests of the agency having custody of the record) or prepared at the attorney's express direction, that reflects a mental impression, conclusion, litigation strategy, or legal theory of the attorney or the agency, and that was prepared exclusively for civil or criminal litigation or for adversarial administrative proceedings, or that was prepared in anticipation of ~~imminent~~ civil or criminal litigation or ~~imminent~~ adversarial administrative proceedings, is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution until the conclusion of the litigation or adversarial administrative proceedings. For purposes of capital collateral litigation as set forth in s. 27.7001, the Attorney General's office is entitled to claim this exemption for those public records prepared for direct appeal as well as for all capital collateral litigation after direct appeal until execution of sentence or imposition of a life sentence.

2. This exemption is not waived by the release of such public record to another public employee or officer of the same agency or any person consulted by the agency attorney. When asserting the right to withhold a public record pursuant to this paragraph, the agency shall identify the potential parties to any such criminal or civil litigation or adversarial administrative proceedings. If a court finds that the document or other record has been improperly withheld under this paragraph, the party seeking access to such document or record

shall be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs in addition to any other remedy ordered by the court.

(e) Any communication between an agency attorney and public officers, employees, or agents made for the purpose of seeking or rendering legal advice is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

(f) ~~(e)~~ Any videotape or video signal that, under an agreement with an agency, is produced, made, or received by, or is in the custody of, a federally licensed radio or television station or its agent is exempt from s. 119.07(1).

(g) ~~(f)~~ Agency-produced data processing software that is sensitive is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. The designation of agency-produced software as sensitive does not prohibit an agency head from sharing or exchanging such software with another public agency.

(h) ~~(g)~~1. Information relating to communications services locations, project proposals, and challenges submitted to the Department of Commerce under s. 288.9962 or pursuant to a federal broadband access grant program implemented by the Department of Commerce is confidential and exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution if such information is not otherwise publicly available and the release of such information would reveal:

a. The location or capacity of communications network facilities;

b. Communications network areas, including geographical maps indicating actual or proposed locations of network infrastructure or facilities;

c. The features, functions, and capabilities of communications network infrastructure and facilities;

d. Security, including cybersecurity, of the design, construction, and operation of the communications network and associated services and products;

e. Specific customer locations; or

f. Sources of funding or in-kind contributions for a project.

2. This exemption does not apply to any required functions of the department under s. 288.9962 relating to publishing a description of the proposed unserved areas to be served and the proposed broadband Internet speeds of the areas to be served as provided by the applicant and approved by the department.

3. This paragraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

(i) Temporary materials or drafts created to develop, research, draft, refine, or evaluate ideas are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, until they are formally submitted, presented, adopted, approved, incorporated into official action, or distributed outside the agency for a purpose other than obtaining input, review, or comment.

(j) Metadata associated with a public record is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

Section 6. Section (1), (3), and (8) of section 286.011, Florida statutes is amended, and section (10) and (11) is created to read:

(1) All meetings any board or commission of any state agency or authority or of any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution, including meetings with or attended by any person elected to such board or commission,

but who has not yet taken office, at which official acts are to be taken are declared to be public meetings open to the public at all times, and no resolution, rule, or formal action shall be considered binding except as taken or made at such meeting. The board or commission must provide reasonable notice of all such meetings.

(a) Communication between more than two members of the same board or commission concerning a matter that may foreseeably come before the board or commission is subject to the requirements of this section.

(b) A member may participate in a meeting remotely through teleconferencing or other technological means and shall be deemed present for purposes of discussion and voting, provided that the physical quorum required for the meeting is maintained by members present at the noticed meeting location throughout the meeting.

(3)(a) Any public officer who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a noncriminal infraction, punishable by fine not exceeding $500.

(b) Any person who is a member of a board or commission or of any state agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision who ~~knowingly~~ willfully violates the provisions of this section by attending a meeting not held in accordance with the provisions hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(8) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), any board or commission of any state agency or authority or any agency or authority of any county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision, and the chief administrative or executive officer of the governmental entity, may meet in private with the entity's attorney to discuss pending, threatened, or

contemplated litigation ~~to which the entity is presently a party~~ before a court or administrative agency or threatened or contemplated litigation as defined in subparagraph (f), provided that the following conditions are met:

(a) The entity's attorney shall advise the entity at a public meeting that he or she desires advice concerning the litigation.

(b) The subject matter of the meeting shall be confined to settlement ~~negotiations~~ or litigation strategy, or pre-litigation strategy sessions ~~related to litigation expenditures~~.

(c) The entire session shall be recorded by a certified court reporter. The reporter shall record the times of commencement and termination of the session, all discussion and proceedings, the names of all persons present at any time, and the names of all persons speaking. No portion of the session shall be off the record. The court reporter's notes shall be fully transcribed and filed with the entity's clerk within a reasonable time after the meeting.

(d) The entity shall give reasonable public notice of the time and date of the attorney-client session and the names of persons who will be attending the session. The session shall commence at an open meeting at which the persons chairing the meeting shall announce the commencement and estimated length of the attorney-client session and the names of the persons attending. At the conclusion of the attorney-client session, the meeting shall be reopened, and the person chairing the meeting shall announce the termination of the session.

(e) The transcript shall be made part of the public record upon conclusion of the litigation.

(f) For purposes of this subsection, the term "threatened or contemplated litigation" means a civil action or adversarial administrative proceeding that, based on an existing claim,

dispute, event, transaction, or course of conduct, the entity's attorney reasonably and in good faith determines may be initiated by or against the entity or in which the entity may become a party. A formal claim, demand, notice, express threat, or authorization to initiate litigation is not required.

(9)(a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a regional citizen volunteer advisory committee, created to provide technical expertise and support to the National Estuary Program established by Congress under s. 320 of the Clean Water Act, whose membership is composed of representatives from four or more counties may conduct public meetings and workshops by means of communications media technology as defined in s. 120.54(5)(b)2. An advisory committee member who participates in a public meeting or workshop by communications media technology is deemed to be present at the meeting or workshop. The use of communications media technology must allow for all persons attending the meeting or workshop to audibly communicate as if the person is physically present.

(b) The notice for a public meeting or workshop must state whether the meeting or workshop will be conducted using communications media technology, how an interested person may participate, and the location of facilities where communications media technology will be available during the meeting or workshop.

(10)(a) Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a limitation on or to prohibit a public employee, administrator, consultant, attorney, or other agent of a governmental entity from communicating individually with members of a public body for purposes of:

1. Providing factual information;

2.Educating members concerning governmental operations, finances, policy matters, or agenda items;

3. Responding to questions from individual members;

4. Providing legal advice;

5. Distributing reports, memoranda, recommendations, or supporting materials;

6. Preparing members for matters scheduled for public consideration;

(b) Such communications do not violate this section solely because information provided to one member is also provided to another member.

(c) A person described in paragraph (a) may not solicit, collect, communicate, or transmit voting commitments, positions, consensus, or instructions among members of the public body, board, or commission.

(d) The communication of factual information or educational materials under paragraph (a) is not polling and does not violate this section absent evidence of an intent to obtain or communicate a collective decision of the public body.

Section 8. 286.0112 of Florida Statutes is created to read:

286.0112 Advisory committees.-

(1) As used in this section, the term "advisory committee" means an advisory committee created by municipal or county ordinance whose membership is comprised of individuals from the private sector or the public sector and who:

(a) Possesses no authority to make final governmental decisions;

(b) Cannot bind a governmental entity through vote or action;

(c) Solely provides recommendations to a board, commission, council, authority, or other governmental body authorized to make final decisions; or

(d) Does not perform any judicial or quasi-judicial functions.

