
1. Florida’s starting point in the AI era

Indicator (2025)	Value	Source
Gross State Product (GSP)	\$1.4 trillion	
Information-technology share of GSP	≈ 8 % (\$48 bn)	
Manufacturing GSP	\$73 bn	
YOY growth in AI-related job postings	+42 %	
Fastest-growing entry-level title	“Artificial Intelligence Engineer”	

Florida already has state-level AI and data-privacy rules—e.g., the 2024 Advanced Technology act (SB 1680) mandating transparency labels for AI content and the 2024 Florida Digital Bill of Rights (FDBR). Governor Ron DeSantis has publicly opposed the federal pre-emption proposal, arguing that Florida needs flexibility to address AI’s local impact.

2. What the absence of a moratorium changes

With 10-year moratorium	Without moratorium (the scenario you asked about)
Uniform federal “hands-off” rule; states largely sidelined	States can keep or adopt AI laws (transparency, safety, labor, IP, etc.)

Compliance costs fall for multistate firms but consumer protections pause

Patchwork compliance costs rise, but states can tailor incentives, sandboxes, and guard-rails

May encourage large AI labs to centralise ops in a few hubs

Creates openings for business-friendly states (e.g., Florida) to compete for relocations that fear strict regimes (e.g., California)

3. Quantifying the economic effects on Florida

3.1 Productivity & GSP growth

PwC estimates that responsible AI diffusion can add up to 26 % to regional GDP by 2030. Using a conservative 15 % “AI dividend” and applying it only to the 8 % of GSP that is directly tech-intensive gives a plausible 1.2 % annual uplift to Florida’s overall GSP.

Without the federal moratorium Florida keeps authority to regulate—but it also keeps the ability to signal “innovation-friendly but safe.” Academic and industry modelling of patchwork compliance suggests that added red-tape can shave 15-20 % off potential AI productivity gains.

Net effect:

Baseline 10-yr incremental GSP from AI if fully realised: ≈ \$225 bn

(compound)

Potential bite from patchwork costs (-20 %): -\$45 bn

≈ \$180 bn in extra economic output over 2025-34 that Florida can still capture by keeping its rules light-touch and harmonised.

3.2 Jobs & wages

- High-skill creation: Florida is already seeing double-digit growth in AI roles; Brookings projects that 35 % of South-Florida jobs will have generative-AI exposure by 2035. Assuming national elasticities, keeping state authority lets Florida expand its talent pipelines (UF’s AI Center, Miami Tech Hub), yielding 35 000–50 000 net new high-wage jobs this decade.
- Compliance drag: Small businesses could face per-employee governance costs of \$820-\$1 000/yr under diverging state rules. For Florida’s ~2.8 m small-business

employees this equates to ~\$2-3 bn/yr—but much of this spending (legal, audit, cybersecurity) recirculates in-state.

3.3 Sector snapshots

Sector	Upside if moratorium fails	Why Florida is positioned
Tourism & hospitality	AI-driven yield management could raise hotel revenue 5-7 %; generative agents cut visitor-service costs	Orlando & Miami dominate U.S. tourism; local regulations on deepfakes build visitor trust
Healthcare & elder care	AI diagnostics + robotics could save \$6-8 bn in elderly-care costs by 2034	Florida's large 65+ population incentivises early adoption; state can craft senior-safety standards
Aerospace/Defense (Space Coast)	Simulation-AI increases throughput at Cape Canaveral; \$1 bn/yr in new contracts possible	Existing simulation clusters and DoD suppliers value certainty but not heavy federal pre-emption
Agriculture	Precision-ag AI boosts citrus yields 10 %; drought-prediction saves \$250 m in losses	State Dept. of Agriculture can pilot AI field trials without waiting for federal rule-making
Finance & Insurance	Miami fintechs gain from AI fraud-detection; insurers estimate 3-4 % loss-ratio improvement	Sector prefers consistent rules, but Florida's FDBR already aligns with most privacy-risk frameworks

4. Risk matrix & mitigations for Florida policymakers

Risk (w/o moratorium)	Estimated scale	Mitigation Florida can deploy
Regulatory fragmentation deters multistate investment	Up to -0.1 % GSP/yr (≈ \$1.4 bn) lost if firms pick “lowest-rule” states	Adopt reciprocity clauses recognising compliance in like-minded states (TX, GA).
Litigation costs rise	10-15 % of AI venture funding could be spent on legal overhead	Create an AI regulatory sandbox modelled on Utah FinTech sandbox to cap liability during pilots.
Talent leakage to “uniform-rule” states	5-10 k workers over decade	Expand AI credentialing grants at state universities; fast-track H-1B concurrent employment in FL sites.
Consumer harm from weak or unclear rules	Hard-to-quantify reputational damage	Ensure FDBR’s algorithmic-impact assessments apply to high-risk systems; keep transparency labels (SB 1680).

5. Bottom-line forecast

Metric	With 10-yr federal moratorium	Without moratorium (your scenario)
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Cumulative 2025-34 AI-driven GSP gain	\$225 bn	≈ \$180 bn (after patchwork drag)
Net new high-wage AI jobs (2025-34)	25 000–35 000	35 000–50 000 (Florida can use policy to poach talent from stricter states)
Average annual compliance outlay	\$0.5-1 bn	\$2-3 bn (mostly in-state professional services)
Overall verdict	Simpler for big-tech incumbents	Slightly lower headline GDP boost, but broader, more resilient growth—Florida retains control to balance innovation and protection

6. Strategic recommendations for Florida

1. Codify a “pro-innovation, pro-safety” AI charter building on SB 1680 transparency labels to reassure investors.
 2. Launch a state AI Regulatory Sandbox (modeled on the fintech sandbox) to cap liability and fees for first-in-Florida pilots.
 3. Align with peer Sun-Belt states on a voluntary “Interstate AI Compact” to minimise patchwork risk while keeping federalism.
 4. Double down on talent: fund 5 000 additional AI/ML university seats and expand apprenticeship tax credits for SMEs integrating AI.
 5. Use procurement as a catalyst—state agencies should set bold but clear AI standards (e.g., in disaster response, Medicaid processing) to create a local market for trustworthy AI vendors.
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7. Key take-away

If the AI moratorium is not enacted, Florida forgoes some compliance simplicity but gains sovereignty to shape an AI environment tuned to its own industries and workforce. With pragmatic, light-touch rules and smart talent policies, the Sunshine State still stands to capture roughly \$180 billion in added economic output and tens of thousands of skilled jobs over the next decade—while keeping the flexibility to safeguard consumers and small businesses.