



The Briefing for January 29, 2025

The Last Briefing was January 28, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

House and Senate bills filed to repeal Middle School and High School Start Time Mandate.

Bills have been filed in both the House and Senate to repeal the mandated start time restriction for Middle and High Schools. The bills are slightly different, but both accomplish a repeal of the mandate. The SSDCC just completed a survey of 36 school districts on the implementation of the requirement.

[SMALL DISTRICT SCHOOL START TIME SURVEY REPORT - JANUARY 2025_.docx](#)

Here are the bills

SB 296 - Middle School and High School Start Times by Bradley

Eliminates district school boards' duty to adopt specific start times for middle and high schools.

- Removes the requirement for instructional days at middle schools and high schools to begin no earlier than 8:00 AM and 8:30 AM, respectively.
- Deletes the obligation for district school boards to inform the community about the impacts of sleep deprivation on students and benefits of later school start times.
- Eliminates the requirement for certain charter schools to comply with specific middle and high school start times.

Effective Date: 7/1/2025

HB 261 - Middle School and High School Start Times - by Gerwig –

Amends existing legislation regarding school start times for middle schools and high schools.

- Removes the previous requirement that middle schools start no earlier than 8 a.m. and high schools no earlier than 8:30 a.m. by July 1, 2026.
- Mandates district school boards to inform their communities about the health, safety, and academic impacts of sleep deprivation on students.
- Requires district school boards to consider the benefits of later start times when setting middle and high school start times.

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Executive Order Pausing Federal Assistance has been rescinded.

The Office of Management and Budget – Executive Office of the President has rescinded the OMB Memorandum directing a pause on Agency Grant, Loan, and other Assistance. The order to rescind the original order came less than 48 hrs. from the original order. A copy of the new order is not available at this time.

Immigration

During Special Session 2025B the Legislature passed CS/SB2 on Immigration

The House voted 82 - 30 in favor of the bill.

The Senate voted 21 – 16 in favor of the bill.

Governor DeSantis is doubling down his opposition to the bill indicating his intention to Veto the bill. In order to override the Governors VETO – 2/3rds of the House and Senate have to vote for the Override.

If the Legislative Leaders attempt to Over-ride the VETO – the Senate would have to have secure 27 votes to Override. That will take getting some of the No votes to switch to a Yes for an override. get some of the Nay voters to switch to a Yay vote

Background

The Special Session 2025B adjourned last evening after the passage of Immigration Legislation CS/SB 2. The Governor has been critical of House and Senate leadership who ignored the Governors proposals made during Special Session 2025A and criticized CS/SB 2 as ‘weak’. This morning the Governor is holding meetings around the state indicated that it his intention to Veto the bill. It is important to note that several Republican legislators voted against the bill on final passage essentially under-cutting the ability of the House and Senate to over-ride the Veto, unless some of the Nay votes switch to Yes. Without an over-ride a Governor’s Veto, there will be no changes in Florida’s statutes relating the Immigration resulting from the Special Session. Nothing will change leaving everything in a status quo.

Legislation that Passed During the Special Session 2025B

SB 2B - Immigration - 2025B

[CS/SB 2-B](#)

[Staff Analysis of CS/SB 2B](#)

Summary - The bill designates the Commissioner of Agriculture as the chief immigration officer and centralizes Florida's immigration enforcement responsibilities within this role and related offices.

- Assigns the Commissioner of Agriculture as the sole liaison between state and federal immigration agencies.
- Authorizes the Commissioner to appoint an employee to help facilitate coordination between state government and federal immigration entities.
- Establishes the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program to support local enforcement and compliance with federal immigration laws.
- Lays out the grants award process and prohibits awarding grants for activities already funded by federal or other sources.
- Defines a new felony offense for non-citizens who vote in elections and sets penalties.
- Designates the Office of State Immigration Enforcement within the Division of Law Enforcement under the Department of Agriculture.
- Specifies roles including regulating the application of federal immigration laws, conducting audits, certifying compliance, and enforcing eligibility for public employment.
- Outlines enhanced documentation requirements for proving lawful presence or citizenship in various state applications, such as driver's licenses.
- Revises terms related to immigration in previously established legal definitions and compliance rules.

