



OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Date: July 1, 2025

Re: 2025 Florida Legislature End-of-Session Report

The information compiled was provided by Miami-Dade's County Attorney's Office, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the contract lobbyists.

The sections are broken down as follows: Section A addresses Miami-Dade County Priorities as set by the Board of County Commissioners and other issues of significance; Sections B through F address issues in various policy areas.

**A. Miami-Dade Priorities & Other Key Issues**

1. **SB 1664; HB 1221: Sunset, Referendum in 2033/Sunset Transit, Jackson Half Pennies/Tourist Development Tax/Domestic Violence, Homeless Food and Beverage Tax – DIED –** HB 1221 by Representative Monique Miller (R - Palm Bay) died in messages to the Senate, and the Senate companion bill, SB 1664 by Senator Jay Trumbull (R - Panama City) died on the Senate floor calendar.

As it relates to discretionary sales surtaxes, HB 1221 would have provided express authority for a levying local government (the board of county commissioners or the school board) of any discretionary sales surtax to reduce or repeal such surtax with a two-thirds vote of the board, beginning four years after a surtax is levied. The reduced rate can be any lower rate otherwise allowable under the applicable statutory provision. A reduced or repealed rate is effective on the January 1 following the board's vote, or on any subsequent January 1 as provided by the board.

As it relates to tourist development taxes (TDTs), HB 1221 would have:

- a. Provided that, beginning July 1, 2025, all TDT revenues are available to counties to complete any project under way as of July 1, 2025, to perform any contract in existence on January 1, 2025, or to service any bonds or other

- indebtedness pledged or assigned before July 1, 2025, pursuant to the restrictions that exist currently. Tax revenues received and not needed for projects, contracts, or debt service shall be known as “adjusted collections”. Any adjusted collections not required to be used to provide ad valorem tax relief pursuant to the tax credit provision below may be used for any public purpose, including, but not limited to, pledging such revenues for the repayment of current or future bonded indebtedness.
- b. Provided that, beginning in 2026, each county shall reduce its ad valorem tax levy by an amount equal to at least 75 percent of the adjusted collections from the prior state fiscal year. Such reduction shall be through a credit against county ad valorem taxes applied to property tax bills. The credit on bills may either be proportionate shares of the TDT collections for all county taxpayers, or can be allocated among certain categories of taxpayers according to an ordinance adopted by the board of county commissioners;
  - c. Required the Auditor General to contact each local government which is not in compliance with the above tax credit provision and request evidence of corrective action, and requires a local government’s audit of financial statements to be accompanied by an affidavit executed by the chair of the governing board of the local government stating that the local government has complied with such tax credit provision;
  - d. Provided that all tourist development councils are dissolved December 31, 2025; and
  - e. Dissolved all county tourism promotion agencies but provides that such agencies may continue if affirmatively extended by resolution of the board of county commissioners on or before December 31, 2025.

The TDT language in HB 1221 also at one time appeared in the House tax package, HB 7033, but was not included in the final tax package.

Additionally, HB 1221 would have provided an eight-year limitation for the imposition of the local option food and beverage tax under section 212.0306, Florida Statutes, relating to domestic violence and homeless services. An ordinance levying such a tax may be reenacted for subsequent eight-year periods if approved in a referendum. HB 1221 no longer included language requiring the sunset and referendum on the transit and hospital half pennies starting in 2033 and every eight years thereafter.

HB 1221 differed substantially from the Senate companion bill, SB 1664, as relating to TDTs and discretionary sales surtaxes.

SB 1664 would have required that any local discretionary sales surtax or TDT that must be enacted by a referendum and is in effect on June 30, 2025 must be renewed on or before January 1, 2033 or the expiration date for the tax, whichever is later. The bill provided similar requirements for a tax approved by voters, but not yet levied. The bill required a tax to have an expiration date.

If local discretionary sales surtax or TDT levies are pledged for debt service, the levy may continue until the debt is retired and the levy will be subject to renewal the following January 1st. Additionally, an ordinance must specify certain information about the indebtedness.

SB 1664 also would have provided requirements for the local option food and beverage tax. A tax levied and in effect on June 30, 2025, must be reenacted by an ordinance approved in a referendum on or before January 1, 2033, or the expiration date for the tax as of June 30, 2025, whichever is later. The bill provided that such a tax must have an expiration date.

Miami-Dade County currently imposes taxes that would have been significantly impacted by SB 1664, including the transit and Jackson Memorial Hospital half penny sales surtaxes, which each generate more than \$360 million a year, as well as TDTs and the food and beverage tax for domestic violence and homeless services.

2. **HB 7031: Tax Package – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 7031, which is the tax package. The bill contains provisions for tax relief and changes to tax policy, and has fiscal impacts on the state, Miami-Dade County, and other local governments.

Specifically, HB 7031:

- A. **Business rent tax** - Repeals the business rent tax beginning October 1, 2025.
- B. **Documentary Stamp Tax Revenues/New Starts Transit Program/Florida Rail Enterprise/State Housing Trust Fund** - Revises the distribution from documentary stamp tax revenues to Reduce the funds distributed to the Florida Department of Transportation, Eliminate the \$150 million distribution to the State Housing Trust Fund, Apply the state general revenue service charge to all taxes collected.
- C. **Aviation fuel tax** - Repeals the aviation fuel tax with a delayed effective date beginning January 1, 2026 and delays the imposition of the tax on natural gas fuel to January 1, 2030.
- D. **Sales tax** - Provides for a permanent Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday, occurring for the entire month of August each year.
  - a. Provides permanent sale tax exemptions for the following items:
    - i. AA-cell, AAA-cell, C-cell, D-cell, 6-volt, or 9-volt batteries (\$58.5 million state impact).
    - ii. Fire extinguishers, smoke detectors or smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide detectors (\$12.5 million state impact).

- iii. Certain portable generators (\$6.2 million state impact).
  - iv. Waterproof tarpaulins and other flexible waterproof sheeting 1,000 square feet or less (\$14.4 million state impact).
  - v. Ground anchor systems and tie-down kits, five gallon or less gas or diesel fuel cans (\$22.3 million state impact).
  - vi. All bicycle helmets (currently only youth helmets are exempt) (\$1.8 million state impact).
  - vii. Life jackets (\$1.4 million state impact)
  - viii. Sunscreen and insect repellent (\$8 million state impact).
  - ix. Admission to Florida State Parks (\$2 million state impact).
  - x. Exempts all sales of gold, silver, and platinum bullion (currently sales with price below \$500 are taxable) (\$1.6 million state impact).
  - xi. Exempts NASCAR Championship Race tickets from the tax on admissions (no state impact estimate).
  - b. A one-time hunting, fishing, and camping sales tax holiday from September 8, 2025 through December 31, 2025
  - c. Extends the timeframe for a data center sales tax exemption certificate to be issued from ending on June 30, 2027, to June 30, 2037
- E. Property taxes/Affordable Housing/VAB – VETOED - Directs the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) to conduct a study of the state's property tax system and provide a report and recommendations to the Legislature by November 1, 2025
- F. Other local taxes/communications services tax/permit applications for use of rights-of-way/tourist development tax/enterprise zones - Extends the current freeze on rate increases for local communications services tax (CST) from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2031.
- G. Pari-mutuel taxes - Reduces the cardroom tax rate from 10 percent to 8 percent, clarifies the live racing requirements for the 0.5 percent applicable tax rate on handle for intertrack wagering and eliminates the slot machine licensing fee for thoroughbred permitholders.
- H. Tax credit programs - Creates the Home Away from Home Tax Credit program to provide \$13 million in annual tax credits to Florida businesses that contribute to charitable organizations that house families of critically ill children at little or no cost to the family while traveling so the child can receive care.
- I. Changes to distributions of tax revenues/beverage tax - Increases the amount of beverage tax distributions made to University of Miami Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (\$10 million to \$20 million total)
- J. Corporate income tax - Exempts charitable trusts.

3. **SB 1570; HB 301: Suits Against the Government/Sovereign Immunity Caps/Claims Bills/Statute of Limitations/Fiscal Impact – DIED** – HB 301 by Representative Fiona McFarland (R – Sarasota) passed the House, but died in messages to the Senate, and the Senate companion bill, SB 1570 by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R – St. Petersburg), died in committee.

HB 301 would have revised the sovereign immunity caps and increased the statutory limits on liability for tort claims against the state, its agencies, counties, cities, universities, colleges, and school districts from \$200,000 to \$500,000 for individual claims occurring after October 1, 2025 (and to \$600,000 for a cause of action accrued on or after October 1, 2030), and from \$300,000 to \$1 million for multiple claims or judgments (and to \$1.1 million for a cause of action accrued on or after October 1, 2030). HB 301 would also have allowed local government entities to settle a claim in excess of the caps without further action by the Florida Legislature through a claim bill.