(2) Communication between more than two members of the same advisory committee concerning a matter that may foreseeably come before them is subject to the requirements of s. 286.011(1) and (2).

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2027.



Interoperable Emergency Communications

Florida League of Cities

Municipal Operations Policy Committee

DRAFT Policy Statement Recommendation

Interoperability

Draft Statement: The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS establishing a statewide Public Safety Communications Strategy that ensures interoperable, resilient, sustainable, and high-quality emergency communications systems, including accelerated, state-funded completion of Next Generation 911 (NG911) and minimum performance standards for every Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). This approach preserves taxpayer investments, respects home rule, promotes coordination among public safety agencies, and guarantees that every 911 call receives a rapid and effective response.

Background: The strategy establishes a statewide framework for emergency communications that is interoperable, resilient, sustainable, and high-performing while preserving local investments and flexibility to meet community needs. Its goal is to ensure every 911 caller receives rapid, accurate, and professional service through seamless coordination among public safety agencies, guided by principles that balance local control with accountability, flexible statewide standards, collaborative governance, and long-term sustainability through reliable funding, cybersecurity, and disaster preparedness.

The plan focuses on three core systems: NG911, interoperable Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems, and countywide radio communications that allow agencies to communicate seamlessly across jurisdictions. It also emphasizes best practices such as standardized operating procedures, workforce training, cybersecurity, and performance monitoring, with implementation occurring through a phased statewide rollout, funding development, and alignment with national standards.

Many 911 call transfers are caused by legacy call routing, which delivers wireless calls based on the cell tower that receives them rather than the caller's actual location. NG911 geospatial routing delivers calls to the correct PSAP the first time. Current law does not require full statewide NG911 transfer capability until December 30, 2033.[1] Accelerating and funding NG911 completion, together with CAD-to-CAD interoperability and nationally recognized performance standards such as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1225 and physician-directed Emergency Medical Dispatch, would reduce call transfers without displacing local systems that already perform well.

This is the third consecutive year that legislation mandating changes to local 911 operations has been proposed. In 2025, the PSAP consolidation provisions of HB 1211

[1] S. 365.117, F.S.

were removed by amendment. In 2026, SB 1586 and HB 1427 required each county to establish a countywide Emergency Communications Center (ECC) as the single point of contact for all 911, emergency call, and dispatch services, with an executive board convened by October 1, 2026, and full integration of local public safety agencies by January 1, 2029. If a county had not established an ECC by July 1, 2029, the county sheriff would have been responsible for creating and operating it. HB 1427 was temporarily postponed in its first House committee and SB 1586 died in its first Senate committee without a hearing.

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public safety; amending s. 365.172, F.S.; revising applicability; creating s. 365.1725, F.S.; providing legislative intent; providing definitions; requiring each county to convene a meeting concerning the establishment of unified 911 emergency answering and dispatch system by a date certain; requiring the executive board to determine which entity will operate an emergency communications center; providing reporting requirements; requiring 911, emergency call, and dispatch services to be provided from an emergency communications center by a date certain; providing for funding; providing reporting requirements; providing the sheriff shall be deemed the entity to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services in a county in certain circumstances; requiring all existing 911 operations within such county to be integrated under the sheriff and every public agency within such county to participate; prohibiting certain expenditures from being included in the sheriff's budget; requiring an entity that operates an emergency communications center to maintain its headquarters in a specified location for a specific purpose; authorizing the entity an alternate locations in certain

circumstances; prohibiting entities from transferring certain emergency calls; requiring entities to maintain interoperability with other emergency communications centers; requiring such entities to maintain certain cybersecurity standards; requiring vendors of certain systems to provide specified capabilities to emergency communications centers; prohibiting such vendors from imposing any additional licensing or integration fee for any system that enables integration of systems used by emergency communications centers; requiring every emergency communications centers and public safety answering point, and any related system, to be deemed critical infrastructure; providing construction; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (3) of section 365.172, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

365.172 Emergency communications.—

(3) DEFINITIONS.—Only as used in this section and ss. 365.171, 365.1725, 365.173, 365.174, and 365.177, the term:

(a) "Authorized expenditures" means expenditures of the fee, as specified in subsection (10).

(b) "Automatic location identification" means the capability of the E911 service which enables the automatic display of information that defines the approximate geographic location of the wireless telephone, or the location of the address of the wireline telephone, used to place a 911 call.

(c) "Automatic number identification" means the capability of the E911 service which enables the automatic display of the service number used to place a 911 call.

(d) "Board" or "Emergency Communications Board" means the board established in subsection (5).

(e) "Building permit review" means a review for compliance with building construction standards adopted by the local government under chapter 553 and does not include a review for compliance with land development regulations.

(f) "Colocation" means the situation when a second or subsequent wireless provider uses an existing structure to locate a second or subsequent antennas. The term includes the ground, platform, or roof installation of equipment enclosures, cabinets, or buildings, and cables, brackets, and other equipment associated with the location and operation of the antennas.

(g) "Computer-Aided Dispatch" or "CAD" means a computerized system within a public safety answering point for entering, tracking, dispatching, and resolving requests for public safety services.

(h) "Designed service" means the configuration and manner of deployment of service the wireless provider has designed for an area as part of its network.

(i) "Enhanced 911" or "E911" means an enhanced 911 system or enhanced 911 service that is an emergency telephone system or service that provides a subscriber with 911 service and, in addition, directs 911 calls to appropriate public safety answering points by selective routing based on the geographical location from which the call originated, or as otherwise provided in the state plan under s. 365.171, and that provides for automatic number identification and automatic location-identification features. The 911 service provided by a wireless provider means E911 as defined in the order.

(j) "Existing structure" means a structure that exists at the time an application for permission to place antennas on a structure is filed with a local government. The term includes any structure that can structurally support the attachment of antennas in compliance with applicable codes.

(k) "Fee" or "public safety emergency communications systems fee" means the fee authorized and imposed under subsections (8) and (9).

(l) "Fund" means the Emergency Communications Trust Fund established in s. 365.173 and maintained under this section for the purpose of recovering the costs associated with providing emergency communications services, including the costs of

implementing the order. The fund shall be segregated into wireless, prepaid wireless, and nonwireless categories.

(m) "Historic building, structure, site, object, or district" means any building, structure, site, object, or district that has been officially designated as a historic building, historic structure, historic site, historic object, or historic district through a federal, state, or local designation program.

(n) "Land development regulations" means any ordinance enacted by a local government for the regulation of any aspect of development, including an ordinance governing zoning, subdivisions, landscaping, tree protection, or signs, the local government's comprehensive plan, or any other ordinance concerning any aspect of the development of land. The term does not include any building construction standard adopted under and in compliance with chapter 553.

(o) "Local exchange carrier" means a "competitive local exchange telecommunications company" or a "local exchange telecommunications company" as defined in s. 364.02.

(p) "Local government" means any municipality, county, or political subdivision or agency of a municipality, county, or political subdivision.

(q) "Medium county" means any county that has a population of 75,000 or more but less than 750,000.

(r) "Mobile telephone number" or "MTN" means the telephone

number assigned to a wireless telephone at the time of initial activation.

(s) "Next Generation 911" or "NG911" means an Internet Protocol (IP)-based system composed of managed Emergency Services IP Networks (ESInet), functional elements (applications), and databases that replicate traditional E911 features and functions and provide additional capabilities. The NG911 system is designed to provide access to emergency services from all connected communications sources and provide multimedia data capabilities for PSAPs and other emergency service organizations.

(t) "Nonwireless category" means the revenues to the fund received from voice communications services providers other than wireless providers.

(u) "Office" means the Division of Telecommunications within the Department of Management Services, as designated by the secretary of the department.

