



2026 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Session Summary



J. Mark Glass, Commissioner

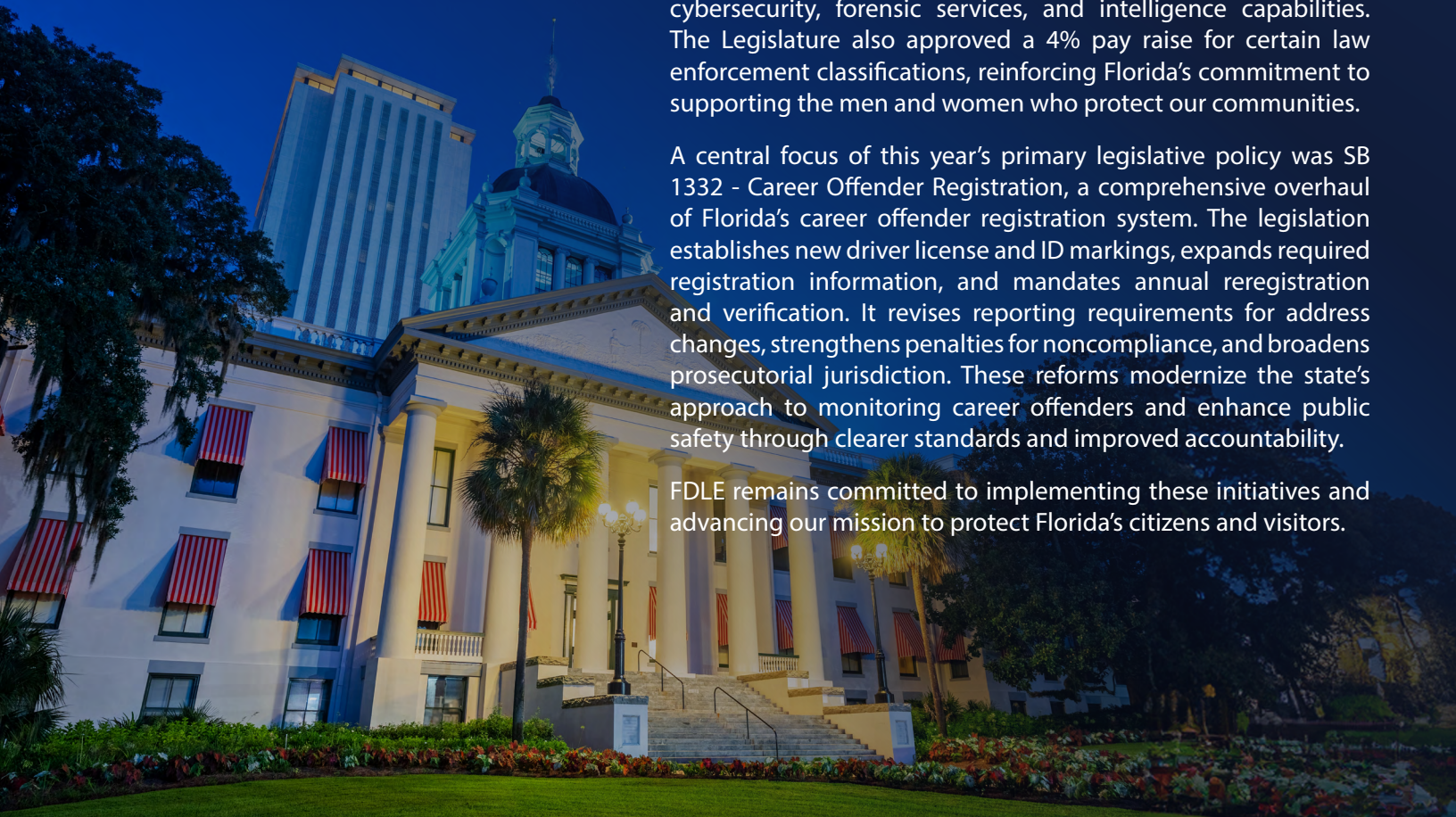
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement

The 2026 Legislative Session was marked by significant progress for Florida's public safety community and continued recognition of the essential role FDLE plays in safeguarding our state. This year, the Legislature filed 1,896 bills and ultimately enrolled 237, representing a 12.5% passage rate—the lowest in recent years, underscoring the increasingly selective nature of the legislative process. Despite this, FDLE remained deeply engaged, tracking over 358 bills and providing 169 bill analyses to policymakers. These efforts ensured that public safety considerations were integrated into legislative decision-making and that the department's operational needs were clearly communicated.

