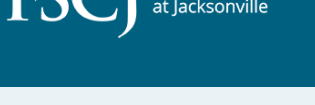


Legislative Update

March 10, 2025



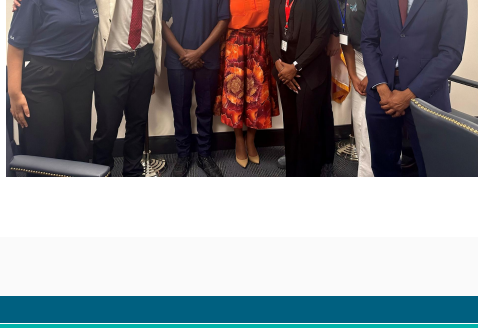
WEEK 1

The 2025 Legislative Session kicked off on Tuesday, March 4. The Florida Legislature will meet in session for the next 60 days, concluding their work on Friday, May 2. In that time, the Florida House and Senate will be responsible for passing legislation as well as a balanced budget.



President Avendano and Trustees Visit the Capitol

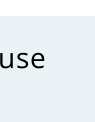
President Avendano along with Trustees Bell and McGehee attended the Council of President's Trustee Legislative Fly In February 3 - 4, 2025 in Tallahassee. During that visit, FSCJ was able to share the College's legislative priorities with members of the Duval Delegation as well as key members of Senate and House leadership.



FSCJ SGA Students Meet with Duval Delegation

The FSCJ Student Government Association attended the FCSGA Advocacy Conference in Tallahassee last month. FSCJ student leaders had the opportunity to meet with members representing Duval and Nassau counties including Senator Davis (pictured), Senator Yarbrough, Speaker Pro Tempore Duggan, Representative Michael, and Representative Nixon.

Bill Tracking



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HB 37 / SB 204 (Similar bills)	The bills revise provisions relating to teacher & educator preparation programs, educator certification requirements, & educator in service training requirements to require certified educators to receive training relating to mass casualty incidents.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 21 / SB 82 (Similar bills)	The bills provide application requirements and examination and licensure qualifications for dental therapists; authorizes a dental therapist to perform specified services under the supervision of a dentist under certain conditions.	Passed by House Health Professions & Programs Subcommittee
HB 526 / SB 919 (Similar bills)	The bills revise the approval and operational requirements for nursing education programs in Florida. Among other changes, the bills authorize the Department of Health to conduct onsite inspections, revise annual reporting requirements, requires at least 50% clinical training in the U.S. and no more than 50% of training to be simulation.	Passed by Senate Health Policy Committee
HB 571 / SB 1094 (Identical bills)	As to the Florida College System, the bill instructs the State Board of Education to adopt regulations for awarding postsecondary credit and career education clock hours for apprenticeship and preapprenticeship training. It establishes a workgroup under the Articulation Coordinating Committee to develop postsecondary course equivalencies for apprenticeship programs, with a deadline for recommendations by March 1, 2026. It specifies that state universities, Florida College System institutions, and career centers must award credit or clock hours based on these equivalencies, with guarantees for statewide transfer.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 573 / SB 1334 (Identical bills)	The bills amend state screening standards to allow individuals with certain past criminal offenses to be eligible for educator certification and employment under specific circumstances.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 681 / SB 1458 (Identical bills)	The bills create a funding formula for registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs, aiming to simplify distribution, enhance access, and promote growth to meet workforce demands.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 1145 / SB 742 (Similar bills)	The bills expand and revise provisions related to Florida's workforce development funding and policies including, allowing charter schools to apply for the Cap Grant and requiring school districts and colleges to increase the money-back guarantee from three programs to six.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 811 / SB 930 (Similar bills)	The bills revise educational training, instruction, and programming standards in Florida colleges and universities. The bills, among other things, remove bans on specific types of racial, sexual, and gender identity instruction and discards constraints on discussions surrounding systemic inequities and identity politics. The bills repeals a statute concerning the use of personal titles and pronouns.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 825	The bill makes many changes to educator preparation programs, including establishing the Coaching for Educator Readiness and Teaching Certification Program, revising mentorship requirements, and updating program criteria like candidate readiness and performance measures.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 827 / SB 936 (Identical bills)	The bills require the Bureau of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research of the Department of Commerce to study the economic impact of automation, artificial intelligence, and robotics on employment in the state. The bills authorize the bureau to consult with specified entities to complete the study, including academic experts.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 1103 / SB 1050 (Identical bills)	The bills transfer the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Division of Blind Services, and the Federal Rehabilitation Trust Fund from the Department of Education to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD). The bills create a transition advisory working group.	Assigned to Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee

STUDENT AFFAIRS

HB 855 / SB 244 (Similar bills)	The bills prohibit Florida College System institutions & state universities from accepting applications of or admitting individuals who are undocumented for federal immigration purposes.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 387 / SB 476 (Similar bills)	The bills prohibit discrimination based on protected private life in K-20 public education system & specified private schools.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 879 / SB 584 (Similar bills)	The bills mandate Florida College System institutions and state universities, in collaboration with the State Office on Homelessness, to prioritize placements in residence halls and dormitories for young adults in or aging out of the foster care system and those experiencing homelessness. The bills also require educational institutions to give these students first priority for institution-operated housing, year-round housing, and work-study opportunities without needing a cosigner or guarantor for housing.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
HB 980 / SB 1245 (Similar bills)	The bills establish the Hunger-Free Campus Pilot Program to combat hunger at public postsecondary institutions for one year. Three state higher education institutions will be selected for the pilot.	Assigned to Senate Agriculture Committee

COLLEGE OPERATIONS

HB 1307 / SB 1624 (Similar bills)	The bills make many changes to various education statutes including, providing tuition assistance for active members of the Florida State Guard, revising submission dates and content of annual reports for apprenticeship programs, renaming the "Florida Educational Equity Act" to the "Florida Educational Equality Act," establishing stricter investigative procedures for cases of sex discrimination in public postsecondary institutions under Title IX, revising the appointment processes and term limits for Florida College System institution presidents, now requiring State Board of Education approval for these actions, repealing certain scholarships and minority-focused educational programs, and making changes to allowable expenditures of PIPELINE funding.	Assigned to Senate Education Postsecondary Committee
HB 1321 / SB 1726 (Identical bills)	The bills implement various changes regarding governance and regulations in Florida's higher education institutions including, setting term limits for members and chairs of Florida College System institution boards of trustees, removing the State Board of Education's approval for actions related to the president of a Florida College System institution and mandates the formation of a presidential search committee, mandating inclusion of supplemental textbooks and instructional materials in course lists, and revising syllabi posting requirements to include detailed course information.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
SB 1604	The bill prohibits a political subdivision, among others, from giving preference to a vendor on the basis of the race or ethnicity of the vendor or an owner or associate thereof and may not allow a vendor to award subcontracts on such a basis.	Assigned to Senate Governmental Oversight & Accountability Committee

FACILITIES

HB 75 / SB 100 (Identical bills)	The bills prohibit governmental entities (including state colleges) from erecting or displaying flags that represent a political viewpoint, including those related to political parties, race, sexual orientation, gender, or political ideology.	Passed by Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability
SB 188	The bill prohibits possessing or using a firearm in defined sensitive locations, including healthcare facilities, government buildings, parks, places of worship, public transport vehicles and stations, educational institutions , and venues serving alcohol or cannabis.	Assigned to Senate Criminal Justice Committee
SB 226	The bill revises the definition of the terms "smoking" and "vape" or "vaping" and prohibits smoking in public places, including government buildings and schools.	Assigned to Senate Regulated Industries Committee
HB 355	The bill expands the range of emergency opioid antagonists public K-12 schools and postsecondary educational institutions can use and maintain.	Assigned to House Human Services Subcommittee
HB 814	The bill permits a person to carry a firearm on the property of any college or university, including, but not limited to, any dormitory or residence hall owned or operated by a college or university, and in any other location he or she is legally authorized to do so. The bill states that the Department of Law Enforcement may authorize a college or university, while hosting or sponsoring a sporting or athletic event, to designate a campus facility or area as a sensitive location in which the possession of a concealed weapon or a concealed firearm is prohibited. A security plan is required.	Assigned to Senate Criminal Justice Committee

