

2025 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 4 Report

As we approach the midway point of the 2025 Legislative Session, we are beginning to see bills struggle to get momentum, some moving quickly without any issues and a looming budget showdown as the House and Senate released their proposed budget plans this week.

The first four weeks were extremely fast paced, and I expect the next five to continue to have packed agendas, negotiations and probably a few unexpected surprises.

We are eagerly anticipating our Marine Industries Association Days in Tallahassee this week. We have a packed agenda with updates from FWC, NMMA, ASA, Sea Grant, and a few surprise guests. Tuesday will be packed with speakers and Wednesday will be our day to walk the Capitol and discuss all the boating bills filed this Legislative Session.

Below is a summary of where many of the bills stand after the fourth week of a nine week Legislative Session. We have had a very busy four weeks with many meetings discussing these bills with members and we are excited to have you come to Tallahassee to add your voice to many of these issues as they move through the process. We will also be sharing economic data and suggestions for potential legislation in the future.

Please stay tuned and alert as many of these bills are moving and are available to be amended onto other proposals.

Thank you for allowing us to be your voice in Tallahassee. We have included the latest updates on the bills below and we have added some boating budget items that might be of interest to you.

As always, please let us know if you would like us to add any bill or budget item to the weekly report.

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 Illeana 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 still not identical.

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 passed the Senate Transportation on March 12th at 8:30 am with an amendment. The bill passed unanimously and is now a Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute. The amendment requires individuals who commit a specific boating violation to complete a boater safety course. This would be a mandatory requirement. Marine Industries support this change as it would go after bad actors on Florida waters. **The next stop is the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee. The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee is the final stop for this bill before it will be ready for the Senate floor. The bill was not on the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee agenda for the fifth week. There is still plenty of time.**

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 was referred to the Senate Budget Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee last week but was changed and referred this week to House State Affairs and House Judiciary Committee. CS/HB 289 was heard this week in House State Affairs. The bill was amended with similar language as the Senate bill but still contains a five-year residency requirement. The bill is also forty-five pages, and the Senate Bill is seven. The bill was taken up in the House Judiciary Committee on March 20th and amended again and is now CS/CS/CS HB 289. The bill is now eighty-one pages. The differences between these bills need to be cleared up before final passage as they must be identical. **CS/CS/CS/SB 289 passed off the House floor this week 112-0. The bill is now in Messages to the Senate.**

Also of note, Senate Bill 58 by Senator Garcia was temporarily passed in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee this past week.

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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 594 is currently scheduled to be heard in the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with an amendment to change “up to 5000 feet” to “up to 1500 feet”. This amendment is an improvement but continues to be a great concern. Again, this impacts more areas in the state than just Palm Beach. The bill and amendment are scheduled to be heard Monday, March 17th at 4 p.m. A substitute amendment was filed to the bill to replace the “up to 1500 feet” to “up to 2500 feet”. The substitute amendment passed. MIA went on the record to oppose the bill as amended. We spoke to the recreational boaters that could be impacted including Peanut Island and Shell Island in the panhandle of Florida. The Port of Palm Beach and the Town of Palm Beach stood in support of the bill. The Port Council only put in a card for information. MIA will continue to oppose this bill.

The bill has language up to 2500 feet, which appears to be more in line with what the Palm Beach Port is supporting. The bill was not on the Fiscal Policy agenda this week on April 2nd. There is still plenty of time for the bill to get a hearing at its final stop.

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. MIA had good meetings with the sponsor and expressed concerns regarding the bill. **The House Bill passed its first committee of reference, House Natural Resources and Disaster Subcommittee on March 25th. The bill was amended with an insurance provision and allows up to 1500 feet. MIA waived in opposition to the bill. Questions were raised whether the Coast Guard already has this authority. The bill passed as amended and has two more committee stops.**

We anticipate other groups coming out and opposing this bill as written. Of note, the House and Senate have different distances currently. We expect the Port to try and get closer to 2500 feet.

