



House and Senate on the Floor for the rest of the week!

No more committee meeting in the Senate!

A lot in play!!

The Briefing for Wednesday- April 23, 2025

The Last Briefing was April 22, 2025

What's the weather outlook?

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

The Calendar!

[House Calendar](#)

[Senate Calendar](#)

Events Today in Tally

Florida Wildlife Corridor Day

CLAY COUNTY DAY! - One of my favorite days!!

Sen. Bob Graham Day.

Action on Major Legislation

House and Senate differ on substantive legislation

The Budget

For the session to end on time – the budget must be on the desk of legislators by next Tuesday evening. Although no conference committees have been formally established the conference process - action is going on behind the scenes. House and Senate budget chairs and legislative leaders need to agree on “allocations” within which the budget must adhere to. If legislators are unable to finish the budget by Tuesday they may work through Friday and come back the next week to adopt the Conference report.

The House Tax Plan – HB 7033 Significantly Impacts Local Government.Th

[Staff Analysis of House Tax Package - HB 7033](#)

Impacts Sales Tax Revenues

Transfers Tourist Development Taxes to County Commission

Requires reduction of Ad Valorem equivalent to TDT revenue

Repeals the Opt Out Provision in the Live Local Law

Summary

- **Sales Tax Rates - *The bill reduces the general rate of Florida's sales tax***, which has been 6% since 1988, by 0.75. In addition, the bill reduces all other sales tax rates by the same 0.75%: Staff estimates the total

recurring state impact of the bill in Fiscal Year 2025-26 to be -\$4,925.6 million, of which -\$4,898.2 million is on General Revenue and -\$27.4 million is on state trust funds.

- **Tourist Development Taxes** - *The bill provides that beginning July 1, 2025, all TDT revenues are available to counties for any public purpose, rather than being limited to the current authorized uses of TDT. Counties are responsible for the continued payment of any debt service or existing contracts related to TDT levies. Beginning in 2026, a credit against county ad valorem taxes is to be applied to property tax bills that, in total, equals the prior year's TDT collections less any revenue needed for debt service or to continue any contract in effect on July 1, 2025. The credit on bills may either be proportionate shares of the TDT collections for all county taxpayers, or can be allocated among certain categories of taxpayers according to an ordinance adopted by the Board of County Commissioners. All tourist development councils are dissolved December 31, 2025. Tourism promotion agencies may continue if affirmatively extended by local governing boards. (Section 4)*
- **Value Adjustment Boards** - The bill amends s. 194.032, F.S., to allow any party to a VAB hearing to appear telephonically, by video conference, or by other electronic means. The bill also requires the VAB to provide sufficient equipment to allow clear communication and to create any necessary hearing records.
- **Affordable Housing** - *The bill repeals the opt out provision for local governments from the affordable housing "missing middle" exemption from ad valorem taxes found in s. 196.1978(3), F.S., thereby making the Live Local Act's missing middle exemption mandatory for all jurisdictions.* The bill specifies that any election to opt out made by a local government on or before July 1, 2025, will continue for the original term of the election but may not be renewed.

The Senate Tax Plan - SB 7034 – Major Components :

- Permanently exempts from the Sales and Use Tax:
 - Certain clothing and shoes with a sales price of \$75 or less per item.
 - Gold, silver, or platinum bullion, or any combination, with a sales price of less than \$500.
- Temporarily exempts from the Sales and Use Tax:
 - "Disaster Preparedness" items and supplies necessary for disaster preparation and the evacuation of pets from May 15, 2025, through May 31, 2025.
 - Specific admissions, boating and water activity supplies, camping supplies, fishing supplies, general outdoor supplies, residential pool supplies, and certain electric scooters from June 1, 2025, through July 31, 2025.
 - "Back-to-School" items including bags and backpacks, school supplies, learning aids and puzzles, and personal computers and computer accessories from August 1, 2025, through August 10, 2025.
 - Certain tools and safety equipment from August 29, 2025, through September 7, 2025.
 - "Hunting Season" items including ammunition, firearms, bows, crossbows, and certain accessories for firearms or bows and crossbows from September 8, 2025, through December 31, 2025.
- The bill makes the following changes to the Ad Valorem Property Tax:
 - Limits the assessment of tangible personal property owned and operated by a citrus packinghouse or processor to its salvage value for the 2025 tax roll if the property is no longer used in the operation of a facility due to the effects of citrus greening.
 - Extends the length of time lands may be classified as agricultural to 10 years after the date of execution of a compliance agreement. For lands replanted in citrus, the bill also extends to 10 years the length of time a de minimis assessment may be provided.
 - Requires certain value adjustment boards to allow petitioners to appear remotely at a hearing.
 - Allows a taxpayer that received a final action by the value adjustment board to bring an action within 30 days after recertification by the property appraiser if the roll was extended
 - Aligns property appraiser requirements that must be met when an applicant's exemption application is denied.
 - Exempts property used for educational purposes when any portion of real property is used by a child care facility that has achieved Gold Seal Quality status.

