



## ***The Briefing for May 29, 2024***

*The Last Briefing was May 27, 2024*

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

### **Front and Center**

#### ***New “Rural Emergency Hospitals” Bill Signed into law.***

Gov. Ron DeSantis has signed SB 644, a bill that will create a new category of “rural emergency hospitals.” The bill, which passed unanimously during this year’s legislative session, is designed to help ensure health-care access in rural areas. It qualifies eligible rural hospital to access Medicare payments. The hospitals are required to be licensed by states, creating a need for the bill. Under the bill, which will take effect July 1, facilities designated as rural emergency hospitals will be able to provide emergency services, observation care and outpatient services that do not exceed an average length of stay of 24 hours. They will be exempted from requirements about providing inpatient care and such things as surgical care. The bill and its House version were sponsored by Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, and Rep. Jason Shoaf, R-Port St. Joe, both of whom have sprawling, largely rural districts.

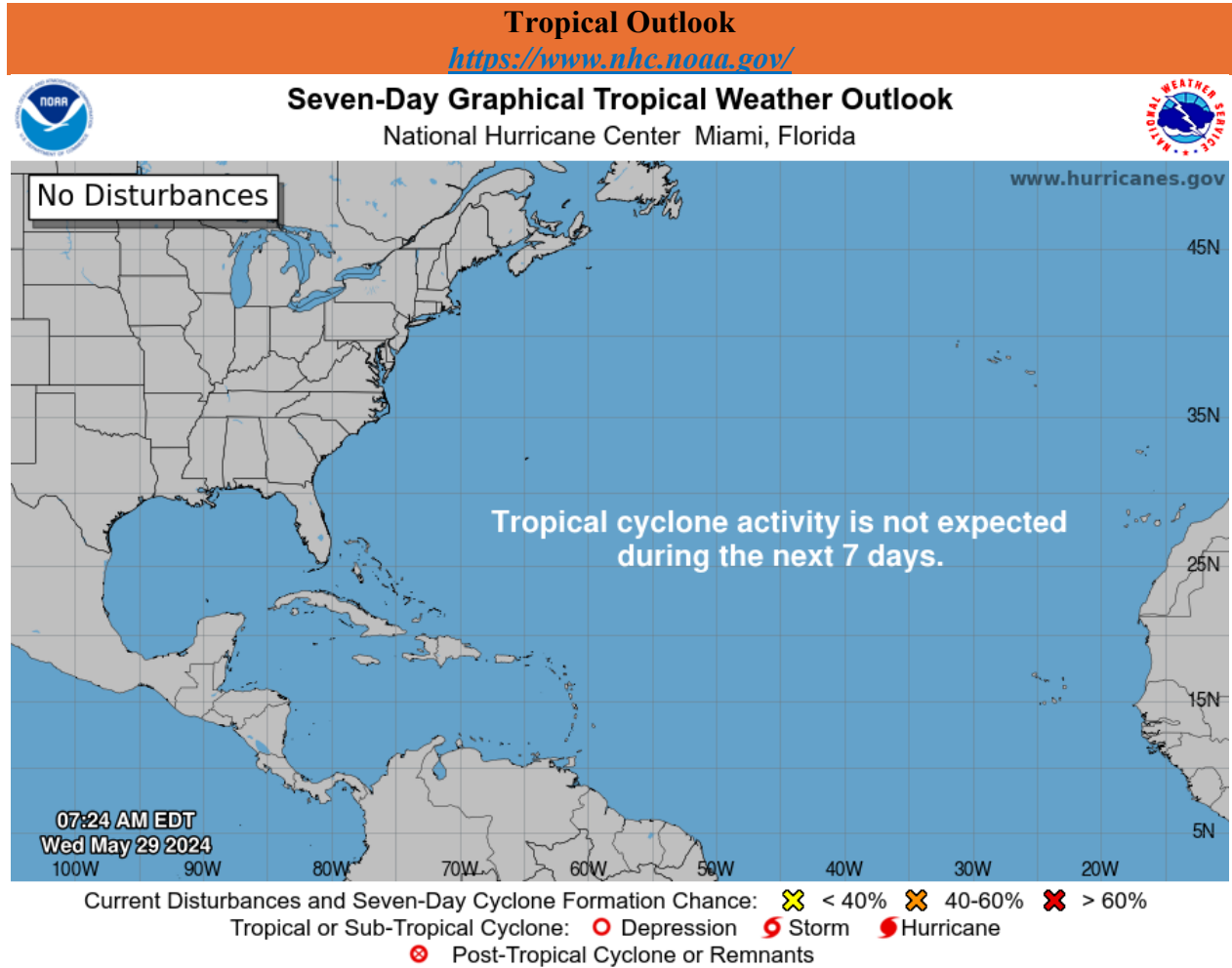
#### ***State Voucher Program To Increase from 19,500 to 60,000 students***

