

## WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



By the end of day tomorrow, there will only be five full weeks left in the 2025 Florida Legislative Session. Reaching this point in the legislative sessions typically means bills that haven't been heard yet in committee probably won't make it to ever be heard on the floor, making them presumably "dead" unless they are incorporated into other legislation or get recycled for a future regular or special legislative session.

Here's some movement from the past week in our State's Capitol:

**HB 369 Provenance of Digital Content** sponsored by Representative McFarland unanimously passed the House Information Technology Budget and Policy Subcommittee and now heads to the Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee. The bill focuses on the origination of digital content created by generative AI. The bill, if passed, includes provisions that will require certain disclosures to consumers if generative AI is being used.

**HB 301: Suits Against the Government** sponsored by Representative McFarland passed favorably through the House Budget Committee 25 to 3. This bill aims to increase the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the State of Florida by raising the existing caps on civil lawsuits awards against government entities from \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident to \$1 million per person and \$3 million per incident. The bill also includes language that would allow a governmental entity in Florida to "settle a judgment exceeding these caps without requiring a claims bill". The Florida Chamber hasn't expressed opposition to this bill but has expressed concerns that this legislation may drive up litigation costs against the government at the expense of the taxpayers.

**HB 1551: Attorney Fee Awards in Insurance Actions** sponsored by Representative Cassel, passed 15 to 1 through the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee. The Florida Chamber opposes this bill because they view this piece of legislation as undoing the efforts by the 2022 and 2023 legislation that sought to stabilize Florida's insurance market. The new legislation will "essentially reinstate the one-way attorney's fees in insurance cases" which can lead to higher insurance premiums and less availability of carriers in the State. Since the 2022 and 2023 legislation was passed, 11 new homeowners' insurers have entered Florida's market.

**SB 110: Rural Communities** sponsored by Simon and referred to as "Florida's Rural Renaissance" unanimously passed the Florida Senate with a 39-0 vote. As a top priority of Senate President Albritton, this legislation aims to "address the unique challenges rural communities face, supporting economic development and infrastructure investment." The bill also includes details to improve access to essential services including education, workforce development, broadband, and healthcare in rural areas. A new agency will be formed named the Office of Rural Prosperity as the point of contact to help stakeholders in rural areas navigate the available programs the State of Florida offers.

The House companion bill, **HB 1427 Rural Communities** sponsored by Representative Griff Griffiths, Jr., has been favorably approved by the Commerce Committee and is now waiting to be heard in the Health and Human Services Committee.

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**HB 1367 School Attendance** sponsored by Representative Booth passed favorably through the Education Administration Subcommittee and the PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee and now heads to the Education and Employment Committee. Studies show that students with a 10% increase in absenteeism correlates with a 6.8% decrease in math proficiency. This bill aims to address chronic absenteeism in students, which are students missing more than 10% of the scheduled class time throughout the year.

**HB 1113 Mathematics Education Requirements** sponsored by Representative Valdes has passed favorably through the Student Academic Success Subcommittee and has been referred to the Careers and Workforce Subcommittee. This bill seeks to "strengthen mathematics education by enhancing teacher preparation and certification... based on findings that Florida students, particularly in rural areas, are underperforming in math."

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/369>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/301>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1551>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/110>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1427>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1367>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1367/?Tab=Analyses>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1113>

**Justin Taylor**

Public Policy Chair

Sources:

[www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

[www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

[www.flchamber.com](http://www.flchamber.com)