



The Briefing for Saturday – May 27- 2023

The last Briefing was Thursday, May 25, 2023

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

Florida Enacts Laws Supporting Military and their families

Eight bills supporting Florida's military members and their families were signed by the Governor on Friday. Florida is home to nearly 1.5 million veterans, the third largest veteran population in the country. Bills signed by the Governor will support veteran education and training opportunities, expand veteran benefits, and strengthen long-term care for Florida's veterans and their families.

- Senate Bill 732 (**[SB 732](#)**) establishes the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses Program to support military members, veterans, and their families while they are attending a Florida college or university.
- SB 274 (**[SB 274](#)**) creates the “Pathway for Military Combat Medics Act.” The Act will give military combat veterans postsecondary course credit for their military combat medic training to be used toward a nursing education program.
- House Bill 139 (**[HB 139](#)**) establishes the Office of Veteran Licensure Services within the Department of Health to provide information and assistance with health care licensure processes for all veterans and their spouses.
- HB 485 (**[HB 485](#)**) creates the Division of Long-term Care within the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) to oversee the operations of veterans' adult day health care programs. Additionally, the bill expands eligibility requirements for veterans who wish to enter an adult day health care program and names the week of November 11th of each year as “Veterans Week.”
- HB 635 (**[HB 635](#)**) supports veterans who need dental care by creating the Veterans Dental Care Grant Program within the FDVA to provide dental care to Florida's veterans. The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) reports that only 15% of veterans are eligible to access dental services through the VA. This program will distribute grants to eligible nonprofits that provide dental care to veterans in Florida.
- SB 574 (**[SB 574](#)**) supports servicemembers that are living in Florida who receive military orders to live in government quarters and who must terminate an existing lease agreement. This bill defines the term “government quarters” to include privately owned military housing.
- HB 621 (**[HB 621](#)**) supports military families by establishing a uniform death benefit for active duty servicemembers of \$75,000.
- HB 1285 (**[HB 1285](#)**) establishes the Florida State Guard and creates the Division of the State Guard within the Department of Military Affairs. The Florida State Guard has been appropriated \$108 million in the General Appropriations Act.

The General Appropriation Bill – SB 2500 has not been presented to the Governor’s Office.

Florida Tax Free Weeks Start

Disaster Preparedness Tax Holidays: May 27 – June 9, 2023 AND Aug 26 – Sept 8, 2023

Freedom Summer Sales Tax Holiday: May 29 – September 4, 2023

Here’s a link to all you need to know about Florida’s Sales Tax Holidays

[Florida's Sales Tax Holidays for 2023 .docx](#)

Upcoming Meetings

June 7–9 - FSBA/FADSS Summer Conference, Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

June 8 - Small School District Breakfast

June 27-30 - FAC Annual Summer Conference

June 28 - Small County Coalition Annual Meeting

Headlines Around the State

FlaPol: Exclusive: Donors fret whether Ron DeSantis abortion ban will turn off pro-choice backers

Politico: 5 things we know about Ron DeSantis’ campaign, post Twitter fiasco

NYTimes: DeSantis Steps Up Attacks on Trump, Hitting Him on Crime and Covid

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says he'd repeal Donald Trump's First Step Act

*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says First Lady Casey DeSantis won't 'let the b*stards grind (her) down'*

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis says, of course, he would pause 2024 campaign for hurricane response

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis makes Day One pledge to remove DEI, preferred pronouns from military

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis adds 5 more New Hampshire endorsements

FlaPol: Daniel Webster becomes 12th member of Congress from Florida supporting Donald Trump

Post: GOP voters sound off on DeSantis, Trump at Fox & Friends show in Tequesta

Politico: Ron DeSantis upended education in Florida. He’s coming for your state next.

AP: Presidential hopeful DeSantis inspires push to make book bans easier in Republican-controlled states

AP: Disney opposes DeSantis request to disqualify judge in free speech lawsuit

The Hill: Disney pushes back on DeSantis's request that judge be disqualified in free speech case

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis signs measure preserving abandoned African American cemeteries

FlaPol: Florida flags ordered at half-staff in honor of Memorial Day

FlaPol: Officials ask beachgoers to be aware of nesting sea turtles

Capitolist: Florida passes law allowing out-of-state teachers to instruct without recertification

FlaPol: Florida State Guard set to expand; 1 of 8 measures boosting military life signed Friday

Times: A Tampa mystery: Who's making code complaints in this man's name?

