

# ***Governor Signs Executive Order Eliminating the Florida Legislature!***

*What Day Is It?*

## ***The Briefing for April Fool's Day!***

*The Last Briefing was March 29, 2025*

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

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

***Legislator Contacts***

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

**<https://flsenate.gov/Senators>**

***Calendars for the rest of Week Five***

**[Calendar for the House of Representatives](#)**

**[Calendar for the Florida Senate](#)**

***Bits and Pieces***

### **Relations Pretty Icy as the Legislature Enters the Second Half The Budget/The Tax Package/ Major Legislation**

Who knows what the impact will be but relations are a bit strained. Strong words and overrides – an differences on Tax policy have caused the strong language. Governor would like to eliminate Property Tax. The House Speaker has floated a significant cut in Sales Tax– and earlier this week the Governor countered suggested sending \$1,000 checks to folks paying property taxes. It seems the calmer heads are in the Senate where Senate Leaders understand the significant impact that a major change in the state tax structure would have on state and local services. An important note, however, in all of the discussion it seems that the Governor and Legislative leaders are aware of the impact on fiscally constrained counties and will take that into consideration.

**Appropriations Bills will be worked out in House and Seante committees tomorrow.**

**School Start Time – Waiting for House Floor Action – then done!**

**Term Limits – HJR 679 – up in House Education Administration – tomorrow  
4-2-25 -102 HOB**

**Solar Farms – HB 1595 – Passed First Committee this morning**

The bill was amended to remove the repeal of the pre-emption and currently provides a strong Decommissioning Requirement.

**Elimination of Regional Planning Councils – SB 1264 –  
Passed Senate Committee as part of a comprehensive Dept. of Commerce bill.**

Significant opposition from County and City commissioners. There are good portions of the bill but it needs to be amended by deleting the elimination of the RPC's.

**FEFP**

**House Proposed - The Florida Education Finance Program**  
**Senate Proposed - Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP)**

**Program Weights / Comparable Wage Factor/ Small District Factor**

- [HB 5101 - Education](#) – does a number of things but one of the more significant changes is the reduction by ½ of the weight for each of the programs with a program cost factor. This will have a significant impact on high-cost programs including CTE and Career Path programs. The Senate does not have this provision.
- Senate Education Budget Maintains the Comparable Wage Factor with a base of 1.0. The House does not compress the CWF to 1.0.
- Small District Factor in the FEFP - The Senate increases the Small District Factor to 1.0554. The House uses 1.0403 for the Small District Factor

***Status of Appropriations Proposals***

House Appropriations Bills Scheduled for Action in the Budget Committee on Wednesday 8:30am -212Knott Building	2025 Senate Proposed Appropriation Bills Scheduled for action Wednesday – 9:00am - 412 Knott Building
<p><a href="#">PCB BUC 25-01 - General Appropriations Act</a></p> <p>PCB BUC 25-02 - Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act -<a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>BUC 25-03 - Collective Bargaining -<a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>PCB BUC 25-04 - State-administered Retirement System - <a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>PCB BUC 25-05 - Government Administration <a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>PCB BUC 25-06 - Funding for Environmental Resource Management - <a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>PCB BUC25-07 - State Funded Property Reinsurance Programs - <a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>PCB BUC25-08-State Group Insurance -<a href="#">View PCB Text</a></p> <p>House Filed Appropriations Bills -Conforming Bills Change Statutes  <a href="#">HB 5101 - Education</a>  <a href="#">HB 5201 - State Financial Accounting</a>  <a href="#">HB 5203 - Capitol Center</a>  <a href="#">HB 5301 - Health Care</a></p>	<p><a href="#">S 2500 Appropriations</a></p> <p><a href="#">S 2502</a> Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act-</p> <p><a href="#">S2504</a> State Employees</p> <p><a href="#">S2506</a> Natural Resources</p> <p><a href="#">S2508</a> Judges</p> <p><a href="#">S 2510</a> Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education</p> <p><a href="#">S2512</a> Higher Education</p> <p><a href="#">S2514</a> Health and Human Services</p> <p><i>Related Documents</i></p> <p><a href="#">School Readiness Reimbursement Rates</a></p>

