

RED ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION



Members,

We are through Week 3 of Legislative Session and have made some updates to our FPCA Legislative Website: [Legislative – Florida Police Chiefs Association](#). You will see our updated 2026 Position and Priorities Statements that include several bill numbers and our positions. Please understand this is not intended to be comprehensive; given the pace of Session, with the filing of a single amendment, the content of the bill could be dramatically altered thereby changing our position.

There is a bill being heard next Monday that is of serious concern that we **would ask for you to contact your legislators and voice your concerns/objections:**

1. **Complaints Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers SB 1544 (Pizzo)/HB 1283 (Fabricio) opposed**– filed again this year with addition of the burden of corroborating evidence being provided by the complainant; the bill, like last year, would also remove management rights to review and utilize non-disciplinary actions (oral counseling, written warnings, etc.) in the process of determining promotions, raises or any other commendation. Here is a [link](#) to the Senate bill (also attached below).

Summary: The FPCA **supports** maintaining the ability to investigate anonymous complaints against law enforcement officers and acknowledges that each department should maintain a written directive that requires a procedure for processing all complaints against the agency or its members, including the chief of police. This requirement is both a CFA and CALEA standard and it is certainly the best practice for a mechanism to investigate all complaints, including anonymous ones. This year’s bill includes language that indicated that if an anonymous complaint were accompanied by corroborating evidence, the copy of the complaint signed under oath by the complainant would not need to be provided to the officer prior to interrogation. The burden for producing and reviewing any potential evidence, to include that which may be in the exclusive possession of the department, is the responsibility of the department, not the complainant/or victim.

- In addition, the FPCA **supports** the position that the existence of non-disciplinary materials is relevant to performance, “early warning” programs, training, promotional processes, and personnel decisions. In addition to accountability and transparency concerns, restricting the documentation of

non-disciplinary investigations and outcomes in an officers personnel file could expose agencies to constitutional liability. Officers that have significant performance failures or policy violations should not be “equal to” officers that have none in making decisions regarding promotions or meritorious raises.

- **The FPCA opposes HB 1283/SB 1544 in current form. This bill has already cleared one stop in the House and is being heard in the Senate next Monday, Feb 2nd. We urge you to contact your legislators now to express your concerns and vote no.**

We are also closely monitoring Public Safety/ 911 Consolidation – HB 1427 (Alvarez) /SB 1586 (DiCiegale) and we are opposed to these in current form but would hope to see a standards-based, operationally realistic, and funded approach to interoperability; we expect to see amendments in the next few days. We worked closely with the Florida Fire Chiefs and provided House Sponsor, Chair Alvarez, with draft language in September 2025. Chair Alvarez routinely communicated with us throughout the duration of working on the issue. Just this week we had another meeting with Rep. Alvarez that included our Legislative Chair, Chief Hudak; he assured us that we will see amended language and what has been filed does not represent his intention for the bill. We will continue to work with Chair Alvarez in hopes of getting to an interoperability-based version that respects local public safety partner interlocal agreements and infrastructure, including the current network of PSAPs. This bill has not been heard, and we are awaiting amendments.

Cookie

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Supporting, Protecting, & Defending Florida Chiefs

SB

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