

2026 Legislative Bills to Watch: (1/8/2026)

BILLS BEING TRACKED:

HOUSE:

HB 139 Maney Compare SB 92 Gaetz Adverse Personnel Actions and Ethics Complaints; Whistleblower protections for ethics complainants	HB 6011 Benarroch Similar SB 964 Wright Reporting the Receipt of Gifts or Honoraria (Form 10 filing location)	HB 593 Andrade Similar SB 802 Mayfield Compare HB 701 Conerly Compare SB 1120 Brodeur Governmental Agencies & Personnel; Prohibitions re state settlements and direction of funds; extends expenditure ban to water management districts; other agency-related matters
HB 4061 Owen Creates Hillsborough County Land Reserve Stewardship Dist; provides it is not a conflict or abuse of position under Ch. 112 for a board mbr, district mgr, or other district employee to be a stakeholder, officer, or employee of a landowner or an entity affiliated with a landowner	HB 603 Lopéz Identical SB 572 Harrell Ethics for Public Officers & Employees; revises definition of relative to include foster parents and foster children	HB 701 Conerly Identical SB 1120 Brodeur Compare HB 593 Andrade Compare SB 802 Mayfield Water Management Districts (WMD); extends expenditure ban to certain WMD officials and requires COE to investigate such complaints and provide report to Governor
HB 905 Persons-Mullicka & Owen Similar SB 1178 Grall Foreign Influence; prohibits specified persons from soliciting or accepting anything of value from foreign country of concern & desig foreign terrorist orgs; requires Commission on Ethics to adopt certain rules by specified date	HB 1073 Koster Includes school district boards' public officers and employees in 112.3135 (nepotism)	

SENATE:

SB 92 Gaetz Compare HB 139 Maney Employee Protections; prohibits agencies and independent contractors from taking certain actions vs employees or certain persons for disclosing certain info to FCOE; protections for certain complainants/participants in investigations	SB 572 Harrell Identical HB 603 Lopéz Ethics for public employees; revises definition of relative to include foster parents and foster children	SB 964 Wright Similar HB 6011 Reporting the Receipt of Gifts or Honoraria (Form 10 filing location)
SB 1120 Brodeur Identical HB 701 Conerly Compare HB 593 Andrade Water Management Districts (WMD); extends expenditure ban to WMD and requires COE to investigate such complaints and provide report to Governor	SB 802 Mayfield Similar HB 593 Andrade Compare HB 701 Conerly Compare SB 1120 Brodeur Public Officers & Employees; Citizenship requirements on certain public officers; requires COE to investigate prohibited expenditures of certain WMD officials	SB 964 Wright Similar HB 6011 Benarroch Financial Disclosures; Reporting the Receipt of Gifts or Honoraria (Form 10 filing location)
SB 1178 Grall Similar HB 905 Persons- Mullicka & Owen Foreign Influence; prohibits specified persons from soliciting or accepting anything of value from foreign country of concern & desig foreign terrorist orgs; requires Commission on Ethics to adopt certain rules by specified date		

HOUSE BILLS:

HB 139: Adverse Personnel Actions and Ethics Complaints

General Bill by Maney

Adverse Personnel Actions and Ethics Complaints; Prohibits agencies & independent contractors from taking specified actions against employees for disclosing certain information to Commission on Ethics; requires that information disclosed include specified violations or alleged violations; requires disclosure of specified information to commission; provides that specified provisions protect employees & persons who submit written complaints to commission or provide information to investigator during investigation of complaint; authorizes certain employees or applicants for employment to file complaints in accordance with specified provisions; authorizes such employees or applicants to pursue specified administrative remedy or civil action within specified timeframe; authorizes local public employees to file complaint with appropriate local governmental authority; specifies requirements for administrative procedures created by local governmental authorities; authorizes such employee to bring civil actions in court of competent jurisdiction under specified conditions; requires specified relief; provides that it is affirmative defense to certain actions that adverse personnel action was predicated on grounds other than exercising of certain protected rights; requires commission to deliver complaints & any amendment thereto to agency conducting certain investigation, upon agency's written request; requires commission to deliver complaints & any amendment thereto to certain persons upon notarized written request.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

10/9/2025	HOUSE	Filed
10/21/2025	H	Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee
		Referred to Rules & Ethics Committee
		Referred to State Affairs Committee
		Now in Government Operations Subcommittee

HB 6011: Reporting the Receipt of Gifts or Honoraria

GENERAL BILL by Benarroch

Reporting the Receipt of Gifts or Honoraria; Provides that all annual reports shall be filed with Commission on Ethics by specified date.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

11/19/2025	HOUSE	Filed
11/24/2025	H	Referred to Rules & Ethics Committee
	H	Referred to State Affairs Committee
	H	Now in Rules & Ethics Committee

HB 593: Governmental Agencies and Personnel

GENERAL BILL by Andrade

Governmental Agencies and Personnel ; Prohibits state agency or officer from directing funds offered to state to third party as condition of settlement; provides that state agency or officer must provide written notification of terms of settlement to Legislature & Attorney General within specified time; prohibits authorization or approval of reimbursements for travel expenses to & from person's residence & his or her headquarters for specified positions; requires that official headquarters for specified positions be city or town in which department's official headquarters is located; prohibits persons serving in specified positions from being reimbursed for certain travel expenses; prohibits lobbyist or principal from making, & prohibiting district governing board member, executive director, or any district employee who qualifies as local

officer from accepting, any expenditure; removes provision prohibiting state residency requirements for university board members.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

12/2/2025	HOUSE	Filed
12/12/2025	H	Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee Referred to State Affairs Committee Now in Government Operations Subcommittee

HB 4061: Hillsborough County

LOCAL BILL by Owen

Hillsborough County; Creates Land Reserve Stewardship District; establishes compliance with minimum requirements for creation of independent special district; establishes legal boundaries of district; provides for jurisdiction & charter & governing board; provides method for transition of board from landowner control to control by resident electors of district; provides for district manager, district employees, district treasurer, selection of public depository, & district budgets & financial reports; provides general powers of district; provides special powers of district to plan, finance, & provide community infrastructure & services within district; provides for bonds, borrowing, trust agreements, future ad valorem taxation, special assessments, issuance of certificates of indebtedness & tax liens; provides requirements for termination, contraction, or expansion of district; authorizes mergers; provides for required notices to purchasers of residential units within district; provides for referendum.

