



## *The Briefing for February 20, 2025*

*The Last Briefing was Feb. 17, 2025*

### *What's the weather outlook?*

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

With the 2025 Legislature Scheduled to convene two weeks from now – Here's a look at some critical proposals.

### **Links to Major Legislation filed that will impact local governments**

 [Rural Renaissance and Major Agriculture Legislation.docx](#)

 [Sovereign Immunity Legislation - 2025 .docx](#)

 [Term Limit Legislation - County Commissioners and School Board Members .docx](#)

 [Tax Exemption Legislation - 2025 .docx](#)

### **An Overview of the Senate Proposal**

#### **SB 110 – FLORIDA'S RURAL RENAISSANCE**

 [SB 110.docx](#)

- Increases Support and Partnerships with Rural Communities
- Support for Fiscally-Constrained Counties to Account for Inflation
- Creates the Office of Rural Prosperity
- Establishes Renaissance Grants for Counties with Declining Population
- Funds for Rural Public Infrastructure Innovations
- Enhances Rural Economic Development Initiatives
- Adds Small Business Development Center Circuit Riders
- Maximizes Options for Rural Housing
- Raises Minimum Allocations for SHIP to Jump Start Rural Housing Options
- Preserves Rental Housing in Rural Communities
- Enhances Rural Transportation and Broadband Infrastructure
- Expands Rural Infrastructure Fund
- Increases Rural Revolving Loan Program Funding
- Improves Coordination for Federal Broadband Programs
- Historic Commitment to Farm to Market Roads
- Expands Small County Road Assistance Program
- Improves Education Opportunities in Rural Communities

- Expands Regional Education Consortia
- Creates Regional Consortium Service Organization Supplemental Services Program
- Updates Special Facility Construction Account
- Adds a Student Loan Repayment Program for Rural Educators
- Expands Access to Health Care in Rural Florida
- Growing Doctors and Nurses in Rural Areas
- Training Rural Paramedics and EMTs in Advanced Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetrics Response
- Expands Rural Hospital Grant Program To Cover Mobile Units and Telemedicine Kiosks
- Increases Existing Medicaid Payments for Rural Hospitals

Rural Renaissance Appropriations – \$197.4 million

- Renaissance Grants – \$8 million
  - Office of Rural Prosperity – \$2.5 million
  - Preserving Rental Housing in Rural Communities – \$30 million
  - Rural Strategy Grants – \$250,000
  - Rural Infrastructure Fund – \$45 million
  - Rural Revolving Loan Program – \$5 million
  - Innovations for Rural Counties – \$500,000
  - Small Business Development Center Network – \$1 million
  - Student Loan Repayment for Rural Educators – \$7 million
  - Regional Education Consortia – Increase from \$50K to \$150K per district – \$3.6 million
  - Regional Education Consortia Grants – \$25 million
  - Rural Hospital Medicaid Enhancement – \$6.3 million state, \$8.2 million federal
  - Rural Hospital Improvement Grants – \$25 million
  - Stroke, Cardiac, and Obstetric Response and Education – \$5 million
  - Doctor/APRN Start Up Program – \$25 million
- General Revenue Redirects in the Bill
- Fiscally Constrained Counties – approximately \$37 million
  - Farm-to-Market Roads – \$30 million State Transportation Trust Fund
  - Small County Road Assistance Program – approximately \$35 million State Transportation Trust Fund

Additional Funding for General Appropriations Act

- State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program – \$18.8 million

### *Headlines Around the State*

[\*WUSF: Florida Senate President Albritton unveils his 'rural renaissance' legislation\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Corey Simon files legislation to foster 'rural renaissance' in Florida\*](#)

[\*NBC 6: Florida senator files proposal to study possibility of eliminating property taxes\*](#)

[\*News4JAX: DeSantis gives Florida agencies more power to interrogate any 'suspected' person believed to be in the US illegally\*](#)

[\*CBS Miami: DeSantis expands Florida's immigration enforcement efforts\*](#)

[\*My News 13: Florida agencies gain more power to police illegal immigration\*](#)

[\*Democrat: Florida Gov. DeSantis to head to DC, looking to loosen strings on federal money\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: NASA HQ and more: Ron DeSantis reveals Washington, D.C., wish list\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Marco Rubio will skip a G20 meeting after calling host South Africa's policies anti-American\*](#)

[\*WUSF: An appeals court backs DeSantis, overturns ruling on providing migrant flight records\*](#)

[\*Yahoo News: Can fired federal workers collect unemployment benefits in Florida? Here's what we know\*](#)

[\*Democrat: From 17 to 7 left standing: Trump cuts gut Florida archaeologists, Parks Service staff\*](#)

[\*Times: Here's what immigration crackdowns mean for Florida's workforce\*](#)

[\*WUSF: Most Florida students' reading and math skills are still below grade level\*](#)

[\*Ledger: Leading voices in Florida's fluoride debate trade barbs in Bartow\*](#)

[\*News-Press: Four Florida cities among the 'most financially distressed' in U.S. Do you live there?\*](#)

[\*TCPalm: DEP, SFWMD clear Hobe-St. Lucie, The Grove, Atlantic Fields in St. Lucie River pollution\*](#)

[\*Sentinel: Surprise cabinet meeting to appoint new immigration chief raises questions\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Carlos Guillermo Smith wants to make it easier to pass ballot initiatives in Florida\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Kathleen Passidomo endorses Lauren Melo as preferred successor in SD 28\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Lauren Melo seeks to eliminate DEI from state agencies and medical institutions\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: House panel gives first OK to bill raising payout caps for lawsuits against the government\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Michelle Salzman files bill to enhance online safety for minors in Florida\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Clay Yarborough measures target blood clots\*](#)

[\*Herald: Bill to block local governments from regulating Trump's library moves in Tallahassee\*](#)

[\*Sentinel: Sanford senator to local governments: Butt out on future Trump library in Florida\*](#)

[\*PNJ: Escambia School Board wants to put elected vs. appointed superintendent back on the ballot\*](#)

[\*News-Press: Does red tide in Florida affect manatees, dolphins? Toxic algae suspected in recent deaths\*](#)

### *On the Docket*

#### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025**

- PSYCHOLOGY BOARD - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Board of Psychology will meet. - Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 564341766
- 'IMPACT' CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an "impact" conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED - Friday, 2 p.m. - The 20th Circuit Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for a Hendry County judge position. Candidates scheduled to be interviewed are Dennis Wallace, Trevor Selph, Antoinette Peck, Robert Ostrov, Jill Cabai and Harley Brook. - Hendry County Courthouse, 25 East Hickpochee, LaBelle.
- CRIMINAL JUSTICE - Friday, 3 p.m. - The Criminal Justice Estimating Conference will analyze criminal-justice issues.m - 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](mailto:_cdoolin@DoolinandAssoc.com)

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