<a href="#"><u>HB 5401 - Judges</u></a> <a href="#"><u>HB 5501 - Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions</u></a> <a href="#"><u>School Readiness Program Reimbursement Rates</u></a>	
--	--

*On the Docket*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025**

**— Legislature:**

- HOUSE BUDGET - Wednesday, 8 a.m. - The House Budget Committee will consider a proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which will start July 1. 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE BUDGET - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Appropriations Committee will consider a proposed budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which will start July 1. 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- GULF OF AMERICA - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee will take up a bill (SB 608), filed by Sen. Nick DiCeglie, R-Indian Rocks Beach, that would change references in state laws from the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America” after President Donald Trump issued an executive order to rename the gulf. 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

**OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

- House Ways & Means Committee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Education Administration Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Health Care Facilities & Systems Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House State Administration Budget Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee (1:30 p.m., 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Education & Employment Committee (4 p.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Judiciary Committee (4 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House State Affairs Committee (4 p.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)

**— Also:**

- JUSTICES CONSIDER INSURANCE FIGHT - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, including a dispute involving American Coastal Insurance Co. and Miami-Dade County’s Patios West One Condominium Association about damage from Hurricane Irma. Florida Supreme Court, 500 South Duval St., Tallahassee.

- 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
- BISCAYNE BAY ADDRESSED - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The state Biscayne Bay Commission will meet. <https://ProtectingFloridaTogether.gov/BiscayneBayCommission>
- WATER RATES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an online meeting about proposed rate increases for Alturas Water, LLC in Polk County. <https://www.floridapsc.com/>
- BEAR HUNTS DISCUSSED - Wednesday, noon. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold a meeting about the possibility of having bear hunts. <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/96561628155>. Call-in number: 1-305-224-1968. Code: 96561628155
- SEWER RATES - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an online meeting about proposed rate increases for West Lakeland Wastewater LLC in Polk County. <https://www.floridapsc.com/>

#### **THURSDAY APRIL 3, 2025**

##### **— Legislature:**

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, noon. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE TAKES UP INITIATIVE - Thursday, 12:30 p.m. - The House will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a proposal (HB 1205), sponsored by Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka, R-Fort Myers, that would place additional restrictions on ballot initiatives. Among other things, the House will consider bills (HB 575 and HB 549) to help carry out President Donald Trump's directive to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. House chamber, the Capitol.

##### **OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

- House Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Professions & Programs Subcommittee (8 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Appropriations Committee (9 a.m., 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
- Senate Fiscal Policy Committee (9 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)
- House Rules & Ethics Committee (15 minutes after House floor session, 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

##### **— Also:**

- JUDICIAL CANDIDATES INTERVIEWED - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The 1st District Court of Appeal Judicial Nominating Commission will interview candidates for an opening on

the Tallahassee-based court. Candidates scheduled to be interviewed are Jennifer J. Frydrychowicz, Francis A. Carbone, II, Amie E. DeGuzman, Stephen S. Everett, Brittany O. Finkbeiner, R. Todd Harris, Joshua M. Hawkes, William S. Henry, Lance E. Neff, Timothy J. Inacio, Kyle B. Sill, Ray Treadwell, George M. Wright and Doreen T. Inkeles. 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.

- DEP HOLDS OPEN HOUSE - Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Southwest District will hold an annual open house. Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 13051 North Telecom Parkway, Suite 101, Temple Terrace.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- BEAR HUNTS DISCUSSED - Thursday, 5 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold a meeting about the possibility of having bear hunts. <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/94803064202>. Call-in number: 1-305-224-1968. Code: 94803064202

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025**

##### **Legislature:**

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. Senate chamber, the Capitol.