Effective Date: upon express approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors of the Land Reserve Stewardship District

1/5/2026	HOUSE	Filed
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HB 603: Ethics for Public Employees

GENERAL BILL by López, J.; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Campbell

Ethics for Public Employees; Revises definition of term "relative" to include foster parents & foster children.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

12/2/2025	HOUSE	Filed
12/12/2025	H	Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee Referred to Rules & Ethics Committee Referred to State Affairs Committee Now in Government Operations Subcommittee

HB 701: Water Management Districts

GENERAL BILL by Conerly

Water Management Districts; Requires Commission on Ethics to investigate lobbyist or principal who has made prohibited expenditure & to provide Governor with report of its findings & recommendations regarding such investigation; prohibits certain persons from making or accepting expenditures; requires South Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with DEP, to provide detailed report that includes total estimated remaining cost of implementation of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan & status of applicable performance indicators for all project components; requires South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force to identify certain sources of funding; authorizes water management districts to levy certain ad valorem taxes on specified property for certain purposes; requires district governing board levying ad valorem taxes for certain projects to adopt resolution approved by majority vote of voting electors in district or basin; requires that water management district's tentative budget for its

proposed operations & funding requirements include district's capital improvement plan for current year & next fiscal year; requires that certain projects submitted by water management districts to department for Statewide Flooding & Sea Level Rise Resilience Plan be ranked on separate list; revises list of information that must be submitted by department for each project.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

12/9/2025	HOUSE	Filed
12/16/2025	H	Referred to Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee
		Referred to Ways & Means Committee
		Referred to State Affairs Committee
		Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

HB 905: Foreign Influence

GENERAL BILL by Persons-Mulicka ; (CO-INTRODUCERS) Owen

Foreign Influence; Requires agents of foreign principals & foreign-supported political organizations to register with Division of Elections; provides registration requirements; requires periodic updates by such agents & organizations; requires foreign supported political organizations to register with division on specified form created by division within specified timeframe; provides requirements for such forms; prohibits specified persons from soliciting or accepting anything of value from foreign country of concern; requires Commission on Ethics to adopt certain rules by specified date; prohibits certain activities encouraging affiliations with foreign countries of concern; requires Department of Commerce to publish & update certain information on its website; removes Florida-China Institute from list of linkage institutes; prohibits linkage institute from entering into agreement or participating in activity with foreign country of concern; requires certain agreements to be terminated by specified date; prohibits certain entities with access to critical infrastructure facilities from entering into certain contracts with foreign principals; etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

12/23/2025	HOUSE	Filed
1/5/2026	H	Referred to Government Operations Subcommittee
		Referred to Judiciary Committee
		Referred to Commerce Committee
		Referred to State Affairs Committee
		Now in Government Operations Subcommittee

HB 1073: School Districts

GENERAL BILL by Koster

School Districts; Provides members of district school board with specified rights; provides that district school board has power to approve additional attorney to be employed by school district; provides requirements for such approval; requires school officers to receive specified training; requires that full line-item budget items be posted on school district's website; provides that school district employee may not be required or incentivized to sign nondisclosure agreement or confidentiality agreement.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

1/6/2026	HOUSE	Filed
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SENATE BILLS:

SB 92: Employee Protections

GENERAL BILL by Gaetz

Employee Protections; Prohibiting agencies and independent contractors from taking specified actions against employees or certain persons for disclosing certain information to the Commission on Ethics; requiring that information disclosed include specified violations or alleged violations; providing that specified provisions protect employees and persons who submit written complaints to the commission or provide information to an investigator during an investigation of a complaint or referral, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

9/29/2025	SENATE	Filed
10/13/2025	S	Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Ethics and Elections; Rules
12/1/2025	S	On Committee agenda-- Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 12/09/25, 10:00 am, 110 Senate Building
12/9/2025	S	CS by Governmental Oversight and Acct; YEAS 8 NAYS 0
12/11/2025	S	Pending reference review under Rule 4.7(2) - (Committee Substitute)
		Now in Ethics and Elections

SB 572: Ethics for Public Employees

GENERAL BILL by Harrell

Ethics for Public Employees; Revising the definition of the term “relative” to include foster parents and foster children, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

11/18/2025	SENATE	Filed
12/9/2025	S	Referred to Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

SB 964: Financial Disclosures

GENERAL BILL by Wright

Financial Disclosures; Requiring reporting individuals and procurement employees to file annual reports listing certain gifts with the Commission on Ethics instead of with the required financial disclosure statement; requiring such individuals and employees who have left office or employment within a specified timeframe to file the annual report with the commission instead of at the same location as their financial disclosure statement; requiring reporting individuals and procurement employees to disclose the name, address, and affiliation of a person providing specified honorarium expenses with the commission instead of with the required financial disclosure statement, etc.

Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

12/18/2025	SENATE	Filed
1/7/2026	S	Referred to Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Rules

SB 1120: Water Management Districts

GENERAL BILL by Brodeur

Water Management Districts; Requiring the Commission on Ethics to investigate a lobbyist or principal who has made a prohibited expenditure and to provide the Governor with a report of its

findings and recommendations regarding such investigation; requiring the South Florida Water Management District, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Protection, to provide a detailed report that includes the total estimated remaining cost of implementation of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the status of applicable performance indicators for all project components; authorizing water management districts to levy certain ad valorem taxes on specified property for certain purposes; requiring that the preliminary budget for each water management district include a section that contains the district's capital improvement plan for the current fiscal year and the next fiscal year, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

1/5/2026 SENATE Filed

SB 802: Public Officers and Employees

GENERAL BILL by Mayfield

Public Officers and Employees; Requiring that, beginning on a specified date, secretaries and executive directors of departments, chief administrative officers of certain units of state government, members of commissions and licensing boards, chairs of governing boards or certain chief executives of certain statewide entities, or any persons appointed to hold state office in the executive branch of state government be United States citizens and residents of this state; providing that such an office is automatically deemed vacant if the person holding that office does not meet certain requirements; requiring the Commission on Ethics to investigate certain lobbyists or principals who make prohibited expenditures, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

12/9/2025 SENATE Filed

12/16/2025 S Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and
General Government; Rules

SB 964: Financial Disclosures

GENERAL BILL by Wright

Financial Disclosures; Requiring reporting individuals and procurement employees to file annual reports listing certain gifts with the Commission on Ethics instead of with the required financial disclosure statement; requiring such individuals and employees who have left office or employment within a specified timeframe to file the annual report with the commission instead of at the same location as their financial disclosure statement; requiring reporting individuals and procurement employees to disclose the name, address, and affiliation of a person providing specified honorarium expenses with the commission instead of with the required financial disclosure statement, etc.

Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

12/18/2025 SENATE Filed

1/7/2026 S Referred to Ethics and Elections; Governmental Oversight and
Accountability; Rules

SB 1178: Foreign Influence

GENERAL BILL by Grall

Foreign Influence; Requiring agents of foreign countries of concern and foreign-supported political organizations to register with the Division of Elections; requiring periodic updates by such agents and organizations; defining the terms “designated foreign terrorist organization” and “foreign country of concern”; prohibiting a governmental entity from entering into certain contracts with certain entities owned or partially owned by foreign sources of concern or affiliated with a foreign country of concern, etc.

Effective Date: 7/1/2026

1/6/2026 SENATE Filed

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to adverse personnel actions and
3 ethics complaints; creating s. 112.3242, F.S.;
4 providing legislative intent; defining terms;
5 prohibiting agencies and independent contractors from
6 taking specified actions against employees or certain
7 persons for disclosing certain information to the
8 Commission on Ethics; providing applicability;
9 requiring that information disclosed include specified
10 violations or alleged violations; requiring disclosure
11 of specified information to the commission under
12 specified circumstances; providing that specified
13 provisions protect employees and persons who submit
14 written complaints to the commission or provide
15 information to an investigator during an investigation
16 of a complaint or referral; providing applicability;
17 authorizing certain employees or applicants for
18 employment to file complaints in accordance with
19 specified provisions; authorizing such employees or
20 applicants to pursue a specified administrative remedy
21 or a civil action within a specified timeframe;
22 defining the term "local governmental authority";
23 authorizing local public employees to file a complaint
24 with the appropriate local governmental authority
25 under specified circumstances; specifying requirements

26 for administrative procedures created by local
27 governmental authorities; authorizing such employees
28 to bring civil actions in a court of competent
29 jurisdiction under specified conditions; requiring
30 specified relief; providing applicability; providing
31 that it is an affirmative defense to certain actions
32 that the adverse personnel action was predicated on
33 grounds other than the exercising of certain protected
34 rights; providing construction; amending s. 112.324,
35 F.S.; requiring the commission to deliver complaints
36 and any amendment thereto to the agency conducting a
37 certain investigation, upon the agency's written
38 request; providing that such delivery does not affect
39 specified exemptions in regard to the complaint and
40 amendments; requiring that such delivery be within a
41 reasonable timeframe; requiring that the commission
42 redact certain information under specified conditions;
43 requiring the commission to deliver complaints and any
44 amendment thereto to certain persons upon a notarized
45 written request; providing that such delivery does not
46 affect the specified exemptions of the complaint;
47 requiring that such delivery be within a reasonable
48 timeframe; requiring that the commission redact
49 certain information under specified conditions;
50 providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 112.3242, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

112.3242 Adverse action against employee for disclosing information of specified nature to the Commission on Ethics prohibited; employee remedy and relief.—

(1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.—It is the intent of the Legislature to prevent agencies or independent contractors from taking retaliatory action against an employee who reports to an appropriate agency any violation of this part or s. 8(f), Art. II of the State Constitution on the part of a public employer or an independent contractor. It is further the intent of the Legislature to prevent agencies or independent contractors from taking retaliatory action against any person who discloses information to an appropriate agency regarding alleged breaches of the public trust or violations of s. 8(f), Art. II of the State Constitution on the part of an agency, a public officer, or an employee.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, unless otherwise specified, the term:

(a) "Adverse personnel action" means the discharge, suspension, transfer, or demotion of any employee or the withholding of bonuses, the reduction in salary or benefits, or

76 any other adverse action taken against an employee within the
77 terms and conditions of employment by an agency or independent
78 contractor.

79 (b) "Agency" means any state, regional, county, local, or
80 municipal governmental entity, whether executive, judicial, or
81 legislative; any official, officer, department, division,
82 bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision therein;
83 or any public school, community college, or state university.

84 (c) "Employee" means a person who performs services for,
85 and is under the control and direction of, or contracts with, an
86 agency or independent contractor for wages or other
87 remuneration.

88 (d) "Independent contractor" means a person, other than an
89 agency, who is engaged in any business and enters into a
90 contract, including a provider agreement, with an agency.

91 (3) ACTIONS PROHIBITED.—

92 (a) An agency or independent contractor may not dismiss,
93 discipline, or take any other adverse personnel action against
94 an employee for disclosing information pursuant to this section.

95 (b) An agency or independent contractor may not take any
96 adverse personnel action that affects the rights or interests of
97 a person in retaliation for the person's disclosure of
98 information under this section.

99 (c) This subsection does not apply when an employee or a
100 person discloses information known by the employee or person to

101 be false or when the employee or person discloses information
102 that forms the basis of an award of costs or attorney fees or
103 both pursuant to s. 112.317(7).

104 (4) NATURE OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED.—The information
105 disclosed under this section must include any violation or
106 suspected violation of:

107 (a) Any standard of conduct imposed by this part;
108 (b) Section 8, Art. II of the State Constitution; or
109 (c) Section 11.062, s. 16.715, part II of chapter 287, s.
110 350.031, s. 350.04, s. 350.041, s. 350.042, or s. 350.0605.

111 (5) TO WHOM INFORMATION IS DISCLOSED.—The information
112 disclosed under this section must be disclosed to the Commission
113 on Ethics.

114 (6) EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS PROTECTED.—This section protects
115 employees and persons who submit a written complaint to the
116 Commission on Ethics executed on a form prescribed by the
117 commission and signed under oath or affirmation or who provide
118 information to an investigator during an investigation of a
119 complaint or referral. A remedy or other protection under this
120 section does not apply to any employee or person who has
121 committed or intentionally participated in committing the
122 violation or suspected violation for which protection under this
123 section is being sought.

124 (7) REMEDIES.—

125 (a) Any employee of or applicant for employment with any

126 state agency as defined in s. 216.011 who is discharged,
127 disciplined, or subjected to other adverse personnel action or
128 denied employment because he or she engaged in an activity
129 protected by this section may file a complaint, which complaint
130 must be made in accordance with s. 112.31895. Upon receipt of
131 notice from the Florida Commission on Human Relations of
132 termination of the investigation, the complainant may elect to
133 pursue the administrative remedy available under s. 112.31895 or
134 bring a civil action within 180 days after receipt of the
135 notice.

