



## *The Briefing for Saturday – February 25 – 2023*

*The last Briefing was Wednesday – February 22- 2023*

*How's your weather - <https://weather.com/>*

### **This Weeks Focus**

#### **Representative Chuck Clemons**

**District 22 – Florida House of Representatives - Representing Gilchrist, Levy and Part of Alachua.**



Raised on a chicken farm in High Springs, Chuck Clemons is a fourth generation Floridian, living nearly his entire life in Alachua County. Representative Clemons was elected in 2016 and is serving his final term as a House member. He is consistently recognized for his leadership on behalf of small and rural communities. He formerly served as the State Director for the USDA Rural Development Office. He also served as a County Commissioner from Alachua County. Clemons was appointed by Speaker Renner to the leadership team as Speak Pro Tempore for the term of 22-24. The Speaker pro tempore often presides in the Chamber when the Speaker leaves the Chair.

#### **Committee Assignments**

**[Healthcare Regulation Subcommittee](#) Chair**

**[Health & Human Services Committee](#)**

**[Energy, Communications & Cybersecurity Subcommittee](#)**

### ***The Quick***

#### **Pre-Session Committee Schedule Complete**

This week marked the 6<sup>th</sup> and final week of committee meetings held prior to the 2023 Legislative Session. There will be no committee meetings next week and the 2023 Legislative Session commences the following Tuesday.

Based on bills filed -this years session will be marked by a significant number of bills impacting local officials, Local Governments, and School Districts. Increased Sovereign Immunity Caps, Universal Vouchers, Non-Partisan School Board Elections; Proposed 8 year term limits for County Commissioners, a reduction of allowable term limits from 12 years to 8 years for School Board members, Permit less Carry, and a slew of pre-emptions are all on the docket.

#### **Bills Moving This Past Week**

Ordered by Bill Number

**HB 0001**

**School Choice by Tuck – Universal Vouchers**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0023</u></a> | <b>Water and Wastewater Facility Operators</b> by Bell  |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0049</u></a> | <b>Abandoned and Historic Cemeteries</b> by Driskell  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 0064</u></a> | <b>Department of Transportation</b> by Hooper   |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0109</u></a> | <b>State Park Campsite Reservations</b> by Canady   |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 0150</u></a> | <b>Public Safety</b> by Collins   |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 0152</u></a> | <b>Public Records/Safe-school Officer at a Private School</b> by Collins  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 0170</u></a> | <b>Local Ordinances</b> by Trumbull   |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 0202</u></a> | <b>K-12 Education</b> by Simon – Universal Vouchers   |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 0298</u></a> | <b>Telehealth Practice Standards</b> by Boyd  |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0319</u></a> | <b>Interference With Sporting or Entertainment Events</b> by Yarkosky   |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0359</u></a> | <b>Local Government Comprehensive Plans</b> by Duggan   |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0457</u></a> | <b>Construction of Educational Plant Space</b> by Abbott  |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 0543</u></a> | <b>Public Safety</b> by Brannan III – Concealed Carry without a permit  |
| <a href="#"><u>SB 7002</u></a> | <b>Ratification of Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection</b> by Environment and Natural Resources |

### **Sovereign Immunity Proposals Of Concern**

A working group has been established to influence the Legislature to maintain existing caps. In their current form – the financial impact will be substantial and the proposed increases will result in more litigation seeking higher level settlements. Request – make sure you House and Senate members are aware of the concerns regarding this legislation.

- **HB 0401 - Sovereign Immunity** by Beltran CS/HB 401: Increases the sovereign immunity caps for damages against state and local government entities to \$2,500,000 per person and \$5,000,000 per incident.
- **SB 0604 - Sovereign Immunity** by Gruters SB 604: Increases the sovereign immunity caps for damages against state and local government entities to \$400,000 per person and \$600,000 per incident.

Sovereign immunity is a principle under which a government cannot be sued without its consent. 768.28(1), F.S., allows for suits in tort against the state and its agencies and subdivisions for damages resulting from the negligence of government employees acting in the scope of employment. This liability exists only where a private person would be liable for the same conduct. Section 768.28(5), F.S., caps tort recovery from a governmental entity at \$200,000 per person and \$300,000 per incident.

