



*Legislature to begin negotiations on the final FY Budget
72 Hour Constitutional Provision to finish Session on Time is Tuesday, March 5th
Session is scheduled to end on Friday, March 8th.*

The Briefing for Feb 23, 2024

The last Briefing was Feb 22, 2024

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

Day 46 – 14 Days Left

Term Limit Debate Continues

**SB 438 Term-Limits – Temporarily Passed for the Second Time
Will be considered next Monday on the Rules Committee at 2:00pm in 412 Knott**

Sovereign Immunity Bills

Senate Bill 472 dealing with Sovereign Immunity limits is on the Senate Rules committee agenda. The bill increases existing caps and makes other changes that will impact insurance rates.

A group of stakeholders are asking for limited changes and will be in force at the Rules Committee meeting. The House bill is stuck in committee but could be resurrected depending on action in the Senate.

Passed Bills or Bills in Messages

[Enrolled Bills that have passed both the House and Senate - FEB 23.docx](#)

[Bills in Messages \(Engrossed\) waiting for final action - Feb 23 .docx](#)

Budget Conference – Negotiating the FY 24-25 Budget

- The 2024 Legislative Session is ending in two weeks. The only bill required for passage is the budget for FY 24-25. The House and Senate have both completed their versions of the proposed budget and will begin negotiations to iron out any differences – this is referred to as the Budget Conference Process.
- The House and Senate will appoint Budget Conference Committees to negotiate over differences between the House and Senate budget bills. Issues that cannot be agreed upon by each chamber's

conference committees are 'bumped' to the House and Senate Appropriation Committee chairs who continue negotiations. If differences still remain, the issues are bumped to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House who eliminate any outstanding differences between the two budgets. The result of budget negotiations will be a joint Conference Committee Report.

- In accordance with Article III, Section 19, there must be a 72-hour "cooling off" period after the Conference Committee Report is released to allow for review before either chamber may vote on approval of the Report. If the 2024 Session is to finish on the 60th day – March 8th the Conference Report must be on be available to each legislator by the end of the 57th day or Tuesday, March 5th.
- The Conference Report may not be amended and must be approved in its entirety. If a chamber fails to adopt the Conference Report, the conference process must begin over again in the same session (if time permits) or in an extended or special session.
- Once approved by the Senate and the House the budget is then delivered to the governor for review and approval. The governor has the option to use a line-item veto, which allows the him or her to cancel specific appropriations. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to overturn any budget item vetoed by the governor.
- The following links provide the current status of the Senate and House Budgets as they go into the Conference Process -

[*SB 2500 - Senate Proposed Appropriations bill*](#)

[*HB 5001 - House Proposal for the Appropriations Act*](#)

- The following link will help you review how the proposals compare to what the Governor recommended in December – Note – the Governor's budget is not in play during the Conference Process. It will be used however, as the Governors Office reviews the final Legislative Budget. It does help if your project or funding was recommended.

[*Governor's Recommended Appropriations Bill*](#)

Legislative Calendars

[*House Calendar - Feb 22 for next three days*](#)

[*Senate Calendar - February 22 - Agendas for next few days*](#)

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/>

Headlines Around the State

[*USA Today: Donald Trump's campaign says Ron DeSantis isn't on Trump's list of candidates for VP*](#)

[*My News 13: Rep. Byron Donalds weighs in on being named on Trump's potential running mate list*](#)

[*Politico: Trump strategist slams DeSantis as 'sad little man'*](#)

[*FlaPol: Ron DeSantis rips 'total failures' honored on Presidents Day*](#)

[*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis trashes Senate proposal to unwind crackdown on Chinese land purchases*](#)

[*AP: DeSantis calls takeover of Disney government a success despite worker exodus, litigation*](#)

[FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis downplays Disney federal lawsuit appeal: 'No basis for this case'](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis doesn't want 'Sodom and Gomorrah' homeless camps](#)

[FlaPol: Ron DeSantis speculates on EMP attack implications amid cell outage](#)

[WMFE: Orange County considers tapping COVID funds to ease residents' medical debts](#)

[FlaPol: Insurance professional advocates look to expand industry education in Florida](#)

[FlaPol: Jay Collins wants to bring home 286 million pieces of bacon](#)

[FlaPol: Nick Howland seeks 'transparency' amid questions about Donna Deegan consultant, lobbyist contract](#)

[WaPo: Trump again claims immunity in effort to toss Fla. classified documents case](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Firm hired to remove migrants from Florida faces insurance fraud allegations](#)

[WUSF: Nearly 13,000 Florida borrowers get student loans forgiven](#)

[WUSF: USF students take on the South Carolina presidential primary with Road to the White House course](#)

[WUSF: A Sarasota historical marker will commemorate victims of racial violence](#)

[TCPalm: An Indian River School Board member resigned Wednesday. On Thursday he was trying to rescind it](#)

[WUSF: Forecaster says 2024 hurricane season could be a 'blockbuster.' Others say it's too early to tell](#)

[Politico: Florida passes strict social media restrictions for minors despite DeSantis' misgivings](#)

[WUSF: Florida House passes a ban on social media for kids under 16 despite constitutional concerns](#)

[FlaPol: Legislature OKs blanket social media ban for kids under 16](#)

[Floridian: DeSantis Says 'Parents Need to Have a Role' on Controversial Social Media Bill](#)

[Herald: Tens of thousands of workers could see changes to their wages if Florida bill passes](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Florida House approves wide-ranging Live Healthy plan, sending bills to DeSantis for signature](#)

[FlaPol: Live Healthy bills, hundreds of millions in Medicaid rate increases, pass the Legislature](#)

[FlaPol: House passes bill allowing 'patriotic organizations' access to students. Which ones made the cut?](#)

[FlaPol: A bill LGBTQ advocates say is anti-trans passes House committee](#)

[FlaPol: House passes volunteer school chaplain bill](#)

[FlaPol: Grape expectations: Lawmakers 1 vote from allowing bigger wine bottles](#)

[FlaPol: Primary runoff not returning as election bill dies](#)

[FlaPol: Senate, House committees prepare cultivated meat bans for floor votes](#)

[FlaPol: Property insurance bills on surplus lines, Citizens, regulations head to House floor](#)

[FlaPol: Black farmer medical marijuana licenses back in play for 2024 Session](#)

[FlaPol: House passes bill to enhance penalties for cross-county crimes](#)

[FlaPol: Citrus County projects dismantled in House, Senate budgets](#)

[FlaPol: State pushes back Medicaid managed care contract announcement](#)

[FlaPol: Gaming bill continues to draw criticism as veterans group descends on the Capitol to fight it](#)

[FlaPol: Senate amendment could allow Chinese nationals to buy Florida real estate again](#)

[FlaPol: House approves bill to make private Jewish school security funding recurring](#)

[WUSF: The Florida Senate has approved the shooting of bears in self-defense](#)

[WUSF: Bills banning people from sleeping in public places head to the full Florida House and Senate](#)

[Ledger: More chain stores could come to rural crossroads in Polk County if change is approved](#)

[Democrat: TCC President Jim Murdaugh announces record graduation rate after years of little progress](#)

[WUSF: Whistleblower raises questions about Sarasota airport land sale to New College](#)

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

www.smallcountycoalition.org or
www.ssdec.org and click on the red **Briefing** button

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