



# Florida Legislative Session Recap Webinar

May 15, 2025  
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Eastern)

[www.florida-stormwater.org](http://www.florida-stormwater.org)



*OneWaterFL.com*





Diana Ferguson  
Lobbyist

Florida Stormwater Association  
[dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com](mailto:dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com)



Kevin Coyne  
Regulatory Affairs

Florida Stormwater Association  
[kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com](mailto:kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com)



## Today's Overview

- 2025 Session Status/Review.
- Focus on *Water-Related Legislation* of interest to local stormwater programs.
- What's Next in 2025/2026.



## Thoughts Prior to 2025 Session...

- Stormwater Rule, Stormwater Rule, Stormwater Rule...FSA Priority – Keep rule components in place.
- Influence from new federal policies including wetlands/permitting.
- Resiliency and funding.
- Continue watching for fertilizer ordinance bills.

\*FSA did not expect FDEP bills being submitted this session.



## General Background for 2025 Session

- New federal administration = Influence state policies.
- Immigration & Deregulation.
- Continue preemption philosophy.
- Further refine/shorten permitting, focusing on hurricane impacted areas.
- Continue passing Governor's policies (*Way off on that one!!!*).



Florida Stormwater Association  
**FINAL 2025 Priority Issues – 2025**

*Detailed information on the below and other bills may be found on the [FSA Legislative Page](#).*

**Construction Regulations (SB 712/HB 683) – Oppose (PASSED)**

Requires FDEP to create state standards and a rule for the installation of synthetic turf and then prohibits local governments from enforcing any rules beyond these new FDEP standards on lots one acre or less.

**Administrative Procedures (SB 108/HB 433) – Monitor (PASSED)**

Makes significant updates to state procedural rules, new notification procedures, and agency reviews to reduce overall number of rules in place.

**Mitigation Banking (SB 492/HB 1175) – Monitor (PASSED)**

Updates rules for mitigation banking and allows for the use of credits outside of the service area to be used for a project and requires more annual reporting by state mitigation banks.

**Utility Relocation (SB 818/HB 703) – Monitor (PASSED)**

Requires utility owners to submit a utility relocation schedule when completing maintenance projects and bill will increase costs to utilities for certain projects when interference circumstances take place.

**Nature-based Methods for Improving Coastal Resilience (SB 50/HB 371) – Support (FAILED)**

Requires FDEP to adopt rules for nature-based resilience methods and develop more streamlined permitting processes for green infrastructure projects.

**Emergencies (SB 180/HB 1535) – Support (PASSED)**

House Emergency Bill amended with revised flood protection and restoration work, including the removal of MS4 responsibility. Requires FDEP to develop Flood Inventory and Restoration Report and submit to DEM on bi-annually. *\*Emergencies bill included language from [SB 810](#) that was later amended to remove MS4 requirements to address flooding.*

**State Land Management (SB 80/HB 209) – Support (PASSED)**

Provides further protections for state parks, in terms of what types of building can be done in certain parks and increases the review process and notification for any building that takes place in a state park.

**Sanitary and Stormwater System Standards (SB 1436/HB 739) – Oppose (FAILED)**

Requires all sanitation and stormwater systems, including lateral and sewer pipes, to adhere to FDOT Standards. Requires final inspections to be completed by inspectors not involved with the project.

[www.florida-stormwater.org/legislative](http://www.florida-stormwater.org/legislative)



## 2025 Session

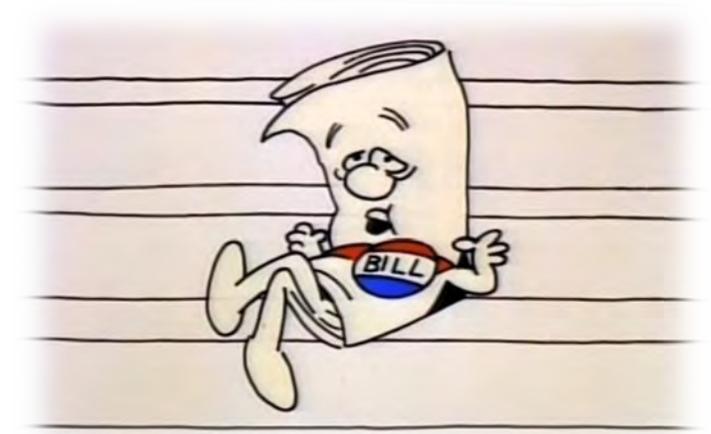
- Interim meetings December 2024, January & February 2025.
- “*Scheduled*” Session kickoff March 4, 2025.
- “*Scheduled*” Last day (“Sine Die”) May 2, 2025.
- Governor called Special Session – January 27, 2025.  
...about 10 minutes later morning...
- Legislators Special Session – January 27, 2025.
  - Special Session for Immigration Policy.





