



The Briefing -Friday – May 9 - 2025

The Last Briefing - Wednesday - May 7, 2025 .

What's the weather outlook?

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

NBA PLAYOFFS - 2025

[Initial Report from the 2025 Legislative Session - May 6 -2025 .docx](#)

15 Bills will be considered during the Extended Session beginning Monday.

Including the following major issues:

- SB 110 - Rural Renaissance – Senate President Priority
- SB 2500 - **The General Appropriations Act** – will the House be successful in forcing a reduction in spending?
- SB 2510 – **Reduction of Program Weights within the FEFP.** -
- HB 7033 – **Tax Package includes:**
 - **Repeal Tourist Development Councils and Funding transferred** to the County Commission – 75% of the TDT funds transferred are mandated for property tax relief.
 - **Repeal of authority to Opt Out of Affordable Housing Property Tax Exemption**
 - **Sales Tax Reduction** – Speaker Supports - Governor opposes.

Information on each of the bills that will be considered during the extended session!

Bill Numbers are active information links.

SB 0110 Rural Communities; Requiring the state land planning agency to give preference for technical assistance funding to local governments located in a rural area of opportunity; authorizing eligible counties to receive a distribution of sales and use tax revenue; creating the Office of Rural Prosperity within the Department of Commerce; creating the Public Infrastructure Smart Technology Grant Program within the Office of Rural Prosperity; requiring, rather than authorizing, that certain

funds received from the State Transportation Trust Fund be used for the Small County Road Assistance Program; requiring the department to give priority to counties located either wholly or partially within the Everglades Agricultural Area and which request a specified percentage of project costs for eligible projects, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$200,813,977 Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 2500 the 2025-2026 General Appropriations Act by 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; 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

SB 2506 Natural Resources by Appropriations Revising requirements for applications for full fee simple acquisition projects; revising the entities that certain state agencies may contract with; revising the scoring system for assessing project eligibility for inclusion in the statewide flooding and sea-level rise plan; revising the schedule for the distribution of funds from the Indian Gaming Revenue Clearing Trust Fund within the Department of Financial Services, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 2508 Judges; Increasing the number of circuit judges in certain judicial circuits; increasing the number of county court judges in certain counties; increasing the number of judges in a certain district court of appeal, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 2510 - Prekindergarten Through Grade 12 Education by Appropriations Authorizing a school district to report a full-time equivalent student for credit earned by a student who is enrolled in a virtual instruction course during the summer; deleting language providing that students who earn certain career and professional education (CAPE) certificates are eligible for full-time equivalent membership; revising the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List; revising the procedure for the calculation of additional full-time equivalent membership for certain students, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 2514 Health and Human Services by Appropriations Authorizing certain dental and dental hygiene students to apply for the Dental Student Loan Repayment Program before obtaining active employment; revising the definitions of the terms “cancer center” and “Florida-based”; defining the term “Cancer Connect Collaborative” or “collaborative”; requiring the collaborative to review all submitted Cancer Innovation Fund grant applications using certain parameters; requiring the Department of Health to appoint peer review panels for a specified purpose, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

HB 5013 State-funded Property Reinsurance Programs by Budget Committee Decreases authorized cumulative transfers from General Revenue Fund to SBA for Reinsurance to Assist

Policyholders program to reimburse certain insurers for insured losses caused by hurricanes; removes Florida Optional Reinsurance Assistance program. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

HB 5015 State Group Insurance by Budget Committee State Group Insurance: Requires that state group health insurance plan copayments for prescription drugs be established annually in General Appropriations Act; removes provisions relating to formulary inclusions of specified drugs; requires DMS to make monthly administrative health insurance assessments against state agencies based on certain vacant positions within agencies; requires state agencies to remit administrative health insurance assessments to State Employees Health Insurance Trust Fund; requires state agencies to provide department with list of certain position numbers, include certain information in list, & update list monthly; requires state agencies to take steps to include administrative health insurance assessments in their indirect cost plans for each fiscal year; requires state agencies to notify certain entities on updated indirect cost plans; authorizes EOG to transfer certain budget authority between state agencies for specified purpose. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 5203 Capitol Center by State Administration Budget Subcommittee

HB 5501 Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions by Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee Documentary Stamp Tax Distributions: Requires certain collected tax to be subject to specified service charge; revises how remainder of certain tax is distributed. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

SB 7022 Retirement by Governmental Oversight and Accountability Retirement; **Authorizing an officer, except while serving as a legislator, to remain in elective office and receive accumulated DROP proceeds after the officer attains a certain age;** providing that, upon termination, the officer receives accumulated DROP proceeds including interest earned in accordance with a specified provision; requiring the Division of Retirement or the State Board of Administration, as appropriate, to take steps to recoup from the elected officer any DROP proceeds distributed in accordance with a specified provision, under specified circumstances; revising required employer retirement contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the Florida Retirement System, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

SB 7030 Educational Scholarship Programs by Appropriations Committee on Pre-K - 12 Education Educational Scholarship Programs; **Creating an operating categorical fund for implementing the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program; creating the educational enrollment stabilization program to provide supplemental state funds to address changes in full-time equivalent student enrollment;** requiring that specified data include a verification that certain full-time equivalent student membership survey data has been cross-checked by the department; renaming the Hope Scholarship Program as the Hope Program; **requiring the Department of Education to work with eligible nonprofit scholarship-funding organizations to resolve discrepancies in certain student funding,** etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

