

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Session Week 4 | February 2 – 6

Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability – 2/2/2026

SB 1072 Antisemitism Task Force by Senator Calatayud

Meeting Summary

Senator Calatayud presented the bill; SB 1072 creates the Antisemitism Task Force within the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Legal Affairs to combat antisemitism in Florida.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No committee member asked substantive questions about the bill.*
- *Senator Alexis Calatayud introduced SB 1072, citing statistics on antisemitism:*
 - *“There were nine thousand three hundred fifty four antisemitic incidents across the United States the past year.”*
 - *She stated that the legislation would create a task force within the Attorney General’s Office of Civil Rights to “conduct a comprehensive review of antisemitism prevalence in Florida, strengthen community relations ... advise on law enforcement training ... and ... evaluate Florida’s current hate crime statutes.”*
- *Senator LaVon Bracy Davis expressed concerns about the Attorney General’s prior position identifying certain anti-discrimination task forces as unconstitutional.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

9 Yeas ; 0 Nays

Yeas: Arrington, Bracy Davis, Polsky, Brodeur, DiCeglie, Grall, Mayfield, McClain, Rodriguez



SB 1296 Public Employees Relations Commission by Senator Martin – Temporarily Postponed

Bill Summary

Senator Martin presented the bill; SB 1296 revises final order requirements under chapter 120, modify union membership authorization rules, and overhaul certification, decertification, and bargaining procedures for public employees.

SB 1298 Public Records/Public Employees Relations Commission by Senator Martin – Temporarily Postponed

Bill Summary

SB 1298 expands public record exemptions for Public Employees Relations Commission personnel, protect draft orders and related communications from disclosure, and ensure confidentiality of employees' decertification statements.

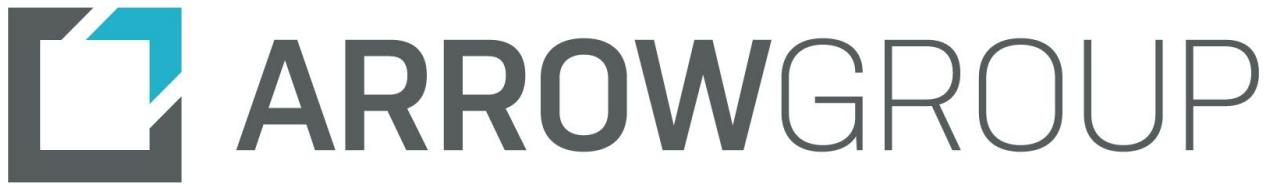
SB 7022 Public Records/Examination and Assessment Instruments by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee

Meeting Summary

Senator Simon presented the bill; SB 7022 deletes duplicative language regarding public records exemptions, expands confidentiality of examination and assessment instruments, and revises disclosure and retention requirements.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No members asked questions.*
- *Senator Simon presented SB 7022. He explained:*
 - *“Under the open government Sunset Review Act, the public records exemption for specific examinations and assessment instruments in a classroom is scheduled to expire on October 2. SB 7022 reenacts and extends the sunset date for the exemption to 2031.”*
 - *He added that “while all respondents support the exemption, several school districts noted local assessments developed or held by the districts are not clearly covered by the exemption. The bill updates the exemption to include school district boards and public schools. The bill also updates interagency sharing of exempt materials.”*



Vote

Reported Favorably

9 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Arrington, Bracy Davis, Polsky, Brodeur, DiCeglie, Grall, Mayfield, McClain, Rodriguez

House Education and Employment Committee – 2/3/2026

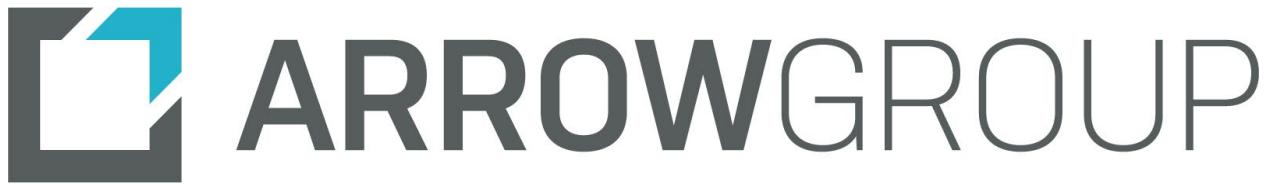
HB 325 Education and Workforce Development for Inmates by Representative Kendall

Meeting Summary

Representative Kendall presented the bill; HB 325 expands workforce development programs and training opportunities for inmates to include commercial driver license certifications.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No members asked questions.*
- *Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson*
 - *Expressed appreciation for the bill's intent to help inmates transition back into communities:*
 - *"I would hate to see you leave the podium without some encouragement... I appreciate what you're doing, thank you very much for doing it."*
- *Representative Susan L. Valdés*
 - *Emphasized the lasting value of education:*
 - *"A tagline that I use is that an education can never be erased... I am enthusiastically, again, voting up on this bill with the hopes that... that inmate title does not stick to them."*
- *Representative Lisa Dunkley*
 - *Applauded the bill for creating additional opportunities for inmates to acquire workforce skills:*
 - *"It's given an additional opportunity to those who are qualified to... become a successful part of society when they come back out."*
- *Representative Wallace Aristide*
 - *Supported the measure and highlighted the need to address social and emotional challenges inmates may face:*
 - *"When you talk about what may be happening mentally... if you can get the right mindset, it'll help you to continue to go further."*



Vote

Reported Favorably

17 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Hinson, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Michael, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes

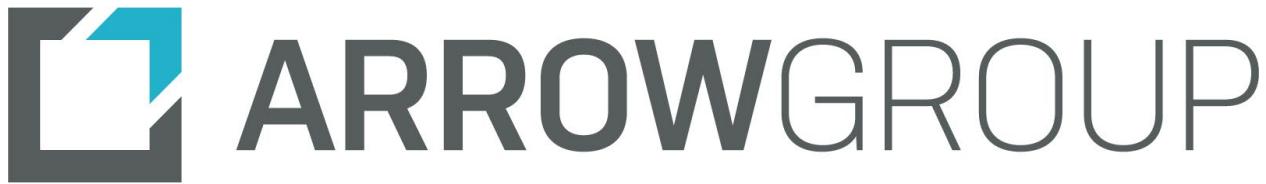
HB 757 School Safety by Representative Salzman

Meeting Summary

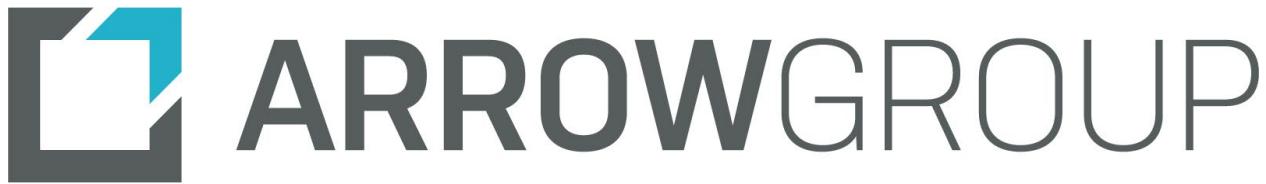
Representative Salzman presented the bill; HB 757 authorizes public postsecondary educational institutions to participate in guardian programs, create a new firearm discharge offense near schools, and strengthen school safety requirements.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson
 - Asked if the bill includes regular security assessments for campus facilities, including potential camera installations.
 - Sought clarification about whether only faculty and staff would be allowed to carry firearms under the Guardian Program.
- Representative Salzman
 - explained each campus would determine its own security needs and that only interested faculty or staff members (not students) may become guardians.
- Representative Kimberly Berfield
 - Asked how information about student disciplinary actions, including suspensions or expulsions, is shared between high schools and postsecondary institutions.
- Representative Salzman
 - clarified that this focuses on dual enrolled students, since college admissions offices already review disciplinary histories for traditional applicants.
- Representative Jennifer "Rita" Harris
 - Confirmed that community colleges are included.
 - Asked if there would be a requirement for an office or ongoing process focused on de-escalation and early intervention.
- Representative Salzman



- *Responded that each institution must develop a framework for prevention and train students, faculty, and staff, rather than adopt a single statewide model.*
- *Representative Anne Gerwig*
 - *Expressed concern about whether campus security plans would be disclosed publicly and how to maintain confidentiality.*
- *Representative Salzman*
 - *noted the bill does not dictate how plans are released but does require each institution to have a detailed emergency response plan.*
- *Representative Judson Sapp*
 - *Praised the sponsor for balancing Second Amendment rights with heightened school safety measures, calling it “extremely hard to do.”*
- *Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson*
 - *Thanked the bill sponsor for the bill “especially as we all journey through this... new not normal”*
 - *Expressed hope that the bill sponsor would say something in closing to help her feel better.*
- *Representative Alex Rizo*
 - *Recalled confusion during a recent campus lockdown and commended the bill’s effort to address large campuses’ unique needs.*
 - *Stated that school safety planning “is a moving target,” requiring continuous improvement.*
- *Representatives Jennifer “Rita” Harris*
 - *Expressed reservations about the Guardian Program which is making her a bit hesitant but also expressed that she does not want to “throw away all the good”.*
 - *Wondered if there’s a better way to strengthen it to make it safer for law enforcements and schools to know who are a part of the Guardian Program*
- *Representative Kiyan Michael*
 - *Thanked the sponsor of the bill and her effort of making herself available to answer questions about concerns that she had.*
- *Representative Anne Gerwig*
 - *Welcomed the concept of a “thoughtful plan,” noting coaches and teachers in past incidents have used their own bodies to shield students.*
- *Representative Dana Trabulsky*
 - *Recounted a campus shooting incident experienced by her son and emphasized the importance of ensuring parents and students know what to do.*



Vote

Reported Favorably

17 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Hinson, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Michael, Persons-Mulicka, Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes

HB 901 Diabetes Research by Representative Kincart-Jonsson

Meeting Summary

Representative Kincart-Jonsson presented the bill; HB 901 establishes the University of Florida Diabetes Institute as a centralized resource for diabetes research, screening, prevention, treatment, and education.