AP: Mother of man who killed Gabby Petito said in letter she would help son 'dispose of a body'

On the Docket

MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023

- STATE OFFICES CLOSED - State offices will be closed for Memorial Day.
- FLAGS LOWERED FOR MEMORIAL DAY - Gov. Ron DeSantis has ordered flags to be flown at half-staff Monday to honor members of the military who died in the line of duty.

TUESDAY, MAY 30, 2023

- HOUSE ELECTION CERTIFIED - Tuesday, 9 a.m. The state Elections Canvassing Commission will certify the results of Republican Ryan Chamberlin's victory in a May 16 special election in Marion County's House District 24. Cabinet meeting room, the Capitol.
- LAWMAKERS SPEAK TO BUSINESS GROUP - Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, and Rep. Allison Tant, D-Tallahassee, will speak to the Network of Entrepreneurs and Business Advocates. Capital City Country Club, 1601 Golf Terrace, Tallahassee.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023

- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES CONSIDERED - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission will meet. Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Conference ID: 175899214
- ST. LUCIE LAWMAKERS DISCUSS SESSION - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. Members of the St. Lucie County legislative delegation are expected to speak during a St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce luncheon. The delegation is made up of Sen. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart, Sen. Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach, Rep. Toby Overdorf, R-Palm City, and Rep. Dana Trabulsky, R-Fort Pierce. 3361 South Jenkins Road, Fort Pierce.
- PSC HOLDS EVENT FOR SENIORS - Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an event in Leon County to discuss with seniors issues such as water and energy conservation and avoiding scams that target utility customers. LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library, 200 West Park Ave., Tallahassee.
- TALENT DEVELOPMENT PANEL - Wednesday, 1 p.m. The Florida Talent Development Council will meet. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.

THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2023

- HURRICANE SEASON STARTS - The 2023 Atlantic Hurricane season will start Thursday and last through Nov. 30.
- HURRICANE LOSS PANEL - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology will review hurricane computer models. Hermitage Centre, 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-415-655-0052. Code: 634178331
- BROWARD COLLEGE BUDGET - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Broward College Board of Trustees will hold a workshop about the school's 2023-2024 budget. Broward College, Willis Holcombe Downtown Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
- NORTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet. Northeast Florida Regional Council, 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville. <https://nefrc-org.zoom.us/j/87499770491>. Meeting ID: 87499770491
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

- NURSING BOARD - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs, 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.
- NEW COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 2 p.m. The New College of Florida Board of Trustees will meet. New College of Florida, Sudakoff Conference Center, 5845 General Dougher Place, Sarasota. <https://www.youtube.com/@NewCollegeofFL>
- TRANSGENDER TREATMENTS - Thursday, 2:45 p.m. Carrying out a new law, the Joint Rules and Legislative Committee of the Florida Board of Medicine and the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine is slated to discuss rules about treatments for transgender minors and adults. The Republican-controlled Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis this month approved a law (SB 254) that bars doctors from providing treatments such as puberty blockers and hormone therapy to transgender minors. The law included an exception for minors who had already started the treatments, but it required the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to approve rules that would spell out standards for the care. The law also created a new requirement for doctors to get “informed consent” before providing treatments to transgender adults. The Westshore Grand, 4860 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.

FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

- PASSIDOMO SPEAKS TO GOP CLUB - Friday, 7:30 a.m. Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples, is scheduled to speak to the Republican Men’s Club of Collier County. Hilton Naples, 5111 Tamiami Trail North, Naples.
- BOARD OF MEDICINE - Friday, 8 a.m. The Florida Board of Medicine will meet in Hillsborough County. The Westshore Grand, 4860 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa.
- HURRICANE LOSS PANEL - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology will review hurricane computer models. Hermitage Centre, 1801 Hermitage Blvd., Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-415-655-0052. Code: 634178331
- NURSING BOARD - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing will meet. Holiday Inn Orlando-Disney Springs, 1805 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista.
- OPTICIAN BOARD - Friday, 2 p.m. The state Board of Opticianry will meet. <https://meet.goto.com/861106973>. Call-in number: 1-866-899-4679. Code: 861106973

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

