



6/10ths OVER – 4/10ths TO GO!

The Briefing for Tuesday – April 11 - 2023

Day 36 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 24 days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Monday – April 10 - 2023

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

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

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

[Link the Florida House of Representatives](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

Issues Impacting 23-24 Budgets beginning to stack-up

Proposed Changes to F.R.S.

The House and Senate have adopted proposed FRS rates for the 23-24 - the proposals differ significantly in terms of cost. Included below are links to the staff analysis for both proposals.

Please refer these to your finance office to determine your estimated cost.

House Bill 239 - Staff Analysis of the House Proposal for 23-24 - Florida Retirement System

HB 239 - The House proposal for the FRS 23-24 conforms law to the House proposed 2023-2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA) as retirement contributions are included in the GAA. ***The application of the proposed rates will have a significant fiscal impact to funds appropriated by the Legislature associated with employee salaries and benefits and to the required contributions by local governments.*** Provisions of the bill relating to employer retirement contribution rates will increase amounts FRS Employers must pay for employee retirement benefits.

The bill:

- Increases the employer-funded allocations to investment plan accounts by 1 percent for each membership class.
- Restores the pre-2011 cost-of-living adjustment for eligible FRS Pension Plan members to 3 percent.
- Restores the pre-2011 normal retirement age and years of service for Special Risk Class members.
- Revises DROP by:
 - removing age restrictive entry windows to enter DROP for all members that have met normal retirement requirements,
 - increasing the amount of time all eligible members can participate in DROP from 60 to 96 months, and

- increasing the amount of interest applied to a member’s accrued DROP benefit from 1.3 to 4 percent.
- Adjusts the employer contribution rates for the FRS based on the annual actuarial valuation and additional actuarial studies.
- Increases allocations for member disability coverage and line-of-duty death benefits.
- Declares that the act fulfills an important state interest.

Senate Bill 7024 - Staff Analysis of Senate Proposal for the 23-24 - Florida Retirement System

CS/SB 7024 establishes the contribution rates paid by employers that participate in the Florida Retirement System (FRS) beginning July 1, 2023. These rates are intended to fund the full, normal cost and the amortization of the unfunded actuarial liability of the FRS. With these modifications to employer contribution rates, the FRS Trust Fund will receive roughly \$350.5 million more in revenue on an annual basis beginning July 1, 2023. The public employers that will incur these additional costs are state agencies, state universities and colleges, school districts, counties, municipalities, and other governmental entities that participate in the FRS. The bill also increases the monthly Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy from \$5 to \$7.50 for each year of service, effective July 1, 2023. The maximum benefit is adjusted from \$150 to \$225 per month and the minimum benefit is adjusted from \$30 to \$45 per month. The employer-paid contribution rate is increased to account for the increased benefit. The bill will have a fiscal impact on state funds appropriated by the Legislature for employee benefits. The bill will increase the amounts, in the aggregate, that employers participating in the FRS must pay for retiree benefits.

HB 1343 and SB 1184 are both up tomorrow in Legislative Committees
Both bills will impact local revenues.

HB 1343 is up in [House Ways and Means committee](#) tomorrow – prohibits special assessments on lands classified as agriculture. See PDF for the impact of the bill on your county



House Bill 1343 will have several provisions that impact counties.

[Text of HB 1343](#)

[Staff Analysis of HB 1343](#)

- The bill prohibits a county from levying any special assessment on lands classified as agricultural. **The pre-emption of levying special assessments has been estimated by the Revenue Estimating Conference and will have a significant impact on counties that levy special assessments.** The following PDF is a county by county estimate of the financial impact.
- The bill specifies that the construction or installation of housing for migrant farmworkers, who are legally eligible for participation in the workforce, is authorized on land zoned for agricultural use and operated as a bona fide farm, and **does not require approval by ordinance or resolution of the governmental entity where the land is located.** The bill specifies that if agricultural operations are discontinued on the property for a minimum of three years and the agricultural land classification of the property is no longer valid, then the farmworker housing is no longer eligible for residential use unless and until approved by the local jurisdiction under its zoning and land use regulations for the intended non-agricultural use.
- The bill prohibits a county or municipality from requiring the removal or relinquishment of an agricultural classification for land that is subject to a contract for sale that requires a development permit as a condition precedent of sale if the landowner notifies the county or municipality in writing at the time of application for the development permit that the reclassification is requested as a condition precedent for a pending sale of land. The agricultural classification for the land may not be removed or relinquished until such time that the landowner provides written notice to the county or municipality that the contract has closed and the property has been conveyed to the contract purchaser.

