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## *The Briefing for Saturday - April 12, 2025*

*Day 40 of 60 – 20 Days to Go!*

*The Last Briefing was April 11, 2025*

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

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

With the 2025 Legislative Session in the final 20 days many significant pieces of legislation are still awaiting consideration. Here's what the crystal ball shows:



- **Term Limits** – On House Floor Wednesday– Still in committee in Senate. Passage toss-up! Proposal is a statewide vote to set term limits in every county. We want local referendum!
- **Repeal of School Start Time Mandate** ready for final passage in the House waiting. Passage likely! Will give Districts flexibility!
- **Changes to Sovereign Immunity** - moving in House but not the Senate. Toss-up! We are concerned with the increased costs of liability insurance.
- **Rural Renaissance Legislation** – Passed the Senate – on committee agenda in the House. Passage likely! This is the most comprehensive piece of legislation for rural Florida that I have seen in 50 years!
- **Changes to Local Option Sales Taxes** – Not certain! Will further tighten down on flexibility and long-term planning.
- **Tax Package** – House reduces Sales Tax – Senate Studies Property Tax. Something will move forward! There are a variety of proposals in each both pieces of legislation.

- **Solar Fields** – Repeal Pre-emption Heard in both House and Senate committee – Great argument for more regulation – Legislation Stalled. – Not Likely!
- **Exemption for Broadband from paying relocation costs** – Moving in Senate and House – will have significant financial impact! Passage Toss-up!
- **Reduction of Program Cost Factors within the FEFP** – Passage likely! Will impact funding for special programs.
- **Elimination of Regional Planning Councils** – Moving in Senate – Not so in the House. Result – Uncertain. Reason for proposing elimination of RPC’s is unclear! We oppose!

***The Calendar for Next Week!***

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

[The Calendar for the Florida Senate](#)

***Status of Major Legislation***

**Rural Renaissance**

[HB 1427 - Staff Analysis](#) –

Tuesday, 1:00pm – House Health and Human Services

Morris Hall – HOB

**County Commissioner Term Limits**

**HB 679 – moves to House Floor. Wednesday**

[Staff Analysis of HB 679 - County Commissioners/School Board Term Limits](#)

**HB 679** - The House Joint Resolution proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution to provide term limits for county commissioners and school district board members after serving eight consecutive years. This limitation applies to terms of office for county commissioners beginning after November 3, 2026, and terms of office for school district board members beginning on or after November 8, 2022. If a county charter provides that a chairperson or county mayor is elected county-wide, the joint resolution allows a term-limited county commissioner elected from a single-member district to appear on the ballot for election as chairperson or county mayor. If approved by the Legislature, the amendment would appear on the ballot for the 2026 general election

**CS/SB 1264: Rural and Urban Business Enterprises**

**Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development,**

**Tuesday - 04/15/25, 8:30 am, 110 Senate Building**

**Bill Text: [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)**

[Staff Analysis of SB 1264 - Repeals Statutes relating to Regional Planning Councils](#)

Rural and Urban Business Enterprises; Revising the purpose of the Department of Commerce; requiring that the statewide emergency shelter plan identify the general location and square footage of special needs shelters by regional planning council regions, as such regions existed on a specified date, during the next 5 years; deleting the definition of the term “minority business enterprise”; establishing the Research, Innovation, Science, and Engineering (RISE) Investment Tax Credit Program within the Department of Commerce; requiring the department to authorize the Department of Revenue to issue tax credits to a qualifying private fund if certain requirements are met; requiring the department to issue a notice of revocation and recapture to the qualifying private fund and the Department of Revenue, etc.

**House Committee Approves Increasing Sovereign Immunity lawsuit caps and allows settlement above the caps**

### **CS/HB 301 - Suits Against the Government**

Staff Analysis of HB 301 Sovereign Immunity Changes

On Special Order in the House – Ready for floor action

This bill will have a significant negative fiscal Impact.

Senate Companion has not moved

- CS/HB 301 increases the existing caps on the recovery of awards against a governmental entity. For a claim that accrues between October 1, 2025, and September 30, 2030, the cap is increased to \$500,000 per person from \$200,000 and the cap for multiple claims or judgments arising out of the same incident is increased to \$1,000,000 from \$300,000; the bill provides for one automatic increase in the caps for claims accruing on or after October 1, 2030. The limitations of liability in effect on the date the claim accrues apply to the claim.
- The bill permits a subdivision of the state to settle a claim or judgment in excess of the caps without requiring the subdivision to seek further action by the Legislature. The bill prohibits an insurance policy, beginning October 1, 2025, from conditioning the payment of benefits or the coverage of liability on the enactment of a claim bill.
- The bill also revises certain statutes of limitation and presuit procedures for certain types of claims against government entities.

