

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 1 Report

The 2025 Legislative Session has officially begun! After three Special Sessions and committee weeks we hit the ground running and the pace was intense.

Marine Industries Association of Florida has a very busy Legislative Session ahead of us. We are tracking over numerous bills, amendments and budget issues that could impact the marine industry and your marine business.

Boating is a hot topic this year and the weekly legislative reports are going to be lengthy as we have boating safety bills, anchoring bills, vessel accountability bills, DUI/Bills and Boater Freedom bills to update you on weekly. We cannot highlight all the bills we are tracking but are happy to provide an entire bill tracking list if you are interested in receiving the entire list.

The first week saw lots of action with Senate Bill 628 and House Bill 289 regarding Boating Safety getting hearings in the House and Senate this week. This bill is named "Lucy's Law". The Senate also took up an anchoring bill that would limit anchoring up to 5000 feet from a port in committee. Finally, if that was not enough for one week, the Senate also took up Driving and Boating Under the Influence bill in its second committee, this bill is known as Trenton's Law.

Next week looks just as busy and bills are being placed on agendas as this report is being written. The second week already has Anchoring Limitations up in the first committee in the House, Water Access Facilities up in the first committees in the House and Senate, the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill on Boating Safety is up in Senate Transportation and if you are interested there are three bills up relating to the Gulf of America. That is just a preview of what we know as of the writing of the report, and we anticipate other bills could be placed on agendas not published at this time.

Legislators have filed their member bills and their budget requests. Please remember committee bills can continue to be filed, and amendments can be filed for any of the bills we are tracking. Please stay alert to any email alerts we might send out if needed.

Below are a few of the bills we will be updating weekly in your report. If you would like us to add or delete any bills, please let us know.

As always, thank you for allowing us to be a voice for you in Tallahassee!

We hope to see you for MIA Days in Tallahassee, April 1st and 2nd. If you would like more information, please visit our website <https://www.marineindustriesassociationflorida.com/>.



Boating Safety Bills -- “Lucy’s Law”

Senate Bill 628 Boater Safety by Senator Martin

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/628>

House Bill 289 Boating Safety by Representative Oliver and Lopez

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=80882>

Senate Bill 58 Boater Safety by Garcia

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/58>

Boating Safety is a big issue this year. There are three bills currently filed regarding Boating Safety. Senate Bill 628 by Senator Jonathan Martin and House Bill 289 by Representative Vanessa Oliver and Vicki Lopez were filed identically. Senator Ileana Garcia filed a more comprehensive bill that included the provisions of the bills filed by Rep Oliver and Senator Martin. The bills to watch are House Bill 289 and Senate Bill 628.

The bills are a result of a tragic accident that happened in Miami. The bills increase penalties for boating violations and boating under the influence. Includes provisions for boating safety and changes the definition of a livery. We anticipate there to be more changes to these bills as they move. They are not identical currently.

Senate Bill 628 is referred to three committees, Senate Criminal Justice, Senate Transportation and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill was originally filed striking the boater education date of January 1, 1988. An amendment was filed striking that language in the bill and the bill passed the Senate Criminal Justice Committee as a Committee Substitute. **The bill is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee this week on March 12th at 8:30 am.** We anticipate an amendment to the bill this committee stop. After the bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee it will only have one more committee before it is ready for the vote on the Senate floor.

House Bill 289 is also moving this Legislative Session. The bill received three committee references and has already been heard in its first committee and passed with a proposed committee bill that also altered the boater safety education language. We anticipate this to change again.

House Bill 289 is referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee where the Proposed Committee Substitute passed unanimously. The bill still has two more committee stops with the Senate Budget Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

We will keep you posted as these bills continue to move through the process.

Anchoring (Port Version)

Senate Bill 594 Anchoring or Mooring at Seaports by Senator Rodriguez

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/594>

House Bill 795 No Anchoring or Mooring by LaMarca

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81434&SessionId=105>

The proposed bills would allow seaports to apply to FWC to prohibit anchoring or mooring for up to 5,000 feet. This could have serious impacts in areas such as Palm Beach, Bay County and Fort Pierce.