Where are these bills?

Rural Renaissance – Senate bill 110 has passed the Senate and is in the House. The House has split the components of the SB 110 into 3 bills. HB 991, 1267, and 1497. We have analyzed the House Bills and all of the components from SB 110 are in the House Bills. Nothing is dead at this time. However, when the House adopts the three bills they will be sent to the Senate where some action will be taken to accept or amend the provisions and return the bills to the House. Don't count President Albritton or the Senate out in terms of dealing with this priority. The Small County Coalition has called on the House and Senate to move the provisions of the Rural Renaissance package in toto. [Small County Coalition Support for Rural Renaissance legislation](#) We are keeping the small county House and Senate members advised of the status of these bills.

School Start times – bill has passed the Senate and is on the House Special Order – all it needs is passage in the House.

Term Limits for County Commissioners and School Board members – bill is in very critical condition. Has not been considered in the Senate.

Sovereign Immunity – Bill is in very critical condition – hasn't moved in the Senate.

Education Bills Passing House Today Sent to Senate for Consideration Ordered by Bill Number

SB 0248

Student Participation in Interscholastic and Intrасcholastic Extracurricular Sports by Simon

Student Participation in Interscholastic and Intrасcholastic Extracurricular Sports; Providing that an activity or a sport must meet specified requirements; specifying conditions for a home education student to participate in interscholastic athletics; revising the criteria a private school student must meet to participate in a sport at a Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) member school, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2025

HB 0875

Educator Preparation by Rizo

Educator Preparation: Provides for future repeal of provisions relating to uniform core curricula for certain teacher preparation programs; revises requirements for certain teacher preparation programs, certain personnel requirements, postsecondary educator preparation institutes, teachers serving as mentors through teacher apprenticeship program, teacher candidates, teacher certification requirements, specified professional learning systems; requires DOE to establish flexibility for school counselor requirements; removes requirement for passing score on specified examination for certain candidates for certification as educator beginning on certain date; provides requirements for hiring of certain nondegreed teachers of fine & performing arts; establishes Coaching for Educator Readiness & Teaching Certification Program; provides for future repeal of professional learning certification programs & professional education competency programs; & establishes Florida Institute for Teaching Excellence at Miami Dade College, subject to appropriation. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 0969

Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes by Cassel

Reporting of Student Mental Health Outcomes : Requires OPPAGA to submit initial specified evaluation to Governor & Legislature by specified date; requires office to submit final specified evaluation to Governor & Legislature by specified date; provides evaluation requirements. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

HB 1009

Religious and Patriotic Expression in the Public School System by Daniels

Religious and Patriotic Expression in the Public School System: Requires specified information to be provided to certain persons relating to religious expression & liberties in public schools; revises requirements for display of state motto, "In God We Trust," in certain schools & buildings. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1115 **Education** by Valdés

Education: Requires that certain surtax revenues which are shared with school districts must also be shared with charter schools on proportionate basis in accordance with certain provisions; provides school district reporting requirements relating to specified revenues shared with charter schools; revises provisions relating to charter schools & schools of hope. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1255 **Education** by Trabulsy

Education: Revises provisions relating to critical teacher shortage areas, Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, Florida School for Competitive Academics, use of certain educational funds, emergency opioid antagonists, corporal punishment, background screening requirements for private schools, prekindergarten programs, students of military families, K-12 courses, instruction, standards, & benchmarks, New Worlds Tutoring Program, & educator certifications. Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1267 **Education** by Busatta

Education: Revises provisions relating to public postsecondary boards, presidents, presidential succession plans, textbooks & instructional materials, & graduation requirements; Institute for Freedom in the Americas; & K-12 educational facilities, early warning system, district school board real property, capital outlay, student reading & mathematics deficiencies, schools of hope, New Worlds Reading Initiative, student report cards, & school grades; & **establishes Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) Program.** Effective Date: July 1, 2025

HB 1607 **Cardiac Emergencies** by Yarkosky

Cardiac Emergencies: Requires, rather than authorizing, school districts to provide training in basic first aid to certain students; provides requirements for such training; **requires each public school to develop plan for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) for specified purposes; & provides requirements for school, staff, & defibrillator use & storage.** Effective Date: July 1, 2025

On The Docket

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

— Legislature:

- HOUSE SECURITY PANEL - Wednesday, 8 a.m. - The House Security & Threat Assessment Committee is scheduled to meet. - 12 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- CONDOS, HORSE RACING - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The House is scheduled to take up dozens of bills during a floor session, including a proposal (HB 913), filed by Rep. Vicki Lopez, R-Miami, that would revamp laws about condominium associations and a proposal (HB 1467), filed by Rep. John Snyder, R-Stuart, and Rep. Adam Anderson, R-Palm Harbor, that could eventually allow the state's two thoroughbred horse tracks to end racing but continue offering other types of gambling. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Wednesday, 15 minutes after the Senate floor session. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group is scheduled to set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. Location; 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- UNF TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The University of North Florida Board of Trustees will hold a quarterly meeting. - University of North Florida, Adam W. Herbert University Center, Jacksonville. <https://unf.zoom.us/j/82702449680#success>. Webinar ID: 82702449680
- MEDICAL MALPRACTICE - Wednesday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association Board of Governors is scheduled to meet. - Aloft, 200 North Monroe 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
- USF TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The University of South Florida Board of Trustees will meet to approve an accountability plan. - Information at <https://www.usf.edu/board-of-trustees/meetings/index.aspx>
- PAROLE CASES - Wednesday, 10 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Offender Review will meet. - Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 337350165
- DAYTONA STATE TRUSTEES - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Daytona State College Board of Trustees will meet. - Daytona State College, Wetherell Student Services and Administration Building, 1200 West International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach.
- DEVELOPMENT FINANCE BOARD - Wednesday, 2 p.m. - The Florida Development Finance Corp. Board of Directors will meet. - Florida Development Finance Corp., 156 Tuskawilla Road, Suite 2340, Winter Springs. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82348661768?pwd=coHtpWQcLtCzbAnETYfVBeNI2hGJN2.1>. Meeting ID: 82348661768. Code: 402838. Call-in number: 1-646-558-8656
- CENTRAL FLORIDA COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 3 p.m. - The College of Central Florida Board of Trustees will meet. - College of Central Florida, Wilton Simpson Citrus Campus, 3800 South Lecanto Highway, Lecanto.
- HILLSBOROUGH COLLEGE BOARD - Wednesday, 4 p.m. - The Hillsborough Community College Board of Trustees will meet. - Hillsborough Community College, Dr. Gwendolyn W. Stephenson District Administration Center, 4115 North Lois Ave., Tampa.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

— Legislature:

- HEALTH CARE BUDGET PANEL - Thursday, 8 a.m. - The House Health Care Budget Subcommittee is scheduled to meet. - 314 House Office Building, the Capitol.
- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Thursday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- OPTOMETRIST AUTHORITY DEBATED - Thursday, 1 p.m. - The House will take up numerous issues during a floor session, including a bill (HB 449), filed by Rep. Alex Rizo, R-Hialeah, that would expand the authority of optometrists to perform procedures. Optometrists and ophthalmologists have long battled about such issues in what have become known as the “eyeball wars.” - House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Thursday, 15 minutes after the Senate floor session. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. Location; 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- INTERCHANGE FIGHT - Thursday, 9 a.m. - A three-judge panel of the 5th District Court of Appeal will hear arguments in a battle about a permit for a new Interstate 95 interchange in Volusia County. The case, filed by the groups Bear Warriors United and the Sweetwater Coalition of Volusia County and two individuals, went to the appeals court after the St. Johns River Water Management District moved forward with issuing a permit to the Florida Department of Transportation for the planned 74-acre project at a road known as Pioneer Trail. The district made the decision after Administrative Law Judge E. Gary Early

issued a recommended order that said the permit should be denied. - Marion County Courthouse, 110 N.W. First Ave., Ocala.

- FAMU TRUSTEES - Thursday, 9 am. - The Florida A&M University Board of Trustees will meet. - <https://famu.zoom.us/j/98573800108?pwd=YHPfN8VJKep845ErDDTxcwFuonY41Ar.1>
- SUPREME COURT RELEASES OPINIONS - Thursday, 11 a.m. - The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to release opinions.
- NORTH CENTRAL COUNCIL - Thursday, 7 p.m. - The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council will meet. - Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, 213 S.W. Commerce Blvd., Lake City. Call-in number: 1-877-309-2073. Code: 114572845

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

— Legislature:

- SENATE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 10 a.m. - The Senate is scheduled to hold a floor session. - Senate chamber, the Capitol.
- HOUSE HOLDS FLOOR SESSION - Friday, 10 a.m. - The House is scheduled to hold a floor session. - House chamber, the Capitol.
- SPECIAL ORDER SET - Friday, 15 minutes after the Senate floor session. - The Senate Special Order Calendar Group will set a special-order calendar, which lists bills that will be heard on the Senate floor. Location; 401 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.
- RULES COMMITTEE - Friday, 15 minutes after the House floor session. - The House Rules & Ethics Committee will meet. - 404 House Office Building, the Capitol.

