

2026 Legislative Session

Marine Industries Association of Florida Week 1

The 2026 Legislative Session has officially started. Senate President Albritton, Speaker Perez and Governor DeSantis gave speeches on various upcoming legislative issues, previous accomplishments and outlining the next sixty days.

So many factors are in play this session including a termed-out Governor, midterm elections, congressional reapportionment special session, budget tightening and the all-consuming property tax debate. Just for fun we can throw in a little artificial intelligence to spice things up this year.

Marine Industries Association of Florida had a very busy and hectic 2025 legislative session. We anticipate 2026 to be very busy and several bills have been filed we are reviewing and analyzing.

Marine Industries Association hosted a two-day event in Tallahassee on January 13th and 14th. We met with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and had an open and free discussion on everything from water law enforcement to water access impediments and funding for boating infrastructure.

We also received updates from FWC on the status of legislative changes passed last session and received current data on derelict vessels. We heard from industry leaders from NMMA and ASA. Workforce has been a big issue for our industry, and we heard from North Florida College President/CEO Dr. Jenneifer Page and from MIAPB Executive Director Alyssa Freeman and MIA SF Vice-President Lori Wheeler. Marine Industry has always been about giving back, and this year we heard from CEO Josie Tamayo of Volunteer Florida.

If that was not enough information for you in one afternoon... Captain Sandy stopped by to surprise the group and promote her "Boating Capital of the World" license plate that will provide funding marine workforce education for the next generation. If you have not signed up to purchase this tag or would like to share it with friends, families or post information at your business, we will be attaching a flyer to this report for your convenience.

Below are just a few of the bills we are highlighting for the 2026 Legislative Session!

Boater Safety

[Senate Bill 900 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1447 by Representative Rob Long](#)

Boating safety continues to be a hot topic in Florida. Last year, the legislature passed major changes to boating safety laws.

This year there is a bill in the Senate and House adding to what was passed last session. These bills are very lengthy and need a concise and thorough



review by the industry and law enforcement.

We will be meeting with stakeholders to discuss this bill next week and have also asked FWC for their review and analysis of the bill.

Senate Bill 900 by Senator Garcia is up this week in its first committee of reference in Senate Criminal Justice Committee on January 20th. The bill has one amendment filed as of the writing of this report.

Senate Bill 900 has three committees of reference. Senate Criminal Justice Committee, Senate Appropriations on Transportation and Economic Development and Senate Fiscal Policy.

House Bill 1447 was referred to four committees. The bill was referred to house Criminal Justice Subcommittee, House Governmental Operations, House Budget Committee and House Judiciary Committee. The bill is not scheduled to be heard this week.

Public Waters

[Senate Bill 1042 by Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez](#)

[House Bill 669 by Representative Peggy Gossett-Seidman](#)

The bills include everything from mooring boundaries to protecting beaches and bathing places. The bill concerning aspect of the bill would be the language specifying local government boundaries when applying for mooring field permits.

The Senate Bill is sponsored by Senator Rodriguez and has three committees of reference. The first committee is the Senate Health Policy Committee. The bill is not scheduled to be heard in the second week. The bill is also referred to Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government.

House Bill 669 has four committees of reference. The bill is referred to House natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, House Budget and House State Affairs. The bill is not scheduled to be heard during the second week in its first committee of reference as of the writing of this report.

Boating Restricted Areas

[House Bill 1173 by Representative Tyler Sorois \(House Majority Leader\)](#)

This bill was filed by the House Majority Leader. The bill does not have a Senate companion at this time. The bill was referred to three committees, House Natural Resources and Disasters Subcommittee, House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and House State Affairs Committee. The bill was not on the agenda of the first committee of reference as of the writing of this report.

Please remember, last year bills without Senate companions did pass as they were sent to the Senate and referred to committee, heard and then passed on the Senate floor. We will be watching this bill closely.

We have asked FWC for their analysis and feedback on this bill.

Surface Waters

[Senate Bill 1422 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1319 by Representative Lindsay Cross](#)

This bill filed by Senator Garcia and Representative Cross is identical. Senate Bill 1422 has three committees of reference. The bill is referred to Senate Environment and Natural Resources, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government and Rules. The bill is not scheduled to be heard in the first committee of reference during the second week.

House Bill 1319 by Representative Cross only has two committees of reference. The bill is referred to House Natural Resources and Disaster and House State Affairs Committee. The bill is not scheduled to be heard in its first committee of reference during the second week of session.

Nature Based Coastal Resiliency

[Senate Bill 302 by Senator Ileana Garcia](#)

[House Bill 1035 by Representative Jim Mooney Jr.](#)

House Bill 1035 is referred to 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 not scheduled to be heard in the first committee as of the writing of this report.

Senate Bill 302 passed the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee with an amendment. The bill is now a committee substitute. The bill has two more committees of reference. The next stop is Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. The last stop for the bill is the Senate Fiscal Policy Committee. As of the writing of this report the bill is not scheduled to be heard in the second committee of reference.

The bills are comparable.

Motor Vehicle Registration

We will be watching House Bill 841 by Representative Fabricio and Senate Bill 982 by Senator Rodriguez relating to Motor Vehicle Registration. Meetings this week hinted that vessel registration potentially could be added to this proposed legislation. We will keep you posted.

Boating Capital of the World

Calling all boaters to sign up to purchase a "Boating Capital of the World" license plate. There is a requirement to presale a certain number of license plates before they go into production. We need to get the work out and let everyone know this tag is available for pre-sales and the monies benefit Captain Sandy's Charities.

We will be highlighting this project all Session and hope you can help us hit our goal!

Please sign up for every vehicle and boat trailer and share with friends and family!

PRE-ORDER your Boating Capital of the World license plate today!

www.boatingplate.com

Thank you so very much for allowing us to be your voice in Tallahassee!

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

