



Legislature passes 1/4 mark!
17 Days Down
43 to Go!

The Briefing for March 20, 2025

The Last Briefing was March 15, 2025

March Madness Begins – Here are the brackets

<https://www.ncaa.com/men's-march-madness-live/bracket>

<https://www.espn.com/womens-college-basketball/bracket>

What's the weather outlook?

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

What Day Is It?

It's Rural Counties Day !

Hundreds of Public and Private Sector leaders from rural Florida have come to Tallahassee to promote and celebrate Florida's rural communities. Kicked-off last evening with a reception, Rural County Days will hold its signature event with exhibits and an Old Time Fish Fry between Florida's Old and New Capitol!

A Huge Week in Tally!

Also this week – State Organizations representing local elected officials held meetings. Legislative Briefings were held for County Commissioners by the Florida Association of Counties and the Small County Coalition and by the Small School District Council Consortium and the Florida School Boards Association for School Officials.

Senate President Albritton Welcomes the Small County Coalition and the Small School District Council Consortium to the Senate Chambers

Yesterday – Senate President held a special briefing for small county commissioners and small school district officials in the Senate Chamber where he discussed the “Rural Renaissance”. The participants were led in the Chamber by Commissioner Russell Melendy, Chair of the Small County Coalition and a commissioner from Hardee County – Albritton’s home county. When Senator Albritton entered the Chamber he met Commissioner Melendy with a huge body crushing Bear Hug! Albritton and Melendy are lifetime residents of Wauchula – and are good

friends. It was an important event where the President shared his love for the people of rural Florida.

Rural Renaissance Bill SB 110 Passes Senate

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/110>

The proposal is the most comprehensive piece of legislation that has ever been considered by the Florida Legislature. Initiatives addressing health care, education, funding for rural communities, law enforcement and more are included with a commitment of \$200 million dollars targeting these issues.

Bills moving this week.

Solar Facilities – SB 1304 passed its first committee.

The Bill sponsored by Jennifer Bradley returns county oversight and decommissioning legislation. Speakers from Clay, DeSoto, Columbia, Gilchrist and others spoke in favor of the bill.

School Start Times moving in the House and Senate

The bill repealing the school start time mandate is moving in both the House and Senate. Bills repeal the later start time mandates are moving in both the House and Senate. It appears the legislation has strong headwinds.

Term Limits

Yesterday the House Intergovernmental Affairs committee heard HB 679 which proposes a Constitutional amendment establishing eight year term limits for county commissioners and school board members. The bill was opposed by dozens of speakers. The bill passed the committee. The bill proposes a statewide vote. A statewide vote would be dominated by voters from counties that already have term-limits.

Calendars

[Today's House Calendar](#)

[Today's Senate Calendar](#)

Legislator Contacts

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

<https://flsenate.gov/Senators>

Scheduled Activities for Next Week

Tuesday – March 18th –

- **5:15pm-7:00pm - Small County Coalition Legislative Reception** - American Institute of Architects Florida Headquarters - 104 E. Jefferson St., Tallahassee –

Wednesday – March 19th –

- **8:00am-10:00am – Florida Association of Counties – Legislative Briefing**
- **9:45am-11:15am - Small School District Council Consortium - Legislative Briefing** -
- **11:30 -Noon -Senate Chamber - A Visit with Senate Leadership**
- **5:15—6:15pm - Florida School Boards Association Reception**

- 5:30-7:30PM – Florida Association of Counties Legislative Reception
- 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day Opening Reception
Thursday, March 20th –
- 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day
- 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Rural Counties Day Fish Fry -

Major Issues

Rural Renaissance - [Senate Bill 110](#) and [HB 1427](#) – [Staff Analysis of SB 110](#)
County Commission/Schools Board Term Limits – [SB 802](#) and [HJR 679](#)
Property Tax Issues - - [Property Tax Overview](#) - [Property Tax Bills 2025](#)
Affordable Housing – [HB 247](#) and [SB 184](#) - [Staff Analysis of SB 184](#)
Sovereign Immunity – [HB 301](#) and [SB 1570](#) – [Analysis of Sovereign Immunity Legislation](#)
Regional Planning Councils – - [HB 1125](#) and [SB 1264](#)
Solar Fields – [SB 1304](#) and [HB 1595](#)
Private Provider Inspection Services – [HB 695](#) and [SB 1474](#)
Affordable Housing – [SB 1730](#) and [HB 943](#)
Agriculture – [SB 700](#) and [HB 651](#)
School Start Time - [SB 296](#) and [HB 261](#)
Elected Superintendents and Elimination of At Large Seats – [SJR 1454](#) and [HJR 1263](#)
Efficiency in Public Schools – [SB 166](#) – [No House Companion](#)
Hazardous Walking Conditions – [SB 650](#) and [HB 85](#) [HB 85](#)
School Safety – [SB 1470](#) and [HB 1403](#)
Family Empowerment – [SB 508](#) and [HB 423](#)
Private School Student Participation In Sports - [SB 248](#) and [HB 151](#)
Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools - [SB 166](#) – [Staff Analysis of SB 166](#)
Hazardous Walking Conditions - [CS/HB 85](#) and [SB 650](#) – [Staff Analysis of HB 85](#)
*Charter School Conversion – [Limitations on Surplus Land and Land Purchase](#)
– [CS/HB 123](#) and [SB 140](#) - [Staff Analysis of CS/HB 123](#)*
Diabetes Management in Schools - [CS/HB 597](#) and [SB 772](#) – [Staff Analysis of HB 597](#)

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

If you want to see all of the latest briefings – you can go www.smallcountycoalition.org or www.ssdcc.org and click on the red Briefing button

