



***Budget Conference Day 2
10 days left in 2023 Session
Rural Days in Capitol Courtyard Tomorrow!***

The Briefing for Tuesday – April 25 - 2023

Day 50 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 10days til Sine Die!

The last Briefing was Monday – April 24 - 2023

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

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

2023 Rural Counties Days – April 25-26

Over 350 folks are registered for Rural Counties Days activities. Initiated by the Honorable Representative Bobby Payne (District 19) the event will present exhibits and booths for 28 rural counties. Rural Days provides the opportunity to showcase the unique benefits, offerings, and the importance of our Rural Counties to the overall economic success of Florida. Look forward to seeing our rural leaders next week.

- **April 26, 2023 - Rural Counties Day Capitol Plaza Courtyard - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

The Quick At A Glance

Term Limits for County Commissioners is off the table!

School Board Term Limits to be reduced from 12 years to 8 years!

Education Formula will look different!

Small Districts appear to break better than even!

DCD changed to District Wage Differential – all districts with a former DCE below 1 raised to 1.0

Sparsity Replaced by a Small District Factor

No Proration after 2nd Calculation

Mental Health and Safe Schools Retained

Budget Conference Day 2

From the Wires

Politico ProFlorida article – Best Describes where we are!

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida legislators have agreed to a **major revision of the state's education funding formula and to dismantle the state's economic development arm** that is currently paying for Gov. Ron DeSantis's international trade mission.

The deal was brokered on the first night of House and Senate budget negotiations and is a signal that lawmakers are moving ahead quickly to wrap up work on a roughly \$114 billion state spending plan so they can end their 60-day session on time.

DeSantis is visiting a handful of countries, including Japan, South Korea and Israel, as part of a week-long trade mission that was put together with the help of Enterprise Florida, the state's public-private outfit that is relying on private dollars to pay for the governor's travel costs. On Monday, he and first lady Casey DeSantis personally met with Japan's prime minister.

Enterprise Florida, which used to hand out direct incentives to attract businesses to the state, has come under fire for years by some conservative Republicans. That battle was renewed again this session by House Speaker Paul Renner, who called for the elimination of Enterprise Florida at the start of this year's session.

"Enterprise Florida has over promised and under delivered for years and drains funds from higher priorities," he said back in March. "If this were Washington D.C., it would live on forever, unchanged and unchallenged; but the Florida way requires us to retain only what works and eliminate what does not."

State Rep. Alex Andrade, a Pensacola Republican who oversaw the budget committee that handles economic development issues, contended that there was little need for the agency given the state's low unemployment rate and the continued influx of people moving to the state.

"We're obviously doing something right," Andrade said. "I'm not worried about competing with other states right now."

Under the budget plan agreed to on Monday the Legislature plans to wipe out \$12 million that now goes to Enterprise Florida. What remains of the outfit would be folded into the new Department of Commerce, which will also pick up all the functions of the current Department of Economic Opportunity. Florida actually had a Department of Commerce until the '90s when then-Gov. Lawton Chiles pushed to shift many of its functions to Enterprise Florida.

But while the House and Senate have agreed to break up Enterprise Florida, **budget negotiators remain at odds over the fate of Florida's tourism marketing agency.** The Senate has set aside \$80 million for Visit Florida while the House has zero. State Sen. Ed Hooper, the Clearwater Republican and chair of the Senate budget committee that handles economic development, said that funding for the outfit will likely be resolved by legislative leaders.

The Legislature also on Monday night agreed to a significant education deal that marks the state's highest ever level of K-12 spending while tweaking its formula for doling out cash to schools.

Lawmakers are dedicating nearly \$26.8 billion for K-12 education next year, a \$2.2 billion increase accounting for a massive school choice expansion estimated to add some 117,000 new students to Florida's ranks.

With this agreement, one of the largest pieces of the state budget – the Florida Education Finance Program, or FEFP – is already locked into place with 10 days left in session.

In addition to signing off on FEFP spending, House and Senate negotiators also came to terms Monday on most aspects of the state's upcoming education budget.