### **CareerSource Florida Adopts Future State Options Report**

[Future State Options Report Prepared for CareerSource Florida as a part of Phase Two of the Local Workforce Development Board Alignment Evaluation](#)

### **REACH Act**

The Reimagining Education and Career Help (REACH) Act passed in 2021 - directed a reduction of the number of local workforce development boards for the purpose of:

- Eliminating multiple layers of administrative entities to improve coordination of the workforce development system.
- Establishing consistent eligibility standards across the state to improve the accountability of workforce related programs.
- Providing greater flexibility in the allocation of resources to maximize funds directed to training and business services.

The REACH Act and the CareerSource Option Report intends to cause a transformation of workforce services and programs. The stated direction of the ACT and the report is to improve coordination of the workforce development system; establish consistent eligibility standards for workforce programs; and, provide greater flexibility in the allocation of resources to maximize funds directed to training and business services.

For the past year –recommendations and comments were submitted directly to CareerSource Florida leadership and staff by the Small County Coalition on behalf of rural workforce needs:

1. The challenges faced in our rural areas are diverse and are not similar to those faced in urban communities.
2. Workforce Board and CareerSource need to be structured to align counties with similar needs.
3. Workforce Boards and CareerSource need to insure engagement through representation from all counties.
4. CareerSource should ensure programs with a central focus of addressing rural needs.
5. CareerSource should provide programs that help rural areas with opportunities to expand its local workforce – avoiding the drain of residents having to leave their communities to find employment.
6. Continued design of changes would benefit from leadership participation assuring broad-based acceptance of recommendations resulting from the REACH Act efforts.
7. Assure involvement of local K-12 school officials in evaluations regarding education services and courses linked and funded by the CareerSource, the DOE, the Florida Legislature.
8. Assure the continuation of CTE programs at the school district level that respond to local needs.

The Board of Directors for CareerSource met Thursday and adopted the Future State Options Report prepared by Ernst & Young LLP (“EY”). As part of the report, the number of local workforce boards from 24 to 21. In addition, the Report included a substantial set of recommendations aimed at improving was reduced services. In addition, other parts of the plan outline changes intended to transform and improved workforce services. Here is the background sheet released by CareerSource providing an overview of the plan -

[Florida Workforce Transformation Plan \(careersourceflorida.com\)](https://www.careersourceflorida.com)

### ***On the Docket!***

#### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY, 27, 2023**

- UNF TRUSTEES - Monday, 8:30 a.m. - The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - University of North Florida, University Center, Jacksonville.
- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY BOARD - Monday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Occupational Therapy will meet. - Florida Department of Health, 4042 Bald Cypress Way, -Tallahassee.
- DEFENSE ISSUES DISCUSSED - Monday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Defense Alliance will meet. - Information at <https://www.enterpriseflorida.com/event/florida-defense-alliance-zoom-meeting/>
- U.S. COMMERCE OFFICIALS SPEAK AT FIU - Monday, 11:15 a.m. - Marisa Lago, under secretary of commerce for international trade, and Lisa Wang, assistant secretary of commerce for enforcement and compliance, will speak at Florida International University. - Florida International University, Modesto A. Maidique Campus, Graham Center, Miami.

