



For So Many Reasons – You Gotta Love May!

The Briefing for Monday – May 1 - 2023

Day 56 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 4 days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Sunday – April 30, 2023

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

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

Budget Conference Continues

The Budget negotiations continued through the weekend with Senator Broxson and Representative Leek working to resolve unresolved issues. A meeting between the two appropriations chairs have just concluded their 11:30 meeting. Information will be provided as it becomes available.

Status of Bills with 5 days to go!

1,873 Bills Filed for Consideration

909 – Senate Bills/964 – House Bills

103 Bills have Passed the House and Senate

51 – House Bills/52 – Senate Bills

138 Bills are on the Calendar for Consideration this Week

Status of Education Bills being Tracked

140 Bills have been tracked that relate to Education in some form. Here's their current status

[Status of Education Bills Being Tracked - 5-1-23.docx](#)

Status of Local Government Bills being Tracked

268 Bills have been tracked related to Local Government in some form. Here's their current status.

[Status of Local Government Bills Being Tracked - 5-1-23.docx](#)

SB 7204 – Retirement Benefits Settled

The following information is based on an analysis by the Public Policy unit of the Florida Association of Counties

Although more information is needed before the actual cost is determined - it appears the impact of the agreement will be less than 10% of that of the House proposal. THE 3% COST OF LIVING INCREASE IS NOT A PART OF THE AGREEMENT. As a result, the impact is expected to be far less than estimates of the House bill!

Changes to FRS settled between House and Senate
The Senate offer specific to FRS may be viewed [here](#).

Here's what in the agreement -

- 96 month DROP,
- Increase in interest rate during DROP from 1.3% to 4%
- Revised DROP Eligibility Window
- Revised Special Risk Retirement Date (Return to 25 years of service or age 55)
- Increase in the contribution rate to the Investment Plan by 2%

In the Budget Spreadsheet addressing all Administered Funds (available [here](#)), the following lines deal with the various FRS issues and are now closed out:

- Line 12 – Florida Retirement System Contribution Adjustment (Note – normal actuarial adjustment – both House and Senate match on this Line item)
- Line 14 – Florida Retirement System Investment Plan State Contribution (House - \$14.6 M, **Senate (\$29.3 M)**)
- Line 15 – Florida Retirement System Pension Plan Benefit Enhancements (House \$468 M, **Senate \$38.5 M)**)

Note – these are the costs to the State, not Counties; but County impact should also scale down similarly without the COLA piece, particularly since law enforcement officers were already allowed to extend to 96 month DROP.

Links to Monitor the Legislative Session

[Link to the Florida Senate](#)

[Link the Florida House of Representatives](#)

[The Florida Channel](#)

[House and Senate Calendars for Week Eight](#)

[Senate Calendar for Final Week](#)

[House Calendar for the Final Week](#)

Broadband Technical Assistance Webinar

[Broadband Webinar - USDA Technical Assistance Grants .docx](#)

FY2023 Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Webinar

USDA is offering funding under the new Broadband Technical Assistance Program. \$20 million is available to support technical assistance projects such as conducting feasibility studies, completing network designs and developing broadband financial assistance applications.

RUS will be hosting its first BTA FOA webinar on **Monday, May 8, 2023 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM Eastern**. The webinar will include:

- An overview of the recently published FOA
- How to apply
- An opportunity for attendees to ask questions about the FOA

Monday, May 8, 2023 from 1:00PM to 2:00PM Eastern

[Register here!](#)

Headlines Around the State

FlaPol: Donald Trump mocks Ron DeSantis exploratory committee reports

FlaPol: Donald Trump says soon-to-be-signed Florida law weakens election integrity

TCPalm: Voting by mail in the 2024 elections? Here's why Florida voters should request ballots now

FlaPol: Donald Trump campaign claims Ron DeSantis 'abdicated his duty' as Governor

Politico: Vivek Ramaswamy swipes at Ron DeSantis on Disney

Wash. Post: The first arrests from DeSantis's election police take extensive toll

FlaPol: Latest ad from super PAC frames Ron DeSantis as a 'winner'

Post: Thousands of Floridians could be losing health insurance starting Monday. Here's what to know.