HB 301 would have likely had a significant and recurring fiscal impact on Miami-Dade County, estimated at between \$15-\$26 million annually by County risk management, and would also have likely had a significant recurring fiscal impact on the Public Health Trust, the state, cities, school districts, and colleges and universities. This fiscal impact was avoided by HB 301 (and SB 1570) not passing this session.

4. **SB 1822; HB 1609; SB 1008; HB 565; SB 946; HB 1199: Waste Incineration/Siting of Solid Waste Facilities/Auxiliary Containers/Single-Use Plastics/Preemption – DIED** – HB 1609 by Representatives Meg Weinberger (R – Royal Palm Beach) and David Borrero (R – Doral) re: waste incinerator siting preemption, auxiliary container/plastics preemption and landfills died in the closing days of the session. Several times, the House removed from the bill the auxiliary container preemption and the Senate put it back in. In the end, the bill died in returning messages from the Senate to the House.

#### Waste-to-Energy Facilities

HB 1609 would have prohibited the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and local governments from issuing a construction permit pursuant to this section for a new solid waste disposal facility that uses an ash-producing incinerator or for a waste-to-energy facility, if the proposed location of such facility is sited within a 1-mile radius of any school or any property zoned for residential use within that same county which has a density of one or more dwelling units per acre. The 1-mile radius must be measured from the stack of the facility. This provision would have applied only to a class of counties that currently includes only Miami-Dade County.

#### Auxiliary Containers

The House several times removed the auxiliary container provisions from HB 1609, and the Senate reinserted these provisions. The final Senate version of HB 1609 would have grandfathered local ordinances enacted before January 1, 2016 regulating polystyrene products, and would not have limited the authority of a local government to restrict the use of polystyrene by individuals on public property, temporary vendors on public property, or entities engaged in a contractual relationship with the local government for the provision of goods or services, unless such use is otherwise preempted by law.

The bill would have defined “auxiliary containers” as a reusable or single-use bag, cup, bottle, can, or other packaging that is:

- a. Made of cloth; paper; plastic, including, but not limited to, foamed plastic, expanded plastic, or polystyrene; cardboard; corrugated material; molded fiber; aluminum; glass; postconsumer recycled material; or similar material or substrates, including coated, laminated, or multilayer substrates; and
- b. Designed for transporting, consuming, or protecting merchandise, food, or beverages from or at a public food service establishment, a food establishment, or a retailer, as defined by Florida law.

The bill also would have removed a provision requiring the DEP to review and update its 2010 retail bags report that analyzed the need for new or different regulation of auxiliary containers, wrappings, or disposable plastic bags.

The bill would have provided that rules, regulations, or ordinances restricting the use of glass auxiliary containers within the boundaries of any public beach are explicitly permitted and would have allowed the Division of Recreation and Parks within DEP to regulate auxiliary containers within state parks.

### Landfills

The final version of HB 1609 would have revised the landfill language that the House passed earlier in the week to provide that a county with a population of 1.7 million or greater (Miami-Dade and Broward Counties), or a municipality located in such county, may not issue a construction permit pursuant to this section for the expansion of any existing landfill that is located within a 1-mile radius of any property zoned residential unless the following requirements are met (remediation language had been removed):

- a. A feasibility study is conducted before the permit is issued that:
  1. Identifies potential alternatives to expanding the landfill, such as waste-to-energy technologies and processes that reduce landfill dependence and greenhouse gas emissions including, but not limited to, anaerobic digestion, plasma arc technology, and mixed waste processing.

2. Evaluates the financial costs of using such technologies and processes and the benefits of local siting and government ownership.
  3. Evaluates the technical feasibility of expansion, considering engineering requirements, infrastructure needs, technological advancements, and regulatory compliance.
  4. Evaluates relevant and appropriate data and analyses, such as surveys, studies, community goals and vision, and data used in preparation of the comprehensive plan, from professionally accepted sources.
  5. Identifies and evaluates potential risks and challenges associated with the project.
- b. The county or municipality holds a public meeting to review and discuss the results of the feasibility study and 156 provides a rationale for expanding the landfill.

**5. SB 866; HB 481: Anchoring Limitation Areas/Biscayne Bay – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law HB 481 by Representative Vicki L. Lopez (R – Miami), effective immediately.

HB 481 provides a new exception to the state's preemption of local government regulations with respect to vessels anchoring outside the marked boundaries of mooring fields. The bill allows local governments to regulate vessels that:

- a. Remain anchored overnight for a period of at least 1 hour, any time between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise;
- b. Within the jurisdiction of a county with a population of 1.5 million or more; and
- c. Do so for more than 30 days in a 6 month period, excluding any time the vessel is anchored overnight within the boundaries of a marked mooring field or any time the vessel is anchored overnight for the purpose of completing permitted marine construction, installation, or maintenance work.

This new exception to the preemption would be in addition to the exception to the preemption codified in section 327.4108(2), Florida Statutes.

Additionally, HB 481 designates as additional anchoring limitation areas where overnight anchoring is prohibited the sections of Biscayne Bay lying between:

- a. Palm Island and Star Island;
- b. Palm Island and Hibiscus Island;
- c. Palm Island and Watson Island;
- d. The Sunset Islands; and
- e. Sunset Island I and State Road 112.

HB 481 also increases the prohibited distance for anchoring or mooring of vessels or floating structures near public mooring fields from 100 feet to 300 feet, with a potential for lesser distances approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission upon local government request.

*This was the subject of Resolution No. R-312-25.*

**6. SB 918; HB 1225: Living Wage Preemption/Employment of Minors – DIED –**

HB 1225 by Representative Monique Miller (R - Palm Bay) died in messages to the Senate, and the Senate companion bill, SB 918 by Senator Jay Collins (R – Tampa), died in committee.

HB 1225 would have advanced the preemption date relating to Florida's wage and employment benefits law, including Miami-Dade County's living wage ordinance. Specifically, during the 2024 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature passed HB 433, which provided that a political subdivision may not, through its purchasing or contracting procedures, seek to control or affect the wages or employment benefits provided by its vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with the political subdivision. HB 433 also would have prohibited political subdivisions from awarding preferences to bidders based on the wages or employment benefits provided by vendors, contractors, service providers, or other parties doing business with the political subdivision.

HB 433 included a delayed implementation date of September 30, 2026, and the legislation specified that it did not impair contracts entered into before September 30, 2026. HB 1225 changed both the implementation date of the 2024 legislation, and the impairment of contracts date, to September 30, 2025—in other words, from next year to this year. This provision would have affected the Miami-Dade County living wage ordinance.

HB 1225 also would have revised provisions in Florida's Child Labor Law as follows:

- a. Allowed minors to work beginning the summer vacation of the calendar year in which they turn 14 years of age (in some cases 13 year olds);
- b. Revised prohibition on minors 16 and 17 years of age from working after 11 p.m. to instead prohibit them from working after 10 p.m.; and
- c. Removed the following restrictions on hours of work for minors 16 and 17 years of age:
  - Working for more than 8 hours in a day, when school is scheduled the following day, except on a holiday or Sunday;
  - Working more than 30 hours in any one week when school is in session, which can be waived by a minor's parent or custodian, or the school superintendent or his or her designee;



- On any school day, minors 16 and 17 years of age who are not enrolled in a career education program may not be gainfully employed during school hours; and
- Working more than eight hours a day without a 30-minute break.
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The bill would have allowed, unless otherwise required by federal law, minors 14 and 15 years-of-age to work without Florida's current restrictions: (1) if they have graduated from high school or received a high school equivalent diploma; and (2) if they are enrolled in a home education, or virtual instruction program in which the minor is separated from the teacher by time only. The bill would have revised the exemption from employment restrictions for minors who hold a valid certificate of exemption issued by the school superintendent to specify that this exemption only applies to minors 14 and 15 years of age. The bill revised the exemption from employment restrictions for all minors who qualify on a hardship basis to specify they must be enrolled in a "public" education institution.

**7. HB 11: Municipal Water and Sewer Utility Surcharges – VETOED –** The Governor vetoed HB 11 by Representative Felicia Simone Robinson (D – Miami Gardens).

HB 11 would have created an exception to the maximum surcharges that municipalities may charge municipal water and sewer utility customers that are outside of the municipality's boundaries under Florida law. The bill would have provided that if a municipality's utility provides water or sewer services to customers in another municipality from a facility in that other municipality, then the municipality must charge the customers within the other municipality the same rates, fees, and charges as the customers within its own municipal boundaries.

The bill additionally would have provided the following definitions:

- a. "Facility" means a water treatment facility, wastewater treatment facility, intake station, pumping station, well, and other physical components of a water or wastewater system. The term "facility" in the bill does not include facilities that transport water from the point of entry to a wastewater treatment facility, or from a water source or treatment facility to the customer.
- b. "Wastewater treatment facility" means a facility that accepts and treats domestic or industrial wastewater.
- c. "Water treatment facility" means a facility within a water system which can alter the physical, chemical, or bacteriological quality of water.