Budget writers, though, have not yet agreed on one key piece of spending: How much cash to put aside in case the cost of Florida's dramatic private school voucher expansion exceeds expectations. Lawmakers contend they will have enough funding to meet the needs of students regardless of where or how they enroll.

Florida's budget will "hold the school districts harmless no matter what happens with enrollment," state Sen. Keith Perry (R-Gainesville), the Senate's education budget chief, told reporters Monday.

"They can come from New York – kids can come from anywhere," he said.

Legislative leaders came to terms on education spending after the House agreed to scale back sweeping changes the chamber sought to the FEFP.

In a notable change from the House's original proposal to shake up how the formula funds students, the chamber decided against removing budget silos dedicated to school safety and mental health spending. The House also proposed increasing funding by \$20 million for mental health and \$40 million for school safety, matching how much the Senate wanted.

These tweaks, along with another provision to protect smaller school districts from losing funding, helped the House sell the Senate on making the move.

"At first, we had some concerns with some things," Perry told reporters. "But they addressed the concerns that we had, and we got a really good program."

Another major spending item that Florida legislators agreed to on Monday was to set aside \$350 million for a grant program that will go to local governments and school districts to pay for additional repair and recovery efforts associated with hurricanes Ian and Nicole. The House had initially only allocated \$25 million.

Legislators still need to work out many other spending items, including dozens and dozens of hometown projects sought by legislators, spending in health care, as well as how much money they will put in resiliency and environmental land acquisition.

Bruce Ritchie contributed to this story.

[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](#)

[House Calendar](#)

[Senate Calendar](#)

[On the Docket for Week Eight](#)

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

Legislature:

- TAX BREAKS: Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Senate Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 7062), filed by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill, that would provide a series of tax breaks, including holding sales-tax “holidays.” Location: 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee will consider dozens of bills, including a proposal (SB 1718), filed by Sen. Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill, that would take a series of steps aimed at curbing illegal immigration. Location: 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE: Tuesday, 15 minutes after House floor session. The House Rules Committee will meet. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE SPECIAL ORDER SET: Tuesday, 15 minutes after committeeings. The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which will list bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. Location: 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

Also:

- SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER BOARD: Tuesday, 9 a.m. The Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. Location: Southwest Florida Water Management District, 7601 U.S. 301 North, Tampa.
- ADVOCACY WALK: Tuesday, 9:15 a.m. Senate Minority Leader Lauren Book, founder and CEO of Lauren’s Kids, will hold a news conference to start an annual advocacy walk to honor survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Location: Plaza-level rotunda, the Capitol.
- GAS RATES: Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an internal-affairsing, followed by aing about a proposed rate increase for Florida City Gas. Location: Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- FAU TRUSTEES: Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees will meet. Location: <https://www.fau.edu/bot>
- FSU TRUSTEES: Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Florida State University Board of Trustees will meet. Location: Florida State University, Westcott Building, 222 South Copeland St., Tallahassee.

- FIRST RESPONDERS: Tuesday, 2 p.m. The Florida First Responder Suicide Deterrence Task Force will meet. Location: Information at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/news-and-events/public-events-meetings>

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Wednesday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET: Wednesday, 15 minutes after Senate 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.

Also:

- WATER QUALITY AT ISSUE: Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Biscayne Bay Commission will meet. Location: : Cutler Bay Town Hall, 10720 Caribbean Blvd., Cutler Bay.
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES: Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. Location: Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 175899214
- PAROLE ISSUES: Wednesday, 10 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Location: Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- NEW COLLEGE BOARD: Wednesday, 2 p.m. The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Location: New College of Florida, Sudakoff Conference Center, 5845 General Dougher Place, Sarasota. <https://www.youtube.com/@NewCollegeofFL>
- REFUGEE ISSUES: Wednesday, 4 p.m. The Southwest Florida Area Refugee Task Force will meet. Location: Information at <http://www.myflfamilies.com/news-and-events/public-events-meetings>

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Thursday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Thursday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET: Thursday, 15 minutes after Senate 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.

