



*Speaking Of The Legislative Session – Of Course!*

## ***The Briefing for Tuesday – May 2 - 2023***

**Day 57 of the 60 day Legislative Session – 3 days til Sine Die!**

*The last Briefing was Monday – May 1, 2023*

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

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

### **Budget Agreement Reached**

**The Budget Agreement will be released today!**

**As Soon As It Is Released – A Special Budget Edition will be Sent**

billion in spending which will cover state spending from July 1 of this year until June 2024. Although the budget agreement has not been published we know that the agreement boosts spending on teacher pay, sets aside hundreds of millions on environmental spending and increased reimbursements to some Medicaid providers.

Here's a glance at what's included:

- Increased the amount of money set aside for legal fights, including a highly-publicized battle with Disney including \$6 million in legal expenses for Gov. Ron DeSantis' office and additional money for litigation expenses in other state agencies.
- \$850 million to acquire more land for the Florida Wildlife Corridor designed to help preserve wildlife in a stretch of property that will run from Georgia and Alabama to the Everglades.
- \$400 million for a 5 percent across-the-board pay raise for state workers with an additional \$100 million in discretionary money for state agencies to use to give even bigger pay raises to keep state workers from bolting to the private sector.
- More than \$1 billion for construction projects and schools, universities and community colleges.
- more than \$200 million extra for teacher pay,
- money to bolster the recently-created Florida State Guard, and
- \$38 million to grant a one-time \$5,000 hiring and retention bonus for correctional officers working at 15 prisons to fill recurring job vacancies
- \$1 billion on a tax cut package although the details have yet to be finalized.
- \$80 million for Visit Florida

**School Board Term Limits Reduced from 12 yrs. To 8 years  
Proposal for County Commission Term Limits not considered**

The Legislature has passed HB 477 reducing School Board Term Limits from 12 years to 8 years. The Senate voted 30-7 to pass the bill, with five Democrats joining Republicans in backing the measure. The House voted 79-29 in March to pass the bill. The Term Limit bill was just one of several bills targeting School Board members.

**Other Bills impacting School Board members -**

- **Non-Partisan to Partisan** - The Legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment that seeks to shift to holding partisan school-board elections. Lawmakers' approval put the measure on the 2024 ballot. If approved by voters, the amendment would do away with a requirement that school-board candidates run without party labels. Partisan elections could begin in 2026.
- **Residency Requirement to Qualify** - Still under consideration is a proposal that seeks to change a requirement that school-board candidates have to live in the districts they are seeking to represent at the time they qualify to run. The proposal, which would require candidates to live in the districts at the time they assume office, needs House approval before it could go to DeSantis.

**Economic Development Bills on Special Order**

Three Bills – SB 1482, HB 1209, and SB 1664 dealing with Rural Economic Development and Enterprise Florida are on Special Order scheduled for action in the Senate today and tomorrow.

SB 1482 and HB 1209 make changes to the Rural Economic Development programs including changes to match requirements and authorization for the state to pay invoices sent to rural counties located in rural areas of opportunity. SB 1664 is the proposal that eliminates Enterprise Florida and changes the name of the Department of Economic Opportunity to the Department of Commerce. The bills will have to be sent to the House for final passage. The clock is ticking!

Note – Visit Florida is being transferred to the new Department of Commerce and is scheduled to receive \$80 million in the budget – a \$30 million dollar increase over current year.

**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 Tuesday](#)***

***[House Calendar for Tuesday](#)***

**Broadband Technical Assistance Webinar**

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

**FY2023 Broadband Technical Assistance Funding Opportunity 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***

*The Hill: Florida senators keep their powder dry in Trump-DeSantis fight*

*FlaPol: Donald Trump mocks reports of Ron DeSantis forming 'exploratory committee'*

*NBC Miami: Trump PAC Complaint Against DeSantis Rejected in Florida*

*My News 13: As DeSantis mulls 2024 bid, expert breaks down exploratory committees*

*My News 13: DeSantis-backed board votes to sue Disney in state court*

*WUSF: The Florida House and Senate nail down a spending plan*

*Sentinel: Florida lawmakers agree to \$116 billion budget in final week*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: House, Senate add sprinkle list, seal final budget deal*

*FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis pans Nikki Haley's 'failing presidential campaign'*

*WUSF: Abortion clinics urge Florida Supreme Court to maintain privacy clause protection*

*WLRN: Voting rights groups sue over state's 'inadequate' voter registration form*

*WUSF: Federal appeals court will decide whether to reinstate Andrew Warren as Hillsborough state attorney*

*The Capitolist: Jimmy Patronis joins call to reverse federal mortgage equity policy*

*City & State FL: Federal jury continues weighing case against Andrew Gillum*

*Sun-Sentinel: Condemned Florida killer asks U.S. Supreme Court for reprieve*

*Post: Dropped by your property insurance provider? A premium spike? Here's what you can do.*

