

Conforming Bill Summary

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

What is a conforming bill?

Conforming bills are one of three types of bills that make up the House's full proposed budget. The purpose of a conforming bill is to amend the Florida Statutes in order to comply or conform with an element(s) of the appropriations bill. For example, if an agency has been spending funds on an obsolete report that is still required by law and the appropriations bill deletes funding for the obsolete report, the law must be also be amended to repeal the requirement for the obsolete report. This law change would be in a conforming bill.

To learn more about the conforming bill proposed related to **Agriculture & Natural Resources**, see the summary below:

[House Bill 5601: License to Carry a Concealed Weapon or Firearm](#)

- Reduces the maximum fee allowable for a new license from \$85 to \$70, and a renewal license from \$70 to \$60. The result is a \$5 fee reduction for both.

[Senate Bill 1986: Water Management District Budgets](#)

- Amends current law as it relates to the budget development, review and approval of water management districts.
- Removes the current revenue cap and authorizes the Legislature to annually set an authorized maximum millage rate or maximum revenue limit for each district.
- Expands the authority of the governor with the development, approval and oversight of the districts' final budgets.
- Allows the Legislative Budget Commission to review and reject certain district budget proposals.
- Authorizes the governing board of a district to provide group insurance for its employees.

For more information about Florida's budget see the [OPI Pulse: Florida's Budget Process](#)

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Conforming Bill Summary

Appropriations Committee

Florida House of Representatives

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To learn more about the conforming bills proposed related to **General Appropriations**, see the summaries below:

House Bill 5005: Retirement

- Reduces the employer share of retirement allocation into the investment plan and employer contributions into the optional retirement plans to align with the actuarial normal costs determined in the July 1, 2011, valuation.
- Accounts for an increase to the normal costs of the Florida Retirement System that is necessary to adequately fund the program.

House Bill 5007: State Employees

- Directs the resolution of collective bargaining issues for the 2012-13 fiscal year regarding state employees.

House Bill 5009: Health Insurance Benefits for State Employees

- Establishes the Health Savings Account employer contribution in permanent law.
- Provides that the Department of Management Services may implement a 90-day supply limit program for certain maintenance drugs for retail pharmacies participating in the program if the Department of Management Services finds it is in the best interest of the state.
- Authorizes the Board of Trustees at the University of Florida, at their discretion, to develop its own health insurance program for employees, students and retirees.

House Bill 5011: State Information Technology

- Repeals the section of law establishing the Agency for Enterprise Information Technology and replaces it with the Agency for State Technology.
- Transfers several administrative rules from the Florida Administrative Code to the Agency for State Technology.
- Repeals several sections within Florida Statutes relating to the assignment of information technology, implementation plans for technology services, energy efficiency standards and the statewide email service.

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Conforming Bill Summary

Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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To learn more about the conforming bills proposed related to **Government Operations**, see the summaries below:

[House Bill 843: Department of Lottery](#)

- Allows the Department of the Lottery to deploy full service vending machines. The full service vending machines will dispense both instant tickets (scratch off) and on-line (counter sales) tickets.
- Provides that the Lottery must lease all vending machines that dispense online lottery tickets, instant lottery tickets, or both online and instant tickets.

[House Bill 5501: One Stop Business Portal](#)

- Establishes and implements a website for the One-Stop Business Registration Portal by January 1, 2013.
- Requires the Department of Revenue to submit an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on the implementation of the portal.

[House Bill 5503: One Stop Business Registration Clearing Trust Fund](#)

- Creates One-Stop Business Registration Portal Clearing Trust Fund within the Department of Revenue to deposit receipts generated through the utilization of the One-Stop Business Registration Portal.

[House Bill 5505: Department of Financial Services](#)

- Allows for the electronic submission of workers' compensation exemption applications with streamlined reporting requirements.
- Repeals state law that requires the Department of Financial Services to prepare an annual report on the administration of the workers' compensation laws of the prior year.
- Authorizes the Governor to direct the State Board of Administration to create the Florida Insurance Premium Tax Pre-Payment Program, in order to provide an additional funding mechanism for the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund.

[House Bill 5507: Department of Management Services](#)

- Requires the fiscal agent to reimburse the Department of Management Services for the actual cost of conducting the Florida State Employees' charitable campaign.
- Provides for the transfer of funds generated by fees collected by MyFloridaMarketPlace from the Department of Management Services to the Department of Financial Services.

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Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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- Amends the statute to continue the \$3 surcharge on certain criminal offenses and noncriminal moving traffic violations by extending the sunset date of the provision.

