



The Briefing for February 14, 2025

The Last Briefing was Feb. 10, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

Supreme Court Rules to Allow Debbie Mayfield to run for vacant Senate seat.

The Supreme Court sided with Debbie Mayfield – rejecting the Secretary of State's ruling that the constitutional eight year term limit did not apply to Mayfield who had previously served 8 consecutive years in that House and 8 consecutive years in the Senate. Mayfield had filed to run for the Senate seat being vacated by Randy Fine who is resigning from the Senate to run for Congress. The court ruling will clear the way for Mayfield to be on the ballot for the vacant seat.

Legislature Adjourns Special Session 2025C Agreement Reached on three Immigration Proposals

Link to bills text and staff analysis provided

[SB 2C - Immigration - 2025C](#) –Enhances immigration enforcement and modifies legal requirements and penalties related to unauthorized aliens in Florida.

[Staff Analysis of SB 2C](#)

[SB 4C - Immigration - 2025C](#) – The bill enacts stringent measures against unauthorized aliens, defining legal terms and setting penalties for immigration violations.

[Staff Analysis of SB 4C](#)

[SB 6C - Secretary of Homeland Security - 2025C](#) – Urges the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide guidance and training for 287(g) agreements, which facilitate local enforcement of federal immigration laws.

[Staff Analysis for SB 6C](#)

Here's a Lightning Round on Issues

Ag. Commissioner Simpson Proposes Farm Bill

Bill will include provision allowing local control over farm-based solar projects.

This week Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson announced plans for a 2025 Florida farm bill. The new farm package is expected to cover a wide range of agricultural and regulatory issues, including provisions allowing local control over farm-based solar projects, preventing banks from discriminating against farmers based on environmental policies, updating concealed weapon permit procedures, increasing penalties for stealing checks from mailboxes, and requiring schools to provide facilities for 4-H and Future Farmers of America programs.

Sovereign Immunity HB 301 - Suits Against the Government
House Civil Justice and Claims Subcommittee next Wednesday at 9:30 in 404 HOB
Staff Analysis of HB 301

This bill will have an indeterminate, significant negative fiscal impact on state and local governments. HB 301 increases the existing caps on the recovery of awards against a governmental entity. For a claim that accrues between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2030, the cap is increased to \$1,000,000 per person from \$200,000 and the cap for multiple claims or judgments arising out of the same incident is increased to \$3,000,000 from \$300,000; the bill provides for one automatic increase in the caps for claims accruing on or after October 1, 2030. The limitations of liability in effect on the date the claim accrues apply to the claim.

The bill permits a subdivision of the state to settle a claim or judgment in excess of the caps without requiring the subdivision to seek further action by the Legislature.

The bill prohibits an insurance policy, beginning October 1, 2025, from conditioning the payment of benefits or the coverage of liability on the enactment of a claim bill. The bill also revises certain statutes of limitation and presuit procedures for certain types of claims against government entities.

DeSantis Calls for Revisions to Intrusive Inspections of Boaters

Gov. Ron DeSantis wants to halt law-enforcement officers from using boat-safety inspections of “people that are acting responsibly” on Florida waters. The proposal would require a change in a state law that allows law-enforcement officers to pull over boaters for safety inspections when no probable cause or suspected violations have occurred. “By eliminating unwarranted vessel inspections without probable cause, we believe (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) officers should better allocate resources and time in cases where there’s a clear need for intervention,” DeSantis said. Under the proposal, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission would be directed to work with county tax collectors to establish a boater decal that could be obtained at registration to “reassure law enforcement that the boater has done the due diligence of inspecting and maintaining proper boater safety requirements.”

Proposals will Increase Homestead Exemption

These bills will have a negative fiscal impact on state and local governments

HB 357 - Property Tax Exemptions has been filed in the House by Representative [Chamberlin](#). The bill proposes a constitutional amendment to create tax exemptions for real property and to set an implementation schedule. The following are among numerous provisions in the bill:

- Implements a \$25,000 exemption on property assessed for tangible personal property tax.
- Introduces a new \$100,000 exemption from assessed value of real property for all levies.
- Specifies that the real property exemption outlined takes effect on January 1, 2027.

In the Senate, Sen. [Blaise Ingoglia](#) plans to file a constitutional amendment offering homeowners property tax relief by increasing the homestead exemption to \$75,000. Gov. Ron DeSantis has also called for the tripling of homestead exemptions. The reduction in the assessed value of homes would lessen the property taxes charged by counties and municipalities. "We need to limit even further property tax rates," DeSantis said. "We should be tripling the homestead exemption to make sure that our primary homeowners are protected." Ingoglia’s proposal should be filed within the week.

