



## Day 1 of the 2025 Florida Legislature



## *The Briefing for March 4, 2025*

*The Last Briefing was March 2, 2025*

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

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

*Today is the Opening Day of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session Tuesday  
May 2 is when the Session is scheduled to end*

[\*House Calendar for Day 1\*](#)  
[\*Senate Calendar for Day 1\*](#)

### *Major Items on Tuesday's Agenda*

**9:30 a.m. - SENATE CONVENES** -Senate President Albritton - Presiding

**10 a.m. - HOUSE CONVENES** - Speaker of the House Perez – Presiding

**11 a.m. - STATE OF STATE** - Gov. Ron DeSantis will give his annual State of the State address to a Joint Session

**4:00 PM – House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee** - Overview of Add-on Weights for Certain Full-time Equivalent Students Funded in Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) Department of Education Presentation on the Results of the Add-on Weights Study

**4 p.m. - PHOSPHATE MINES** - The House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 585), filed by Rep. Jon Albert, R-Frostproof, that could help shield owners of former phosphate mines from liability for pollution. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

*Watch the Action Live on* [\*https://thefloridachannel.org/\*](https://thefloridachannel.org/)

### *Two Legislative Priorities Move Forward*

**RURAL RENAISSANCE' BILL – SB 110 PASSES FIRST OF THREE COMMITTEES**

[\*Video of Discussion on Rural Renaissance - first 15 minutes\*](#)

The Senate Community Affairs Committee passed SB 110. Filed by Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, the bill is a comprehensive initiative addressing multiple program to bolster economic development, health care, transportation, education, and, fiscal capacity of rural Florida.

***REPEAL OF STATE DICTATED SCHOOL START TIMES PASSES SENATE COMMITTEE***  
***[Video of Discussion on the School Start Time Bill - first 13 minutes](#)***

The Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee passed SB 296, filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island. The bill repeals the requirements aimed at later start times for middle schools and high schools. –

***PROPERTY TAXES - Wednesday, 11 a.m.***

The Senate Finance and Tax Committee will receive a presentation about property taxes. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

**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***

***[Sentinel: Florida is in for a Trumpy session, political analysts say, as legislators gather in Tallahassee](#)***

***[Sentinel: Florida's fluoride critics decry its health risks. But not fluoridating water also is dangerous, an exclusive analysis shows.](#)***