The provisions of the bill would have applied to municipalities located within a class of counties that includes only Miami-Dade County.

*This was included in the 2025 State Legislative Priorities Package.*

**8. HB 913: Condominium Associations/Senate, Condominium Packages/Structural Integrity Reserve Study/Milestone Inspections/Department of Business and Professional Regulation – SIGNED**  
\_ The Governor signed into law HB 913 by Representative Vicki Lopez (R – Miami), which is the omnibus condominium package, effective July 1, 2025.

The final version of HB 913 includes provisions that provide greater financial flexibility to condominium associations. It increases the monetary threshold for reserve items from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and provides for annual increases in the threshold amount for inflation.

In addition, for condominium association budgets adopted on or before December 31, 2028, HB 913:

- a. Allows condominium associations to temporarily pause or reduce reserve contributions for no more than two consecutive annual budgets, upon a vote of a majority of the total voting interests, to fund needed repairs recommended by the milestone inspection. If an association pauses or reduces reserving funding, it must perform a structural integrity reserve study (SIRS) before continuing reserve contribution to determine the association's reserve funding needs and to recommend a reserve funding plan;
- b. Allows associations that have completed the required milestone inspection to delay the SIRS for the two consecutive budget years following a milestone inspection to prioritize funding for repairs and maintenance required by the milestone inspection;
- c. Allows an association that is required to have a SIRS, with the approval of a majority of the voting interests of the association, to fund reserves by a special assessment, a line of credit, or loan, but an association that is controlled by a developer or one or more bulk assignees or bulk buyers is exempt from this provision; and
- d. Allows condominium boards to pause reserve funding without unit owner approval when the condominium building is declared uninhabitable by the local building official. Current law requires a vote of the members to pause reserves if the building has been declared uninhabitable.

The final version of HB 913 does not include a provision that appeared in prior versions of the bill prohibiting Citizens Property Insurance Corporation from issuing or renewing a policy for a unit owner or a condominium association unless the association has completed a milestone inspection and a SIRS. It extends the deadline by which associations must complete a required SIRS from December 31, 2024, to December 31, 2025.

The final version of HB 913 requires local enforcement agencies, on or before October 1, 2025, to report to the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) information regarding inspections, including the number of buildings inspected, and a list of building that have been deemed unsafe or

uninhabitable. It also requires boards of county commissioners and city commissions to adopt an ordinance requiring that a condominium or cooperative association and any other owner that is subject to a milestone inspection requirement to commence repairs within a specified timeframe, but no later than within 365 days after a phase two report is received.

*This was the subject of Resolution Nos. R-780-24 and R-993-24*

**9. HB 393: My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program, Hurricane Resistance – SIGNED -** The Governor signed into law HB 393 by Representatives Vicki L. Lopez (R – Miami), effective immediately.

HB 393 revises eligibility and requirements for the My Safe Florida Condominium Pilot Program (“Program”) relating to grants and improvements to condominiums for hurricane resistance as follows:

- a. Excludes detached units on individual parcels of land from the definition of “condominium”.
- b. Limits participation in the Program to structures or buildings on the condominium property that are three or more stories in height and contain at least two single-family dwellings.
- c. Prohibits an association application for an inspection or mitigation grant unless the windows of the subject property are established as common elements in the declaration and the association has complied with the inspection requirements under Florida law.
- d. Requires approval of at least 75 percent of all unit owners who reside within the structure or building that is the subject of the mitigation grant, rather than a unanimous vote of all unit owners.
- e. Eliminates the restrictions that limit grant contributions to: (i) For a roof-related project, \$11 per square foot multiplied by the roof’s square footage, not to exceed \$1,000 per unit, with a maximum grant award of 50 percent of the project’s cost; (ii) On an opening protection-related project, a maximum grant award of \$750 per window or door, not to exceed \$1,500 per unit, with a maximum grant award of 50 percent of the project’s cost.
- f. Specifies the roof mitigation techniques that may receive a grant award.
- g. Requires that the improvements must be verified during the final hurricane mitigation inspection to qualify for grant funds.
- h. Provides that grant funds may only be used for water intrusion mitigation devices or mitigation improvements that will result in an insurance premium mitigation credit, discount, or other rate differential for the building or structure to which such device or improvement is applied or made.
- i. Requires that it is a condition of awarding a grant that mitigation improvements be made to all openings if doing so is necessary for the building or structure to qualify for a mitigation credit, discount, or other rate differential.

**10. SB 700: Fluoride/Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Package – SIGNED -** the Governor signed into law SB 700 by Senator Keith Truenow (R – Tavares), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 700 is the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services package that includes the fluoride provision prohibiting the use of fluoride or any other chemical additive or substance in a public water system which does not meet the definition of a water quality additive for the purpose of: (1) meeting or surpassing primary or secondary drinking water standards; (2) preventing, reducing, or removing contaminants; or (3) improving water quality.

SB 700 also grants DACS rulemaking authority to prohibit the sale of plant-based products such as soy milk as milk, meat, poultry, or poultry products in Florida.

SB 700 addresses numerous other issues related to agriculture or under the jurisdiction of DACS. Specifically, the bill:

- a. Prohibits local governments from adopting or enforcing any regulation that inhibits the construction of housing for legally verified agricultural workers and provides requirements for such housing.
- b. Prohibits local governments from restricting any activities of public educational facilities and auxiliary facilities constructed by a board for agricultural education, for Future Farmers of America or 4-H activities, or the storage of any animals or equipment therein.
- c. Provides it is unlawful to transport, import, sell, offer for sale, furnish, or give away spores or mycelium capable of producing mushrooms or other material which will contain a controlled substance, including psilocybin or psilocyn, during its lifecycle.
- d. Permits DACS to adopt rules for protecting public health, safety, and welfare to establish standards for the placement, design, installation, maintenance, and operation of electric vehicle charging stations.
- e. Requires any land acquired by an electric utility which has been classified as agricultural lands at any time in the five years preceding the acquisition of the land by the electric utility to be offered for fee simple acquisition by DACS before the land is offered for sale or transferred to a private individual or entity.
- f. Prohibits the use of drones on agricultural lands by unauthorized individuals and further enhances property owners' protections against harassment from drones.
- g. Permits DACS to provide pest control certificate examinations in person and remotely through a third-party vendor.
- h. Creates the Honest Service Registry to provide the residents of this state with the information necessary to make an informed choice when deciding

which charitable organizations to support. To be included on the registry, a charitable organization may not solicit or accept contributions, funding, support, or services from a foreign source of concern and the organization's messaging and content may not be produced or influenced by a foreign source of concern.

- i. Creates an annual petroleum registration program for petroleum owners or operators that own and operate vehicles for transporting petroleum products and permits DACS to adopt rules detailing the requirements for such registration.
- j. Creates the Florida Retail Fuel Transfer Switch Modernization Grant Program.
- k. Establishes the Florida Aquaculture Foundation as a direct-support organization to conduct programs and activities related to the assistance, promotion, and furtherance of aquaculture and aquaculture producers and to identify and pursue methods to provide statewide resources and materials for these programs.
- l. Creates the Silviculture Emergency Recovery Program within DACS to administer a grant program to assist timber landowners whose timber land was damaged as a result of a declared emergency.
- m. Changes the Viticulture Advisory Council to the Florida Wine Advisory Council and makes conforming changes related to the new name.
- n. Prohibits a financial institution from discriminating in the provision of financial services to an agriculture producer based, in whole or in part, upon an ESG factor. The bill also provides that if a financial institution has made any ESG commitment related to agriculture, there is an inference that the institution's denial or restriction of a financial service to an agriculture producer is discriminating against the agriculture producer based upon an ESG factor and provides a remedy for overcoming such inference.
- o. Permits DACS to temporarily suspend a concealed carry license or application if notified by a government entity that the licensee or applicant is arrested or formally charged with a crime that would disqualify such person from having a license, until final disposition of the case.
- p. Revises the requirements related to the suspension or reinstatement of concealed carry licensees or applicants.
- q. Reduces the extended review period for a concealed carry applicant's criminal history screening from 90 to 45 days.
- r. Prohibits the possession of any form of a payment instrument that can be used to authorize a fuel transaction or obtain fuel with the intent to defraud the fuel retailer or the banking institution that issued the payment instrument financial account.
- s. Revises the definition of "mail depository" to include any other authorized receptacle.
- t. Revises the acts that constitute mail theft and the penalties for violations.

**11. SB 2500: General Appropriations Act/State Budget – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 2500 with line-item vetoes, effective July 1, 2025.

This legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed a state budget totaling approximately \$115.1 billion. Upon review, the Governor vetoed more than \$500 million in funding.

The conference report on SB 2500 is the general appropriations act and is the state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. It is the only bill the Legislature is required to pass each year.

