



The Briefing for Feb14, 2024

The last Briefing was Feb 12, 2024

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

Legislative Calendars

Day 38 of 60! 22 to go!

House Calendar

House calendar for February 15, 2024. It contains meeting agendas through February 16, 2024.

Senate Calendar

Senate calendar for February 15, 2024. It contains meeting agendas through February 19, 2024.

Term-Limits – stalled in Senate Rules – passed in final House committee

Term Limits not considered on the Senate Rules Committee– Approved in the final House Committee

Commissioners Brenda Holt (Gadsden), Ralph Thomas (Wakulla), and Fred Nichols (Wakulla) spoke against the proposal in the House

Committee. Additional opposition testimony was presented by the Small County Coalition, the Florida Association of Counties, the AFL-CIO, and the League of Women Voters.

- In the Senate - SB 438 Proposed Term Limits up in Senate the bill was scheduled in Senate Rules Committee - 9:00am-in 412 Knott Building but was temporarily passed. That means the bill was removed from consideration on the meeting agenda.
- In the House - HB 57 dealing with Term Limits was scheduled for consideration in the House State Affairs committee. The bill was heard and amended to conform to the Senate version of the bill.

- Both the House and Senate bill are now identical – If passed the proposals will establish 8 year term limits in counties that do not currently have term limits. In Charter Counties that currently have term limits – the bill requires a referendum asking if the existing term limit should be reduced to eight years. There is no provision for counties without term limits to vote to determine whether they should be implemented.
- HB 57 will now move to the House floor. The status of SB 438 is unclear, however, there is a clear interest to pass some kind of legislation.

Sovereign Immunity – Stalled in the House

Proposed Changes

Changing S.I. caps from 200K/300K to 400K/600K

Proposals allows sovereign entity to settle claim above the caps.

Proposals provide for scheduled increases in the caps base on CPI.

Status of legislation

- The House version of the Sovereign Immunity changes - HB 569 – was scheduled to be heard in the House Judiciary committee Wednesday morning, however, the bill was not considered. Rumors are circulating the amendments added to the bill in the prior committee were causing concerns and the bill was pulled from the agenda. Is it dead? We shall see!
- The Senate version SB 472 has passed one committee and is currently in is 2nd of 3 committees.

Other Action on Priorities

Regional Rural Development Grants

- The House Proposal PCB for HB 141 passed its second of 3 committees
- The Senate Version - SB 196 – is scheduled for action 2-15 in Fiscal Policy – its last committee before being sent to the Senate Floor.

Emergency Management Director Employment Requirements

- HB 1567 and SB 1262 both moved in their second committees. HB 1567 was amended to include recommendation made by the Professional Emergency Managers which included removing a Bachelors degree as part of minimal mandatory employment criteria. The Senate sponsor indicated that he will conform the Senate Bill to the House bill. This bill seems to be moving without additional concerns.

Taking of Bears

- Both HB 87 by Shoaf and SB 642 by Simon have passed all committees and both bills are on Special Order in the House and the Senate. The bills

provide that a person can use lethal force if they reasonably believed that his or her action was necessary to avoid an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to himself or herself or to another, an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to a pet, or substantial damage to a dwelling.

House Tax Package

- PCB WMC 24-05 The House Ways & Means Committee, Wednesday, approved a proposed \$647.3 million tax-cut package that would give breaks to businesses and shoppers. The bill (PCB WMC 24-05) is proposed for the fiscal year that will start July 1, likely will be changed as the House and Senate negotiate a final plan before the March 8 end of the legislative session.
 - The proposal will limit new tourist-development taxes, often known as bed taxes, to six years and requires voter approval by July 1, 2029, for existing tourist-development taxes to continue.
 - The package includes a series of sales-tax “holidays,” (back-to-school items, hurricane-preparedness supplies and tools) .
 - The proposal allows Monroe County to use tourist-development and tourist-impact tax dollars to provide affordable housing for employees of tourism-related businesses.
 - The package projects a \$339.6 million reduction to state and local revenues achieved by , lowering a commercial-lease tax on businesses
- House Ways and Means also passed PCB WMC 24-06 a proposed constitutional amendment providing an additional \$25,000 tax exemption on Tangible personal property. The committee also passed PCB WMC 24-07 the implementing bills for the proposed amendment providing for a state appropriation to offset the impact of the increased exemption in fiscally constrained counties.

