Florida Legislative Session 101

Florida legislation directly shapes MPO planning requirements, funding, transportation policy, public records, growth management, and local government authority. Understanding the process helps MPOs anticipate impacts, coordinate input, and remain engaged during the session.

HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW *(AT A GLANCE)*

1. Idea originates (legislators, citizens, groups, or agencies).
2. A Senator or Representative sponsors and files the bill.
3. The bill is referred to one or more committees for review based on its subject matter.
4. Assigned committees debate, amend, approve, or defeat the bill.
5. If approved, the bill moves to the Chamber floor for debate and vote.
6. If passed, the bill is referred to the other Chamber for debate and vote. The second Chamber may amend the bill and send it back to the originating Chamber.
7. A bill may be referred to and from the Chambers multiple times until a consensus is reached; the bill must ultimately be passed in identical form by both Chambers, or it will die.
8. The bill is sent to the Governor, who will sign the bill into law or veto it.

Quick Summary: Bill Filed > Committee Assignments > Floor Vote > Second Chamber > Bill Reconciled > Bill to Governor

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

The Florida Legislature meets annually for 60 consecutive days.

Start Dates:

- Odd years: First Tuesday after the first Monday in March.
- Even Years: First Tuesday and the first Monday in January.

HOW TO BECOME ENGAGED

- Sign up to receive bill alerts and committee notifications from FLSenate.gov and FLHouse.gov.
- Track transportation-related bills.
- Know your legislative delegation and their committee assignments.
- Build and maintain relationships with your elected officials' staff.
- Review the MPOAC Weekly Legislative Newsletter during session.
- Review other resources provided by the MPOAC, FDOT, and other transportation partners.

KEY TERMS:

- **Committee Substitute (CS):** Revised version of a bill adopted in committee.
- **Companion Bill:** Senate and House versions of the same proposal.
- **Appropriations Project:** Request for state funding for a specific transportation project or program. Funding typically comes from the State Transportation Trust Fund unless another funding source is identified.
- **Conference Committee:** Resolves differences between chambers.
- **Fiscal Impact:** Estimated effect on state/local budgets.