



Day 57 – 3 days left!

The Briefing for March 5, 2024

The last Briefing was March 3, 2024

Tallahassee, FL 10-Day Weather Forecast - The Weather Channel | Weather.com

Thank you Superintendent Kenworthy and Best Wishes Mr. Tedder
Okeechobee County School Supt. Ken Kenworthy has retired
Ast. Supt. Dylan Tedders has been tapped as the Interim Supt.n



Ken Kenworthy (pictured on the left), the long-time Okeechobee School District Superintendent retired this past week. Mr. Kenworthy has worked at the district for 35 years. Dylan Tedders (pictured on the right) was tapped by the School Board to be the Interim Superintendent. Tedders is the current Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services for the OCSD, and has held that position since July 2019. Thank you for your service – Mr. Kenworthy and Best Wishes to Mr. Tedders. The Small School District Council Consortium welcomes you!

Tidbits From Tallahassee

Budget Conference is over! Waiting to have it put on the desk! Will be sometime later today!

The Budget Negotiations are complete – a Conference Report will be on the desks later today! At that point the 72 hr. waiting period will begin before the budget can be approved by the House and Senate - will be sometime on Friday. In the meantime – the Budget Chairs will do presentations so that they won't have to take up the time on Friday. Here's a look at the last "Special Sprinkle" list of projects being inserted into the budget.

Senate Supplemental Funding Initiatives (453 KB)

House Supplemental Funding Initiatives (168 KB)

Tax Package Still Being Finalized

The House has passed its version of the tax package – HB 7073 and has sent it to the Senate. It is anticipated that the Senate will take up the House bill and do a "Strike All" which will change some of the provisions of the House version. We are working with Rep. Shoaf and Sen. Simon to ensure that a provision to offset the ad valorem rebates resulting from Idalia are taken care of in the version that passes. I was advised to be "PATIENT" – not one of my attributes.

In Other Action

- Online Protection for Minors – Social Media – HB 1 was vetoed and HB 3 has been amended to allow for parental consent for minors 14-15 to sign up for accounts.
- HB 141 – Rural Economic Development – by Abbott has passed.
- HB 705 – Public Works Projects has passed – it restricts bidding process. Preempts local preferences.
- HB 1567 – Qualifications for Emergency Manager Directors – has passed – amended to eliminate Bachelor's degree
- HB 87 – Taking of Bears – passed Senate in messages to the House.
- HB 1473 – School Safety – passed Senate in messages to the House – has been amended to accommodate organizations using school facilities after hours pursuant to Interlocal Agreement.
- Deregulation of Public Schools – SB 7000, 7002, and 7004 are in messages to the House – this legislation currently reflects the House position which is not as expansive as the original Senate Version.
- SB 644 – Rural Emergency Hospitals – passed the Senate in messages to the House – there will be a new appropriation that will accompany this bill. I think \$10 million – maybe more!
- Small County Outreach Program – a provision creating a new SCOP category to address Agricultural area and farm-to-market roads is included in SB 1226. The new category will bring additional funding for this priority.
- SB 958 – providing salary adjustments to the formula for School Superintendents and Tax Collectors is on Special Order in the House – waiting to be agendaed for final passage.
- SB 472 – Sovereign Immunity- this bill increases the SI caps from \$200K to \$300K and \$300K to \$500K. There is an amendment filed that will make additional changes that are being requested that will mitigate the potential cost increases that will materialize from other provisions.
- SB 438 – Term Limits – declared dead last week – the bill is still available on the Senate 2nd Reading Calendar – so technically it is still available for a last minute "hoopydoo" ! Things happen – we have several folks on alert for any last minute maneuvering.
- Increased Ad Valorem Exemptions – there are two Constitutional Proposal to increase ad valorem exemptions. Neither has passed yet however, we have secured offsets for the Fiscally Constrained counties if the proposal go on the ballot and are passed.

Legislative Calendars

[Calendar for the Houe of Representatives](#)

[Calendar for the Senate](#)

Tools to follow the Legialture

Links to House and Senate Home Pages

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

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

Link to watch Legislative Committees

On The Docket for the Week

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Tuesday, 10 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- 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.

— Also:

- SCOTT MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT - Tuesday, 5 p.m. U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., will hold a news conference in Washington, D.C., to make a campaign announcement. Reporters may contact press@teamrickscott.com for information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- 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, MARCH 7, 2024

— 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, 10:30 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- 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.

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2024

— 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, 10:30 a.m. The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.

