

To: Commission Members

From: Kerrie Stillman

Date: February 5, 2026

Re: Legislative Update

There are a number of bills filed this year that relate to the Code of Ethics, including ten bills that relate to your legislative recommendations. The legislation is outlined in this memo and all listed bills are included in the two bookmarked PDF documents included in your materials.

Legislation on Commission Recommendations:

- **CS/SB 92 (*Government Oversight & Accountability; Gaetz*) / HB 139 (*Maney*) (similar)**
WHISTLEBLOWER
 - **CS/SB 92:** Creates a violation of the standards of conduct when an ethics Complainant experiences retaliation after filing an ethics complaint; provides whistleblower protections carried out by the Commission on Ethics
 - Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Ethics and Elections; Rules
 - Passed Governmental Oversight and Accountability
 - Passed Ethics and Elections
 - Now in Rules; not scheduled
 - **HB 139:** Provides whistleblower protections that are carried out by the Florida Commission on Human Relations
 - Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; Rules & Ethics; State Affairs
 - Now in Government Operations Subcommittee; not scheduled
 - **SB 1650 (*Gaetz*) Whistleblower Public Records Exemption**
 - Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Ethics and Elections; Rules
 - Governmental Oversight and Accountability agenda item temporarily postponed on 1/26/26

- **SB 964 (*Wright*) / HB 6011 (*Benarroch; Duggan*) (similar) FORM 10 FILING LOCATION**
 - **SB 964**
 - Referred to Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules
 - Passed Ethics and Elections
 - Now in Governmental Oversight and Accountability; not scheduled

- **HB 6011**
 - Referred to Rules & Ethics; State Affairs
 - On Rules & Ethics Agenda for 2/5/26 @ 6:15pm
- **CS/SB 572 (*Government Oversight & Accountability; Harrell*) / HB 603 (*López; Campbell; Valdés*) (similar) FOSTER FAMILIES/GIFTS**
 - **CS/SB 572**
 - Passed all referred committees - Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules
 - Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading
 - **HB 603**
 - Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; Rules & Ethics; State Affairs
 - Passed Government Operations Subcommittee
 - Now in Rules & Ethics; not scheduled
- **SB 1622 (*Rodriguez*) / HB 1369 (*Antone*) (identical) FIRST TIME FINE WAIVER**
 - **SB 1622**
 - Referred to Ethics and Elections; Community Affairs; Rules
 - Passed Ethics and Elections
 - Now in Community Affairs; not scheduled
 - **HB 1369**
 - Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; Rules & Ethics; State Affairs
 - Now in Government Operations Subcommittee; not scheduled
- **SB 1546 (*Rodriguez*) COE RECORDS EXEMPTION**
 - **SB 1546**
 - Referred to Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules
 - Introduced

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Other Ethics-Related Legislation:

- **HB 21 (*Criminal Justice Subcommittee ; Kendall ; Partington*) PUBLIC RECORDS/AGENCY EMPLOYEES**
 - Public records exemption for agency employees
 - **HB 21** [no Senate companion]
 - Referred to Criminal Justice Subcommittee; Government Operations Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee

- Passed Criminal Justice Subcommittee - CS Filed
 - Passed State Affairs
 - Added to 2nd Reading Calendar
- **SB 1120 (*Brodeur*) / HB 701 (*Conerly*) (identical) | SB 802 (*Mayfield*) / HB 593 (*Andrade*) (similar) WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS**
 - Applies the expenditure ban to Water Management Districts
 - **SB 1120-** Lines 107-127
 - Referred to Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Appropriations
 - Passed Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
 - Now in Appropriations
 - **HB 701-** Lines 107-127
 - Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; Ways & Means; State Affairs
 - Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee; not scheduled
 - **SB 802-** Lines 312-332
 - Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Rules
 - Introduced
 - **HB 593-** Lines 284-305
 - Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; State Affairs
 - Passed Government Operations Subcommittee
 - Now in State Affairs
- **SB 1620 (*Leek; Gaetz*) PUBLIC EDUCATION**
 - Applies the nepotism statute to "District school boards" [companion bill (HB 1073) does not reference Code of Ethics]
 - **SB 1620-** Line 48
 - Referred to Education Pre-K-12; Judiciary; Rules
 - Passed Education Pre-K-12
 - Now in Judiciary
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- **SB 1572 (*DiCeglie*) / HB 1303 (*Miller*) (similar) DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**
 - Referrals to COE from Florida Agency for Fiscal Oversight
 - **1572-** Lines 120-126
 - Referred to Banking and Insurance; Appropriations; Rules
 - Introduced
 - **1303-** Lines 122-128

- Referred to Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Commerce Committee
 - Now in Insurance & Banking Subcommittee
- **HB 1251 (*Shoaf*) EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**
 - Local Governments/Public Funds/Lobbyists/Budget Items
 - Referred to Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Rules & Ethics; State Affairs
 - Now in Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee
- **CS/SB 1178 (*Ethics & Elections; Grall; Avila*) / CS/CS/HB 905 (*Judiciary Committee; Government Operations Subcommittee; Persons-Mulicka*) (similar) FOREIGN INFLUENCE**
 - Gifts/Training/Foreign Countries of Concern/Terrorist Orgs
 - **1178-** Lines 210-263
 - Referred to Ethics and Elections; Judiciary; Appropriations
 - Passed Ethics and Elections
 - Passed Judiciary
 - Now in Appropriations
 - **905-** Lines 220-269
 - Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee; Judiciary; Commerce; State Affairs
 - Passed Government Operations Subcommittee
 - Passed Judiciary
 - Now in State Affairs
- **CS/HB 1221 (*Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; LaMarca*) DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES**
 - Nepotism/Firefighters [companion bill (SB 1452) does not reference Code of Ethics]
 - **1221-** Lines 292-298
 - Referred to Insurance & Banking Subcommittee
 - Referred to State Administration Budget Subcommittee
 - Referred to Commerce Committee
 - Passed Insurance & Banking Subcommittee