## 2025 Session (continued)

- “Sine Die” May 2, 2025.
  - Session extended – June 2025 (Date being determined).
  - Focus on budget related issues & finalize budget.
- Session Stats.
  - 1,952 Bills submitted.
  - 252 Bills passed.  
(~13% passed)





## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✗ **SB 1436/HB 739 – Sanitary and Stormwater System Standards. Oppose (Failed)**

Senate – McClain/House – Grow

- Required all sanitation and stormwater systems, including lateral and sewer pipes, to adhere to FDOT Standards.
- All local standards (installation and inspections) superseded by state provisions.
- Required final inspections to be completed by inspectors not involved with the project.

*Neither bills made any committee agendas/heard in meetings.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 1548/HB 1477 – Florida Building Code. Oppose (Failed)**

Senate – Leek/House – Partington

- Mandated local governments use excess funds from fees for services/repairs on stormwater management systems.
- Prohibited additional state funds for stormwater management improvements until fully spent.

*Neither bills made any committee agendas/heard in meetings.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 432/HB 771 – Local Government Assessments. Monitor (FAILED)**

Senate – McClain/House – Steele

- Removed special assessments as a source of funding for municipal services.
- Prohibited counties from levying special assessments to fund municipal services.
- Limited the ability to use special assessments to fund specific municipal services in unincorporated areas.
- Required local governments reimburse landowners (or pay fees/taxes) with conservation easements for certain land development projects.

*Bill components added into other bills (SB 192 & HB 1303).*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 1128/HB 1035 – Building Permits for a Single-family Dwelling. Monitor (FAILED)**

Senate – Ingoglia/House – Esposito

- Prohibited expiration of single-family dwelling building permits processed by until the effective date of the next update to the Florida Building Code.
- Required local government single-family dwelling building permits remain valid until the next Florida Building Code update.
- In areas of declared state emergencies (over the last 24 months) a single-family dwelling building permit is compliant if an architect or engineer certifies adherence to the Florida Building Code.



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 1646/HB 1575 – Water Quality Improvements. Monitor (FAILED)**

Senate – Berman/House – Driskell

- Required review of lead levels in drinking water.
- Prioritized nutrient related water quality improvement projects in special flood hazard areas and other targeted locations.
- Required WMDs to address BGA blooms.
- Required FDACs & SFWMD to reduce nutrient levels in Lake Okeechobee.
- Required FDEP & SJRWMD to expedite TMDLs in the upper St Johns River.

*Neither bills made any committee agendas/heard in meetings.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✗ **SB 50/HB 371 – Nature-based Methods for Improving Coastal Resilience. Support (Failed)**

Senate – Garcia/House – Mooney

- USF Flood Hub must develop standards/guidelines for green and gray infrastructure based on flood and socioeconomic impact.
- Requires statewide study to show value of green/hybrid infrastructure on flooding.
- FDEP must adopt rules on nature-based methods for improving coastal resilience, which must include green infrastructure and mangrove restoration.



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✓ **SB 80/HB 209 – State Land Management. Support (Passed)**

Senate – Harrell/House – Snyder

- Requires public hearings for all conservation and non-conservation land management plans.
- Mandates public lands, including state parks, be managed primarily for conservation-based recreation and resource preservation, and limits some types of building on park lands that would create significant harm to state park resources.
- Develops advisory groups for specific management plans located in state parks and includes meeting/notification timelines and plan update requirements.



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✓ SB 712/HB 683 – Construction Regulations. Oppose (Passed)

Senate – Grall/House – Griffitts Jr.

- Requires FDEP to adopt minimum standards for installing synthetic turf on single-family residential properties of one acre or less.
  - Standards must include considerations on permeability, stormwater management, potable water conservation, water quality, proximity to trees and other vegetation, and other factors impacting environmental conditions of adjacent properties.
  - Once adopted, standards could prohibit local governments from enforcing conflicting ordinances.



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✓ SB 108/HB 433 – Administrative Procedures. Monitor (Passed)

Senate – Grall/House – Overdorf

- Requires agency workshops request information on statements of estimated regulatory costs and expands who may challenge.
- Requires agencies to disclose all lower-cost regulatory alternatives to the Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC) before adoption.
- Defines legislative ratification thresholds and obligations, sets procedures for withdrawing rules not ratified by the next regular legislative session.

*\*Administrative procedures/rule review will be a topic during 2026 Session.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

- ✓ **SB 492/HB 1175 – Mitigation Banking (Land Development). Monitor (Passed)**  
Senate – McClain/House – Duggan
  - Updates credit release schedule, which expands when credits usage based on project schedule and when performance criteria are achieved.
  - Limits the use of freshwater wetland credits until initial construction criteria for that area are achieved.
  - Allows single use of out-of-service-area mitigation credits if local credits are not available/fully utilized. Includes proximity factors and procedures for determining credit availability. Bill also includes multiplier factors for out-of-service-area or out-of-kind credits.
  - Requires mitigation banks to report credit usage and availability annually to FDEP and Legislature.



