MEMORANDUM

de la PARTE, GILBERT, MCNAMARA, & CALDEVILLA, P. A.

DATE: November 5, 2025

TO: SEFLUC

FROM: Edward de la Parte, Nicolas Porter and Zachary Roper

SUBJECT: 2026 Legislation - SEFLUC Update

The following is a summary of legislation which may be of interest to the Southeast Florida Utility Council ("SEFLUC"). A summary of proposed changes and an analysis of impacts to SEFLUC are presented for each bill. In some cases, because of the length of the bill, the analysis may be limited to only those provisions impacting SEFLUC. In the event a more extensive summary and analysis is required, a separate memo addressing the specific legislation can be prepared upon request.

2026 Session

Committees begin meeting week of October 6, through December 12, 2025.
Regular Session – Begins January 13, 2026
Last Day for Regular Committee Meetings – March 3, 2026
Last Day of Regular Session – March 13, 2026

Speaker of the House – Daniel Perez (Miami)
Senate President – Ben Albritton (Wauchula)

List of Bills Contained in Memo:

1. **HB 75—Public Works Employee Identification Cards (Woodson)**
2. **HB 225—Consumer Fairness in Utility Rates (Robinson, F.)**
3. **HB 239—Standards for Storm Water Systems (Grow)**
4. **SB 290—Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Truenow)**
5. **HB 321/SB 406—Carrying Weapons and Firearms (Hunschofsky/Polsky)**

Bill Summaries and Status

1. HB0075—Public Works Employee Identification Cards (Woodson)

Summary:

- Requires municipalities and counties to issue identification cards to public employees primarily involved in the servicing, construction or improvement of infrastructure, sewers, storm drains, water systems, irrigation systems, reclamation projects, or other municipal or county facilities (list not exhaustive), indicating they are a first responder.

Status: **In Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee**

10/02/25 HOUSE Filed
10/07/25 HOUSE Referred to Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

2. HB 0225—Consumer Fairness in Utility Rates (Robinson, F.)

Summary:

- Existing law (Section 180.191, F.S.) allows municipalities to charge a 25% surcharge to customers outside its boundaries when using the same rates, fees, and charges as customers inside boundaries, or can charge different rates to outside customers that are equitable, with a 25% surcharge, not to exceed 50% of the total amount charged to customers inside boundaries.
- Similar 2025 HB 11 was vetoed by governor.
- Prohibits municipal utilities from requiring additional payment for extraterritorial sewer or water services when services derive from facilities that are located within the municipal area receiving services.
- "Facility" defined as "a water treatment facility, a wastewater treatment facility, a pumping station, a well, or other physical component of a utility system."
- Prohibits municipalities from requiring additional payment for extraterritorial sewer or water services when services derive from facilities located with municipal boundaries, unless such payments are:
    - 1) directly tied to costs of service,
    - 2) clearly disclosed to consumer in writing at time of billing,
    - 3) not directed towards general revenue or used as a profit margin, and
    - 4) announced at public hearing in recipient municipality before establishment.
- Requires municipal water or sewer utility to file an annual report with the Public Service Commission detailing use of surcharge revenues.
- Requires submission of consumer disputes over rates, fees, or surcharges to Public Service commission for review to determine fairness and compliance with section.

Status: **In Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee**

10/21/25 HOUSE Filed
10/28/25 HOUSE Referred to Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Commerce Committee

3. **<u>HB 0239—Standards for Storm Water Systems (Grow)</u>**

Summary:

- Requires that stormwater systems must be built in compliance with the "Pipe Culverts" and "Pipe Liner" sections of the Florida Department of Transportation's Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction.
- Final inspections for all municipal storm pipe and storm structures must be performed by technicians that are:
    - 1) certified by NASSCO's Pipeline Assessment Certification Program (PACP); and
    - 2) employed by a third-party licensed engineering firm that does not have a controlling interest in the company that installed the storm systems being inspected.
- 2025 HB 739/SB 1436 was similar, but also included sanitary sewer laterals, sewer pipes, and manhole covers.
- In last legislative session, a bill was tabled which applied similar standards to all installed or repaired sanitary and stormwater laterals, sewer pipes, storm pipes and manhole covers.

Status: **In Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee**

10/21/25 HOUSE Filed
10/28/25 HOUSE Referred to Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee; Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee; State Affairs Committee

4. **<u>SB 0290—Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Truenow)</u>**

Summary:

- The main FDACS bill with various agriculture and consumer measures.
- Requires new permits or permit renewals for biosolids land application to ensure that only Class AA biosolids are applied to the soil.
- Law currently allows for permitted land application of Class A or Class B Biosolids with additional limitations within certain basins, covering much of south Florida.
- Since Class AA biosolids are authorized for distribution and marketing as fertilizer, the amendment effectively subsumes land application permitting. Options for non-Class AA

biosolids would include adding Class AA treatment processes, landfill disposal, transportation out of state, or incineration.

Status: **Filed**

10/24/25 **SENATE** **Filed**

5. **<u>HB 321/SB 406—Carrying Weapons and Firearms (Hunschofsky/Polsky)</u>**

Summary:

- In September, First District Court of Appeal invalidated state ban on open carry of firearms.
- Amendment would prohibit carrying a handgun, weapon, or firearm into certain locations.
- List of locations includes (but not limited to):
    - "Any meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or special district."
    - "Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law."
- Does not generally include municipal or county utility facilities where customer service is provided.

<u>HB 321</u>

11/04/25 **HOUSE** **Filed**

<u>SB 406</u>

11/05/25 **SENATE** **Filed**