

GRAYROBINSON

2025

Session Wrap-Up

Volusia County Schools

OCTOBER 2025

GRAY-ROBINSON.COM



Today's Presenter

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Shareholder

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The Players

The Florida Legislature is a bicameral body comprising the Florida House of Representatives and the Florida Senate. It convenes annually to pass laws, set the state budget, and shape policies affecting Floridians.

• 120-member House and 40-member Senate. • Senate: 27 Republicans; 10 Democrats; 1 NPA; 2 Open Seats • House: 86 Republicans; 33 Democrats; 1 Open Seat	• Both chambers controlled by Republican majorities, typically facilitating the consideration of legislation aligned with conservative priorities.

Office of the Governor

The
Cabinet



Ron DeSantis
GOVERNOR



Jay Collins
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Wilton Simpson
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



James Uthmeier
ATTORNEY GENERAL



Mary Clare
Hubbard
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



Jason Weida
CHIEF OF STAFF



Leda Kelly
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
POLICY AND BUDGET



Blaise Ingoglia
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Florida House



Daniel Perez
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



Lawrence McClure
BUDGET CHAIR



Tyler Sirois
MAJORITY LEADER



Wyman Duggan
SPEAKER *PRO TEMPORE*



Sam Garrison
RULES CHAIR AND
SPEAKER DESIGNATE



Fentrice Driskell
MINORITY LEADER

The Florida Senate



Ben
SENATE PRESIDENT
Albritton



Ed Hooper
BUDGET CHAIR



Jim Boyd
MAJORITY LEADER



Jason Brodeur
PRESIDENT *PRO TEMPORE*



Kathleen Passidomo
RULES CHAIR



Lori Berman
MINORITY LEADER

Future Leaders



Sam Garrison

FLORIDA HOUSE
SPEAKER-DESIGNATE
2026-2028



Jennifer Canady

FLORIDA HOUSE
SPEAKER-DESIGNATE
2028-2030



Mike Redondo

FLORIDA HOUSE
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE
2030-2032



Jim Boyd

FLORIDA SENATE
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE
2026-2028



Jay Trumbull

FLORIDA SENATE
PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE
2028-2030

Special Sessions & Building Tensions

Gov. Ron DeSantis called Special Session 2025-A in mid-January to cover:

- Illegal Immigration
- Condominium Law Reform
- Hurricane Relief
- Election/Petition Initiative Reform

House and Senate leaders called the special session “unnecessary” and “premature,” convening and – nearly immediately – adjourning.

Legislature convened its own special session (2025-B) focused only on illegal immigration. There, they passed a bill that the governor subsequently threatened to veto.

Following two weeks of deadlock between the legislature and governor, consensus was reached and a third special session was called (2025-C) to pass a bill that the governor signed into law shortly after.

Despite consensus reached on immigration, tension between the legislature and executive office continued on a number of different topics.



1959

Total Bills Filed

By the Numbers

A snapshot of activity; key stats from
the 2025 Legislative Session.

1959

Total Bills Filed

269

Total Bills Passed

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Bills Signed by Governor

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Bills Signed by Governor

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Bills Vetoed by Governor

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Bills Signed by Governor

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Bills Vetoed by Governor

0

Bills Awaiting Presentation

By the Numbers

A snapshot of activity; key stats from
the 2025 Legislative Session.

1959

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Bills Signed by Governor

11

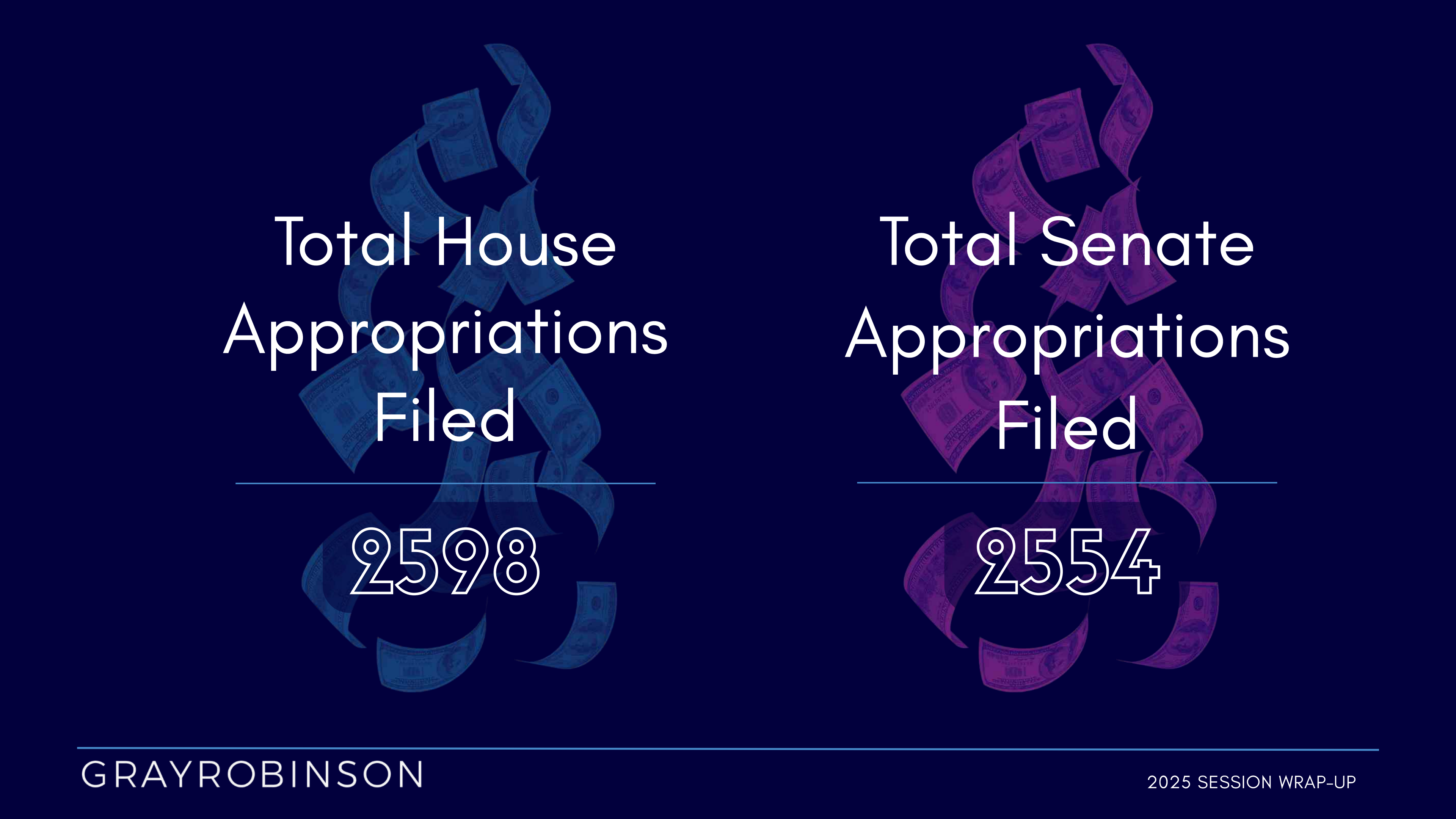
Bills Vetoed by Governor

0

Bills Awaiting Presentation

3

Bills Allowed to Become Law
Without Signature



Total House Appropriations Filed

2598

Total Senate Appropriations Filed

2554

Priority Issues

The elected leaders' political and policy goals. Typically align with pressing party platforms, fiscal responsibilities, and/or current socio-economic challenges.

