



WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE

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

My name is Justin Taylor, and I'm sharing our Week 3 Weekly Tallahassee Update for the 2026 Florida Legislative Session.

As a reminder, Florida's Regular Legislative Session is a 60-day session held annually in Tallahassee. The Florida Legislature is made up of 120 members of the House of Representatives and 40 members of the Florida Senate. As of the end of last week, lawmakers are now roughly one-third of the way through the 2026 session. With more than 1,700 bills filed and committees meeting daily, activity continues to pick up quickly.

As always, these weekly updates are intended to be non-opinionated and non-political, and to keep VACC members informed on business-relevant legislation that is moving through the process. Please keep in mind that by the time this update is drafted and read, some bills may have advanced, changed, or stalled.

Below are several items from Week 3 that align with the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce's 2026 legislative priorities.

SB 634 – Rates for Citizens Property Insurance Corporation

This bill continues the Legislature's focus on stabilizing Florida's property insurance market by reinforcing actuarially sound rates for Citizens Property Insurance and maintaining its role as the insurer of last resort. While no floor action has occurred yet, insurance-related bills continue to move through committees and remain a major focus of the session as lawmakers try to balance affordability, competition, and long-term market stability.

Bill link: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/634>

HB 103 – Local Business Taxes

This House bill proposes eliminating the local business tax. Supporters argue that removing this recurring cost would allow businesses to reinvest those dollars into employees, expansion, or operations. The bill remains active in committee and ties directly to the Chamber's priority of reducing costs for local businesses.

Bill link: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=82627&SessionId=113>

HB 405 – Commercial Construction Projects

This legislation is aimed at improving predictability and efficiency in the permitting process for commercial construction projects. HB 405 establishes a statewide uniform permit application and limits certain local fees when private provider services are used. Last week, the bill passed the House Commerce Committee unanimously and is now ready for consideration on the House floor.

Bill link: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=82975&SessionId=113>



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SB 48 – Housing

As part of the ongoing discussion around workforce housing and implementation of “Live Local” policies, SB 48 would require local governments to adopt ordinances allowing accessory dwelling units in single-family residential areas. The bill passed the Senate Rules Committee unanimously last week and is now ready for a vote on the Senate floor. Lawmakers continue to evaluate how these policies interact with local planning authority and workforce housing needs.

Bill link: <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2026/48>

SB 1076 – Research and Development Tax Credit

This bill focuses on economic development by proposing an increase to Florida’s research and development tax credit cap. The goal is to attract innovation-driven businesses and support the creation of high-wage jobs. While no floor action occurred in Week 3, the bill remains part of the broader workforce and economic development conversation this session.

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

HB 483 – Manufacturing

HB 483 would create a Statewide Office of Manufacturing within the Department of Commerce and establish a coordinated manufacturing strategy for Florida. The bill also includes a promotional component aimed at increasing awareness of products made in Florida. Last week, the bill passed the House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee unanimously.

Bill link: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=83075&SessionId=113>

HB 751 – Infrastructure and Resiliency

This bill would expand eligibility for public-private partnerships to include certain coastal resiliency projects. Although no action was taken during Week 3, infrastructure and resiliency issues remain important for coastal communities like Venice and are expected to be part of the broader budget and policy discussions later in session.

Bill link: <https://www.flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=83384&SessionId=113>

SB 1396 – Litigation Financing

This bill addresses third-party litigation financing by creating additional transparency requirements and limiting the ability of litigation funders to influence civil cases. SB 1396 passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last week and is scheduled for consideration by the Senate Rules Committee. Legal climate and litigation issues continue to be closely watched by the business community.



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At this time, there were no Venice- or Sarasota County-specific local bills highlighted as moving during Week 3, but I will continue monitoring the local delegation's legislation as the session progresses.

If there are industry-specific topics or pieces of legislation you would like me to prioritize or track more closely, please feel free to reach out through the Chamber.

Thank you for reading, and I look forward to providing another update in next week's Monday email blast.

Justin Taylor