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Ron DeSantis, Governor
Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Stacey Buccieri, Executive Director Board of Pilot Commissioners

SUBJECT: Examinations for State Pilots to Cross License as Deputy Pilots in the Port
of Panama City – Extended Application Period

DATE: To Be Determined based upon Applicants availability – but no later than Sept. 1, 2026

If you are an active state pilot in Florida, and desire to volunteer to cross license as a deputy pilot in the Port of Panama City, please submit an application letter and a non-refundable application fee of \$200.00 to the Board of Pilot Commissioners. The Department will begin accepting letters March 2, 2026. Application will be accepted until March 30, 2026.

Please mail your application letter to the following address:

**DBPR/Professions
Executive Director
Board of Pilot Commissioners
PO Box 5377
Tallahassee, FL 32314-5377
Attention: Ms. Stacey Buccieri**

Application letters will be reviewed by the Pilot Consultant, and applicants will be notified of acceptance before April 30, 2026. Please note that there is no limit on the number of Deputy Pilots that may be cross licensed for Panama City. Questions about the Port of Panama City should be addressed to Captain Zach Condon at admin@standrewbaypilots.com, or telephone 781-738-1825.

This special cross license examination as deputy pilot will be as follows:

DATE: Applicants must schedule with the Bureau of Education and Testing for examination in Tallahassee between April 10, 2026, and July 30, 2026. Contact is Mr. Adrian Washington.

SITE: Department of Professional and Business Regulations
Board of Pilot Commissioners
2601 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399

TIME: TBD

The Board of Pilot Commissioners approved the extension for the request for state pilots to cross license as deputy pilots in the Port of Panama City on February 11, 2026. In compliance with F.A.C. 61G14-11.008, state pilots may apply for the deputy pilot positions based upon the following:

1. Be an active state pilot in Florida;
2. The state pilot volunteers for such duty;
3. Federal First Class Pilot endorsement for the Port of Panama City must be issued by the US Coast Guard before the Deputy Pilot Certificate will be issued;
4. The examination shall comply with 61G14-11.003 (1) (e) and (f), namely a chart drawing and local knowledge examination;
5. The applicant scores at least 75%; and
6. In consultation with Captain Zach Condon in the Port of Panama City, applicants may begin FCP familiarization trips at a convenient time.

The Port of Panama City chart drawing will be completed per NOAA Chart 11391, and will include the following areas on that chart:

The area from the vicinity of the St. Andrews Bay Entrance Buoy into the bay and then north to and including the Hathaway Bridge and south to and including the Dupont Bridge and the ICW including Harbor Channel and South Channel; and West Channels, Harbor

Candidates should rely upon outdated Print on Demand (POD) charts from NOAA licensed agents – the BET and the Pilot Consultant will rely upon POD charts and Pilot Test Charts (PTC) printed by Ocean Grafix. The use of newly generated Custom Electronic Nautical Charts (ENC) will not be utilized. Candidates should not attempt to correct the outdated chart for the examination.

The local knowledge examination will be a multiple choice of navigational information applicable to the Port of Panama City and the approaches. Applicants should use the latest US Coast Pilot Volume 5 as a reference.

Detailed information on chart drawing may be found in the Bureau of Education and Testing Candidate Information Booklet for Harbor Pilots dated November 2025 or subsequent edition.