A state voucher program that began in the 2023-2024 school year is on pace to double in size. Vouchers that support home schools are leading the increase. Holme school vouchers fund costs to educate children at home and are able to use funding to make a range of purchases. Voucher amounts typically range from about \$7,000 to \$9,000 per student, depending on what counties they live in.

The program was established through a 2023 law (HB 1). The law allowed for the Personalized Education Program to provide vouchers for 20,000 students in its inaugural year, and the program almost hit its cap, with vouchers for 19,514 students funded. The program is allowed to grow by 40,000 students a year under the law, meaning the maximum capacity would grow in the 2024-2025 school year to 60,000 students. Currently - 39,690 applications have been submitted for the coming school year, and 31,991 vouchers had been awarded — with months to go for applications to come in, potentially increasing the number toward the maximum of 60,000.

***Hurricane Season Starts Saturday - June 1***

Get a plan - <https://www.floridadisaster.org/planprepare/>  
The Briefing will run the Tropical Outlook through November 30<sup>th</sup>.



**SUMMER  
MEETINGS COMING UP**

- **In 7 Days - June 5 – 7** – Florida School Boards Association/FADSS Summer Meeting  
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay - [Tentative Conference Agenda](#)
- **In 8 Days - JUNE 6, 2024** - FSBA Small District Council and the Small School District Council Consortium  
7:30-8:30am - Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay - Skylark Room – 14<sup>th</sup> Floor
- **In 27 Days - June 25 – 28** – the Florida Association of Counties Summer Business Meeting  
Bonnet Creek Orlando - <https://www.fl-counties.com/event-directory/2024-annual-conference-exhibition/>
- **In 28 Days - June 26<sup>th</sup>** - the Small County Coalition Annual Organizational Meeting  
Wednesday – June 26<sup>th</sup> - 7:00am-8:30am - Signia Hilton Bonnet Creek Orlando

## ***Headlines Around the State***

[NYTimes: Marco Rubio Wants to Be Trump's Vice President. He Doesn't Want to Audition.](#)

[FlaPol: SCOTUS rejects review of Florida case challenging 6-person juries](#)

[FlaPol: Florida's 6-week abortion ban increases wait times in other states, study says](#)

[The Floridian: Donalds: Biden is a 'Threat to Democracy'](#)

[The Floridian: Giménez Alleges Biden and TSA Granted Cuban Delegation Access to MIA](#)

[The Floridian: Luna Files Environmental Protection Bill to Conserve Wild Horses](#)

[WLRN: Abortion advocates say new Florida website lacks vital information](#)

[The Capitolist: Florida voters trust local elections, worry about state and national integrity, study finds](#)

[FlaPol: Florida's immigrant advocates seek federal and state reforms in face of hostile climate](#)

[FlaPol: Matt Gaetz notches Trump's 'Complete and Total Endorsement'](#)

[FlaPol: Donald Trump endorses Vern Buchanan over MAGA-wannabe Primary challenger](#)

[The Capitolist: Mike Haridopolos looks to leverage state-level successes during his Congressional run](#)

[The Capitolist: Multi-state lawsuit including Florida aims to block California-led climate litigation](#)

[Herald: Florida faces hectic hurricane season. Can science say who will get hit in coming months?](#)

[Axios: Florida's insurance market "more stable" ahead of 2024 hurricane season, experts say](#)