Here are some of the individual Miami-Dade County projects funded as line items in the conference report, as well as statewide funding of particular interest to Miami-Dade County:

**County Priority Requests (approved unless indicated otherwise)**

- Biscayne Bay infrastructure, including wastewater and stormwater projects - \$20 million
- Septic to Sewer Connect 2 Protect Assistance Virginia Gardens - \$400,000
- Enhanced Biscayne Bay Monitoring incl. Telemetry - \$250,000 **(Vetoed)**

**Resolution Requests (approved unless indicated otherwise)**

- Boater Safety Education Program - \$100,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Homeowner's Association/Real Estate Fraud - \$1.27 million (Vetoed)
- Triangle Park and Children's Academy Pedestrian Safety Initiative - \$800,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Citrus Grove School Children and Families Pedestrian Safety Initiative - \$800,000
- Florida Museum of Black History Building Development (Opa-locka) - \$750,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Acquisition and Renovation of Housing for Families with Minor Children - \$475,000
- Talent Bridge: Empowering Florida's Workforce, Strengthening Florida's Economy – Beacon Council - \$1 million
- Urban Health Partnerships - Food and Nutrition for all South Florida: Advancing Health, Nutrition Education, and Community Growth - \$445,000 **(Vetoed)**

**Departmental and Other Funding Requests of Interest (approved unless indicated otherwise)**

- Vision Zero Safety Improvements: Grand Ave between Jefferson St. and Plaza St. - \$750,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Vision Zero Safety Improvements - SW 2 St between SW 1st Ave. and NW North River Drive - \$500,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Safety Improvements along SW 328 Street from Entrance to Homestead Bayfront Park to SW 117 Ave. - \$937,500 **(Vetoed)**

- Roadway Resurfacing along NW 17 Avenue from NW 20 Street to NW 36 Street - \$487,500
- Roadway Resurfacing along SW 142 Ave. from NW 20 Street to NW 36 Street - \$625,625
- North Bulkhead Improvement Project Initial Phase - \$1.5 million
- Card Sound Road Canal Salt Intrusion Barrier Project Phase 2 - \$100,000
- Air Monitoring Equipment & Network in the Kendall Community - \$62,500 **(Vetoed)**
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for NE 185 ST, from NE 2 CT to NE 190 ST (C-9) - \$550,000
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for SW 16 Street, from SW 73 Ave to SW 72 Ave - \$375,000
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for NE 88 Street to NE 90 Street, from NE 10 Ave to NE 9 Ave (Lake Belmar) - \$600,000
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for SW 71 Lane, from SW 143 Place to SW 144 CT - \$400,000
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for SW 37 Ave, from SW 24 Street (Coral Way) to SW 20 Street - \$400,000
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for NW 43 ST, From NW 72 Ave to NW 69 Ave (Dressel's Dairy Canal) - \$400,000
- Stormwater Local Drainage Improvement Project for South Biscayne River Dr, from NW 146 ST to NW 151 ST - \$500,000
- Rootwells for Flood Mitigation and Water Quality - \$18,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Goulds Canal Filling and Restoration to Reduce and Prevent Pollution - \$1.4 million
- Dog and Cat Municipal Shelter - \$1,4 million **(Vetoed)**
- Center for Mental Health and Recovery - Training Enhancement and Case Management System Expansion - \$200,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Homeless Trust – Bridge Housing for Homeless Persons - \$281,000
- Homeless Trust Project Lazarus Specialized Outreach - \$204,500
- Fire Rescue Urban Search and Rescue Structural Collapse Training Prop - \$240,500
- Fire Rescue Fire Suppression Tanker – South Dade - \$650,000
- Bay of Pigs-Brigade 2506 Museum and Library-Miami-Dade - \$1 million
- Crisis Stabilization Unit Beds at the Miami Center for Mental Health and Recovery – Village South - \$500,000
- Citrus Health Network - Crisis Stabilization Unit & Assessment and Emergency Services - \$2 million
- Law Enforcement Against Public Corruption - \$350,000 **(Vetoed)**
- Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement for Global Events and Felony Trespass - \$250,000
- Investigating Water Quality in Biscayne Bay/Miami Waterkeeper - \$750,000
- Pelican Harbor Wildlife Rescue Rehabilitation Release and Education Centers - \$850,000
- Military Museum and Memorial - \$375,000

- Maintain DBPR office in Miami-Dade County, compliance investigators Condominiums, Timeshares, and Mobile Homes - \$1.2 million
- Strategic Infrastructure for Multi-Use Affordable Housing Project - Miami-Dade County - \$3 million (**Vetoed**)
- Zoo Miami Foundation - Manatee Rescue/ Rehab/Release - \$1.7 million
- Earlington Heights Metrorail and Bus Station Development Phase - \$250,000
- Biscayne Bay CERP - \$7 million
- CERP C-111 South Dade - \$54.3 million
- Kendall Parkway - \$100 million
- University of Miami Firefighter Cancer Initiative - \$3.5 million

**B. Education, Library, Cultural Affairs and Parks & Recreation**

**12.SB 738: Child Care and Early Learning Providers/Annual County Commission Approval – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 738 by Senator Colleen Burton (R - Winter Haven), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 738 revises and modernizes several requirements related to childcare facility licensure, personnel training, facility inspections, and licensure violation enforcement.

The bill requires counties that have designated a local licensing agency to administer child care licensure to annually affirm the designation by a majority vote of the county commission.

In addition, SB 738:

- a. Allows the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to create three classification levels for violations relating to the health and safety of a child and requires a class three violation to be the least serious and must be the same incident at least three times within two years.
- b. Updates abbreviated inspection standards to include these new classification levels, require at least two years of consecutive licensure, and requires two full onsite renewal inspections in the most recent two years with no current uncorrected violations or open complaints.
- c. Requires the DCF to provide criminal history record check results to child care facilities within three business days of receipt.
- d. Removes the requirement for child care facilities to provide parents with pagers or beepers during drop-in child care; to provide parents with information regarding the influenza virus and the dangers of a distracted adult leaving a child in a vehicle; and to develop a program to assist in preventing and avoiding physical and mental abuse.
- e. Revises introductory training for child care personnel and requires in-person training for at least one staff person trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.
- f. Requires the DCF to provide minimum required training coursework online.



- g. Removes the requirement for the DCF to develop standards for specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children.
- h. Requires the DCF to issue current or prospective child care personnel a 45-day provisional-hire status upon delayed background screening, provided direct supervision of that person by a fully screened and trained staff member when in contact with children.
- i. Requires a county commission that elects to license their own child care facilities to annually affirm this decision through a majority vote to designate a local licensing agency.
- j. Exempts child care facilities and family day care homes certified by the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Coast Guard from licensure in certain instances.
- k. Exempts preschools from special assessments levied by municipalities. Further, the bill provides an exemption from licensing, except for the screening of personnel, for a child care facility that solely provides child care to certain eligible children.

**13. SB 118: Regulation of Presidential Libraries/Preemption – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 118 by Senator Jason Brodeur (R – Lake Mary), effective immediately.

SB 118 preempts to the state all regulation of the establishment, maintenance, activities, and operations of any presidential library within its jurisdiction and defers regulation of such institutions to the Federal Government. The bill prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing any ordinance, resolution, rule, or other measure governing the establishment, maintenance, or operation of a presidential library or imposing any requirement or restriction thereon, except as otherwise authorized by federal law.

**14. HB 531: Child Care Facility and Program Background Screening Requirements – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 531 by Representatives Christine Hunschofsky (D – Coconut Creek) and Dana Trabulsky (R – Fort Pierce), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 531 requires the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with all specified agencies that are required by law to use the clearinghouse for employment screening, to develop and maintain a user-friendly, public-facing webpage to serve as a centralized hub for education and awareness of the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse and state background screening processes and standards. The webpage must maintain up to date information and explain the background screening process through the clearinghouse, Level 2 screening requirements, fingerprinting procedures, and include a searchable job

catalog, disqualifying offenses, exemption steps, and a downloadable checklist with timelines and details of the process.

Additionally, the bill requires all specified agencies to prominently link to this resource from their websites and require the inclusion of the link in all job postings by qualified entities. The webpage must be active by January 1, 2026, and must be updated annually by October 1.

**15. HB 1255: Miami-Dade Children’s Trust/Education/Charter and Private School Facilities/Military-Connected Students – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 1255 by Representatives Dana Trabulsy (R – Fort Pierce) and Chase Tramont (R – Port Orange), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 1255 modifies Florida’s prekindergarten through grade 12 education system related to early learning, academic standards and student achievement, instructional personnel, and student discipline, and modifies provisions related to higher education which focus on tuition and fee policies, educational programs, and institutional operations. The bill also repeals the Florida School for Competitive Academics.