SB 1184 – Agricultural Lands by Collins

SB 1184 – is up in [Senate Finance and Tax Committee](#) tomorrow - Staff estimates that the bill will reduce local government revenues and general revenue by a significant amount.

[Text of SB 1484](#)

[Staff Analysis of SB 1184](#)

CS/SB 1184 includes a variety of provisions related to use of agricultural lands. The bill:

- Increases the minimum value of a nonresidential farm building which would permit a county to levy fire protection service assessments on agricultural lands from \$10,000 to \$350,000;
- Provides that the construction or installation of housing for legal migrant farmworkers is an authorized use of farm land zoned for agricultural use;
- Preempts a local government from adopting land use or zoning restrictions, conditions, or regulations requiring the termination of an agricultural classification for any property or the surrender of an agricultural classification if the property is used for agricultural purposes;
- Provides a credit against sales tax paid on the rental or purchase of housing for legal migrant farmworkers; and
- Authorizes the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to regulate and administer the use of certain toilet facilities on agricultural land.

The Revenue Estimating Conference determined that section 3 of the bill, prohibiting local governments from adopting zoning restrictions that terminate an agricultural classification, does not affect revenues. Staff estimates that the remaining portions of the bill will reduce local government revenues and general revenue by a significant amount. The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.

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](#)

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.

Senate Budget Proposals	House Budget Proposals
Senate Proposed GAA for FY 23-24 - SB 2500	House Proposed GAA for 23-24 - HB 5001
SB 2502-Implementing Proposal for 23-24 GAA	HB 5003 - Implementing Proposal for 23-24 GAA

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

Headlines Around The State

News4Jax: DeSantis flexes executive powers while eyeing White House

Sun-Sentinel: For DeSantis, overflowing war chest obscures the challenges ahead

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis campaign reports another \$3.7M raised in March

FlaPol: Donald Trump campaign raises specter of Ron DeSantis resign-to-run 'flip flop'

The Floridian: DeSantis Rails Against Fed Controlled Digital Currency

Sentinel: Florida faces Medicaid lawsuit over refusing payments for incontinence

Times: Florida workers comp fight goes to appeals court

WLRN: Can probiotics cure Florida's ailing coral reefs? Tests show it works on devastating disease

WSJ: Deepening Florida Drought Hits Ranchers, Growers

The Hill: Florida student paper calls out Sasse silence: 'We've all been ghosted'

WUSF: Florida gas prices are at a 2023 high after OPEC cuts oil production

CBS Miami: Illustrated Anne Frank book removed by Central Florida school after challenge by conservative group

The Capitolist: Florida's tech industry predicted to grow 3.5 percent by 2023

CBS Miami: Board Chairman of the Florida Holocaust Museum, Michael Igel aims to keep Ben Ferencz's legacy alive

Sentinel: Dorworth sues Joel Greenberg, family, citing 'massive effort' to ruin his reputation
News4Jax: 'Ninja killer' waits to learn if Supreme Court will halt his execution in 1989 Flagler County murders

Bradenton Herald: Watch out for gators and manatees. Spring makes these Florida native animals more active

WLRN: National Hurricane Center in Miami names new director

Axios: Tampa Bay women are among the lowest paid in the nation, study says

City & State FL: Gov. DeSantis committee, Florida GOP dominate in political cash chase

Politico: Florida Republican apologizes after calling transgender people 'mutants'

My News 13: As legislative session reaches halfway point, many bills still in discussion

Sun-Sentinel: Florida seeks to ban mask, COVID testing rules by businesses

The Hill: Advocates plan for battle as DeSantis preps 'Don't Say Gay' expansion

WLRN: Florida lawmakers move to protect historical monuments and markers

Herald Tribune: New College professor responds to backlash to 'burn' school down comments

FlaPol: House panel advances bill restricting use of restrooms according to reproductive function

PNJ: Florida 'abduction' bill? Opponents call it 'legal kidnapping.' What does the bill say?

