

HAVE A  
GREAT "GOOD  
FRIDAY" AND  
GREAT  
EASTER  
WEEKEND

## ***The Briefing for Thursday – April 6 - 2023***

Day 31 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 29 Days til Sine Die!

*The last Briefing was Wednesday – April 5- 2023*

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

***You can watch Legislative Meetings on [The Florida Channel](#)***

### ***In Memoriam***



Sarasota County Commissioner and long-time public servant Nancy Detert passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday. Commissioner Detert, 78, served on the Sarasota County School Board from 1988 to 1992, in the Florida House of Representatives from 1998 to 2006 and in the Florida Senate from 2008 to 2016. She was elected to the Sarasota County Commission in 2016 and was re-elected in 2020.

### ***Tidbits***

#### ***Eight Year Term limits – When does the clock start running?***

*Here's what will happen if the eight year term limit is established for School Board members and County Commissioners!*

- *If you were last elected in 2020 – the term limit will not begin until 2024 election cycle. You will be able to run for re-election in 2028 and 2032.*
- *If you were last elected in the 2022 cycle – the term limit has begun. You will be eligible to run again in 2026.*

#### ***County Medicaid Cost-share – 15.3% Increase Estimated for 23-24***

County Contributions to Medicaid

The State Social Services Estimating Conference has projected a 15.3% increase in the County Contribution of Medicaid growing \$285.6 million (the total contribution for FY 2022-23) to a new total amount of the counties' annual contribution of \$329.4 million for FY 2023-24. The following links provide the breakdown for each county's Medicaid Cost-share obligation:

Next year required cost-share - [County By County - Medicaid Contribution Cost-Share - for 23-24](#)

Current year cost-share - [Current Year County Medicaid Cost-Share - 22-23](#)

### ***The Halfway Point***

## Week five in the books!

As the Legislature starts the second half of the 2023 session, here's a look at some of the top issues receiving attention – the issues are listed in alphabetical order:

- **ABORTION:** a proposal to prevent abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. The Senate passed the proposal (SB 300) this week, and the House is expected to follow suit.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** DeSantis signed SB 102 which includes providing incentives for investments in affordable housing and encouraging mixed-use developments in commercial areas.
- **BUDGET:** The Senate proposal tips the scales at \$113.7 billion, while the House proposal totals \$113 billion. Lawmakers also are expected to negotiate a package of tax breaks in the coming weeks.
- **DEATH PENALTY:** lawmakers are expected to eliminate a requirement for unanimous jury recommendations before judges can impose death sentences. The Senate has passed its version of the bill (SB 450), and the issue is ready to go to the full House.
- **ELECTIONS:** the Senate this week began moving forward with a bill (SPB 7050) that would make wide-ranging changes in elections laws. The Senate bill includes imposing further restrictions on voter-registration groups and relaxing campaign-finance reporting rules.
- **GUNS:** DeSantis this week signed a measure (HB 543) that will allow Floridians to carry guns without concealed-weapons licenses.
- **IMMIGRATION:** the Senate has started moving forward with a bill (SB 1718) that targets illegal immigration by strengthening sanctions against businesses that hire undocumented immigrants and increasing criminal penalties for human smuggling. A similar bill (HB 1617) has been filed in the House.
- **LAWSUIT LIMITS:** DeSantis signed the bill (HB 837) that lawmakers passed shielding businesses and insurance companies from costly lawsuits.
- **LGBTQ ISSUES:** the Senate this week passed a plan (SB 254) that would bar doctors from providing treatments such as puberty blockers and hormone therapy to transgender minors. The House has passed a bill (HB 1069) that would expand a prohibition on instruction about gender identity and sexual orientation in schools.
- **SCHOOL VOUCHERS:** lawmakers passed a bill (HB 1) that will make every student eligible for taxpayer-funded vouchers that could be used for private-school tuition and other expenses.

### *The Second Half*

#### **On Monday – there will be 25 days remaining!**

The focus for legislative work in the second half of the session will begin to shift more toward floor sessions as the work of House and Senate committees winds down. Committees and subcommittees will continue to hold regular meetings through April 25, but the number of bills still awaiting hearings in committee is dropping. A couple of House subcommittee chairmen have told members that they may not meet again this session, though all of those panels could meet until the April 25 deadline. And some can even meet after, with a motion to waive the rule on the chamber floor to allow the meeting.