(v) "Order" means:

1. The following orders and rules of the Federal Communications Commission issued in FCC Docket No. 94-102:

a. Order adopted on June 12, 1996, with an effective date of October 1, 1996, the amendments to s. 20.03 and the creation of s. 20.18 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations adopted by the Federal Communications Commission pursuant to such order.

b. Memorandum and Order No. FCC 97-402 adopted on December 23, 1997.

c. Order No. FCC DA 98-2323 adopted on November 13, 1998.

d. Order No. FCC 98-345 adopted December 31, 1998.

2. Orders and rules subsequently adopted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to the provision of 911 services, including Order Number FCC-05-116, adopted May 19, 2005.

(w) "Prepaid wireless category" means all revenues in the fund received through the Department of Revenue from the fee authorized and imposed under subsection (9).

(x) "Prepaid wireless service" means a right to access wireless service that allows a caller to contact and interact with 911 to access the 911 system, which service must be paid for in advance and is sold in predetermined units or dollars, which units or dollars expire on a predetermined schedule or are decremented on a predetermined basis in exchange for the right to access wireless service.

(y) "Public agency" means the state and any municipality, county, municipal corporation, or other governmental entity, public district, or public authority located in whole or in part within this state which provides, or has authority to provide, firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services.

(z) "Public safety agency" means a functional division of

a public agency which provides firefighting, law enforcement, medical, or other emergency services.

(aa) "Public safety answering point," "PSAP," or "answering point" means the public safety agency that receives incoming 911 requests for assistance and dispatches appropriate public safety agencies to respond to the requests in accordance with the statewide emergency communications plan.

(bb) "Rural county" means any county that has a population of fewer than 75,000.

(cc) "Service identifier" means the service number, access line, or other unique identifier assigned to a subscriber and established by the Federal Communications Commission for purposes of routing calls whereby the subscriber has access to the emergency communications system.

(dd) "Tower" means any structure designed primarily to support a wireless provider's antennas.

(ee) "Voice communications services" means two-way voice service, through the use of any technology, which actually provides access to 911 services, and includes communications services, as defined in s. 202.11, which actually provide access to 911 services and which are required to be included in the provision of 911 services pursuant to orders and rules adopted by the Federal Communications Commission. The term includes voice-over-Internet-protocol service. For the purposes of this section, the term "voice-over-Internet-protocol service" or

"VoIP service" means interconnected VoIP services having the following characteristics:

1. The service enables real-time, two-way voice communications;

2. The service requires a broadband connection from the user's locations;

3. The service requires IP-compatible customer premises equipment; and

4. The service offering allows users generally to receive calls that originate on the public switched telephone network and to terminate calls on the public switched telephone network.

(ff) "Voice communications services provider" or "provider" means any person or entity providing voice communications services, except that the term does not include any person or entity that resells voice communications services and was assessed the fee authorized and imposed under subsection (8) by its resale supplier.

(gg) "Wireless 911 system" or "wireless 911 service" means an emergency telephone system or service that provides a subscriber with the ability to reach an answering point by accessing the digits 911.

(hh) "Wireless category" means the revenues to the fund received from a wireless provider from the fee authorized and imposed under subsection (8).

(ii) "Wireless communications facility" means any

equipment or facility used to provide service and may include, but is not limited to, antennas, towers, equipment enclosures, cabling, antenna brackets, and other such equipment. Placing a wireless communications facility on an existing structure does not cause the existing structure to become a wireless communications facility.

(jj) "Wireless provider" means a person who provides wireless service and:

1. Is subject to the requirements of the order; or

2. Elects to provide wireless 911 service, E911 service, or NG911 service in this state.

(kk) "Wireless service" means "commercial mobile radio service" as provided under ss. 3(27) and 332(d) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. ss. 151 et seq., and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, Pub. L. No. 103-66, August 10, 1993, 107 Stat. 312. The term includes service provided by any wireless real-time two-way wire communication device, including radio-telephone communications used in cellular telephone service; personal communications service; or the functional or competitive equivalent of a radio-telephone communications line used in cellular telephone service, a personal communications service, or a network radio access line. The term does not include wireless providers that offer mainly dispatch service in a more localized, noncellular configuration; providers offering only data, one-way, or stored-voice services

on an interconnected basis; providers of air-to-ground services; or public coast stations.

Section 2. Section 365.1725, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

365.1725 Emergency communications; unified 911 systems.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT. - It is the intent of the Legislature to create a unified 911 system within each county or region to serve as a single point of contact for all emergency services in order to maximize efficiency of emergency services. It is further the intent of the Legislature to prohibit the transfer of calls outside the unified system before the dispatching of emergency services as required for the call between 911 call centers or other law enforcement, fire, or EMS dispatch centers in the same county, to maximize the efficiency of the statewide emergency communications plan for residents dialing "911" for emergency services. It is further the intent of the Legislature to maximize the interoperability of public safety agencies within each county and statewide to maximize the efficiency of emergency communications for residents dialing "911" for emergency services. The goal of interoperability is to ensure that 911 calls for emergency services, as well as communication and responses to catastrophic events, are connected directly so that critical information and resources across multiple disciplines and agencies are coordinated.

(2) DEFINITIONS.- As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Emergency communications center" means a unified public safety answering point providing services on a countywide or regional basis.

(b) "Executive board" means a board established for the purpose of creating and operating an emergency communications center that consists of:

1. The chair of the board of county commissioners, or another county commissioner designated by the chair.

2. The city manager or mayor who serves as the municipality's chief executive, as applicable, of the municipality in the county with the largest population.

3. The head of each public safety agency within the county operating as of July 1, 2026.

(c) "Interoperability" means the technical ability to communicate across disciplines and jurisdictions statewide.

(d) "Interoperability gateway system" means a network device or platform that provides protocol translation, audio transcoding, routing, and talk-group management between otherwise incompatible radio systems, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) systems, public safety LTE network systems, mission critical push-to-X services systems, satellite systems, and IP-based communications systems.

(e) "Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP) gateway system" means hardware or software that enables radio communications to be transmitted, received, patched, or controlled across IP

networks.

(3)(a) By August 1, 2026, each county shall convene a meeting of the executive board to discuss the establishment an of a unified 911 emergency answering and dispatch systemfor the county. Once established, the chair of the board of county commissioners, or another county commissioner if designated by the chair of the board of county commissioners, shall serve as the chair of the executive board.

(b) By January 1, 2027, the executive board must select, by a unanimous vote, the entity that will operate the emergency communications center and the manner in which the county and all public safety agencies operating within the county and required to participate herein will comply with the requirements of this section. The entity may be the county, the sheriff of the county, a municipality, special district, or another entity created by an interlocal agreement or other memorandum of understanding. If a county established an entity by interlocal agreement on or before July 1, 2026, that meets the requirements of this section, that entity may continue to operate the emergency communications center as provided by this section.

(c) By February 1, 2027, the chair of the executive board shall certify in writing to the office that the county has taken the required action to comply with this subsection.

(d) By March 1, 2027, the office shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of

House of Representatives, identifying any county that has not designated an entity to operate the emergency communications center.

(4)(a) By January 1, 2029, each county, and every public agency within such county that operates a public safety agency, including municipalities, special districts, airports, universities, state colleges, and school boards, shall provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services from an emergency communications center operated by the entity designated pursuant to subsection (3). The entity shall be funded by the county's distribution from the Emergency Communications Trust Fund pursuant to s. 365.173, as well as any additional funding established by the members of the executive board by interlocal agreement or other memorandum of agreement. The executive board shall make recommendations and serve in an advisory role concerning the provision of 911, emergency call, and dispatch services by the designated entity.

