



The Briefing for Friday – March 17 - 2023

Day 11 Of the 60 day Legislative Session – 49 Days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Tuesday – March 14 - 2023

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

The Quick – Pay Attention

8 Year Term Limits for County Commissioners and School Boards – Up on Tuesday

- **SB1110** – is on the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee Agenda for Tuesday at 2:30. HB SB1110 – establishes 8 year term limits for County Commissioners and amends the current 12 year term limit for School Board members to 8 years. If you were elected in Nov. of 2022 the clock is running. Those that face election in 2020 – the clock will start in Nov. of 2024. Senate Ethics and Elections: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 2:30—5:00 p.m., Room, 110 Senate Building: (MEMBERS: Senator Burgess, Chair; Senator Rouson, Vice Chair; Senators Avila, Garcia, Grall, Ingolia, Martin, Mayfield, Polsky, and Powell)
- **HB477** – amends the current 12 year term limit for School Board members to an 8 year limit. The bill passed the House this morning. It does not include County Commissioners, but it is anticipated that HB477 will be merged with SB 1110 when it is sent to the Senate.

Rural Development – Up On Monday – Requires Grant funds to be advanced

- SB 1482 –is on the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee agenda Monday at 3:30 pm, 110 S. (MEMBERS: Senator Trumbull, Chair; Senator Wright, Vice Chair; Senators DiCeglie, Gruters, Hooper, Hutson, Jones, Rodriguez, Stewart, and Torres)
 - The Bill provides for advancing of grant funds and prohibits agencies from requiring the expenditure of funds before reimbursement; specifying that funding provided under the Regional Rural Development Grants Program are not matching grants; revising the conditions under which an applicant to the Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Fund may retain repayments of principal and interest; revising the purpose of the Rural Infrastructure Fund; revising the percentages of total infrastructure project cost that the Department of Economic Opportunity may award through the fund.

Florida Education Funding Program Revisions –

- The House K-12 Appropriations subcommittee will meet on Thursday of next week at 9:30 - 11:00 in Morris Hall (17 HOB). It is anticipated that a proposed committee bill will be revealed that revised the current FEFP formula by consolidating categoricals and

possibly eliminatin the District Cost Different. The revision of the FEFP has the potential for have a significant negative impact on small counties. Many of the categorical included base funding levels that ensure sufficient funding for rural districts to establish base programs. It does not appear that the Senate has a similar appetite to change the formula. We shall see!

Legislative Calendars

[Senate Calendar for Next Week](#)

[House Calendar for Today and Monday](#)

Week Two Highlights

**This week featured Legislative Days for County Commissioners and School Districts Meetings were held with the Senate President and the House Speaker
Local officials swarmed the Capitol meeting with legislators regarding local priorities.**

Priority Issues Discussed this Week

- **Sovereign Immunity** – concern over the cost of increased caps. The bill was not considered in the House committee.
- **Small County Road Programs** – County commissioners emphasized the importance of SCOP and SCRAP and requested level funding.
- **Term-Limits** – concerns were expressed about the impact of term limits – limiting choice-should be determined at local level. SB 1110 is schedule for consideration next Tuesday in the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee
- **School Start Times**- HB733 mandates that high school can't start before 8:30 and middle schools can't start before 8:00 passed the House K-12 Appropriations committee. The bill was opposed by a number of small school district officials and the SSDCC. The SSDCC is preparing an amendment emphasizing the importance of wellness, and sufficient sleep but it will not include a specific start time restriction. [School Start Times - HB 733 and SB 1112.docx](#)
- **Fiscally Constrained Funding** – the importance of providing funding for fiscally constrained funding was communicated and is understood.
- **Economic Development** - SB 1482; SB1628, and HB 413- Provides for the advancement of grant funds to rural areas of opportunities, Waiver of match , and other tools for rural initiatives.
- **Rural Broadband** - SB626/HB1221 - Rural Electric Coops - Rural Electric Coops have been the leaders in providing broadband. They are committed to providing 100% coverage. The Small County Coalition supports Rural Electrics as they proceed to provide broadband access in our unserved and underserved areas.
- **Universals Vouchers** – SB 202 – passed its final committee in the Senate and HB 1 passed the House. Universal Voucher will pass. We are working to ensure that funding is provided for the program so that it does not impact funding for students enrolled in the traditional K-12 schools.
- **Local Occupational Licensing** – SB1570/HB1625 – we expressed support for authorizing local governments to impose local licensing requirements for certain specialty job scopes. This would overturn a previous pre-emption.

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

[Link the Florida House of Representatives](#)

Headlines around the State!

Axios: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis seeks to limit Sunshine laws

FlaPol: Federal appeals court allows injunction against Stop WOKE Act to stand

Capitolist: End of the road for Enterprise Florida? Passidomo sides with Renner on agency breakup

Post: Florida universal voucher bill inches closer to DeSantis' desk as critics fear 'the worst'

TCPalm: DeSantis, GOP lawmakers flex muscle over Florida school teachers union

AP: Proposal to ban abortions at six weeks advances in Florida

Herald: Biden administration won't appeal court ruling in Florida immigration case

NYTimes: Florida Faces Federal Lawsuit Over Signature Rules for New Voters

Sentinel: Taxpayer-funded vouchers go mostly to religious schools. Pay for it yourself, rabbi says

FlaPol: Legislation expanding school choice heads to the Senate floor

FlaPol: House lawmakers ready school choice bill for a full vote

FlaPol: Lawsuit limitation bills keep rolling through the process

Times: Florida GOP lawmakers new union rules despite workers' pleas

FlaPol: HUD forms new disaster office, advance announces nearly \$2.77B for Florida hurricane relief

WaPo: In Florida, showing mental health struggles could get a child detained

Herald: 'Justice they deserve': Parkland victim's father supports proposed death penalty changes

WUSF: A lawsuit accuses the Florida Department of Education of violating public records law

Capitolist: Unions in the crosshairs as House, Senate panels advance reforms

FlaPol: Marco Rubio further distances himself from Ron DeSantis framing Ukraine war as a 'territorial dispute'

Post: Florida Republicans DeSantis and Rubio go opposite directions on help for Ukraine

Ledger: Former Polk County School Board member Wilson enters race for Florida House District 48

Democrat: FAMU bans TikTok from campus, FSU still undecided. Students react to how it affects them

Politico: DeSantis anti-woke law remains blocked in Florida colleges

Times: Florida universities still may not enforce Individual Freedom act, appeals court says

Times-Union: 102-year-old WWII vet, after losing home to Hurricane Ian, makes new life in Orange Park

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared almost daily by Chris Doolin

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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

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