



— Mid-Session 2026 Update —

Skidmore Scoop

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Tallahassee Tracker **On the House Floor**

As we cross the halfway point of the 2026 Legislative Session, the House has passed several high-profile bills that could have significant impacts on health care, public safety, and local government operations. Below is a summary of key legislation that I believe residents should be aware of as the session continues.

HB 6003 Recovery of Damages for Medical Negligence Resulting in Death

HB 6003 eliminates a provision in Florida law that prevents families from recovering noneconomic damages such as pain and suffering, loss of companionship, and grief when lethal medical negligence involves an adult who is unmarried and without minor children. A similar bill passed the Legislature last year but was vetoed by the Governor due to concerns about rising malpractice insurance premiums, a concern I also share.

HB 133 Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer

HB 133 lowers the minimum age to purchase a firearm from 21 to 18, rolling back the bipartisan law enacted after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland. Advocates claim the bill restores 2nd Amendment rights, however, I believe weakening these safeguards puts our communities and young people at greater risk. A similar bill passed the House last year but did not advance in the Senate and no companion bill has been filed in the Senate for the 2026 Session.

THIS ISSUE...

On the House Floor

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HB 363 Dental Therapy

HB 363 establishes a licensure for dental therapists, a new, mid-level position aimed at addressing access to dental care in Florida. The bill defines the scope of practice and authorizes dental therapists to provide certain dental services including the authority to administer local anesthetics and nitrous oxide, as well as conduct nonsurgical extractions. While advocates claim dental therapists would be qualified, licensed, and regulated by the Department of Health, I agree with several legislators and organizations such as the Florida Dental Association, who believe dental therapists jeopardize the safety of patients by lowering the standard of care to allow less educated, under qualified mid-level clinicians to perform invasive procedures that expose patients to safety risks.



HB 289 Civil Liability for the Wrongful Death of an Unborn Child

HB 289 expands Florida's Wrongful Death Act to cover the death of a fetus at any stage of development, codifying civil liability, and allowing parents to sue for damages after the loss of a pregnancy. Proponents claim the bill only gives more legal protections to parents who have sustained a loss, while I join with several of my colleagues who argue the bill will further target lawful abortion access and expose doctors or family members to abusive lawsuits.

HB 1119 Materials Harmful to Minors

HB 1119 would remove educational materials from schools that mention sexual content, even if the school district has deemed a literary, artistic, political, or scientific value in the content. Supporters claim the bill protects children in public schools, while those of us who opposed the bill argue it is a clear avenue for censorship that will lead to additional book bans in public schools.



Florida Fun Fact File

Did you know that Florida elected its first woman legislator, Edna Giles Fuller, in 1929, one year before the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was ratified? Giles advocated for woman's suffrage and the right for women to serve on juries. She openly supported inter-racial unions, fought for civil rights, and encouraged women's participation in the war effort during WWII.



HJR 583 Protection of Religious Expression in Public Schools

HJR 583 proposes a constitutional amendment requiring public schools to treat religious and secular expression equally, including in student work, attire, prayer, and religious activities. It would also limit school districts' ability to restrict prayer and allow staff participation if student-initiated. While supporters say this protects religious freedom, those I joined in opposition of the proposal are concerned it could favor a particular religion and make students of other faiths, or no faith, feel

excluded and unsafe. If approved by the Legislature and by voters in the 2026 Midterm Election, the amendment would be added to the Florida Constitution.



Bills on the Move

Sponsored Bills

HB 1091 Dental Screenings For K-12 Students

HB 1091 updates Florida law to improve K-12 student access to routine, non-invasive dental screenings by allowing passive parental consent. Early screenings can help identify minor dental issues before they become more serious health problems that affect learning, attendance, and overall well-being. The bill preserves parental rights through written notification and clear opt-out options, balancing informed consent with public health needs. By expanding access to preventive care, the legislation aims to reduce emergency room visits, support academic success, and promote healthier school communities. HB 1091 unanimously passed its first committee of reference.



Co-Sponsored Bills

HB 111 Antisemitism Task Force

HB 111 establishes an 18-member task force within the Department of Legal Affairs' Office of Civil Rights to combat antisemitism. It requires quarterly meetings, annual reports with policy recommendations to state leadership, and mandates a review of the prevalence of antisemitism in Florida. HB 111 passed its first committee of reference.



Capitol Happenings

The first half of session has been a whirlwind of meaningful work, important conversations, and powerful moments of connection. From press conferences highlighting critical issues impacting our communities, to thoughtful meetings with constituents, advocates, and stakeholders, each day in Tallahassee has reinforced why this work matters so deeply.

We have also had the privilege of participating in special events that celebrate the strength, resilience, and diversity of our state, along with news interviews and briefings that help elevate the voices and priorities of the people we serve. These opportunities allow us to keep our community informed, while continuing to push forward policies that make a real difference in everyday lives.

One of the greatest joys of this role is welcoming visitors from home. If you are able to visit Tallahassee during session, please know that our door is always open. We would love the opportunity to meet you, hear your thoughts, and share more about the work being done on your behalf.

More than 350 Palm Beach County elected officials, business leaders, and community advocates traveled to Tallahassee for Palm Beach County Days 2026.



I joined my colleagues in the Florida Legislative Jewish Caucus in presenting Lt. Governor Jay Collins with the Tikkun Olam Award, which is an award that reflects the values of service, responsibility, and compassion that strengthen our communities and our state.



I proudly stood with my Democratic colleagues at a press conference to speak out against the Trump administration's attempt to end Temporary Protected Status for Haitians, an action that would tear families apart and destabilize communities that have already endured so much. TPS is about dignity, safety, and keeping people who are part of our Florida family protected.

I was honored to join my colleagues in the Florida Legislative Black Caucus at a press conference to call out Attorney General Uthmeier's opinion claiming dozens of long-standing racial discrimination laws in Florida are unconstitutional. This opinion could have devastating effects on civil rights, healthcare equity, education, small businesses, and access to opportunity across Florida.



My office enthusiastically joined advocates fighting for dignity, equality, and the fundamental right to make our own healthcare decisions at the Equality Florida press conference and the Reproductive Freedom Act Rally.

The Florida Professional Firefighters hosted its annual "King of the Hill" softball game, featuring the famous bipartisan matchup between Florida Republicans and Democrats.



More Tallahassee Happenings and Visitors



Get Involved, Stay Informed

What: All Committee Meetings and Floor Sessions

When: View the Weekly Meeting Calendar at www.FLHouse.gov

Where: Watch Live or On Demand at www.FLHouse.gov or www.thefloridachannel.org



Contact Your State Representative

2026 Committee Assignments

- Ways & Means Committee
- Criminal Justice Subcommittee
- Justice Budget Appropriations Subcommittee
- Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee
- Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee
*Democratic Ranking Member

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