### **CS/SB 818: Utility Relocation**

Bill Text: [Web Page](#) | [PDF](#)

On Rules Committee agenda-- Rules, 04/16/25, 8:30 am, 412 Knott Building

This bill will have a significant negative fiscal Impact.

Utility Relocation; Requiring utility owners to provide a certain authority with utility relocation schedules within a certain timeframe to expedite work; requiring the authority to pay relocation expenses in certain instances, etc.

## ***On The Docket***

### **MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2025**

#### **— Legislature:**

- DEMOCRATS HOLD AVAILABILITY - Monday, 10 a.m. - House Minority Leader Fentric Driskell, D-Tampa, and Rep. Kelly Skidmore, D-Boca Raton, will hold a media availability. - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86435746461?pwd=zcl1diy1Sdk9Z3O8ehCjwbRxlG17Qn.1>
- HIGHER ED BUDGETS - Monday, 2:30 p.m. - The House Higher Education Budget Subcommittee will hold a workshop to compare House and Senate budget proposals. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SCHOOL GRADES - Monday, 2:30 p.m. - The House PreK-12 Budget Subcommittee will take up a bill (HB 1483), filed by Rep. Susan Valdes, R-Tampa, that would make changes in the state's school grading system. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CAPITOL SECURITY - Monday, 4 p.m. - The House Security & Threat Assessment Committee will hold a closed-door briefing on the Capitol Complex security plan. - 12 House Office Building, the Capitol.

#### **— Also:**

- TAMPA BAY COUNCIL - Monday, 10 a.m. - The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council will meet. - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 4000 Gateway Centre Blvd., Suite.100 Pinellas

Park. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83561802403?pwd=VKDdPUuZJCtKJdnsNyb23XZmxvhtOa.1>. Meeting ID: 83561802403. Code: 030232

- EASTERN FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Monday, 10:30 a.m. - The Eastern Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Eastern Florida State College, Public Safety Institute, 3865 North Wickham Road, Melbourne.
- FIGA BOARD - Monday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Insurance Guaranty Association Board of Directors will meet. - Information at <https://figafacts.com/meetings/>

## **TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025**

### **— Legislature:**

- HOPE FLORIDA - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 1144), filed by Sen. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, that would codify the Office of Hope Florida in the governor's office. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- CHARTER SCHOOLS - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Pre-K-12 Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 822), filed by Sen. Ana Maria Rodriguez, R-Miami-Dade County, that would make a series of changes related to charter schools. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- AUTOMATION, AI - Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development Appropriations Committee will consider a proposal (SB 936), filed by Sen. Tracie Davis, D-Jacksonville, that would require a study about the economic impact of automation, artificial intelligence and robotics on employment in the state. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- AG, NATURAL RESOURCES BUDGET - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee will hold a workshop to compare House and Senate spending plans. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- TECHNOLOGY BUDGET - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The House Information Technology Budget & Policy Committee will hold a workshop to compare House and Senate spending plans. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- JUSTICE SYSTEM BUDGET - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The House Justice Budget Subcommittee will hold a workshop to compare House and Senate spending plans. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House Health Care Budget Subcommittee will consider a bill (HB 1085), filed by Rep. Vanessa Oliver, R-Punta Gorda, that would transfer operations of the Children's Medical Services program from the Department of Health to the Agency for Health Care Administration. - Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- DBPR CHANGES - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House State Administration Budget Subcommittee will take up a proposal (HB 1461), filed by Rep. Taylor Yarkosky, R-Montverde, and Rep. Tiffany Esposito, R-Fort Myers, that would make a series of changes involving the Department of Business and Professional Regulation. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- HIGHWAY SAFETY AGENCY - Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House Transportation & Economic Development Budget Subcommittee will consider a bill (HB 961), filed by Rep. Patt

Maney, R-Shalimar, that would make a series of changes related to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.