Among other provisions, HB 1255 includes the following provisions:

**Miami-Dade Children’s Trust**

Revises the membership of the Miami-Dade Children’s Trust to:

- a. Allow a designee of the County Mayor to serve on the Trust;
- b. Eliminate as an appointment a member of a local alliance or coalition engaged in cross-system planning for health and social service delivery in the county, who is selected by that alliance or coalition;
- c. Revises the number of at-large seats appoints by the Trust membership from four to five; and
- d. Provides that appointments by the Governor must, to the extent reasonably possible, represent the geographic and demographic makeup of the population of the county (the word diversity was removed).

HB 1255 also increases terms from two to three years for members who are not appointed to the Trust by the Governor or by reason of their position.

**Charter and Private School Facilities**

Specifies that local governments cannot enforce building, site, or operational rules on charter schools—such as parking, student capacity, hours of operation, or site size—unless those rules are also uniformly applied to public schools in the area. Charter schools are exempt from land use changes or permits that would not be required of other public or private schools at the same location. Any condition to limit the size or hours of operation imposed on a charter school must match those

for public schools and only apply if the charter school is on a site with an already approved development order that includes such conditions. Similar to language in HB 1105 above, the bill authorizes private schools located in counties with four incorporated municipalities to construct new facilities on property that housed specified facilities, such as a church or theater, under the preexisting zoning and land use designations without obtaining a special exception or a land use change and without complying with any mitigation requirements or conditions.

#### *Military-Connected Students*

Extends the repeal date of the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2028, and requires the DOE to develop training modules for employees to expedite student record transfers for military families.

### **C. Environment, Transportation, Tourism & Economic Development**

- 16. SB 462; SB 1662: County Commission GMX Appointments/Transit Surtax Reporting/Florida Department of Transportation Package/County Transportation Projects/Eminent Domain/Airports/Metropolitan Planning Organizations/TPO – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 462 by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R – St. Petersburg) and SB 1662 by Senator Jay Collins (R – Tampa), each effective July 1, 2025.

SB 462 is the 54-page Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) package and SB 1662 is an 87-page omnibus bill relating to transportation. Both bills cover a wide range of issues related to transportation, seaports, airports, transit, the TPO, highway safety, and motor vehicles.

#### **A. SB 462:**

SB 462 is the FDOT package which, among other provisions, expands the County Commission appointment options to the governing body of the nine-member Greater Miami Expressway Agency (GMX) by deleting the requirement that the two members appointed by the County Commission must reside within 15 miles of an area with the highest amount of agency toll roads. Instead, these members must reside within 15 miles of any GMX toll road. The requirement that the appointees be residents of the unincorporated area remains in place.

*One of the Board's 2025 critical state priorities was to revise GMX appointment requirements to expand the persons eligible for appointment by the County Commission.*

#### **B. SB 1662:**

SB 1662 is an omnibus bill relating to transportation. Among other provisions, SB 1662:

- a. **Camping on State Highway System:** Prohibits camping on right-of-way of the State Highway System, except on the Florida National Scenic Trail with the appropriate permit;
- b. **Parking authorities/transportation, economic development authorities:** Authorizes a parking authority established under state or local law, including but not limited to, transportation, parking, and economic development authorities, to provide services beyond the geographical boundaries of such counties, municipalities, or political subdivisions that originally chartered such authority upon entering into an interlocal agreement with the governing body of the affected county, municipality, or political subdivision (this provision may relate to the Miami Parking Authority);
- c. **Advanced air mobility:** Codifies advanced air mobility into Florida law, including requirements for FDOT to address issues related to advances in aviation technology and to coordinate with the Florida Department of Commerce to develop a system plan for the state;
- d. **SIS:** Revises and makes permanent FDOT's Strategic Intermodal System supply chain demands program;
- e. **SIS/Transit New Starts:** Revises and makes permanent the allocation of unused New Starts Transit funds to the Strategic Intermodal System;
- f. **Sewer lines:** Prohibits a municipality from prohibiting, or requiring a permit for, the installation of certain sewer transmission lines on the right-of-way performed under permits issued by FDOT or the Department of Environmental Protection, this language relates to Indian Creek Village converting from septic tanks to sewer and the Town of Surfside;
- g. **Seaports:**
  - i. Provides that the purpose of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) Council is to support the growth of seaports through the review, development, and financing of port facilities, including construction of facilities connecting ports with space and aerospace industries;
  - ii. Authorizes certain space-related and commercial shipbuilding projects to receive FSTED funding;
  - iii. Requires seaports to submit semiannual reports to FDOT regarding their operations; and
  - iv. Requires any seaport located in a county with a spaceport territory to provide, in any agreement with FDOT, that it agrees not to convert facilities that support space-related (cargo) purposes to any other purpose unless such conversion is approved by the seaport's governing board, and requires that the Legislature expressly approve the use of state funds for such conversion either through a work program amendment or in the state budget;
- h. **Mobile cranes:** Authorizes FDOT to issue blanket permits allowing the movement of certain large cranes, including movement at night;

- i. **Disabled veterans:** Allows a disabled veteran who meets certain requirements to be issued a special or specialty license plate embossed with the initials “DV” in the top left-hand corner;
- j. **Intermodal Logistics Center Working Group:** Creates an Intermodal Logistic Center working group within FDOT relating to the expansion and development of intermodal logistic centers. A final report of the working group is due January 1, 2027, and the working group expires June 30, 2027.
- k. **Energy policy goals, transit, airport, seaport:** Requires FDOT to submit a report identifying transit providers, transportation authorities, airports, and seaports that have adopted or promoted energy policy goals inconsistent with the energy policy of the state as set forth in [section 377.601, Florida Statutes](#);
- l. **HOV lanes:** Repeals provisions regarding high-occupancy vehicle lanes, including a related toll exemption;
- m. **Traffic signals:** Authorizes the withholding of state transportation funds to local jurisdictions for traffic signals not in compliance with FDOT’s uniform system for traffic control devices;
- n. **Spaceports:** Authorizes FDOT to fund certain infrastructure projects associated with spaceports;
- o. **Airports:**
  - i. Requires airports to provide FDOT with the opportunity to use certain airport property, at no cost to the state, as a staging area during declared states of emergency related to natural disasters for up to 60 days;
  - ii. Adds additional project types to those eligible for priority airport funding from FDOT, including certain terminal and parking expansions; safety and efficiency improvements; and technology, workforce development, and intermodal connectivity projects. FDOT’s airport funding is also expanded to include workforce development projects by postsecondary institutions, transition projects for military personnel, and strategic investment projects paying 100 percent of costs to maximize opportunities in tourism
  - iii. Makes non-hub airports subject to commercial service airport transparency and accountability requirements and amends such requirements for all commercial service airports;
  - iv. Requires commercial service airports to notify FDOT after receiving certain communications or directives from the federal government and following issues or incidents of concern;
  - v. Prohibits publicly owned airports from charging landing fees on or after January 1, 2025 for aircraft operations conducted by an accredited nonprofit institution located in Florida which offers a 4-year collegiate aviation program, if such aircraft operations are for flight training necessary for pilot certification and proficiency;
  - vi. Requires each commercial service airport to establish and maintain a comprehensive airport infrastructure program and submit annual

- certifications to FDOT that the airport has established and maintained such a program; and
- vii. Requires FDOT to certify private airports of public interest;
  - p. **Existing connections to state roads:** Authorizes FDOT to require the modification of an existing connection to a state road due to safety or operational concerns;
  - q. **Florida Transportation Commission:** Revises provisions regarding the qualifications of Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) members to require that at least three commissioners have expertise in higher education, transportation, or workforce development and remove the requirement that all members must have business managerial experience in the private sector;
  - r. **FTC/Transit:** Requires the FTC to monitor the efficiency, productivity, and management of any transit entity receiving funding under the public transit block grant program;
  - s. **Landscaping:** Revises FDOT's annual spending requirement relating to landscaping and requires FDOT's landscaping standards to include native landscaping materials;
  - t. **Florida Transportation Academy:** Creates the Florida Transportation Academy, within FDOT, to coordinate with certain entities regarding workforce development;
  - u. **Florida Transportation Research Institute:** Creates the Florida Transportation Research Institute, with representatives from state colleges and universities, as a consortium of higher education professionals. The institute must advance the state's transportation infrastructure and systems through research, education, and engagement, including the award of grants to member and nonmember institutions and use of funds from the State Transportation Trust Fund for operations and programs;
  - v. **Minority/ disadvantaged/woman-owned businesses:** Replaces language throughout the Florida Transportation Code related to minority, socially and economically disadvantaged, and woman-owned business enterprises with language favoring small businesses;
  - w. **Information, education campaigns:** Revises FDOT's authorization regarding public information and education campaigns to include environmental management and workforce development; and
  - x. **Rural grants:** Removes a provision creating the rural transit operating block grant program.

