



The Briefing for Feb 8, 2024

The last Briefing was Feb 5, 2024

[Tallahassee, FL 10-Day Weather Forecast - The Weather Channel | Weather.com](#)

Legislative Calendars

[House Calendar for end of week](#)

[Senate Calendar for end of week](#)

Halfway through Session

The 2024 Legislative Session crossed the halfway mark on Wednesday. Only 12 bills have passed both chambers – None of them are being tracked as priorities for our clients. There remain more than 700 bills that have not been heard in any committee - those bills will have a difficult time reaching final passage - though none can be really considered dead until the session actually ends.

Restrictions On Social Media

The Speakers top priority ([HB 1](#)) seeks to [force social media companies to ban kids](#) under 16 from having accounts, passed in the House in late January, but the proposal is yet to get to the Senate floor.

Live Healthy and School Deregulation

The Presidents top priorities health care bills ([SB 7016](#), [SB 7018](#)) known as the “Live Healthy” initiative and Senate ([SB 7000](#)), giving public school systems some more flexibility – have passed the Senate but are waiting for House consideration.

Age Restriction on Access to Pornography and Work Hours for 17 yr. olds

In the House -two other bills impacting children have passed the House and have been sent to the Senate – ([HB 3](#)) requires better enforcement of age restrictions on pornography websites., and ([HB 49](#)) eases restrictions on when 16- and 17-year-old kids can work has drawn considerable attention.

The Budget

Both the House and Senate have passed their proposed Budgets for FY 24-25. The proposed spending bills ([SB 2500](#), [HB 5001](#)). Budget bills will go to conference committees where differences will be worked out.

The chambers are fairly close the Senate taking up a \$115.9 billion bill and the House expected to pass a \$115.5 billion budget.

The Next 30 Days

The Second Half - the focus now shifts toward floor sessions as House and Senate committees wind down their work. After the 50th Day, (Feb. 22) a Senate rule prevents any additional regularly scheduled committee meetings.

Education Bills Moving - FEB 8 .docx

This report provides information on the status of key education bills being tracked that have seen some type of action in January or February – all other education bills where the last action was in 2023 have been deleted.

Major Bills still in play

Bills relating to Social Media	Setting Millage Rates
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Bills Changing Allowable Work Hours for 17 yr olds Sovereign Immunity Limits School Chaplains	Revision of School Voucher Program Deregulation of Public Schools
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[Local Govt Bills Moving - Feb 8 .docx](#)

This report provides information on the status of key local government bills being tracked that have seen some type of action in January or February – all other bills previously tracked where the last action was in 2023 have been deleted.

Major Bills still in play

Taking of Bears – Self Defense Regional Rural Development Grants Program Rural Emergency Hospitals Term Limits – County Commissioners Sovereign Immunity	Setting of Millage Rates Emergency Management Director Qualifications Expansion of Homestead Exemption Affordable Housing Local Government Actions
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Tools to follow the Legislature

Links to House and Senate Home Pages

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/>

Link to watch Legislative Committees

<https://thefloridachannel.org/>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

— Legislature:

- **HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION** Thursday, 2 p.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. ---- House chamber, the Capitol.
- **SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION** Thursday, 4 p.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. ---- Senate 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 lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. ---- 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- House Commerce Committee (8 a.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Health & Human Services Committee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Infrastructure Strategies Committee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Rules Committee (8:30 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Appropriations Committee (10:30 a.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Ways & Means Committee (10:30 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee (10:45 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Transportation, Tourism & Economic Development Appropriations Committee (10:45 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Finance & Tax Committee (10:45 a.m., 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Agriculture, Environment & General Government Appropriations Committee (2 p.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee (2 p.m., 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)

- Senate Education Appropriations Committee (2 p.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)

— Also:

- FGCU TRUSTEES -- Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees will meet. ---- <https://www.fgcu.edu/about/leadership/fgcuboardoftrustees/boardcast>
- REHAB COUNCIL FOR BLIND -- Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind will meet. ---- Four Points by Sheraton Tallahassee Downtown, 316 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee.
- SOUTH FLORIDA WATER BOARD -- Thursday, 9 a.m. The South Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. ---- South Florida Water Management District, 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach. https://sfwmd.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xrK2rorVTOijOwA2VXLYUQ#/registration
- DEAF, HARD OF HEARING COUNCIL -- Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will meet. ---- Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- FAU TRUSTEES -- Thursday, 10 a.m. The Florida Atlantic University Board of Trustees will meet. ---- Florida Atlantic University, Administration Building, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release weekly opinions.
- NORTHWEST WATER BOARD -- Thursday, 1 p.m. Central time. The Northwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board will meet. ---- 700 U.S. 331 South, DeFuniak Springs.
- CITRUS FORECAST RELEASED Thursday, noon. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will update projections for the 2023-2024 citrus growing season. ---- Call-in number: 1-888-844-9904. Code: 8552986

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024

— Legislature:

- **SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION** Friday, 9 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. ---- Senate chamber, the Capitol.