[Democrat: With worst hurricane season forecast, insurance industry supplies some rare good news](#)

[WLRN: Will Florida's new trafficking hotline clash with the established national hotline?](#)

[Herald Tribune: Florida has most mass shootings in U.S. in 2024 with latest in Fort Pierce, Sarasota](#)

[WUSF: The drought worsens for some areas in Florida. Is the rainy season here yet?](#)

[News4Jax: Demand for food assistance in Northeast Florida rises as data shows financial hardships of families](#)

[Axios: New data shows Tampa Bay's true unemployment rate](#)

[Times: Hines halted a \\$4B San Diego project. Could it happen in St. Petersburg?](#)

[Bradenton Herald: Cost of gas is up across Florida. Will the price rise as summer driving season starts?](#)

[Axios: Former Miami Young Republicans director indicted on Jan. 6 charges](#)

[WUSF: Groups target a Florida law lowering the number of jurors needed to recommend the death penalty](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Groups challenge Florida death penalty 'game of chance'](#)

[WLRN: Hemp industry is pushing hard on DeSantis to veto a bill restricting THC](#)

[WLRN: Vouchers for homeschooling program expected to double](#)

[Today: What happens if Florida's Amendment 3 passes? Here's what to know](#)

[Times: Lawmakers acted before when a migrant groups bus crashed. Will they now?](#)

[WUSF: Driver charged with DUI-manslaughter for farmworkers' bus crash in Florida now faces more charges](#)

[Sentinel: Central Florida legislator failed to file state expense reports for months](#)

[Post: Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis brings insurance consumer fair to West Palm amid rising rates](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Florida is establishing the Office of Ocean Economy at FAU, pushing to advance discoveries](#)

[Bradenton Herald: Manatee elections chief gets budget boost for ballot safety. Is it 'smoke and mirrors?'](#)

[Democrat: State buys Cherokee Plantation for Red Hills Conservation Florida Forever project](#)

[FlaPol: 21-year-old marketing manager takes on Jessica Baker in HD 17](#)

[FlaPol: 'A proven leader': Another sitting lawmaker, Stan McClain, lands support of Ben Albritton and FRSCC](#)

[FlaPol: MAGA Meg: Notable Donald Trump backers are lining up behind Meg Weinberger for HD 94](#)

[Times-Union: Republicans Randy White, Kevin Carrico elected to Jacksonville City Council leadership](#)

[Herald: Political turmoil escalates in Doral after data breach involving council members](#)

[Herald Tribune: New College of Florida set to punish student protesters following boos at commencement](#)

[Democrat: Attorney: Honor expelled FSU activist who invited Black students to 1957 Christmas party](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Should Broward close some schools in 2025 or 2026? The latest considerations](#)

[Democrat: Tallahassee man's goal? Restore 200 tombstones for city's bicentennial](#)

[Times: These trees made Hillsborough over \\$1M for their climate benefits. Is it legit?](#)

### ***On The Docket***

#### **WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024**

- HARRIS TO CAMPAIGN IN JACKSONVILLE - Vice President Kamala Harris will campaign in Jacksonville as Democrats try to make abortion a key issue in the 2024 elections. The appearance, which comes as Harris and President Joe Biden seek a second term, will focus “on the stakes of the election for reproductive freedom across the country,” according to a news release issued by the Biden campaign. It will occur on the same day that a Florida law takes effect preventing abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.
- FISH AND WILDLIFE PANEL - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will begin a two-day meeting with a discussion about increased interactions between people and wildlife and an update on negotiations over the release of a conservation easement in the Split Oak Forest Wildlife and Environmental Area in Central Florida. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Mori Hosseini Student Union Event Center, 610 Aerospace Blvd., Daytona Beach.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- UTILITY STORM COSTS - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will hold a hearing about Tampa Electric Co. recovering costs from customers related to tropical storms and hurricanes from 2018 to 2022. Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- UNEMPLOYMENT CASES - 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. Code: 261180880
- SPACE ISSUES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Space Florida Board of Directors will meet. Location; Call-in number: 1-855-758-1310. Guest code: 6277636389. Passcode: 567768

