



2026 Legislative Session Weekly Update- Week 4

Week 4

Week 4 of the 2026 Florida Legislative Session blended policy momentum with major statewide headlines. Governor Ron DeSantis announced new America 250 celebrations, including a paid state holiday on Feb. 16 and several days of free admission to state parks and public lands. At the same time, committees began moving significant environmental legislation, including the Department of Environmental Protection omnibus bill (SB 1510) and a coastal resilience proposal (SB 302) focused on nature-based solutions like mangrove restoration and living shorelines. Agriculture also drew attention as Commissioner Wilton Simpson sought a federal disaster declaration after a severe cold snap threatened Florida crops, while state officials reported thousands of cold-stunned invasive iguanas were collected in South Florida.

The week also featured major movement on health care, insurance, business regulation, and local government policy. Lawmakers began debating hospital district funding flexibility through SB 1122 and HB 1047, which would allow locally raised hospital tax dollars to be spent across county lines, raising concerns about accountability and voter expectations. Insurance bills continued advancing, including SB 1028 and HB 943 aimed at shifting commercial property policies out of Citizens when private offers are within 20 percent of current premiums. On the business side, the House advanced HB 951 to allow rounding cash transactions to the nearest nickel, and the Senate moved forward with data center regulation through SB 484 and a related public records exemption in SB 1118. Local governments also raised alarms as HB 103 advanced, proposing to repeal most local business taxes and potentially reducing a key revenue source for counties and municipalities.

Housing and transportation remained front and center, with the Senate unanimously passing SB 48 to require local governments to allow accessory dwelling units as a tool to expand workforce and affordable housing options. The House continued pushing land use and development measures, including HB 399, HB 929, HB 691, and HB 1481.

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Public safety discussions also advanced with the e-bike safety bill (HB 243) moving to the House floor, while the Senate companion (SB 382) headed to its final committee stop. The week ended with new political tension, including the first legal challenge to DeSantis' proposed mid-decade redistricting special session, and Senate President Ben Albritton signaling that major property insurance overhauls are unlikely this year despite continued monitoring of rates and market stability.