House Bill 5509: State Data Center System

- Amends the schedule for agency data center consolidations and exempts certain agencies from consolidating to a primary data center.
- Deletes the requirement that agencies must submit information relating to their data centers and computing facilities to the Agency for Enterprise and Information Technology.
- Deletes the requirement for the Agency for Enterprise and Information Technology to submit a comprehensive transition plan.
- Amends certain duties and responsibilities of a primary data center, to include the Northwest Regional Data Center.

House Bill 5511: Department of Business and Professional Regulation

- Terminates the Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics (DDC) Trust Fund and transfers funding of the Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics program to the Professional Regulation Trust Fund.
- Designates the Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics program as a division in the Department of Business and Professional Regulation's organizational structure. Updates statutes, to reflect the transfer of the Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics program from the Department of Health to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation.

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Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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To learn more about the conforming bills proposed related to **Health Care**, see the summaries below:

[HB 5301: Medicaid Services](#)

- Establishes eligibility requirements for Kidcare to make children of public employees who are eligible to participate in the state group insurance program, and who meet other eligibility requirements, eligible for Kidcare.
- Changes the statutory date by which Medicaid hospital rates may be adjusted from September 30 to October 31.
- Requires the Agency for Health Care Administration to notify the Legislature and submit a budget amendment in order to reduce hospital rates in the event there are insufficient collections of intergovernmental transfers to support current hospital rates.
- Revises time frames, parameters and requirements for the Agency for Health Care Administration to plan and report on a process for converting Medicaid hospital reimbursements to a diagnosis related group system.
- Authorizes the statewide expansion of the Medicaid managed care plan for individuals diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.
- Revises the methodology for determining a county's eligible recipients for the purpose of county billing for Medicaid expenditures and revises the methodology of collecting funds relating to required county contributions for Medicaid costs.
- Directs the Department of Children and Families and the Agency for Health Care Administration to work together to develop a new system of eligibility determination for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance program.
- Limits payment for emergency room services for non-pregnant Medicaid recipients 21 years old or older.
- Continues the years of audited data used in determining Medicaid and charity care days for hospitals in the Disproportionate Share Hospital program.
- Authorizes the expansion of the Home Health Agency Monitoring Pilot Project and the expansion of the Comprehensive Care Management Pilot Project for home health services.
- Authorizes two additional Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) sites and approves up to 150 initial enrollees for each site, subject to a specific appropriation. The sites are: Broward County, and Manatee, Sarasota and DeSoto counties.

[HB 5303: Department of Children and Family Services](#)

- Authorizes the Department of Children and Families to develop a plan to reduce operational costs that achieve the same level of savings as outsourcing housekeeping and environmental services at Northeast and Florida State Hospital. The plan is contingent upon Legislative Budget Commission approval.

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Conforming Bill Summary

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

What is a conforming bill?

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To learn more about the conforming bills proposed related to **Higher Education**, see the summaries below:

House Bill 5201: Postsecondary Education Funding

- Establishes the Florida Virtual Campus to provide access to online student and library support services and serve as a statewide resource and clearinghouse for postsecondary education distance learning courses and degree programs and to increase student access and completion of degrees.
- Establishes a Degree Completion Pilot Program to recruit, recover and retain adult learners and assist them in completing degrees aligned to high-wage, high-skill and workforce needs.
- Increases the surcharge for excess credit hours.
- Authorizes the Board of Governors to transfer unused Student and Other Fees Trust Fund authority between institutions, and restricts universities' ability to transfer funds in excess of \$1 million to and from satellite campuses.
- Maintains the salary limitation on the amount of state funds that may be used for salaries of Florida College System and state university presidents and administrative employees in the 2012-13 fiscal year.
- Provides that a full-time student, co-enrolled in a K-12 education program and an adult general education program, may be reported for funding for two courses in an adult education program in the 2012-13 fiscal year.
- Shortens the length of time from three years to two years that a student is eligible to accept the initial Bright Futures Scholarship after high school graduation.
- Clarifies that students enrolled in the Spring/Summer University of Florida pilot program are authorized to receive a Bright Futures Scholarship award for only two semesters each year.
- Clarifies that students are required to annually submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Limits allowable uses for the Bright Futures Gold Seal Vocational Scholarship to vocational programs.
- Requires the Florida Fund for Minority Teachers (FFMT) and the Florida Education Fund (FEF) to provide financial reports on an annual basis.
- Requires the FFMT to use a contingency collection agency to recoup scholarship repayments from students in default.
- Eliminates a statutory FEF law scholarship program which is no longer utilized.
- Revises matching requirements for the FEF, the Jose Marti and Mary McLeod Bethune Scholarship Programs.
- Requires coalitions to maximize purchasing power for higher education institutions.
- Requires the Auditor General to notify the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee of any audit review which indicates that a state university or state college has failed to take corrective action in response to a recommendation which was included in the two preceding audit reports.
- Requires audits with significant findings for the Florida College System, State University System and School Boards to be presented and discussed in a public board meeting.
- Authorizes the University of Florida to exceed the 5 percent bonding limitation on the Activity and Service Fee to fund the renovation and expansion of the student union.
- Establishes a Workforce Education scholarship pilot program for adults with disabilities for up to 30 students for two years in Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties.
- Allows universities to enter into local development agreements to identify and negotiate plans to mitigate the impact of specific projects and the corresponding effects on local governments.
- Increases the limit of the Capital Improvement Fee from 10 percent to 20 percent of tuition for Florida colleges, and for state universities indexes the Capital Improvement Fee to 10 percent of tuition, but limits increases to no more than \$2 per credit hour per year.
- Authorizes university budget transfers in the current fiscal year up to \$2 million.