- Implements penalties and enforcement measures related to illegal immigration status and unauthorized employment.

Effective Date: Except as otherwise provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law

Deliberations can be watched live on

[The Florida Channel: Home](#)

Headlines Around the State

FlaPol: Will Donald Trump step in between Ron DeSantis, Legislature over immigration?

Sentinel: Florida lawmakers approve immigration plan beefed up with Trump administration help

The Capitolist: Legislative Leaders tweak TRUMP Act following White House correspondence

The Floridian: Rubio Lays Out State Department Internal Policy Plan For 'Safer, Stronger, More Prosperous' America

WUSF: Trump-endorsed Fine, Patronis win Republican primaries for open congressional seats

Yahoo News: Randy Fine, Joshua Weil win, will be candidates for Congress in April 1 special election

The Floridian: Scott, GOP Senators Introduce Permanent Small Business Tax Cut Legislation

WUSF: Trump's order to freeze funding felt in Florida at universities, programs and more

Sentinel: Trump order spurs uncertainty for Florida solar funding, EV chargers

Herald: Confusion in Miami over federal grant freeze as White House works to clarify details

Herald: Federal agents round up undocumented migrants across South Florida amid nationwide raids

Herald Tribune: The largest grant Manatee County has ever received is caught up by Trump spending freeze

WLRN: South Florida braces for Trump's funding freeze on financial assistance, grants

WUSF: Environmental groups intervene in a lawsuit that could impact the Endangered Species Act

CBS Miami: South Florida school districts vow to protect student privacy amid deportation fears

Democrat: FHP assists Homeland Security in Jefferson County illegal immigration raid; 12 detained

FlaPol: Florida recidivism rate is among lowest in the nation

FlaPol: For the first time in years, fewer Florida travelers got caught trying to illegally carry guns onto planes in 2024

WUSF: Legislature passes \$500 million immigration bill amid standoff with DeSantis

Politico: Florida's GOP Legislature passes its own immigration bill over DeSantis objections

CBS Miami: Florida lawmakers approve immigration bill in rebuke to DeSantis, setting up potential veto fight

NBC 6: What is the TRUMP Act? Florida lawmakers pass sweeping immigration bill

Yahoo News: 'Toothless' and 'weak': Vitriol between DeSantis, GOP leaders makes this session special

The Floridian: Florida Legislature Overrides Governor's Veto for the First Time in 15 Years

Herald: DeSantis is likely to veto the immigration bill. Does the Senate have the votes to override it?

Democrat: Agriculture commissioner could become Florida's immigration czar. Who is Wilton Simpson?

The Capitolist: DeSantis, Simpson trade barbs over immigration bill

Herald: 'Not good at this.' Why lawmakers say they want to strip DeSantis' immigration powers

The Floridian: Senate Democratic Leader Pizzo 'Not Outraged' by ICE Deporting Criminal Illegal Immigrants

FlaPol: Sheriffs Association statement suggests support for the TRUMP Act, not Gov. DeSantis' preferred immigration bills

WLRN: State lawmakers propose new Office of State Immigration Enforcement

NBC 6: In-state tuition for Dreamers' on the line during Florida legislative session

CBS Miami: South Florida undocumented students push to keep in-state tuition

Sentinel: Central Florida Dreamers protest as legislators debate end to in-state tuition for undocumented students

Herald: 'I don't want to drop out': Youth ask Florida GOP to keep in-state tuition for undocumented

