



## *The Briefing for February 27, 2025*

*The Last Briefing was Feb. 24, 2025*

### **PRE-SESSION REMARKS THIS EVENING**

Will be speaking tonight at the North Central RPC Meeting  
Will be presenting pre-session overview and outlook for the 2025 Legislative Session  
Meeting is in Lake City Holiday Inn and begins at 7:00pm

### **BUCKET LIST VENTURE – MEMPHIS HERE WE COME!!**

Tomorrow morning my son, my son-in-law, and I will be flying to Memphis for a weekend trip. We will stay near Beale Street – BBQ and Blues - Will be attending NBA Game – Memphis Grizzlies vs New York Knicks; Will be visiting STAX Museum – Soulsville USA and the National Civil Rights Museum; and then a performance of “HAMILTON” at the performing arts center. Needless to say – The Boyzz are looking forward to 48hrs of Blues, BBQ, BB King, Basketball a bit of Broadway and Brotherhood in Memphis! We will try to stay out of trouble – but who knows!

### **What’s the weather outlook?**

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

### **Senate Calendar for Week 1 Meetings**

**No House Calendar at this time!**

### **Rural Renaissance Legislation Up in Senate Committee on Monday**

[SB 110 \(CA\) by Senator Simon—Rural Communities](#)

Senate Community Affairs: Monday, March 3, 2025, 3:30—5:30 p.m.,

Mallory Horne Committee Room, 37 Senate Building:

(MEMBERS: Senator McClain, Chair; Senator Fine, Vice Chair;

Senators Jones, Leek, Osgood, Passidomo, Sharief, and Trumbull)

Senate Bill 110 – Rural Renaissance is extremely comprehensive and far-reaching. For counties and school districts – there are changes that clearly respond to issues that have been challenges in our rural areas. The bill enhances programs in a variety of important areas – Economic Development; Road funding; Fiscally Constrained Counties; Administrative Support for rural areas ; Support for counties with declining populations; Promotion of Smart Technology; Restructure of the Rural Economic Development Initiative; Updating of Broadband Speeds; Significant support for

Primary Care, Critical Health Response and Education and Rural Hospital; Increased minimum funding for Housing Programs; Strengthens Support for Rural Education Programs; and updating of the Special Facilities Construction Program.

**Repeal of School Start Time Mandate Up in Senate Ed. PreK-12 Committee on Monday**

[SB 296 \(ED\) by Senator Bradley and others—Middle School and High](#)

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

Education Pre-K - 12: Monday, March 3, 2025, 3:30—5:30 p.m.,

Pat Thomas Committee Room, 412 Knott Building:

(MEMBERS: Senator Simon, Chair; Senator Calatayud, Vice Chair;

Senators Berman, Burgess, Collins, Davis, Gaetz, and Yarborough)

The Bill is a major priority of the School Districts across the State of Florida. The bill deletes the requirement of district school boards to adopt policies for middle school and high school start times; deleting a requirement that instructional days for middle schools and high schools begin no earlier than specified times.

**Other Legislation To Watch**

***Term Limits -***

<a href="#">SB 0536</a>	<b>Term Limits Applicable to State Representatives and State Senators</b> by Ingoglia
<a href="#">HB 0637</a>	<b>Term Limits for State Representatives and Senators</b> by Owen
<a href="#">HB 0679</a>	<b>Term Limits for Members of County Commissions and District School Boards</b> by Salzman
<a href="#">SB 0802</a>	<b>Term Limits for Members of Boards of County Commissioners and District School Boards</b> by Ingoglia

***Sovereign Immunity***

<a href="#">HB 0301</a>	<b>Suits Against the Government</b> by McFarland
-------------------------	--

Increases statutory limits on liability for tort claims against state & its agencies & subdivisions; authorizes subdivision to settle claim in excess of statutory limit without legislative action regardless of insurance coverage limits; prohibits insurance policy from conditioning benefits on enactment of claim bill; specifies that limitations in effect on date claim accrues apply to that claim; revises period within which certain claims must be presented; revises exceptions relating to instituting tort claims against state or agencies or subdivisions; revises period after which failure of certain entities to make final disposition of claim shall be deemed final denial of claim for certain purposes; revises statute of limitations for tort claims against state or one of its agencies or subdivisions & exceptions. Effective Date: October 1, 2025

***Solar Facilities Oversight***

<a href="#">SB 1304</a>	<b>Solar Facilities</b> by Bradley
-------------------------	------------------------------------

Defining the terms “agricultural land” and “decommissioned”; authorizing a county to adopt an ordinance requiring that certain solar facilities be properly decommissioned under certain circumstances; deleting a provision providing that a solar facility is a permitted use in certain land use categories and zoning districts subject to compliance certain requirements; deleting a provision exempting solar facility substations from the electric substations for which local governments may adopt and enforce certain land development regulations.