We will continue to oppose this bill as we believe the Coast Guard already has the authority to enforce the provisions of the proposed bills.

Again, we will keep you posted, but these bills impact Palm Beach, Bay County and Ft. Pierce.

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. Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 164 passed the second committee of reference Senate Appropriation Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government on March 18th unanimously. The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee 18-0 on March 27th. **The bill is now ready to be heard on the Senate floor. MIA supports this bill in its current form.**

The House Bill is referred to the House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. **The bill passed its first committee, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee 18-1 and MIA waived in support of the bill in committee. The bill has been placed on the agenda for its second committee of reference on April 1st in House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.**

This is a bill to watch as it is ready for the floor in the Senate, and it is picking up steam in the House.

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 passed the Senate Fiscal Policy with a vote of 18-1. The bill is ready

to be heard on the Senate floor. **The bill is comparable to the House companion.**

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. The House Bill was heard in its first committee of reference with a proposed committee substitute. The bill passed 17-0. **The next stop is the Senate Judiciary Committee which is the final committee stop before the House floor. As of the writing of this report, the House Judiciary had not released its agenda for April 2nd. The deadline is March 31st at 5 p.m.**

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. **Senate Bill 866 passed its first committee of reference this week in Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on March 25th. The bill was not amended, but did draw opposition and feedback from committee members about the number of boating bills and concerns about utilizing laws currently on the books. The bill passed 7-1 with Senator Polsky voting against the bill. The next committee of reference is the Senate Community Affairs Committee. The bill did not make the Senate Community Affairs agenda during the fifth and final week of substantive policy committees in the Senate. The bill is available for amendment as it has been heard in its first committee of reference. We will continue to watch in case any other Senate Community Affairs Committees are noticed for extra meetings.**

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 passed the House Natural Resources and Disaster Subcommittee on March 11th as a Committee Substitute. The bill was scheduled to be heard at its final committee stop, the House State Affairs Committee. **The bill was temporarily passed. The State Affairs Committee did not agenda the bill on March 24th. The next State Affairs Committee notice deadline is March 31st at 5 p.m.**

Boater Freedom

Senate Bill 1388 Vessels Bill by Senator Trumbull

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1388>

House Bill 1001 Vessels by Representative Griffiths

<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 Griffiths 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.

As of the writing of this report House Bill 1001 has not been placed on the agenda of its first committee of reference.

Senate Bill 1388 passed in its first committee of reference, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee on March 25th with a vote of 8-0. MIA waived in support of the bill in committee.

Also, House Bill 735 and Senate Bill 1162 relating to Water Access Facilities are moving through the process. The bill language from these bills is included in the Boater Freedom Bills. Simply they provide for Clean Manufacturers to be under the Clean Marina Program.

House Bill 735 has passed off the House floor 112-0 and is currently in Messages to the Senate. Senate Bill 1162 is scheduled to be heard in its final committee this week in Fiscal Policy. This bill is positioned to pass and go to the Governor for approval.

Gulf of Mexico/Gulf of America Bills

For those who are following the Gulf of America bills they are moving through the process. House Bill 575 passed both committees and is now ready to be heard on the House floor. **House Bill 575 is scheduled to be heard on Special Order April 3rd.** Senate Bill 608 passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee 4-3. **The bill is scheduled to be heard in its final committee, Senate Fiscal Policy on April 2nd. These bills will update the statutes to say Gulf of America.**

Also, Senate Bill 1058 passed its first committee on March 11th with a delete all amendment with a vote of 6-1. **The bill has passed the second committee of reference PreK-12 Education and is now scheduled to be heard in the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee on April 2nd.** This bill would update educational materials to read Gulf of America. The House bill was heard in the House Education and Employment Committee on March 13th and passed with a vote of 16-2. The bill is now a committee substitute. The bill had references removed and passed its final committee stop. The House bill passed both committees of reference and is now ready for the House floor. **The House Bill is scheduled on the House Special Order on April 3rd.**

Budget

The House of Representatives and the Senate have released their proposed 2025-26 budget proposals. The proposals are far apart and have many differences that will need to be worked out as they go through the amendatory process and ultimately the budget conference process.

