



# THIS WEEK IN TALLAHASSEE

FROM THE VOICE OF FLORIDA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

# FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## APRIL 2025 | MID-SESSION OVERVIEW

As lawmakers enter the second half of the 2025 legislative session, **44 bills have successfully passed** in at least one chamber. However, no substantive measures have yet cleared both chambers. Here's a look at some key legislative developments.

### KEY BILLS IN PROGRESS

#### HOUSE BILL 0317

##### Strengthening Protections for Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers

Sponsored by **Rep. Tom Fabricio**, HB 0317 aims to bolster protections for **law enforcement and corrections officers** under investigation.

The bill recently **passed favorably** through the Government Operations Subcommittee and is moving forward in the legislative process.

### HOUSE BILL 383 & SENATE BILL 490

Expanding Firearm Rights for Law Enforcement and Military Personnel

**HB 383**, sponsored by **Rep. Jeff Holcomb**, unanimously passed the House floor.

Its companion bill, **SB 490**, sponsored by **Sen. Jay Collins**, advanced through the Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government and now heads to the **Senate Fiscal Policy Committee**.

#### Key Provisions

- Allowing **correctional probation officers** to carry concealed firearms off-duty at their superiors' discretion.
- Revising definitions of "qualified law enforcement officer" and "qualified retired law enforcement officer" to include **correctional probation officers**.
- Exempting **correctional probation officers** from needing concealed weapon licenses for off-duty carry as private citizens.
- Exempts certified **law enforcement officers**, **corrections officers**, and **active-duty** military members from the three-day waiting period for firearm purchases.
- Background checks remain mandatory under this exemption.

# APRIL 2025

## SENATE BILL 824

### Specialty License Plates Supporting Florida Highway Patrol Troopers

Sponsored by **Sen. Jason Pizzo**, SB 824 **passed** favorably through the Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development and **now moves** to the **Senate Fiscal Policy Committee**.

The bill directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to design a **“Supporting FHP Troopers”** specialty license plate.

**Revenue** from plate sales will **fund scholarships for Florida Highway Patrol members and their families**, covering vocational schools, technical schools, and universities. **Up to 10%** of annual use fees may be allocated for administrative **costs** and **marketing**.

## BUDGET UPDATES

### FY 2025-26 BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Both chambers have passed their proposed budgets during Wednesday floor sessions but remain **\$4.5 billion** apart in allocations per budget area.

Before entering formal budget conferences, initial allocations must be agreed upon—a process that could take time given the substantial differences between proposals.

Lawmakers face an **April 29** deadline to finalize a budget in order to comply with the constitutionally required 72-hour “cooling off” period before session adjournment on **May 2**.