(b) By February 1, 2029, the chair of the executive board shall certify in writing to the office that the county has taken all required actions to comply with this subsection.

(c) By March 1, 2029, the office shall submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of House of Representatives, describing the results of establishing unified emergency communications centers in this state and identifying any county that has not established such a center in

violation of this subsection.

(5) If a county is not in compliance with paragraph (4)(a) within 180 days of the deadline established by that paragraph, the sheriff of the county shall be deemed the entity designated to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services under those subsections. All existing 911, emergency call, and dispatch service operations within a county shall be integrated under the sheriff and every public safety agency within the county shall participate in the emergency communications center to provide such services.

(b) If the sheriff operates the emergency communications center pursuant to this subsection, the sheriff shall receive the county's distribution from the Emergency Communications Trust Fund pursuant to s. 365.173 and the county shall provide the total funding to operate the emergency communications center as determined by the sheriff. Expenditures for operating the emergency communications center may not be included in the sheriff's budget under s. 30.49. Such expenditures shall be included in the county's budget in accordance with the provisions of chapter 129.

(6) An entity that operates an emergency communications center shall establish and maintain its headquarters in one location to serve as the primary PSAP, but may maintain offices or answering points at various locations throughout the county, as required and determined by the entity. The entity must also

designate an alternate center to the PSAP, but such center shall only receive emergency calls when the primary PSAP is unable to receive emergency calls.

(7)(a) An entity that provides 911, emergency call, and dispatch services from an emergency communications center may not transfer any emergency call received by the entity to any other PSAP or call center outside of the unified system, unless at least one firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services professional, as applicable, has been dispatched in response to the emergency call received by the entity.

(b) This subsection does not prohibit the transfer of an emergency call to another PSAP if the reported emergency occurs outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the entity operating the emergency communications center. In such cases, the emergency call shall be promptly transferred to the appropriate jurisdiction, consistent with established interagency protocols and mutual aid agreements.

(8)(a) An entity operating an emergency communications center shall establish and maintain interoperability with all other emergency communications centers in this state. Such entities shall maintain proactive cybersecurity standards, such as those adopted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Task Force on Optimal Public Safety Answering Point Architecture Guidelines. Such entities shall include

cryptographic inventory and ongoing cryptographic monitoring services, and incorporate behavioral-based, packet-level monitoring at all times from a security operations center located in the United States.

(b) To aid in interoperability and public safety, a vendor of computer-aided dispatch systems and interoperable radio communications systems must provide, where possible, the built-in capability to interface with different PSAP CAD systems and other radio communications systems that, although not operated or maintained by the vendor, are used in this state by emergency communications centers. A vendor may not impose any additional licensing or integration fee for any system that enables integration of such systems, including, but not limited to, radio communications systems, CAD systems, cyber security systems, telephone communication systems, interoperability gateway systems, and Radio over Internet-Protocol (RoIP) gateway systems, used in this state by emergency communications centers.

(9) Nothing in this section shall prohibit:

(a) The Florida Highway Patrol or Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission from voluntarily integrating their 911 or dispatching services with a county's unified emergency communications center through a memorandum of understanding or other agreement.

(b) Two or more counties from forming a multijurisdictional or regional emergency communications center

to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services. Such regional emergency communications center must be established and operated by an entity created by an interlocal agreement between the counties and each municipality, special district, or school district in those counties that operates a public safety agency. An entity creating or operating a regional emergency communications center must abide by the requirements of this section that are applicable to the entity creating or operating a county emergency communications center.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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 #: PCS for HB 1427	**COMPANION BILL:** SB 1586 (DiCeglie)
TITLE: Public Safety	**LINKED BILLS:** None
SPONSOR(S): Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee	**RELATED BILLS:** None

Committee References

Orig. Comm.: Intergovernmental Affairs

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:
The bill requires each county to establish an emergency communications center (ECC) to serve as a single point of contact for all 911, emergency call, and dispatch services. The bill provides that each county must convene an executive board by October 1, 2026 to determine which entity shall operate the county's ECC and requires each county and every public safety agency in the county to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services using the ECC by January 1, 2029. If a county has not established an ECC by July 1, 2029, the bill provides that sheriff of that county will be designated as the entity to establish and operate the countywide ECC.

The bill prohibits an ECC from transferring an emergency call to another public safety answering point outside of the unified system unless the ECC dispatches at least one emergency response unit to the emergency call. The bill provides that ECCs must maintain interoperability with all other ECCs in the state.

The bill provides that the Florida Highway Patrol and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may voluntarily integrate their 911 or dispatching services with a county's ECC. The bill also provides that two or more counties may form a multijurisdictional or regional ECC to provide regional 911, emergency call, and dispatch services by interlocal agreement.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:
The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on local governments.

JUMP TO SUMMARY ANALYSIS RELEVANT INFORMATION BILL HISTORY

ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill requires each county to establish a unified 911 system to serve as a single point of contact for all emergency services to maximize efficiency of emergency services and to maximize the interoperability of public safety agencies for residents dialing 911.[1] (Section 2)

The bill defines an emergency communications center (ECC) as a unified public safety answering point (PSAP) providing services on a countywide or regional basis. (Section 2)

The bill requires each county to convene an executive board by October 1, 2026 to discuss the establishment of a unified 911 emergency answering and dispatch system for the county. The ECC executive board consists of:

- The chair of the board of county commissioners (BOCC) or another county commissioner, if designated by the chair of the BOCC;

[1] The goal of interoperability is to ensure that 911 calls are connected across multiple disciplines and agencies to coordinate critical information and resources.

- The city manager or a mayor who serves as the municipality's chief executive, as applicable, of the municipality in the county with the largest population; and
- The head of each public safety agency within the county operating as of July 1, 2026. (Section 2)

By January 1, 2027, the executive board must select, by a unanimous vote, the entity for the county that will operate its ECC. The entity may be the county, the sheriff, a municipality, special district, or another entity created by an interlocal agreement or other memorandum of understanding. If a county has an existing entity that meets the requirements of the bill, that entity may continue to operate the ECC. (Section 2)

The entity will be funded by the county's distribution from the Emergency Communications Trust Fund as well as any additional funding established by the members of the ECC executive board by interlocal agreement or other memorandum of agreement. Once an entity has been selected, the ECC executive board will make recommendations and serve in an advisory role concerning the entity's 911, emergency call, and dispatch services. (Section 2)

The bill requires the chair of the ECC executive board to certify in writing to the Division of Telecommunications within the Department of Management Services (DMS) by February 1, 2027 that the county has selected the entity to run the countywide ECC. The bill requires DMS to submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 1, 2027 identifying any county that has not designated an entity to operate the ECC. By January 1, 2029, the bill requires each county to provide all 911, emergency call, and dispatch services in the county from the ECC operated by the entity selected by the ECC executive board. The chair of the ECC executive board must certify in writing to DMS by February 1, 2029 that the ECC for their county has been established and is operating according to the provisions of this bill. The bill requires DMS must submit a report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by March 1, 2029 describing the statewide results of establishing ECCs and identifying any county that has not established an ECC. (Section 2)

If a county has not established an ECC by July 1, 2029, the bill provides that the sheriff of that county shall be designated as the entity to establish and operate the countywide ECC. Every public safety agency within the county must participate in the ECC. The bill provides that if the sheriff operates the ECC under this provision, the sheriff will receive the county's distribution from the Emergency Communications Trust Fund and the county will provide the total funding to operate the ECC as determined by the sheriff. Expenditures for operating the ECC may not be included in the sheriff's budget, but are instead to be included in the county's budget.[2] (Section 2)

The entity that operates the ECC must establish and maintain its headquarters in one location to serve as the county's primary PSAP, but the entity may maintain offices or answering points at various locations throughout the county as the entity determines is necessary. The entity must also designate an alternate center to the PSAP that may only receive emergency calls when the primary PSAP is unable to receive emergency calls. (Section 2)

The ECC may not transfer an emergency call to another PSAP outside of the unified system unless the ECC dispatches at least one emergency response unit to the emergency call. However, the ECC may transfer an emergency call to another PSAP if the reported emergency occurs outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the entity operating the ECC. In these cases, the emergency call must be promptly transferred to the appropriate jurisdiction, consistent with established interagency protocols and mutual aid agreements. (Section 2)

The bill provides that ECCs must maintain interoperability with all other ECCs in the state. The ECCs must maintain proactive cybersecurity standards and must include cryptographic inventory and ongoing cryptographic monitoring services, and incorporate behavioral-based, packet-level monitoring at all times from a security operations center located in the United States. (Section 2)

[2] *See* ch. 129, F.S. and s. 30.49, F.S.

