



# The LaMarca Letter !

## 2025 Legislative Session Update

The 2025 Legislative session has concluded, and I am pleased to say that we successfully secured many of my legislative priorities and helped pass legislation that will make Florida a more affordable and better place to live. This year's Legislative session was a very busy one for District 100.

We adjourned the 2025 Legislative Session Sine Die, on Monday June 16th at 11:25 p.m. on the 102nd day of Regular session. Sine Die is a ceremonial tradition that marks the official adjournment of the Legislative Session. In this ceremony, both House and Senate leaders, through Sergeants at Arms, drop a handkerchief to signify that Session has officially ended. The dropping of the handkerchief began in the 1920's in the Old Capitol, when the chambers were not in line of sight, so the House and Senate could be gaveled 'sine die' simultaneously. With the Legislative Session ending so late, we quickly refocused on the appropriations projects that we worked so hard to get to the finish line through the legislative process. I immediately shared these priorities with the Executive Office of Governor DeSantis, and we worked through this process over the next two weeks until the budget was signed.

### A listing of our 2025 legislative accomplishments are below:

**HB-797:** Allows for certain licensed skilled nursing facilities to request to designate or alter designation of certain beds as veteran & spouse nursing home beds if specific criteria are met. It authorizes executive director of DVA to approve such requests if specific criteria are met and authorizes DVA to adopt rules specifies conditions under which certain state veterans' nursing homes or certain licensed skilled nursing facilities are exempt from having to receive certificate of need from AHCA.

**HB-999:** Revising the sales and use tax exemption for certain coin or currency; specifying that a person who claims the sales tax exemption bears the burden for determining whether the gold coin or silver coin meets a specified definition; providing a presumption regarding the purity requirements of gold coin and silver coin, etc.

**HB-4037:** I was happy to carry the local bill for the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority (DDA). HB-4037 removes the expiration date of the Fort Lauderdale Downton Development Authority; provides for transfer of assets upon dissolution pursuant to law. This legislation allows the DDA to continue investing and developing important public spaces in Downtown Fort Lauderdale, such as the Riverwalk and the thoughtfully reimagined Huizenga Park.

### Legislative Appropriation Highlights in District 100

These projects were passed through the Legislature and signed by The Governor:

- Broward Sheriff's Office Forensic Services Division Crime Lab Upgrades
- Deerfield Beach Tedder Neighborhood Pocket Park
- Fort Lauderdale Galt Mile Street Safety Improvements
- Fort Lauderdale SE 13th Street Bridge Replacement
- Helping Advance and Nurture the Development of Youth (HANDY)
- Hillsboro Beach: Sample Road Bridge Water Main Relocation
- Hillsboro Beach: WTP Clearwell Storage Tank Replacement
- Las Olas Chabad Jewish Ctr: Friendship Circle Grill-Job Skills Training
- Lighthouse Point Dredging Project
- Lighthouse Point NE 28th Street Bridge Replacement Project
- Lighthouse Point Stormwater Improvement Project
- Pompano Beach Dixie Highway Safety Corridor- Phase 3
- Stranahan House Center of the Community Initiative
- Tri-County Child Welfare Collaborative
- Urban League Regional Entrepreneurship Centers

### 2025 Legislative Budget Highlights

#### Tax Package:

The 2025 Tax package include historic tax cuts of 1.3 billion dollars. With some of the main highlights below.

Permanently eliminates sales tax on Disaster Preparedness Supplies:

- Batteries
- Portable generators
- Smoke detectors, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers
- Tarps and waterproof sheeting
- Tie-down kits
- Fuel Cans

Reimburses fiscally constrained counties for property tax refunds made to residences damaged last year by hurricanes.

Makes the Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday permanent and for the entire month of August - ensuring families can count on these savings every school year.

- Clothing items priced \$100 or less
- School supplies priced \$50 or less
- Computers and related accessories priced \$1,500 or less
- Learning aids and puzzles priced \$30 or less
- Ends the business rent tax - a tax on commercial leases of real property that no other state charges, allowing businesses to invest in jobs and salaries
- Boosts tech investment and high-wage jobs by extending Florida's data center tax exemption through 2037 and increasing the energy threshold to 100 megawatts
- Extends the tax-free window for natural gas fuel to keep energy and transportation costs low to support shipping fleets and consumers

#### Transportation and Economic Development:

The Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee's budget totals \$17.9 billion

Transportation Work Program \$13.8 billion - Provides full funding for the department's 5-year Transportation Work Program.