— Also:

- ETHICS PANEL - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - The Florida Commission on Ethics will meet. - 1st District Court of Appeal, 2000 Drayton Dr., Tallahassee.
- 'IMPACT' CONFERENCE - 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.
- NURSING HOMES - Friday, 9 a.m. - The Florida Board of Nursing Home Administrators will meet. - Holiday Inn Tampa Airport Westshore: 700 North Westshore Blvd., Tampa.
- TREASURE COAST COUNCIL - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - The Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council will meet. - Indian River State College, Chastain Campus, 2400 S.E. Salerno Road, Stuart. Call-in number: 1-646-749-3122. Code: 268592461

Headlines Around The State

[*Politico: Florida Medicaid regulator offers explanation of scrutinized \\$10M Hope Florida donation*](#)

[*FlaPol: Report: \\$10M Hope Florida donation was from taxpayer dollars owed in Medicaid dispute*](#)

[*FlaPol: 'Sweetener': James Uthmeier defends legality of \\$10M of Medicaid money sent to Hope Florida*](#)

[*Sun-Sentinel: Florida accuses Snapchat of violating state's social-media law aimed at kids*](#)

[*The Capitolist: Florida Sues Snapchat Parent Company Over Teen Safety Law, Citing Addictive Features and Deceptive Practices*](#)

[*News-Press: Gov. DeSantis: Caloosahatchee River reservoir will be ready to divert Lake O water by summer*](#)

[*Herald: More affordable housing in Florida clears a big hurdle. Take a look at the plans*](#)

[*WUSF: Florida strawberry variants might better fend off invasive insects. One grower is skeptical*](#)

[*DBNJ: B-CU presidential search committee has 'seen several impressive candidates,' chair says*](#)

[*FlaPol: Gov. DeSantis orders flags at half-staff to honor Pope Francis*](#)

[Democrat: Former FSU president John Thrasher under treatment for cancer, his firm announces](#)

[Sun-Sentinel: Palm Beach County schools to strip DEI and avoid \\$300 million cut](#)

[Herald: Broward school board's lone conservative member resigns, cites 'toxic environment'](#)

[WUSF: Decades ago, DeSoto residents beat special interests over sludge. It begins again](#)

[Democrat: 'Hard to walk away': TMH CEO Mark O'Bryant discusses latest moves in hospital talks](#)

[News4JAX: City council votes on emergency motion for resolution in support of maintaining state funding for AP, IB, other courses](#)

[Ledger: Education advocates warn of potential cuts to AP, IB, vocational programs. Could it affect Polk County?](#)

[News4JAX: 'Stop playing your petty games': DeSantis continues to criticize Florida House, says budget 'slashes' Everglades funding](#)

[Democrat: Losses pile up this session for Gov. DeSantis as wish list trimmed by GOP lawmakers](#)

[Democrat: After shooting, Florida State students demand gun reform at Florida Capitol](#)

[WLRN: 'Our generation deserves better': FSU students say they want stronger gun safety laws](#)

[WUSF: Some students are still reeling after FSU mass shooting. They're urging lawmakers to protect them](#)

[WLRN: Students from 2 Florida shootings demand the governor reject a law to lower the gun purchasing age](#)

[Floridian: Lawmaker Wants to Partner With FSU to Learn About Unlocked Doors During Shooting](#)

[WUSF: Proposal to limit state park developments teed up for Florida Senate](#)

[WUSF: Florida lawmakers consider bill to keep secret their home addresses, phone numbers](#)

[FlaPol: House panel clears major Live Local Act update for full floor vote](#)

[FlaPol: Regulatory framework for hemp-infused products headed to House floor](#)

[Times: In bid to slash property taxes, Legislature considers defunding tourism](#)

[Floridian: Court Reform Bill Moves to Senate Floor after House Passage](#)

[FlaPol: Senate proposal to codify 'Office of Faith and Community' ready for the floor](#)

[FlaPol: Dexter's Law to name and shame animal abusers ready for Senate floor](#)

[FlaPol: Workforce education bill ready for Senate floor](#)

[The Capitolist: Florida bill on utility relocations receives appropriations committee approval](#)

[PNJ: Senate Committee rejects Adam Kissel for UWF Board of Trustees](#)

[FlaPol: Don Gaetz says Joel Rudman has withdrawn bid for Pensacola State College Board](#)

[FlaPol: Energy bill ready for Senate floor could pass costs to customers](#)

[FlaPol: Counties and cities are wary of hotel tax changes as House advances tax package](#)

[FlaPol: Speed limit boost for Florida highways races through final House committee stop](#)

[FlaPol: Alan Grayson joins race to run for the late Geraldine Thompson's seat](#)

[FlaPol: Zoning language advancing in House could clear path for Fernandina Beach ethanol plant](#)

[News-Press: Audubon Florida is keeping track of banded roseate spoonbills](#)

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

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

Chris Doolin

President – Christian B. Doolin & Associates

Vice – President – Robert P. Jones & Associates

Mobile – 850-508-5492

Email – cdoolin@doolinandassoc.com