##### **— Also:**

- BOARD OF MEDICINE - Friday, 8 a.m. - The Florida Board of Medicine is scheduled to meet. Embassy Suites Orlando, Lake Buena Vista South, 4955 Kyngs Heath Road, Kissimmee.
- 'IMPACT' CONFERENCE HELD - 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.
- FSDB TRUSTEES MEET - Friday, 10:45 a.m. - The Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind Board of Trustees will meet. Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, 207 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025**

- BEAR HUNTS DISCUSSED - Saturday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold a meeting about the possibility of having bear hunts. <https://fsu.zoom.us/j/91550331906>. Call-in number: 1-305-224-1968. Code: 91550331906

### ***Headlines Around The State***

**[The Capitolist: Sen. Rick Scott Introduces Bill to Ban Imports of Chinese Citrus Fruit](#)**

**[FlaPol: Charles Burkett, Surfside's 4-term Mayor, says he's running for Governor](#)**

[Axios: Hillsborough resolution would welcome Florida DOGE to examine county's books](#)

[WUSF: Lakeland named best U.S. city for working women. Here's why](#)

[FlaPol: FloridaCommerce: State unemployment rate climbs for 2 months straight](#)

[News4JAX: Gov. DeSantis calls on Florida Legislature to direct \\$5 billion for property tax relief](#)

[Democrat: Gov. DeSantis: Property tax relief, not sales tax cuts, is Florida's priority](#)

[The Capitolist: DeSantis wants \\$5.1B property tax relief with \\$1,000 rebates for homeowners](#)

[My News 13: DeSantis urges lawmakers to take action to end property taxes during Orlando visit](#)

[Bradenton Herald: DeSantis escalates feud with House speaker on tax cuts](#)

[FlaPol: 'We owe it to taxpayers to get this right': Ben Albritton says Senate to consider dueling GOP tax plans](#)

[WUSF: State Senate President pushing to boost citrus industry, calls it a part of the 'DNA of Florida'](#)

[WLRN: Florida lawmakers are working to fix the funding for "universal" school choice](#)

[Floridian: Sen. Jason Pizzo Pushing Excessive Speeding Bill Against Reckless Drivers](#)

[Democrat: Florida wildlife agency chair defends his record at Senate confirmation hearing](#)

[FlaPol: Another \\$300 million for rural and family lands conservation makes it into House budget](#)

[Yahoo News: Florida bill would ban these rent hikes for affordable housing. What to know](#)

[FlaPol: Bill to help homeless, foster care youth with school housing clears first hurdle](#)

[FlaPol: Legislation boosting housing support for former foster kids advances](#)

[FlaPol: Put that thing away! Danny Burgess wants to study school cell phone bans](#)

[FlaPol: Voters to pick GOP nominee in race to succeed Randy Fine. Can anyone beat Debbie Mayfield's cash edge?](#)

[Post: Florida Senate bill would change high school graduation, third grade reading test rules](#)

[My News 13: Proposed Florida bill aims to create statewide animal abuse database](#)

[FlaPol: Proposed House budget tackles nursing shortage with investments in education](#)

[FlaPol: House budget slots \\$55M for facility repairs, maintenance amid justice system spending cut](#)

[FlaPol: USF, Moffitt big winners in House proposed budget](#)

[FlaPol: House, Senate budgets a mixed bag for Citrus County](#)

[FlaPol: House proposed budget funds education, water projects, road improvements in Pinellas](#)

[FlaPol: House earmarks \\$500K in proposed budget to prevent another Copa América fiasco](#)

[WUSF: Local restaurateur urges lawmakers to keep USF's Sarasota campus in place](#)

***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)

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go [www.smallcountycoalition.org](http://www.smallcountycoalition.org) or [www.ssdcc.org](http://www.ssdcc.org) and click on the red **Briefing** button