Post: 5 things to know about Randy Fine: Could GOP firebrand be potential candidate to lead FAU?

FlaPol: House moves on less strict insurer 'accountability' bill

FlaPol: Bill allowing insurers, docs to deny payment, provision of health care keeps moving

FlaPol: Dennis Baxley endorses Keith Truenow as his preferred successor in Senate

Times-Union: UF and UNF in running for Jacksonville campus work. What's the latest in Legislature?

FlaPol: Sea-level rise study legislation heading to House floor

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis appoints four new judges in Jacksonville, Sarasota

FlaPol: Boating safety bill takes another look at anchoring limitation areas

FlaPol: House drone delivery bill flies through final committee stop

FlaPol: Bill scratching auto glass repair lawsuits rolls to House floor with added rule to curb 'steering'

FlaPol: Demoted deputy chief files to take his boss' job as Indian River County Sheriff

The Capitolist: Brevard County Tourism Development Tax reports 23rd consecutive record revenue month

On the Docket Week Six

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023

Legislature:

- PREGNANT INMATES - Tuesday, 8 a.m. The House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 779), filed by Rep. Dianne Hart, D-Tampa, and Rep. Angie Nixon, D-Jacksonville, that would make a series of changes related to pregnant women in the criminal-justice system. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DEATH PENALTY IN RAPE CASES- Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. The Senate Rules Committee will take up numerous bills, including a proposal (SB 1342), filed by Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, that seeks to allow the death penalty for people who commit sexual batteries on children under age 12. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- PANHANDLE BRIDGE TRANSFER - Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. The House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 1305), filed by Rep. Shane Abbott, R-DeFuniak Springs, that would make a series of changes involving the Department of Transportation, including allowing the transfer of Northwest Florida's Garcon Point Bridge to the state turnpike system. 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DRAG SHOWS UP IN SENATE - Tuesday, 2 p.m. The Senate will take up a series of issues during a floor session and is expected to vote on a bill (SB 1438), filed by Sen. Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, that would clear the way for the state to revoke licenses of restaurants and other establishments that allow children to attend drag shows. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- CHARTER SCHOOLS FUNDING - Tuesday, 2 p.m. The House Education & Employment Committee will take up a bill (HB 1259), filed by Rep. Jennifer Canady, R-Lakeland, that would address a series of education-funding issues, including capital-outlay money for charter schools. Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- ALIMONY OVERHAUL- Tuesday, 2 p.m. The House Judiciary Committee will take up a bill (HB 1409), filed by Rep. John Temple, R-Wildwood, and Rep. Alex Andrade, R-Pensacola, that would overhaul the state's alimony laws. 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS- Tuesday, 2 p.m. The House State Affairs Committee will consider a proposal (HB 1445), filed by Rep. Dean Black, R-Jacksonville, that would make a series of changes targeting public-employee unions, including preventing workers from having union dues deducted from their paychecks. 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- SUWANNEE WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Suwannee River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Suwannee River Water Management District, 9225 County Road 49, Live Oak.
- ST. JOHNS WATER BOARD - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The St. Johns River Water Management District Governing Board will meet. St. Johns River Water Management District, 4049 Reid St., Palatka.
- FLORIDA SOUTHWESTERN BOARD - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Florida SouthWestern State College Board of Trustees will meet. Florida SouthWestern State College, Charlotte Campus, 26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda.
- CITRUS FORECAST UPDATED - Tuesday, noon. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will update its forecast for the 2022-2023 citrus growing season. Call-in number: 1-888-844-9904. Code: 8552986
- JACKSONVILLE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 1 p.m. The Florida State College at Jacksonville Board of Trustees will meet. Florida State College at Jacksonville, Kent Campus, 3939 Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

Legislature:

- **KIDCARE ELIGIBILITY** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will consider a bill (SB 246), filed by Sen. Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, that would raise the income-eligibility threshold for children to get health coverage in the KidCare program. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **LEFT-LANE DRIVERS** - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 464), filed by Sen. Keith Perry, R-Gainesville, that seeks to prevent motorists from driving in the left lane on roads with speed limits of at least 65 mph. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **TAX ISSUES** - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Senate Finance and Tax Committee will discuss tax “concepts,” as lawmakers prepare to negotiate a package of tax breaks. 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **APALACHICOLA BAY** - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 702), filed by Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, that would provide \$5 million a year for city of Apalachicola projects aimed at improving water quality in Apalachicola Bay. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **RELIGIOUS ‘ANIMUS’** - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 994), filed by Sen. Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, that would crack down on people who commit offenses related to religious “animus.” 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- **LATER SCHOOL START TIMES** - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. The Senate Education Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 1112), filed by Sen. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, that would prevent middle schools from beginning the instructional day earlier than 8 a.m., while high schools would be barred from starting before 8:30 a.m. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- **STUDENT DATA** - Wednesday, 3 p.m. The Senate is expected to take up a series of issues during a floor session, including a bill (SB 662), filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island, that seeks to restrict the way operators of websites and online applications used in schools can collect and use students’ data. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- **SPECIAL ORDER SET** - Wednesday, 15 minutes after the floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a list of bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- - Wednesday, 8 a.m.
 - House State Administration & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee, 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
 - House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
 - House PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.
 - House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- - Wednesday, 3 p.m.
 - House Appropriations Committee, 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
 - House Ways & Means Committee, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- 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
- CENTRAL FLORIDA PLANNING COUNCIL - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Hardee County Commission chamber, 412 West Orange St., Wauchula.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The Orlando Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/news-and-events/public-events-meetings>
- WATER DISTRICT HOLDS OPEN HOUSE - Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The South Florida Water Management District will hold an open house, including discussion of the 2023 South Florida Environmental Report. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach.
- EXECUTION - Wednesday, 6 p.m. Death Row inmate Louis Gaskin is scheduled to be executed in the 1989 murders of a Flagler County couple. Florida State Prison, 23916 N.W. 83rd Ave., Raiford.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023

Legislature:

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 9 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - 15 minutes after Senate committee meetings. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to meet to set a list of bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- - Thursday, 8:30 a.m.
 - Senate Health Policy Committee, 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- - Thursday, 10:30 a.m.
 - Senate Appropriations Committee, 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
 - Senate Fiscal Policy Committee, 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- - Thursday, 15 minutes after House floor session.
 - House Rules Committee, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- - Thursday, 4:30 p.m.
 - Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight, 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. https://sfwmd-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PP-4SaWCSS2JsEgNFxZcfA#/registration
- GREENWAYS, TRAILS - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Greenways and Trails Council will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Carr Building, 3800 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

- NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER BOARD - Thursday, 1 p.m. The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Northwest Florida Water Management District, 81 Water Management Dr., Havana.
- DAYTONA STATE TRUSTEES - Thursday, 2 p.m. The Daytona State College Board of Trustees will meet. Daytona State College, Wetherell Student Services and Administration Building, 1200 West International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.
- TOBACCO SETTLEMENT - Thursday, 3 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss a forecast for the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- GINGRICH SPEAKS IN PALM BEACH - Thursday, 6 p.m. Former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich will speak to the Palm Beach Republican Club. The Colony Hotel, 155 Hammon Ave., Palm Beach.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 2023

Legislature:

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 9 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.

Also:

- CONSERVATION ISSUES- Friday, 9 a.m. The Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land-conservation issues, will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- TOBACCO SETTLEMENT - Friday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss what is known as an “outlook” for the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- GREENWAYS, TRAILS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Greenways and Trails Council will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Carr Building, 3800 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9:15 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- FSDB BOARD - Friday, 10:30 a.m. The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees will meet. Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Moore Hall, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 1 p.m. The Miami-Dade Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/news-and-events/public-events-meetings>
- SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - Friday, 1:30 p.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss a forecast for public-school enrollment. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

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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