



WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE

2026 Florida Legislative Session

Hello to my fellow Venice Area Chamber of Commerce members and friends,

January 13th marked the first day of the Florida 2026 legislative session – with even numbered years being election years in the State of Florida so the annual legislative session is moved about two months earlier than in odd numbered years when it begins in March. With week two of Florida’s 2026 Legislative Session already finished, activity in Tallahassee is picking up quickly. Florida’s Legislature meets for 60 days each year in Tallahassee, with 120 members in the House of Representatives and 40 members in the Senate. With more than 1,700 bills filed so far this session and hundreds already being heard in committees, lawmakers are beginning to shape the policy priorities that could impact businesses, local governments, and communities across our state.

Below are several bills that saw meaningful movement this week and may be of interest to the business community.

SB 482 – Artificial Intelligence and Consumer Protections

This bill passed unanimously in its first Senate committee and proposes new requirements for companies offering AI-based services, including disclosure requirements and safeguards related to personal data and minors. The legislation reflects growing statewide and national attention on artificial intelligence and consumer protection, and it is expected to continue advancing through the process.

Bill link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/482>

SB 484 – Data Centers

This bill advanced through committee and establishes a regulatory framework for data centers in Florida. It addresses local land-use authority, energy costs, and water resource considerations, while seeking to balance economic development with community impacts. With Florida continuing to attract large-scale technology infrastructure, this issue is likely to remain a topic of discussion throughout the session.

Bill link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/484>

HB 803 / SB 1234 – Building Permits and Inspections

These companion bills moved forward in House and Senate committees and aim to streamline the permitting process by creating uniform applications, reducing duplicative inspections, and easing requirements for minor projects. The legislation is intended to improve predictability and efficiency in construction and development—an issue frequently raised by both local governments and the business community.

House bill link: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=803>

Senate bill link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/1234>



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SB 548 – Growth Management and Impact Fees

This bill passed a Senate committee and seeks to clarify how local governments calculate impact fees by defining what qualifies as “extraordinary circumstances.” The goal is to ensure impact fees are tied to measurable infrastructure needs and applied consistently, which could influence future development costs and planning decisions.

Bill link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/548>

HB 103 – Local Business Taxes

This bill advanced in the House and proposes eliminating the local business tax. Supporters argue the change would reduce costs for small businesses and encourage reinvestment in employees and operations. The bill will continue to move through the legislative process as lawmakers evaluate its fiscal and economic impact.

Bill link: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=103>

SB 1076 – Research and Development Tax Credit

This bill passed its first Senate committee and proposes increasing the cap on Florida’s research and development tax credit program. The intent is to strengthen Florida’s competitiveness in innovation-driven industries and support the growth of high-wage jobs.

Bill link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/1076>

SB 692 / HB 635 – Cybersecurity Standards and Liability

These bills advanced in the House and are scheduled for further Senate consideration. They encourage organizations to adopt strong cybersecurity programs by offering liability protections when certain standards are met, reflecting the increasing importance of data security for both public and private entities.

Senate bill link: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/692>

House bill link: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=635>

As always, this update is intended to provide a high-level overview of legislative activity that may be relevant to our Chamber members and local business community. The legislative process moves quickly, and bills often change significantly as they move through committees and floor votes.

If there are specific industries or issues you would like me to track more closely this session, please feel free to reach out. I look forward to sharing another update next week as the session continues to unfold.

Thank you for reading,
Justin Taylor