Member Debate & Questions

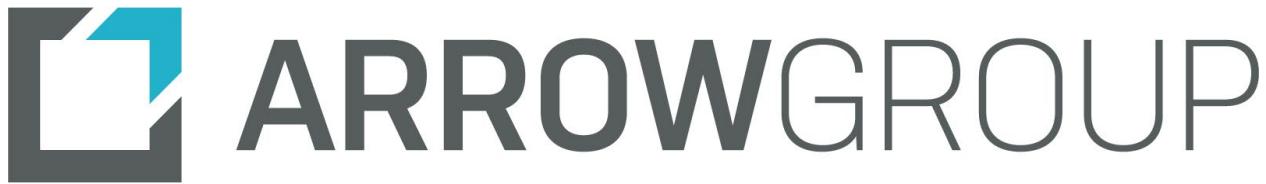
- *No questions were asked by members.*
- *Rep. Jennifer Kincart-Jonsson*
 - *"This bill does not create a new program. It simply places the institute in statute so Florida can better compete for federal research dollars, coordinate statewide efforts, and maximize the return on investments we're already making."*
 - *Noted that diabetes affects more than two million people in Florida, costs billions of dollars each year, and that prior legislative investments have already increased physician education and early screening programs.*
- *Ranking Member Yvonne Hayes Hinson*
 - *Praised the approach, stating, "I do appreciate what you're doing. There are so many undiagnosed people out there..."*
 - *Expressed hope that finding more undiagnosed individuals will improve their access to treatment and quality of life.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

17 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Hinson, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Michael, Persons-Mulicka, Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes



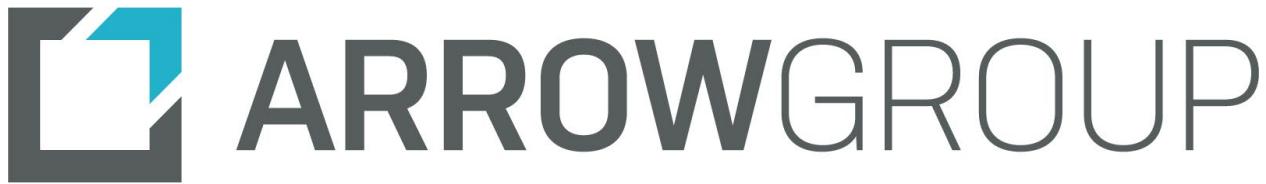
HB 1073 School Districts by Representative Koster

Meeting Summary

Representative Koster presented the bill; HB 1073 enhances district school board members' access to documents, increase transparency of meeting records and budgets, and prohibit mandatory nondisclosure agreements.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Paula Stark
 - Asked: *"To me, it's concerning to give [certain school board members] access to additional information just because you're not sure what they will do with it. So have you given any consideration into that arena?"*
- Answer by Rep. Koster
 - Acknowledged that "bad apples" can be a concern, but she prefers not to "legislate for the bad apples." She noted that board members need full information to make good decisions, though she is open to language preventing misuse.
 - Asked follow-up: *"What basic criteria do you think they need the information on?"*
- Answer Rep. Koster
 - Budget details, including line-item transparency. She said some board members "don't get line-item budget items" or see relevant RFPs.
 - Asked another follow-up about whether superintendents could decide which documents board members receive.
 - Answer Rep. Koster
 - Stated that giving full discretion to superintendents would be "the opposite of what we're trying to do."
- Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson
 - Asked: *"I'm having trouble understanding that a school board member would not have access to anything they need to make a vote. Are we talking about a lot of counties...or one county?"*
- Answer Rep. Koster
 - She had heard from multiple districts and wanted to ensure consistent statewide access.
 - Asked about nondisclosure agreements: *"So there are school board members being asked to sign NDAs?"*
- Answer Rep. Koster



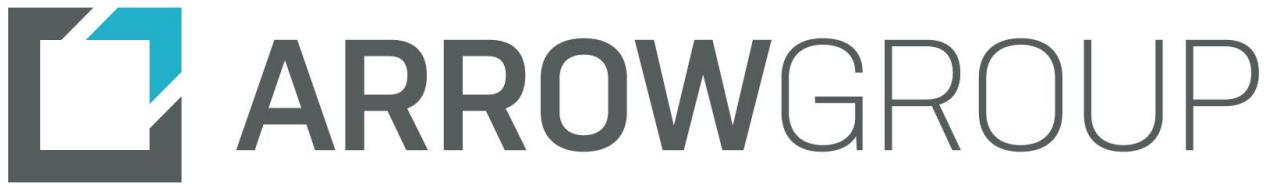
- *Clarified the bill prohibits districts from requiring employees to sign NDAs, noting it happens in “some school districts.”*
- *Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson*
- *Expressed disbelief that board members might be denied documents. Advised clarifying terms to avoid privacy violations like HIPAA or FERPA issues.*
- *Representative Susan L. Valdés*
 - *Drew on past service as a school board member and stressed that board members are “fiduciarily responsible” for their budgets. Supported adding provisions to protect open collective bargaining issues.*
- *Representative Kimberly Daniels*
 - *Emphasized that if a problem exists in one district, it “could be happening somewhere else.” Shared confidence in Rep. Koster’s willingness to address concerns.*
- *Representative Wallace Aristide*
 - *Spoke in favor of solving problems whenever they appear. Found it problematic that some board members might have to pay for documents needed to fulfill their duties.*
- *Representative Paula Stark*
 - *Although worried about grey areas where information might be misused, supported the prohibition of mandatory nondisclosure agreements and favored the bill overall.*
- *Representative Alex Rizo*
 - *Supported ensuring that elected board members are never denied information. Called such withholding “unconscionable.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

17 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Hinson, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Michael, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes



HB 1115 Grants for Genetic Counseling Education by Representative Anderson

Meeting Summary

Representative Anderson presented the bill; HB 1115 establishes the Genetic Counseling Education Enhancement Grant Program within the State University System to support accredited graduate genetic counseling programs through competitive grants

Member Debate & Questions

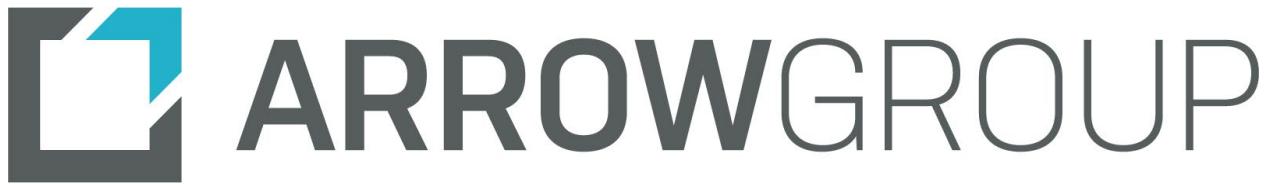
- *No members asked questions.*
- *Representative Anderson explained the bill*
 - *stating that Florida faces a severe shortage of genetic counselors. He noted HB 1115 would establish an education grant program to support students pursuing genetics-related fields and help state universities keep pace with the rising demand for qualified professionals.*
 - *"Florida is considered a genetic counseling desert with just 179 licensed genetic counselors residing in the state. Many of those are working in research rather than clinically. HB 1115 helps solve this critical workforce shortage by establishing an education grant program to support the students pursuing a field in genetics and our state universities [...] meeting the current and future demand of this rapidly growing industry."*
- *Representative Harris*
 - *expressed appreciation for the work behind the legislation and praised Representative Anderson's continued efforts: "Thank you so much for the work that you're doing in this area, with the bill last session and now this session. You're really doing incredible work. It's gonna make a difference, and I'm really grateful for the opportunity to vote yes on this."*

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daniels, Harris, Hinson, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Michael, Nix, Jr., Persons-Mulicka, Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes, Yarkosky



House Judiciary Committee – 2/3/2026

HB 905 Foreign Influence by Representative Persons-Mulicka

Meeting Summary

Representative Persons-Mulicka presented the bill; HB 905 strengthens safeguards against foreign influence by requiring registration of foreign agents, prohibiting certain contracts and affiliations with foreign entities, and imposing penalties for unauthorized enforcement of foreign laws.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No members asked questions.*
- *Representative Daniel “Danny” Alvarez stressed the ongoing threat Florida faces from foreign adversaries. He stated:*
 - *“We are under attack constantly... It is our responsibility to defend our homeland...and make it against all threats, foreign and domestic.”*
 - *He urged colleagues to support the legislation and avoid letting politics impede its passage.*
- *Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka explained that this measure continues efforts to protect the state from foreign interference and expands upon existing law to address new foreign threats:*
 - *“We must remain vigilant and be proactive because our foreign enemies do not rest.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

16 Yeas; 0 Nays

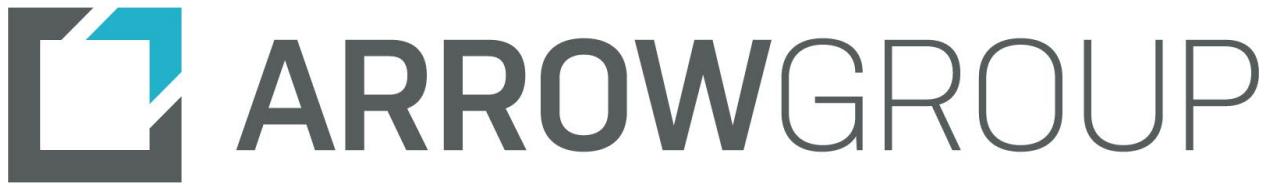
Yea: Antone, Chambliss, Gottlieb, Lopez, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Baker, Borrero, Brannan III, Cassel, Fabricio, Maney, Plakon, Porras, Salzman

House State Affairs Committee – 2/3/2026

HB 535 Candidate Qualifying by Representative Benarroch

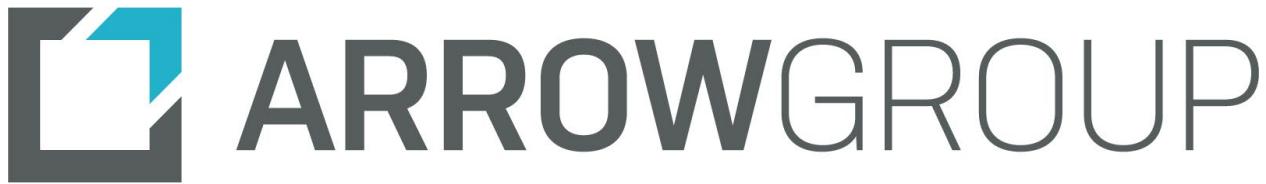
Meeting Summary

Representative Benarroch presented the bill; HB 535 requires candidates to disclose dual citizenship when qualifying for public office.



Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Anna Eskamani
 - Asked where the new disclosure information would appear.
- Representative Yvette Benarroch replied
 - "Just where, like, all the other disclosures when you run for office...we're not adding a new process."
 - Asked if it would be a separate form.
- Representative Benarroch answered
 - "It'll be the same process as every other disclosure."
 - Asked to explain the value of disclosing dual citizenship.
- Representative Benarroch explained
 - "I believe trust starts with transparency, and voters deserve to know as much information as we can."
- Representative Angie Nixon
 - Asked why candidates holding dual citizenship should disclose it, referring to page three, lines 56–58.
- Representative Benarroch responded
 - "We're not disqualifying anyone. This is just transparency. Voters deserve to know."
 - Asked how to safeguard the information from misuse.
- Representative Benarroch answered
 - "My bill does not discriminate...we're leaving it up to the voters to make that decision."
- Representative RaShon Young
 - Asked if references to "countries of concern" would affect candidate eligibility.
- Representative Benarroch answered
 - "The bill is simply to disclose if you have dual citizenship. That is it... it does not disqualify anyone."
- Representative Linda Chaney
 - "This is simply transparency...It's just information for the voter..."
- Representative Jeff Holcomb
 - "I think it's valuable that you're adding transparency to the situation."
- Representative Debra Tendrich
 - "I do think it is important for us to know...if they do hold dual citizenship with any of those countries."



- Representative Phillip Wayne "Griff" Griffitts Jr.
 - Commented that this bill is "simply another disclosure", noting that there's no enforcement mechanism.
- Representative Fabián Basabe
 - "This bill does the opposite of exclusion...I think this opens up so many opportunities...reminds everyone they are welcome to run and serve."
- Representative Berny Jacques
 - "If it were up to me, I would make dual citizenship a basis for disqualification...But this bill doesn't even go that far...it's just disclosure."
- Representative Wyman Duggan
 - "All we are saying is that dual citizenship is relevant information for voters... Ultimately, they decide."
- Representative RaShon Young
 - "I don't see why this...is so important...I understand the transparency aspect...but I think there are other elements that we should know...about background..."
- Representative Anna Eskamani
 - "We can't operate in a silo...we are experiencing elevated rhetoric around immigrants...and I do worry about feeding that beast."
- Representative Angie Nixon
 - "We are headed down a slippery slope that could potentially lead to xenophobic attacks."

Vote

Reported Favorably

18 Yeas; 5 Nays

Yea: Tendrich, Basabe, Blanco, Boyles, Chaney, Cobb, Duggan, Gentry, Gonzalez Pittman, Griffitts Jr., Holcomb, Jacques, Maggard, McFarland, Mooney, Jr., Owen, Robinson, W., Weinberger
Nay: Cross, Eskamani, Nixon, Spencer, Young



Senate Rules – 2/3/2026

SB 564 Student Volunteers at Polling Stations by Senator Yarborough

Meeting Summary

Senator Yarborough presented the bill; SB 564 clarifies that eligible high school students may volunteer at polling locations without violating restrictions on private support for election-related activities.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No members asked questions.*
- *Senator Yarborough*
 - *Explained, “CS for SB 564 revises an existing prohibition against the use of private funds for election-related expenses by authorizing Florida high school students who are registered or preregistered to vote to volunteer to assist poll workers for the purpose of receiving community service hours.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

24 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Davis, Jones, Osgood, Rouson, Pizzo, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Brodeur, Burgess, Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Garcia, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Martin, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Trumbull, Wright

SB 572 Ethics for Public Employees by Senator Harrell

Meeting Summary

Senator Harrell presented the bill; SB 572 expands the definition of “relative” in the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees to include foster parents and foster children.

Member Debate & Questions

- *Senator Gayle Harrell*
 - *Explained, “foster family relationships really can evolve to the same level of trust and influence that normal family relationships do.”*
 - *Noted the bill “modernizes Florida’s ethics statutes to update that definition of relative to reflect that contemporary family structure.”*



- Stated the measure “ensures that ethical safeguards apply consistently to foster family relationships as well as to stepchildren, stepfamilies, and family relationships” and that it “has the same impact in our school ethics statutes as well.”

Vote

Reported Favorably

23 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Berman, Davis, Jones, Osgood, Rouson, Pizzo, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Burgess, Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Garcia, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Martin, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Trumbull, Wright

SB 590 Statute of Limitations Period for Violations Involving Required Reports Concerning Children by Senator Bradley

Meeting Summary

Senator Bradley presented the bill; SB 590 provides that the statute of limitations for offenses involving required reports concerning children does not begin to run until a law enforcement or governmental agency is made aware of the violation.

Member Debate & Questions

- No questions were asked by members.
- Senator Jennifer Bradley
 - Explained: “The crime of failure to report suspected child abuse by mandatory reporters is a third-degree felony, currently subject to a three-year statute of limitations. But often, when victims do come forward later as adults, those who failed them, failed to report, cannot be held accountable due to the statute of limitations.”
 - Emphasized that SB 590 “would toll the statute of limitations for failure to report until such time as the crime is made known to law enforcement or other entities that can act to file charges.”
 - Shared that she filed the bill at the request of her state attorney, who had seen repeated instances of child abuse perpetuated when timely reports were not made.



Vote

Reported Favorably

23 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Davis, Jones, Osgood, Rouson, Pizzo, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Burgess, Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Garcia, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Martin, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Trumbull, Wright

Senate Children, Families, and Elder Affairs – 2/3/2026

SB 1022 Children's Initiative by Senator Polsky

Meeting Summary

Senator Polsky presented the bill; SB 1022 creates new children's initiatives in Bay and Broward counties under not-for-profit management subject to state transparency requirements.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Tina Scott Polsky,
 - *“Established in 2008 with the support of former House Speaker and now Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the Florida Children’s Initiatives is a statewide initiative modeled after the nationally recognized Harlem Children’s Zone in New York.”*
 - *“She explained that these initiatives address disparities in disadvantaged communities by creating local service networks. She noted that five initiatives are currently active in Duval, Orange, Hillsborough, and Miami-Dade Counties.”*
 - *“This bill establishes two new children’s initiatives programs, one in Bay County and one in Pompano in Broward ... This bill gives our children a real chance to succeed while having no fiscal impact on the state budget.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

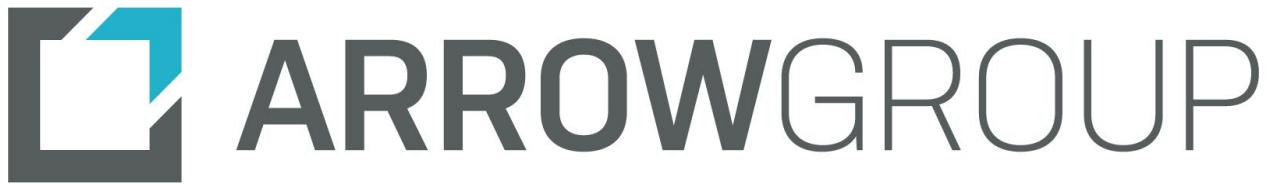
4 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Sharief, Garcia, Grall, Simon

SB 1690 Child Care and Early Learning Services by Senator Calatayud

Meeting Summary

Senator Calatayud presented the bill; SB 1690 streamlines child care licensing requirements and update definitions while creating an endowment for expanded early learning initiatives.



Member Debate & Questions

- No members asked any questions.
- Senator Alexis Calatayud presented the delete-all amendment and explained its contents:
 - *“The Delete All requires DCF and local licensing agencies to make publicly available the inspection reports and annual data on child deaths, serious injuries, and substantiated abuse that occurs in child care facilities. It removes statutory provisions that require family and large child care homes to provide parents with certain information materials regarding influenza immunizations and the risk of leaving children unattended in vehicles. Requires certain exempt child care facilities to include a statement on their website or promotional material and facilities document specifying they’re not subject to licensure regulation by DCF, defines large family child care home, prohibits residential property insurance policies from providing liability coverage for claims arising from operation of family or large family child care home unless coverage is expressly described, prohibits insurers for denying, canceling, or refusing new residential property insurance policies because the insured operates a family or large family child care home, provides the definition of the Department of Education as a direct support to authorize it to receive, hold, invest, and administer property, establishes the Florida Endowment for Early Learning within the Department of Education direct support organizations, amends family care home to family child care home.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

4 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Sharief, Garcia, Grall, Simon

Senate Judiciary – 2/3/2026

SB 178 Athletics in Public K-12 Schools by Senator Jones

Meeting Summary

Senator Jones presented the bill; SB 178 authorizes head coaches to use personal funds to support student welfare within set limits and reporting requirements.