HUMAN RESOURCES

HB 83 / SB 142 (Identical bills)	The bills prohibit public employers from taking adverse personnel actions based on an employee's or applicant's qualified medical marijuana use, with specific exceptions related to job performance impairment. It also allows qualified patients subjected to adverse personnel actions to seek legal remedies including reinstatement, compensation, and other damages within 180 days of the alleged violation.	Assigned to Senate Health Policy Committee
HB 141 / SB 158 (Similar bills)	The bills prohibit the state group insurance program from imposing any cost-sharing requirement upon an enrollee with respect to coverage for diagnostic breast examinations or supplemental breast examinations.	Passed by Senate Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
HB 997 / SB 1066 (Identical bills)	The bills prohibit a bargaining team of a public employer from disclosing any information discussed during an executive session during bargaining unless specifically permitted by the chief executive officer or the legislative body of the employer.	Assigned to House Government Operations Subcommittee
HB 1177	The bill amends state laws to broaden financial benefits for workers and requirements for employers in handling heat exposure and union dues; expands the deduction of union dues from employees' salaries by certified bargaining agents beyond specific law enforcement and emergency personnel; and removes the requirement for employee organizations to petition for recertification if under 60 percent of eligible employees are members.	Assigned to House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee
HB 1233 / SB 1250 (Identical bills)	The bills state a faculty or staff member of any K-12 public school or a public institution of higher education may not use e-mail, offices, or time during working hours for political advocacy. The bills also allow certain political activities on school grounds, such as candidate forums, political advertisements under the same terms as other groups, and non-campaign-based voter registration and education events.	Assigned to House Government Operations Subcommittee
HB 1387 / SB 1766 (Identical bills)	The bills amend the requirements of the disclosure statement to public employees joining a union. The bills amend the requirements for bargaining unit applications. The bills amend application and voting procedures for certification and decertification. The bills provide that public employers, their agents or representatives, or any persons acting on their behalf may not provide any form of compensation or paid leave to a public employee, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of engaging in employee organization activities.	Assigned to House Government Operations Subcommittee
HB 1495 / SB 440 (Identical bills)	The bills create the "Freedom of Conscience in the Workplace Act." The bill state that it is an unlawful employment practice for the state or any county, municipality, special district, or other political subdivision to require, as a condition of employment, any training, instruction, or other activity on sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.	Assigned to House Government Operations Subcommittee
HB 1619	The bill creates the "Wage Fairness Act." The bill prohibits asking a candidate for any previous wage or salary information, among other things, during the hiring process and creates penalties for violations.	Assigned to House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

SB 2C	The bill amends state statute to allow out of state fee waivers to apply only to students who are citizens of the United States or lawfully present in the United States. Students who have been given the waiver must be reevaluated for eligibility by July 1, 2025.	Special Session bill passed by Legislature. Signed by Governor on 2/13/2025.
HB 17 / SB 1368 (Similar bills)	The bills amend current statutes and eligibility criteria for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program, enhancing support and preparation resources for certain high school students. Identifies Florida College System institutions to develop secondary education courses aligned with specified requirements.	Assigned to House Student Academic Success Subcommittee
HB 45 / SB 260 (Identical bills)	The bills provide that a person may not lose his or her resident status for tuition purposes due solely to his or her incarceration in specified correctional facilities.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 135 / SB 336 (Identical bills)	Expands the Educational Dollars for Duty program to include financial assistance for spouses and children of active Florida National Guard members.	Assigned to House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee
HB 467 / SB 644 (Identical bills)	The bills provide that certain students enrolled in adult education programs are eligible for dual enrollment.	Assigned to House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HB 977 / SB 1538 (Identical bills)	The bills prohibit governmental entities from entering into certain contracts for products and services with foreign countries of concern if foreign countries have specific ownership interests in those products, including computers, printers, or interoperable or videoconferencing devices. The bills remove provisions which prohibit local governments from entering into or renewing specified contracts with certain entities if doing so would give access to personal identifying information.	Assigned to House Government Operations Subcommittee
HB 1183 / SB 1576 (Identical bills)	The bills establish that certain entities, including political subdivisions, are not liable for cybersecurity incidents under specific compliance conditions. It shields covered entities and third-party agents from class action liability resulting from cybersecurity incidents if they comply with specified regulations and cybersecurity standards or have an appropriate cybersecurity program in place.	Assigned to House Information Technology Budget & Policy Subcommittee

We'd love your feedback!

On a scale of 1 to 10, how satisfied are you with the new design and content of this newsletter?

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If you have any questions or comments about bills being tracked or other matters not included in the update, please feel free to contact Taylor Mejia Roberts, Director of Government and Community Relations.



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