



2 0 2 4 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Florida Department of Law Enforcement



J. Mark Glass, Commissioner

Session Summary

The Legislature adjourned its 2024 regular session on March 8 after approving a \$117 billion budget for FY 24/25. On June 12, the Governor vetoed just under \$1 billion in spending and signed the budget.

The department had another successful year receiving over \$53 million in additional funding, 36 new positions, and funding to fill several existing positions that were previously unfunded. These new positions will increase staffing in our crime laboratories, information technology, Firearm Purchasing Program and Eligibility Research Unit, Background Investigation Units, and Criminal Justice Grants. The budget also includes funds for a command vehicle. All state employees received a 3 percent pay raise. Additionally, FDLE received \$1.5M to grant a special pay adjustment of 5 percent to eligible members in the following positions: Special Agent Trainee, Special Agent and Protective Services Special Agent II.

The department tracked over 241 pieces of legislation during the 2024 session and provided 157 bill analyses to policy makers. FDLE successfully passed three important pieces of legislation to help protect Florida's citizens and visitors. On April 10, 2024, Governor DeSantis signed HB 1235, the department's priority legislation relating to sexual offenders and predators. The legislation clarifies residency definitions and notification requirements for out of state and international travel. It also authorizes local agencies to mail address verifications and allows online registration of vehicles information and address changes to reduce the impact on local sheriff's offices.



Session Statistics

Session	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Bills Filed	1,902	1,828	1,753	1,839
Total Bills Enrolled (passed by both chambers)	325	356	285	275
Percentage of Enrolled Bills	17.1%	19.04%	16.2%	14.9%



- \$8,500,000 (\$6M in general revenue funding and \$2.5M in trust fund authority) for the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E.) in Florida program
- \$11,856,512 (\$8.9M in general revenue funding and \$2.9M in trust fund authority) to complete the Biometric Identification System upgrade
- \$1,116,000 in general revenue funding for required updates to the RAMS for PALM financial management system
- \$1,915,000 in general revenue funding to upgrade the Missing Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse application
- \$2,498,357 (\$2.39M in general revenue funding and \$100,000 in trust fund authority) and nine FTE for the creation of additional Crime Scene Investigation teams
- \$1,297,195 in general revenue funding for six FTE positions to reduce forensic backlog
- \$217,887 in general revenue funding for two FTE positions to address increased grant management workload and ensure statutory compliance
- \$259,176 in general revenue funding for two FTE positions to increase background investigation efficiency
- \$511,574 in general revenue funding for three FTE positions in the Firearm Eligibility Bureau to reduce backlog
- \$506,686 (\$406,686 in general revenue funding and \$100,000 in trust fund authority) for two FTE positions for forensic expansion
- \$703,341 (\$203,341 in general revenue funding and \$500,000 in trust fund authority) for one FTE positions to enhance missing persons and unidentified human remains identification initiatives

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New Funding Initiatives

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- \$767,235 in general revenue funding and five FTE for fentanyl identification and trend monitoring.
- \$1,054,350 in general revenue funding and six FTE for crime abatement technology
- \$2,130,000 in general revenue funding for additional cell site simulators
- \$1,205,062 in general revenue funding for the expansion of cyber intercept tools, software licenses and training
- \$1,498,640 in general revenue funding to support human trafficking, smuggling, retail theft, and cyber exploitation cases
- \$2,500,000 in general revenue funding (\$1.4M Crime Lab, \$1.1M Investigations) to account for inflationary costs of technology services and forensic supplies
- \$600,000 in federal grant trust fund authority to support the maintenance of the Sexual Assault Tracking System
- \$650,000 in federal grants trust fund authority for a mobile command vehicle
- \$2,000,000 in trust fund authority to purchase soft body armor for local law enforcement officers in fiscally constrained counties
- \$3,000,000 in general revenue funding to increase bandwidth for CJNet users
- \$1,400,000 in trust fund authority to furnish the Capital Circle Office Complex office space (DMS received \$1.5M in funding to complete renovations of the space)
- \$422,500 (\$325,000 in general revenue funding and \$97,500 in trust fund authority) to lease a secure, consolidated hanger to improve aviation operations
- \$1,600,000 in general revenue funding to establish critical infrastructure analysts in specified regions
- \$398,543 in trust fund authority for credit card fees
- \$360,000 in general revenue funding for PROC utilities
- \$2,000,000 in trust fund authority for FMROC tenant broker commission