136 (b) For the purpose of this paragraph, the term "local
137 governmental authority" includes any regional, county, or
138 municipal entity, special district, community college district,
139 or school district or any political subdivision thereof. Within
140 60 days after the action prohibited by this section, any local
141 public employee protected by this section may file a complaint
142 with the appropriate local governmental authority if that
143 authority has established by ordinance an administrative
144 procedure for handling such complaints or has contracted with
145 the Division of Administrative Hearings under s. 120.65 to
146 conduct hearings under this section. The administrative
147 procedure created by ordinance must provide for the complaint to
148 be heard by a panel of impartial persons appointed by the
149 appropriate local governmental authority. Upon hearing the
150 complaint, the panel shall make findings of fact and conclusions

151 of law for a final decision by the local governmental authority.
152 Within 180 days after the entry of a final decision by the local
153 governmental authority, the local public employee who filed the
154 complaint may bring a civil action in any court of competent
155 jurisdiction. If the local governmental authority has not
156 established an administrative procedure by ordinance or
157 contract, a local public employee may, within 180 days after the
158 action prohibited by this section, bring a civil action in a
159 court of competent jurisdiction.

160 (c) Any other person protected by this section may, after
161 exhausting all available contractual or administrative remedies,
162 bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction
163 within 180 days after the action prohibited by this section.

164 (8) RELIEF.—In any action brought under this section, the
165 relief must include the following:

166 (a) Reinstatement of the employee to the same position
167 held before the adverse personnel action was commenced, or to an
168 equivalent position, or reasonable front pay as an alternative
169 relief.

170 (b) Reinstatement of the employee's full fringe benefits
171 and seniority rights, as appropriate.

172 (c) Compensation to the employee, if appropriate, for lost
173 wages, benefits, or other lost remuneration caused by the
174 adverse personnel action.

175 (d) Payment of reasonable costs, including attorney fees,

176 to a substantially prevailing employee, or to the prevailing
177 employer if the employee filed a frivolous action in bad faith.

178 (e) Issuance of an injunction, if appropriate, by a court
179 of competent jurisdiction.

180 (f) Temporary reinstatement of the employee to his or her
181 former position or to an equivalent position, pending the final
182 outcome on the complaint, if an employee complains of being
183 discharged in retaliation for a protected disclosure and if a
184 court of competent jurisdiction or the Florida Commission on
185 Human Relations, as applicable under s. 112.31895, determines
186 that the disclosure was not made in bad faith or for a wrongful
187 purpose or occurred after an agency's initiation of a personnel
188 action against the employee which includes documentation of the
189 employee's violation of a disciplinary standard or performance
190 deficiency. This paragraph does not apply to an employee of a
191 municipality.

192 (9) DEFENSE.—It is an affirmative defense to any action
193 brought pursuant to this section that the adverse personnel
194 action was predicated upon grounds other than, and would have
195 been taken absent, the employee's or person's exercise of rights
196 protected by this section.

197 (10) EXISTING RIGHTS.—This section does not diminish the
198 rights, privileges, or remedies of an employee under any other
199 law or rule or under any collective bargaining agreement or
200 employment contract; however, the election of remedies in s.

447.401 also applies to actions under this section.

Section 2. Paragraphs (g) and (h) are added to subsection (2) of section 112.324, Florida Statutes, to read:

112.324 Procedures on complaints of violations and referrals; public records and meeting exemptions.—

(2)

(g) Notwithstanding the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d), the commission shall deliver a copy of an ethics complaint, and its timely amendments, to an agency conducting an investigation of a claim asserted under s. 112.3242, upon receiving a written request from the agency. The commission's delivery of the complaint, and any amendments thereto, does not affect the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d) in any other context. The commission shall deliver the complaint, and any amendments thereto, within a reasonable timeframe. If the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d) are applicable at the time of the request, the commission must redact any designations to the complaint form it supplied after the form was filed, including, but not limited to, date stamps, receipt stamps, and complaint serial numbers.

(h) Notwithstanding the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d), the commission shall deliver a copy of an ethics complaint, and its timely amendments, to the person who filed the ethics complaint and to the person who identified himself or herself in the text of the complaint or its timely amendments as a current

226 or former employee of the agency associated with the respondent
227 named in the complaint or of an independent contractor of that
228 agency, upon receiving a notarized, written request from such
229 person. The commission's delivery of the complaint, and any
230 amendments thereto, does not affect the exemptions in paragraphs
231 (a)-(d) in any other context. The commission shall deliver the
232 complaint in a reasonable timeframe. If the exemptions in
233 paragraphs (a)-(d) are applicable at the time of the request,
234 the commission must redact any designations to the complaint
235 form it supplied after the form was filed, including, but not
236 limited to, date stamps, receipt stamps, and complaint serial
237 numbers.

238 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

By the Committee on Governmental Oversight and Accountability;
and Senator Gaetz

585-01751-26

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to employee protections; amending s.
3 112.313, F.S.; defining terms; providing that public
4 officers, public employees, and local government
5 attorneys commit a breach of the public trust when
6 they initiate adverse personnel actions against
7 specified agency employees or independent contractors
8 under certain circumstances; providing construction;
9 creating s. 112.3242, F.S.; providing legislative
10 intent; defining terms; prohibiting agencies and
11 independent contractors from taking specified actions
12 against employees or certain persons for disclosing
13 certain information to the Commission on Ethics;
14 providing applicability; requiring that information
15 disclosed include specified violations or alleged
16 violations; requiring disclosure of specified
17 information to the commission under specified
18 circumstances; providing that specified provisions
19 protect employees and persons who submit written
20 complaints to the commission or provide information to
21 an investigator during an investigation of a complaint
22 or referral; providing applicability; authorizing
23 certain employees or applicants for employment to file
24 complaints in accordance with specified provisions;
25 authorizing certain complainants to pursue a specified
26 administrative remedy or a civil action within a
27 specified timeframe; requiring specified relief;
28 providing applicability; providing that it is an
29 affirmative defense to certain actions that the

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adverse personnel action was predicated on grounds other than the exercising of certain protected rights; providing construction; amending s. 112.324, F.S.; requiring the Commission on Ethics to deliver copies of complaints and any amendment thereto to the Public Employees Relations Commission upon receiving a written request from the agency; providing that such delivery does not affect specified exemptions in regard to the complaint and amendments; requiring that such delivery be within a reasonable timeframe; requiring that the Commission on Ethics redact certain information under specified conditions; requiring the commission to deliver complaints and any amendment thereto to certain persons upon a notarized written request; providing that such delivery does not affect the specified exemptions of the complaint; requiring that such delivery be within a reasonable timeframe; requiring that the commission redact certain information under specified conditions; creating s. 112.3243, F.S.; authorizing certain employees to file a complaint with the commission within a specified timeframe; requiring that the commission acknowledge receipt of such complaint and provide copies of the complaint and any other information to the agency head or independent contractor within a specified timeframe; requiring the commission to conduct informal fact-finding regarding legally sufficient complaints and provide, within a specified timeframe, a certain report to the agency head or independent