Education Bills Moving Week of Feb. 12 – 16

Bill numbers are active Hyperlinks

HB 0001Social Media Use for Minors: Requires social media platforms to prohibit minors from creating new accounts, terminate accounts & provide additional options for termination of such accounts, use reasonable age verification methods to verify ages of

account holders, & disclose specified policies & provide specified resources, measures, & disclaimers; authorizes DLA to bring actions for violations under Florida Deceptive & Unfair Trade Practices Act; provides penalties; provides for private causes of actions; provides certain social media platforms are subject to jurisdiction of state courts. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 0003 Online Access to Materials Harmful to Minors: Requires commercial entity that publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on websites & applications to perform reasonable age verification, prevent certain access, & provide for reporting unauthorized or unlawful access; prohibits retention of personal identifying information; authorizes DLA to bring action under Florida Deceptive & Unfair Trade Practices Act for violations; provides civil penalties; provides for private causes of action; provides certain commercial entities are subject to jurisdiction of state courts. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 0240 International Baccalaureate Teacher Bonuses; Revising the requirements for the calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership and certain bonuses based on International Baccalaureate examination scores of students to include students who earn equivalent scores as determined by the Department of Education, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2024

SB 0396 Holocaust Remembrance Day; Requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a specified day as “Holocaust Remembrance Day”; authorizing “Holocaust Remembrance Day” to be observed in this state’s public schools and be observed by public exercise as the Governor may designate, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 0523 Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program: Establishes Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program within DOE; provides purpose of program, eligibility criteria, & Commissioner of Education, DOE, & school district duties & responsibilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 0537 Student Achievement: Removes provisions providing for award of certificate of completion to certain students; & creates Music-based Supplemental Content to Accelerate Learner Engagement & Success Pilot Program within DOE for specified purpose. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 0917Career and Technical Education: Provides exemption for minors to work in specified conditions; requires counties & municipalities to recognize certain persons as journeymen for specified occupations if such persons meet specified criteria; provides alternative to career fairs through other career & industry networking opportunities; revises provisions relating to revisions to state academic standards, requirements for certain credits & certifications to meet specified graduation requirements; requires DOE to convene workgroup by specified date for specified purposes; provides additional exemption from completing entry-level examination for certain students; creates Career & Technical Education Task Force adjunct to DOE. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 0994Student Transportation Safety; Revising the definition of the term “local hearing officer”; authorizing charter schools and private schools to install and operate school bus infraction detection systems; authorizing traffic infraction enforcement officers who meet specified requirements and school board security agencies to enforce specified violations; providing that a school safety officer who completes certain training may be authorized by a county, municipality, or school entity as a traffic infraction enforcement officer and may issue certain notices and citations, etc. Effective Date: Upon becoming a law

SB 0996Education; Providing that an annual application for exemption on property used to house a charter school is not required; authorizing private schools to use or purchase specified facilities; providing responsibilities for approved virtual instruction program providers, virtual charter schools, and school districts relating to statewide assessments and progress monitoring for certain students; establishing the Purple Star School District Program, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 1285Education: Revises provisions relating to K-12 education, postsecondary education, & Education Practices Commission; establishes Purple Star School District Program; creates AA specialized transfer degrees; requires SBE to adopt rules for issuance of classical education teaching certificate. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1349Required Instruction on History of Communism: Beginning in specified school year, requires students to receive instruction on

history of Communism; provides requirements for such instruction & school districts, & DOE; & creates Communism Education Task Force. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

HB 1353Early Learning: Revises provisions relating to early learning coalitions & specified early learning programs. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 1356School Safety; Providing that sheriffs are responsible for screening-related costs for school guardian programs; authorizing sheriffs to waive training and screening-related costs for a private school for a school guardian program; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to maintain a list of school guardians and provide the list to any School Safety Specialist upon request; providing requirements for the list; requiring each sheriff to report on a quarterly basis to the Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for school guardian trainings, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 1473School Safety: Revises provisions & establishes reporting requirements for school guardian programs & school guardians; revises school safety requirements for DOE, school districts, charter schools, & school safety specialists. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

SB 1652District and School Advisory Councils; Renaming district advisory councils and school advisory councils as “district community advisory boards” and “community advisory boards,” respectively; requiring community advisory boards to publicize specified information, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2024

HB 7051Education: Revises provisions relating to specified education services; establishes Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program for specified purpose; creates GATE Scholarship Program; & creates GATE Startup Grant Program. Effective Date: July 1, 2024

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/>

On the Docket

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024

— Legislature:

- RECORDS EXEMPTION - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session and take up issues including a bill (SB 712), filed by Sen. Bobby Powell, D-West Palm Beach, that would provide a public-records exemption for personal information about county attorneys, city attorneys and their family members. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 2 p.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Thursday, 15 minutes after Senate committee ings. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

OTHER SCHEDULED INGS

- House Commerce Committee (9 a.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Health & Human Services Committee (9 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Infrastructure Strategies Committee (9 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Appropriations Committee (Noon, 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (Noon, 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- House Rules Committee (15 minutes after House floor session, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

— Also:

- UWF TRUSTEES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The University of West Florida Board of Trustees will . <https://uwf.zoom.us/j/86435709201?pwd=Wm5xbzZYdlQ1S1Z4UDB5clRrZ29MQT09>. Code: 368116
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release its regular weekly opinions.
- I-4 PLAN - Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a ing about the “Southwest Connect” Interstate 4 master plan,

from west of Polk Parkway to west of U.S. 27 in Polk County. Lake Crago Park, 525 Lake Crago Dr., Lakeland.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

Legislature:

- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 10 a.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. House 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.
- TREASURE COAST PANEL - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will .
- Indian River State College, Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. <https://meet.goto.com/268592461>. Call-in number: 1-646-749-3122. Code: 268592461

Headlines Around the State

[FlaPol: Former Ron DeSantis aide looks back on a 'downright embarrassing' campaign](#)

[NBC News: Former Ron DeSantis Wall Street fundraiser to bolster Trump's campaign war chest](#)

[Democrat: With Florida seen as solidly Republican red, DeSantis and GOP clamp down on blue cities](#)

[Politico: Florida's immigration crackdown is scaring patients away from seeking care](#)

[FlaPol: Joe Gruters follows Donald Trump's lead, endorses Michael Whatley for RNC Chair](#)

[FlaPol: Marco Rubio, Rick Scott vote against foreign aid package passed by Senate](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: US Supreme Court urged to block Florida's deal giving Seminoles control over sports betting](#)

[Herald: Thought the courts had settled Florida's sports betting fight? Maybe not](#)

[WLRN: After-hour drop boxes don't keep Floridians from voting, ruling says](#)

[Democrat: 'That's bullcrap': Conservative media bashes Florida defamation bill](#)

WUSF: Florida may be the setting for a lot of movies. Why they're not filmed here much anymore

OZ: Jeff Bezos could save \$600 million this year thanks to his move to Florida

Sun-Sentinel: Six years after Parkland shooting, Democrats say Republicans 'don't have the guts' to address gun violence

Post: Six years after Parkland: The complicated legacy of a shocking, saddening school shooting

Post: Florida ports are surging with traffic, but Georgia and Texas are going to be competition

NBC Miami: Parkland families encouraged by progress of public memorial for victims

Sun-Sentinel: A permanent memorial to the Parkland 17: Panel to decide among 6 designs

Sun-Sentinel: 'I feel like there's still people inside': Parkland's 1200 building houses unwelcome, haunting memories

Democrat: National freedom of expression group puts Florida in '10 Worst Censors of 2023' list

WUSF: To ban, or not to ban, that is the question. Debate over book bans continues at an Orlando library

Times: Hillsborough has a new way of teaching kids to read. Inside one classroom.

Times: Florida sham health insurance agency hit with guilty verdicts, \$195M judgment

Today: Uber, Lyft Valentine's Day strike a threat at 3 Florida airports, 7 other US cities

NBC Miami: South Florida rideshare drivers to join nationwide strike to demand better pay

FlaPol: Uber, Orlando International Airport still battling over passenger fees nearly 7 years after state law took effect

News-Press: Gov. Ron DeSantis, in Cape Coral, pledges to fight retail theft in 'culture of lawlessness'

WUSF: Retail theft legislation proposed by Gov. DeSantis would 'drop the hammer on' repeat offenders

News4Jax: Gov. DeSantis backs new laws that would increase penalties for shoplifters, porch pirates

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis won't back youth social media ban if he thinks courts will strike it down

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis blames electric vehicles for insurance rate spikes

WUSF: Florida House pitches a tax package totaling more than \$640M

The Capitolist: House subcommittee advances My Safe Florida Home expansion

My News 13: Florida storm-proofing grant program may expand to condos

FlaPol: 'Condo 3.0' bill boosting safety, board accountability heads to final House panel

WLRN: A bill that would ban citizen police review boards is poised to pass the Florida Legislature

WLRN: Bill could boost Florida's renewable fuel industry. Critics say it will cost consumers