FDLE received substantial new funding to strengthen operations, modernize technology, and expand statewide investigative capacity. Major investments include construction of the new Fort Myers Regional Operations Center, expansion of the Office of Wellness, completion of technology upgrades for the Missing Endangered Persons Clearinghouse and Alcohol Testing Program, and significant enhancements to statewide interoperability, cybersecurity, forensic services, and intelligence capabilities. The Legislature also approved a 4% pay raise for certain law enforcement classifications, reinforcing Florida's commitment to supporting the men and women who protect our communities.

A central focus of this year's primary legislative policy was SB 1332 - Career Offender Registration, a comprehensive overhaul of Florida's career offender registration system. The legislation establishes new driver license and ID markings, expands required registration information, and mandates annual reregistration and verification. It revises reporting requirements for address changes, strengthens penalties for noncompliance, and broadens prosecutorial jurisdiction. These reforms modernize the state's approach to monitoring career offenders and enhance public safety through clearer standards and improved accountability.

FDLE remains committed to implementing these initiatives and advancing our mission to protect Florida's citizens and visitors.





Session Statistics

Session	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total Bills Filed	1,828	1,902	1,959	1,896
Total Enrolled Bills (passed by both chambers)	356	325	269	237
Percentage of Enrolled Bills	19.5%	17.1%	13.7%	12.5%

25 2026 27 | New Funding Initiatives

- \$4,400,000 (\$2,400,000 in general revenue and \$2,000,000 in trust fund authority) for the new Fort Myers Regional Operations Center Facility
- \$2,613,152 in general revenue funding and eight FTE of Office of Wellness Expansion
- \$2,440,000 in trust fund authority for the final year of the Missing Endangered Person Information Clearinghouse Technology upgrades
- \$3,305,304 in trust fund authority for the final year of the Alcohol Testing Program transition to new breath test instrumentation
- \$6,000,000 in general revenue funding to improve interoperability across public safety agencies via Peregrine solutions
- \$1,800,000 in general revenue for case management software to begin the AIM replacement project
- \$265,212 in general revenue funding and two FTE positions for additional personnel to implement statutory requirements
- \$399,651 in general revenue and four FTE for Cyber Investigations and Telecommunications Enhancements
- \$1,319,552 in general revenue for Forensic Firearm Range Remediation
- \$430,000 in trust fund authority for increased costs for Forensic Services and supplies
- \$15,000,000 for the State Assistance for Fentanyl Eradication (S.A.F.E) in Florida Program
- \$2,000,000 in trust fund authority for investigative aircraft replacement
- \$350,000 in general revenue for the Genetic Genealogy Program
- \$460,951 in trust fund authority for Criminal Justice Information Services systems support
- \$1,450,000 in general revenue for the data exchange and reporting systems update
- \$850,000 in general revenue for the Criminal Justice Data Transparency portal upgrade
- \$1,605,000 in general revenue for the critical information technology security infrastructure
- \$700,000 in general revenue to acquire an intelligence suite to enhance investigations and queries of subjects engaged in criminal activity
- \$600,000 in general revenue for Internet Crimes Against Children related expenditures
- \$500,000 in general revenue to fulfill Maintenance Contracts for Laboratory Equipment
- \$1,294,140 in general revenue for PALM



Key Substantive Legislation



[HB 277 – Domestic Violence and Protective Injunctions](#) Requires FDLE to update injunctions into the Florida Criminal Information Center (FCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to include dating violence, sexual violence, and repeat violence. Provides enhanced penalties for committing domestic violence offenses if the person has a prior conviction for domestic violence. Requires a law enforcement officer to make a specified notification if he or she has probable cause to believe that person violated a military protective order. Authorizes, and in certain circumstances requires, the court to order electronic monitoring in domestic violence cases. Expands protective injunctions to include dating and sexual violence. Establishes a two-year pilot electronic monitoring program and revises the dollar amounts for relocation assistance for victims of domestic violence. Chapter No. 2026-86 and effective July 1, 2026.