***Expansion of Homestead Exemption –***

<a href="#">HB 0357</a>	<b>Property Tax Exemptions</b> by Chamberlin
-------------------------	--

Property Tax Exemptions: Proposes amendment to State Constitution to create \$100,000 exemption from assessed value of real property for all levies. Effective Date: Not Specified

**HB 0359**      **Property Tax Exemptions** by Chamberlin

Property Tax Exemptions: Creates certain exemption from all taxation for real property; Effective Date: on the effective date of the amendment to the State Constitution proposed by HJR 357 or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specified intent and purpose

**SB 0852**      **Study on the Elimination of Property Taxes** by Martin

Study on the Elimination of Property Taxes; Requiring the Office of Economic and Demographic Research to conduct a specified study; requiring the office to submit a report to the Legislature by a specified date, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

**SB 1016**      **Increased Homestead Property Exemptions** by Ingoglia

Increased Homestead Property Exemptions; Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption from \$25,000 to \$75,000, for all levies, with annual adjustments for inflation, deleting the exemption for school district levies, etc.

**SB 1018**      **Homestead Exemptions** by Ingoglia

Homestead Exemptions; Increasing the homestead tax exemption amount for all levies, except for assessments for special benefits; deleting homestead tax exemptions for all levies other than school district levies, etc. Effective Date: On the effective date of the amendment to the State Constitution proposed by SJR 1016 or a similar joint resolution having substantially the same specified intent and purpose, if such amendment to the State Constitution is approved at the next general election or at an earlier special election specifically authorized by law for that purpose

**MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW!**

**Major Events Scheduled for March 18-20  
Make Your Plans and Register Where Required**

**Tuesday – March 18 -**

***Small County Coalition Legislative Welcome Reception - 5:30pm-7:00pm***  
**Florida Headquarters American Institute of Architects – 104 E. Jefferson St.**

**Wednesday – March 19**

***Small School District Council Consortium Special Briefing - 9:45am-11:15am***  
**Coffee and Danish at The Hayward House - 228.Adams Street**

**Wednesday – March 19**

**Florida Association of Counties Legislative Days**  
**Briefing – Lobbying – Reception**  
**Registration Required**

**Wednesday /Thursday – March 19-20**

**Florida School Boards Association Legislative Days**  
**Link provides information and schedule**  
**Registration Required**

**Rural County Days -2025 – March 19 – 20**

**Registration Required**  
**[Link for Registration, Information and Schedule](#)**  
**Reception – March 19**  
**Displays and Fish Fry in the Capitol Courtyard – March 20**

If you're coming to Tallahassee - Book your hotel -  [Tallahassee Hotels .docx](#)

**Legislator Contacts**

<https://www.flhouse.gov/representatives>

<https://flsenate.gov/Senators>

***Headlines From The Weekend***

[\*Floridian: DeSantis Brushes Off Donalds' Run for Governor, Wants to Focus on 2024 Election\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: 'Pick his brain': Byron Donalds wants to 'earn' Ron DeSantis' support, learn from him\*](#)

[\*FlaPol: Who will run for Byron Donalds' seat in Congress?\*](#)

[\*News4JAX: Gov. DeSantis touts successes of immigration enforcement programs, hopes other states will catch on\*](#)

[\*Daily News: President Trump's first cabinet meeting: Marco Rubio, Pam Bondi's seats and what it means\*](#)

[\*Sentinel: Florida sheriffs' ICE agreements will lead to street-level immigration enforcement, DeSantis says\*](#)

[\*NBC 6: Florida sheriffs agree to cooperate with immigration enforcement laws\*](#)

[\*Floridian: Marco Rubio's 2007 Property Tax Plan Laid Groundwork for DeSantis' New Goal\*](#)

[\*Sun-Sentinel: Federal rail, airport grants in Florida appear intact as Trump cost-cutting drive unfolds\*](#)

[\*WUSF: Florida's illegal horse meat market thriving. Equine owners fear thieves who slaughter\*](#)

[\*CBS Miami: Federal budget cuts hit South Florida's national parks\*](#)

[\*Times: Publix accused of deceptive pricing in lawsuit that brings receipts\*](#)

[\*Politico: John Morgan is launching his own political party, amid rumors of a Florida gubernatorial run\*](#)