**17.HB 987: Transportation Facility Designations/Miami-Dade County/Manolo Reyes Boulevard/Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart Memorial Highway/Celia Cruz Way/Sonia Castro Way – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 987 by Representatives Robert Charles “Chuck” Brannan III (R – Macclenny) and Danny Nix, Jr (R – Placida), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 987 provides honorary road designations and includes several honorary designations in Miami-Dade County as follows:

- a. A portion of S.W. 57th Avenue between U.S. 41/S.W. 8th Street and W. Flagler Street designated as "Manolo Reyes Boulevard."
- b. A portion of U.S. 41/SW 8th Street between S.W. 27th Avenue and Brickell Avenue designated as "Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart Memorial Highway."
- c. A portion of S.R. 932/N.W. 103rd Street/49th Street within the City of Hialeah designated as "Celia Cruz Way."
- d. A portion of S.W. 58th Street between S.R. 77 985/S.W. 107th Avenue and S.W. 102nd Avenue in Miami-Dade County designated as "Sonia Castro Way."

**18. HB 289: Boating Safety/Lucy's Law/Driving and Boating Offenses/DUI/Enforcement/Diversion Programs/Lucy's Law – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 289 by Representatives Vicki L. Lopez (R – Miami) and Vanessa Oliver (R – Punta Gorda), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 289 relates to boating safety and is titled "Lucy's Law", after Lucy Fernandez who was killed in a boat crash in 2022 in Biscayne Bay.

HB 289:

- a. Increases the general penalties for leaving the scene of a boating accident or reckless operation of a vessel
- b. Provides a mandatory minimum sentence of four years for fleeing the scene of a boating accident that resulted in a fatality;
- c. Enhances penalties for reckless operation of a vessel that results in accidents or injuries
- d. Makes it a second-degree misdemeanor to knowingly provide false information in required boating accident reports
- e. Expands the definition "vessel homicide" to include certain incidents involving the death of an unborn child;
- f. Imposes certain obligations on vessel operators regarding documentation required aboard the vessel; and
- g. Adds death of an unborn child to boating under the influence manslaughter and provides that a person who is convicted of BUI manslaughter must serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 4 years.

The final version of the bill does not include a provision that provided that any person born before 1988 and who has not been a resident of Florida for at least five consecutive years must have a Florida boating safety identification card to operate a boat.

*This was the subject of Resolution Nos. R-461-24, R-820-24, R-80-25.*

**19.HB 209: State Land Management/Public Engagement/State Park Preservation Act/Golf Courses/Hotels/Pickleball/Land Management Plan – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 209 by Representatives Peggy Gossett-Seidman (R - Boca Raton) and John Snyder (R - Palm City), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 209 creates the “State Park Preservation Act” and prohibits sports amenities such as golf courses, tennis courts, pickleball courts, ball fields, and other similar facilities. The bill also prohibits the installation of hotels and other lodging establishments within state parks.

The bill clarifies that the prohibition on the construction of sports facilities in state parks may not be construed to prohibit the continued operation, maintenance, or repair of existing sports facilities in state parks. Similarly, the final bill clarifies that the prohibition of lodging facilities in state parks does not apply to the continued operation, maintenance, or repair of existing lodging facilities in state parks.

The bill permits the installation and operation of cabins and campsites at state parks, subject to certain conditions, and deletes language limiting the occupancy of cabins to six guests.

Additionally, related to state land management plans, the bill:

- a. Requires public hearings for all conservation and nonconservation land management plan updates;
- b. Requires the Division of State Lands within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to provide electronic copies of land management plans on large parcels and in state parks within a specific timeframe before public hearings;
- c. Requires that management plans for large parcels within state parks include comment and input from advisory groups, including public hearing; and
- d. Specifies a detailed reporting schedule to the Governor and Legislature, including financial and operational assessments of the state park system and a plan to address facility maintenance needs by 2035.

**20.SB 164: Vessel Accountability/Derelict Vessels/Anchoring/Vessel Removal Grants – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 164 by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R – Doral), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 164 amends and creates statutes concerning vessel ownership, nuisance and derelict vessels, and anchoring and mooring practices.

The bill clarifies and expands the definition of a “vessel owner.” For vessels at risk of becoming derelict, the bill provides that if the owner or operator is present on the vessel, a law enforcement officer can immediately conduct a test of the vessel’s effective means of propulsion for safe navigation. The bill provides that a vessel



will be declared a public nuisance if it is found to be at risk of becoming derelict three times within a 24-month period.

The bill creates a free long-term anchoring permit for vessel owners or operators who intend to anchor a vessel within one linear nautical mile of an anchorage point for 14 days or more within a 30-day period.

Regarding civil and criminal penalties, the bill:

- a. Adds violations relating to expired registration and long-term anchoring to the list of noncriminal violations that may be enforced by a uniform boating citation.
- b. Provides penalties for long-term anchoring violations.
- c. Increases penalties for subsequent violations of derelict vessel laws and makes residing or dwelling on a derelict vessel a criminal offense.

SB 164 also expands the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's existing local government grant program to support the derelict vessel prevention and voluntary turn-in program.

**21. SB 1622: Beaches/Recreational Customary Use – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 1622 by Senator Jay Trumbull (R - Panama City), effective immediately.

Among other provisions, SB 1622 repeals a provision of state law that establishes procedures that a governmental entity must follow when attempting to establish a "recreational customary use of property."

The customary use doctrine establishes public use rights over certain dry sandy areas of privately-owned beaches. The statutory procedures repealed by the bill would have required:

- a. A public hearing to adopt a formal notice of intent to affected property owners, which notice alleges the existence of a recreational customary use on their properties.
- b. A judicial proceeding to consider whether the alleged customary use has been ancient, reasonable, without interruption, and free from dispute.

**22. SB 796: General Permits for Distributed Wastewater Treatment Systems and Units/Septic Tanks – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 796 by Senator Jennifer Bradley (R – Fleming Island), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 796 relates to general permits for distributed wastewater treatment systems and units (DWTUs). The bill defines a DWTU to mean an advanced onsite closed-tank wastewater treatment system that is remotely operated and controlled by the

permittee using an electronic control system and designed to achieve secondary treatment standards and a minimum of 80 percent total nitrogen removal before discharge to a subsurface application system.

- 23. SB 2506: Natural Resources; Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan; Water Quality Improvement Grant Program/Budget Conforming Bill – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 2506, which relates to natural resources and conforms statutes to the appropriations provided in SB 2500, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Specifically, SB 2506, among other provisions:

- a. Requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to dedicate at least 25 percent of the funds to projects within a rural area of opportunity for the water quality improvement grant program. The amendment further requires DEP to announce grant awards by November 1 of each fiscal year. This change could limit the funds available to Miami-Dade County.
- b. Requires as a Tier 1 criteria within the scoring system used by DEP to rank projects in the Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience plan the degree to which the project reduces the flood risk and, thereby, increases credits awards to a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System.
- c. repeals a provision of law relating to the Local Trail Management Grant Program.
- d. amends Florida law to include water control districts existing pursuant to ch. 298, Florida Statutes, to those governmental entities that may contract with state agencies for land management activities.

- 24. SB 492: Release of Conservation Easements/Mitigation Banking/Water Management Districts – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 492 by Senator Stan McClain (R – Ocala), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 492 provides a standardized schedule for releasing mitigation credits and removes the requirement that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and water management districts determine the credit release schedule on a case-by-case basis pursuant to statutorily enumerated factors.

- 25. SB 56: Weather Modification Activities/Airport Reporting Requirements – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 56 by Senator Ileana Garcia (R – Miami), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 56 provides that, beginning on October 1, 2025, all operators of publicly owned airports must report monthly to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) the presence of any aircraft equipped with any part, component, or device used for

the intentional emission, injection, release, or dispersion of air contaminants into the atmosphere for the purpose of affecting temperature, weather, climate, or the intensity of sunlight. The bill prohibits FDOT from expending state funds to support public airports not in compliance with these reporting requirements.

SB 56 prohibits geoengineering and weather modification activities. Specifically, the bill prohibits the injection, release, or dispersion, by any means, of a chemical, a chemical compound, a substance, or an apparatus into the atmosphere within the borders of this state for the express purpose of affecting the temperature, weather, climate, or intensity of sunlight. The bill provides that such activities constitute a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years imprisonment and fines of up to \$100,000, except aircraft operators and controllers who are subject to a fine of up to \$5,000. The bill provides that all moneys collected must be deposited in the Air Pollution Control Trust Fund.