HB 7031 Sales Tax Rate Reductions by Ways & Means Committee **Sales Tax Rate Reductions:** Decreases specified tax rates. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 7033 Taxation by Ways & Means Committee Taxation: **Revises provisions relating to taxation including use & distribution of tax revenues, sales tax rates, tourist development tax, surtaxes, tax exemptions, objections to assessments, determination of ownership, fuel taxes,** forwarding agents, Internal Revenue Code, charitable trusts, forms, cardroom taxes, & assessments. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

No Deal on Tax Cuts or Allocations will impact the extended Session

As of Wednesday afternoon, legislative leaders have not reached agreement on key initial budget details. Scheduled to return to the Capitol next week, the lack of an agreement on revenues and tax cuts will prevent completing an appropriations bill for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, which will begin July 1. Apparently the consensus on a “framework” for a budget plan has not come in for a landing. What was outlined last week was a \$2.8 billion in tax cuts. That said, the legislature was to reconvene next week to negotiate budget details. However, as of Wednesday legislative leaders have not agreed on “allocations,” which are overall amounts of money that would be spent in different areas of the budget.

Senate Appropriation Chair Delays Mid-May Cruise Until Late June!

Originally scheduled to take a cruise in mid-May – Senate Appropriations Chair has rescheduled the cruise until late June. The inability to reach a budget deal during the scheduled 60-day session results from House Speaker Daniel Perez, R-Miami, and Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula, being unable to agree on tax-cut proposals. DeSantis said Wednesday that a House plan to reduce the state sales-tax rate is something “nobody is asking for” and would “effectively kill any opportunity to do property-tax reform.”

Governor Indicates Intention to Veto House Proposed Sales Tax Cut

Gov. Ron DeSantis suggested on Wednesday that he would veto House Speaker Danny Perez's plan to cut sales taxes, accusing the Speaker of supporting a "Florida last" tax package. DeSantis made the comments in Tampa at a roundtable event centered on his desire for a sweeping property tax cut. DeSantis believes that the Perez tax plan would undermine the Governor's preference to reduce property tax. A property tax cut would have to be approved through a constitutional amendment, which DeSantis has advocated for since before the legislative session began. In the interim, he's suggested a \$1,000 rebate for any Floridian with a homestead. DeSantis wants an amendment on the 2026 ballot to eliminate the tax on primary homeowners the House has instituted a 37-person select committee that includes what the Governor calls “far-left” Democrats, intended to “smother” his proposal “in the crib.”

Headlines Around The State

Democrat: Florida asks court to overturn ruling against parents in school gender identity case

FlaPol: Ron DeSantis breaks with Byron Donalds, backs UF presidential pick despite DEI past

Times: Conservative voices are pushing back on UF presidential pick Ono

Sun: Rep. Byron Donalds calls on UF to restart presidential search over Ono's past DEI comments

Sentinel: UF presidential finalist defends decision to dismantle Michigan DEI program

WUSF: Santa Ono, sole finalist for next UF president, outlines his mission at public forums

FlaPol: Byron Donalds fumes at FEMA ‘failure,’ says it must be ‘reformed’

FlaPol: Jared Moskowitz introduces bipartisan FEMA reform bills to speed disaster aid deployment

Sentinel: Trump administration abruptly removes the NTSB vice chair, former Jacksonville mayor

FlaPol: Mike Haridopolos helps hold off layoffs at Treasure Coast aircraft manufacturer with trade tariff relief

Democrat: 'You can't lead from 50th place': Florida trails nation in teacher pay again: NEA report

Herald Tribune: Federal cuts: Hurricane aircraft's Sarasota stop in public awareness campaign scrapped

Herald: Gun violence prevention group in Miami loses its federal funding

Axios: Inside DeSantis' "made-for-TV" fall in Florida

News4JAX: Gov. DeSantis continues to push for property tax cuts, may veto House sales tax plan

Democrat: Gov. DeSantis vows veto: 'Florida last' tax cuts 'dead on arrival,' he says

Herald: Proposed sales-tax cut caught in the middle as DeSantis, Florida House speaker feud

The Capitolist: DeSantis continues push for property tax reform at Tampa roundtable

Sentinel: DeSantis says he'll sign bill to ban golf, hotels in Florida state parks

FlaPol: Wrecked: Effort to repeal Florida's no-fault auto insurance hits the skids again

FlaPol: Bills to help to domestic violence victims, create a 911 app left on shelf

FlaPol: Bills banning toxic chemicals and vaccines in food fail to pass

WUSF: Floridians share their thoughts on the 2025 legislative session

Herald: Florida Legislature passes bill regulating construction cranes during hurricanes

Herald Tribune: Plan to merge New College and USF Sarasota-Manatee halted at legislative session

Democrat: FAMU alum Avery McKnight returns to former role as university's general counsel

Sun-Sentinel: Broward governments brace for Florida tax and spending cuts

Ledger: Florida Polytechnic in Lakeland forges affiliation with Orlando College of Osteopathic Medicine

Mark Your Calendars –

IMPORTANT MEETINGS COMING UP IN JUNE

- June 11 – 13- FSBA/FADSS Annual Summer Conference, Tampa, FL –
Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay - [Annual Meeting Agenda for the FSBA](#)
- June 12 – **FSBA Small District Council/Small School District Council Consortium
Joint Annual Business/Breakfast Meeting** -
- June 24-27– **Florida Association of Counties Annual Meeting – Orlando Hilton** -
[Information on the FAC Annual Meeting](#)
- June 25 – **Small County Coalition Annual Business/Breakfast meeting**

On The Docket

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

- HOUSING ISSUES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Housing Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Fort Lauderdale Marriott North, 6650 North Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale.

- COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR DEAF - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Coordinating Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will meet. - University of North Florida, Tom & Betty Petway Hall, 1 UNF Dr., Jacksonville.

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

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