



The Briefing for Friday – April 4, 2025

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](#)

Appropriations Budget Proposals Ready for Floor Action in Week Seven

House and Senate Face Budget proposals are about \$4.4 billion apart.

Last years budget totaled \$117.46 billion.

The Senate Proposed budget comes in at \$117.36 billion.

The House proposal totals \$112.95 billion.

The House Budget Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee approved the proposals Wednesday, positioning them up to go to the full House and Senate next week. Both House and Senate Appropriations Chairs are trying to “right size” state spending after passing record budgets in previous years. Differences are centered around pay raises for state employees, tax cuts and whether to back away from spending for the Florida Wildlife Corridor and Live Local.

A main difference involves spending on state employees -

- Reducing Positions - The Senate proposal does away with about 1,000 full-time positions that have been vacant at state agencies for at least 100 days. The House eliminate about 7,000 positions that have been vacant 90 days or longer.
- Pay Raises - The Senate has proposed 4 percent pay increases for state employees, while the House has not proposed such pay hikes.

Different Approaches on Tax Reduction –

- The House proposes to cut the state’s sales-tax rate from 6 percent to 5.25 percent reducing revenue by about \$5 billion. Senate President Albritton has suggested taking more time to study the sales-tax proposal and the Governor’s Proposal to cut property taxes.

Changing Direction on Previously Approved Programs

- The House is proposing to repeal a 2024 law that earmarked \$834 million from a gambling deal with the Seminole Tribe of Florida used in 24-25 to expand the state wildlife corridor and other environmental projects. The proceeds would be transferred to the state’s general-revenue fund.
- The House is also proposing to eliminate the recurring earmark of \$150 million a year in documentary-stamp taxes for certain affordable-housing efforts. The money funded the “Live Local Act,” a priority of former Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, R-Naples.

Differences also exist in FEFP Funding- the Governor’s Budget Proposal is the most favorable but its not in play! .

Current Funding - 24-25 FEFP 3rdCalc.pdf	\$28,590,844,425
Governors Recommendation for the FEFP	\$29,655,931,656
Senate Proposal for the FEFP	\$29,575,330,118
House Proposal for the FEFP	\$29,338,511,640

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

On to Floor Consideration then to Conference

The Proposals below are now referred to the full House and Senate for approval. Once the proposals are approved by their respective chambers – the budget process will move into the “Conference Process” where members from the House and Senate will meet to iron out the differences. Proposals below are word searchable

Senate Appropriations Committee Proposal Goes Next to the Full Senate Next Week

SB 2500 - Appropriations by Appropriations
<https://static-lobbytools.s3.amazonaws.com/bills/2025/pdf/2500.pdf>

Appropriations; Providing moneys for the annual period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, and supplemental appropriations for the period ending June 30, 2025, to pay salaries, and other expenses, capital outlay - buildings, and other improvements, and for other specified purposes of the various agencies of state government, etc

SB 2502 Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act by Appropriations

Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act; Authorizing the Agency for Health Care Administration, in consultation with the Department of Health, to submit a budget amendment to realign funding for specified purposes; extending for 1 fiscal year the exemption of certain rules pertaining to the medical use of marijuana from certain rulemaking requirements; revising the Quality Incentive Program payment pool percentage for the reimbursement of Medicaid providers; requiring the Department of Children and Families to develop and report on an alternative tiered funding methodology and to provide certain information, etc. Effective Date: Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act and except for this section, which shall take effect upon this act becoming a law, this act shall take effect July 1, 2025, or, if this act fails to become a law until after that date, it shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2025

***House Appropriations Committee Proposal
Going To House Floor Next Week***

HB 5001 - General Appropriations Act by Budget Committee

<https://static-lobbytools.s3.amazonaws.com/bills/2025/pdf/5001.pdf>

General Appropriations Act: Provides moneys for annual period beginning July 1, 2025, & ending June 30, 2026, & supplemental appropriations for period ending June 30, 2025, to pay salaries & other expenses, capital outlay—buildings & other improvements, & for other specified purposes of various agencies of state government.

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) - House April 3, 2025

HB 5003 - Implementing the 2025-2026 Gen Approps Act by Budget Committee

<https://static-lobbytools.s3.amazonaws.com/bills/2025/pdf/5003.pdf>

Implementing the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act: Implements specified appropriations of the General Appropriations Act for 2025-2026 fiscal year. Effective Date: July 1, 2025, or, if this act fails to become a law until after that date, it shall take effect upon becoming a law and shall operate retroactively to July 1, 2025

On the Docket

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 Kyns 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

Politico: 'He repels people': DeSantis tears into Fine after Florida special election underperformance

FlaPol: Jimmy Patronis makes appointment to key Gulf Coast Board before he heads to Congress

WUSF: Miami-Dade commissioners vote to stop adding fluoride to local water supply

Herald: Miami-Dade County Commission votes to take fluoride out of tap water. What's next?

PNJ: FDEP hands out millions to help local agencies bolster water resources

Times: Hillsborough County votes to create DOGE committee

Times: DeSantis takes aim at House Republican leaders in speech

Democrat: Florida budget battle 2025: As DeSantis fumes at House, here's a spending gap breakdown

WUSF: Florida House, Senate facing budget differences as proposals are about \$4.4 billion apart

News4JAX: Gov. DeSantis, Florida agency under fire over possible mishandling of \$160 million Medicaid funds

WUSF: Florida House questioning state agencies amid probe into possible wasteful government spending

Herald: Inside state Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo's rocky tenure at University of Florida

The Capitolist: House Panel Advances Permanent Sales Tax Cut with Bipartisan Support

WUSF: Proposal to use E-Verify to check immigration status of workers advances in Florida House

FlaPol: Proposed term limits referendum advances despite ample opposition

The Capitolist: Senate Committee Unanimously Advances School Safety Bill

Times: Officers who shoot people could have names withheld under Florida bill

FlaPol: 'Planes, trains and automobiles': House committee questions Lottery Secretary travel costs

[The Capitolist: DeSantis says 7,800 officers have taken state recruitment bonuses](#)

[FlaPol: Local DEI ban in doubt as bill not heard in Senate committee stop](#)

[FlaPol: Bill to establish rules for student athlete compensation advances](#)

[FlaPol: Emerging crops bill heads to Senate floor, seeding potential future lucrative ag opportunities](#)

[WLRN: Bills to protect the Apalachicola river and bay from drilling are on the move](#)

[Sentinel: Florida admits plan for December bear hunt, its first in a decade](#)

[Times: St. Petersburg council member, activists push city to leave Duke Energy](#)

[WUSF: Florida Highway Patrol Advisory Council member requests \\$70M in state funding to address staffing](#)

[WLRN: The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs held its annual Military Appreciation Day at the Capitol](#)

About the Briefing

The Briefing is prepared by Chris Doolin

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

www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdec.org and click on the red **Briefing** button