***[Democrat: Five years after arrival of COVID-19, almost 100,000 dead, a changed Florida](#)***

***[News4JAX: Florida ranked as top state in U.S. for education, economy: report](#)***

***[WUSF: The endangered Florida panther faces the dual threats of urban sprawl and increased traffic](#)***

***[FlaPol: New study: Miami ranked 5th among U.S. cities with road rage incidents](#)***

***[The Capitolist: Florida Legislature returns Tuesday](#)***

***[Democrat: 2025 Legislative Session: Bills to watch in Florida](#)***

***[WUSF: Debate over fluoridating water systems cascades into Florida's legislative session](#)***

***[TCPalm: Florida bill makes it harder to find homeless population during annual count, experts say](#)***

***[FlaPol: FWC officially agrees to change all state documents and references to Gulf of America](#)***

*PNJ: Florida District 3 candidates tout credentials before primary election*

*On the Docket*

**TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025**

**— Legislature:**

- HOUSE DELVES INTO HEMP - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The House Combined Workgroup on Hemp will discuss issues related to regulation of hemp. - 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE CONVENES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Senate will convene on the first day of the 2025 legislative session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE CONVENES - Tuesday, 10 a.m. - The House will convene on the first day of the 2025 legislative session. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- DESANTIS GIVES STATE OF STATE - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - Gov. Ron DeSantis will give his annual State of the State address as the House and Senate gather on the first day of the legislative session. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- CHARTER SCHOOLS - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The House Education Administration Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 123), filed by Rep. Alex Andrade, R-Pensacola, related to issues such as charter-school conversions. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- AHCA OFFICIALS COULD GET EXEMPTION - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 527), filed by Rep. Dana Trabulsky, R-Fort Pierce, that would provide a public-records exemption for personal information about Agency for Health Care Administration officials who investigate complaints against health-care facilities, investigate Medicaid fraud or inspect health-care facilities. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- VACANT POSITIONS - Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - The House State Administration Budget Subcommittee will review vacant positions by agency. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate Criminal Justice Committee will take up a bill (SB 168), filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island, about diverting criminal defendants for mental-health treatment. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- NURSING HOME CARE - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate Health Policy Committee will consider a proposal (SB 170), filed by Chairwoman Colleen Burton, R-Lakeland, that addresses a series of issues about quality of care in nursing homes. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SERVICE RECORDS - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security Committee will take up a bill (SB 348), filed by Chairman Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, that would crack down on elected and appointed public officials and public employees who misrepresent service in the U.S. military. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ‘MOVE OVER FLORIDA’ - Tuesday, 2 p.m. - Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez, R-Miami-Dade County, and state and local officials are expected to take part in a news conference to discuss an awareness campaign about “move over” safe-driving laws. The Towing and Recovery Association of America and Randy Meyer Racing are producing the campaign. - Capitol steps.
- ALBRITTON HOLDS AVAILABILITY - Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. - Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, will hold a media availability. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- PEREZ HOLDS AVAILABILITY - Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. - House Speaker Daniel Perez, R-Miami, will hold a media availability. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- CHILD WELFARE - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Children, Families and Elder Affairs Committee will take up a proposal (SPB 7012) that would make changes in the child-welfare

system, such as requiring the creation of a program to recruit child-protective investigators and case managers. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE DAMAGES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Judiciary Committee will consider a bill (SB 734), filed by Chairman Clay Yarborough, R-Jacksonville, that would allow parents of adult children to pursue mental-pain and suffering damages in wrongful-death lawsuits that allege medical malpractice. Current law bars parents of adult children from seeking such damages. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- STORM RECOVERY - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Regulated Industries Committee will receive presentations about storm recovery and storm protection. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate Transportation Committee will hold a discussion about legislative priorities of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the Department of Transportation. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- UNIVERSITY AUDITS - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The House Higher Education Budget Subcommittee will receive a presentation about audits of New College of Florida, Florida A&M University, the University of Florida and Florida Atlantic University. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CHILD CARE FACILITIES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The House Human Services Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 47), filed by Rep. Fiona McFarland, R-Sarasota, that includes revising licensing standards for child-care facilities. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- PHOSPHATE MINES - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee will consider a proposal (HB 585), filed by Rep. Jon Albert, R-Frostproof, that could help shield owners of former phosphate mines from liability for pollution. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL FUNDING - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee will receive an overview of certain issues related to the Florida Education Finance Program, which is the main funding formula for public schools. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.

**— Also:**

- EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Self-Insurance Estimating Conference will consider an “outlook” for the state employees health insurance trust fund. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- UTILITY ISSUES - Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.
- UTILITY SCAMS - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - As part of National Consumer Protection Week, the Florida Public Service Commission will hold meetings with consumers in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties about issues such as utility-related scams and energy conservation. 10:30 a.m. at Town N’ Country Senior Center, 7606 Paula Dr., Tampa. Also, 1 p.m., The Sunshine Center, 330 Fifth St. North, St. Petersburg.
- I-75 INTERCHANGE - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a meeting in Sarasota County about an interchange project at Interstate 75 and Fruitville Road. - Columbus Hall, 4880 Fruitville Road, Sarasota.
- ‘FAMILY WELL BEING’ COUNCIL - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The state Child and Family Well Being Council will meet. - Information at <https://www.myflfamilies.com/news-events/public-events-meetings/child-and-family-well-being-council-call-0>