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contractor; providing that the commission is empowered to take specified actions; requiring the commission to notify a complainant of the status of the investigation and actions taken when appropriate; requiring the commission to make a certain determination and provide a fact-finding report to specified entities under specified conditions; requiring the commission to file such determination and report with the agency head or independent contractor under specified conditions; requiring the commission to provide a certain notice to specified entities under specified conditions; requiring the commission to terminate investigations under specified circumstances; prohibiting disciplinary action against an employee under specified conditions; authorizing complainants to file a complaint against the employer agency with the Public Employees Relations Commission; providing that such commission has jurisdiction over such complaints; authorizing the Commission on Ethics to adopt rules; reenacting s. 112.3136(1), F.S., relating to standards of conduct for officers and employees of entities serving as chief administrative officer of political subdivisions, to incorporate the amendment made to s. 112.313, F.S., in a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (18) is added to section 112.313,

585-01751-26

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Florida Statutes, to read:

112.313 Standards of conduct for public officers, employees of agencies, and local government attorneys.—

(18) RETALIATION FOR PROTECTED ACTIVITY PROHIBITED.—

(a) As used in this subsection, the term:

1. "Adverse personnel action" means the discharge, suspension, transfer, or demotion of an employee; the withholding of bonuses or reduction in salary or benefits of an employee; or any other adverse action taken against an employee within the terms and conditions of employment by an agency or independent contractor of an agency.

2. "Exercise of ultimate decisionmaking authority" or "grant of approval" means having and using the authority to commence an adverse personnel action.

3. "Protected activity" means submitting a written complaint to the commission executed on the form specified in s. 112.324(1) and signed under oath or affirmation or providing information to an investigator during an investigation of a complaint or referral.

(b) A public officer, public employee, or local government attorney commits a breach of the public trust when he or she initiates an adverse personnel action against an agency employee or independent contractor who has engaged in a protected activity by an exercise of the public officer's, public employee's, or local government attorney's ultimate decisionmaking authority or a grant of his or her approval, or uses his or her position to cause another to initiate such an adverse personnel action, if the protected activity is the primary reason motivating the adverse personnel action. The

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117 communication or execution of an adverse personnel action
118 initiated by another's ultimate decisionmaking authority or
119 grant of approval does not constitute an exercise of one's
120 ultimate decisionmaking authority or a grant of one's approval.

121 Section 2. Section 112.3242, Florida Statutes, is created
122 to read:

123 112.3242 Adverse action against employee for disclosing
124 information of specified nature to the Commission on Ethics
125 prohibited; employee remedy and relief.-

126 (1) LEGISLATIVE INTENT.-It is the intent of the Legislature
127 to prevent agencies or independent contractors from taking
128 retaliatory action against an employee who reports to an
129 appropriate agency any violation of this part or s. 8, Art. II
130 of the State Constitution on the part of a public employer or an
131 independent contractor. It is further the intent of the
132 Legislature to prevent agencies or independent contractors from
133 taking retaliatory action against any person who discloses
134 information to an appropriate agency regarding alleged breaches
135 of the public trust or violations of s. 8, Art. II of the State
136 Constitution on the part of an agency, a public officer, or an
137 employee.

138 (2) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section and s. 112.3243,
139 unless otherwise specified, the term:

140 (a) "Adverse personnel action" means the discharge,
141 suspension, transfer, or demotion of any employee or the
142 withholding of bonuses, the reduction in salary or benefits, or
143 any other adverse action taken against an employee within the
144 terms and conditions of employment by an agency or independent
145 contractor.

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146 (b) "Agency" means any state, regional, county, local, or
147 municipal governmental entity, whether executive, judicial, or
148 legislative; any official, officer, department, division,
149 bureau, commission, authority, or political subdivision therein;
150 or any public school, community college, or state university.

151 (c) "Employee" means a person who performs services for,
152 and is under the control and direction of, or contracts with, an
153 agency or independent contractor for wages or other
154 remuneration.

155 (d) "Independent contractor" means a person, other than an
156 agency, who is engaged in any business and enters into a
157 contract, including a provider agreement, with an agency.

158 (3) ACTIONS PROHIBITED.—

159 (a) An agency or independent contractor may not dismiss,
160 discipline, or take any other adverse personnel action against
161 an employee for disclosing information protected under this
162 section.

163 (b) An agency or independent contractor may not take any
164 adverse personnel action that affects the rights or interests of
165 a person in retaliation for the person's disclosure of
166 information protected under this section.

167 (c) This subsection does not apply when an employee or a
168 person discloses information known by the employee or person to
169 be false or when the employee or person discloses information
170 that forms the basis of an award of costs or attorney fees or
171 both pursuant to s. 112.317(7).

172 (4) NATURE OF INFORMATION DISCLOSED.—The protected
173 information disclosed under this section must include any
174 violation or suspected violation of:

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175 (a) Any standard of conduct imposed by this part;

176 (b) Section 8, Art. II of the State Constitution; or

177 (c) Section 11.062, s. 16.715, part II of chapter 287, s.
178 350.031, s. 350.04, s. 350.041, s. 350.042, or s. 350.0605.

179 (5) TO WHOM INFORMATION IS DISCLOSED.—The information
180 disclosed under this section must be disclosed to the
181 commission.

182 (6) EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS PROTECTED.—This section protects
183 employees and persons who submit a written complaint to the
184 commission executed on the form specified in s. 112.324(1) and
185 signed under oath or affirmation or who provide information to
186 an investigator during an investigation of a complaint. A remedy
187 or other protection under this section does not apply to any
188 employee or person who has committed or intentionally
189 participated in committing the violation or suspected violation
190 for which protection under this section is being sought.

191 (7) REMEDIES.—Any employee of or applicant for employment
192 with an agency who is subjected to adverse personnel action
193 because he or she engaged in an activity protected by this
194 section may file a complaint, which must be made in accordance
195 with s. 112.3243. Upon receipt of notice from the commission of
196 termination of the investigation, the complainant may elect to
197 pursue the administrative remedy available under s. 112.3243 or
198 bring a civil action within 180 days after receipt of the
199 notice.

200 (8) RELIEF.—In any action brought under this section, the
201 relief must include the following:

202 (a) Reinstatement of the employee to the same position held
203 before the adverse personnel action was commenced, or to an

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equivalent position, or reasonable front pay as an alternative relief.