- Ensure a sustainable state budget while addressing revenue needs and controlling spending.
- Promoting tax and regulatory reforms to foster business investment and infrastructure projects.

- Advance measures to enhance law enforcement efforts, including stricter immigration policies.
- Invest in education reforms and workforce training to prepare Floridians for future opportunities.



Ron DeSantis, Florida Governor

Property Tax Relief

The Governor called for a constitutional amendment to significantly reduce (and potentially eliminate) property taxes in Florida. He also proposed a \$1,000 property tax rebate to all Florida homestead property owners as part of the budget/tax cut plan. The Legislature has not provided either of these.

State Engagement in Combatting Illegal Immigration

Addressed in special session(s).

"Continuing to Lead"

The Governor's State of the State Address, which kicked session off in March, focused heavily on Florida leading the way in policymaking and setting a conservative agenda.

Cementing (and Defending) Legacy

As session wore on, much of the Governor's focus turned toward efforts to solidify his base of support around the state and defend his administration from mounting criticism in the Legislature.



Ben Albritton, Senate President

Rural Renaissance

One of the very first bills passed by the Florida Senate during session, the bill makes substantial policy changes and financial investments into Florida's rural counties. Transportation, broadband, educational, health care, and economic investments were all central to the omnibus bill.

Florida Citrus

A citrus grower himself, the Senate President made it clear that the decline of the industry would not continue on his watch, and significant investment was proposed to uplift farmers, respond to diseases, plant more trees, and market Florida's product.

Empowering Members

The President sought to lead a Senate that encouraged members to think and vote freely, allowing for independence of committee process.



Daniel Perez, House Speaker

Sales Tax Reduction

The House, early in session, proposed a permanent reduction in the state sales tax – from 6% to 5.25%.

Spending Cuts

Perez, consistent from his first day as speaker, has called for significant cuts in spending to reduce Florida's state budget. This was reflected in the House's budget proposal, which had \$5 billion less in total spending than that of the Florida Senate.

Targeted Repeal of Tort Reform

In 2023, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed into law, major tort reform legislation. The House moved several bills during the 2025 session that, if passed, would have unwound some of these reforms.

The Budget

Florida's annual budget is a comprehensive financial plan crafted during each legislative session in Tallahassee. It is the one constitutionally mandated piece of legislation that the House and Senate must pass. The new fiscal year began July 1, 2025.

- Florida law mandates expenditures not exceed revenue.
- Includes education, healthcare, transportation, public safety, and environmental initiatives.

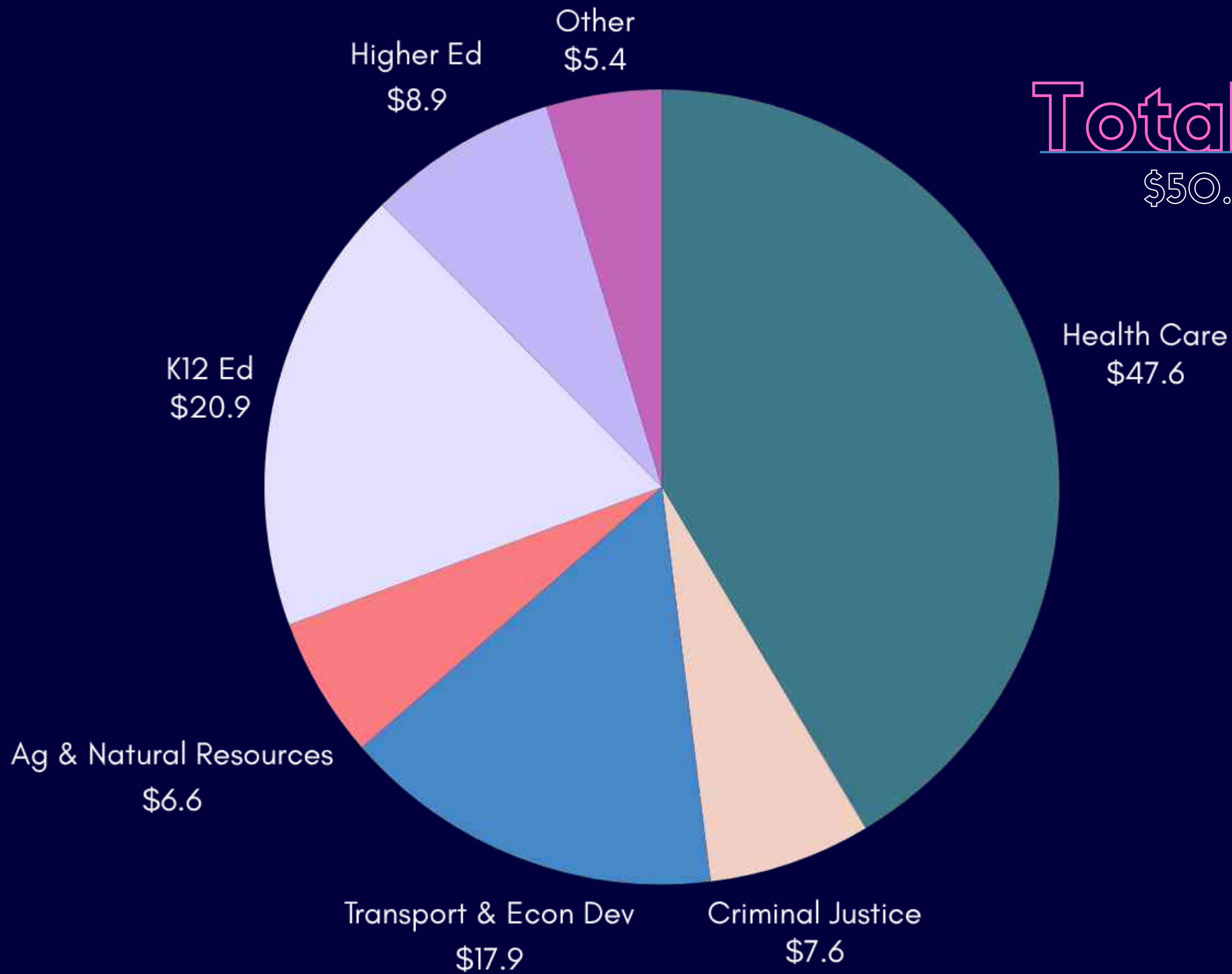
- Lawmakers negotiate allocations and may amend funding levels.
- Governor can approve or use veto power to remove specific appropriations.

The Budget

LOADING...

Total: \$115.1 billion

\$50.6 BILLION IN GENERAL
REVENUE



Budget Highlights

FEFP per-student spending up 1.59%.

2% across-the-board pay raise for state employees (law enforcement and fire will receive between 8 and 13%).

2,200 vacant state jobs eliminated.