The bill provides that a vendor of computer-aided dispatch (CAD) systems and interoperable radio communications systems must provide, where possible, the built-in capability to interface with different PSAP CAD systems and other radio communications systems that are used by ECCs. A vendor may not impose any additional licensing or integration fee for any system that enables integration of these systems. (Section 2)

The bill provides that the Florida Highway Patrol and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may voluntarily integrate their 911 or dispatching services with a county's ECC through a memorandum of understanding or other agreement. The bill also provides that two or more counties may form a multijurisdictional or regional ECC through an interlocal agreement to provide 911, emergency call, and dispatch services. An entity creating or operating a regional ECC must follow the requirements that are applicable to the entity creating or operating a county ECC. (Section 2)

The bill provides that existing definitions in the Emergency Communications Act apply to the provisions in the bill. (Section 1)

The bill provides an effective date of upon becoming a law. (Section 3

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The bill may have an indeterminate negative fiscal impact on local governments due to the technical considerations involved in reorganizing existing public agency 911 call centers into a countywide emergency communication center, including costs related to the infrastructure, equipment, and software needed for call routing and data management.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

911 System History

Since 1973, the State of Florida, in conjunction with Florida's counties, has funded technological advancements in 911 systems for emergency communications statewide.[3] Basic 911 service was established statewide in 1997. In 2005, wireline Enhanced 911 (E911) service was implemented to obtain a 911 caller's address. In 2008, wireless E911 was implemented to provide location and callback information for cellular callers. Currently, Florida's counties are deploying statewide text-to-911 services.[4] As of February 2026, 66 of Florida's 67 counties offer text-to-911 service.[5]

Public Safety Answering Points

A public safety answering point (PSAP) is the public safety agency that receives incoming 911 requests for assistance and dispatches appropriate public safety agencies to respond to the requests in accordance with the statewide emergency communications plan.[6] Types of PSAPs include:

- Primary PSAP, which receive 911 calls directly from a caller routed through an appropriate service provider or approved 911 system;
- Secondary PSAP, which receive 911 calls transferred from primary PSAPs;[7]

[3] Department of Management Services, *Emergency Communications Board* (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[4] Department of Management Services, *Statewide Text-to-911 Initiative* (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[5] Department of Management Services, *Florida Text-to-911 Status (by county)* (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[6] S. 365.172(3)(aa), F.S.

- Backup PSAP, which serve as a geographically separated PSAP backup if the PSAP becomes unusable;[8]
- Consolidated PSAP, which serve two or more public safety agencies or jurisdictions;
- Co-located PSAP, which operate as an individual PSAP within the same facility as another PSAP;[9] and
- State/University PSAP, which operate under the jurisdiction of the State and engage with local PSAPs across the state.[10]

In Florida, local governments have the authority to establish and manage their emergency communication centers and PSAPs.[11] This approach fosters a diverse range of PSAP setups across the state as well as variations in the number of PSAPs per county. This also means that local governments decide when and how they deploy an NG911 system. As of December 2023, there were a total of 204 PSAPs in Florida: 129 primary, 47 secondary, 6 backup, and 7 State/University PSAPs.[12] Primary, secondary, and backup PSAPs are funded by the county, while state/university PSAPs are funded by the state.

Each primary PSAP is required to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week.[13] All primary and secondary PSAPs must be staffed to ensure that a minimum of 90 percent of voice calls are answered within 10 seconds. Technical and operational standards for PSAPs vary depending on the 911 system in use.[14] All public safety agencies within the boundaries of the 911 system must be included in the system. When possible, the primary PSAP should be part of a centralized radio dispatch facility that serves all public safety agencies within the county or other specified geographical areas.

Computer-Aided Dispatch

Computer-aided dispatch (CAD) is a computerized system within a PSAP for entering, tracking, dispatching, and resolving requests for public safety services.[15] PSAPs use CAD software to track and recommend units.[16] CAD systems are able to distinguish units by agency, type, function, availability, and personnel. CAD systems recommend units based on a combination of fixed requirements and unit location and use GPS location and GIS data to improve estimated response times.

Emergency Calls

When an emergency call is received at a primary PSAP, the call taker will first verify the location and nature of the emergency.[17] If the incident is occurring within the jurisdiction of a public safety agency covered by the PSAP, the call taker gathers appropriate information for dispatch. Personnel in the primary PSAP then dispatch emergency services, which is known as a direct dispatch. If the call taker determines that the incident is occurring in a jurisdiction covered by another PSAP, the call taker will transfer the call to the responsible PSAP. The response time to transfer a call may be greater than direct dispatch because the caller must talk to an additional person. If a call transfer is impractical or not possible, the call taker may choose to relay all known information to the appropriate PSAP indirectly through a 10-digit telephone number, a hotline, or a point-to-point radio system.

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[7] The transfer must include, at minimum, all voice, text message, video, caller identification information, location information from the call, and any other standards-based 911 information included in the call.
[8] Operational PSAPs may serve as backups for other PSAPs if they are geographically separated and have the capacity to handle operations of their own PSAP and any affected PSAPs simultaneously. Each backup PSAP must have the capacity and equipment to function in the same manner as the PSAP it backs.
[9] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 23 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[10] Department of Management Services, *A Proposed Plan To Upgrade Florida's Public Safety Answering Points*, p. 21 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[11] Department of Management Services, *A Proposed Plan To Upgrade Florida's Public Safety Answering Points*, p. 20 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[12] Department of Management Services, *A Proposed Plan To Upgrade Florida's Public Safety Answering Points*, p. 21 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[13] Ch. 60FF-6.005(1), F.A.C.
[14] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 6, (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[15] S. 365.172(3)(g), F.S.
[16] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 24 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[17] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 7-8 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).

When a call is transferred, the caller is never required to talk with more than two people: the primary PSAP call taker and the call taker at the receiving agency.[18] The call taker must inform the caller that the call is about to be transferred and the PSAP transferring the 911 call must stay on the line until the receiving agency answers and confirms the accuracy of the transfer. PSAPs are prohibited from referring callers to a directory of services or providing contact information for emergency calls.