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Conforming Bill Summary

Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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- Provides for name change of South Florida Community College to South Florida State College, contingent upon accreditation.
- Requires employment agreements, contracts, renewals or renegotiation of existing contracts for presidents, administrative and instructional staff to include provisions relating to severance required in statute.
- Deletes a provision providing for a Florida College System institution, in some circumstances, to apply for an exemption from State Board of Education approval of additional baccalaureate degree programs.

House Bill 5203: Reemployment Services

- Repeals and terminates the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund within the Department of Education.
- Transfers responsibilities for training and education of injured workers to the Department of Financial Services; authorizes the Department of Financial Services to contract with one or more third parties to administer functions of training and education.
- Requires that persons or firms selected to administer reemployment services may not have a conflict of interest.
- Prohibits a rehabilitation provider who contracts with the department to provide injured employees reemployment assessments and other services from providing training or education to the injured employee.
- Appropriates \$350,000 in recurring funds from the Workers' Compensation Administration Trust Fund and 5 full-time positions and associated salary rate of 260,000 to the Department of Financial Services.

Senate Bill 1994: Higher Education

- Creates the Florida Polytechnic University. All laws governing a university will apply, including the establishment of a board of trustees and a president. Transfers real and personal property, licenses and associated revenues, existing contracts, unexpended balances, appropriations, allocations, funds, and mutually agreed-upon obligations, responsibilities, and liabilities of the University of South Florida (USF) Polytechnic to Florida Polytechnic University.
- Requires Florida Polytechnic University to meet the milestones in the Board of Governor's motion by December 31, 2016.
- Requires USF to allow current USF Polytechnic students to complete their degree at USF.
- Requires USF to retain the current faculty and staff, except for faculty and staff of the Florida Industrial and Phosphate Research Institute which are transferred to the new Florida Polytechnic University.
- Requires USF to transfer Polytechnic-related foundation funds to a new Florida Polytechnic University foundation after obtaining donor consent.
- Cancels all memorandums of understanding between USF and USF Polytechnic upon this act becoming law.
- Requires Florida Polytechnic University to allow the University of South Florida to use space at the Lakeland joint-use facility pursuant to a mutual agreement for the purpose of continuing the local education of existing USF Polytechnic students. Florida Polytechnic University shall transfer space at the Lakeland joint-use facility to Polk State College as new space becomes available on the new campus of Florida Polytechnic University.
- Appropriates \$6 million in recurring funds for USF College of Pharmacy.
- Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds for USF for the purpose of allowing students enrolled in USF Polytechnic to complete their degrees at USF. This funding is contingent upon USF implementing the transfers required in the bill and upon USF maintaining full campus and program operations, including the retention of current faculty and staff of USF Polytechnic until June 30, 2012.

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Conforming Bill Summary

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

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To learn more about the conforming bills proposed related to **judicial** matters, see the summaries below:

[HB 5401: Juvenile Detention](#)

- Modifies the definition of "detention care" to include alternatives to secure detention to include respite care (placement for youth charged with domestic violence who do not otherwise meet detention criteria). Instead of paying detention cost, counties would be required to pay the costs of respite care yielding a net savings of \$2 million.

[HB 5403: State Court Revenues](#)

- Redirects mortgage foreclosure filing revenues from the State Courts Revenue Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund to provide stable funds to support and operate the State Courts System.

[SB 1958: Department of Health](#)

- Reassigns, for administrative purposes, the State of Florida Correctional Medical Authority (CMA) from the Department of Health to the Executive Office of the Governor. All powers, duties, functions and administrative rules transfer from the Department of Health to the Executive Office of the Governor.