### *Budget Negotiations*

#### *Allocations and The Conference Process*

With each chamber finalizing their respective proposals, the two chambers now will work on allocating how much of the available money will go toward each section of the budget for the coming year and work in conference committees to finalize an agreement. Issues that can't be agreed on by the Joint Budget Conference Committees are "bumped" to each chamber's Appropriations Committee chairs who try to work out the sticking points. In some cases, the differences may be decided by the House speaker and the Senate president. The result is called the Conference Committee Report, which is open for 72 hours before each chamber adopts and votes on the final version of the budget.

<b>Senate Budget Proposals</b>	<b>House Budget Proposals</b>
<a href="#"><u>Senate Proposed GAA for FY 23-24 - SB 2500</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>House Proposed GAA for 23-24 - HB 5001</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>SB 2502-Implementing Proposal for 23-24 GAA</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>HB 5003 - Implementing Proposal for 23-24 GAA</u></a>

### *The Florida Education Funding Program*

The House and Senate are taking significantly different approaches to the FEFP. The Senate is taking the more traditional approach using the existing formula. The House is making major structural changes. Who benefits? It depends – however, the changes being proposed in the House are a significant concern. The Categorical allocations that the House proposes to eliminate are beneficial to small districts with extra funding built into the base of many of the programs. Elimination of several major categorical funding and elimination of Sparsity will have significant long term impact on small districts.

**The Senate proposal for the distribution of the FEFP is the one that should be supported.**

Here are the district by district runs for the Senate and House budgets.

[Senate Proposed FEFP funding for K-12](#)

[House Proposed FEFP funding for K-12](#)

**The House Bill 5101 the proposed conforming bill for education changes existing statutes related to the FEFP.**

[HB 5101 - Education - Bill Text](#)

[HB 5101 - Education funding - Staff Analysis](#)

**House Bill 5101 proposes major changes in the FEFP**

**Here are some of the lowlights:**

- Elimination of the Sparsity Supplement
- Elimination of Compression and Hold Harmless allocation
- Elimination of allocation for Instructional Materials Allocation
- Elimination of Mental Health Assistance allocation
- Elimination of Safe Schools allocation
- Elimination of Reading allocation
- Elimination of Teacher Salary Increase allocation
- Elimination of Teacher Classroom Supply Assistance allocation
- Elimination of Turnaround Supplemental Services allocation

### ***Legislative Calendars***

**Check the House and Senate Calendars for items on the agenda next week.**

[Latest Senate Calendar](#)

[Latest House Calendar](#)

***Links to Monitor the Legislative Session***

***Link to the Florida Senate***

***Link the Florida House of Representatives***

***The Florida Channel***

***Headlines Around The State***

***Politico: Trump makes play for DeSantis donors***

***FlaPol: Democrats sound the alarm ahead of Ron DeSantis' Michigan trip***

***Post: Trump's Mar-a-Lago post-arraignment remarks: Who was there, who wasn't?***

*FlaPol: Thomas Massie backs Ron DeSantis for President*

*Bloomberg: Ron DeSantis Wins First Republican Endorsement After Trump Charges*

*Sun-Sentinel: Abortion funding groups urge Florida lawmakers to allow public money for travel*

*Sentinel: Florida police ground Chinese drones banned by DeSantis*

*My News 13: Attorney General Ashley Moody warns Floridians of "zombie drug"*

*Bradenton Herald: New 'zombie drug' called tranq brings more overdoses to Florida, AG says. Here's why*

*Yahoo News: TikTok banned from use across entire state university system in Florida*

*Herald: Florida state universities ban TikTok, other apps from their campuses, citing Chinese ties*

*Herald Tribune: New College of Florida bans TikTok and other platforms following statewide regulation*

*Sun-Sentinel: FAU, FIU join Florida universities banning TikTok, other social media apps on campus and from school-owned devices*

*CBS Miami: FIU bans access to TikTok from internal WiFi network*

*Democrat: 'Well-deserved': Florida Board of Governors Chair Brian Lamb receives prestigious award*

*Post: As Florida Power & Light looks toward a zero-emissions future, could customers foot more of the bill?*

*Democrat: TCC aims to stay 'accessible' by not changing tuition. Financial audit recommends increase.*

*Politico: Florida lawmakers swing into action after Trump smacks DeSantis on insurance*