Key Substantive Legislation



[SB 276 – Review of Advisory Bodies](#) Requires each executive agency with an advisory body, to submit reports by August 15 to the Florida Fiscal Portal, detailing each advisory body’s statutory authority, purpose, membership, meeting dates for the past three years, a three-year work plan, funds and staff time allocated, and a recommendation on whether to continue, terminate, or modify the advisory body. Chapter No. 2024-87 and effective July 1, 2024.

[SB 678 – Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy Grant Program](#) Establishes a grant program to support the use of forensic investigative genetic genealogy by law enforcement and medical examiners in solving violent crimes and identifying human remains. Provides a definition for “forensic investigative genetic genealogy” and specifies reporting requirements for grant recipients. Chapter No. 2024-113 and effective July 1, 2024.

[SB 764 – Retention of Sexual Offense Evidence](#) Amends s. 943.326(3), F.S., to specify parameters for the storage of sexual assault evidence kits that are collected from alleged victims of a sexual offense who do not report to law enforcement during the forensic physical examination. These kits must be retained for a minimum of 50 years. Requires medical facility or certified rape crisis center that collected the kit must transfer it to FDLE within 30 days after the collection date. FDLE must store the evidence anonymously, in a secure environmentally safe manner, and with a documented chain of custody. Chapter No. 2024-169 and effective October 1, 2024.

[HB 801 – Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia Training for Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers](#) Requires FDLE to create an online training program on Alzheimer’s disease and related forms of dementia. Authorizes the completion of the training to count towards the mandatory 40 hours of continued employment training for officers. Chapter No. 2024-52 and effective October 1, 2024.

[HB 937 – Purple Alert](#) Amends the existing Purple Alert program to better align it with the AMBER Alert and Silver Alert programs. The bill provides that a statewide Purple Alert may only be issued when an identifiable vehicle is involved. If no identifiable vehicle is involved, dissemination of the Purple Alert is limited to local distribution in the area where the person may be reasonably located. Chapter No. 2024-82 and effective July 1, 2024.

[SB 975 – Background Screenings and Certifications](#) Establishes new requirements for various health and social service professions regarding background screenings, certifications, and qualifications. Expands background screening requirements to additional health care practitioners and specifies disqualifying offenses under these requirements. Requires specified health care practitioners licensed before a certain date to comply with new background screening requirements by their next licensure renewal. Chapter No. 2024-243 and effective July 1, 2024, unless otherwise provided.

[HB 1131 – Online Sting Operations Grant Program](#) Establishes a program within FDLE to award grants to local law enforcement agencies to conduct sting operations aimed at individuals targeting children online. Chapter No. 2024-72 and effective July 1, 2024.

[SB 1224 – Protection of Children and Victims of Crime](#) Amends multiple statutes to expand the role and operations of the Statewide Guardian Ad Litem Office. Requires FDLE to consult with specified entities to develop policies, procedures, and online training necessary for implementation of a statewide evidence-based lethality assessment. Chapter No. 2024-70 and effective July 1, 2024, unless otherwise provided.

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[HB 1235 – Sexual Predators and Sexual Offenders](#) Clarifies definitions and registration requirements for sexual predators and offenders. Authorizes online registration of vehicle information. Specifies that failure to comply with registration or reporting requirements constitute a separate criminal offense for each instance of non-compliance. Requires sexual offenders in local jail custody to be registered by the custodian within a specified timeframe and upon release. Requires FDLE be notified of a petition by a sexual offender for relief of his or her registration requirements. Requires sexual offenders and predators to report all international travel, regardless of travel length. Chapter No. 2024-73 and effective October 1, 2024.