The Senate Bill was heard in the first committee of reference and passed with amendments. Questions were asked about impacts to Peanut Island and Palm Beach. More questions arose about the port in Jacksonville. The bill did pass as a Committee Substitute. After the meeting the Senate sponsor met with us to discuss our concerns. We anticipate seeing changes to this bill and will keep you posted as we continue to discuss it further.

The House Bill also received three committees of reference. The House bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Commerce Committee and House State Affairs Committee.

Vessel Accountability

Senate Bill 164 Vessel Accountability by Senator Rodriguez

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/164>

House Bill 1149 Vessel Accountability by Representative Basabe

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81827&SessionId=105>

This bill is aimed at improving long-term storage issues in the state. FWC has made several presentations on this issue in committees in the House and Senate.

The bill creates a free permit for vessel owners and operators. The bill also adds a few violations and penalties. Included in the proposal is the expansion of the Derelict Vessel Prevention and Voluntary Turn-In Program.

We are looking at this bill closely as we believe it is a priority this Session. We are happy to report we have met with both sponsors and had a great dialogue about this proposal.

The Senate Bill received three committees of reference. The bill is referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with two amendments and is now a Committee Substitute.

The House Bill is referred to the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee.

Driving and Boating Under the Influence -- “Trenton’s Law”

Senate Bill 138 Driving and Boating Under the Influence-Trenton’s Law by Senator Wright
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/138>

House Bill 687 Driving and Boating Under the Influence-Trenton’s Law by Representative Kendall
<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81302&SessionId=105>

This bill is in response to a tragic accident that resulted in death. The bill adds “impaired substances” to the statute for driving and boating under the influence the bill also has increased penalties and provides for diversion programs

The Senate bill has passed two committees of reference and was amended in both committee meetings. The bill is now a CS/CS/SB 138. The bill is now a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute.

The bill is referred to three committees of reference, Senate Criminal Justice, Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill passed the Senate Criminal Justice Committee as a committee substitute unanimously and passed the Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice with an 8-2 vote. There was discussion in the committee about using “impaired” over “intoxicated”. **The bill has one more committee stop before it is ready for the Senate floor.**

House Bill 687 has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Criminal Justice Subcommittee, House Justice Budget Subcommittee and House Judiciary Committee.

Anchoring

Senate Bill 866 Anchoring Limitation Areas by Senator Martin
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/866>

House Bill 481 Anchoring Limitation Areas by Representative Lopex
<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81046&SessionId=105>

This is an anchoring bill coming out of Miami Dade. The bill has proposed language that would allow local regulation of vessels outside marked boundaries of mooring fields. Applies to counties with a population of 1.5 million or greater and areas of critical state concerns. The bill also increased the distance of the buffer from anchoring of a mooring field to 300 feet. The bill also sets limitations for overnight anchorage.

The Senate Bill has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to the Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Community Affairs and Senate Rules.

The House Bill has two committees of reference. The bill is referred to the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee and the House State Affairs Committee. **The bill is up this week in the House Natural Resources and Disaster Subcommittee on March 11th.**

Boater Freedom

Senate Bill 1388 Vessels Bill by Senator Trumbull
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1388>

House Bill 1001 Vessels by Representative Griffitts
<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=81631&SessionId=105>

The Governor announced the Boater Freedom bills at a press conference. House Bill 1001 by Representative Griff Griffitts and Senate Bill 1388 by Senator Jay Trumbull. The bills are identical as filed.

The House Bill has three references, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee.

The Senate Bill has three committee references, Senate Environmental and Natural Resources, Appropriations Committee Agriculture, Environment and General Government and Fiscal Policy.

Gulf of Mexico/Gulf of America Bills

For those who are following the Gulf of America bills they will be making their first appearance in committees this week. **As of the writing of this report, House Bill 575 and Senate Bill 608 are scheduled to be heard this week in their first committee on March 11th. These bills will update the statutes to say Gulf of America. Also, Senate Bill 1058 is also scheduled to be heard in its first committee on March 11th. This bill would update educational materials to read Gulf of America. The House bill was not placed on an agenda as of the writing of this report.**