Member Debate & Questions

- *There were no questions on the strike-all amendment or the amended bill.*
- Senator Shevrin “Shev” Jones
 - *Explained that SB 178 addresses situations where a head coach may financially assist student-athletes using personal funds for needs such as food, transportation, and recovery services.*
 - *Clarified that the strike-all amendment explicitly changes the term “coach” to “head coach” and underscores that “funds used by a coach must be personal funds.”*
 - *Emphasized the mentor relationship coaches often have: “Sometimes in some of these young people, coaches are their big brother, their father figure, or even sometimes a mother figure.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

10 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Polksy, Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Hooper, Leek, Passidomo, Yarborough

SB 538 Extracurricular Activities by Senator Simon

Meeting Summary

Senator Simon presented the bill; SB 538 revises extracurricular eligibility for all students, expand insurance coverage, streamline participation rules, and authorize flexible compensation for athletic staff.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Berman
 - *Regarding Amendment 179458: “There are a lot of extracurricular activities that coaches give an inordinate amount of time to beyond just sports... I’m really happy to support this amendment.”*
- Senator Gaetz
 - *Introduced an amendment clarifying that public schools may charge an activity fee proportional to the district’s cost for homeschool students participating in an extracurricular program.*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

*All summaries are created with AI



11 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Polsky, Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Hooper, Leek, Passidomo, Trumbull, Yarborough

SB 1178 Foreign Influence by Senator Grall

Meeting Summary

Senator Grall presented the bill; SB 1178 strengthens restrictions to curb foreign influence by imposing registration, reporting, and contractual prohibitions for entities and individuals linked to countries of concern or terrorist groups.

Member Debate & Questions

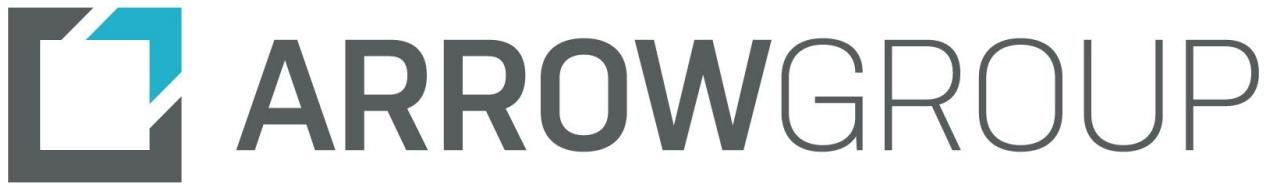
- *No members asked any questions.*
- *Senator Erin Grall explained that SB 1178 “creates a Foreign Interference and Enforcement Act,” which:*
 - *“It expands the definition of foreign source of concern to also include a designated foreign terrorist organization or an agent acting on behalf of such an organization.”*
 - *“It creates a state-level framework for the registration of agents and organizations associated with foreign countries of concern.”*
 - *“It bans gifts to public officials and employees from foreign countries of concern and designated foreign terrorist organizations.”*
 - *“It strengthens provisions on government contracting by prohibiting contracts for information technology with foreign countries of concern.”*
 - *“It revises provisions governing Florida linkage institutes” by removing the Florida China Institute and prohibiting those institutes from entering into agreements with foreign countries of concern.*
 - *“...reclassifies a criminal offense...committed for the purpose of benefiting a foreign government or designated foreign terrorist organization.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

11 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Polsky, Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Hooper, Leek, Passidomo, Trumbull, Yarborough



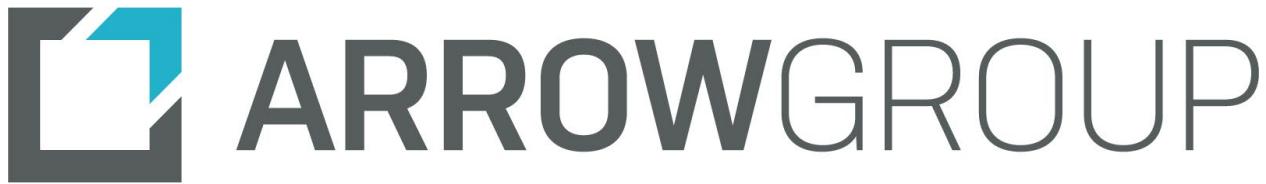
SB 1632 Ideologies Inconsistent with American Principles by Senator Grall

Meeting Summary

Senator Grall presented the bill; SB 1632 prohibits the application of foreign or religious laws that conflict with constitutional rights and expand criminal, administrative, and educational penalties for supporting or promoting designated terrorist organizations.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Lori Berman
 - Asked whether the sponsor had addressed First Amendment and due process concerns.
 - Asked how designated organizations would be informed and whether they would “have access to all the evidence used to determine that they are a domestic terrorist organization.”
 - Inquired whether there would be an opportunity to challenge the designation more than thirty days after publication and brought up hypotheticals about a “skirmish” at a rallies.
 - Questioned the definition of what constitutes the “promotion” of a domestic terrorist organization and whether “retweeting something in support of a group” could trigger penalties for students.
- Senator Erin Grall, the sponsor, replied
 - there would be notice through a publicly announced process and a 30-day window to file a challenge. She highlighted notice requirements, and emphasized the need for a willful, knowing intent to support an organization’s violent or coercive acts.
- Senator Tina Polksky
 - Asked how an organization might learn it was up for a designation unless it “regularly looked at those notices.”
 - Asked for examples of “other laws” applied in Florida courts, prompting the sponsor to say that Sharia law has sometimes arisen in legal proceedings.
 - Asked if there were any existing, official domestic terrorist designations under Florida law, and whether the Governor would be required to use the process in this bill.
 - Questioned why “activity that is already criminal” needed an additional state-level designation process.
 - The sponsor noted the bill mirrors federal procedures, stating it focuses on “violent acts or acts dangerous to human life” intended to intimidate or coerce.



- Senator Rosalind Osgood
 - *Expressed concern on behalf of her Muslim constituents, saying they feared the bill would “target their [community] because it mentions Sharia law.”*
 - *The sponsor stated the bill addresses any religious or foreign legal system “inconsistent with the laws of the United States,” emphasizing it applies only to organized criminal conduct rather than peaceful religious practices.*
- Senator Erin Grall,
 - *Called SB 1632 a “constitution first public safety bill,” adding that it “targets conduct, not belief.”*
 - *Explained it prohibits courts from enforcing foreign or religious laws contrary to American constitutional rights and creates a “careful due process” approach for identifying and designating domestic terrorist organizations.*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

8 Yeas; 3 Nays

Yeas: Burton, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Hooper, Leek, Passidomo, Trumbull, Yarborough

Nays: Berman, Osgood, Polsky

Senate Community Affairs – 2/3/2026

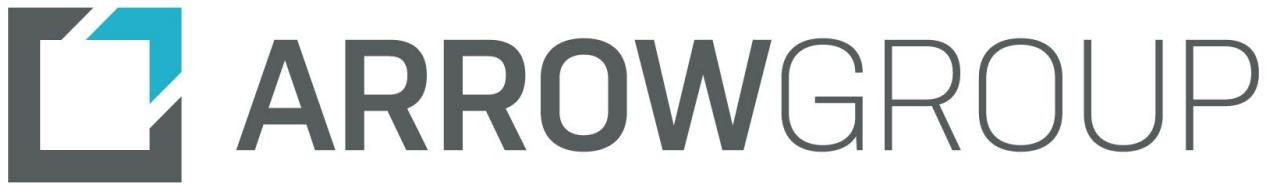
SB 1320 Tax Referenda by Senator Martin

Meeting Summary

Senator Martin presented the bill; SB 1320 requires a local government spending analysis be included on certain county tax referenda.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Pizzo asked whether the new spending analysis requirement is redundant with existing performance audit obligations under s. 212.055, Florida Statutes.
 - Senator Martin responded that providing more information to voters is helpful and that the Department of Financial Services would develop the details to ensure clarity and transparency.
- Senator Martin
 - Emphasized that voters benefit from having standardized, state-produced fiscal data on the ballot.



- *Highlighted that additional transparency can help voters better determine whether proposed tax increases are warranted.*
- Senator Pizzo
 - *Voiced concern that the new requirement may duplicate existing statutory requirements for tax-referendum audits.*
 - *Suggested that a thorough review of current law might address the goals of transparency without adding another layer of process.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

5 Yeas; 3 Nays

Yea: Leek, Massullo, Jr., McClain, Passidomo, Trumbull

Nay: Jones, Sharief, Pizzo

Senate Education Pre-K - 12 – 2/3/2026

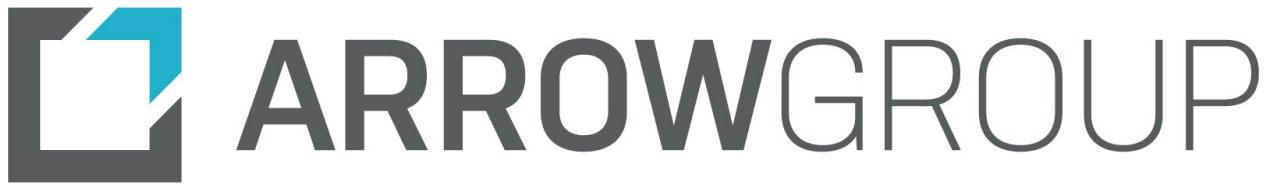
SB 824 Inventory of Unimproved Real Property Owned by School Districts by Senator Truenow

Meeting Summary

Senator Truenow presented the bill; SB 824 requires school districts to offer vacant land first to charter school operators if there is no agreement in place by a specified deadline to construct a school.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Keith Truenow explained the delete-all amendment and the overall intent of SB 824. He stated:
 - *"After several conversations with stakeholders, we agree that a bill on transparency would be best for now. The strike all does the following. Requires school districts to submit annually to the Florida Department of Education a complete list of unimproved land by June 30 of the year."*
- He noted that the amendment also requires the Department of Education to publish a statewide report by December 1 each year. Summarizing his proposal, Senator Truenow said:
 - *"We are just trying to take a look at what we have ... with the changes that are being made throughout the state and what can be accomplished..."*



Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

7 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Simon, Yarborough

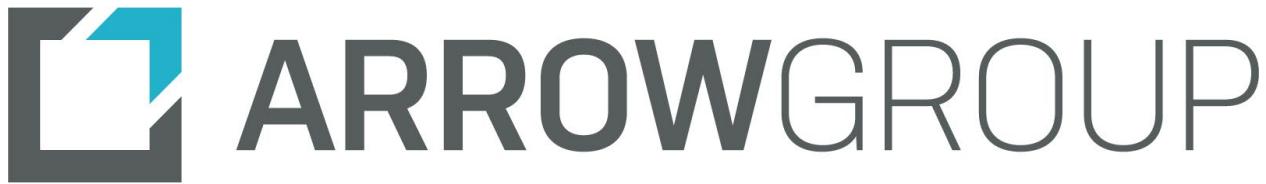
SB 1104 Religious Expression in Public Schools by Senator Massullo, Jr.