Next Generation 911

Enhanced 911 (E911) is a traditional analog 911 system that relies on network switching, databases, and call handling systems.[19] E911 is being phased out in Florida in favor of Next Generation 911 (NG911), which is an internet protocol (IP)-based system designed to replace outdated analog systems. NG911 supports voice, data, and multimedia information, including text, images, and video. In NG911 systems, geospatial call routing uses GIS data to route an emergency call based on the civic location or geographic coordinates to the appropriate PSAP. The NG911 system is designed to provide access to emergency services from all connected communications sources and provide multimedia data capabilities for PSAPs and other emergency service organizations.[20]

Florida Emergency Communications State Plan Act

The Florida Emergency Communications State Plan Act (Act) requires the Department of Management Services (DMS) to develop, implement, and update a cohesive statewide Emergency Communications State Plan (Plan) for implementing and operating emergency communications within the state.[21] Key elements of the Act include the following:

- 911 is the only emergency number published in Florida;
- The Secretary of DMS (or his/her designee) is the director of the Statewide Emergency Communications System;
- DMS must adopt rules and regulations for implementing and coordinating the Plan;
- All public agencies must assist DMS to carry out the intent of the Plan and to comply with the Plan;
- Each county must assign a county 911 coordinator who will serve as a single point of contact with DMS for emergency communications-related issues; and
- DMS must approve all new or expanded 911 systems.[22]

The goal of the Plan is to outline standards for rapid, direct access to public safety agencies,[23] with the objective of reducing the response time to situations requiring emergency services using the most advanced technology available.[24] The Plan provides a framework for the implementation, coordination, and maintenance of a statewide emergency communications system. Similarly, in order to establish and implement a response capability using modern technologies and methods, current law establishes the emergency communications system, a fee to pay certain costs associated with PSAP systems; and the Emergency Communications Board to administer the fee.[25]

County 911 Plans

Current law provides for a statewide 911 coordinator to oversee the implementation of the emergency communications system, including reviewing and providing feedback related to county 911 plans and assisting counties in establishing emergency communications programs.[26] The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for each county is required to designate a county 911 coordinator to manage the emergency communications system

[18] Ch. 60FF-6.005(5), F.A.C.
[19] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 22 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[20] S. 365.172(3)(s), F.S.
[21] S. 365.171, F.S.
[22] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 4 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[23] A public safety agency is a functional division of a public agency which provides firefighting, law enforcement, medical, or other emergency services. S. 365.172(3)(z), F.S.
[24] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 4 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[25] S. 365.172(2), F.S.
[26] S. 365.171(5), F.S.

between all emergency service agencies and ensure countywide standards meet those directed in the Plan.[27] The county 911 coordinator also assembles all cost data and determines the funding needed for PSAP operations.

County 911 plans must address the following:

- Identification of all public safety agencies operating in the county;
- Number and type of all PSAPs in the county;
- Major distinguishing features of the county; and
- Identification of service providers currently under contract with the county.[28]

Each county 911 coordinator must develop a continuity of operations plan designed to limit the impact of system failures and expedite the restoration of services.[29] The plan must include provisions for partial or complete failures of a PSAP or multiple PSAPs. The plan should incorporate separately, or within another county agency's emergency operations plan, provisions for backup equipment and facilities to restore or maintain service during equipment malfunctions, service failures, or disasters impacting the PSAP. These plans should include all necessary mutual aid and interlocal agreements for coordination with other agencies or counties.

Coordination of Direct Radio Communications

Current law requires each sheriff to collaborate with the heads of every first responder agency in the county to develop and facilitate the execution of written interlocal agreements between all agencies.[30] These agreements must address radio communications between agencies and PSAPs within the county. PSAP procedures must align with the needs and policies of each responder agency, and each primary first responder agency, PSAP, and dispatch center must train all applicable personnel regarding these procedures and protocols.[31]

State PSAPs

The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) is a state law enforcement agency charged with enforcing the laws of Florida and ensuring the safety of the motoring public.[32] FHP has seven Regional Communication Centers, located in Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Orlando-Sanford, Tampa, Miami, Fort Myers, and Lake Worth. These facilities provide dispatch and communication support services for FHP and seven other state law enforcement agencies.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) operates four Regional Communications Centers using a computer-aided dispatch system that coordinates state law enforcement assets to maximize officer safety and efficiency.[33] FWC duty officers monitor, receive, and relay FWC law enforcement calls concerning wildlife and marine life as well as emergency calls such as search and rescue and hunting and boating accidents.[34]

Public Safety Emergency Communications Fee

Current law establishes a Public Safety Emergency Communications Fee (Fee) for wireless and non-wireless subscribers for 911 services.[35] The base fee rate is 40 cents per month for each service number and applies uniformly statewide.[36] Voice communications service providers collect the fee from each subscriber as part of the monthly billing process.[37] Additionally, a prepaid wireless fee is imposed on retail transactions.[38]

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[27] Ch. 60FF-6.004, F.A.C.
[28] Ch. 60FF-6.002, F.A.C.
[29] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 11 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[30] S. 365.179(2), F.S.
[31] S. 365.179(5), F.S.
[32] Florida Highway Patrol, *Be a Dispatcher* (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[33] Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, *Technology and Communications Services* (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[34] Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, *Duty Officers/Dispatch* (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[35] S. 365.172(8) and (9), F.S.
[36] S. 365.172(8)(f), F.S.
[37] S. 365.172(8)(a), F.S.
[38] S. 365.172(9)(a), F.S.

Emergency Communications Trust Fund

All revenue derived from the Fee is accounted for in a special fund designated as the Emergency Communications Trust Fund (Fund).[39] The revenue derived from the Fund is distributed monthly to all counties.[40] The BOCC is the responsible fiscal agent for each county.[41] Each BOCC must establish a fund to be used exclusively for receipt and expenditure of revenue collected from the Fee.[42] The money collected and interest earned in this fund is incorporated into the annual county budget and used only for authorized expenditures.[43]

Revenue from the Fund is only to be used for costs directly attributable to the establishment or provision of emergency communications equipment and services related to primary or secondary PSAPs.[44] Call taking systems, dispatching systems, location verification systems, and training are all eligible uses for fee funding.[45] Revenue from the Fee cannot be used for capital or operational costs related to responders dispatched to an emergency. Vehicles, radios, in-car mapping systems, and body-worn cameras are ineligible expenses. The costs of constructing, leasing, maintaining, or renovating buildings, except those building modifications necessary to maintain and house PSAP systems, are also ineligible.

Additional Funding

Three grant programs are available to assist counties with funding of emergency communications systems.[46] Counties with a population of fewer than 75,000 residents may submit a Rural County Grant application and all counties may apply for the 911 State Grant Program and the 911 Emergency Grant Program.

2023 Revisions to Florida's Emergency Communications Law

In 2023, the Legislature made several changes to Florida's emergency communications law to reflect the transition from E911 to NG911, to revise legislative intent regarding such services, and to revise the duties of the Emergency Communications Board (Board).[47] Under the revisions, the Board was given the additional responsibility of advocating and developing policy recommendations to ensure interoperability and connectivity between public safety communication systems within the state.[48] The Board was also authorized to establish a schedule for implementing NG911 systems, public safety radio communications systems, and other public safety communications improvements.[49] The law required changes, modifications, or upgrades to emergency communications systems or services to be made in cooperation with the head of each law enforcement agency served by the primary PSAP in each county.[50]

The revisions also required DMS to develop a plan by December 30, 2023, to upgrade PSAPs within the state and to prioritize interoperability between PSAPs by December 30, 2033.[51]

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[39] S. 365.173(1), F.S.
[40] S. 365.173(2), F.S.
[41] S. 365.173(2)(d), F.S., and ch. 60FF-6.004(1), F.A.C.
[42] S. 365.173(2)(d), F.S.
[43] S. 365.172(10), F.S.
[44] *Id.*
[45] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, p. 35, (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[46] Department of Management Services, *Florida Emergency Communications State Plan*, pp. 36-37 (last visited Feb. 2, 2026).
[47] Ch. 2023-55, Laws of Fla.
[48] Ch. 2023-55, s. 1, Laws of Fla., amending s. 365.172(5), F.S.
[49] Ch. 2023-55, s. 1, Laws of Fla., amending s. 365.172(6), F.S.
[50] Ch. 2023-55, s. 1, Laws of Fla., amending s. 365.172(10), F.S.
[51] Ch. 2023-55, s. 3, Laws of Fla., amending s. 365.177(1), F.S.