#### **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

- DESANTIS SPEAKS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - Gov. Ron DeSantis is scheduled to speak in North Venice. - Information at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-florida-blueprint-ft-special-guest-gov-ron-desantis-north-venice-tickets-551770810347>
- CHIROPRACTIC ISSUES - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Chiropractic Medicine will meet. - Guy Harvey Resort, 880 A1A Beach Blvd., St. Augustine Beach.
- SOUTHWEST WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. - Southwest Florida Water Management District, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville.
- EDUCATION TRUST FUND - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss an outlook for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- IAN ISSUES EYED - Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to property taxes and Hurricane Ian. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- GAS RATES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will consider a proposed rate increase by Florida City Gas. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- SNYDER SPEAKS TO GOP CLUB - Tuesday, noon. - State Rep. John Snyder, R-Stuart, is slated to speak during a meeting of the Republican Club of the Palm Beaches. - Palm Beach Kennel Club, 1111 North Congress Ave., West Palm Beach.
- NEW COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - New College of Florida, Sudakoff Conference Center, 5845 General Dougher Place, Sarasota. <https://www.youtube.com/@NewCollegeof>
- FLKEYS COLLEGE BOARD Meets - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Board of Trustees of The College of the Florida Keys will meet. The College of the Florida Keys, Key West campus, 5901 College Road, Key West. <https://meet.goto.com/388537077>. Code: 388537077. Call-in number: 1-786- 535-3211.
- SUICIDE DETERRENCE DISCUSSED - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Florida First Responder Suicide Deterrence Task Force will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/first-responder-task-force-meeting>
- POLK STATE TRUSTEES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Polk State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Polk State College, Winter Haven Campus, Center for Public Safety, 1251 Jim Keene Blvd., Winter Haven.
- MANATEE-SARASOTA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The Board of Trustees of the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota is scheduled to meet. - State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, Bradenton Campus, 5840 26th St. West, Bradenton

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023**

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. - 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 175899214
- EDUCATION CONSTRUCTION MONEY - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to the Public Education Capital Outlay, or PECO, program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION MONEY - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss transportation revenues. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- CITIZENS PANEL - Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. - The Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Consumer Services Committee will meet. - [https://citizensfla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_wSEDciZnSvGkibno-KGiUQ](https://citizensfla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wSEDciZnSvGkibno-KGiUQ). Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 97781432199
- MEDICAID EXPENDITURES - Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to Medicaid expenditures and managed-care rates. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DESANTIS APPEARS IN PALM BEACH - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - Gov. Ron DeSantis is scheduled to appear at an event hosted by the Palm Beach Republican Club. - Palm Beach County Convention Center, 650 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach.

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2023**

- ‘SANCTUARY CITIES’ FIGHT - Thursday, 9 a.m. - A panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in a battle about a 2019 Florida law that banned so-called sanctuary cities. The state appealed to the Atlanta-based appeals court in 2021 after U.S. District Judge Beth Bloom struck down key

parts of the law. Bloom ruled that two parts of the law violated constitutional equal-protection rights, issuing a permanent injunction against them. The law was a priority of Gov. Ron DeSantis and was touted as a way to improve safety in communities. - James Lawrence King Federal Justice Building, 99 N.E. Fourth St., Miami.

- VALENCIA COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Valencia College Board of Trustees will meet. - Valencia College, West Campus, 1800 South Kirkman Road, Orlando. <https://valenciacollege.zoom.us/j/95703457472?pwd=K1YrZkcxS2p5MFZ1cXlpT2xVcHFiQT09#success>
- UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will take up a forecast for the unemployment compensation trust fund. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EDUCATION BUDGET - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The State Board of Education will meet to approve an amended budget request for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. - Information at <https://www.fldoe.org/policy/state-board-of-edu/meetings/2023/2023-03-02/>
- NORTHEAST FLORIDA PANEL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. - Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville. <https://nefrco.org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

#### **FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2023**

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to the state employee health-insurance program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OPTICIAN ISSUES - Friday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. - <https://meet.goto.com/451101221>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 451101221
- FINANCE REPORTS DUE - Candidates in a special Republican primary election in Marion County’s state House District 24 face a Friday deadline for filing campaign-finance reports. Five Republicans are seeking to replace former Rep. Joe Harding, who resigned from the House after being indicted on federal charges of wire fraud, money laundering and making false statements. The winner of the GOP special primary on March 7 will face write-in candidate Robert “Foxy” Fox in the May 16 general election. No Democrats qualified for the race.