Meeting Summary

Senator Massullo, Jr. presented the bill; SB 1104 provides constitutional protections from discrimination for religious expression by students and school personnel in public schools.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Don Gaetz
 - Asked whether the proposed amendment would “require a school district to honor a request by school personnel to lead prayer.” He shared a past example of firing an assistant principal who used his position to pressure students to change religions and questioned if such behavior would now be protected.
- Bill Sponsor’s Response
 - Emphasized the measure does not mandate or protect coercive religious activities and would not shield staff who overstep their authority.
- Senator Lori Berman
 - Observed that “most of these things are already in statute,” then asked why a constitutional amendment is needed.
- Bill Sponsor’s Response
 - Explained it is intended to protect religious freedoms by placing these existing statutes in the state constitution to ensure clarity and permanence.
- Senator Massullo
 - Argued that publicly affirming voluntary religious expression prevents restrictions on students’ and staff’s faith-based activities and memorializes existing law in the constitution.
- Senator Lori Berman
 - Shared personal concerns about feeling isolated in school as a religious minority. Feared enshrining these policies constitutionally would perpetuate discomfort for non-majority-faith students.
- Senator Rosalind Osgood



- *Expressed concern that formalizing these provisions in the constitution might escalate tensions rather than clarify protections, stating schools already allow such religious expression under current law.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

5 Yeas; 2 Nays

Yea: Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Simon, Yarborough

Nay: Berman, Osgood

SB 1170 Education by Senator Calatayud

Meeting Summary

Senator Calatayud presented the bill; SB 1170 authorizes parents to request video cameras in self-contained special education classrooms while removing outdated pilot program references and establishing uniform procedures for schools to respond.

Member Debate & Questions

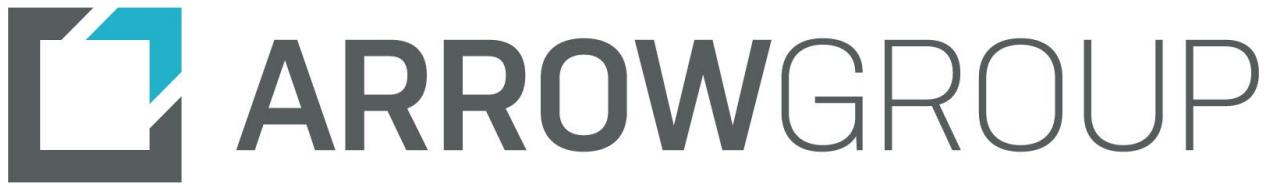
- Senator Danny Burgess
 - *Called the legislation “a great piece of legislation” and noted it would be “a good thing to do for all parties, families, children, as well as educators and staff.”*
- Chair Corey Simon
 - *Praised the measure and thanked members for working to “fight this fight for those that oftentimes can’t fight for themselves.”*
- Senator Alexis Calatayud
 - *Introduced the bill as one that “enhances safety, transparency, and accountability measures” and noted it would help “build trust” between parents and schools.*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

6 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Simon



SB 1620 Public Education by Senator Leek

Meeting Summary

Senator Leek presented the bill; SB 1620 strengthens district school board members' oversight, expand transparency requirements, and restrict certain employment practices and confidentiality agreements.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Rosalind Osgood asked
 - *“Could you explain to me a little more about the attorney piece? Having experienced on the school board, the attorney and the superintendent ... I’m trying to follow when you say a separate attorney be employed to represent school board members.”*
- Senator Tom Leek answered
 - *His intent is to “avoid the inherent conflict of interest in an attorney representing both the oversight, policymaking board and the executive ...” He noted possible revisions so smaller districts are not burdened financially.*
- Follow-up: *“Another part of the bill talks about a board being able to go directly to staff... Have you given any consideration as to what kind of pressure that could potentially put on a staff member?”*
- Senator Leek
 - *Acknowledged the tension and said he was “contemplating some reasonableness language,” clarifying that he does not want staff barred from speaking with board members, nor placed in an untenable position.*
- Senator Lori Berman
 - *Referred to concerns “that you’re going to undermine the authority of the superintendent in this bill,” mentioning a letter from a local sheriff.*
- Senator Leek
 - *Noted that the bill “does undermine some of that authority, but it does so intentionally,” aiming to balance superintendent oversight with board members’ information needs.*
- Senator Don Gaetz
 - *Supported the bill, calling it a needed bill, especially those in the minority on a board. He emphasized that accessing basic district data without interference is crucial, adding that this “...is exactly the way a school board ought to operate.”*



- Senator Tom Leek, Sponsor
 - *Explained that SB 1620 arises from reports of “public employees being forced to sign nondisclosure agreements about the public business” and board members being billed for documents needed to do their jobs. He stated his goal is for school board members to “have the information they need” while clarifying the bill would not allow improper access to confidential records.*
- Senator Rosalind Osgood
 - *Voiced concerns that the bill, as drafted, might blur lines between a superintendent’s day-to-day authority and a board member’s oversight role. She warned it could “open a door that you’re not intending to open”, and suggested adding clearer guardrails to prevent overreach into staff management.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

6 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Simon

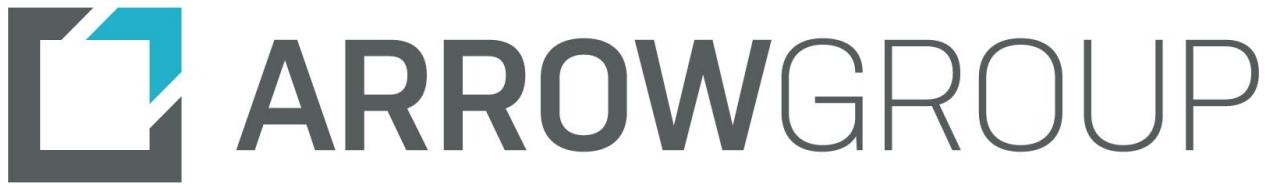
SB 1738 Educational Facilities by Senator Yarborough

Meeting Summary

Senator Yarborough presented the bill; SB 1738 requires the Office of Educational Facilities and the Office of Safe Schools to collaborate with specified entities to review and enhance the State Requirements for Educational Facilities to improve teacher and student safety and accountability.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Clay Yarborough
 - *Presented SB 1738, noting it “requires the Office of Educational Facilities and the Office of Safe Schools within the Department of Education to coordinate a review of the state requirements for educational facilities and develop recommendations intended to improve teacher and student safety and accountability through a school’s physical plant.”*
 - *Explained an amendment removes certain ‘crime prevention through environmental design’ provisions more suited to residential settings and ensures “we are trying to balance our effort in requiring any school space transparency, to not give rise to the elimination of safe spaces in the event we had a threat or emergency in the schools.”*



Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

7 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Osgood, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Simon, Yarborough

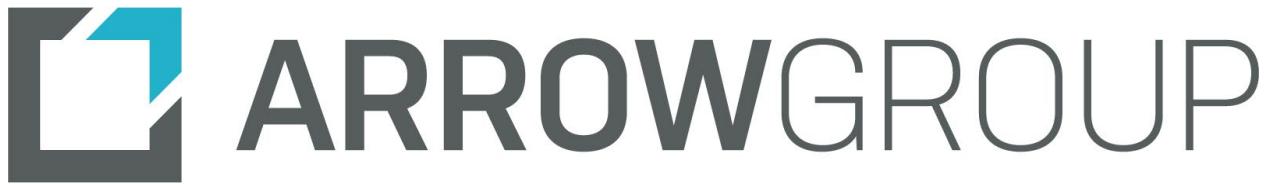
SB 7036 Education by Education Pre-K – 12 Committee

Meeting Summary

Education Pre-K – 12 Committee presented the bill; SB 7036 enhances and streamlines educational accountability, flexibility, and instruction by revising charter contracts, expanding conditions for educational emergencies, updating epinephrine policies, refining prekindergarten screening, and creating new mathematics pathways.

Member Debate & Questions

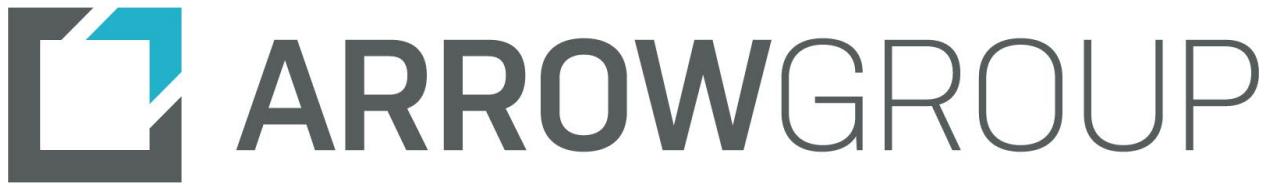
- Senator Berman asked:
 - Why “persistently low-performing schools” were added to the definition of an educational emergency.
 - Answer Senator Simon: “It aligns a trigger with the existing statutory categories used in state school improvement policies ... provide[s] an additional trigger.”
 - Whether this expansion could allow nearly every district to declare an emergency.
 - Answer Senator Simon: “I’m looking out for those kids ... If that means adding additional supports ... I think the state needs to make that investment.”
 - Why the bill removes language related to temporary door locks.
 - Answer Senator Simon “[W]e passed that door lock issue ... I had a chance to sit down with some stakeholders and there is a question ... if our first responders ... have access ... in times of ... an issue on a campus.”
 - Why it eliminates language stating the department “shall not enter into the business of producing or publishing instructional materials” and whether Florida is contemplating state-produced textbooks.
 - Answer Senator Simon “[W]e are contemplating that ... I am still ... weighing ... making sure that we are not ... only providing one singular option ... That provision ... is still being considered.”
- Senator Gaetz questioned:



- *How any state-published textbooks would be evaluated, given that current law relies on expert review.*
 - Answer Senator Simon: “There needs to be guardrails ... If this policy is moving forward ... we’re still working through this policy.”
- *Whether there is evidence to justify the state entering the textbook publishing business.*
 - Answer Senator Simon “I don’t disagree with you ... That’s why ... there’s still a lot to be desired as we move forward with this bill.”
- Senator Osgood asked:
 - *If districts could incur added costs or training needs by adopting department-developed materials.*
 - Answer Senator Simon Districts “will still receive their allocation ... That would fluctuate depending on the size of the district.”
 - *Whether there is data showing improved outcomes from department-developed materials.*
 - Answer Senator Simon “Currently the department isn’t developing any materials ... so there is no data.”
 - *If the proposal intends to supplement or replace the existing state-adopted materials list.*
 - Answer Senator Simon “There’s no effort to replace ... This would simply be a supplement the districts would be allowed to choose from.”
- Senator Calatayud voiced overall support for the bill, noting future collaboration on the textbook component:
 - “I’m grateful to work with you ... we’re not there yet ... I’m grateful for the ability to partner with you on getting to the right place.”
- Senator Berman opposed the bill due to concerns about possible state-produced textbooks:
 - “Because of this provision ... I can’t support it.”
- Senator Osgood emphasized that state-produced materials might discourage competition, though she pointed out strong support for other parts of the bill:
 - “I love the bill, but I don’t want to get into the State being the only provider of materials ... so I’m glad you’re still working on it.”

Vote

Submitted and Reported Favorably as Committee Substitute



5 Yeas; 2 Nays

Yea: Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Simon, Yarborough

Nay: Berman, Osgood

House Human Services Subcommittee – 2/4/2026

HB 933 Children's Initiative by Representative Rosenwald

Meeting Summary

Representative Rosenwald presented the bill; HB 933 establishes two new children's initiatives in Bay and Broward Counties to improve services and programs for disadvantaged children and families.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Rosenwald
 - Explained that the Florida Children's Initiatives were “modeled after the nationally recognized Harlem Children's Zone in New York” and originally coordinated by the Ounce of Prevention Fund.
 - Emphasized the initiatives' focus on education, health care, employment, and housing services to address disparities faced by children in disadvantaged communities.
 - Noted that there are currently five Children's Initiatives across four counties and two in Miami-Dade.
 - Stated that this legislation adds two new sites: the Bay County 32401 Children's Initiative in Bay County and the Pompano RYZE Program in Broward County.

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Alvarez, J., Eskamani, Harris, Robinson, F., Spencer, Basabe, Chamberlin, Esposito, Gonzalez-Pittman, Greco, Hodgers, Johnson, Melo, Partington, Plakon, Plasencia



House Pre-K – 12 Budget Subcommittee – 2/4/2026

HB 157 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program by Representative Hinson

Meeting Summary

Representative Hinson presented the bill; HB 157 establishes the School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program within the Department of Education to enhance teacher effectiveness and improve student achievement.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Overdorf
 - Asked: *How the mentorship program will be funded and whether dedicating mentor time might create extra cost or contractual concerns for districts.*
 - Answered by Representative Hinson: Mentors would receive a “\$3,000 stipend,” with funding drawn from “decategorized” education enrichment allocations. Hinson explained mentors could work with mentees during existing planning or off-school hours, avoiding overtime pay.
- Representative Gantt
 - Asked: *Whether the “education enrichment allocation” was the decategorized funding source and if school boards already have flexibility to use those funds for a mentoring program.*
 - Answered by Representative Hinson: Confirmed that this was the funding source and that school boards have the discretion to use it for mentoring.
- Representative McFarland
 - Asked: *If there are requirements to measure whether mentee teachers improve in their performance under the mentorship program.*
 - Answered by Representative Hinson: A “mentoring plan” already exists from previous legislation, requiring outcomes to be reported back to the Legislature.
- Representative Gantt
 - *Cited her personal teaching experience in underperforming schools, emphasizing how a mentor could help new teachers and reduce teacher attrition. She applauded the use of existing district funds for the program.*
- Representative Daniels
 - *Commended Representative Hinson’s “passion” for education and believed the mentoring concept would strengthen teacher retention and performance.*



- *Representative Overdorf expressed concern about guaranteeing a stable funding source so the legislation would not become “an unfunded mandate on our school boards.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

13 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daniels, Gantt, Lopez, Brackett, Gerwig, McFarland, Michael, Nix, Jr., Overdorf, Persons-Mulicka, Rizo, Snyder, Trabulsky

HB 561 Educator Certifications by Representative Gerwig

Meeting Summary

Representative Gerwig presented the bill; HB 561 expands eligibility for a temporary educator certificate, revise reinstatement requirements for expired professional certificates, and require the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence to collaborate with the David C. Anchin Center to provide no-cost professional learning opportunities.

Member Debate & Questions

- *Representative Ashley Viola Gantt*
 - *Expressed appreciation for the bill, saying, “We value the experience of teachers and understand that... we cannot allow that institutional knowledge because teaching is an art.”*
 - *Stressed the importance of bringing seasoned teachers back into the classroom.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

13 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daniels, Gantt, Lopez, Brackett, Gerwig, McFarland, Michael, Nix, Jr., Overdorf, Persons-Mulicka, Rizo, Snyder, Trabulsky

HB 859 Exceptional Students and Video Cameras in Public Schools by Representative Chambliss

Meeting Summary

Representative Chambliss presented the bill; HB 859 requires public schools to install and maintain video cameras with audio in self-contained exceptional student classrooms and updates related procedures for parents, schools, and school districts.

*All summaries are created with AI



Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Kevin D. Chambliss
 - *Explained that HB 859 “will end the pilot program statute” and require “each school board to establish a policy to provide video cameras in self-contained classrooms upon the request of a parent.”*
 - *Clarified that footage of students not relevant to an investigation would be redacted if parents or districts reviewed a recording.*
- Representative Ashley Viola Gantt
 - *Expressed gratitude to the sponsors for “continuously bringing this up.”*
 - *Emphasized the bill’s importance in protecting “our most vulnerable children.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

13 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daniels, Gantt, Lopez, Brackett, Gerwig, McFarland, Michael, Nix, Jr., Overdorf, Persons-Mulicka, Rizo, Snyder, Trabulsky

Senate Education Postsecondary – 2/4/2026

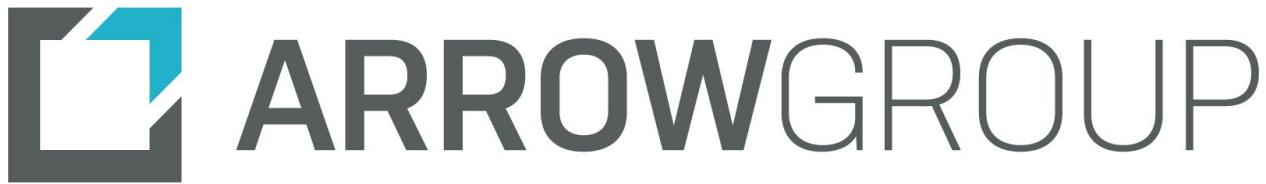
SB 1694 Technology Education by Senator Avila

Meeting Summary

Senator Avila presented the bill; SB 1694 expands technology education requirements by integrating artificial intelligence into general education and high school computer science courses.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Lori Berman
 - *Question: “So I just want to understand, your original bill had a sixth general education core course... Would the amendment... there would no longer be a sixth general education core course. Am I understanding that correctly?”*
 - *Response (Senator Avila): “That is correct.” He explains that the addition of a sixth core course would be a “pretty big structural change” and that the intent is to ensure technology is integrated into courses, while “putting some guardrails... on the high school side of it with... regards to the ethical use of artificial intelligence.”*



- Senator Avila
 - Explained that SB 1694 revises general education core standards by folding technology requirements into existing courses rather than creating a sixth core course, thus keeping overall credit hours unchanged.
 - Emphasized the importance of digital literacy across multiple disciplines, including software engineering, computer networks, database systems, and cybersecurity.
 - Noted the need to address ethical considerations surrounding artificial intelligence in both school and home environments.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

6 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Berman, Jones, Calatayud, Harrell, Rodriguez, Simon

Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K-12 – 2/4/2026

SB 920 Mathematics Education by Senator Gaetz – Temporarily Postponed

Bill Summary

SB 920 creates new mathematics pathways emphasizing career-oriented applied algebra courses and develop recommendations for an adaptive artificial intelligence tool to support mathematics instruction.

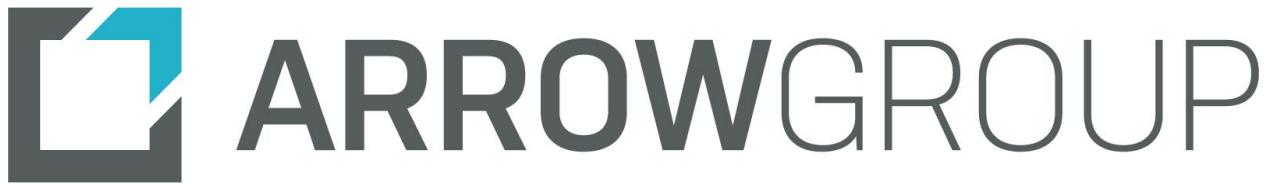
SB 1036 School Counselors by Senator Calatayud

Meeting Summary

Senator Calatayud presented the bill; SB 1036 exempts school counselors from certain educator certification requirements while allowing school districts to impose them at their discretion.

Member Debate & Questions

- Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo
 - Asked how this bill could impact someone who is in high school.
 - Senator Alexis Calatayud responded that they are “trying to remove barriers” and “expand the pool” of eligible school counselors to address recruitment and retention challenges.
 - Asked if anyone knew the current student-to-counselor ratio.
 - Senator Calatayud replied, “I do not know.”