This is typical every year. Below are some of the boating related appropriations in the Senate Bill and the House proposed Budget bill. Most of the items line up and should be resolved quickly.

We will continue to monitor these items and keep you updated as the process continues. Please let us know if you would like us to add any other items to the budget tracking list.

SB 2500 PB Budget Items

1643 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,000

1656 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CORAL REEF RESTORATION FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND .
. . . . 9,500,000

1660 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND
NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY
CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1710 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1714 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1718 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1719 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 6,000,000

1725 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPI-
TAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,536,658
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,963,342

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1725 are provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

for grants to local governments or to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, or to pay private contractors to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, derelict vessels or vessels declared a public nuisance.

1726 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,783,772

FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1727A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY MELBOURNE FRONT STREET BOAT DOCK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727A are provided for the Melbourne Front Street Boat Dock Replacement Project (SF 1397).

1727B GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY MONROE COUNTY FLORIDA KEYS MARINE PROTECTION BOCA CHICA
MOORING FIELD SHORESIDE FACILITY

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727B are provided for the Monroe County Florida Keys Marine Protection: Boca Chica Mooring Field Shoreside Facility Project (SF 2757).

1727C GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY FRANKLIN COUNTY SAINT GEORGE ISLAND BOAT RAMP

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 690,717

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727C are provided for the Franklin County SGI Boat Ramp (SF 2484).

1727D GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED
CAPITAL OUTLAY INDIALANTIC RIVERSIDE PARK PIER AND KAYAK LAUNCH

FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 350,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1727D are provided for the Indialantic Riverside Park Pier and Kayak Launch (SF 2266).

House Proposed Budget BUC-01

MIA

1643 SPECIAL CATEGORIES CORAL REEF PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 8,000,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1643 are provided for coral reef restoration and protection efforts.

1656 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY CORAL REEF RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 9,500,000

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1656 are provided to implement Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery (FCR3) Initiative to enter into agreements with academic and private partnerships to establish, expand, and maintain in-state propagation and grow-out facilities; develop and implement strategies and site-specific restoration plans including curriculum for a trained workforce; and reinforce and expand restoration efforts across Florida's Coral Reef.

1660 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY CLEAN MARINA
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 500,000

1710 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOAT RAMP MAINTENANCE CATEGORY
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 1,279,730
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 67,048
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 143,750

1714 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING AND WATERWAYS ACTIVITIES
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,626,025

1718 SPECIAL CATEGORIES BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 625,650

1718A FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,536,658

1719 FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BOATING INFRASTRUCTURE
FROM FEDERAL GRANTS TRUST FUND . . . 6,000,000

1725 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY DERELICT VESSEL REMOVAL PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 2,963,342

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1725, \$2,963,342 in nonrecurring funds from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund are provided to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for grants to local governments or to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, or to pay private contractors to remove, store, destroy, and dispose of, derelict vessels or vessels declared a public nuisance.

1726 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY FLORIDA BOATING IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
FROM MARINE RESOURCES CONSERVATION TRUST FUND 1,783,772
FROM STATE GAME TRUST FUND 1,250,000

1727A GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY ANNA MARIA HISTORIC CITY PIER RESTORATION
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 1,250,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1727A, \$1,250,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Anna Maria Historic City Pier Restoration (HF 1525).

1727B GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY SAFETY HARBOR PIER REPLACEMENT
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 570,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1727B, \$570,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the Safety Harbor Pier Replacement (HF 3017).

1727C GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL
OUTLAY SOUTH GULF COVE PARALLEL BOAT LOCK TENDER HOUSE
FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND 3,050,000

From the funds in Specific Appropriation 1727C, \$3,050,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund is provided for the South Gulf Cove Parallel Boat Lock Tender House (HF 2692).