*Sentinel: Florida senator proposes more 'accountability' for insurers*

*Times: Florida lawmakers have new plan for insurance crisis: 'Insurer accountability'*

*The Capitolist: Senate bill would prohibit insurers from canceling policies during pending claims*

*FlaPol: Lawmakers seek to beef up insurer oversight after tort reforms*

*WLRN: Republicans advance proposed changes to Florida's elections laws*

*CBS Miami: Proposed Florida law seeks to criminalize risqué behavior when children present*

*Sun-Sentinel: Could Florida curb parades with drag performers? Here's what a new bill proposes.*

*WLRN: Can kids see Mrs. Doubtfire? How DeSantis anti-drag war is affecting the performing arts*

*Governing: Florida's Republican-Led, Nearly Unanimous Housing Reforms*

*FlaPol: Senate committee advances confirmation of New College trustees*

*WUSF: Groveland sets example as lawmakers near vote on an office to aid abandoned Black cemeteries*

*Sun-Sentinel: House, Senate aim to boost inmate trust fund but budgets differ by almost \$20M*

*FlaPol: Wilton Simpson taps Rick Dolan to head Florida Forest Service*

*Herald: Alimony overhaul goes to full Florida Senate — divorced women denounce bill*

*FlaPol: Bill limiting School Board, County Commission terms gets Senate panel nod*

*Herald: Florida Senate bill would let people sue over removing, damaging Confederate monuments*

*Sentinel: Florida Senate seeks to protect Confederate monuments, other markers*

*FlaPol: Senate panel approves bill protecting Confederate monuments*

*FlaPol: Senate, House ready votes on steeper punishment for attacking defense lawyers, public defenders*

*FlaPol: Senators add deepwater channel exemption to dredging bill*

*CBS Miami: Florida lawmakers cracking down on catalytic converter thefts*

*FlaPol: Senate advances bill protecting gas stoves*

*FlaPol: Bills that would end last remaining breed-specific dog bans head to House, Senate floors*

*FlaPol: Sarasota County Commissioner Nancy Detert dies*

*Democrat: FSU students, Tallahassee residents rally against permitless carry*

*FlaPol: Wilton Manors Commissioner: City officials could face charges under amended anti-drag show legislation*

*Sentinel: Orange school district gives classroom aides a path to teaching careers*

*Daily News: Collier County narrows superintendent search to 'final four' list. What we know*

*WUSF: Red tide is receding in Sarasota County, but sticking around in Pinellas*

## ***On the Docket Week Five***

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023**

- **DUKE COST DECISION** - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, including a dispute about a decision by state regulators that called for Duke Energy Florida customers to pay \$7.2 million related to an outage at a power plant. The state Office of Public Counsel, which represents consumers, is challenging the Florida Public Service Commission's approval of the costs. The case involves an outage at Duke's Crystal River Unit 4 power plant that forced the utility to buy what is known as replacement power, according to court documents. Duke sought to collect \$14.4 million from customers to cover the replacement-power costs, but the Office of Public Counsel and representatives of business customers objected, arguing that Duke had mishandled the situation. The Public Service Commission decided that Duke should be responsible for half of the costs, with the other half paid by customers. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.
- **PAROLE CASES** - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet in Lake County. - Minneola City Hall, 800 U.S. 27, Minneola. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- **SOUTHWEST PLANNING COUNCIL** - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - South Florida Water Management District, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91588729954?pwd=OVERTVNQVVpRZjQrY1Jab1dpMDBPUT09#success>. Call-in number: 1-929-205-6099. Meeting ID: 91588729954. Code: 082520
- **GAMBLING ISSUES**- Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- **INSURANCE RATE HIKES**- Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation will hold a hearing on property-insurance rate increases by American Strategic Insurance Corp. and ASI Preferred Insurance Corp. - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1640815925847707736>. Call-in number: 1-866-901-6455. Code: 195858506

- DEP HOLDS OPEN HOUSE - Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Southwest District office will hold an open house. - Department of Environmental Protection Southwest District office, 13051 North. Telecom Parkway, Suite 101, Temple Terrace.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- CYPRESS INSURANCE RATES - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Office of Insurance Regulation will hold a hearing on a proposal by Cypress Property & Casualty Insurance Co. to raise property-insurance rates. - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1165366207276453978>. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2071. Code 377013845

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 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.
- OSTEOPATHIC BOARD - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine will meet. - <https://meet.goto.com/594019581>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 594019581

***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)