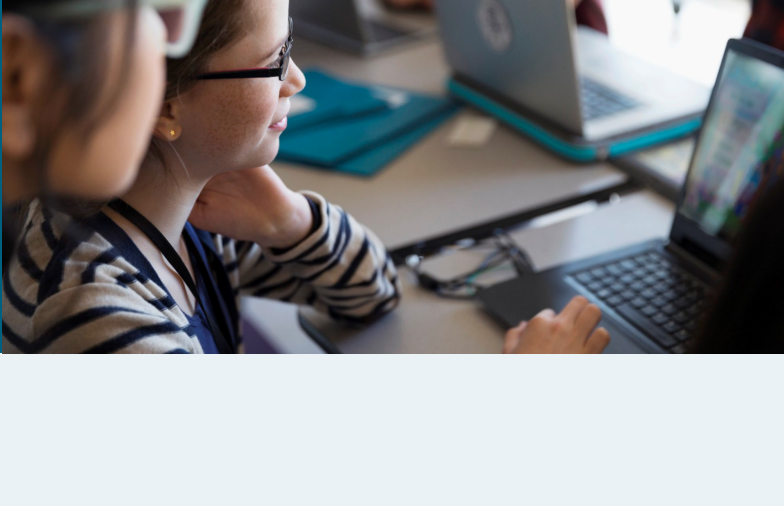


Legislative Update

April 25, 2025



WEEK 8

Week 8 typically signals the wrap-up of the legislative session. By this point, the chambers are usually close to finalizing a budget proposal, and bills likely to pass have already been voted on in both chambers. However, this year will be different.

On Thursday afternoon, Senate President Albritton informed Senate members that, after business concluded that day, they could return home for the weekend and plan to reconvene in Tallahassee on Monday. After several back-and-forth budget proposals, Senate President Albritton announced that the two legislative chambers had reached a stalemate.

The primary sticking point is tax relief. Without a consensus on how to implement both one-time and ongoing tax reductions, the chambers cannot determine major budget allocations. The Senate and House would have needed to settle these allocations during Week 7 to allow time for budget conferencing and to finalize a proposed budget by the 57th day of session. The Legislature is required to publish the proposed budget and observe a 72-hour "cooling-off period" before a final vote can be taken. Given this timeline, it is now certain that the legislative session will not conclude by 60th day of session (next Friday).

Depending on when and how budget negotiations resume next week, the Legislature may either vote to extend the session beyond Friday, May 2, or adjourn and plan to reconvene in a special session later in May or June. Either way, the budget must be passed by both chambers and sent to the Governor for review and signature by June 30. The state's new fiscal year begins on July 1.

Bill Tracking



*Bills that were not in heard in all committees of reference have been removed from the bill tracking list below.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

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 the House. Sent to Senate.
HB 919 / SB 526 (Similar bills)	The bills establish new requirements for nursing education programs to be approved by the Board of Nursing, including the adoption of standardized evaluation and admission criteria, a comprehensive exit exam, and a remediation program. Among other changes, the bills authorize the Department of Health to conduct onsite inspections, revise annual reporting requirements, require at least 40% clinical training in the U.S. and no more than 50% of training to be simulation. The bills state that program directors are responsible for submitting annual reports and remediation plans if NCLEX passage rates are low, provides for disciplinary action.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.
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.	Passed by the House and Senate.
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 Senate Fiscal Policy Committee
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.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.
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.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.
SB 2512	The bill establishes the Florida Center for Nursing within the University of South Florida; requires the center to administer the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund; expands the entities eligible to be a matching grant partner within the LINE fund; expands allowable expenditures; and allows UNE funding to be granted for terms of up to three years.	Passed by Senate. Sent to House. (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 1105	The bill includes provisions relating to certain internships & courses, Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program awards, career dual enrollment agreements, Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program, dual enrollment articulation agreements, & board of directors of Florida ABLE, Inc. The bill requires dual enrollment agreements between school districts and FCS institutions to address scheduling changes that will increase access and student participation and include how students will be notified of transportation options.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

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.	Passed by the Senate. Sent to House.
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.	Placed on Senate Special Order Calendar

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.	Placed on Senate Special Order Calendar. Temporarily postponed by Senate.
HB 1321 / SB 1726 (Similar 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. The House version of the bill prohibits state colleges and universities from imposing an institution-wide graduation requirement that includes a course in conflict with state statute prohibiting general education core courses from distorting significant historical events or including a curriculum that teaches identity politics, violates the Florida Educational Equity Act, or is based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate. (No action in the last week)

FACILITIES

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 the House. Sent to Senate. (No action in the past three 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. The bills establish term limits for members of the Board of Governors, the State Board of Education, and state university and state college boards of trustees. The Senate bill repeals the public records exemption for state university and state college presidential applicants and makes additional changes to the presidential search and selection process.	Passed by the House. Sent to Senate.

HUMAN RESOURCES

HB 1417 / 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 the Senate. Sent to House.
HB 541 / 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.	Placed on House Calendar. (No action in the past two weeks)
HB 677 / SB 924 (Similar bills)	The bills require the state group health insurance program to provide coverage for standard fertility services for enrollees who have been diagnosed with cancer for which the necessary treatment may cause infertility.	Passed by the House and Senate.
SB 7022	The bill revises the required employer retirement contribution rates for each membership class and subclass of the Florida Retirement System. The bill also makes changes to DROP for elected officers.	Passed by the Senate and the House. (No action in the past two weeks)

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.
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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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