[SB 418 – Law Enforcement Officer Interactions with Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#) Creates a blue envelope and blue card program which provides help to individuals with autism spectrum disorder to better communicate with law enforcement officers during traffic stops or related interactions. Mandates that the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) develop and implement employment training for law enforcement officers covering the identification of and interaction with individuals with autism spectrum disorder. Specifies that officers must receive in-person, as well as online, training over de-escalation techniques, recognizing potential abusive situations, understanding individuals' rights, and effectively communicating with persons on the autism spectrum. Requires the training to be integrated into both basic recruit instruction as well as continued law enforcement training programs. Initial certification training has to be incorporated in the basic skills course by July 1, 2028, with all law enforcement completing training by July 1, 2030. Chapter No. 2026-147 and effective July 1, 2026.

[HB 559 – Animal Welfare](#) Updates requirements related to animal abuse offenders that FDLE must publish on its website. Specifically, FDLE must publish the offender's name and aliases, date of birth, race, county of conviction, charge or charges, case number, disposition, description of any identifying marks and tattoos, and a photograph taken at the time of booking related to the animal cruelty offense of each individual who has been convicted of, or who has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of adjudication. FDLE will post information regarding convictions based on felony offenses. FDLE will develop a procedure to allow a person whose conviction has been overturned or who has received a sealing of the criminal history record for which his or her information was publicly posted, to petition for the removal of his or her information. After receiving a petition with adequate documentation, FDLE must remove such information from the website within 30 days. Establishes increased penalties and requirements for offenses involving animal cruelty and minors, while enhancing reporting obligations and penalties for related crimes. Chapter No. 2026-78 and effective October 1, 2026.

[SB 656 – Internet Crimes Against Children Programs](#) Renames the Online Sting Operation Grant Program to the Internet Crimes Against Children Grant Program within FDLE. Provides definitions and revises the program's purpose. FDLE will annually award funding to local law enforcement agencies to combat child exploitation, including funds for overtime pay, travel, training, as well as hardware or software. This program aims to provide stable funding for task forces recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice to combat technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation. Chapter No. 2026-96 and effective July 1, 2026.



HB 757 – School Safety Requires expansion of the user interface for the School Guardian Management System (SGMS) which was developed and implemented within FDLE. The expansion will necessitate system updates to include post-secondary institutions. Creates offenses, updates the Criminal Punishment Code, and makes requirements for sheriffs regarding the training program. Chapter No. 2026-80 and effective May 15, 2026.

SB 1004 – Domestic Animals Updates the requirements related to animal abuse offenders that FDLE must publish on its website. Specifically, FDLE must publish the offender's name and aliases, date of birth, race, county of conviction, charge or charges, case number, disposition, description of any identifying marks and tattoos, and a photograph taken at the time of booking related to the animal cruelty offense of each individual who has been convicted of, or who has entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of judgement. Also, updates to timeframes for consumers and requirements for pet dealers. Chapter No. 2026-76 and effective July 1, 2026.

HB 1069 – Background Screenings Requires FDLE to add additional designations for background screenings to include coaches, assistant coaches, managers, and referees. Authorizes limited exemptions for minor coaches or referees under direct supervision. Requires qualified entities to appoint a user administrator to manage criminal history information access and compliance. Mandates expanded disclosure of sealed or expunged criminal history records for individuals screened through the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse by a qualified entity. Chapter No. 2026-114 and effective July 1, 2026.