- Senator Rosalind Osgood
 - *Noted that in Broward County, elementary schools often have one counselor for over 400 students, and middle and high schools have one counselor for every 330 students.*
 - *Shared that these counselors are frequently pulled into administrative duties, leaving little time to focus on helping the students.*
 - *Suggested next year's discussions include "brace advisors" who help students plan for life after graduation.*
- Senator Jason W. B. Pizzo
 - *Called the bill "great" and remarked on his experience seeing counselors in certain schools able to devote a lot of time and attention on each student's placement, while others receive far less attention.*
 - *Emphasized that "time is the most valuable thing to all of us" and urged more support for counselors.*
- Senator Ralph E. Massullo, Jr.
 - *Praised the bill for "removing a barrier."*
 - *Encouraged making counselors more available for direct student interaction, suggesting that tools like AI could lighten clerical loads.*
- Senator Alexis Calatayud
 - *Concluded with the hope the Legislature can continue removing barriers for direct-service professionals and further address ratio challenges through policy and appropriation discussions.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

10 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Jones, Osgood, Pizzo, Bradley, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Massullo, Jr., Simon, Yarborough

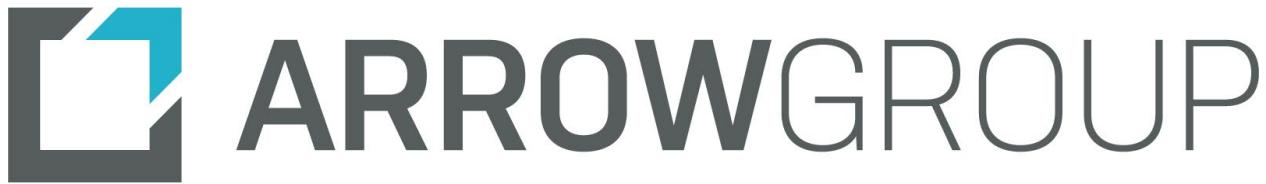
SB 1216 Public School Personnel Compensation by Senator Rodriguez

Meeting Summary

Senator Rodriguez presented the bill; SB 1216 expands cost-of-living salary adjustments to more public school employees while removing certain pay limitations and broadening the use of advanced degrees for salary purposes.

Member Debate & Questions

*All summaries are created with AI



- *No questions were asked by members.*
- *Senator Rodriguez*
 - *Introduced SB 1216 by stating it “gives districts another tool in the toolbox and does not replace performance pay. It actually strengthens it.”*
 - *Emphasized that the current statutory framework is “very rigid,” making it difficult for districts to address “rising cost-of-living pressures” and “severe teacher and administrator shortages.”*
- *Senator Massullo*
 - *“It’s not just a good bill, it’s a great bill.”*
 - *Stressed that SB 1216 “gives districts a little more authority with how they use the BSA,” and highlighted the importance of prioritizing teacher compensation as “nothing could give us a better return than our investment in education.”*
- *Senator Osgood*
 - *“This bill is going to be a major blessing to school districts and all of those employees that were stuck in the transition from the grandfather schedule to the performance-based salaries.”*
 - *Noted that educators felt “devalued” under older salary systems and that this measure helps them feel appreciated.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

10 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Jones, Osgood, Pizzo, Bradley, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Massullo, Jr., Simon, Yarborough

House Careers and Workforce Subcommittee – 2/4/2026

[HB 221 Minimum Wage Requirements by Representative Chamberlin](#)

Meeting Summary

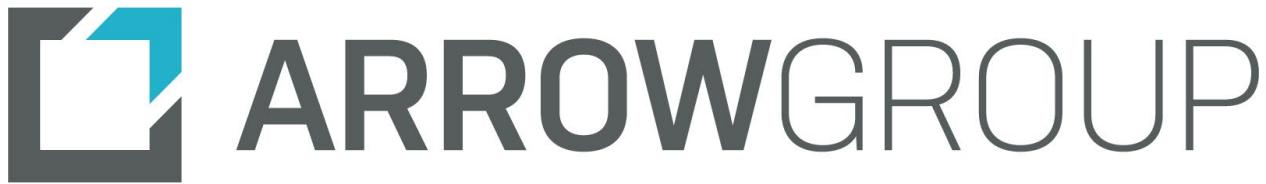
Representative Chamberlin presented the bill; HB 221 allows an exemption to state minimum wage requirements for certain work-based learning programs if employees opt out, subject to time limits and mandatory parental consent for minors, while ensuring federal minimum wage compliance and reinstatement of the state minimum wage after the program ends.

Member Debate & Questions

*All summaries are created with AI



- Representative Doug Bankson
 - Asked: “The first sentence ... says it allows employees to opt out. And then the last sentence says ... must be paid at or above the federal minimum wage. Can you explain?”
- Answered by Representative Ryan Chamberlin
 - “We are dealing with the state minimum wage... They cannot opt out of the federal. So that would be the lowest...couldn’t pay less than federal minimum wage.”
- Representative Allison Tant
 - Asked whether private employers could set up these training programs on their own: “How will they be tracked if they do?”
- Answered by Representative Chamberlin:
 - “There is not a specific state organization ... Certainly, if they are not doing it correctly and they’re reported, that will trigger that.”
- Representative Ashley Gantt
 - Asked: “Is there a guarantee of employment covered by the state minimum wage after the work study has expired?”
- Answered by Representative Chamberlin:
 - “There are no guarantees.”
- Representative Ashley Gantt
 - asked if existing worker protections still apply during the training.
- Answered by Representative Chamberlin:
 - “To my knowledge, yes.”
- Representative Dan Daley
 - Asked: “Is it your contention that you can decide to opt out or waive your own constitutional right ... as it would apply to this?”
- Answered by Representative Chamberlin
 - “Yes ... you’re allowed to opt out ... if the job meets that requirement.”
- Representative Mitch Rosenwald
 - Asked if students already in degree-linked workforce programs “would have to sign this waiver.”
- Answered by Representative Chamberlin
 - “If a student is already in some sort of program that exists, they would never be asked to sign a waiver.”
- Representative Doug Bankson



- *Emphasized the value of experience-based education: "This is simply affording that window, giving the opportunity to the learner to say, 'This is well worth it to me ... to create opportunity for people that want the opportunity."*
- *Representative Allison Tant*
 - *Citing Florida's affordability crisis, expressed concern that in Florida's current job market, "I don't see how this helps... I don't believe people really are going to sign up for the privilege of earning less money."*
- *Representative Ashley Gantt*
 - *Raised constitutional issues: "I read the constitutional language ... there is no language that says there can be a waiver."*
 - *Also worried about younger workers being pressured: "They are going to sign it for less money ... if they are desperate for a job."*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

11 Yeas; 5 Nays

Yea: Baker, Bankson, Cobb, Esposito, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, Melo, Plakon, Plasencia, Stark

Nay: Daley, Gantt, Rosenwald, Spencer, Tant

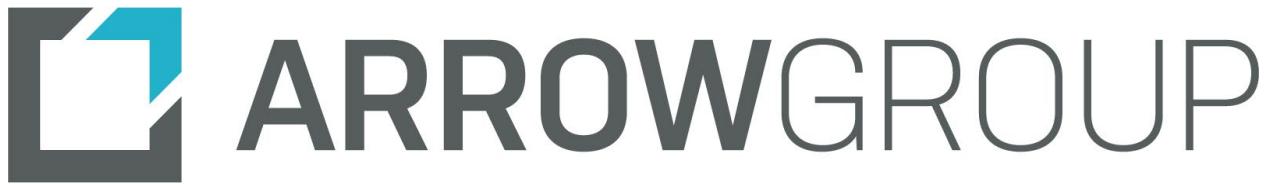
HB 1343 Insurance Customer Representative Licensing Qualifications by Representative Hodgers

Meeting Summary

Representative Hodgers presented the bill; HB 1343 expands insurance customer representative licensing qualifications and require development of a high school insurance and personal finance course.

Member Debate & Questions

- *Representative Ashley Gantt asked*
 - *"The insertion of the high school diploma and the completion of the course, that allows them to have the entry-level certification under this profession. Correct?"*
- *Representative Hodgers responded:*
 - *"Yes. That is correct."*
- *Representative Allison Tant expressed support, stating*



- *“Frankly, I think a lot of us even sitting in our legislature don’t understand property and casualty insurance. And I think this bill is a good step, and I think it’s gonna help people get to the workforce faster.”*
- *Representative Hodgers*
 - *explained that HB 1343 creates an optional high school financial literacy course introducing students to property and casualty insurance, which satisfies pre-licensure requirements for an entry-level 4-40 insurance license. This initiative helps build Florida’s workforce pipeline and increases consumer understanding of insurance.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daley, Gantt, Rosenwald, Spencer, Tant, Baker, Bankson, Cobb, Esposito, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, Melo, Plakon, Plasencia, Stark

HB 1325 Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund by Representative Booth

Meeting Summary

Representative Booth presented the bill; HB 1325 expands the Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund to include health science education students and allow dollar-for-dollar matches for broader contributions.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No members had questions on the bill.*
- *Representative Erika Booth*
 - *explained the PCS for HB 1325 and highlighted its purpose to expand the Linking Industry to Nursing Education (LINE) Fund. She stated, “I’m happy to bring before you today the PCS for HB 1325, which expands the linking industry to nursing education or LINE Fund to allow non-monetary contributions made to an institution. It broadens the range of eligible contributors to include any person or entity in addition to health care partners whose contributions may be matched by the fund.”*

Vote

Reported Favorably

*All summaries are created with AI



16 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daley, Gantt, Rosenwald, Tant, Baker, Bankson, Cobb, Esposito, Jacques, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, Melo, Plakon, Plasencia, Stark

House Session- 2/4/2026

HB 967 Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Government by Representative Buchanan

Bill Summary

967 requires local governments to accept certain forms of electronic payment for financial obligations, including online payments, with specified exceptions.

