

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Conforming Bill  
Relating to State Debt Fiscal Responsibility

BILL

2025

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to State debt fiscal responsibility;  
3           amending s. 215.98, F.S.; lowering the benchmark debt  
4           ratio; providing an effective date.

5  
6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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8           Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 215.98, Florida  
9 Statutes, is amended to read:

10           215.98 State debt fiscal responsibility.-

11           (1) It is the public policy of this state to encourage  
12 fiscal responsibility on matters pertaining to state debt. In an  
13 effort to finance essential capital projects for the benefit of  
14 residents at favorable interest rates, the state must continue  
15 to maintain its excellent credit standing with investors.  
16 Authorizations of state debt must take into account the ability  
17 of the state to meet its total debt service requirements in  
18 light of other demands on the state's fiscal resources. The  
19 Legislature declares that it is the policy of this state to  
20 exercise prudence in undertaking the authorization and issuance  
21 of debt. In order to implement this policy, the Legislature  
22 desires to authorize the issuance of additional state tax-  
23 supported debt only when such authorization would not cause  
24 the ratio of debt service to revenue available to  
25 pay debt service on tax-supported debt to exceed 64 percent. If  
26 the ~~64~~-percent target debt ratio will be exceeded, the  
27 authorization of such additional debt must be accompanied by a

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28 legislative statement of determination that such authorization  
29 and issuance is in the best interest of the state and should be  
30 implemented. The Legislature shall not authorize the issuance of  
31 additional state tax-supported debt if such authorization would  
32 cause the designated benchmark debt ratio of debt service to  
33 revenues available to pay debt service to exceed 75 percent  
34 unless the Legislature determines that such additional debt is  
35 necessary to address a critical state emergency.

36 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.