

# Legislative Update

March 24, 2025



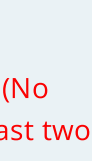
## WEEK 3

During the third week of the legislative session, the Florida Senate passed Senate Bill 110, a comprehensive measure aimed at revitalizing rural communities across the state. The "Rural Renaissance" bill focuses on enhancing education, healthcare, and infrastructure in rural areas. Notably, the legislation significantly expands education opportunities by increasing funding for regional education consortia and includes recurring funding to ensure sustainability. Additionally, a new Regional Consortium Service Organization Supplemental Services Program will support rural schools with resources for transportation, cybersecurity, safety, workforce development, and exceptional student education services. A new initiative, the Rural Incentive for Professional Educators (RIPE) program, also addresses educator shortages by offering up to \$15,000 in student loan repayment assistance to teachers in fiscally constrained counties.

The bill sponsor, Senator Corey Simon, emphasized that this legislation is designed to empower rural communities, saying, "Quality of life in rural areas can be impacted by access to job opportunities, education, and health care. We are combining enhancements to the traditional infrastructure for schools and hospitals with innovations that drastically expand opportunities for education, commerce, and health care in rural Florida." Alongside education improvements, the bill includes investments in rural infrastructure, such as roads and broadband, and a commitment to preserving affordable housing. It also establishes the Office of Rural Prosperity to provide technical assistance to local governments, ensuring that rural areas can access vital resources for growth and development.

The Florida House will need to pass similar legislation in order for the funding and programs to be implemented. More information on Senate Bill 110 can be found [here](#).

## Bill Tracking



### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

HB 17 / 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 21 / SB 32 (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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 House Careers & Workforce Subcommittee
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.	Passed by House Education Administration 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
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.	Passed by House Higher Education Budget 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 repeal a statute concerning the use of personal titles and pronouns.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 875	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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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.	Passed by House Human Services Subcommittee

### STUDENT AFFAIRS

HB 355 / 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 387 / SB 476 (Similar bills)	The bills prohibit discrimination based on protected hairstyle in K-20 public education system & specified private schools.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 880 / 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.	Passed by Senate Agriculture Committee (No action in the last week)
HB 1107/ SB 270 (Similar bills)	The bills amend eligibility requirements for the Bright Futures Scholarship by permitting students who graduate from a non-Florida high school to qualify if they lived with a parent or guardian who is/was on a military or public service assignment outside of Florida. The bills extend eligibility to include those who have retired from service within 12 months prior to the student's graduation.	Passed by Senate Higher Education Appropriation 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, changing requirements for carry forward balances in college budgets, and making changes to allowable expenditures of PIPELINE funding.	Passed by Senate Education Postsecondary Committee
HB 1321 / SB 1776 (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.	Passed by House Education Administration Subcommittee
HB 808 / SB 1410 (Similar bills)	The bills require the SBE & BOG to ensure FCS institutions & state universities, respectively, are free from political influence & interference in specified activities; remove prohibitions against such boards shielding students, faculty, & staff from specified speech; provide that students & faculty in FCS institutions & state universities have specified rights relating to academic freedom.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
SB 1594	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 (No action in the past two weeks)

### 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 Committee (No action in the past two weeks)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)
SB 226	The bill revises the definition of the terms "smoking" and "vape" and prohibits smoking in public places, including government buildings and schools.	Assigned to Senate Regulated Industries Committee (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 355	The bill expands the range of emergency opioid antagonists public K-12 schools and postsecondary educational institutions can use and maintain.	Passed by House Human Services Subcommittee (No action in the last week)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1267 / SB 1708 (Identical bills)	As to the FCS, the bills direct the SBE to adopt rules for conducting selective audits of school districts and FCS institutions, aiming for transparency and compliance in facility usage.	Assigned to House Education Administration Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)

### 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 Appropriations Committee
HB 927 / 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1177	The bill amends state laws to broaden financial benefits for workers and requirements for employers in handling heat exposures 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1387 / SB 1766 (Identical bills)	The bills amend the requirements of a 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1217 / SB 1328 (Similar bills)	The bills make changes to the public employee collective bargaining process, including requiring public employees or their organizations to file a petition with the Public Employees Relations Commission for certification, recertification, or decertification of a bargaining agent. The bills also outline activities that are recognized under "employee organization activities," including aspects like supporting political candidates, influencing legislation, and engaging in union-related activities.	Assigned to House Government Operations Subcommittee (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1495 / SB 1440 (Identical bills)	The bills create the "Freedom of Movement in the Workplace Act." The bills 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 841 / SB 676 (Similar bills)	The bills state that an employer is not subject to the minimum wage enforcement of an employee who is in a structured work-study, internship, preapprenticeship, or apprenticeship program or other similar work-based learning opportunity if such employee opts out of receiving the minimum wage.	Passed by House Industries & Professional Activities Subcommittee

### STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

SB 20	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 (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 45 / SB 360 (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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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.	Passed by Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
HB 167 / SB 644 (Identical bills)	The bills provide that certain students enrolled in adult education programs are eligible for dual enrollment.	In Senate Education Pre-K-12 Committee (No action in the last week)

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

HB 777 / 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 (No action in the past two weeks)
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 (No action in the past two weeks)

We'd love your feedback!

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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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