

Agenda Item: 2.c

Meeting Date: March 31, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: City Commission

Through:

From: Nicole Delfino

Date: 2026-03-31

Subject: 2026 Legislative Update

Presenter(s): Nicole Delfino, Strategy & Sustainability Manager & Laura Boehmer, The Southern Group

Staff Recommendation: Review potential bill impacts & remainder of 2026 session outlook

Strategic Themes: Good Governance

Boards & Committees: N/A

Budget Impact: N/A

Past Action: Review and updates of prior year Legislative Agendas & post legislative updates.

Next Action: Final Legislative Action review to occur in summer 2026 once bills and budget are finalized.

Attachments: [A. 2026 Approved Bills Status and Impacts.pdf](#)
[B. J_Cowan Bill Interpretation SB 1134_DEI Bill.pdf](#)

Background: In an effort to protect the quality of life for the City of Dunedin residents, the City established Legislative Priorities in February of 2019, producing documentation of our most pressing state and federal legislative priorities. Subsequently, priorities have been updated each year.

In 2024, City staff, with support of the City Commission, engaged Legislative Lobbyist, The Southern Group (TSG) through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process. Within TSG, our primary legislative lobbyist is Laura Boehmer. The TSG agreement commenced just ahead of the 2024 Legislative session, allowing staff to work with Ms. Boehmer and TSG to advocate for the City of Dunedin.

During the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Legislative sessions, TSG

facilitated meetings and coordination occurred both in and outside of Tallahassee with City staff, elected officials, and state agencies. TSG together with City Staff coordinates submission and provides the required documentation for state appropriation requests.

The City's legislative impact and advocacy continue to grow as we engage and build our relationships with Senator Ed Hooper, Representative Adam Anderson, and Representative Kim Berfield and the larger Pinellas County delegation. Developing concise and direct priorities and requests is key to advocacy.

Each year, staff reviews and receives guidance from Commission on updating the City's legislative position. Staff coordinates connecting with the delegation during off-session season and visits to Tallahassee for advocacy and as part of the Florida League of Cities Legislative Action Days. City Staff and TSG track key bills throughout the legislative session.

The legislative update provided to City Commission on March 31, 2026 will provide possible impacts as many of the approved bills have not been signed by the Governor. In addition, the Florida House and Senate have not adopted an approved budget. A special session is anticipated to be called in April to address the budget as well as potential additional special session to address property tax reform.

Once these special sessions are complete and bills are signed by the Governor, staff and The Southern Group will present to City Commission on the 2026 Legislative Session impacts.