- CONDO LAWS - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. - The Senate Agriculture, Environment and General Government Appropriations Committee and the House Commerce Committee will consider proposals (SB 1742 and HB 913), filed by Sen. Jennifer Bradley, R-Fleming Island, and Rep. Vicki Lopez, R-Miami, that would revise condominium laws, as many condo owners and associations grapple with rising costs. - Senate meeting at 12:30 p.m. at 412 Knott Building. House meeting at 1 p.m. at 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- EXECUTION METHOD - Tuesday, 12:30 pm. - The Senate Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 1604), filed by Sen. Jonathan Martin, R-Fort Myers, that would allow Florida to use a method of execution “not deemed unconstitutional,” which would allow methods in addition to lethal injection and the electric chair. - 37 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- ELECTION LAW CENTER - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - The Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee will take up a bill (SB 892), filed by Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, that would create the Florida State University Election Law Center at the university’s law school. - 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- TAX CUTS - Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - The Senate Finance and Tax Committee will consider a proposal (SPB 7034) that includes eliminating sales taxes on purchase of clothes and shoes costing \$75 or less. - 301 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RURAL RENAISSANCE - Tuesday, 1 p.m. - The House Health & Human Services Committee will take up a bill (HB 1427), filed by Rep. Griff Griffiths, R-Panama City Beach, and Rep. Shane Abbott, R-DeFuniak Springs, aimed at bolstering education, health care and economic development in rural areas, a priority of Senate President Ben Albritton, R-Wauchula. - Morris Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.
- ‘FLORIDA FARM BILL’ - Tuesday, 4:30 p.m. - The Senate will hold a floor session and take up the “Florida Farm Bill” (SB 700), which deals with numerous issues involving the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, including preventing local governments from adding fluoride to water supplies. - Senate Chamber, the Capitol.

— **Also:**

- ELECTIONS RESULTS CERTIFIED - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The state Elections Canvassing Commission will certify the results of April 1 special elections in Congressional District 1 and Congressional District 6 and special primary elections in state Senate District 19, state House District 3 and state House District 32. - Cabinet meeting room, the Capitol.
- MIAMI DADE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 8 a.m. - The Miami Dade College Board of Trustees will meet. - Miami Dade College, Wolfson Campus, 300 N.E. Second Ave., Miami. <https://www.mdc.edu/livestream>
- FIU TRUSTEES MEET - Tuesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida International University Board of Trustees will hold a series of committee meetings, followed by a full board meeting at 1 p.m. - Florida International University, Graham University Center, 11200 S.W. Eighth St., Miami.
- BROWARD COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 11 a.m. - The Broward College Board of Trustees will meet. - Broward College, Willis Holcombe Center, 111 East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale.

- NORTHWEST FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 3 p.m. - The Northwest Florida State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Northwest Florida State College, 100 College Blvd. East, Niceville.
- SANTA FE COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 4 p.m. - The Santa Fe College Board of Trustees will meet. - Santa Fe College, Northwest Campus, 3000 N.W. 83rd St., Gainesville.
- NORTH FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - The North Florida College Board of Trustees will meet. - North Florida College, 325 N.W. Turner Davis Dr., Madison.
- OYSTER HARVESTING - Tuesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold a workshop about commercial and recreational oyster harvesting in Apalachicola Bay. - Fort Coombs Armory, 66 Fourth St., Apalachicola.
- CHIPOLA COLLEGE BOARD - Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. - The Chipola College Board of Trustees is scheduled to meet. - Chipola College, Public Service Building, Marianna.

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025**

#### **— Legislature:**

- OIL DRILLING - Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. - The Senate Rules Committee will consider a proposal (SB 1300), filed by Sen. Corey Simon, R-Tallahassee, that would set new standards for state approval of oil and gas drilling projects. - 412 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- HIGHER ED SEARCHES - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The House will hold a floor session and consider a bill (HB 1321), filed by Rep. Michelle Salzman, R-Pensacola, that would make a series of changes related to leadership of the higher-education system, including repealing a law that shields information about candidates to become college and university presidents. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- BALLOT INITIATIVES TARGETED - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Senate will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a proposal (SB 7016) that would impose additional hurdles on the ballot-initiative process. - Senate Chamber, the Capitol.
- OTHER SCHEDULED MEETINGS
  - House Budget Committee (8 a.m., 212 Knott Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Ways & Means Committee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

#### **— Also:**

- CUBAN HERITAGE CELEBRATED Wednesday will be Cuban Heritage Day at the Capitol.
- 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
- TOP NURSING HOMES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care will meet. - Call-in number: 1-888-585-9008. Code: 998518088
- EAST CENTRAL COUNCIL - Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. - The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - Information at <https://www.ecfrpc.org/>
- ST. JOHNS RIVER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The St. Johns River State College Board of Trustees will meet. - St. Johns River State College, St. Augustine Campus, 2990 College Dr., St. Augustine.