FlaPol: Under 21-stripper ban advances in Florida Senate

FlaPol: Bill with more 'hoops' for unemployment benefits advances in House

The Capitolist: Senators back raising Citizens coverage cap

Times: Florida Republicans propose tax cuts for utilities but not homeowners

FlaPol: Second House panel OKs bill requiring K-12 schools to teach history of communism

FlaPol: Protections from political party switches at the DMV head to final House committee

WLRN: Florida Commission on Ethics complaint rules may change under proposal

Times-Union: Ethics Commission asks Florida House to reject amendments to ethics law

CBS Miami: Florida 'food recovery' programs could get boost

FlaPol: All aboard? Tommy Gregory proposes tort train to move controversial third-party financing bill

FlaPol: Bill capping house-rattling blast mining levels gets a workshop, but no committee hearing

FlaPol: State employees could get free skin cancer screenings

WUSF: Florida lawmakers approve a plan to designate behavioral health teaching hospitals

Ledger: Homeschool advocate and Moms for America state president is running for Polk School Board

News4Jax: Apartment safety expert weighs in on the law designed to hold landlords accountable

FlaPol: Florida Realtors publishes study saying business real estate rent taxes should end

Politico: Trump attends closed-door hearing in Florida classified docs case

TCPalm: Former President Donald Trump attends Monday hearing at federal courthouse in Fort Pierce

Sentinel: Rubio brushes aside Trump's insult of Haley's husband

FlaPol: Marco Rubio rips Joe Biden for 'undermining' Benjamin Netanyahu with bad words, temper tantrums

WUSF: Florida Supreme Court won't speed up a redistricting fight

Bradenton Herald: Florida Supreme Court decision has big implication for Gov's disputed congressional map

Democrat: Evan Power says being both party chair, lobbyist is natural fit to strengthen Florida GOP

FlaPol: Florida's cultured meat ban grinds ahead— and China can't be happier

Post: Youngest congressman, Maxwell Frost, says focus on Biden success, not age

My News 13: Rep. Donalds talks resolution to recognize Frederick Douglass

Daily News: Is nuclear power fizzling out in Florida? Not so fast... why it still has plenty of juice

FlaPol: Virtual currency tax holiday would cost state coffers \$1.4B, economists project

[WUSF: Former New York City mayor and Moms for Liberty co-founder are set to debate book bans in Orlando](#)

[FlaPol: Winning bid announced for Medicaid managed care developmental disability pilot program](#)

[Post: Which Florida counties have the most private schools and students? What to know](#)

[Daily News: 'I am shocked': Patient assaults at SWFL hospitals a constant threat to health workers](#)

[Post: PBC kids attending private schools with taxpayer-funded vouchers doubled this year. Why?](#)

[CBS Miami: Miami is one of the most congested cities in the world, study found](#)

[The Capitolist: Two Florida universities appear at top of 'Best Online Bachelors Program' ranking](#)

[WLRN: The Florida legislature's \\$115 spending proposal is receiving some pushback from Democrats](#)

[The Capitolist: Republican Party of Florida takes stance against abortion amendment](#)

[WLRN: Senate President may stall support for Confederate monument protection bill](#)

[Democrat: LGBTQ advocates say Florida social media minor ban would block life-saving resources](#)

[FlaPol: Tech-backed campaign demands lawmakers fix social media ban by empowering parents](#)

[FlaPol: Ban on sale cultivated meat advances in House, but with room for lab research](#)

[The Capitolist: Ban on lab-grown meat advances with changes](#)

[WUSF: Public school advocates say a proposed charter conversion bill could have unintended consequences](#)

[My News 13: Florida House considers hemp regulations](#)

[FlaPol: Hemp rules keep moving through House. What substances could be banned?](#)

[Times: School employee unions struggle to meet tougher state rules to survive](#)

FlaPol: State economists can't say if stripping age increase would cost Florida money or not

My News 13: Florida bill hopes to bridge gap between first responders and disabled drivers

News4Jax: City leaders redraft letter to state reps in fight against ethics bills that strip 'local control' of investigations

WLRN: State legislation may open a path for affordable housing development in the Keys

FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis honors fallen FHP Trooper Zachary Fink

CBS Miami: Florida Department of Education to audit Broward Schools

WUSF: Florida lawmaker is no longer pushing to designate Captiva as a conservation area

FlaPol: Ethics board to advise strictures on Coral Gables Commissioner's in-city business dealings

About the Briefing!

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin
cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com

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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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

