

2026 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 2

We officially have completed two weeks of the 2026 Legislative Session.

Last week MIAF hit the halls of the state capitol and discussed the need for increased on the water law enforcement, water access, outdoor education, workforce and our economic impact in Florida.

Boating issues were numerous last year, ranging from boater safety to anchoring and mooring limitations. This year there are several bills filed relating to boater safety again to anchoring and mooring to boating restricted areas.

As we navigate the next seven weeks, please keep in mind this year is a perfect storm. This is an election year with midterm implications. The Governor terms out and every Cabinet member will be on the ballot and every state house seat and half the state senators will be up for election. Adding to the intrigue is an upcoming special session to redraw congressional districts in April.

With those dynamics in mind, please know no one can predict what will happen in the next seven weeks or even the upcoming months.

We are eagerly anticipating the House and Senate to start rolling out their respective budgets so we can begin the process of crafting a balanced budget.

Big issues in the headlines including property tax, artificial intelligence, tort reform and rural renaissance remain uncertain. There are still seven weeks to work on these and other issues before the sixty-day session runs out of time! Please stay tuned as we anticipate lots of twists and turns over the next few weeks.

Below are just a few of the bills we are highlighting for the 2026 Legislative Session!

Boater Safety

[Senate Bill 900 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1447 by Representative Rob Long](#)

Boating safety continues to be a hot topic in Florida. Last year, the legislature passed major changes to boating safety laws.

This year there is a bill in the Senate and House adding to what was passed last session. These bills are very lengthy and need a concise and thorough review by the industry and law enforcement.

We will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss this bill next week and have also asked FWC for their review and analysis of the bill.



Senate Bill 900 by Senator Garcia was **temporarily passed** in its first committee of reference in Senate Criminal Justice Committee on January 20th. The bill had one amendment filed **by the sponsor and a late filed amendment by Senator Martin. The bill is not scheduled in Senate Criminal Justice during the second week of Session.**

Senate Bill 900 has three committees of reference. Senate Criminal Justice Committee, Senate Appropriations on Transportation and Economic Development and Senate Fiscal Policy.

House Bill 1447 was referred to four committees. The bill was referred to house Criminal Justice Subcommittee, House Governmental Operations, House Budget Committee and House Judiciary Committee. **As of the writing of this report, the schedule for the committee has not been released. We have heard from members who have expressed concerns regarding the bill.**

Public Waters

[Senate Bill 1042 by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez](#)
[House Bill 669 by Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman](#)

The bills include everything from mooring boundaries to protecting beaches and bathing places. The bill concerning aspect of the bill would be the language specifying local government boundaries when applying for mooring field permits.

The Senate Bill is sponsored by Senator Rodriguez and has three committees of reference. The first committee is the Senate Health Policy Committee. **The bill is not scheduled to be heard in the third week.** The bill is also referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government.

House Bill 669 has four committees of reference. The bill refers to House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, House Budget and House State Affairs. **As of the writing of this report, the first committee has not released an agenda regarding this bill. Representative Gossett-Seidman's office reached out to our office this week and has requested a meeting. We do not know the topic for discussion but are going to try and meet with her this week if time allows.**

Boating Restricted Areas

[House Bill 1173 by Representative Tyler Sorois \(House Majority Leader\)](#)

This bill was filed by the House Majority Leader. The bill does not have a Senate companion at this time. This bill was filed by the House Majority Leader. The bill does not have a Senate companion currently. The bill is referred to three committees, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. **The agenda for the first committee of reference for this bill has not been released as of the writing of this report.**

Please remember, last year bills without Senate companions did pass as they were sent to the Senate and referred to committee, heard and then passed on the Senate floor. We will be watching this bill closely.

We have asked FWC again for their analysis and feedback on this bill. **We are also watching closely to see if this language could be amended onto another bill.**

Surface Waters

[Senate Bill 1422 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)
[House Bill 1319 by Representative Lindsay Cross](#)

This bill filed by Senator Garcia and Representative Cross are identical. Senate Bill 1422 has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government and Rules. **The bill is not scheduled to be heard in the first committee of reference during the third week.**

House Bill 1319 by Representative Cross only has two committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disaster and House State Affairs Committee. **The agenda for the first committee of reference has not been released as of the writing of this report.**

Nature Based Coastal Resiliency

[Senate Bill 302 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)
[House Bill 1035 by Representative Jim Mooney Jr.](#)

House Bill 1035 is referred to two committees of reference. The bill is referred to the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee and the House State Affairs Committee. **As of the writing of this report the first committee of reference has not released its agenda for this week.**

Senate Bill 302 passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with an amendment. The bill is now a committee substitute. The bill has two more committees of reference. The next stop is the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. The last stop for the bill is the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee. **The Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government is not scheduled to meet this week.**

The bills are comparable.

Local Administration of Vessel Restrictions

[Senate Bill 1682 by Senator Jay Trumbull](#)
[House Bill 1103 by Representative Alex Andrade](#)

The bills are identical. They allow local governments to pass ordinances granting code enforcement administrative authority over vessels at risk or becoming derelict, derelict vessels and long-term anchoring permits.

The Senate bill has three committees of reference. **The bill is scheduled to be heard during the third**

week in its first committee of reference, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on January 27th. The bill has two more committee stops after the first committee hearing. The bill will then go to Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government and finally Senate Rules Committee.

The House Bill also has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. **The next committee meeting for the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee is January 28th. The agenda will be published January 26th.**

Motor Vehicle Registration

We will be watching House Bill 841 by Representative Fabricio and Senate Bill 982 by Senator Rodriguez relating to Motor Vehicle Registration. Meetings this week hinted that vessel registration potentially could be added to this proposed legislation. We will keep you posted.

The Senate Bill is not on the agenda this week in its first committee of reference. The first committee of reference for the House Bill has not released its agenda as of the writing of this report. We will keep a lookout for amendments if the bills are placed on committee agendas.

Boating Capital of the World

Calling all boaters to sign up to purchase a “Boating Capital of the World” license plate. There is a requirement to presale a certain number of license plates before they go into production. We need to get the word out and let everyone know this tag is available for pre-sales and the monies benefit Captain Sandy’s Charities.

We will be highlighting this project all Session and hope you can help us hit our goal!

Please sign up for every vehicle and boat trailer and share with friends and family!

PRE-ORDER your Boating Capital of the World license plate today!

www.boatingplate.com

Thank you so very much for allowing us to be your voice in Tallahassee!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