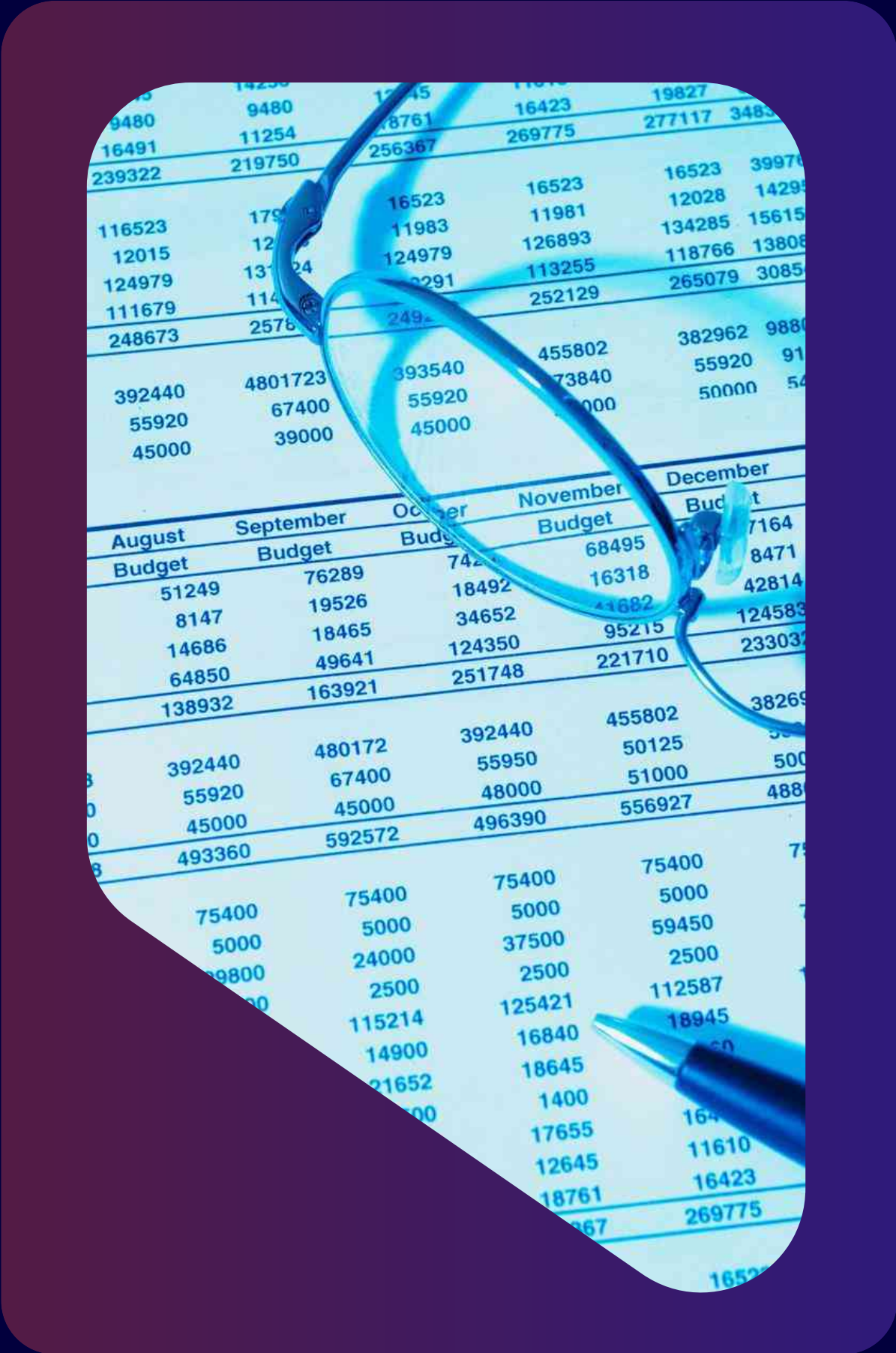
Fully funds FDOT work plan.

Fully funds Sadowski Trust Funds for affordable housing.

- \$163.8 million for SHIP and \$221.2 million for SAIL.

\$800 million for Everglades restoration and related environmental spending.

3.2% (\$3.8 billion) less in total spending than FY 2024-2025.



Big Ticket Items

\$80 million for Visit Florida

\$250 million for Rural and Family Lands Protection Program

\$750 million into the Budget Stabilization Fund

- Forthcoming constitutional amendment on 2026 ballot

\$580 million to pay down state debt

\$50 million for Hometown Heroes downpayment assistance program



Line Item Vetos

Total: \$1.35 billion

Includes veto of \$750 million for transfer of General Revenue to the Budget Stabilization Fund and roughly \$567 million in line items.

Final budget (after vetos) is only \$10 million more than the Governor's original recommended budget from January, and less than the FY 24-25 budget.



SB 2500: Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP

TOTAL FUNDING: \$29.6 BILLION [\$15.9 BILLION STATE FUNDS; \$13.7 BILLION LOCAL FUNDS]

- FEFP Total Funds increase is \$945.2 million or 3.31%.
- FEFP increase in Total Funds per Student served by a district is \$142.74, a 1.59% increase (from \$8,987.67 to \$9,130.41).
- Base Student Allocation (BSA) increase of \$41.62 or 0.78%.
- Required Local Effort (RLE) increase of \$529.7 million; RLE millage maintained at prior year level of 3.087 mills.



SB 2500: Public Schools/K12 Non-FEFP

TOTAL: \$500.8 MILLION [\$492.6 MILLION GR; \$8.2 MILLION TF]

- COACH AARON Feis, Chris Hixon, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program – \$6.5 million
- School Recognition Program – \$135 million
- Mentoring Programs – \$13.6 million
- Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources Centers – \$8.7 million
- Teacher Professional Development – \$13.7 million
- School District Foundation Matching Grants – \$7 million
- Florida Safe Schools Canine Program – \$3.3 million
- District Threat Management Coordinators – \$5 million
- Regional Literacy Teams – \$5 million
- Charity for Change – \$4.7 million
- SEED School of Miami – \$12.2 million
- School and Instructional Enhancement Grants – \$47.1 million
- Exceptional Education – \$12.4 million
- Florida School for the Deaf and Blind – \$80.3 million
- Capital Outlay Funding – \$30.4 million
- Jewish Day School Security – \$20 million
- School Hardening – \$20 million

Permanent, full repeal of Florida’s Business Rent Tax.

Permanent, month-long Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday every August.

Repeal of Florida’s aviation fuel tax.

Estimated \$2.04 million in tax cuts, including:

Expanded Tourist Development Tax (TDT) uses:

- Fiscally constrained Gulf Coast counties may use TDT to fund infrastructure projects.
- All coastal counties may use TDT to fund lifeguard services.

Permanent sales tax exemption for disaster prep and outdoor safety items (e.g., sunscreen, insect repellent, bike helmets, life jackets).

Creates a sales tax holiday for hunting and fishing supplies.

Eliminates sales tax on:

- Admission to Florida state parks.
- Tickets to NASCAR races at Homestead-Miami Speedway.



Education Bills

SB 2510: PreK-12 Education (Conforming Bill)

Status: Passed and Signed by Governor



Definition

- The bill amends the definition of a persistently low-performing school by including schools that fall in the bottom 10 percent of schools for student performance on the grade 3 statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment or the grade 4 statewide, standardized mathematics assessment in at least 2 of the previous 3 years.
 - Additional Schools Added: Over 200 schools were added to the list due to the new definition.

Location of Schools

- Allows a school of hope to be located outside a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone if the school district does not have underused, vacant, or surplus property available for the hope operator within a Florida Opportunity Zone or persistently low-performing school attendance zone. The school of hope must provide an enrollment preference for students residing in such zones for the entirety of the validity period.

New Sponsors

- The bill authorizes that, in addition to a school district, a state university or state college may serve as the sponsoring entity for a School of Hope.

Co-Location

- Authorizes a school of hope to co-locate with another public school in any facility. The school district must allow the School of Hope to use all or part of an underused, vacant, or surplus school district facility at no cost and receive facility-related services, pursuant to the State Board of Education (SBE) rule. A school district may provide the DOE with documentation for prekindergarten students in a school district facility that are not reported for funding in the FEFP prior to the DOE's annual publication of the underused, vacant or surplus facilities list.