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #/SUBJECT	HOUSE/*SENATE* SPONSOR(S)	OTHER INFORMATION
2023	CS/CS/CS/SB 1418 - Emergency Communications	McFarland/ *Bradley*	Became a law on July 1, 2023.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Orig. Comm.: Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee			Darden	Hilliard



Public Records Exemptions for Municipal Clerks

Florida League of Cities

Municipal Operations Policy Committee

DRAFT Policy Statement Recommendation

Public Records Exemption for Municipal Clerks and Staff

Draft Statement: The Florida League of Cities SUPPORTS legislation that provides a public records exemption for the personal information of municipal clerks; as well as any investigative personnel, and employees who perform municipal elections work.

Background: Many municipal staff who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of hearings related to neglect or abuse, or other activities that could lead to a criminal prosecution, are exposed to threats and other acts of violence.

Municipal clerks often administer elections. Election workers are often targeted for threats and violence due to the nature of materials they are responsible for. Further, clerks are often involved in legal enforcement proceedings in actions related to violations of codes and ordinances. Occasionally, these proceedings have led to retaliation and threats by defendants.

Last session, HB 247 (Campbell) and SB 248 (Rodriguez) were filed. The bills proposed a public records exemption for the personal identifying and location information of current municipal clerks and their staff, as well as the spouses and children of such clerks. It included retroactive application, a statement of public necessity, and a provision for future legislative review and repeal.

Both bills failed to receive hearings in the House and the Senate.

DRAFT

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to public records; amending s. 119.071, F.S.; providing a public records exemption for personal identifying and location information of current and former municipal clerks and their staff and the personal identifying and location information of the spouses and children of such municipal clerks and their staff; providing for future legislative review and repeal of the exemption; providing for retroactive application of the exemption; providing a statement of public necessity; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (4) of section 119.071, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

119.071 General exemptions from inspection or copying of public records.—

(4) AGENCY PERSONNEL INFORMATION.—

(d)1. For purposes of this paragraph, the term:

a. "Home addresses" means the dwelling location at which an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing address, street address, parcel identification number, plot identification number, legal property description, neighborhood

name and lot number, GPS coordinates, and any other descriptive property information that may reveal the home address.

b. "Judicial assistant" means a court employee assigned to the following class codes: 8140, 8150, 8310, and 8320.

c. "Telephone numbers" includes home telephone numbers, personal cellular telephone numbers, personal pager telephone numbers, and telephone numbers associated with personal communications devices.

2.a. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of active or former sworn law enforcement personnel or of active or former civilian personnel employed by a law enforcement agency, including correctional and correctional probation officers, personnel of the Department of Children and Families whose duties include the investigation of abuse, neglect, exploitation, fraud, theft, or other criminal activities, personnel of the Department of Health whose duties are to support the investigation of child abuse or neglect, and personnel of the Department of Revenue or local governments whose responsibilities include revenue collection and enforcement or child support enforcement; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State

Constitution.

b. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative personnel of the Department of Financial Services whose duties include the investigation of fraud, theft, workers' compensation coverage requirements and compliance, other related criminal activities, or state regulatory requirement violations; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

c. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former nonsworn investigative personnel of the Office of Financial Regulation's Bureau of Financial Investigations whose duties include the investigation of fraud, theft, other related criminal activities, or state regulatory requirement violations; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

d. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth,

and photographs of current or former firefighters certified in compliance with s. 633.408; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such firefighters; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such firefighters are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

e. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of current or former justices of the Supreme Court, district court of appeal judges, circuit court judges, and county court judges and current judicial assistants; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former justices and judges and current judicial assistants; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former justices and judges and of current judicial assistants are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

f. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide

prosecutors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former state attorneys, assistant state attorneys, statewide prosecutors, or assistant statewide prosecutors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

g. The home addresses, dates of birth, and telephone numbers of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of general magistrates, special magistrates, judges of compensation claims, administrative law judges of the Division of Administrative Hearings, and child support enforcement hearing officers are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

h. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former human resource, labor relations, or employee relations directors, assistant directors, managers, or assistant managers of any local government agency or water management district whose duties include hiring and firing employees, labor contract negotiation, administration, or other personnel-related duties; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

i. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former code enforcement officers; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

j. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former guardians ad litem, as defined in s. 39.01; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such persons; and the

names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such persons are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

k. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, detention superintendents, assistant detention superintendents, juvenile justice detention officers I and II, juvenile justice detention officer supervisors, juvenile justice residential officers, juvenile justice residential officer supervisors I and II, juvenile justice counselors, juvenile justice counselor supervisors, human services counselor administrators, senior human services counselor administrators, rehabilitation therapists, and social services counselors of the Department of Juvenile Justice; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

l. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and

places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former public defenders, assistant public defenders, criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, and assistant criminal conflict and civil regional counsel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

m. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former investigators or inspectors of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such current or former investigators and inspectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such current or former investigators and inspectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

n. The home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of county tax collectors; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such tax collectors; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such tax collectors are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and

s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

o. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel of the Department of Health whose duties include, or result in, the determination or adjudication of eligibility for social security disability benefits, the investigation or prosecution of complaints filed against health care practitioners, or the inspection of health care practitioners or health care facilities licensed by the Department of Health; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

p. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former impaired practitioner consultants who are retained by an agency or current or former employees of an impaired practitioner consultant whose duties result in a determination of a person's skill and safety to practice a licensed profession; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such consultants or their employees; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such consultants or employees are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State

Constitution.

q. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former emergency medical technicians or paramedics certified under chapter 401; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such emergency medical technicians or paramedics are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

r. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former personnel employed in an agency's office of inspector general or internal audit department whose duties include auditing or investigating waste, fraud, abuse, theft, exploitation, or other activities that could lead to criminal prosecution or administrative discipline; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

s. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former directors, managers,

supervisors, nurses, and clinical employees of an addiction treatment facility; the home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. For purposes of this sub-subparagraph, the term "addiction treatment facility" means a county government, or agency thereof, that is licensed pursuant to s. 397.401 and provides substance abuse prevention, intervention, or clinical treatment, including any licensed service component described in s. 397.311(27).

t. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former directors, managers, supervisors, and clinical employees of a child advocacy center that meets the standards of s. 39.3035(2) and fulfills the screening requirement of s. 39.3035(3), and the members of a Child Protection Team as described in s. 39.303 whose duties include supporting the investigation of child abuse or sexual abuse, child abandonment, child neglect, and child exploitation or to provide services as part of a multidisciplinary case review team; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such personnel and members; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended

by the children of such personnel and members are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

u. The home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former staff and domestic violence advocates, as defined in s. 90.5036(1)(b), of domestic violence centers certified by the Department of Children and Families under chapter 39; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, places of employment, dates of birth, and photographs of the spouses and children of such personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution.

v. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former inspectors or investigators of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former inspectors or investigators; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former inspectors or investigators are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2028, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through

reenactment by the Legislature.

w. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, photographs, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current county attorneys, assistant county attorneys, deputy county attorneys, city attorneys, assistant city attorneys, and deputy city attorneys are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This exemption does not apply to a county attorney, assistant county attorney, deputy county attorney, city attorney, assistant city attorney, or deputy city attorney who qualifies as a candidate for election to public office. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

x. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former commissioners of the Florida Gaming Control Commission; the names, home addresses,

telephone numbers, dates of birth, photographs, and places of employment of the spouses and children of such current or former commissioners; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of such current or former commissioners are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

y. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current clerks of the circuit court, deputy clerks of the circuit court, and clerk of the circuit court personnel; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current clerks of the circuit court, deputy clerks of the circuit court, and clerk of the circuit court personnel; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current clerks of the circuit court, deputy clerks of the circuit court, and clerk of the circuit court personnel are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2029, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

z.(I) As used in this sub-subparagraph, the term:

(A) "Congressional member" means a person who is elected to serve as a member of the United States House of Representatives or is elected or appointed to serve as a member of the United States Senate.