(b) Reinstatement of the employee's full fringe benefits and seniority rights, as appropriate.

(c) Compensation to the employee, if appropriate, for lost wages, benefits, or other lost remuneration caused by the adverse personnel action.

(d) Payment of reasonable costs, including attorney fees, to a substantially prevailing employee, or to the prevailing employer if the employee filed a frivolous action in bad faith.

(e) Issuance of an injunction, if appropriate, by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(f) Temporary reinstatement of the employee to his or her former position or to an equivalent position, pending the final outcome on the complaint, if an employee complains of being discharged in retaliation for a protected disclosure and if a court of competent jurisdiction or the commission, as applicable under s. 112.3243, determines that the disclosure was not made in bad faith or for a wrongful purpose or that the disclosure occurred after an agency's or independent contractor's initiation of a personnel action against the employee which includes documentation of the employee's violation of a disciplinary standard or performance deficiency. This paragraph does not apply to an employee of a municipality.

(9) DEFENSE.—It is an affirmative defense to any action brought pursuant to this section that the adverse personnel action was predicated upon grounds other than, and would have been taken absent, the employee's or person's exercise of rights protected by this section.

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233 (10) EXISTING RIGHTS.—This section does not diminish the
234 rights, privileges, or remedies of an employee under any other
235 law or rule or under any collective bargaining agreement or
236 employment contract; however, the election of remedies in s.
237 447.401 also applies to actions under this section.

238 Section 3. Paragraphs (g) and (h) are added to subsection
239 (2) of section 112.324, Florida Statutes, to read:

240 112.324 Procedures on complaints of violations and
241 referrals; public records and meeting exemptions.—

242 (2)

243 (g) Notwithstanding the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d),
244 the Commission on Ethics shall deliver a copy of an ethics
245 complaint, and its timely amendments, to the Public Employees
246 Relations Commission upon receiving a written request from the
247 agency. The Commission on Ethics' delivery of the complaint, and
248 any amendment thereto, does not affect the exemptions in
249 paragraphs (a)-(d) in any other context. The Commission on
250 Ethics shall deliver the complaint, and any amendment thereto,
251 within a reasonable timeframe. If the exemptions in paragraphs
252 (a)-(d) are applicable at the time of the request, the
253 commission must redact any designation to the complaint form it
254 supplied after the form was filed, including, but not limited
255 to, date stamps, receipt stamps, and complaint serial numbers.

256 (h) Notwithstanding the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d),
257 the commission shall deliver a copy of an ethics complaint, and
258 its timely amendments, to the person who filed the ethics
259 complaint and identified himself or herself in the text of the
260 complaint or its timely amendments as a current or former
261 employee of the agency associated with the respondent named in

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the complaint or of an independent contractor of that agency,
upon receiving a notarized, written request from such person.
The commission's delivery of the complaint, and any amendment
thereto, does not affect the exemptions in paragraphs (a)-(d) in
any other context. The commission shall deliver the complaint
within a reasonable timeframe. If the exemptions in paragraphs
(a)-(d) are applicable at the time of the request, the
commission must redact any designation to the complaint form it
supplied after the form was filed, including, but not limited
to, date stamps, receipt stamps, and complaint serial numbers.

Section 4. Section 112.3243, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

112.3243 Investigative procedures in response to prohibited
personnel actions against ethics complaints.-

(1) COMPLAINT.-

(a) If a disclosure under s. 112.3242 results in alleged
retaliation by an employer, the employee or former employee of
an agency or independent contractor that is so affected may file
a complaint alleging a prohibited personnel action, which must
be made by filing a written complaint with the commission no
later than 60 days after the prohibited personnel action.

(b) Within 5 working days after receiving a complaint under
this section, the commission shall acknowledge receipt of the
complaint and provide copies of the complaint and any other
preliminary information available concerning the disclosure of
information under s. 112.3242 to the employer, who shall
acknowledge receipt of such copies to the complainant.

(2) FACT-FINDING.-The commission shall:

(a) Receive any allegation of a personnel action prohibited

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291 by s. 112.3242, including a proposed or potential action, and
292 conduct informal fact-finding regarding any allegation of a
293 legally sufficient complaint under this section to the extent
294 necessary to determine whether there are reasonable grounds to
295 believe that a prohibited personnel action under s. 112.3242 has
296 occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken.

297 (b) Within 180 days after receiving the complaint, provide
298 the agency head or independent contractor and the complainant
299 with a fact-finding report that may include recommendations to
300 the parties or a proposed resolution of the complaint. The fact-
301 finding report is admissible in any subsequent or related
302 administrative or judicial review.

303 (3) INVESTIGATIVE POWERS AND TERMINATION OF INVESTIGATION.—

304 (a) The commission, in accordance with this section, is
305 empowered to:

306 1. Receive and investigate complaints from employees
307 alleging retaliation by agencies or independent contractors.

308 2. Administer oaths, examine witnesses, take statements,
309 issue subpoenas, order the taking of depositions, order
310 responses to written interrogatories, and make appropriate
311 motions to limit discovery, pursuant to investigations under
312 subparagraph 1.

313 3. Create fact-finding reports and make determinations
314 regarding investigations under subparagraph 1.

315 (b) The commission shall notify a complainant of the status
316 of the investigation and any action taken at such times as the
317 commission deems appropriate.

318 (c)1. If the commission determines that, in connection with
319 any investigation, reasonable grounds exist to believe that a

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320 prohibited action has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken
321 which requires corrective action, the commission must report the
322 determination together with a fact-finding report to the agency
323 head or independent contractor and the complainant. The
324 commission may include in the report recommendations for
325 corrective action.

326 2. If the commission, in consultation with the individual
327 subject to the prohibited action, finds that the agency or
328 independent contractor has implemented a corrective action in
329 response to the commission's determination and fact-finding
330 report, the commission must file such finding with the agency
331 head or independent contractor, together with any written
332 comments that the individual provides, and terminate the
333 investigation. The commission shall provide notice of the
334 termination of its investigation, along with the reason for
335 termination, to the complainant and the agency head or
336 independent contractor.

337 3. If the agency or independent contractor, after 35 days,
338 does not implement a corrective action, the commission must
339 terminate the investigation. If an investigation is terminated
340 pursuant to this subparagraph, the commission must provide
341 notice of the termination of its investigation, along with the
342 reason for termination, to the complainant and the agency head
343 or independent contractor, and notify the complainant of the
344 right to appeal under subsection (4).