HB 1105: Education

Sponsor: Kincart Jonsson

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Updates high school course options, graduation pathways, scholarship eligibility, and workforce readiness initiatives.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Expands eligibility for the Florida Academic Scholar award requirements to include the Advanced Placement Capstone designation with eligible diploma options.
- Increases eligibility and amends volunteer hour requirements for the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV) award and the Florida Gold Seal Cape Scholars award.
- Updates statutory language relating to the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.
- Requires DOE to develop multiple equivalent, applied, or integrated courses allowing students to earn credit in the career education course and courses required for high school graduation.
- Revises requirements for the Florida Seal of Fine Arts and the Career and Technical Education graduation pathway to align with requirements for the GSV award.
- Requires that information regarding work-related internships be included in counseling materials and presented with courses required for graduation.
- Amends requirements for a Florida Career and Professional Education Act strategic plan.
- Requires dual enrollment agreements to address scheduling changes and increase access and student participation, and include how students will be notified of transportation options.
- Expands eligibility criteria for the Bright Futures Scholarship Program to include students who graduated from a non-Florida school if the parent retired from military service assignment away from Florida within 12 months prior to the student's graduation.



HB 1105: Education

Sponsor: Kincart Jonsson

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



KEY PROVISIONS (Continued)

Charter Schools

- Requires school districts to share any local government infrastructure surtax revenues with eligible charter schools based on enrollment, for levies approved on or after July 1, 2025.
- Requires school districts to provide district charter schools with information related to shared discretionary revenues.

High School Curriculum and Graduation

- Marching band may substitute for P.E. or performing arts credit.
- Eliminates the certificate of completion and requires DOE to develop guidance about adult education/ postsecondary options for students who do not earn a diploma.
- DOE must set competencies for a math endorsement for teachers that include specified topics.

Cell Phone Use Restrictions

- Prohibits use by elementary and middle school students during the school day.
- Prohibits high school use during instructional time, except as authorized, with teacher-designated storage areas and board-adopted usage zones.
- Provides exceptions for medical or educational needs.
- Requires DOE to pilot full-day bans in 6 districts and report by December 2026.

School Bus Trespass Law Expansion

- Expands definition of “school” for purposes of trespass statute to include any district-owned/operated vehicles.
- Allows warrantless arrest for bus trespass based on probable cause. Verbal notice or signage is sufficient to support prosecution for trespass.





HB 85: Hazardous Walking Conditions

Sponsor: Kendall

Status: Passed and Signed by Governor



Expands the criteria for identifying hazardous walking conditions for public elementary school students to include walkways along a limited access facility, as defined in the Florida transportation code.



SB 112: Children with Developmental Disabilities

Sponsor: Harrell

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor** 

Expands services and funding for children with autism and other developmental disabilities, improving early intervention, school readiness, education, and workforce training.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Expands Cinotti Grant Program to include autism screenings/referrals.
- Creates Early Steps Extended Option (services through age 4).
- Funds startup grants for autism-focused charter schools.
- Supports specialized summer programs for children with autism.
- Establishes the University of Florida Center for Autism and Neurodevelopment to manage grants for specialized programs and develop guidelines for grant administration.
- Provides free autism micro-credential for eligible educators and child care workers.
- Requires DOE to review autism training curricula and report findings.
- Adds ASD training to educator certificate renewal requirements.

SB 166: Administrative Efficiency in Public Schools

Sponsor: Simon

Status: Indefinitely postponed and withdrawn from consideration



Would have streamlined district administration by reducing regulatory burdens, expanding local flexibility in policymaking, and enhancing financial and facilities management, ultimately giving school districts greater control over assessments, personnel, operations, budgets, and choice programs.

KEY PROVISIONS

ASSESSMENTS and Accountability

- Expanded test options for 4th-grade promotion; removed Algebra 1 and 10th-grade ELA as diploma gates.
- Simplified assessment calendar; let superintendents set exemption deadlines.
- Barred sole reliance on value-added models; set SBE timelines for turnaround plans and Title I releases.

Instructional Personnel

- Gave districts freedom to choose evaluation metrics ($\geq 50\%$ based on student outcomes).
- Created 3-year contracts/10-year renewable certs; broadened apprenticeship/temporary cert paths.
- Ensured collective bargaining can't block salary supplements tied to district or state priorities.

Operations and Facilities

- Exempt boards from APA rulemaking (public input required) and trimmed absentee-intervention timelines.
- Eliminated outdated class-size penalties, life-cycle cost analyses, and facility work-program mandates.
- Restored 5-year cycle for instructional materials adoption; eased architect employment conditions.

Finance and Budget

- Dropped graphical budget displays; Title I and 1.5 mill levy use expansion.
- Authorized short-term debt for capital outlay; required charters to answer DOE expenditure queries.
- Empowered boards to declare makeup days after bona fide emergencies.

School Choice and Early Learning

- Let districts set open-enrollment limits twice yearly; tweaked IEP timelines for scholarship students.
- Shifted VPK oversight to districts; allowed electronic attendance verification.

DOE and SBE Oversight

- Reinforced SBE's rule-making within statutory bounds; mandated annual DOE guidance on laws and rules.





SB 248: Student Participation in Interscholastic/Intrascholastic Extracurricular Sports

Sponsor: Simon

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor** 

Expands access to interscholastic and intrascholastic sports for home education and private school students at FHSAA member schools.

KEY PROVISIONS

- HOME EDUCation students may join athletic teams at any public school in their district if residency and eligibility requirements are met.
- Private school students at FHSAA-member schools may participate in sports at other member public or private schools if their school does not offer the sport.
- Removes the 200-student enrollment cap for private school athletes at non-member FHSAA schools.
- Clarifies sport eligibility: Participation based on team designation by biological sex at birth (boys, girls, or coed).
- Transparency requirement: All FHSAA appeals and board decisions must be posted online in a searchable format, consistent with education record privacy laws.



HB 259: Special Observances

Sponsor: Gerwig

Status: Passed and Signed by Governor



The bill designates August 21 of each year as “Fentanyl Awareness and Education DaY” to increase awareness of the dangers of fentanyl and potential overdoses.

The bill encourages specific state agencies, local governments, public schools, and other agencies to sponsor events to promote awareness of fentanyl’s dangers, community resources for drug prevention, and substance use and abuse generally.

SB 356: Holocaust Remembrance Day

Sponsor: Berman

Status: Passed and Signed by Governor



The bill designates January 27 of each year as “Holocaust Remembrance Day.”

The bill permits the day to be suitably observed in public schools, the Capitol, and elsewhere as designated by the Governor and encourages instruction to be delivered on the day on the harmful impacts of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism, as well as the positive impacts of the Jewish community on humanity.

HB 279: False Reporting

Sponsor: Partington

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Increases penalties for individuals who knowingly make false or malicious emergency calls, like fake threats of violence, that cause serious harm, panic, or disruption.

The bill:

- Establishes a first-degree misdemeanor for a person causing another party to access the 911 system for the purpose of making a false alarm, false complaint, or reporting false information.
- Creates a third-degree felony for misuse of the 911 system if a person suffers great bodily harm, permanent disfigurement, or permanent disability as a proximate result of the misuse.
- Creates a second-degree felony for misuse of the 911 system if a person dies as a proximate result of lawful conduct arising out of the emergency response.
- Reduces the number of prior convictions needed to subject a person to an enhanced penalty of a third-degree felony for misuse of the 911 system from four convictions to two convictions.
- Deletes enhanced penalty for misusing the 911 system and receiving services of more than \$100.