*My News 13: Florida DCF working to regain federal funding for child welfare educational stipend program*

*The Capitolist: Florida extends contract with Everbridge through end of 2023 despite emergency alert error*

*Sun-Sentinel: As data issues persist, Florida reports 36,000 new COVID-19 cases, over 400 deaths*

*Ledger: FEC fines former Polk Rep. Ross Spano \$30,000 for federal election law violations in 2018*

*Axios: Florida retirees reliant on 401(k) income face uncertainty*

*WUSF: Gas prices across Florida are on the decline and could get even lower*

*WLRN: South Florida professor allegedly fired over racial justice unit files civil rights complaint*

*NBC Miami: Miami Juror in Historic Death Penalty Trial Explains Life in Prison Verdict*

*Sun-Sentinel: 'People are hurting': With so many flood-damaged homes, money is on the way to help*

*WLRN: 'Sickening': Joe Carollo hits back at harassment accusations during federal trial*

*Herald: Combative Carollo denies targeting businesses. Witnesses against him 'all have gripes'*

*Today: Brevard school board to choose new superintendent Tuesday morning*

*WLRN: Read about the 26 people who applied to lead Broward schools*

*WUSF: New COVID variant of interest comes to Florida with a common allergy symptom: pinkeye*

*Herald Tribune: SRQ families endure lasting effects of opioid addiction*

*WUSF: Tampa's Seminole Heights killer pleads guilty to four counts of murder*

*WLRN: Florida coral reef restoration work nets \$7 million federal grant*

*TCPalm: 13 marine businesses sue FEC, Coast Guard, Army Corps over Brightline, Stuart drawbridge*

*Politico: Florida Legislature: We delivered for DeSantis this session*

*NBC Miami: DeSantis Signs Bills to Allow Death Penalty in Child Rapes, Crack Down on Fentanyl*

*Axios: DeSantis signs new death penalty bill, vowing Supreme Court showdown*

*Times: DeSantis signs bills tackling fentanyl, cash bail and child rape*

*The Capitolist: DeSantis signs series of anti-crime bills into law*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: FDLE secures \$3.8M for security ahead of Ron DeSantis' 2024 launch*

*FlaPol: Sweeping immigration bill readied for passage*

*WUSF: A Florida school superintendent keeps speaking out against DeSantis despite looming sanctions*

*FlaPol: House preps bill to ban financial classification codes for guns, ammo ahead of final vote*

*Bradenton Herald: Bill protecting doctors' 'conscience' would let them deny treatment, not get sued for it*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Health care budget nearly finalized*

*FlaPol: Further limits on School Board terms heading to the Governor*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Legislature to allow Jeanette Nuñez to officially headquarter in Miami*

*Bradenton Herald: Legislators want to end local fertilizer bans. Critics say its gift to phosphate industry*

*Herald Tribune: Florida Legislature pumps \$50 million into New College after DeSantis takeover*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: New College of Florida scores another \$10M in 'sprinkle list'*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Legislators to let Mayo Clinic participate in Casey DeSantis Cancer Research Program*

*Times-Union: 'STOP': Yarborough bill could curb lawsuits over unsolicited telemarketer phone calls*

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

*FlaPol: Legislature puts its stamp on phosphogypsum road reuse*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: 3 South Florida higher ed institutions total \$15.5M in 'sprinkle list' funding*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Corrections officers await ruling on pay raises*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Money to flow as House agrees to Senate water projects offer*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: House sprinkles \$40M for state prisons*

*FlaPol: 'We deserve better': Joe Saunders to challenge Fabián Basabe in HD 106*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: \$4.3M flows from Senate, House 'sprinkle lists' to septic-to-sewer projects*

*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis to decide if learner's permits, driver's licenses needed to operate golf carts*

*Times-Union: Donna Deegan to attend televised debate, Daniel Davis to attend parental forum*

*FlaPol: One top cop per county: Legislature passes Miami-Dade-focused bill setting Sheriff jurisdictions*

*Herald: Legislature passes bill letting new Miami-Dade sheriff take over county police in '25*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: FAU gets \$10M bounce in Senate 'sprinkle list' funding*

*WUSF: A Freedom school at Carter G. Woodson Museum will keep African American history alive*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Keys emergency water facility nets \$5M in Senate 'sprinkle list'*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: JAXPORT crane replacement leads Northeast Florida 'sprinkle list'*

*FlaPol: Budget conference: Funding to Fernandina Beach for seawall, Nassau County for flood mitigation*

*FlaPol: Lawmakers approve enhanced venomous reptile possession penalties*

## **On the Docket**

### **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](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go [www.smallcountycoalition.org](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org) or [www.ssdcc.org](http://www.ssdcc.org) and click on the red **Briefing** button.

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