



Last Week of the 2023 Legislative Session

The Briefing for Sunday – April 30 - 2023

Day 55 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 5 days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Thursday – April 27- 2023

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

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

House and Senate On the Floor All Day this Week

- With five days left in the 2023 Legislative Session, the House and Senate are both scheduled to on the floor – all day – for the remainder of the 2023 Session You can follow along with the links provided below.
- A lot remains unsettled – most importantly are the Budget bills and bills providing additional Economic Development for Rural Areas. It is anticipated that they will move forward this week – but with the crush of bills competing for time – you never know what will happen.
- A major piece of good news for local governments is the agreement on changes to the Florida Retirement System which was resolved last evening. The agreement is a fraction of the projected cost in the House's original proposal. See below an analysis from Bob McKee at the FAC.
- We are still working to secure a revenue offset for preemption of special assessments in the Ag. Lands bill. The proposed language is still in play but it's a toss-up as to it being included in the final budget document.
- Also in the budget agreement is \$5 million for a grant program that would fund a pilot program to help school districts push back the school start times for middle and high schools in the next few years. 2 Smalls, 2 Mid-sized, and 2 Large districts will be selected by the Dept. of Ed. The House has already passed the bill mandating that districts push back school start times in 2026.

Budget Conference Continues

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: Marco Rubio, Rick Scott team up on bill blocking U.S.-China collaboration](#)

[FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate agrees to environmental projects](#)

[FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate seal pension boost deal, near final budget agreement](#)

[FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate moves on House pension padding plan, but without COLA sweetener](#)

[FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate agrees to hike payments to pediatricians by \\$76.1M](#)

[FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate far apart on money for UF Jax campus](#)

FlaPol: Budget conference: Money found for Flagler Beach pier restoration

FlaPol: Budget conference: St. Johns County gets sea level rise mitigation money

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate agree on Holocaust education funding

WLRN: Will politics escalate the censorship of books in South Florida's public libraries too?

Politico: DeSantis underwhelms Britain's business chiefs

Telegraph: Ron DeSantis: I back Kemi Badenoch in her war on wokery

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis describes England as a 'second home'

Herald: Is DeSantis a hometown hero in this Florida city or just someone who lived there?

AP: Trump ups competition with DeSantis in planning trip to Iowa

Sun-Sentinel: Florida was the most prized swing state for decades. That won't be true in 2024.

FlaPol: Here's why Daniel Davis won't be at televised Jax mayoral forum

Democrat: Late night shooting outside FSU dorm injures one, leads to campus 'shelter in place' order

Times: Pinellas judge denies defendant's use of medical marijuana, suggests Xanax instead

Herald Tribune: Longtime Sarasota County leader Nancy Detert remembered for tenacious spirit

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

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

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.

Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