[SB 1960: State Judicial System](#)

- Refines the qualifications of the Regional Conflict Counsel.
- Provides the State Court System to pay court appointed attorney fees ordered by the court above the flat rate set established in law, once the specific appropriation in the Justice Administrative Commission is spent.
- Permits Guardian Ad Litem volunteers to transport clients and provides statutory language governing the county funding of Guardian Ad Litem employees.
- Requires the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation to collect and submit quarterly reports on county use of fees to support court facilities in a electronic format to the chief judge, the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

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Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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[SB 1964: Court-Related Assessments](#)

- Ensures all monetary assessments mandated by statute are imposed by Florida trial courts without regard to whether the assessment is announced in open court.
- Refines the clerks' reporting requirements for monetary assessments by the courts.

[SB 1968: Criminal Justice](#)

- Makes it a requirement for the courts to assess individuals convicted of a crime a \$100 fee for any crime lab services provided when a local county-operated crime lab is used in connection with the investigation. All fines collected will continue to be deposited into the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Operating Trust Fund and used to reimburse to local county-operated crime laboratories.

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Conforming Bill Summary

PreK-12 Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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To learn more about the conforming bills proposed related to **PreK-12 Education**, see the summaries below:

[House Bill 5101: Prekindergarten through Grade 12 Education Funding](#)

- Modifies the FEP Supplemental Academic Instruction allocation for 2012-13 and 2013-14 to require districts with the 100 lowest performing elementary schools to provide intensive reading instruction by effective teachers for the students in these schools for an additional hour a day beyond the normal school day for the entire school year.
- Modifies the FEP Reading allocation for 2012-13 and 2013-14 to provide intensive reading instruction for students in the 100 lowest performing elementary schools during an additional one hour of instruction beyond the normal school day for the entire school year. Limits the use of these funds for reading coaches.
- Limits flexibility for the use of Reading and Supplemental Academic Instruction allocations to first require the additional hour of instruction for students in the 100 lowest performing elementary schools.
- Delays the increased class size penalty (from 50 percent to the full amount of the base student allocation) until 2014-15, including a retroactive adjustment of the 2011-12 penalty calculation.
- Provides school districts with flexibility for instructional materials purchases, which are required to be made during the first two years of the adoption, for the 2012-13 mathematics adoption if the districts meet certain requirements.
- Requires providers and schools to implement pre and post assessments for students in the voluntary prekindergarten program.
- Limits the amendatory period for the reporting of FTE for payment to providers and schools by early learning coalitions for the voluntary prekindergarten program.
- Requires districts to provide Discretionary Local Effort funds up to the state average and/or state compression funding for juvenile justice education students.
- Requires school districts to participate in a School District Consortium to maximize purchasing power for goods and services.
- Creates the K-12 Public School Facility Funding Task Force to make recommendations for funding equity among charter schools and school district schools.
- Creates the Digital Instructional Materials Work Group to plan and monitor the transition to digital instructional materials.
- Limits the 5 percent charter school administrative charge for schools with exceptional student enrollment that is 75 percent or greater of the total school enrollment.
- Conforms severance package language for district superintendents and employees to existing statute. (from a maximum of one year's salary to a maximum of 20 weeks compensation).
- Limits the use of public broadcasting funds to television stations to reflect budget allocations.
- Clarifies that the Sheriff is an eligible juvenile justice education provider.
- Repeals the Manatee County School District compulsory school attendance age pilot project.
- Authorizes the Commissioner of Education to waive certain school district facilities construction requirements if justified by the district.
- Clarifies that Auditor General audits satisfy the independent audit requirement for the educational facilities plan of school districts.
- Provides technical clarification of FEP reporting requirements and audit adjustments.
- Maintains the waiver of the three-fourths limit for the use of school district discretionary capital outlay millage funds for payments required by lease-purchase agreements.

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Conforming Bill Summary

PreK-12 Education Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

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House Bill 5103: School Readiness Programs

