

2026 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 4

The fourth week was not as exciting as we anticipated last week.

We were hopeful the House and Senate would start releasing their budget recommendations, but they are keeping us in suspense. We hope to see recommendations this week. There is still plenty of time to pass a balanced budget during regular session.

Another rumor of a potential legislative proposal on property tax from the Senate did not materialize this week. Again, we are hopeful to see a draft this week. The House of Representatives continue to move their proposals through the committee process.

We know we already have one special session on congressional reapportionment this year and there is a chance we could see more depending on how the next few weeks shake out.

The last four weeks have been tough and difficult. Hopefully as we approach the halfway point, we will begin to see light at the end of the tunnel and minimal special sessions this spring or worse and extended session.

Please remain alert as this is the time of year, we see amendments getting filed at the last minute.

As for boating issues, many are not moving this year, but two have caught our attention. One is for code enforcement to tag derelict vessels and one relating to surface waters. Both bills were amended this week with amendments of interest. We have sent out amendments and packets. If you are interested in bill history, you can click on the links in this report.

Senate Bill 1682 relating to Local Administration of Vessel Restrictions added an amendment relating to moorings in Key West Bight Dock and Senate Bill 1422 relating to Surface Waters was amended in Committee and is now an act relating to Coral Reefs.

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 have reached out to FWC and asked for their commentary on this 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 was not scheduled in Senate Criminal Justice during the second, third or fourth weeks of Session. The bill is also not on the agenda for the fifth week in Senate Criminal Justice Committee.**

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 agenda has not been released for the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee. The meeting is on February 12th, and the agenda notice deadline is February 10th at 5 pm.**

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 fifth 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 House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee has not released an agenda. The notice deadline for the agenda for this committee is February 10th. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th.**

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 currently. The bill is referred to three committees, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. As of the writing of this report, the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee has not released **an agenda. The no-**

tice deadline for the agenda for this committee is February 10th. The next meeting is scheduled for February 12th.

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 looking closely to see if this language could be amended onto another bill.

Surface Waters/Coral Reefs

[Senate Bill 1422 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1319 by Representative Lindsay Cross](#)

This bill filed by Senator Garcia and Representative Cross are no longer 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 passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on February 3rd with a delete everything amendment. The bill is now related to Coral Reefs. We sent the bill and staff analysis for review. If you are interested in reviewing the information immediately, please click the link above for the Senate Bill. The bill does reference Palm Beach.**

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. The agenda is due February 10th at 5 pm. We will look for amendments if the bill is placed on the agenda.**

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. **The bill passed the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee unanimously. The next stop is the House State Affairs Committee. The bill is not on the agenda this coming week. There is plenty of time for this bill to pass and it only has one more committee stop.**

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.

Senate Bill 302 passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government this week. The bill passed with a delete all amendment 11-0. The bill is now a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute. The next stop is the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee.

tee. The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee has not released its agenda yet.

The bills are similar.

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 passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on January 27th. The bill passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, the second committee of reference on February 4th. The bill was amended with language reducing the number of moorings in statute for the Key West Bight City Dock. Senate Bill 1682 is now a committee substitute. The bill has one more committee stop, Senate Rules. The bill is not on the agenda in Senate Rules during the fifth week. There is still plenty of time to pass the bill this year.**

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 bill passed the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee is January 28th with an amendment and is now a committee substitute. The bill has two more committee stops. The House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee has not published their agenda yet. The notice deadline is February 10th at 5 pm.**

These bills are moving and we have reached out to FWC on these bills for their comments, questions or concerns. We are still waiting to get that information.

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 House Bill passed the first committee of reference without any amendments this week. The next stop for House Bill 841 is the House State Affairs Committee.

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 work 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.