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025**

**— Legislature:**

- LATE HOTELIER HONORED - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 274), filed

by Sen. Kristen Arrington, D-Kissimmee, that would name a portion of International Drive in Orange County in honor of hotelier Harris Rosen, who died in November. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

- CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS - Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. - The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 294), filed by Sen. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart, related to “collaborative pharmacy practice” for chronic health conditions. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- CLOUD SEEDING - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 56), filed by Sen. Ileana Garcia, R-Miami, that seeks to prevent “weather modification” activities, including cloud seeding. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- WRONGFUL INCARCERATION - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 130), filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island, that would help compensate people who have been wrongfully incarcerated. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- UNIVERSITY FUNDING - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee will receive an overview of funding for the state university system. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- PROPERTY TAXES - Wednesday, 11 a.m. - The Senate Finance and Tax Committee will receive a presentation about property taxes. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- PROPERTY TAXES - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - Rep. Ryan Chamberlin, R-Belleview, will hold a news conference about a proposal to eliminate property taxes in Florida. - Fourth floor, the Capitol.
- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Senate will hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- **OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS**
  - House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee (10:15 a.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee (10:15 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee (10:15 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee (10:15 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee (1 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Security & Threat Assessment Committee (4:15 p.m., 12 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

**— Also:**

DESANTIS, CABINET MEET - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - Gov. Ron DeSantis and the state Cabinet will take up a series of issues, including proposed deals to purchase and conserve land. - Cabinet meeting room, the Capitol.

JUSTICES WEIGH DUVAL MURDER CASE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in two cases, including an appeal by Death Row inmate Raymond Bright, who was

convicted of murdering two men with a hammer in 2008 in Duval County. - Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.

HEALTHY KIDS PROGRAM - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Healthy Kids Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Hotel Duval, 415 North Monroe St., Tallahassee.

UNF TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will hold committee meetings and a quarterly board meeting. - University of North Florida, John A. Delaney Student Union, Jacksonville.

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

CYBERSECURITY - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Cybersecurity Advisory Council will meet. - Florida State University, 1753 West Paul Dirac Dr., Tallahassee.

PROPERTY TAXES - Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will analyze ad valorem, or property, taxes. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.

NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 5 p.m. - The North Florida College Board of Trustees will meet. - North Florida College board room, 325 N.W. Turner Davis Dr., Madison.

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025**

##### **— Legislature:**

- **SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - The Senate will hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.**
- **OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS**
  - House Justice Budget Subcommittee (8:30 a.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - Senate Appropriations Committee (9 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (9 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Government Operations Subcommittee (9 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Housing, Agriculture & Tourism Subcommittee (9 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Student Academic Success Subcommittee (9 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Health Care Budget Subcommittee (1 p.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (1 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee (1 p.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Criminal Justice Subcommittee (1 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

##### **Also:**

- **GAMBLING ISSUES - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Florida Gaming Control Commission will meet. - Betty Easley Conference Center, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee.**
- **PRE-K PROGRAM - Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will analyze issues in the voluntary pre-kindergarten program. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.**
- **SCHOOL READINESS - Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - The Early Learning Programs Estimating Conference will discuss school readiness programs. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.**

- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- INSURANCE CLAIMS - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The Claims Committee of the Citizens Property Insurance Corp. Board of Governors will meet. - <https://www.citizensfla.com/public-meetings>. Call-in number: 1-786-635-1003. Code: 98593216531

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025**

- ETHICS PANEL - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Ethics will take up a series of issues, including a case involving Broward County Sheriff Gregory Tony. - 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.
- TRUST FUNDS - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will discuss “outlooks” for the Educational Enhancement Trust Fund and the Opioid Settlement Trust Fund. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves analyzing potential costs of legislation. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- COLLEGE ENROLLMENT - Friday, 2 p.m. - The Education Estimating Conference will analyze enrollment in the Florida college system. - 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- OPTICIAN ISSUES - Friday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Board of Opticianry will meet. - Call-in number: 850-792-1375. Code: 965024285

### *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)

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