A court must order a person convicted of misusing the 911 system or making a false report to law enforcement to pay:

- The costs of prosecution and investigation
- Restitution to any victim who suffers damage or injury as a proximate result of lawful conduct arising out of an emergency or law enforcement response.

A defendant must also pay full restitution to a responding public safety agency for any costs incurred by responding to the incident.



SB 296: Middle School and High School Start Times

Sponsor: Bradley

Status: Passed and Signed by Governor



Provides an exemption for a district school board or a charter school governing board from the statutory requirement that by July 1, 2026, the instructional day at all district and charter middle schools may not start before 8 a.m. and high schools may not start before 8:30 a.m. Rather than implementing the statutorily prescribed start times, the bill allows such boards to submit a report to the Department of Education by June 1, 2026, that includes information related to current school start times, documentation of strategies that were considered to implement prescribed start times, and the impacts and unintended consequences of implementing the prescribed start times.



HB 443: Education

Sponsors: Snyder, Rizo

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Clarifies operational rules, expands enrollment options, and strengthens administrative fairness for charter schools.

KEY PROVISIONS

ADMINISTRAtion and Facilities

- Confirms charter schools are public facilities for the purposes of community development concurrency.
- Prohibits sponsors from setting earlier administrative deadlines than their own; financial audit deadlines may be no more than 15 days earlier than sponsor submissions to the DOE.
- Limits landlords/affiliates from serving on charter school boards (except municipal charters).
- Permits high-performing charter schools to assume another school's charter within the same district (written request required).

Enrollment and Capacity

- Expands enrollment preference to all preschoolers completing pre-K at or through an affiliated charter school (not limited to VPK program).
- Allows eligible charter schools to exceed stated enrollment caps with notice to the sponsor by March 1.

Student Policies and Data

- Charter schools may adopt their own student conduct code (parent acknowledgment required if more stringent than charter school sponsor's code).
- DOE and sponsors must share student data promptly and efficiently with charter schools.
- Charter schools must follow parental notification laws for changes in student well-being services or monitoring.

Virtual Education

- Full-time virtual students may join district public school athletics or partner with private school.



HB 447: Disability History and Awareness Instruction

Sponsor: Salzman

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



The bill requires K-3 to include lessons on bullying and physical disabilities, mandates autism instruction for grades 4-6, hearing impairments for grades 7-9, and various learning and intellectual disabilities for grades 10-12.

SB 462: Transportation

Sponsor: DiCeglie

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



The bill creates an administrative hearing option for school bus safety violations, allowing individuals to contest citations within 60 days and avoid court fees. Hearings may be virtual or in person, with evidence reviewed under oath. If upheld, a \$200 fine plus administrative costs applies. Appeals follow existing state procedures, and the process applies to unresolved cases after July 1, 2025. The bill also allows FDOT to grant up to \$5 million annually (FY 2025-2030) to state colleges and school districts - prioritizing rural areas - for equipment simulators, instructional aids, and construction courses with OSHA and simulator certifications.

HB 549: Gulf of America

Sponsor: Porras

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



The bill requires all state agencies to replace references to "Gulf of Mexico" with "Gulf of America." Starting July 1, 2025, public and charter schools must use materials that adopt the "Gulf of America" terminology.



HB 597: Diabetes Management in Schools

Sponsor: Smith

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Authorizes Florida public schools and districts to stock and administer undesignated glucagon for students experiencing severe hypoglycemia.

KEY PROVISIONS

STOCKING AND STORAGE

- **SCHOOLS MAY ACQUIRE AND** Maintain undesignated glucagon in secure, easily accessible locations.
- May obtain glucagon via donation, discount, or fair market purchase; grant funding, or monetary donations.

Prescriptions and Dispensing

- Schools may request prescriptions from county health departments.
- Health care providers may prescribe glucagon in a school's name; pharmacists are authorized to dispense it.

Use and Notification Requirements

- Must be administered per a student's diabetes management plan or as ordered by a provider.
- Staff must call emergency services and notify parents after administration.

Liability Protections

- Civil and criminal immunity is provided for good-faith administration of glucagon.

Implementation

- State Board of Education must adopt rules to implement these requirements.



HB 681: Apprenticeship and Preapprenticeship Program Funding

Sponsor: Melo

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Strengthens transparency, financial accountability, and governance of registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs.

KEY PROVISIONS

LEA-PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS: REQUIRES DOE to set uniform standards allowing partnerships between local educational agencies (LEAs) and program providers. Partnership agreements must define responsibilities and funding splits; if the LEA's role is solely administrative, its share is capped at 10%. DOE must also create a standard model contract template.

Annual Reporting Requirements: Moves DOE's annual report deadline from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30. Expands reporting to include

- Expenditure breakdowns by LEAs and program providers
- Total funds received by training provider, program, and occupation
- Administrative cost details, including personnel hours

Funding Transparency Tool: Directs DOE to launch an online, searchable tool by July 1, 2026, showing three years of workforce education funding data by source and institution.

Workforce Funding Oversight: Adds public notice, comment, and remote participation requirements for District Workforce Education Funding Steering Committee meetings. Moves the model submission deadline to at least two months before session.

SB 738: Child Care and Early Learning Providers

Sponsors: Burton

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Changes to minimum standards for the licensure of child care facilities.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Directs DCF to codify classification levels for violations relating to the health and safety of a child.
- Provides for a 45-day provisional-hire status upon a delayed background screening of child care personnel.
- Adjusts requirements relating to the introductory course and CPR training that child care personnel must take.
- Limits periodic health examinations to child care facility drivers.
- Removes language that requires facilities to provide parents with pagers or beepers during drop-in child care.
- Removes the requirement for:
 - Child care facilities to provide parents with information about flu virus and dangers of a distracted adult leaving a child in a vehicle.
 - Child care facilities to develop a program to assist in preventing and avoiding physical and mental abuse.
 - DCF to develop standards for specialized child care facilities for the care of mildly ill children.

Licensing and Exemptions

- Allows abbreviated inspections for child care providers meeting certain conditions.
- Requires counties that license their own child care facilities to annually reaffirm this decision.
- Exempts preschools from municipal special assessments.
- Exempts from licensure facilities serving only certain eligible children (screening still required).
- Exempts DOD- and Coast Guard-authorized providers from licensure.





HB 809: School Social Workers

Sponsor: Hunschofsky, Lopez, V.

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



The bill exempts school social workers from the demonstration of mastery of general knowledge and subject area knowledge required for educator certification.

SB 958: Type 1 Diabetes Early Detection Program

Sponsors: Bernard

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Requires the Department of Health (DOH) to develop and distribute Type 1 diabetes early detection materials for parents and guardians of young students.

KEY PROVISIONS

Development of Materials: DOH must collaborate with school districts to create Type 1 diabetes information by September 30. Materials must be posted on DOH website and available to school districts and charter schools.

Notification Requirement: DOH must establish a standardized process for notifying parents/guardians of VPK-1 students by September 30, and annually thereafter. Materials must include:

- A description of Type 1 diabetes.
- Risk factors and warning signs.
- An overview of blood autoantibody testing for early detection.
- Recommendation for further evaluation if warning signs or positive screening results.

HB 875: Educator Preparation

Sponsors: Rizo, Snyder

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Align standards across Florida's teacher preparation programs and create new certification pathways and training supports.

