



2 0 2 3 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Session Summary



J. Mark Glass, Commissioner

The Legislature adjourned its 2023 regular session on May 5 after approving a \$117 billion budget for FY 23-24. On June 15, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Framework for Freedom budget totaling \$116.5 billion after vetoing \$500 million in proposed funding. The department had a historic year receiving over \$70 million in additional funding, 32 new positions, and funding to fill more than 80 unfunded positions. These positions will increase staffing in Capitol Police, the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse, the Sex Offender Registry, E-Verify and Protective Operations. The budget also includes funds for new vehicles, cyber forensic vans and forensic vehicles. FDLE received an additional \$3 million to address retention, recruitment and compression. A plan is currently being developed to use those funds in high-turnover areas.

All state employees received a 5 percent raise effective July 1. The budget also improved Florida's retirement system. Sworn members are eligible for special risk full retirement at age 55 or 25 years of service. For non-sworn members in the investment plan, employer contributions increased an additional 2 percent and for those in the pension plan, DROP has been extended from five to eight years.

The department tracked over 230 pieces of legislation during the 2023 session and provided 108 bill analyses to policy makers. On June 14, Governor DeSantis signed the department's priority legislation relating to genetic genealogy investigative materials. House Bill 1327 provides a public record exemption for individuals who cooperate in genetic genealogy investigations. This new law will increase privacy protections for genetic informants which will bolster the public's trust in law enforcement and assist in furthering the genetic genealogy program.



Session Statistics

Session	2023	2022	2021	2020
Total Bills Filed	1,828	1,753	1,839	1,699
Total Bills Enrolled (passed by both chambers)	356	285	275	210
Percentage of Enrolled Bills	19.4%	16.2%	14.9%	12.3%



- \$611,215 in general revenue funding for four Capitol Police FTE to staff the Historical Capitol building.
- \$212,454 in general revenue funding for one Capitol Police FTE K-9 staff
- \$850,000 in general revenue funding for aviation fuel and maintenance
- \$600,000 in general revenue funding to replace two Cyber Forensic Vans
- \$1,200,000 in trust fund authority for the replacement of vehicles
- \$349,500 in trust fund authority to purchase one crime scene vehicle and six evidence transfer vehicles
- \$3,584,729 in trust fund authority to purchase 260 new alcohol testing machines for use by local agencies
- \$1,965,000 in general revenue funding to upgrade the Missing Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse application
- \$3,000,000 in general revenue funding to increase bandwidth for CJNet users
- \$20,000,000 (\$15,000,000 in general revenue funding and \$5,000,000 in trust fund authority) for the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida program
- \$300,000 in general revenue funding for the Occupational Wellness program
- \$463,302 in general revenue funding and six FTE to address workload issues within the Policy Case Analysis Team responsible for sexual offender/predator registry functions

New Funding Initiatives

Continued

- \$425,028 in general revenue funding and three FTE and two unfunded FTE to enhance staffing in the Missing and Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse to address workload issues
- \$1,000,000 in general revenue funding and 11 FTE to support the E-Verify audits required under s. 448.095, F.S.
- \$168,122 in trust fund authority to fill two unfunded FTE positions to address increased workload from state financial assistance grants.
- \$500,000 in federal grant trust fund authority to support the maintenance of the Sexual Assault Tracking System.
- \$8,166,082 (\$4,126,082 in general revenue funding and \$4,040,000 in federal grant trust fund authority) for the second phase of the replacement of the current biometric identification system.
- \$1,116,900 in general revenue funding to purchase latent print workstations for local agencies
- \$749,146 in trust fund authority to purchase cellular data retrieval equipment
- \$1,200,000 in general revenue funding to migrate to a subscription-based telephone system as required under the new DMS communications contract
- \$2,000,000 in trust fund authority to purchase body armor for local law enforcement agencies in fiscally constrained counties
- \$2,800,000 in general revenue funding for electrical updates at the OROC building
- \$1,100,000 in general revenue funding to replace the barrier gates at headquarters
- \$5,552,724 (\$2,000,000 in general revenue funding and \$3,552,724 in trust fund authority) to renovate space in the Capitol Circle Office Complex
- \$540,000 in general revenue funding to purchase an uninterrupted power source for TROC.

Key Substantive Legislation



[HB 95 – Rights of Law Enforcement Officers and Correctional Officers](#) Specifies the rights and requirements relating to the Brady identification system defined in s. 112.531, F.S. Approved by the Governor, June 13, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-230 and took effect July 1, 2023.

[SB 204 – Task Force on the Monitoring of Children in Out-of-Home Care](#) Establishes a task force to review the root causes of why children go missing while in out-of-home care. Requires FDLE to provide administrative and staff support services relating to the functions of the task force. Approved by the Governor, June 16, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-247 and took effect July 1, 2023.