— Also:

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE -- Friday, 9 a.m. The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating the potential costs of legislation. ---- 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DEAF, HARD OF HEARING COUNCIL -- Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will meet. ---- Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- REFUGEE ISSUES -- Friday, 10 a.m. The Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force will meet. ---- Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/miami-dade-refugee-task-force-meeting-0>
- BLACK HISTORY, ARTS CELEBRATED Friday, 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Florida Department of State will host the annual Black History Arts and Culture Festival. ---- R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough St., Tallahassee.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

- MUSEUM REOPENING HELD Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Florida Department of State will hold a reopening for the Union Bank Museum after a restoration. ---- Union Bank Museum, 219 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee.

Headlines Around the State

Politico: Could Taylor Swift tilt Florida blue? Its Democrats' wildest dream.

CBS Miami: Florida asks state Supreme Court to keep abortion rights amendment off the November ballot

WLRN: Florida court weighs ballot measure to allow abortion 'before viability'

Sentinel: Florida Supreme Court grills both sides about abortion amendment

FlaPol: Marco Rubio has doubts about Florida youth social media ban

Politico: 'Matt sure knows how to troll': Gaetz stands by endorsement of Kevin McCarthy as RNC chair

Politico: Gaetz ousted McCarthy. Now he's moving on to another House GOP target.

The Hill: Gaetz on failed Mayorkas impeachment vote: 'Never missed George Santos more'

Herald Tribune: Florida's Joe Gruters in the mix for RNC chair as Ronna McDaniel expected to depart

Atlanta Black Star: Andrew Gillum Reveals Feeling Abandoned By Former Friends After Hotel Scandal: 'Lonely, Angry, Mad'

NBC Miami: The Florida deciders: Who is on Florida's Supreme Court

Post: Debbie Mucarsel-Powell accuses Rick Scott of disinformation in appeal to Hispanic voters

Daily News: What is a Bill of Rights sanctuary county? Some places in Florida block federal laws

News-Press: Marco Island delays Bill of Rights sanctuary reading second reading

WUSF: Black homeownership continues to lag in Florida, and that's a big problem, says Stetson economist

Times: Florida State wants dismissal of ACC lawsuit in North Carolina

Today: Red tide, manatees and hurricanes: NASA PACE spacecraft to collect Florida environmental data

Post: This Florida university was just ranked among the nation's best for online degrees

Sentinel: UCF student shakes off threats from Taylor Swift's lawyer over jet tracker

NBC Miami: Student arrested after weapons found at Miami Carol City High School

Sun: Black leaders in Florida to descend on Florida Legislature to voice concerns

Post: Watchdog agencies push back against state bill barring anonymous complaint investigations

WUSF: A bill that would restrict pride flags in public buildings stalls in committee

Democrat: Midpoint of legislative session: Ethics overhaul, social media ban move as casino falters

WUSF: House subcommittee advances Florida health legislation, with some changes

FlaPol: Senate passes update to Live Local Act with more clarity, preemption, Hometown Heroes funding

FlaPol: Senate passes bill making changes to home hardening grant program

WLRN: A guaranteed right to contraception bill is a long-shot in Florida

The Capitolist: House committee advances bill requiring two-thirds vote for property tax hikes

News4Jax: Florida bill to address squatting approved by Senate committee but not without opposition

FlaPol: Senate panel advances third-party litigation financier crackdown

WUSF: Harassing poll workers could soon be a crime

Herald: How and why Florida lawmakers are pushing to end civilian police watchdog agencies

FlaPol: Fantasy sports bills headed to Senate floor

WUSF: Florida House committee approves a bill on 'identity politics' in educator programs

The Capitolist: House lawmakers call for ban on "junk fees"

The Capitolist: 'Blue Economy' bill unanimously passes House committee

Sentinel: Florida leads nation in child drownings. Lawmakers take aim at fixing that.

Herald Tribune: As Ziegler scandal looms large, Sarasota School Board approves new jobs, purchases land

FlaPol: Senate committee OKs Ron DeSantis picks for Florida Poly board

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

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The Briefing is compiled to provide information to elected officials and staff in counties that are members of the Small County Coalition and the Small School Representing 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