345 (d) If the commission determines that there are no
346 reasonable grounds to believe that a prohibited personnel action
347 has occurred, is occurring, or is to be taken, the commission
348 must terminate its investigation and report its determination,

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349 together with a fact-finding report and a notice of termination
350 of investigation, to the agency head or independent contractor
351 and the complainant.

352 (e) During any investigation under this section,
353 disciplinary action may not be taken against an employee of an
354 agency or independent contractor for reporting an alleged
355 prohibited personnel action that is under investigation, or for
356 reporting any related activity, or against any employee for
357 participating in an investigation without notifying the
358 commission.

359 (4) RIGHT TO APPEAL.—

360 (a) The complainant may, within 21 days after receipt of a
361 notice of termination of an investigation from the commission,
362 file a complaint against the employer agency regarding the
363 alleged prohibited personnel action with the Public Employees
364 Relations Commission. The Public Employees Relations Commission
365 has jurisdiction over such complaints under ss. 112.3242 and
366 447.503(4) and (5).

367 (b) Judicial review of any final order of the commission
368 must be as provided in s. 120.68.

369 (5) RULEMAKING.—The commission may adopt rules to implement
370 this section.

371 Section 5. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
372 made by this act to section 112.313, Florida Statutes, in a
373 reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 112.3136, Florida
374 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

375 112.3136 Standards of conduct for officers and employees of
376 entities serving as chief administrative officer of political
377 subdivisions.—The officers, directors, and chief executive

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378 officer of a corporation, partnership, or other business entity
379 that is serving as the chief administrative or executive officer
380 or employee of a political subdivision, and any business entity
381 employee who is acting as the chief administrative or executive
382 officer or employee of the political subdivision, for the
383 purposes of the following sections, are public officers and
384 employees who are subject to the following standards of conduct
385 of this part:

386 (1) Section 112.313, and their "agency" is the political
387 subdivision that they serve; however, the contract under which
388 the business entity serves as chief executive or administrative
389 officer of the political subdivision is not deemed to violate s.
390 112.313(3) or (7).

391 Section 6. This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

HB 6011

2026

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to reporting the receipt of gifts or
3 honoraria; amending s. 112.3148, F.S.; providing that
4 all annual reports shall be filed with the Commission
5 on Ethics by a specified date; amending s. 112.3149,
6 F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the
7 act; providing an effective date.

8
9 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

10
11 **Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section**
12 **112.3148, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

13 112.3148 Reporting and prohibited receipt of gifts by
14 individuals filing full or limited public disclosure of
15 financial interests and by procurement employees.—

16 (6)

17 (d) No later than July 1 of each year, each reporting
18 individual or procurement employee shall file a statement
19 listing each gift having a value in excess of \$100 received by
20 the reporting individual or procurement employee, either
21 directly or indirectly, from a governmental entity or a direct-
22 support organization specifically authorized by law to support a
23 governmental entity. The statement shall list the name of the
24 person providing the gift, a description of the gift, the date
25 or dates on which the gift was given, and the value of the total

26 gifts given during the calendar year for which the report is
27 made. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall
28 attach to the statement any report received by him or her in
29 accordance with paragraph (c), which report shall become a
30 public record when filed with the statement of the reporting
31 individual or procurement employee. The reporting individual or
32 procurement employee may explain any differences between the
33 report of the reporting individual or procurement employee and
34 the attached reports. The annual report ~~filed by a reporting~~
35 ~~individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure~~
36 ~~statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State~~
37 ~~Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting~~
38 ~~individual. The annual report filed by a procurement employee~~
39 shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics. The report filed
40 by a reporting individual or procurement employee who left
41 office or employment during the calendar year covered by the
42 report shall be filed by July 1 of the year after leaving office
43 or employment ~~at the same location as his or her final financial~~
44 ~~disclosure statement or, in the case of a former procurement~~
45 ~~employee,~~ with the Commission on Ethics.

46 **Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 112.3149, Florida**
47 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

48 112.3149 Solicitation and disclosure of honoraria.—

49 (6) A reporting individual or procurement employee who
50 receives payment or provision of expenses related to any

51 | honorarium event from a person who is prohibited by subsection
52 | (4) from paying an honorarium to a reporting individual or
53 | procurement employee shall publicly disclose on an annual
54 | statement the name, address, and affiliation of the person
55 | paying or providing the expenses; the amount of the honorarium
56 | expenses; the date of the honorarium event; a description of the
57 | expenses paid or provided on each day of the honorarium event;
58 | and the total value of the expenses provided to the reporting
59 | individual or procurement employee in connection with the
60 | honorarium event. The annual statement of honorarium expenses
61 | shall be filed by July 1 of each year for those expenses
62 | received during the previous calendar year. The reporting
63 | individual or procurement employee shall attach to the annual
64 | statement a copy of each statement received by him or her in
65 | accordance with subsection (5) regarding honorarium expenses
66 | paid or provided during the calendar year for which the annual
67 | statement is filed. The attached statement shall become a public
68 | record upon the filing of the annual report. The annual
69 | ~~statement of a reporting individual shall be filed with the~~
70 | ~~financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II~~
71 | ~~of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the~~
72 | ~~reporting individual. The annual statement of a procurement~~
73 | ~~employee~~ shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics. The
74 | statement filed by a reporting individual or procurement
75 | employee who left office or employment during the calendar year

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76 covered by the statement shall be filed by July 1 of the year
77 after leaving office or employment ~~at the same location as his~~
78 ~~or her final financial disclosure statement or, in the case of a~~
79 ~~former procurement employee,~~ with the Commission on Ethics.

80 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

By Senator Wright

8-00912-26

2026964

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to financial disclosures; amending s.
3 112.3148, F.S.; requiring reporting individuals and
4 procurement employees to file annual reports listing
5 certain gifts with the Commission on Ethics instead of
6 with the required financial disclosure statement;
7 requiring such individuals and employees who have left
8 office or employment within a specified timeframe to
9 file the annual report with the commission instead of
10 at the same location as their financial disclosure
11 statement; amending s. 112.3149, F.S.; requiring
12 reporting individuals and procurement employees to
13 disclose the name, address, and affiliation of a
14 person providing specified honorarium expenses with
15 the commission instead of with the required financial
16 disclosure statement; requiring such individuals and
17 employees who have left office or employment within a
18 specified timeframe to file the annual statement with
19 the commission instead of at the same location as
20 their financial disclosure statement; providing an
21 effective date.