HB 1279 – Education Beginning January 31, 2027, FDLE will consult with the University of South Florida Trafficking in Persons – Risk to Resilience Lab for their annual report and analysis. Chapter No. 2026-59 and effective July 1, 2026.

SB 1332 – Career Offender Registration Requires a driver license or ID marking for career offenders. Specifies and increases required information for career offender registration. Specifies the manner in which information changes must be reported. Removes the provision relating to career offenders registering at FDLE. Revises requirements for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) reporting. Specifies the procedure for career offenders to establish a residence. Requires annual reregistration and at least yearly verification of career offender information. Revises provisions relating to removal of registration requirements. Revises the manner in which career offender addresses are verified and reported. Revises provisions relating to failure to register, punishments, notice, and defenses. Enhances the penalty for assisting in career offender noncompliance. Expands jurisdictions in which career offenders may be prosecuted. Chapter No. 2026-151 and effective October 1, 2026.

Continued



HB 1471 – Systems of Law and Terrorist Organizations Prohibits a court or other adjudicatory body from applying or enforcing provisions of foreign or religious laws, foreign judgments and orders, and specified contractual provisions in certain situations. Creates a process by which the Chief of Domestic Security may designate a domestic or foreign terrorist organization if certain conditions are met, which then may be approved or denied by a vote of the Governor and Cabinet. Notice of intent to designate an entity must generally be served to the entity. Provides criminal penalties for certain conduct, prohibits certain actions related to engaging with or funding a designated terrorist organization, and allows for the Department of State to administratively dissolve a corporation that has been designated as a terrorist organization in certain situations. Requires private schools to refrain from affiliations with and acceptance of funds from terrorist organizations and related entities to remain eligible for state scholarship programs. Prohibits public schools, Florida College System institutions, and state universities from expending public funds for activities that promote designated terrorist organizations or those providing them material support. Mandates the immediate expulsion of students who promote designated terrorist organizations and requires imposition of out-of-state fees, denial of fee waivers, and forfeit of state financial aid if such promotion occurs. Chapter No. 2026-28 and effective July 1, 2026.

HB 1473 – Public Records/Terrorist Organizations Public Records bill linked with HB 1471 and requires the Chief of Domestic Security to provide written notice and findings to the Governor and Cabinet before designating a domestic or foreign terrorist organization. The Chief of Domestic Security must consult with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, counter-terrorism organizations, and national security organizations to gather sensitive national and domestic security information. Exempts any portion of the information revealing critical security details from public records, subject to review and repeal on October 2, 2031. Affirms legislative intent to safeguard sensitive state and national security information. Chapter No. 2026-29 and effective July 1, 2026.



OTHER LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

[HB 35 – Habitual Traffic Offender Designation](#)

[HB 47 – Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations](#)

[SB 52 – Security Services at Places of Worship](#)

[HB 145 – Claims Against the Government](#)

[SB 156 – Criminal Offenses Against Law Enforcement Officers and Other Personnel](#)

[SB 212 – Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators](#)

[HB 245 – Child Pornography Terminology](#)

[SB 296 – Victims of Domestic Violence and Dating Violence](#)

[HB 359 – Search Warrants](#)

[HB 397 – Violations of Pretrial Release Conditions for Violent Crimes](#)

[HB 429 – Criteria for Determining Criminal Gang Membership](#)

[SB 432 – Intoxicating Substances](#)

[SB 436 – Felony Battery](#)

[HB 445 – Dangerous Crimes](#)

[HB 491 – Faith-based Content in Batterer's Intervention Programs](#)

[SB 590 – Statute of Limitations Period for Violations Involving Required Reports Concerning Children](#)

[HB 905 – Foreign Influence](#)

[HB 991 – Elections](#)

[SB 1030 – Recovery Residences](#)

[HB 1113 – Public Records/Crime Victims](#)

[HB 1153 – Juvenile Justice](#)

[HB 1159 – Sexual Offenses](#)

[HB 1337 – Estates](#)

[HB 1525 – Lewd or Lascivious Acts](#)

[SB 1690 – Child Care and Early Learning Services](#)



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