Also:

- UNF TRUSTEES: Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will meet. Location: Information at <https://www.unf.edu/trustees/meetings.html#>
- FIU TRUSTEES: Thursday, committees start at 9 a.m., with full board at 11 a.m. The Florida International University Board of Trustees will hold committeeings and a full boarding. Location: Florida International University, Graham University Center, 11200 S.W. Eighth St., Miami.
- MASSAGE THERAPY ISSUES: Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. Location: Holiday Inn Tallahassee East Capitol-University, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.

- TRANSPORTATION ISSUES: Thursday, 10 a.m. The Florida Transportation Commission will meet. Location: Call-in number: 850-739-5589. Code: 344775703
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS: Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- SPACE FLORIDA BOARD: Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Space Florida Board of Directors will and is expected to get a briefing from Frank DiBello, the agency's long president and CEO who is stepping down June 30. Location: Cabineting room, the Capitol.
- FLORIDA POLY TRUSTEES: Thursday, 3 p.m. The Florida Polytechnic University Board of Trustees will hold an Academic and Student Affairs Committeeing, followed by a regular boarding. Location: Call-in number: 1-415-655-0001. Code: 24229439051
- POINCIANA PARKWAY: Thursday, 5:30 p.m. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a public hearing about a project-development and environment study for a Poinciana Parkway extension. Location: AdventHealth Nicholson Center, 404 Celebration Place, Celebration.
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL: Thursday, 7 p.m. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Location: Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 Southwest Commerce Blvd., Lake City. <https://meet.goto.com/812900621>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 812900621

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Friday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION: Friday, 10 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. Location: House chamber, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE: Friday, 15 minutes after House floor session. The House Rules Committee will meet. Location: 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET: Friday, 15 minutes after Senate 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.

Also:

- 'IMPACT' CONFERENCE: Friday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an "impact" conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. Location: 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- MASSAGE THERAPY: Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Massage Therapy will meet. Location: Holiday Inn Tallahassee East Capitol-University, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.
- PRISON MEDICAL ISSUES: Friday, 9 a.m. The Correctional Medical Authority board is scheduled to. Location: Wakulla Correctional Institution, 110 Melaleuca Dr., Crawfordville. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 344085830
- HEARING AID BOARD: Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Hearing Aid Specialists will meet. Location: <https://meet.goto.com/485403965>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 485403965

Headlines Around The State

My News 13: Fla. Gov. DeSantis kicks off overseas trip ahead of expected presidential bid

Herald: DeSantis meets with Japan's top leaders in first stop of international trade mission

USA Today: 'A heck of an ally': DeSantis begins world tour by praising Japan, bristling at Trump rivalry

CBS Miami: Gov. Ron DeSantis in Japan ahead of expected presidential bid

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis bets that Japanese businessmen care who the Chicago Mayor is

ABC News: Ron DeSantis goes abroad on trade mission — and goes viral answering 2024 question

FlaPol: Donald Trump questions flummox Ron DeSantis in Japan

NBC News: Ron DeSantis trip abroad funded by group long despised by some Florida Republicans

The Hill: Trump dodges question on whether DeSantis would be a good president in the future

Sentinel: Democrats slam DeSantis for taking trip around the world with work at home

FlaPol: Nikki Fried rips Ron DeSantis' Japanese junket

NBC News: Pro-DeSantis super PAC launches new biographical TV ad

NYTimes: Major G.O.P. Donor's Commitment to DeSantis Is Murkier Than Thought

FlaPol: Lee Zeldin bucks Ron DeSantis, backs Donald Trump

FlaPol: Thomas Massie presses Ron DeSantis to launch 2024 campaign before Sine Die

The Hill: DeSantis vs. Disney feud divides GOP over attacks on 'woke' companies

Post: How Florida teachers are figuring out which books are OK

WUSF: Behind the scenes of Florida's efforts to purge schools of books deemed improper

FlaPol: Donald Trump ad reminds Ron DeSantis 'how he got to where he is'

FlaPol: Twitter to Florida? Ron DeSantis wouldn't want 'woke employees'

WLRN: Flipping the script: Will Floridians now travel to Latin America for abortions?