22
23 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
24

25 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section
26 112.3148, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

27 112.3148 Reporting and prohibited receipt of gifts by
28 individuals filing full or limited public disclosure of
29 financial interests and by procurement employees.—

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(6)

(d) No later than July 1 of each year, each reporting individual or procurement employee shall file a statement listing each gift having a value in excess of \$100 received by the reporting individual or procurement employee, either directly or indirectly, from a governmental entity or a direct-support organization specifically authorized by law to support a governmental entity. The statement shall list the name of the person providing the gift, a description of the gift, the date or dates on which the gift was given, and the value of the total gifts given during the calendar year for which the report is made. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall attach to the statement any report received by him or her in accordance with paragraph (c), which report shall become a public record when filed with the statement of the reporting individual or procurement employee. The reporting individual or procurement employee may explain any differences between the report of the reporting individual or procurement employee and the attached reports. The annual report ~~filed by a reporting individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting individual. The annual report filed by a procurement employee shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics. The report filed by a reporting individual or procurement employee who left office or employment during the calendar year covered by the report shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics by July 1 of the year after leaving office or employment at the same location as his or her final financial disclosure statement or, in the~~ with the Commission on Ethics by July 1 of the year after leaving office or employment ~~at the same location as his or her final financial disclosure statement or, in the~~

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~~ease of a former procurement employee, with the Commission on Ethics.~~

Section 2. Subsection (6) of section 112.3149, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

112.3149 Solicitation and disclosure of honoraria.—

(6) A reporting individual or procurement employee who receives payment or provision of expenses related to any honorarium event from a person who is prohibited by subsection (4) from paying an honorarium to a reporting individual or procurement employee shall publicly disclose on an annual statement the name, address, and affiliation of the person paying or providing the expenses; the amount of the honorarium expenses; the date of the honorarium event; a description of the expenses paid or provided on each day of the honorarium event; and the total value of the expenses provided to the reporting individual or procurement employee in connection with the honorarium event. The annual statement of honorarium expenses shall be filed by July 1 of each year for those expenses received during the previous calendar year. The reporting individual or procurement employee shall attach to the annual statement a copy of each statement received by him or her in accordance with subsection (5) regarding honorarium expenses paid or provided during the calendar year for which the annual statement is filed. The attached statement shall become a public record upon the filing of the annual report. The annual statement ~~of a reporting individual shall be filed with the financial disclosure statement required by either s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution or s. 112.3145, as applicable to the reporting individual. The annual statement of a procurement~~

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88 ~~employee~~ shall be filed with the Commission on Ethics. The
89 statement filed by a reporting individual or procurement
90 employee who left office or employment during the calendar year
91 covered by the statement shall be filed with the Commission on
92 Ethics by July 1 of the year after leaving office or employment
93 ~~at the same location as his or her final financial disclosure~~
94 ~~statement or, in the case of a former procurement employee, with~~
95 ~~the Commission on Ethics.~~

96 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to ethics for public employees;
3 amending s. 112.312, F.S.; revising the definition of
4 the term "relative" to include foster parents and
5 foster children; reenacting s. 1001.421, F.S.,
6 relating to gifts to district school board members, to
7 incorporate the amendment made to s. 112.312, F.S., in
8 a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

11
12 **Section 1. Subsection (21) of section 112.312, Florida**
13 **Statutes, is amended to read:**

14 112.312 Definitions.—As used in this part and for purposes
15 of the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution,
16 unless the context otherwise requires:

17 (21) "Relative," unless otherwise specified in this part,
18 means an individual who is related to a public officer or
19 employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister,
20 uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-
21 in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-
22 law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson,
23 stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half
24 sister, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great
25 grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step

26 grandchild, or step great grandchild; an individual who, while
27 the public officer or employee was a minor, was his or her
28 legally recognized foster parent in the jurisdiction where the
29 relationship occurred or an individual who is a current or
30 former legally recognized foster child of the public officer or
31 employee in the jurisdiction where the relationship occurs or
32 occurred; a~~7~~ person who is engaged to be married to the public
33 officer or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself
34 out as or is generally known as the person whom the public
35 officer or employee intends to marry or with whom the public
36 officer or employee intends to form a household;~~7~~ or any other
37 natural person having the same legal residence as the public
38 officer or employee.

39 **Section 2.** For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
40 made by this act to section 112.312, Florida Statutes, in a
41 reference thereto, section 1001.421, Florida Statutes, is
42 reenacted to read:

43 1001.421 Gifts.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law
44 to the contrary, district school board members and their
45 relatives, as defined in s. 112.312(21), may not directly or
46 indirectly solicit any gift, or directly or indirectly accept
47 any gift in excess of \$50, from any person, vendor, potential
48 vendor, or other entity doing business with the school district.
49 The term "gift" has the same meaning as in s. 112.312(12).

50 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.

By Senator Harrell

31-00857-26

2026572__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to ethics for public employees;
amending s. 112.312, F.S.; revising the definition of
the term "relative" to include foster parents and
foster children; reenacting s. 1001.421, F.S.,
relating to gifts to district school board members, to
incorporate the amendment made to s. 112.312, F.S., in
a reference thereto; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (21) of section 112.312, Florida
Statutes, is amended to read:

112.312 Definitions.—As used in this part and for purposes
of the provisions of s. 8, Art. II of the State Constitution,
unless the context otherwise requires:

(21) "Relative," unless otherwise specified in this part,
means an individual who is related to a public officer or
employee as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister,
uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-
in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-
law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson,
stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half brother, half
sister, grandparent, great grandparent, grandchild, great
grandchild, step grandparent, step great grandparent, step
grandchild, or step great grandchild; an individual who, while
the public officer or employee was a minor, was his or her
legally recognized foster parent in the jurisdiction where the
relationship occurred or an individual who is a current or

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30 former legally recognized foster child of the public officer or
31 employee in the jurisdiction where the relationship occurs or
32 occurred; a~~7~~ person who is engaged to be married to the public
33 officer or employee or who otherwise holds himself or herself
34 out as or is generally known as the person whom the public
35 officer or employee intends to marry or with whom the public
36 officer or employee intends to form a household;~~7~~ or any other
37 natural person having the same legal residence as the public
38 officer or employee.

39 Section 2. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment
40 made by this act to section 112.312, Florida Statutes, in a
41 reference thereto, section 1001.421, Florida Statutes, is
42 reenacted to read:

43 1001.421 Gifts.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law
44 to the contrary, district school board members and their
45 relatives, as defined in s. 112.312(21), may not directly or
46 indirectly solicit any gift, or directly or indirectly accept
47 any gift in excess of \$50, from any person, vendor, potential
48 vendor, or other entity doing business with the school district.
49 The term "gift" has the same meaning as in s. 112.312(12).

50 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2026.