KEY PROVISIONS

Standards and Curriculum Alignment

- DOE must convene a workgroup to revise Florida Educator Accomplished Practices.
- SBE must adopt uniform core curricula for all teacher prep programs, including two required courses.
- CERT Program must be created as a competency-based certification pathway.

Clinical Educators and Mentors

- Standardizes qualifications for teacher mentors and clinical educators.
- Requires DOE to develop training criteria for clinical educator training.
- Completion of approved prep programs with the new uniform core curricula satisfies certain certification requirements.

Florida Center of Teaching Excellence

- Created (subject to appropriation) at Miami-Dade College to support educator quality and innovation.

Additional Provisions

- Districts must set minimum qualifications for part-time, non-degreed fine and performing arts teachers.
- Professional development must be linked to student learning and provide professional growth for staff.
- DOE must create a flexible internship pathway to support school counselor certification.



SB 1070: Electrocardiograms for Student Athletes

Sponsor: Simon

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Creates the “Second Chance Act” and requires EKG screenings for student athletes starting in the 2026-2027 school year.

KEY PROVISIONS

EKG REQUIREMENT for Athletic Participation: Students must complete an EKG screening before participating in interscholastic athletics for the first time, beginning in 2026-2027. Screenings must follow standards set by the FHSAA’s Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. An EKG from within the prior two years may be used to meet the requirement.

FHSAA Bylaws: Requires FHSAA to adopt bylaws prohibiting participation following an abnormal EKG until the student provides written medical clearance from a licensed physician, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.

Cost and Accessibility: School districts must seek public and private partnerships to offer low-cost EKGs. Students are exempt if their district cannot provide EKGs for under \$50.

Exemptions

- Written parental objection for religious reasons.
- Medical exemption from a physician.
- Inability of the district to secure low-cost EKGs.

EKGs may be performed by out-of-state practitioners with equivalent licensure in good standing.



SB 1102: School Readiness Program

Sponsor: [Calatayud](#)

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Expands special needs eligibility and funding for school readiness providers who meet training and program standards, with new staff training requirements starting July 1, 2027.

KEY PROVISIONS

EXPANDED ELIGIBILITY: Includes children needing accommodations beyond those required by ADA.

- Accommodations must be validated by a licensed healthcare or mental health professional, or an educational psychologist (not a parent/relative/childcare provider employee).
- Required documentation: IEP, IFSP, and written determination of accommodations.

Special Needs Differential Funding: SR providers may receive additional funds through the special needs differential for serving eligible children. By July 1, 2027, providers must:

- Meet/exceed CLASS composite score for contracting.
- Complete DOE-approved training on early identification of social/ communication delays.
- Ensure instructors complete 10 hours of inclusive education training within 90 days of assignment.
- Provide 2 hours of relevant annual training per instructor to maintain eligibility.





HB 1145: Workforce Education

Sponsor: Shoaf

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Expands access to workforce education grants and strengthens the Money-back Guarantee Program.

KEY PROVISIONS

Workforce Grant Access: Allows charter schools to apply directly for Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant funding to launch or expand career and technical education programs tied to CAPE industry certifications.

Money-Back Guarantee Program Enhancements

- Increases the required programs from three to six by July 1, 2026; notification to the State Board of Education is required.
- Clarifies that enrollment in a designated program includes automatic enrollment in the guarantee.
- Permits institutions to set eligibility criteria, but limits work search/internship requirements to those in reemployment assistance law (s. 443.091, F.S.).
- Requires annual reporting of eligibility criteria to the State Board.
- Expands DOE's annual report to include both performance data and reported eligibility criteria.



HB 1237: Human Trafficking Awareness

Sponsors: Booth, Overdorf

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Establish mandatory human trafficking awareness training for public school personnel.

KEY PROVISIONS

- By Dec. 1, 2025, DOE must identify a free training curriculum (conducted online or in-person).
- Training must cover:
 - Differences between sex and labor trafficking.
 - Identification of students who may be victims of human trafficking.
 - The role of school employees in reporting and responding to suspected human trafficking.
 - A protocol for reporting suspected human trafficking.
- Each public school, including charter schools, must require that the following staff receive human trafficking awareness training:
 - Instructional personnel: teachers, counselors, social workers, psychologists, librarians, learning specialists, paraprofessionals.
 - School administrators.
 - Educational support employees, including nurses, secretaries, doctors, service workers and craft workers.



HB 1255: Education

Sponsors: Trabulsy, Tramont

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Updates education policies spanning early learning, school safety, student services, military families, and postsecondary standards.

KEY PROVISIONS

- REDEFINES “ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED” FOR USE IN DETERMINING SR PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.
- REQUIRES SR WAITLISTS TO TRACK BY FAMILY INCOME AND PRIORITY.
- REMOVES LIMITS ON VPK WITHDRAWAL/RE-ENROLLMENT.
- Revises reading instruction plan requirements for school districts.
- Adds postsecondary cost content to financial literacy course.
- Requires parent notification on eligibility for New Worlds programs.
- Private schools participating in scholarship programs must meet new screening requirements.
- Requires parental opt-in for corporal punishment.
- Requires interventions and allows expulsion extensions based on threat management team recommendations.
- Updates opioid antagonist definition and allows broader use; provides liability protection for school staff.
- Preserves the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- Improves record transfers and Bright Futures eligibility for military students.
- Allows CLT10 for 10th graders and includes CLT scores in university preeminence metrics.



SB 1374: School District Reporting Requirements

Sponsors: Yarborough

Status: Passed and Signed by Governor



Modifies reporting, self-reporting, and background screening requirements for school employees and volunteers.

KEY PROVISIONS

- Requires district school boards to adopt a policy for the temporary removal of instructional personnel from the classroom within 24 hours after notification of an arrest for a felony or any misdemeanor offense listed in Level 2 background screening standards.
- Expands law enforcement notification requirements to include misdemeanor offenses under Level 2 background screening.
- Expands self-reporting requirements for instructional and administrative personnel, requiring them to report felony and misdemeanor arrests under Level 2 background screening standards within 48 hours. The bill clarifies that self-reports are not admissions of guilt and are inadmissible in any proceeding.
- Authorizes public schools and private schools that participate in state scholarship programs to screen volunteers through the Care Provider Background Screening Clearinghouse or request national criminal history checks through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.
- Requires school districts to handle sealed and expunged criminal records disclosed through self-reporting in accordance with existing confidentiality laws.



SB 1402: Students Enrolled in Dropout Retrieval Programs

Sponsors: Yarborough

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor**



Modifies accountability requirements for Virtual Instruction Program (VIP) providers and dropout retrieval programs.

KEY PROVISIONS

VIP Provider Accountability: Allows VIP providers to opt for a school improvement rating instead of a school grade for each district they serve. Ratings must reflect assessment scores of all students served in that district.

Dropout Retrieval Programs: Exempts VIP providers operating solely as dropout retrieval programs from receiving a district grade. Requires all dropout retrieval programs to choose either a school grade or a school improvement rating. Defines dropout retrieval as serving students who officially withdrew from high school and were not enrolled elsewhere at the time of reentry.

SB 1470: School Safety

Sponsor: [Burgess](#)

Status: [Passed and Signed by Governor](#)



Strengthens the School Guardian Program, updates campus security standards, and improves threat assessment, emergency response, and reporting protocols.

KEY PROVISIONS

SCHOOL GUARDIAN PROGRAM AND SECURITY Guards: Aligns security guard training with guardian standards; requires sheriff-approved training, background checks, drug testing, and psychological screening. Sheriffs cannot waive training costs and must maintain records. FDLE must track certification, separation, firearm discharge, and misconduct data statewide.