- FAMU TRUSTEES MEET - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will meet.  
- <https://famu.zoom.us/j/98573800108?pwd=YHPfN8VJKep845ErDDTxwFuonY41Ar.1>
- SEWER RATES - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The Florida Public Service Commission will hold an online customer meeting about a proposal by K W Resort Utilities Corp, LLC to raise wastewater rates in Monroe County. - <https://www.floridapsc.com/>
- LAKE-SUMTER COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 5 p.m. - The Lake-Sumter State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Lake-Sumter State College, 1250 North Hancock Road, Clermont.
- OYSTER HARVESTING - Wednesday, 6 p.m. - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will hold a workshop about commercial and recreational oyster harvesting.  
- Pensacola Main Library, 239 North Spring St., Pensacola.
- ‘50 OVER 50’ HONORED - Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - The News Service of Florida will hold a “50 Over 50” event, with speakers expected to include Secretary of State Cord Byrd, Rep. Jennifer Canady, R-Lakeland, and Rep. Sam Garrison, R-Fleming Island. - DoubleTree by Hilton Tallahassee, 101 South Adams St., Tallahassee.

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2025**

##### **— Legislature:**

- SCHEDULED MEETINGS
  - House Education & Employment Committee (8 a.m., Reed Hall, House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House Judiciary Committee (8 a.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)
  - House State Affairs Committee (8 a.m., Morris Hall, 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 Rules & Ethics Committee (2 p.m., 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.)

##### **— Also:**

- UCF TRUSTEES MEET - Thursday, 9 a.m. - The University of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - University of Central Florida, Fairwinds Alumni Center, Orlando.
- SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ISSUES DISCUSSED - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - South Florida Water Management District, 2301 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/91588729954?pwd=OVERTVNQVVpRZjQrY1Jab1dpMDBGUT09>. Call-in number: 1-929-205-6099. Meeting ID: 91588729954. Code: 082520
- GULF COAST COLLEGE TRUSTEES MEET - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Gulf Coast State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Gulf Coast State College, Robert L. McSpadden Student Union West, Panama City.
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.

#### **FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2025**

- ‘IMPACT’ CONFERENCE HELD - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Revenue Estimating Conference will hold an “impact” conference, which involves estimating potential costs of legislation. Location; 117 Knott Building, the Capitol.
- DOMESTIC SECURITY - Friday, 10 a.m. - The state Domestic Security Oversight Council will meet. - Information at <https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/Domestic-Security/Upcoming-Meetings>

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

*Politico: DeSantis Hope Florida scrutiny deepens amid new revelations on \$10M payment*  
*Sentinel: Here's where \$10 million donation to Casey DeSantis Hope Florida effort went*  
*WUSF: Florida universities to deputize campus police for immigration enforcement*  
*Floridian: Dunn Introduces Bill to Reimburse Disaster Recovery Interest Payments*  
*Times: Florida retirees keep a close eye on their savings following Trump tariffs*  
*Sentinel: 'I am having nightmares.' Florida seniors anxious over the economy*  
*Times: Florida waters are getting more polluted. Here's what the Times found.*  
*Sentinel: FEMA slashes \$300 million in flooding, hurricane relief projects in Florida*  
*Democrat: Early money: US Rep. Byron Donalds raises \$11.6M in Florida governor bid*  
*Floridian: Andrade Wants to Question Hope Florida President Over \$10 Million 'Donation'*  
*WLRN: Senate PreK-12 budget will challenge Florida public schools*  
*WUSF: Florida House seeks records on how state agencies are spending money*  
*Herald House GOP demands text messages, emails from DeSantis administration in spending probe*  
*Sentinel: DeSantis touts condo bill that would allow delays of required inspections and reserve funding*  
*NBC 6: State budget could cut funds supporting advanced high school courses*  
*FlaPol: Bill addressing food insecurity for college students advances*  
*WUSF: Florida bill seeks to make state-run children's insurance more 'cost-efficient'*  
*WLRN: Florida House aims to bolster bill on hurricane preparedness and response*  
*FlaPol: Senate passes bill making accessory dwellings more available to ease housing crisis*  
*WUSF: Florida Senate panel OKs bill that would prevent denying care based on 'vaccination status'*  
*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis appoints 2, reappoints a third, to South Florida Water Management District*  
*News4JAX: New proposed legislation would give funds to nonprofits to train more service dogs for veterans with disabilities*  
*FlaPol: Daniella Levine Cava vetoes fluoride removal, citing guidance from dentists, medical experts*  
*FlaPol: Bill to make flamingo, scrub-jay Florida's state birds flies through penultimate Senate stop*  
*NWF Daily News: Gov. DeSantis: Flags in Walton County to be at half-staff April 12 to honor slain deputy*  
*Sun: DeSantis appoints Playac to fill vacated Alachua County School Board District 5 seat*  
*Democrat: Appeals court upholds removal of Tallahassee police review board member over sticker*

## ***About the Briefing***

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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)

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

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