**26.HB 867: Coastal Link Commuter Rail Service Act/Brightline/Tri-Rail/Indemnification of Commuter Rail Transportation Provider – SIGNED –**

The Governor signed into law HB 867 by Representative Vicki L. Lopez (R – Miami), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 867 establishes the Coastal Link Commuter Rail Service Act, and provides that, in conjunction with the development or operation of a commuter rail service on the coastal link corridor, the state, a county, the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a city, or other governmental agency may assume the obligation by contract, subject to certain limitations and exceptions, to protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Florida East Coast Railway, LLC, (“FECR”) and Brightline Trains Florida LLC (“Brightline”) from and against certain liability, cost, and expense within parameters up to an amount of \$5 million with respect to coastal link corridor limited covered accidents caused by the governmental agency.

**D. Public Safety, Regulatory, Animal Services & Procurement**

**27.HB 703: Utility Relocation Requirements/Cost Shift/Communications Services Tax – SIGNED –**

The Governor signed into law HB 703 by Representative William Cloud “Will” Robinson Jr. (R – Bradenton), effective July 1, 2025.

The final version of HB 703 creates the Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program within the Florida Department of Commerce (DCM), funded at \$50 million by a portion of local communications services tax revenue, to reimburse providers of communications services which are subject to the state’s communications services tax provisions, for relocation expenses directly attributable to the physical

relocation of facilities required by a county or municipal authority. The bill funds the grant program by redirecting 7.5 percent of the local communications services tax levied by a municipality or county to the grant program. Providers may seek reimbursement for such relocation costs from the grant program subject to the availability of funds. If the grant program does not contain enough funds, the provider is responsible for paying the relocation cost.

**28. HB 1447: Trespass in a Structure or Conveyance/Ticketed Sports, Entertainment – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 1447 by Representative Mike Giallombardo (R – Cape Coral), effective immediately.

HB 1447 creates a new crime regarding interference with a sports or entertainment event to provide that willfully entering or remaining in a venue during a ticketed event with more than 5,000 attendees, without being authorized, licensed, or invited, is punishable as a third-degree felony, and also creates a third-degree felony for a person that trespasses on property that is maintained or secured by federal, state, or local law enforcement when posted.

**29. SB 1516: International Aerospace Innovation Fund/Space Florida/Aerospace Industry – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 1516 by Senator Tom A. Wright (R – Port Orange), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 1516 establishes the International Aerospace Innovation Fund (IAIF), administered by Space Florida, to accelerate global aerospace innovation by funding collaborative research and development projects, workforce development initiatives, and commercialization efforts. The bill requires the IAIF to develop partnerships between Florida-based aerospace companies and international companies. The bill creates eligibility criteria for projects which may be funded by Space Florida and also requires Space Florida to secure funding which may be received from the state, from private sector investments, or from international contributions.

**30. SB 1344: Juvenile Justice/School Truancy/Runaway Children – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 1344 by Senator Corey Simon (R – Quincy), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 1344 makes various revisions to Florida law regarding juvenile justice, school truancy, runaway children, and children in need of services (CINS) to clarify the process for voluntary and court ordered intervention services.

- 31. SB 1804: Capital Human Trafficking of Vulnerable Persons for Sexual Exploitation – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 1804 by Senator Jonathan Martin (R – Fort Myers), effective October 1, 2025.

SB 1804 creates a new crime of Capital Human Trafficking of Vulnerable Persons for Sexual Exploitation. A person 18 years or older who knowingly initiates, organizes, plans, finances, directs, manages, or supervises a venture that has subjected a child less than 12 years of age, or a person who is mentally defective or mentally incapacitated, to sexual exploitation commits a capital felony. A person convicted of capital human trafficking must register as a sexual predator.

- 32. SB 1286: Harming or Neglecting Children/Dependency, Criminal Law – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 1286 by Senator Erin Grall (R – Fort Pierce), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 1286 amends the definition of harm and neglect of a child in both dependency and criminal law to allow caregivers to let a sufficiently mature child undertake independent, unsupervised activities without considering these actions as harm or neglect of a child.

For dependency law, the bill considers independent, unsupervised activities as harm only if the child is subjected to obvious danger of which the caregiver knew or should have known, or the child cannot exercise the reasonable judgment required to avoid serious harm upon responding to physical or emotional crises.

- 33. HB 683: Construction Regulations/Procurement/Public Works Projects/Synthetic Turf/Change Orders/Building Permits/Preemption/Alternative Plans Review and Inspections/Private Providers/Elevator Accessibility – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law HB 683 by Representative Phillip Wayne "Griff" Griffiths Jr. (R – Panama City), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 683 provides that for any construction services contract entered into on or after July 1, 2025, if a local government receives from its contractor a price quote for a change order requested or issued by the local government for construction services, and the price quote conforms to statutory and contractual requirements, then the local government must send notice of approval or denial within 35 days.

- 34. HB 1371: Law Enforcement Officers and Other Personnel/County Detention Facility – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law HB 1371 by Representative Danny Nix, Jr. (R – Port Charlotte) effective July 1, 2025.

HB 1371 revises several provisions related to law enforcement officers and related personnel. Among other provisions, HB 1371:

- a. Requires any first responder or any employee of a county detention facility exposed to a bodily fluid or potential bloodborne pathogen in the performance of their duties to provide a notice of exposure and requires a detention facility upon receipt of such notice to immediately test the inmate who was the cause of the exposure and provide results to employees responsible for the care and custody of the affected inmate;
- b. Authorizes a first responder who has a physical disability resulting from an amputation to continue to serve as a first responder if he or she meets applicable first responder certification requirements without an accommodation;
- c. Creates the Florida Medal of Valor, which may be awarded to a first responder who goes above and beyond the call of duty to save the life of an individual, and the Florida Blue/Red Heart Medal, which may be awarded to a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, correctional probation officer, or firefighter who is injured in the line of duty;
- d. Prohibits a person from using any device that can be remotely activated to disable a vehicle's engine or to prevent a vehicle's engine from starting (a "kill switch") unless he or she is the vehicle owner or a law enforcement officer acting in the course and scope of their duties to prevent the commission of a felony; and
- e. Requires a court to impose a mandatory minimum imprisonment of 25 years if a person is convicted of committing attempted first degree murder of justice system personnel, including a law enforcement officer, a state attorney, or a judge, if the offense arises out of the scope of that personnel's official duties.

**35.SB 606: Public Lodging and Food Service Establishments/Automatic Tip, Operations Charges on Restaurant Bills – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 606 by Senator Tom Leek (R – St. Augustine), effective July 1, 2025.

An earlier version of the bill would have preempted the Miami-Dade County ordinance relating to tipping at Miami International Airport, but this language was removed from the bill. In its final form, SB 606 requires public food service establishments that charge an operations charge to provide a notice on the menu, contract, and website or mobile application where orders are placed, as applicable.

**36.HB 929: Firefighter Health and Safety/Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 929 by Representative Erika Booth (R – Orlando), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 929 amends the Florida Firefighters Occupational Safety and Health Act to include occupational diseases and suicide in the health and safety risks the Florida Division of State Fire Marshal is required monitor and develop rules, policies, and procedures to address. Specifically, the Division must develop a means to identify firefighter employers with high frequencies of these conditions in addition to those

identified in current law, conduct inspections to ensure employers are complying with Division rules, and adds these conditions to the list of items for which the Division can assess penalties.

**37.HB 551: Fire Prevention/Fire Alarm System and Sprinkler System Projects/Local Amendments to Florida Fire Prevention Code – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 551 by Representative David Borrero (R – Doral), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 551 amends the permitting process for fire alarm and sprinkler system projects. Specifically, HB 551:

- a. Requires local governments to establish a simplified permitting process that complies with the minimum requirements of the Florida Building Code's (Building Code) simplified permitting process for fire alarm or sprinkler system projects of 20 or fewer alarm devices or sprinklers and redefines "Fire alarm system project" to include the replacement of an existing fire alarm panel using the same make and model as the existing panel.
- b. Requires a local enforcement agency to issue a permit within 2 business days after submission of a completed application for a fire alarm system or fire sprinkler system project and provides that a contractor may commence work authorized by the permit immediately after submission of a completed application.
- c. Requires a local enforcement agency to conduct inspections within 3 business days after such inspection is requested.
- d. Removes the requirement for a local enforcement agency to perform at least one inspection.
- e. For fire alarm system or fire sprinkler system projects, the bill requires a contractor to provide documentation to a local enforcement agency within 4 days after inspection and prohibits a local enforcement agency from requiring additional plans reviews or documentation of areas or devices outside the scope of permitted work. The local enforcement agency may not require additional plans reviews or documentation of areas or devices outside the scope of permitted work, as needed on permit applications.
- f. Provides that a local government which fails to meet a deadline must reduce the permit fee by 10 percent for each business day after such failure, subject to certain exceptions.
- g. Provides that a county or municipality may only enforce an ordinance providing for a local amendment to the Florida Fire Prevention Code if that ordinance was transmitted to the Florida Building Commission and the State Fire Marshal as of the date that the permit was submitted.
- h. Amends the information required to be included in a uniform summary inspection report for fire protection system and hydrant inspections to require only the total quantity of deficiencies instead of brief descriptions of each.