WLRN: UM reinstates standardized test requirement for fall 2026 applicants

On the Docket

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025

- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- UNEMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The state Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission is scheduled to meet. Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, 1211 Governors Square Blvd., Suite 300, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-988-5144. Code: 261180880
- SEWER SERVICE - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. The Florida Public Service Commission will hold a hearing for potential customers of Environmental Utilities, LLC, which is seeking approval to provide wastewater service in Charlotte County. Tringali Park Recreation Center, 3460 North Access Road, Englewood.
- DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. The Florida Development Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. Florida Development Finance Corp., 156 Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter Springs. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84840300265?pwd=TJ0zNhatbGcehloHqLE2bFVIJWV7rf.1>. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656. Meeting ID: 84840300265. Code: 936748
- TURNPIKE PROJECT - Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. Florida's Turnpike Enterprise will hold a meeting about a project to add lanes on Florida's Turnpike from the Sawgrass Expressway to Glades Road in Broward and Palm Beach counties. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4996170285056852320>

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025

- COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. The Florida Rehabilitation Council for the Blind is scheduled to meet. Holiday Inn IHG Hotel, 2003 Apalachee Parkway, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 850-583-5063. Code: 237602893
- UNIVERSITY SYSTEM - Thursday, 9 a.m. The state university system's Board of Governors will hold a series of committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting. University of North Florida, John A. Delaney Student Union West, 1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville.
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission on Offender Review is scheduled to meet. Florida Commission on Offender Review, 4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165

- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission for Independent Education is scheduled to meet. Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The-Hills.
- SPEECH-LANGUAGE BOARD - Thursday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology will meet. Residence Inn Tallahassee Universities at the Capitol, 600 West Gaines St., Tallahassee.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions. <https://floridachamberfoundation.regfox.com/2025-virtual-florida-economic-outlook-jobs-solution-summit>
- GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY EYED - Thursday, 1 p.m. The state Government Efficiency Task Force will meet. Call-in number: 850-739-6768. Code: 893974948
- TURNPIKE DISCUSSED PROJECT - Thursday, 5:30 p.m. The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting about a project to add lanes on Florida's Turnpike from the Sawgrass Expressway to Glades Road in Broward and Palm Beach counties. Sugar Sand Park Community Center, 300 South Military Trail, Boca Raton.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2025

- BROWARD COLLEGE CANDIDATES - Friday, 8:30 a.m. The Broward College Board of Trustees will interview candidates for the school's presidency. The candidates are Torey Alston, a former chief of staff at the Florida Department of Transportation who also was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2021 to the Broward County Commission and in 2022 to the Broward County School Board, and Jose Llontop, an executive partner at Salt Creek Capital, an investment firm. The Board of Trustees also will hold a regular meeting scheduled to start at 4 p.m. Broward College, Willis Holcombe Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.
- NURSING HOME ADMINISTRATORS - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Board of Nursing Home Administrators will meet. Information at <https://floridasnursinghomeadmin.gov/meeting-information/>
- PRISON MEDICAL ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. The state Correctional Medical Authority will meet. Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 344085830
- INDEPENDENT EDUCATION - Friday, 9 a.m. The Florida Commission for Independent Education is scheduled to meet. Mission Inn Resort and Club, 10400 County Road 48, Howey-In-The-Hills.
- PODIATRIC BOARD - Friday, 10 a.m. The Florida Board of Podiatric Medicine will meet. Drury Inn & Suites-Universal Orlando Resort, 7301 West Sand Lake Road, Orlando.

Mark Your Calendars

2025

- January 27 - Special Session and Committee Meetings
- January 28-29 - House Committee Meetings
- February 2 - Deadline for release of Governors recommended budget
- February 3 – 7 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- February 10 – 14 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- February 17 – 21 Interim Committee Meeting – House and Senate
- March 4 Regular Session Begins
- March 18 - Small County Coalition Legislative Briefing/Reception
- March 19- FAC Day in the Legislature
- March 19 – 20 FSBA 38th Annual Day in the Legislature, Tallahassee, FL
- March 19 Small School District Legislative Briefing

- March 19 -20 Rural Counties Day in the Legislature
- May 2 - Regular Session Ends

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

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