Revised Calendar of the Current Week
House Committee Calendar for Week Beginning Feb. 17
Senate Calendar for next week not available at this time.

Legislative Deliberations can be watched live on
The Florida Channel: Home

Headlines Around the State

FlaPol: 'Drip, drip, drip': Marco Rubio warns that Hamas needs to speed up hostage release or else

News4JAX: Attorney General Pam Bondi rails against New York leaders as she announces immigration lawsuit

Herald: Florida appeals court rules that Trump can pursue lawsuit against Pulitzer board

Floridian: Lee Introduces Bipartisan Bill for Drug Exposure Training, Anti-Fentanyl Resources for Police

Floridian: Soto, Buchanan Introduce Bipartisan Legislation to Protect Florida Manatees

Sun-Sentinel: Millions flow to wealthy families, pricey private schools under Florida's supercharged voucher program

Sentinel: How Florida's 2023 voucher overhaul affected your private school

FlaPol: Florida's abortion ban: What the latest data shows

WLRN: Genetically modified trees offer hope for the future of Florida's embattled citrus industry

The Capitolist: Florida sets new tourism record in 2024, welcoming 142.9 million visitors

My News 13: U.S. Supreme Court denies final appeal of Florida death row inmate

WUSF: U.S. Supreme Court clears way for execution of killer in 1997 Charlotte County murders

AP: Florida man to be executed for 1997 double murder witnessed by toddler

Post: Trump and plastic straws: What about Florida cities that only allow paper?

Democrat: Leon County Commission hears updates on Trump's executive orders, impact

Daily News: Changes could be coming to appraisal process for Conservation Collier land. Here's why

News4JAX: Tar balls wash ashore on Florida beaches, but the source of the sticky black goo is a mystery

Democrat: Florida lawmakers tee up final votes on illegal immigration crackdown

WUSF: Florida bills on illegal immigration call for mandatory death penalty for murder, child rape

Times: Florida seeks mandatory death sentences in immigration bill. Will courts allow it?

Floridian: House Speaker Danny Perez, Remarks on Settled Illegal Immigration Feud with DeSantis

CBS Miami: Gov. DeSantis seeks to end "intrusive" boat safety inspections without cause

News4JAX: DeSantis proposes change to state laws that allow law enforcement to pull over boaters without probable cause

[Sun-Sentinel: Florida boaters say they were mistakenly arrested — and jailed — despite being sober](#)

[FlaPol: Paul Renner earns spot on State University System Board of Governors](#)

[Post: Bill would tweak reforms that made property insurers difficult to sue. How it affects you](#)

[The Capitolist: DeSantis floats “Boating Freedom” initiative and fuel tax holiday](#)

[FlaPol: Carlos Guillermo Smith and Johanna López want old pools to meet new safety standards](#)

[Democrat: 'Others would call it conspiracy theories': Florida anti-chemtrail bill advances. What that means](#)

[WUSF: A UF report details ongoing struggle for affordable housing for Florida residents](#)

[News4JAX: Florida cracks down on illegal vapes designed to target kids](#)

[NBC 6: Family fights for passage of Lucy's Law' to enhance boater safety](#)

[FlaPol: Ralph Massullo mourns loss of his wife of 38 years](#)

[Herald Tribune: Red tide drifts closer to Sarasota and Charlotte counties. Are beaches are affected?](#)

[The Capitolist: University of Florida launches Jewish classical education program](#)

On the Docket

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2025

- DENTAL BOARD - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - The Florida Board of Dentistry will meet. Embassy Suites by Hilton, 1601 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach.
- ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The state Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board will meet. Hammock Beach Golf Resort & Spa, 200 Ocean Crest Dr., Palm Coast.
- CONSERVATION ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The state Acquisition and Restoration Council, which works on land-conservation issues, will meet. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Tallahassee.
- NATIONAL ECONOMY - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Economic Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to the national economy. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- CLINICAL LAB BOARD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Clinical Laboratory Personnel will meet. Information at <https://floridasclinicallabs.gov/meeting-information/>
- WORKERS' COMP - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Workers Compensation Joint Underwriting Association Board of Governors will meet. Information at <https://www.fwcjua.com/#>
- REFUGEE ISSUES - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Miami-Dade Refugee Task Force will meet. Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/miami-dade-refugee-task-force-meeting>
- 'IMPACT' CONFERENCE - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol

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