(B) "Partial home address" means the dwelling location at which an individual resides and includes the physical address, mailing address, street address, parcel identification number, plot identification number, legal property description, neighborhood name and lot number, GPS coordinates, and any other descriptive property information that may reveal the partial home address, except for the city and zip code.

(C) "Public officer" means a person who holds one of the following offices: 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.

(II) The following information is exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution:

(A) The partial home addresses of a current congressional member or public officer and his or her spouse or adult child.

(B) The telephone numbers of a current congressional member or public officer and his or her spouse or adult child.

(C) The name, home addresses, telephone numbers, and date

of birth of a minor child of a current congressional member or public officer and the name and location of the school or day care facility attended by the minor child.

(III) This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2030, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

aa. The home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current or former municipal clerks and their staff, including elections filing officers, records management liaison officers, and deputy or assistant municipal clerks; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current or former municipal clerks and their staff, including elections filing officers, records management liaison officers, and deputy or assistant municipal clerks; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current or former municipal clerks and their staff, including elections filing officers, records management liaison officers, and deputy or assistant municipal clerks, are exempt from s. 119.07(1) and s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution. This sub-subparagraph is subject to the Open Government Sunset Review Act in accordance with s. 119.15 and shall stand repealed on October 2, 2031, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature.

3.a. An agency that is the custodian of the information specified in subparagraph 2. and that is not the employer of the officer, employee, justice, judge, or other person specified in subparagraph 2. must maintain the exempt status of that information only if the officer, employee, justice, judge, other person, or employing agency of the designated employee submits a written and notarized request for maintenance of the exemption to the custodial agency. The request must state under oath the statutory basis for the individual's exemption request and confirm the individual's status as a party eligible for exempt status.

b. An agency that is the custodian of information specified in sub-subparagraph 2.z. and that is not the employer of the congressional member, public officer, or other person specified in sub-subparagraph 2.z. must maintain the exempt status of that information only if an individual requests the maintenance of an exemption pursuant to sub-subparagraph 2.z. on the basis of eligibility as a current congressional member or public officer and his or her spouse or child submits, as part of the written and notarized request required by sub-subparagraph a., the date of the congressional member's or public officer's election or appointment to public office, the date on which that office is next subject to election, and, if applicable, the date on which the current congressional member's or public officer's minor child reaches the age of majority. The

custodian must maintain an exemption granted pursuant to sub-subparagraph 2.z. until the qualifying conditions for the exemption no longer apply to the person subject to the exemption.

4.a. A county property appraiser, as defined in s. 192.001(3), or a county tax collector, as defined in s. 192.001(4), who receives a written and notarized request for maintenance of the exemption pursuant to subparagraph 3. must comply by removing the name of the individual with exempt status and the instrument number or Official Records book and page number identifying the property with the exempt status from all publicly available records maintained by the property appraiser or tax collector. For written requests received on or before July 1, 2021, a county property appraiser or county tax collector must comply with this sub-subparagraph by October 1, 2021. A county property appraiser or county tax collector may not remove the street address, legal description, or other information identifying real property within the agency's records so long as a name or personal information otherwise exempt from inspection and copying pursuant to this section is not associated with the property or otherwise displayed in the public records of the agency.

b. Any information restricted from public display, inspection, or copying under sub-subparagraph a. must be provided to the individual whose information was removed.

5. An officer, an employee, a justice, a judge, or other person specified in subparagraph 2. may submit a written request for the release of his or her exempt information to the custodial agency. The written request must be notarized and must specify the information to be released and the party authorized to receive the information. Upon receipt of the written request, the custodial agency must release the specified information to the party authorized to receive such information.

6. The exemptions in this paragraph apply to information held by an agency before, on, or after the effective date of the exemption.

7. Information made exempt under this paragraph may be disclosed pursuant to s. 28.2221 to a title insurer authorized pursuant to s. 624.401 and its affiliates as defined in s. 624.10; a title insurance agent or title insurance agency as defined in s. 626.841(1) or (2), respectively; or an attorney duly admitted to practice law in this state and in good standing with The Florida Bar.

8. The exempt status of a home address contained in the Official Records is maintained only during the period when a protected party resides at the dwelling location. Upon conveyance of real property after October 1, 2021, and when such real property no longer constitutes a protected party's home address as defined in sub-subparagraph 1.a., the protected party must submit a written request to release the removed information

to the county recorder. The written request to release the removed information must be notarized, must confirm that a protected party's request for release is pursuant to a conveyance of his or her dwelling location, and must specify the Official Records book and page, instrument number, or clerk's file number for each document containing the information to be released.

9. Upon the death of a protected party as verified by a certified copy of a death certificate or court order, any party can request the county recorder to release a protected decedent's removed information unless there is a related request on file with the county recorder for continued removal of the decedent's information or unless such removal is otherwise prohibited by statute or by court order. The written request to release the removed information upon the death of a protected party must attach the certified copy of a death certificate or court order and must be notarized, must confirm the request for release is due to the death of a protected party, and must specify the Official Records book and page number, instrument number, or clerk's file number for each document containing the information to be released. A fee may not be charged for the release of any document pursuant to such request.

Section 2. The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that the home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and photographs of current and former municipal clerks

and their staff, including elections filing officers, records management liaison officers, and deputy or assistant municipal clerks; the names, home addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, and places of employment of the spouses and children of current and former municipal clerks and their staff, including elections filing officers, records management liaison officers, and deputy or assistant municipal clerks; and the names and locations of schools and day care facilities attended by the children of current and former municipal clerks and their staff, including elections filing officers, records management liaison officers, and deputy or assistant municipal clerks, be made exempt from s. 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and s. 24(a), Article I of the State Constitution. Municipal clerks and their staff often handle sensitive information and perform critical administrative functions. Many municipal staff members who perform duties that include, or result in, investigations into complaints regarding election fraud, legal enforcement of special magistrate hearings related to neglect or abuse, or other activities that could lead to a criminal prosecution are exposed to threats and other acts of violence. Protecting their personal information is essential to ensure their safety. The Legislature further finds that the harm that may result from the release of such personal identifying and location information outweighs any public benefit that may be derived from the disclosure of the information.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.



Key Dates

FLC
FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

2026 - 2027 Key Legislative Dates

November 2026

13	FLC Legislative Policy Committee Meetings (Round 2), Hilton Orlando, 6001 Destination Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32819
17	Florida House and Senate Organization Session
18-21	NLC City Summit, Nashville, TN
30-Dec. 3	Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings

December 2026

3-4	FLC Legislative Conference, Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld, 6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821 (Round 3 of Legislative Policy Committees will be on Dec. 3)

January 2027

4-7	Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings
11-14	Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings

February 2027

1-4	Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings
8-11	Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings
15-18	Florida House and Senate Interim Committee Meetings
23	FLC Legislative Session Preview Webinar, 2:00 p.m. ET

March 2027

2	Regular Legislative Session Convenes
8-10	FLC Legislative Action Days, Tallahassee, FL
15-17	NLC Congressional City Conference, Washington, DC

April 2027

30	Last Day of Regular Legislative Session

May 2027

5	FLC Legislative Session Review Webinar, 2:00 p.m. ET

For further details about the mentioned events or legislative information, contact *medenfield@flcities.com*.



Notes



Notes