- TALENT DEVELOPMENT PANEL - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Talent Development Council is scheduled to meet. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SUICIDE, MENTAL HEALTH - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - U.S. Rep. Frederica Wilson, a Florida Democrat who chairs the Caucus on the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys, and other members of Congress will hold a briefing titled, "Mayday: Suicide and the Mental Health of Black Men and Boys." U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs Hearing Room, Washington, D.C.
- TURNPIKE WIDENING - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a meeting about plans to widen the turnpike from north of State Road 70 in Fort Pierce to State Road 60 in Yeehaw Junction. Information at [www.TurnpikeSR70toSR60.com](http://www.TurnpikeSR70toSR60.com).

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024**

- FISH AND WILDLIFE PANEL - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will conclude a two-day meeting with a discussion of rules about shrimping. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Mori Hosseini Student Union Event Center, 610 Aerospace Blvd., Daytona Beach.
- HISTORICAL COMMISSION HUDDLES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Historical Commission will meet. Mission San Luis, 2100 West Tennessee St., Tallahassee. <https://dos-myflorida.zoom.us/j/81390234131?pwd=AZtAMASdTQ22l3pqNAuOVai7MwiaEH.1>
- GAMBLING ISSUES ON TABLE - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. Fort Lauderdale Marriott Airport, 166 North Compass Way, Dania Beach.
- NORTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Northeast Florida Regional Council will meet in Flagler County. Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa, 200 Ocean Crest Dr., Palm Coast.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release its weekly opinions.
- TRAUMA SYSTEM ON AGENDA - Thursday, noon. - The Florida Trauma System Advisory Council is scheduled to meet. Tampa General Hospital, 1 Tampa General Circle, Tampa.
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATE CONDUCT - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Supreme Court's Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and The Florida Bar Board of Governors will hold forums about standards for judicial candidates in elections. Locations: Duval County Courthouse, 501 West Adams St., Jacksonville. Also, Leon County Courthouse, 301 South Monroe St., Tallahassee.

**FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024**

- FAITH-BASED COUNCIL - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council is scheduled to meet. Destin City Hall, 4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin.
- ARCHITECTURE BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design is scheduled to meet. Hotel Melby Downtown Melbourne, 801 East Strawbridge Ave., Melbourne.
- LAWMAKERS DISCUSS SESSION - Friday, 11:30 a.m. - The Tiger Bay Club of Central Florida will hold a discussion about the 2024 legislative session, with participants expected to include Sen. Jason Brodeur, R-Sanford; Sen. Geraldine Thompson, D-Windermere; Rep. Keith Truenow, R-Tavares; Rep. Anna Eskamani, D-Orlando; Rep. Kristen Arrington, D-Kissimmee; and Rep. David Smith, R-Winter Springs. Citrus Club, 255 South Orange Ave., Suite 1800, Orlando.

- JUDICIAL CANDIDATE CONDUCT - Friday, 1 p.m. - The Florida Supreme Court’s Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and the The Florida Bar Board of Governors will hold forums about standards for judicial candidates in elections. Locations: Broward County Judicial Complex, 201 S.E. Sixth St., Fort Lauderdale. Also, Orange County Courthouse, 425 North Orange Ave., Orlando. Also, George Edgecomb County Courthouse, 800 East Twiggs St., Tampa. Also, <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsd-CvpzpjGdTIgwi8vpoybVzAHNZxYCr1>
- FLORIDA DEMOCRATS GATHER - Friday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Democratic Party will hold a welcome reception to start its “Leadership Blue” weekend event. Disney’s Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024**

- FLORIDA DEMOCRATS MEET - Saturday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Democratic Party will hold its “Leadership Blue” weekend event. Speakers are expected to include Rick Wilson, co-founder of the Lincoln Project, and Brandon Wolf, an LGBTQ-rights and gun-safety advocate. Disney’s Contemporary Resort, Lake Buena Vista.

***About the Briefing!***

***The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin***

***[cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto: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](mailto:cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

**[If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdec.org and click on the red Briefing button](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org)**

***Chris Doolin***

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – [cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com](mailto:cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com)