



ISSUE SPOTLIGHT: GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Florida state and local governments should be transparent and accountable to the residents they serve, and government officials should be held to the highest ethical standards. **HB 1185** and **HB 1111** advance this commitment by eliminating corruption, fraud, and abuse in government. Here's what they do:

HB 1185 (Brannan) ETHICS REFORM: reforms conflict of interest laws to ensure that elected officials and government workers are held to the highest ethical standard.

- Florida's public servants should be intentional about ethics and careful to avoid any inappropriate personal benefit from their role or status.
- To this end, **HB 1185** would help weed out unethical behavior and conflicts of interest by banning some actions and requiring that public servants report new information.
- Reforms in the bill include:
 - Prohibiting statewide elected officials from taking a job they are offered as a result of their official duties or political status
 - Forbidding state workers from seeking jobs at an organization regulated by their employer agency
 - Requiring lawmakers and statewide elected officials to report salary increases or new jobs if they work for a company or organization that receives state dollars
 - Establishing that executive branch lobbyists must register online with the state
- **HB 1185** also removes some outdated restrictions on state employees – such as teachers – lobbying the Legislature.

HB 1111 (Tomkow) GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY: promotes integrity in government while identifying and eliminating government waste, fraud, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct.

- Floridians can better trust their government when it is transparent and accountable to taxpayers. **HB 1111** aims to achieve this through several measures.
- The bill creates a "Florida Integrity Office" with the sole purpose of ensuring accountability among state and local governments. The state's chief financial officer would be responsible for sending suggestions from Florida's "Get Lean" hotline to the new Integrity Office for review.
- Additionally, under **HB 1111**, Florida's Chief Inspector General and agency inspectors general must report suspected instances of fraud, waste, or mismanagement to the Florida Integrity Officer.
- State agencies must verify in writing that procurements exceeding \$50,000 made with state taxpayer dollars are not excessive.
- The bill also helps motivate state employees to report cases of misconduct or abuse in government by authorizing financial incentives.