[SB 234 – Statutorily Required Reports](#) Requires the Department of State to create and administer an Internet-based system to which state agencies must electronically submit their statutorily required reports. The system must allow members of the public to search for and access reports based on specific search criteria. Approved by the Governor, May 11, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-41 and took effect July 1, 2023.

[SB 376– Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records and Making Confidential and Exempt Related Court Records](#) Provides that a criminal history record is eligible for automatic sealing when an indictment, information, or other charging document was dismissed as to all counts, or a not guilty verdict or judgement was rendered as to all counts. Requires FDLE to notify the clerk of court upon sealing of the record and requires the clerk of court to keep the record confidential and exempt. Approved by the Governor, June 5, 2023, Chapter N0. 2023-189 and took effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 543 – Public Safety](#) Allows individuals to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm without obtaining and maintaining a concealed weapon or concealed firearm license if they meet certain criteria. Requires FDLE to make the model active assailant response policy developed by the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission available on its website. Requires each law enforcement agency to create and maintain an active assailant response policy. Amends various other sections of law relating to school safety and creates the Florida Safe Schools Canine Program. Approved by the Governor, April 3, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-18 and took effect July 1, 2023, unless otherwise provided.

[SB 676 – Level 2 Background Screening](#) Amends various sections of law relating to the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse. Approved by the Governor, June 12, 2023; Chapter No. 2023-220 and these provisions take effect July 1, 2024, except as otherwise provided.

[HB 1105 – Rapid DNA Grant Program](#) Creates the Rapid DNA Grant program within FDLE to award grants to Sheriffs' offices for the purpose of procuring Rapid DNA machines in support of the statewide DNA database. Approved by the Governor, June 14, 2023, Chapter N0. 2023-234 and took effect July 1, 2023.

[HB 1327 – Public Records / Investigative Genetic Genealogy Information and Materials](#) Creates a public records exemption for investigative genetic genealogy information and materials and applies to all information and materials held by an agency before, on or after the effective date. Approved by the Governor, June 14, 2023 and took effect July 1, 2023.



[HB 1359 – Offenses Involving Fentanyl or Fentanyl Analogs](#)

Amends the drug trafficking statute to increase the penalty and fine associated with offenses involving fentanyl or fentanyl analogs marketed toward or knowingly sold or delivered to a minor. Approved by the Governor, May 1, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-26 and takes effect October 1, 2023.

[SB 1616 – Public Records / Transportation and Protective Services](#)

Creates an exemption from public records requirements for records held by a law enforcement agency relating to certain security or transportation services. Approved by the Governor, May 11, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-58 and took effect upon becoming law.

[SB 1718 – Immigration](#)

Amends various sections of law to address provisions related to individuals in this state who may be unauthorized aliens. Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-40 and took effect July 1, 2023, unless otherwise provided.

[SB 2506 – Capitol Complex](#)

Expands the footprint of the Capitol Complex to include the Holland Building, Elliot Building, R.A. Gray Building and the associated parking garages. Designates a specified portion of the Capitol Complex as Memorial Park. Approved by the Governor, June 15, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-242 and took effect July 1, 2023.

[SB 7024 – Retirement](#)

Amends the normal retirement date for Special Risk Class enrolled on or after July 1, 2011. Makes changes to the Deferred Retirement Option Program. Increases the employer-paid contributions to Investment Plan member accounts and establishes employer-paid contribution rates for individuals participating in the Florida Retirement System. Increases the monthly retiree health insurance subsidy. Approved by the Governor, June 5, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-193 and took effect upon becoming law, except as otherwise provided.

[SB 7064 – Human Trafficking](#)

Establishes a new civil cause of action for a victim of human trafficking. Establishes a unified statewide data repository for anonymous human trafficking data at the University of South Florida. Requires the department to submit human trafficking data provided by law enforcement and other entities to the University of South Florida. Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2023, Chapter No. 2023-86 and took effect July 1, 2023.



Other Legislation of Interest

[HB 139 – Benefits, Training and Employment for Veterans and Their Spouses](#)

[SB 262 – Technology Transparency](#)

[SB 266 – Higher Education](#)

[SB 300 – Pregnancy and Parenting Support](#)

[HB 365 – Controlled Substances](#)

[SB 450 – Death Penalty](#)

[HB 535 – Funeral Service Benefits for Public Safety Officers](#)

[HB 733 – Middle School and High School Start Times](#)

[HB 761 – Telephone Solicitation](#)

[HB 1275 – Persons with Disabilities Registry](#)

[HB 1285 – Florida State Guard](#)

[HB 1297 – Capital Sexual Battery](#)

[SB 1322 – Adoption](#)

[SB 1352 – Sickle Cell Disease Medications, Treatment, and Screening](#)

[HB 1521 – Facility Requirements Based on Sex](#)

[SB 2502 – Implementing the 2023-2023 General Appropriations Act](#)

[SB 7050 – Elections](#)

[HB 7063 - Taxation](#)



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