[SB 1286 – Return of Weapons and Arms Following an Arrest](#) Amends s. 790.08, F.S., to require a law enforcement agency to return any weapons, electric weapons or devices, or firearms that are taken from a person following an arrest, but that are not seized as evidence or subject to forfeiture under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act, within 30 days after such request is made if certain criteria is met. Also amends s. 933.14, F.S., to delete a provision requiring an order of a trial court judge to return a pistol or firearm to its owner if such pistol or firearm was taken by an officer upon a view by the officer of a breach of the peace. Chapter No. 2024-61 and effective July 1, 2024.

[HB 1473 – School Safety](#) Implements new reporting requirements related to individuals certified as school guardians and serving as school guardians in school districts, charter schools, and private schools, with penalties for noncompliance. Requires FDLE to serve as the central repository of information regarding certified and appointed guardians. Establishes new perimeter and door safety requirements. Provides for criminal penalties against a person who knowingly or willfully operates a drone over a Pre-K -12 public or private school or allows a drone to make contact with a school, with specified exceptions. Requires public schools, including charter schools, within the first five days of school to provide age and developmentally appropriate instruction on the use and misuse of FortifyFL, the state mobile suspicious activity reporting tool. Creates a grant program to be administered by FDLE to support sheriffs' offices and law enforcement agencies in conducting physical site security assessments to assist private schools with school safety efforts. Chapter No. 2024-155 and effective July 1, 2024.

[SB 1680 – Advanced Technology](#) Establishes the Government Technology Modernization Council, an advisory council within the Department of Management Services, to generally advise the Legislature on new technologies, artificial intelligence, and related issues. The Executive Director of FDLE or his or designee is a member of the Council. Creates s. 827.072, F.S., defining the terms “generated child pornography,” “intentionally view,” and “sexual conduct,” and makes it a crime to knowingly possess, control, intentionally view, or create generated child pornography. Each instance of possession, control, or intentional viewing constitutes a separate offense. Chapter No. 2024-118 and effective July 1, 2024.

[HB 7063 – Anti-human Trafficking](#) Replaces the National Human Trafficking Hotline with the Florida Human Trafficking Hotline in several sections. Prohibits the employment of individuals under 21 years old in adult entertainment establishments, setting criminal penalties for violations. Requires adult entertainment establishments to verify the age of entertainers and other employees using specific forms of identification. Chapter No. 2024-184 and effective July 1, 2024.



Other Legislation of Interest

[HB 3 – Online Protections for Minors](#)

[HB 49 – Employment](#)

[HB 133 – Criminal History of Licensees and Employees](#)

[HB 151 – Florida Retirement System](#)

[SB 184 – Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders](#)

[HB 187 – Antisemitism](#)

[HB 241 – Coverage for Skin Cancer Screenings](#)

[HB 275 – Offenses Involving Critical Infrastructure](#)

[HB 305 – Offenses Involving Children](#)

[HB 317 – Interstate Safety](#)

[HB 473 – Cybersecurity Incident Liability](#)

[SB 474 – Public Records/Suicide Victims](#)

[HB 533 – DNA Samples from Inmates](#)

[HB 549 – Theft](#)

[HB 601 – Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers](#)

[SB 718 – Exposures of First Responders to Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analogs](#)

[HB 885 – Coverage for Biomarker Testing](#)

[HB 931 – School Chaplains](#)

[HB 1281 – Interception and Disclosure of Oral Communications](#)

[HB 1365 – Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping](#)

[HB 1389 – Digital Voyeurism](#)

[HB 1509 – Pub. Rec./School Guardians](#)

[HB 1545 – Child Exploitation Offenses](#)

[HB 1551 – Florida State Guard](#)

[SB 1600 – Interstate Mobility](#)

[HB 1611 – Insurance](#)

[HB 7021 – Mental Health and Substance Abuse](#)



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