FlaPol: Six things national media should know about Floridas resign-to-run law

WLRN: Florida continues to tangle with the FDA over drug importation

Democrat: Gillum trial Day 6: 'Frozen funds' and hiding the money trail

FlaPol: Disney World monorails could be opened up to state inspections under new amendment

Ledger: Florida Methodist Conference votes to let 55 churches leave over fears of gay marriage, clergy

WUSF: It's runoff election day for Tampa City Council

WUSF: Hidden violence: Elder abuse was already hard to track then the pandemic made it harder

DBNJ: Following stock price drop and Twitter-storm, contractor apologizes for errant alert

Sun-Sentinel: New COVID variant arcturus arrives in Florida — with a new, odd symptom

Herald: Miami man was sentenced to 150 years a lifetime and more. A court is showing him mercy

Times-Union: Flagler Health+ may join UF Health; other systems add new centers

Times: The \$14.8 million next phase in USF's on-campus stadium push

Herald: 'Invigorated, educated, inspired': 800 Miami Jews strengthen faith on a visit to Israel

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate, House at odds over \$9M courthouse expenditure

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate, House agree on funding new Alachua Co. magnet school

FlaPol: Budget conference: Dade City charter school to get \$14M for high school construction

TCPalm: Pride 2023: Port St. Lucie eventgoers question age restriction, parade cancellation

Times: DeSantis may not get all his immigration priorities despite sweeping bill

Sentinel: Lawmakers back off immigration penalties that worried religious leaders

The Capitolist: Nominees for sixteen state agency leadership positions pass confirmation hearings

FlaPol: After testy exchange, Senate panel votes to confirm State Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo and others

FlaPol: Senate committee OKs conservatives to state Board of Education

Politico: GOP-led Florida House panel approves subpoenas to groups supporting gender-affirming care

Sun-Sentinel: Florida health official must testify in lawsuit challenging transgender Medicaid coverage ban

Politico: Florida surgeon general altered key findings in study on Covid-19 vaccine safety

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis pharmacy bill moves to House floor despite cost concerns

My News 13: Bill that allows doctors to deny care slated for discussion in Florida House

FlaPol: Budget conference: House gives Gov. DeSantis jobs grant money, sticks to defunding economic development programs

FlaPol: Budget conference: House budgets \$12M for unauthorized alien transport while Senate slots nothing

The Capitolist: Eight-year school board term limit moves closer to Senate floor vote

FlaPol: Budget conference: House revises school funding plan

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate resists House move for \$1.4M to boost Capitol area security

FlaPol: Budget conference: Senate agrees to dismantle Enterprise Florida

FlaPol: Budget conference: House and Senate agree to \$20M for law enforcement signing bonuses

Times: Florida data privacy bills targeting tech companies headed for final votes

FlaPol: Budget conference: Health care budgets inch closer on children's care, but grow apart on funding aging issues

FlaPol: Budget conference: Health care spending bumped by hundreds of millions

FlaPol: Senate advances \$15M for New College along with slate of trustees

FlaPol: Wilton Simpson names 8 to Florida State Fair Authority Board

The Capitolist: Despite small business pushback, digital advertising bill advances in Senate committee

FlaPol: Budget conference: Lawmakers disagree over VISIT FLORIDA funding

FlaPol: Budget conference: Space Florida lands \$6 million from lawmakers

FlaPol: Budget conference: Lawmakers bump pay rates for medical, mental health providers working in juvenile justice

FlaPol: Budget conference: Lawmakers at odds over \$25M in coral reef spending

FlaPol: Budget conference: Deal done on FWC dollars targeting pythons, gap on invasive species

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate \$2M apart on Farm Share

FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate converge on Palatka affordable housing funds

FlaPol: Budget conference: Which fire stations secure state funding and will end up hosed?

FlaPol: Budget conference: Nassau County looks for deal on Piney Island resiliency

FlaPol: Legislature again neglects former Broward deputy disabled in preventable shooting

FlaPol: Budget conference: \$10M for UF Hamilton Center

FlaPol: Budget conference: Legislators agree on Amelia Island Trail study

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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