



2026 Legislative Session Weekly Update- Week 5

Week 5

Our local bill, HB 4007, had a major milestone this week, passing off the House floor and now sitting in the final stretch awaiting Senate approval. The bill repeals outdated welfare lien provisions, revises Martin County's health care fund distribution system, and eliminates the County Health Care Review Board. It strikes Chapter 67-1702, Laws of Florida, removing Martin County's statutory authority to acquire liens for welfare repayment, and requires the Board of County Commissioners to establish by ordinance a new process for distributing the County Health Care Fund among all licensed hospitals. The bill also establishes updated eligibility criteria for indigent residents seeking county-funded hospital care, including residency, household income limits, Medicaid ineligibility, and asset thresholds.

Beyond local priorities, the week was heavily focused on housing, land use, utilities, and major policy bills continuing to move through committees. Affordable housing and local preemption remained front and center, with SB 48 (and the House companion HB 313) advancing the statewide push to require local governments to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Meanwhile, several land use measures remained stalled on the House side, including HB 723, HB 123, and HB 217, although the Senate companion SB 218 continued progressing. Attention also remained on post-disaster development restrictions through bills like SB 840, which continues to be framed as a fix to last year's controversial SB 180. Other notable movement included public safety legislation expanding swim lesson vouchers, SB 428 (with companion HB 85), and continued environmental policy activity with HB 1417 and its Senate companion SB 1510.

By the end of the week, the conversation shifted sharply to budget negotiations and statewide fiscal priorities as both chambers released their spending plans. After the House unveiled at just under \$113.6 billion, the Senate followed with a proposal coming in more than \$1 billion higher, landing at roughly \$115 billion for Fiscal Year 2026-27. Senate leaders emphasized a continued focus on fiscal restraint, debt reduction, and long-term savings, noting that revenue forecasts have stabilized even as they continue

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to grow. Senate President Ben Albritton framed the proposal as a reflection of “sound financial stewardship,” while budget chair Ed Hooper highlighted the goal of limiting government growth to help keep Florida affordable and preserve broad-based tax relief that families and businesses rely on.

Budget links:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Appropriations/2026>

<https://static-lobbytools.s3.amazonaws.com/bills/2026/pdf/BUC1.pdf>