- Clarifies school readiness programs to be operated full-time and part-time.
- Defines terms for purposes of the School Readiness Act.
- Prioritizes services to eligible children from birth to kindergarten.
- Requires definitions for expenditures and reports for direct expenditures for services to children, administrative costs, non-direct expenditures and quality.
- Requires the Office of Early Learning to adopt a list of approved curricula, identify a pre-assessment and post-assessment, adopt a statewide standardized contract to be used by coalitions with each school readiness provider, coordinate with other agencies to perform data matches on individuals or families participating in the school readiness program and submit annually a recommended allocation of funds to the School Readiness Allocation Conference including payment rates, parent co-payment percentages and the Gold Seal premium rate percentage.
- Revises procurement requirements and requirements for the expenditure of funds by early learning coalitions.
- Requires coalitions to merge if they are unable to comply with expenditure requirements.
- Allows the Office of Early Learning to provide a waiver for merging coalitions for the 2012-13 and 2013-14 years if justification for excess expenditures are provided.
- Incorporates existing licensing guidelines which are identified in other areas of statute.
- Revises the eligibility criteria for the enrollment of children in the school readiness program and provides the following priorities by which children are enrolled:
 - First priority is a child under 13 from a working family receiving Temporary Cash Assistance for Needy Families also known as TANF; second priority is an at-risk child under 9; third priority is a child under 6 from an economically disadvantaged family, and children younger than 6 who are disabled; fourth priority is a child ages 9 through 13 who is a sibling of a younger child in the school readiness program through the at-risk provision; fifth priority is a child ages 6 through 13 who is a sibling of a younger child in the school readiness program through the economically disadvantaged provision; and last priority is for a child who is also concurrently enrolled in the Head Start program and the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program.
- Provides for the allocation of school readiness funds as specified in the General Appropriations Act.
- Requires the Office of Early Learning to submit by May 31, 2012, a recommended allocation of School Readiness Program funds, including standardized provider payment rates, Gold Seal premium rate percentage, and a parent co-payment percentage to the School Readiness Allocation Conference for review.
- Requires quarterly recalculation of the funding allocations by the Office of Early Learning.
- Deletes provisions for the establishment of an allocation formula by the Office of Early Learning.
- Defines and limits expenditures for administrative activities, quality activities and non-direct activities.
- Provides for fraud investigations and provides penalties for school readiness providers and parents who knowingly submit false information related to child eligibility and attendance in a school readiness program.
- Creates the School Readiness Allocation Conference, whose duties are to review allocation recommendations by the Office of Early Learning.
- Establishes a due date for school readiness providers to submit market rates to be used as part of the prevailing market rate schedule.

For more information about Florida's budget see the [OPI Pulse: Florida's Budget Process](#).

2012 Budget Timeline

- Jan. 19:** House Budget Allocations Released
- Jan. 25:** House Subcommittees Pass Proposed Budgets
- Jan. 26:** House Announces General Appropriations Act (GAA), Implementing Bill and Conforming Bills
- Feb. 1:** House Appropriations Committee Passes GAA, Implementing Bill and Conforming Bills
- Feb 8-9:** Full House Membership to take up the GAA, Implementing Bill and Conforming Bills on the House Floor
- March 9:** House and Senate Members to take up GAA, Implementing Bill and Conforming Bills for final passage

Additional Resources

[2012 Appropriations Documents](#)

[PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

[Education Committee](#)

[Florida Department of Education](#)

Conforming Bill Summary

Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee

Florida House of Representatives

What is a conforming bill?

Conforming bills are one of three types of bills that make up the House's full proposed budget. The purpose of a conforming bill is to amend the Florida Statutes in order to comply or conform with an element(s) of the appropriations bill. For example, if an agency has been spending funds on an obsolete report that is still required by law and the appropriations bill deletes funding for the obsolete report, the law must be also be amended to repeal the requirement for the obsolete report. This law change would be in a conforming bill.

To learn more about the conforming bill proposed related to **Transportation & Economic Development** see the summary below:

Senate Bill 1996: Department of Economic Opportunity

- Requires the Auditor General, and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Governmental Accountability to conduct a joint audit and review of the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.
- Deletes the expiration of provisions authorizing worker's compensation coverage for a participant in an adult or youth work experience activity.
- Directs the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to utilize up to 10 percent of its annual allocation of low-income housing tax credits and program funds to competitively solicit for high-priority affordable housing projects.
- Authorizes the Florida Housing Finance Corporation's State Apartment Incentive Loan program to accept payment of deferred program interest at reduced rates.

Senate Bill 1998: Transportation

- Redirects a portion of title fees from General Revenue to the State Transportation Trust Fund, resulting in \$200 million of new revenue for transportation.
- Allocates these new revenues beginning in the 2013-14 fiscal year to enhance the Seaport Investment program, the Florida Turnpike, the Transportation Disadvantaged program, Small County Outreach program and strategic projects.
- Creates and allocates funding to both the Strategic Port Investment Initiative and the Intermodal Logistics Center Infrastructure Support program.
- Provides a process for summary proceedings for challenging environmental permitting in connection with the state's deepwater ports.

For more information about Florida's budget see the [OPI Pulse: Florida's Budget Process](#)

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Additional Resources

[2012 Appropriations Documents](#)

[Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

[Florida Department of Economic Opportunity](#)