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✓ **SB 818/HB 703 – Utility Relocation. Monitor (Passed)**

Senate – McClain/House – Robinson

- Develops new Utility Relocation Reimbursement Grant Program in the Department of Commerce.
- Requires communications service providers begin relocation of their facilities within 30 days of written notice - providers can seek reimbursement of relocation costs through the Utility Relocation Reimbursement grant program.
- Agencies that manage roadways now must notify providers of upcoming projects within specified timelines and are required to share costs for recently installed infrastructure if being relocated to improve safety or reduce congestion.



## 2025 Priority Issues

### **SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems. Version 1.0**

Senate – Burgess

- Original version (February) included:
  - All stormwater facilities inspected by owners (“*Political Subdivisions*”) based on FDEM inspection form.
  - Report status to FDEM.
  - FDEM will develop rules for this section (and the inspection form).

*\*Bill intent was to address flooding from large rain events/tropical storms.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### **SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems. Version 2.0**

Senate – Burgess

- Amended bill (March) revised to focus on MS4s:
  - All MS4s conduct annual operation and maintenance inspections of all permitted stormwater management systems owned or operated by the MS4 entity.
  - MS4 must identify vulnerable infrastructure that could result in flooding or property damage.
  - Annually report status to FDEM.

*\*FSA Message: Amended bill created 1) Significant liability to MS4 systems not developed to address flooding from large rain events/tropical storms 2) MS4 permits are focused on WQ and not flooding = there are better options to develop.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### **SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems. Version 3.0**

Senate – Burgess

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to bill (April) revised focus to vulnerable infrastructure:
  - MS4s conduct annual operation and maintenance inspections of all permitted stormwater management systems and identify vulnerable infrastructure that could result in flooding or property damage – still in place.
  - Revised language – Focus on vulnerable infrastructure and report on that to FDEM on annual basis.

*\*FSA Message: Using MS4 systems in this manner is incorrect.*

*\*\*SB 810 did not have a House companion bill – but did pass fully through Senate.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

~~SB 810 – Stormwater Management Systems. Version 3.0~~

**SB 180 – Emergencies.**

Senate – DiCeglie

- SB 810 language added (April) to comprehensive emergencies bill - SB 180.
- SB 810 language amended again before incorporation into SB 180:
  - MS4s inspect based on permit schedule.
  - Continue to focus on vulnerable infrastructure, report annually to FDEM.
  - Removes FDOT from requirements.

*\*FSA Message: Continued concerns over MS4 focus.*



## 2025 Priority Issues

### **SB 180/HB 1535 – Emergencies Bills.**

Senate – DiCeglie/House – McFarland

- Original HB 1535 (House companion) did not include any flood inspection language, Rep. McFarland accepted alternative language:
  - FDEP Develop Flood Inventory and Restoration Report that identifies priority infrastructure.
  - Report includes both public and private systems, area with historical or potential flooding, and prioritize list of areas for funding to address flooding impacts.
  - Owner of priority infrastructure must report on inspection and maintenance schedule.
  - FDEP will report findings to FDEM.
- Final negotiations (May), HB 1535 language accepted in final SB 180 (Final enrolled bill).



## 2025 Priority Issues

### ✓ **SB 180/HB 1535 – Emergencies Bill. Support (Passed)**

Senate – DiCeglie/House – McFarland

- FDEP Develop Flood Inventory and Restoration Report and submit to FDEM.
- Requires statewide and local election emergency contingency plans.
- Requires local governments to expedite permitting after a disaster, including keeping permitting offices open longer after a storm event.
- Requires large cranes to have hurricane contingency plans and require securing equipment before a storm.
- Requires FDEP to update a Flood Inventory and Restoration Report and identify priority flood infrastructure needs.



## 2025 Priority Issues

**One final bill to discuss...**

### **SB 1452/HB 1461 Department of Business and Professional Regulation**

- Bills failed to pass, but components of HB 1461 were included in other bills (SB 110/HB 991).
- HB 1461 included sweeping de-regulation of boards, including Public Engineers.
  - Would remove standing board and move oversight to DBPR.
  - Would remove need for continuing education requirements.

*\*Deregulation/Removal of boards could be a significant 2026 session topic.*



## What to Anticipate Next...

### 2025

- Continue to watch budget discussions.
- Potential de-regulation efforts.
- Future JAPC meetings (may include discussions on rules).

### 2026

- ✓ Preemption philosophy
- ✓ De-regulation/Rules
- ✓ Stormwater/Flooding
- ✓ Funding



# Questions?

[florida-stormwater.org](http://florida-stormwater.org)

(888) 221-3124

[Kevin.Coyne@AMPUptoday.com](mailto:Kevin.Coyne@AMPUptoday.com)



Diana Ferguson  
Lobbyist  
Florida Stormwater Association  
[dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com](mailto:dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com)



Kevin Coyne  
Regulatory Affairs  
Florida Stormwater Association  
[kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com](mailto:kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com)



**Evaluation Survey - We value your feedback!**



**Florida Stormwater Association**