• Federally Declared Disaster Funding \$203.8 million - Provides federal budget authority for the Division of Emergency Management to manage and continue public assistance and mitigation programs for disasters throughout the state. Based on expected reversions, up to \$646 million is included in the Back of the Bill for a total of approximately \$850 million to assist the state and communities.

• Federal Workforce and Community Development Programs \$657.7 million - Provides full federal funding to maintain the following programs:

- Community Development Block Grant Program \$36.5 million
- Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program \$149.9 million
- Weatherization Grant Programs \$29.5 million
- Community Services and Energy Assistance \$165.5 million
- Local Workforce Development Boards \$261.9 million
- Incumbent Worker Training \$3.0 million
- Supplemental Nutrition & Assistance Program \$1.3 million
- CareerSource Florida \$10.1 million

• Affordable Housing \$435 million - Provides \$163.8 million for SHIP, the State Housing Initiatives Partnership program; \$221.2 million for SAIL, the State Apartment Incentive Loan program; and \$50 million for the Hometown Heroes program.

#### Education:

Charter School Capital Outlay \$248.6 million Trust Funds - Provides state funds for charter school capital outlay.

- Special Facilities Construction \$144.7 million (\$0.3 million General Revenue) - Provides funding for 7 projects.
- State University Projects \$427.7 million (\$20.3 million General Revenue) - Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 12 state universities.
- Florida College Projects \$113.9 million (\$10.5 million General Revenue) - Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 19 Florida colleges.
- Public Schools Projects \$11.5 million Trust Funds - Provides funds for capital outlay projects in 12 school districts.
- Vocational/Technical Centers \$5.7 million Trust Funds - Provides funds for capital outlay projects at 2 technical colleges.
- Other PECO Projects \$25.2 million - Funds capital outlay projects for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Developmental Research (Laboratory) Schools and FCS/SUS Charter Schools millage equivalent, and the Division of Blind Services.

• State University Capital Improvement Fee Projects \$50.4 million - Authorizes fixed capital outlay projects from student capital improvement fee revenues.

• Capital Outlay and Debt Service Projects \$10 million - Increases authority for fixed capital outlay projects from revenues received from motor vehicle license tax revenues by school districts and Florida colleges.

#### Healthcare:

##### The Health Care Budget Subcommittee overall budget totals \$47.6 billion

• Medicaid Price Level and Workload Adjustment \$769.2 million - Funding for Medicaid caseloads and price level adjustments for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as agreed upon by the February 2025 Social Service Estimating Conference for an anticipated 4,226,200 Medicaid beneficiaries.

• Nursing Home Reimbursement Rate Increase \$246.7 million - Provides funding for nursing home rate increases tied to quality initiatives.

• Florida KidCare Enrollment \$135.8 million - Funds the KidCare program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as agreed upon at the February 2025 Social Services Estimating Conference to serve an anticipated 213,556 children.

• Integrated Plan for Persons with Developmental Disabilities Pilot Program \$44.2 million - Funds to support capitation payments for individuals enrolled in the pilot program for individuals with developmental disabilities.

• Children's Specialty Hospital Graduate Medical Education \$37.8 million - Provides Graduate Medical Education funding within the Statewide Medicaid Residency Program for specialty hospitals providing comprehensive acute care services to children.

• Alzheimer's Disease, Community Care, and Home Care for the Elderly Initiatives \$13.5 million - Provides funding to reduce the waitlist by 288 individuals for Alzheimer's respite services, to reduce the waitlist by 1,079 individuals for the Community Care for the Elderly program, and by 910 individuals for the Home Care for the Elderly program.

• Adult Care Food Program \$5.9 million - Provides budget authority to align with grant award totals for the USDA Adult Food Care Program grant.

• School Health Services \$8.0 million - Provides funding for the School Health Services program to provide nursing and health services to students.

• Early Steps Program \$8.9 million - Provides funding for the Early Steps Program to continue quality improvement initiatives to increase family satisfaction, ensure federal compliance, and meet the needs for increased service delivery for early intervention programs.

Thank you for allowing me to provide you with these important updates as we strive to keep Florida a safe, affordable, and beautiful place to live. As always, it is an honor to represent you as your State Representative in Tallahassee.

Best Wishes,

Representative Chip LaMarca  
Florida House District 100