Times: 6 things to know about the case that will decide the future of abortion in Florida

TCPalm: Florida cracking down on slots in arcades deemed illegal gambling

Herald Tribune: SRQ families endure lasting effects of opioid addiction

Herald: Florida codes keep new homes high and dry. Do they make flooding worse for neighbors?

Ledger: Polk County police ground Chinese-made drones due to state regulations

Herald Tribune: Walk-in interviews in Venice, North Port allow Hurricane Ian victims to request assistance

Today: Brevard School Board to choose Tuesday from 3 superintendent finalists — some with baggage

Today: SpaceX launches triple-core Falcon Heavy from Kennedy Space Center in Florida

FlaPol: The final countdown: A quick peek at some outstanding issues headed into last week of Session

Herald: Florida's surgeon general is no stranger to controversy and clashes. A second term is imminent

Herald: Florida's surgeon general is up for second term. Here's how COVID-19 fared under him

News4Jax: LGBTQ+ lawmaker to GOP: 'I'm literally trying to exist'

The Capitolist: Senate passes bill requiring Florida employers with 25 or more employees to use E-Verify

City & State FL: Is Donna Deegan the next great hope of Florida Democrats?

FlaPol: Donna Deegan had her reasons for missing Nikki Fried photo-op

FlaPol: Legislature passes bill doubling cap on house-hardening grants through My Safe Florida Home program

Herald: Senate approves measure to end local control of historic preservation near the coast

WUSF: Permanent tax-free diapers, incontinence products get bipartisan support in legislature

Herald Tribune: Florida Legislature approves settlement money for Sarasota resident injured by county truck

FlaPol: Budget conference: Lawmakers agree on \$73M in operational support for colleges, universities

FlaPol: Budget conference: Jax UF campus will get \$75M in state funds

FlaPol: Free range: Legislature approves bill banning local prohibitions on gas stoves

FlaPol: Budget conference: Pediatrician fees, graduate medical education done deal

FlaPol: Budget conference: Hillsborough County surtax refund fix could wait a year

FlaPol: Budget conference: Citrus County projects in good shape

On the Docket

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

— Legislature:

- SCHOOL BOARD TERM LIMITS -Monday, 10 a.m. The Senate will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a bill (HB 477) that would lead to eight-year term limits for county school-board members. The House passed the bill last month. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Monday, 11 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET -Monday, 15 minutes after floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE MEETS -Monday, 15 minutes after House floor session. The House Rules Committee will meet. House chamber, the Capitol.

— Also:

- DISNEY LAWSUIT DISCUSSED -Monday, 9:30 a.m. The Central Florida Tourism Oversight District Board of Supervisors will discuss a lawsuit filed by Walt Disney Parks and Resorts against district officials and Gov. Ron DeSantis. Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort, 1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

— Legislature:

- BATHROOM BILL ON SENATE AGENDA -Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Senate will consider numerous issues during a floor session, including a bill (SB 1674), filed by Sen. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, that is aimed at requiring transgender men and women to use restrooms that line up with their sex assigned at birth. Senate chamber, the Capitol.

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION T-uesday, 11 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET -Tuesday, 15 minutes after floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

— Legislature:

- KIDCARE EXPANSION GOES TO SENATE -Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Senate will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a bill (SB 246), filed by Rep. Alexis Calatayud, R-Miami, that would expand eligibility for the KidCare subsidized health-insurance program. The bill would increase an income threshold for families to qualify for subsidized coverage. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Wednesday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET -Wednesday, 15 minutes after floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Thursday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Thursday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET -Thursday, 15 minutes after floor session. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills to be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS -Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Friday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION -Friday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, 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

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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