Headlines Around the State

Politico: Appeals court slams Florida's 'Stop-Woke' law for committing 'greatest First Amendment sin'

Federal appeals court rejects Florida's 'Stop WOKE' restrictions

Herald: Early voting in Florida's Republican presidential primary gets underway

WLRN: The Florida Senate is passing an amended social media bill that includes more parental consent

My News 13: Florida Senate jumpstarts second effort to ban minors off social media
Times: Florida replaced sociology with an early US history course. A closer look.
FlaPol: Senate prepares homeless camping ban backed by Ron DeSantis for final vote
Herald: Tales of hope and caution as Florida looks to create legal camps for homeless people
Herald: Florida lawmakers seek more oversight of child-welfare organizations, exec pay
Times: Why isn't Florida part of Super Tuesday? Primary questions, answered
The Floridian: New Florida Voter Registration Numbers Come Out, GOP Builds on Massive Lead
WLRN: After 'misguided' Alabama ruling, Florida lawmaker pushes for federal protection for IVF
Herald: Wind turbines compared to oil derricks as Florida lawmakers look to create offshore ban
WUSF: Florida medical marijuana operators form a trade association to promote pot
Axios: Florida beach renourishment stalemate hits another roadblock
CBS Miami: New senior affordable housing brings much-needed relief to South Florida
Post: Palm Beach County Democratic Party leader suspended by state chief amid 2024 election year
Herald: Leader of the Miami-Dade Democrats is suspended by Florida party chairwoman
Times: Pasco panel votes to restrict LGBTQ+ book of essays to high schools
NWF Daily News: Florida gas prices remain high as refineries switch oil blends
My News 13: DeSantis appoints Glen Gilzean as Orange County elections supervisor
WUSF: DeSantis names Disney World's admin to run elections in Orange County
Times: Could Tampa miss out on a new Amtrak service?
Times-Union: Duval School Board seats won't get special elections, judge rules in gerrymandering lawsuit
News4Jax: JEA pushed for accelerated plan to sell utility to alter the narrative after public backlash, investment banker says
Sentinel: Osceola sheriff apologizes after posting photo of dead body on Instagram
FlaPol: Emmitt Smith 'utterly disgusted' by UF eliminating DEI positions
Sun: Goodbye, DEI: UF students react to elimination of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion positions
The Capitolist: FSU's College of Nursing tops public schools in federal research funding
Times-Union: 'Big, big deal': JU law school gets provisional accreditation, letting grads take Bar exams
Times: Largo hospital nurses protest understaffing they say puts patients at risk
Democrat: 2024 Session: Millions in last-minute spending help seal Florida budget deal
Herald: Why Florida GOP lawmakers want to stop local governments from accepting community IDs
WLRN: Undocumented immigrant community ID ban passes Florida House
FlaPol: Budget deal includes \$557K for state to collect immigration status, nursing home data
WLRN: Legislature passes bill preempting civilian oversight of police misconduct
News4Jax: Florida passes bill to compensate victims of decades-old reform school abuse

Democrat: Florida Legislature OKs \$20 million fund to compensate victims at Dozier School for Boys

Sun-Sentinel: Florida school principals could be penalized under proposed book rule

WLRN: Voucher expansion leads to more students, waitlists and classes for some religious schools

Yahoo News: Florida lawmakers won't hear bills to improve state prison conditions this session

The Capitolist: "There's no real long term plan:" former Sen. Jeff Brandes sounds alarm on Florida's prison system

FlaPol: Senate passes Everglades protection bill neglected in the House

FlaPol: Lawmakers pass dead body bill dealing with handling of corpses

FlaPol: House passes easement bill without rollback of China crackdown

FlaPol: Senate bounces balloon ban back to House after buoyant banter, exemption for kids

FlaPol: Autopsy reports for suicides could be confidential under new bill

FlaPol: House passes safeguards against political party switches at the DMV

FlaPol: Going 'bare' may no longer be an option for physicians who perform Brazilian butt lifts

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Private prisons lock down millions for salaries, contract extensions

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Space Florida successfully lands remainder of requested funding

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Crystal River the big winner among Citrus County projects

Times: Florida lawmakers may block cities from banning noisy gas leaf blowers

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Senate ponies up for K9s for Warriors

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: UF Health Jacksonville secures much-needed operational support

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: \$15M flows to FGCU for Lake O, regional water quality study

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: MOSH money heads to Jacksonville for Genesis Project

Today: Parrish Medical Center's future up for grabs, with Fine's bill potentially triggering sale

FlaPol: Budget conference: House eyes road projects, settlements, Hillsborough sales tax cut for defunct surtax

FlaPol: Jeff Brandes backs Mike Harting for St. Pete City Council

FlaPol: Sprinkle List: UF lands \$19M to buy Lee property conservation area

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: JAXPORT secures crane modernization money

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Senate pumps \$15M into Naples stormwater project

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Cape Coral secures \$9M for Emergency Operations Center

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Last-minute earmark adds \$10M more for Indiantown water treatment plant

FlaPol: Sprinkle list: Pinellas Ark Innovation Center in line for \$1M

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 District Council Consortium. It is also sent to Professional Colleagues and Associates. For Questions Email -cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com

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