**E. Housing, Health & Human Services**

- 38. SB 1730: Affordable Housing/Land Use, Development/Live Local/Preemption – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 1730 by Senator Alexis Calatayud (R – Miami), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 1730 amends various provisions of the Live Local Act, passed during the 2023 Regular Session, related to the preemption of certain zoning and land use regulations to authorize affordable housing developments.

An amendment to SB 1730 late in the process addressed some but not all of the provisions that concerned historic preservation advocates and the Cities of Miami Beach and St. Augustine by reducing the development buffer zone around National Register historic districts and gave counties and cities authority to regulate height, infrastructure, and architectural consistency.

- 39. SB 910: Veterans’ Benefits Assistance – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 910 by Senator Jay Collins (R – Tampa), effective immediately.

SB 910 includes the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) in the definition of “specified agency” for purposes of conducting state and national criminal history background screening on persons who work with children or persons who are elderly or disabled.

- 40. SB 116: Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs/Statewide Programs and Services – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 116 by Senator Danny Burgess (R – Zephyrhills), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 116 expands support services for United States military veterans and their families, enhances coordination of health care services, incorporates mental health training, and increases the availability of adult day care programs to serve veterans who require full-time care.

- 41. SB 344: Telecommunications Access System Act of 1991 Updates/Persons with Hearing Loss, Speech Impairments, Deaf and Blind – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 344 by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez (R – Doral), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 344 amends the Telecommunications Access System Act of 1991, which provides for services to enable individuals with hearing or speech disabilities to connect them to non-disabled (i.e., voice) telephone users. The bill modernizes legislative findings, redefines certain terms, and details new responsibilities for



various entities regarding telecommunications access for persons with hearing loss, speech impairments, or who are deaf and blind

- 42. SB 948: Real Property and Condominium Flood Disclosure/Residential Rental Property/Mobile Home Park Owner – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 948 by Senator Jennifer Bradley (R – Fleming Island), effective October 1, 2025.

SB 948 requires a landlord of residential rental property or a mobile home park owner to disclose information regarding the property and flood risks to prospective tenants at or before the time the rental agreement for a term of one year or longer is executed. The bill provides recourse to a tenant for a landlord's failure to disclose.

- 43. SB 106: Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults/Substitute Service on Unascertainable Respondents – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 106 by Senator Jonathan Martin (R – Fort Myers), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 106 creates a simplified process to obtain an injunction to protect a vulnerable adult from exploitation. The process may be used to stop a proposed or initiated transfer of funds or property from a vulnerable adult to an unascertainable person.

- 44. HB 1091: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Care – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law HB 1091 by Representative Karen Gonzalez Pittman (R – Tampa), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 1091 integrates the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Call Center into the state mental health crisis response network and requires the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) to authorize, regulate, and oversee Florida's 988 Lifeline program.

- 45. SB 954: Recovery Residences/Sober Homes – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 954 by Senator Joe Gruters (R – Sarasota), effective July 1, 2025.

The final version of SB 954 no longer preempts local governments' zoning regulation of recovery residences, also known as "sober homes," which support individuals recovering from substance abuse. Instead, the final bill requires that counties and municipalities, by January 1, 2026, adopt an ordinance establishing procedures for the review and approval of certified recovery residences within their jurisdiction.

F. **Finance & Tax, Insurance, Government, Property and Elections**

- 46.SB 1080: Agricultural Enclaves/Comprehensive Plan Amendments/State Expedited Review Process/Local Government Land Regulation/Permit Fee Refunds/Florida Building Code – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 1080 by Senator Stan McClain (R – Ocala), effective October 1, 2025.

Related to local government land regulation, SB 1080:

- a. Provides that if comprehensive plan amendments are not adopted at the second public hearing, then the amendments shall be formally adopted by the local government within 180 days after the second public hearing is held, or the amendments are deemed withdrawn.
- b. Requires comprehensive plan amendments and supporting data and analysis to be transmitted within 30 working days after the final adoption hearing, rather than 10 working days.
- c. Specifies that fees imposed to enforce the Florida Building Code may be used by local governments for processes or enforcement related to obtaining and finalizing building permits.
- d. Clarifies that planning and zoning or other general government activities not related to obtaining a building permit may not be funded with fees adopted for enforcing the Florida Building Code.

- 47.SB 2502: Budget Implementing Bill/DOGE/Hospital Directed Payment Program/Review of Local Governments/DEI – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 2502, which is the budget implementing bill and makes substantive changes to state law, but for only one year starting July 1, 2025.

Among other provisions, section 17 authorizes the Florida Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA) to submit budget amendments to implement the federally approved Directed Payment Program for hospitals statewide. Miami-Dade County participates in this program.

- 48.SB 7022: FRS Employer Contribution Rates/Budget Conforming Bill – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 7022 by Senator Nick DiCeglie (R – St. Petersburg), effective July 1, 2025.

The bill establishes the contribution rates paid by employers that participate in the Florida Retirement System (FRS). These rates are intended to fund the full normal cost and the amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability of the FRS. The 3 percent employee contribution rate is not changed by this bill.

**49. SB 1762; HB 1581: County, City Commission Salaries, Retirement Benefits, Compensation Increases/Referendum – DIED** – HB 1581 by Representative James Buchanan (R – North Port) passed the House but died in messages to the Senate. The Senate companion bill, SB 1762 by Senator Joe Gruters (R – Sarasota), died in committee.

HB 1581 would have prohibited the governing body of a county, municipality, or special district from increasing the salary, retirement benefits, or any other type of compensation received by its members unless the increase was approved by the majority of the electors living in the jurisdiction voting at a referendum held at a general election during a presidential election year. The prohibition would not prevent a member of a governing body from receiving an increase in a retirement benefit that occurs due to the local government's participation in the Florida Retirement System.

**50. SB 784: Plats/Issuance of Address and Individual Parcel Identification Numbers After Recording by Local Government/Private Provider – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 784 by Senator Blaise Ingoglia (R – Spring Hill), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 784 revises state law regarding how local governments review and approve plats. The bill revises the mechanism of plat or replat approval to require local governments to review, process, and approve plat or replat submittals that otherwise comply with state law without action or approval by the governing body through a designated administrative authority, which includes a department, division, or other agency of the county or municipality.

**51. SB 538: State Courts System – SIGNED** – The Governor signed into law SB 538 by Senator Jennifer Bradley (R – Fleming Island), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 538 amends several statutes addressing different aspects of the state courts system. These amendments:

- a. Allow a circuit court duty judge, which is a judge who is responsible for handling urgent matters outside of regular court hours, to hold and conduct hearings in places other than his or her chambers.
- b. Require each judicial circuit to have a judge available at all times to conduct hearings.
- c. Repeal the \$1,500 per day limit on fees paid to a court-appointed arbitrator.
- d. Allow a judge to authenticate documents containing written statements under oath made by others without using a personal or court seal.
- e. Allow the clerks to request specified reimbursements through the Justice Administrative Commission rather than through the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

**52. SB 2508: Judgeships/Court Facilities/Budget Conforming Bill – SIGNED –**

The Governor signed into law SB 2508, which relates to judgeships and conforms statutes to the appropriations provided in SB 2500, the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Statewide, the conference committee amendment to SB 2508 establishes 22 new circuit court judgeships and 15 new county court judgeships. Miami-Dade County will receive three additional circuit court judgeships and four additional county court judgeships.

**53. SB 1652: Public Records Exemption/Pleading, Request for Relief, or Other Document Stricken by a Court – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 1652 by Senator Erin Grall (R – Fort Pierce), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 1652 creates a public records exemption for information contained in a document that has been stricken by a court in a noncriminal case. For the exemption to apply, the court must find that the matter is immaterial, impertinent, or sham and would defame or cause unwarranted damage to an individual's good name or reputation or jeopardize his or her safety. This kind of information often appears in court proceedings involving a "vexatious litigant." A vexatious litigant is a person who has filed multiple lawsuits that are meritless; however, these individuals are also known to submit documents that are considered scandalous or harassing.

**54. SB 1678: Entities that Boycott Israel, Public Investment, Contracting/Cultural Grants – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law SB 1678 by Senator Tom Leek (R – St. Augustine), effective July 1, 2025.

SB 1678 modifies state and local government contracting and procurement restrictions by prohibiting contracts of \$100,000 or more with companies or other entities engaged in a boycott of Israel. Contracts entered into or renewed on or after July 1, 2025 must contain a provision allowing for termination if a company or other entity is found to be engaged in such a boycott.

**55. HB 669: Israeli Bonds/Local Government Investment Policies/Preemption – SIGNED –** The Governor signed into law HB 669 by Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman (R – Boca Raton), effective July 1, 2025.

HB 669 prohibits a local government's investment policy from requiring a minimum bond rating for investments in rated or unrated bonds issued by the Israeli government.