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2023**

- EARLY VOTING ENDS IN SPECIAL ELECTION -Early voting will end March 4 in a special Republican primary election in Marion County’s state House District 24. Five Republicans are seeking to replace former Rep. Joe Harding, who resigned from the House after being indicted on federal charges of wire fraud, money laundering and making false statements. The winner of the GOP special primary on March 7 will face write-in

### ***Headlines Around the State***

*News4Jax: Gov. DeSantis rolls out new initiatives aimed at cracking down on undocumented migrants*

*Bradenton Herald: Emboldened DeSantis wants to expand inadequate immigration policy he once championed*

*Sentinel: DeSantis wants to boost E-Verify, restrict immigrants*

*City & State FL: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis puts immigration into play for 2023 legislative session*

*Sun-Sentinel: DeSantis wants to remove 'enticement of employment,' increase criminal charges for illegal immigration*

*The Hill: DeSantis's office says he will boycott NBC, MSNBC over Andrea Mitchell question on Black history*

*Bradenton Herald: Lawsuit seeks call logs, texts of DeSantis-appointed trustee at Florida's New College*

*Yahoo News: Lawsuit accuses New College and Trustee Christopher Rufo of violating public records law*

*News4Jax: 'Talented, electric' 24-year-old journalist 'had a future,' media colleagues say after deadly attack that also killed 9-year-old*

*Sentinel: 'He loved what he did': News 13 reporter, UCF alum Dylan Lyons killed in Orlando shooting*

*My News 13: Spectrum News 13 photojournalist Jesse Walden recovering from deadly shooting*

*Herald: George Santos' Miami boosters: Anti-vax school leaders, billionaire lawyer's family*

*Ledger: Is a solar representative asking about your meter? Here are some questions to ask*

*Ledger: As solar demand increases, utility companies warn of shady sales pitches*

*Sentinel: Orlando beer makers raise a glass to President Carter, who signed homebrewing law*

*Post: Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir breaks ground in western Palm Beach County*

*Politico: DeSantis wants to roll back press freedoms — with an eye toward overturning Supreme Court ruling*

*DBNJ: DeSantis to target 14 school board members, including 2 in Volusia, in 2024 election*

*Today: Jenkins 'toying' with idea of 2024 run after DeSantis announces school board target list*

*TCPalm: DeSantis aiming to unseat Indian River, St. Lucie school board members for 'woke' ideologies*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis jokes about 'insurrection' while discussing Capitol protest restrictions*

*FlaPol: Nikki Fried, Annette Taddeo announce new backers ahead of FDP Chair vote*

*FlaPol: Nikki Fried wants to lead Florida Democrats, but wouldn't help win a key Senate race because of ties to Republicans*

*The Capitolist: First Lady DeSantis announces streamlined cancer treatment and research initiative*

*Sun-Sentinel: Florida House says school voucher plan would cost \$209 million next year. Critics disagree — by billions*

*Yahoo News: House puts price tag on universal school voucher plan critics find hard to believe*

*Times: Florida bill would end diversity programs, ban majors, shift power at universities*

*The Capitolist: Lawmakers propose scholarship and loan forgiveness program to address shortage of mental health professionals*

*My News 13: Florida pet safety proposal to drop dogs and car windows ban after response*

*FlaPol: Bill to preserve historic cemeteries wins unanimous House subcommittee approval*

*City & State FL: Gators, Seminoles dominate gridiron — and Florida government*

*Times: St. Petersburg committee advances \$50,000 for residents abortion travel costs*

*WUSF: Clean energy advocates educate Floridians about electric rate hikes, ahead of campaign launch*

*FlaPol: Travis Hutson endorses Tom Leek as his preferred successor in SD 7*

*Herald Tribune: Sarasota Rep. McFarland files bill to secure Sunbiz.org, prevent hijacking of businesses*

*Times-Union: Committee investigating LeAnna Cumber receives emails from Daniel Davis campaign consultant*

*FlaPol: Penalty hikes for fans who run onto football fields, concert stages advance with extra sanctions for sponsors*

*Sentinel: Criminal case against former Orlando guardian Rebecca Fierle ends in plea*

*PNJ: Rep. Joel Rudman announces bill in Cassie Carli's honor for safer child custody exchange*

*Sun: Lawmakers grill Gainesville officials over utility management, debt*

***About the Briefing!***

***The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin***

***[cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)***

The Briefing is compiled **2-3 times a week** to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email = [cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

**Chris Doolin**

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – [cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)