Campus Security: Limits perimeter/door security to 30 minutes before/after the school day. Allows unlocked doors/gates if a locked barrier separates students. Exempts certain areas. Requires safety briefings for substitutes. Permits compliant temporary door locks during active assailant incidents.

Emergency Alert Integration: DOE must create a centralized panic alert and mapping system (if funded); all public/charter schools must connect and ensure real-time interoperability.

Threat Management and Safety Institute: Codifies OSS's role in statewide threat assessment, allows rulemaking for threat data access, and requires a workgroup to propose a Florida Institute of School Safety.

SB 1546: Background Screening of Athletic Coaches

Sponsors: Yarkosky, Rizo

Status: [Passed and Signed by Governor](#)



Extends the implementation date for the requirement that current and prospective athletic coaches must pass a Level II background screening from January 1, 2025, to July 1, 2026.



SB 1514: Anaphylaxis in Public and Charter Schools

Sponsors: Smith

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor** 

- Requires district school boards and charter school governing boards to ensure the emergency action plan for anaphylaxis for each student K-8 is in effect and accessible at all times when on campus.
- Requires school boards and charter governing boards to ensure each school serving these grade levels provides training to an adequate number of school personnel and contracted staff in preventing and responding to allergic reactions. Training must include recognizing the signs of an anaphylactic reaction and administering an epinephrine delivery device with a pre-measured, appropriate weight-based dose.
- Requires the State Board of Education and Department of Health to adopt rules by October 1, including identifying approved training curriculum.

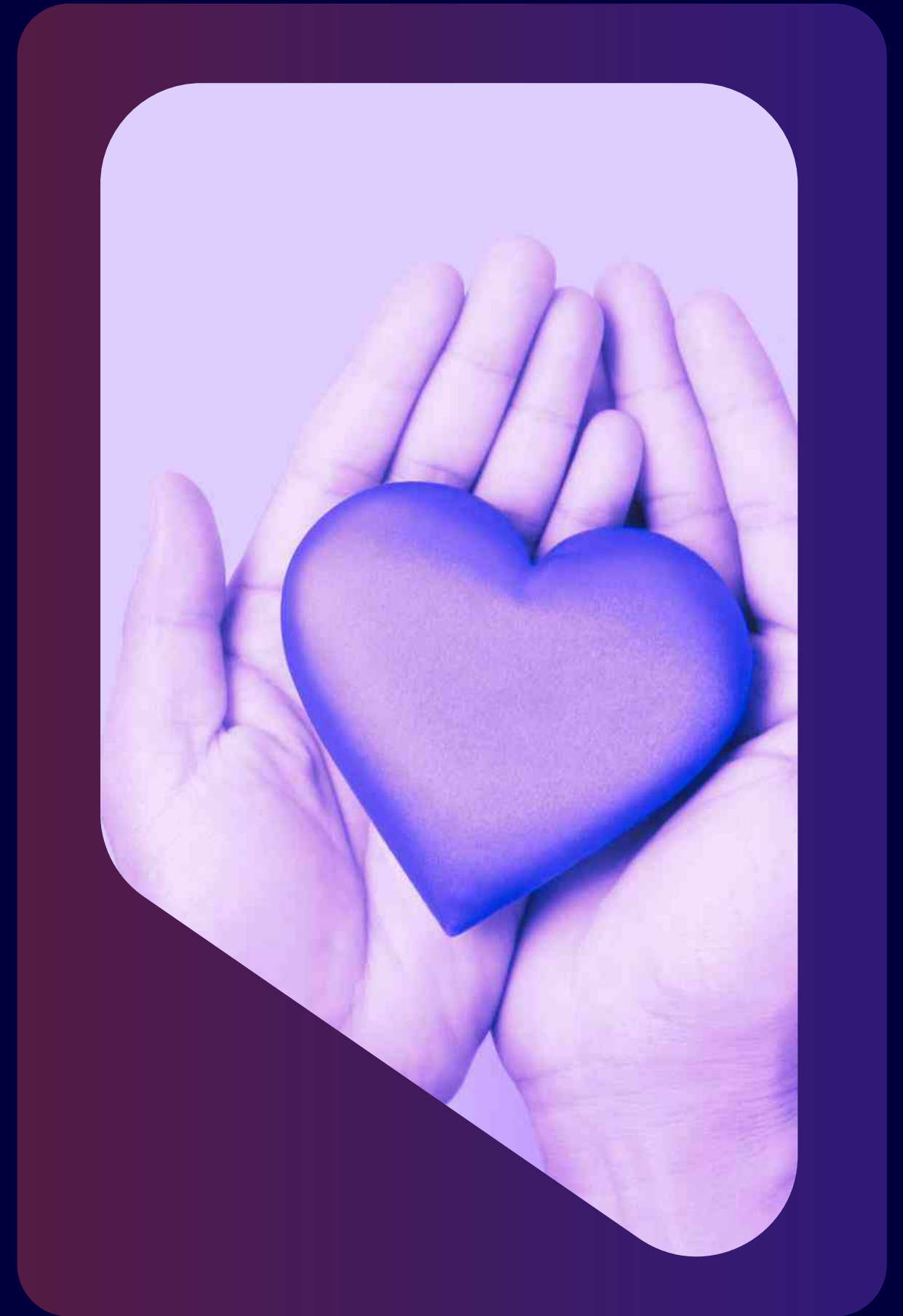
HB 1607: Cardiac Emergencies

Sponsors: Yarkosky, Rizo

Status: **Passed and Signed by Governor** 

Requires school districts to provide basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), once during middle school and once during high school in a physical education or health class. The instruction must allow students to practice the skills associated with performing CPR and using an automated external defibrillator (AED).

By July 1, 2027, every public school, including charter schools, must have at least one operational AED on school grounds. Each public school must also develop a plan for urgent life-saving emergencies (PULSE) to guide school personnel in responding to sudden cardiac arrest or similar emergencies on school grounds.





Other Notable Bills that Passed

- Constitutional Amendment Reform
- Fluoride Ban
- State Parks
- Condo Law Reform
- School Start Time Repeal
- DOH Package (vaccine bans)
- Brownfields

