

2025 Legislative Session

Florida Pest Management Week 1 & 2 Reports

The 2025 Legislative Session has begun, and the Florida Legislature is trying to make up for time spent on three Special Sessions this year.

The first and second week were filled with opening day speeches, committee meetings and more meetings. Bills started moving through the process as the official clock is ticking on the sixty-day Legislative Session.

The big items of discussion this year are the rural renaissance, insurance, ad valorem taxes, constitutional amendments, Gulf of America, autism, NIL, hemp, boating and we have only completed the second week.

The Florida Legislature has a lot of work ahead of them and only has seven more weeks to complete all their priorities for the regular session. As we enter the third week, conversations about budget development will begin to take shape and this year is shaping up to be a much more conservative year regarding state spending.

The Florida Pest Management Association has been very busy working on numerous issues. The week before the start of the Legislative Session, the Florida Department of Agriculture made time to meet with FPMA in Tallahassee to discuss all things pest management. We had a great exchange and appreciate our great relationship with the Department.

This year the Department has a comprehensive bill that includes pest control changes. FPMA is supportive of the current proposed changes as they mostly allow the Department to provide in-person testing or third-party vendor testing remotely. The bill also allows the vendor to collect a fee. The bill also allows the Department to discipline a license holder based on a final order imposing civil penalties or criminal conviction under FIFRA-Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

The Florida Pest Management Association is tracking many bills that could impact on your business. Everything from bills filed on minimum wage to heat exposure to all Department of Agriculture bills.

FPMA will be in Tallahassee April 7th and 8th. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please go to the Florida Pest Management Association [website](https://flpma.org/website) or https://flpma.org/event/calendar_day.asp?date=4/7/2025&eventid=395.

Below are a few of the bills we thought we would highlight for you this Session. Please let us know if you would like us to add any bills to the report.



Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Bill

[SB 700](#) by Senator Truenow

[HB 651](#) by Representative Tuck

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services legislative proposal is a comprehensive bill that includes everything from electric vehicle charging stations to additives in public water to pest control to labeling of plant-based foods to 4 H and local governments and so much more. This bill is truly a comprehensive package.

As described earlier in the report of the bill, the bill provides the DACS can allow pest control certificate examinations in person or remotely by a third person vendor. The vendor can receive a fee. The bill also allows DACS to suspend or revoke a license based on a final order imposing civil penalties or criminal conviction under FIFRA-Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

Senate Bill 700 relating to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Bill sponsored by Senator Truenow. The bill received three committees of reference, Senate Agriculture, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government. The Senate bill was on the Senate Agriculture agenda on March 11th with a delete all amendment. The amendment passed and the bill is a Committee Substitute. The bill passed unanimously 6-0. The bill has two more committee stops.

House Bill 651 by Representative Tuck relating to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is similar to CS/SB 700. The House Bill received four committees of reference, House Housing, Agriculture and Tourism Subcommittee, House Criminal Justice Subcommittee, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee and House Commerce Committee. The bill is scheduled to be heard this week in the first committee of reference on March 18th from 3-6 pm.

We will be watching this bill closely for all amendments as it does include Florida Statutes for 482 and 487.

Minimum Wage

[SB 676](#) by Senator Martin

[HB 541](#) by Representative Chamberlin

Another bill that has surfaced and caught our attention this Legislative Session is a bill filed by Senator Martin and Representative Chamberlin regarding Minimum Wage.

This bill allows employees to opt out of receiving the minimum wage for work, work-study, internship, pre apprenticeship, apprenticeship program, or other similar work-based learning opportunities. Requires employees to sign a waiver to not receive minimum wage.

Senate Bill 676 by Senator Martin received three committees of reference. The bill was referred to the Senate Commerce Committee, Senate Government Oversight and Accountability and Senate Rules. The bill was heard in Senate Commerce and was debated. The bill was amended and is now a Committee Substitute. The bill passed 6-2. The next stop is the Senate Government Oversight and Accountability Committee.

The House companion is House Bill 541 by Representative Chamberlin. The bill was referred to the House Industries and Professional Activities Subcommittee, House Careers and Workforce Subcommittee and House Commerce Committee. The bill passed 10-5 in its first committee of reference. The next stop is the House Careers and Workforce Subcommittee.

Heat Illness

[SB 510](#) by Senator Rouson

[HB 35](#) by Representative Gottlieb

Heat Illness was a big issue during the last Legislative Session. This year there are three bills filed that include proposals relating to heat illness prevention and labor regulations.

Senate Bill 510 by Senator Rouson and House Bill 35 by Representative Gottlieb are similar and related to Heat Illness. The bills deal with heat exposure for employees who work primarily outside. Example of employees are contractors, agricultural and landscaping. The Senate Bill has three committees of reference, Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government and Senate Fiscal Policy. The bill has not been heard as of the writing of this report and has not been placed on an agenda of the first committee stop for the third week.

The House companion, House Bill 35 by Representative Gottlieb regarding Heat Illness also received three committees of reference. The bill was referred to the House Industries and Professional Activities Subcommittee, House Human Services Subcommittee and the House Commerce Committee. As of the writing of this report the bill had not been heard in its first committee and was not on the agenda for the first committee meeting.

Another bill we will watch as a vehicle for potential amendments for these issues or other related issues is House Bill 1177 relating to Labor Regulations. The bill is comparable and is a potential vehicle if it moves during the process. The bill received four committees of reference and has yet to be heard.

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. House Bill 575 passed its first committee of reference 13-4 and now has one committee left, House State Affairs. Senate Bill 608 passed the Senate Community Affairs Committee 4-3. The bill only has one more committee, Senate Fiscal Policy. 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 is now a committee substitute and has two more committee stops. 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 has two more committees of reference.