[\*Sun-Sentinel: Democrat Pizzo, edging closer to run for Florida governor, sees Republican Donalds candidacy as irrelevant\*](#)

[\*Democrat: Byron Donalds enters Florida governor's race. Will it deepen GOP divide?\*](#)

[\*News4JAX: Things to know about Byron Donalds, Trump's pick to be Florida's next governor\*](#)

[\*Daily News: Byron Donalds running for Florida governor: Disclosures show Congressman's net worth\*](#)

[FlaPol: Florida leaders line up to endorse Byron Donalds on Day 1](#)

[FlaPol: Joe Gruters files bill to strengthen privacy protections for crime victims](#)

[Floridian: Rep. Jeff Holcomb Files Bill Allowing Off-Duty LEO to Conceal Carry at Sporting Events](#)

[Floridian: Blaise Ingoglia Files Amendment to Freeze Property Taxes Against Homes Affected by Natural Disasters](#)

[WLRN: Lawmakers look to 'make it right' for people wrongfully incarcerated after Tampa man's exoneration](#)

[The Capitolist: Senate Bill Proposes Phone-Free School Pilot to Assess Academic, Behavioral Impact](#)

[Sentinel: Florida wildlife officials weigh possible bear hunt, will seek public input this spring](#)

### ***On the Docket***

#### **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

- FISH, WILDLIFE PANEL - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will meet and discuss issues such as a slow-speed boating zone in part of the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach County known as Jupiter Narrows. Florida State University Student Union, 75 North Woodward Ave., Tallahassee.
- ELECTIONS ISSUES - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Elections Commission is scheduled to meet. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- FINANCIAL AID - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will analyze issues related to student financial aid. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Human Relations will meet. Florida Commission on Human Relations, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- GULF COAST COLLEGE BOARD - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees will meet. Gulf Coast State College, Robert L. McSpadden Student Union West, Panama City.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- CHILDREN'S ISSUES - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Children and Youth Cabinet will meet, Florida Department of Children and Families, 2415 Monroe St., Tallahassee.
- POLK DELEGATION - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Polk County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula; Sen. Colleen Burton, R-Lakeland; Rep. Jon Albert, R-Frostproof; Rep. Jennifer Kincart Jonsson, R-Lakeland; Rep. Jennifer Canady, R-Lakeland; and Rep. Josie Tomkow, R-Polk City. Polk County Commission board room, 330 West Church St., Bartow.
- MEDICAID EXPENDITURES - Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - The Social Services Estimating Conference will take up issues related to expenditures in the Medicaid program. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- LOBBYING FIRMS TO BE AUDITED - Thursday, 2 p.m. - Staff members of the Joint Legislative Auditing Committee will select lobbying firms whose compensation reports will be audited. Claude Pepper Building, 111 West Madison St., Tallahassee.

- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, Room, 213 S.W. Commerce Blvd., Lake City. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 870970221

#### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025**

- CHARLOTTE DELEGATION - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Charlotte County legislative delegation will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. The delegation is made up of Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula; Rep. Danny Nix, R-Placida; and Rep. Vanessa Oliver, R-Punta Gorda. Charlotte County Commission chamber, 18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte.
- FSDB TRUSTEES - Friday, 9:15 a.m. - The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, Moore Hall, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.
- FSU TRUSTEES - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Florida State University Board of Trustees will meet. Florida State University Student Union, 75 North Woodward Ave., Tallahassee.
- SOUTHEAST FLORIDA COUNCILS - Friday, 10 a.m. - The South Florida Regional Planning Council and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will hold a joint meeting. Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization, 100 West Cypress Creek Road, #650, Fort Lauderdale.
- THOMPSON REMEMBERED - Friday, 11 a.m. - A service will be held for state Sen. Geraldine Thompson, who died this month at age 76. Majestic Life Church, 821 South Kirkman Road, Orlando.
- UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND - Friday, 1 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will update a forecast for the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DESOTO DELEGATION - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The DeSoto County legislative delegation, made up of Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, and Rep. Vanessa Oliver, R-Punta Gorda, will meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. DeSoto County Commission chamber, 201 East Oak St., Arcadia.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves analyzing potential costs of legislation. 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HARDEE DELEGATION - Friday, 4 p.m. - The Hardee County legislative delegation, made up of Sen. Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, and Rep. Kaylee Tuck, R-Lake Placid, is scheduled to meet as it prepares for the 2025 session. Location; 412 West Orange St., Wauchula.

#### ***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)

***[www.smallcountycoalition.org](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org) or [www.ssdec.org](http://www.ssdec.org) and click on the red Briefing button***