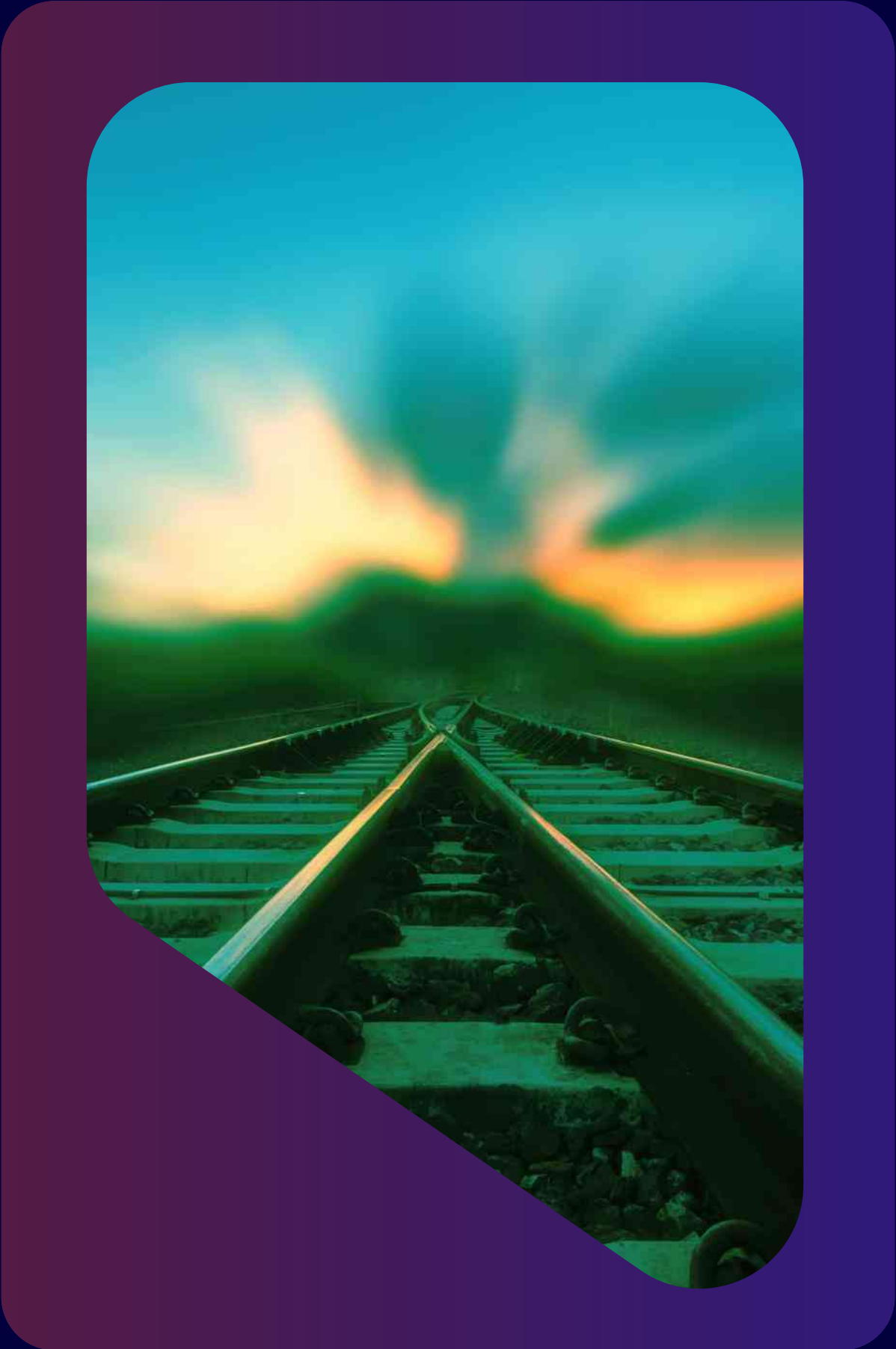


Other Notable Bills that Failed

- Property Insurance
- Hemp regulation
- E-verify
- College/University Presidential Searches
- Gun law changes
- CRA
- DBPR De-Regulation
- Sovereign Immunity

2026 Issues

Redistricting
Vaccines
Property Tax
Social Media
Rural Renaissance
Tort Reform Issues





Property Tax Reform

- Governor has called for the reduction (or elimination) of property taxes.
- House established a select committee, and multiple meetings have already been held.
- Goal: constitutional ballot question to voters (requires 60% to pass).
- Possible proposals:
 - Homestead for residents over 65 years of age.
 - Requirement of a certain number of years.
 - Requirement on assessments.

2026 Legislative Session



Committee Week 1 – October 6-10



Committee Week 2 – October 13-17



Committee Week 3 – November 3-7



Committee Week 4 – November 17-21



Committee Week 5 – December 1-5



Committee Week 6 – December 8-12



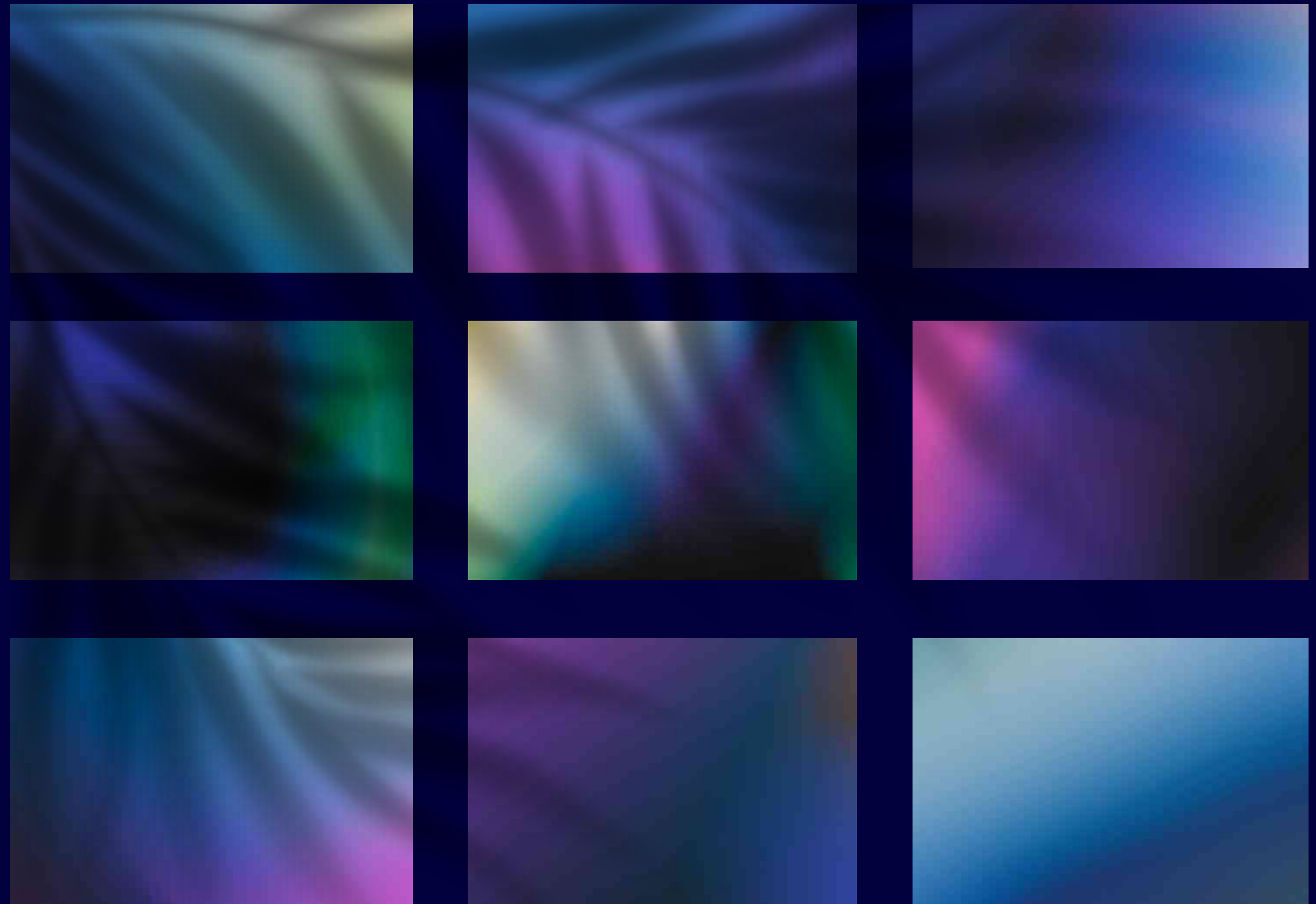
First Day of Session – January 13, 2026



Last Day of Session – March 13, 2026



Questions



Thank You

GRAYROBINSON