Vote

Reported Favorably

110 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Daniels, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Joseph, Long, López, Nixon, Rayner, Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Barnaby, Basabe, Benaroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Gonzalez Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffitts Jr., Grow, Hodgers, Holcomb, Jacques, Johnson, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, LaMarca, Maggard, Maney, McClure, McFarland, Melo, Michael, Miller, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Oliver, Overdorf, Owen, Partington, Perez, Persons-Mulicka., Plakon, Plasencia, Porras, Redondo, Rizo, Robinson, W., Salzman, Sapp, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Tomkow, Trabulsky, Tramont, Tuck, Valdés, Weinberger, Yarkosky

HB 127 Required Instruction in Cursive Writing by Representative Overdorf

Bill Summary

HB 127 requires instruction in cursive writing for certain grade levels and ensure students demonstrate proficiency by the end of grade 5.

Vote

Reported Favorably

111 Yeas; 0 Nays

*All summaries are created with AI



Yea: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Daniels, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Joseph, Long, López, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Barnaby, Basabe, Benaroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Gonzalez Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffitts Jr., Grow, Hodgers, Holcomb, Jacques, Johnson, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, LaMarca, Maggard, Maney, McClure, McFarland, Melo, Michael, Miller, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Oliver, Overdorf, Owen, Partington, Perez, Persons-Mulicka., Plakon, Plasencia, Porras, Redondo, Rizo, Robinson, W., Salzman, Sapp, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Tomkow, Trabulsky, Tramont, Tuck, Valdés, Weinberger, Yarkosky

[HB 453 Requirements for a Standard High School Diploma by Representative Gossett-Seidman](#)

Bill Summary

HB 453 expands the ways students can satisfy physical education and performing arts requirements for a standard high school diploma.

Vote

Reported Favorably

111 Yea; 0 Nays

Yea: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Daniels, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Joseph, Long, López, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Barnaby, Basabe, Benaroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Gonzalez Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffitts Jr., Grow, Hodgers, Holcomb, Jacques, Johnson, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, LaMarca, Maggard, Maney, McClure, McFarland, Melo, Michael, Miller, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Oliver, Overdorf, Owen, Partington, Perez, Persons-Mulicka., Plakon, Plasencia, Porras, Redondo, Rizo, Robinson, W., Salzman, Sapp, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Tomkow, Trabulsky, Tramont, Tuck, Valdés, Weinberger, Yarkosky



HB 583 Protection of Religious Expression in Public Schools by Representative Tramont

Bill Summary

HB 583 prohibits discrimination in public schools based on religious expression by students or school personnel.

Vote

Reported Favorably

93 Yeas; 17 Nays

Yeas: Alvarez, J., Aristide, Chambliss, Daniels, Dunkley, Edmonds, Hinson, Long, López, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Barnaby, Basabe, Benarroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Gonzalez Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffitts Jr., Grow, Hodgers, Holcomb, Jacques, Johnson, Kendall, Kincart-Jonsson, Koster, LaMarca, Maggard, Maney, McClure, McFarland, Melo, Michael, Miller, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Oliver, Overdorf, Owen, Partington, Perez, Persons-Mulicka., Plakon, Plasencia, Porras, Redondo, Rizo, Robinson, W., Salzman, Sapp, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Tomkow, Trabulsky, Tramont, Tuck, Valdés, Weinberger, Yarkosky

Nays: Antone, Bartleman, Campbell, Cross, Daley, Driskell, Eskamani, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hunschofsky, Joseph, Nixon, Rayner, Skidmore, Woodson **Senate Fiscal**

Policy – 2/5/2026

SB 124 Florida Virtual School by Senator Rodriguez

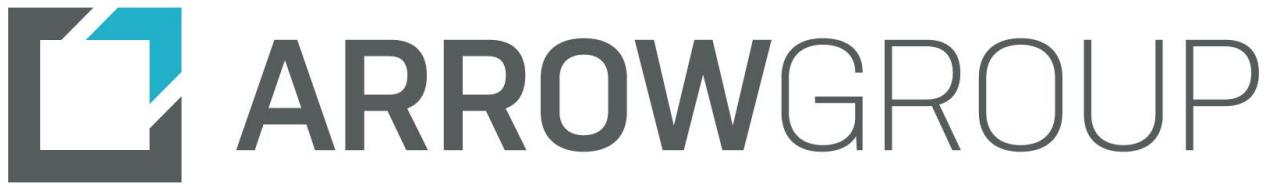
Meeting Summary

Senator Rodriguez presented the bill; SB 124 expands the Florida Virtual School's mission to serve all students, remove specific priority admissions, allow supplemental funding sources, and revise governance, personnel, and reporting requirements.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No questions were asked by any members.*
- *Senator Rodriguez*
 - *Presented SB 124, stating:*
 - *“Senate Bill 124 updates the Florida Virtual School statute to clean up outdated statutory language. The bill does not change how Florida Virtual School serves students day to day. Instead, it clarifies who Florida Virtual*

*All summaries are created with AI



School serves, how it is funded and governed, and how it reports and coordinates with school districts.

Vote

Reported Favorably

15 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Arrington, Bernard, Bracy Davis, Osgood, Boyd, Bradley, Burton, Calatayud, Gaetz, Leek,

Mayfield, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Yarborough **House Government Operations**

Subcommittee – 2/5/2026

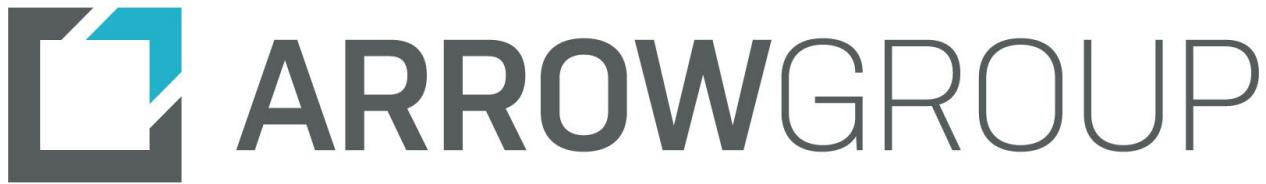
HB 641 Gender Identity Employment Practices by Representative Plakon

Meeting Summary

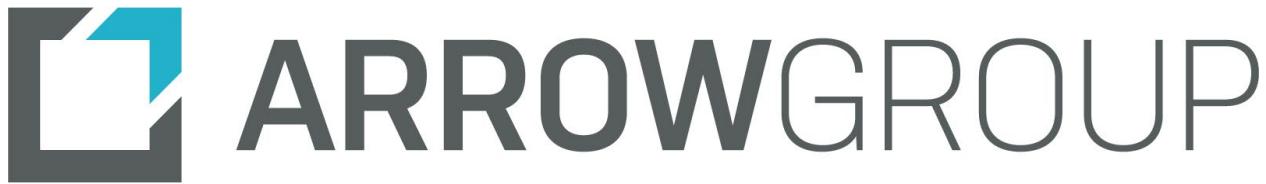
Representative Plakon presented the bill; HB 641 prohibits mandatory use of pronouns at odds with biological sex and disallow required instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity for state-funded employment.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Campbell
 - Asked *why the bill is needed and “what is occurring now for these implementations.”*
 - *The sponsor answered that there have been “trainings” and “compelled speech forced upon people that work in Florida government entities” and emphasized that the bill prevents government from “forcing someone to violate their conscience, religion, or deeply held beliefs.”*
 - *Follow-up: Representative Campbell questioned if current law already addresses workplace discrimination. The sponsor cited a specific example of an employee in Miami-Dade who was fired after refusing “indoctrination.”*
- Representative Basabe
 - Asked *if the bill “authorize[s], allow[s], or permit[s] harassment or discriminatory conduct in the workplace.”*
 - *The sponsor responded, “No. It does not.”*
- Representative Young
 - *Raised constitutional concerns based on a federal precedent that recognizes misgendering could be a form of discrimination. Asked how the bill aligns with “binding federal employment legislation.”*



- *The sponsor stated the bill does not compel anyone to use specific pronouns, adding that employees who feel wronged “they are able to get some remedies under the Florida Civil Rights Act.”*
- *Representative Rosenwald*
 - *Questioned whether barring certain “training” or “instruction” related to gender identity would be discriminatory.*
 - *The sponsor replied that the bill is “protecting individuals with deeply held religious, moral, conscience-based, or biology-based beliefs” and does not target any group.*
- *Representative Campbell, again*
 - *Asked which employers and organizations are ultimately affected by the provisions.*
 - *The sponsor clarified it applies “only...to the public sector,” including local government entities and contractors “who receive...funding.”*
- *Representative Basabe*
 - *Emphasized workplace controversies can be manufactured by “political industry” who “turn[s] every workplace into a battlefield.”*
- *Representative Young*
 - *Expressed concern that “inflammatory, nasty, hateful language should not be protected by the state.”*
 - *“Floridians can’t afford to be Floridians right now...but this is what we decide to come and talk about.”*
- *Representative Aristide*
 - *Spoke of the vulnerable community “who feels they have no support.”*
 - *Cautioned that “there is a greater need for understanding and respect of all communities.”*
- *Representative Campbell*
 - *Described the bill as “a permission slip for discrimination.”*
 - *Maintained it sends a message to transgender or nonbinary Floridians that “the state will look the other way if they are intentionally disrespected at work.”*
- *Representative Alvarez*
 - *Cited personal experiences with slurs and intolerance.*
 - *Urged that “love your neighbor” is a core principle and questioned the necessity of the legislation when “we have so many bigger issues that families...are talking about.”*



Vote

Reported Favorably

11 Yeas; 4 Nays

Yea: Basabe, Chaney, Conerly, Gentry, Greco, Griffitts, Jr., Nix, Jr., Plasencia, Sapp, Stark, Weinberger

Nay: Alvarez, J., Aristide, Campbell, Young **House Justice Budget Subcommittee – 2/5/2026**

HB 1153 Juvenile Justice by Representative Cobb

Meeting Summary

Representative Cobb presented the bill; HB 1153 expands recognition and protections for juvenile detention and probation officers by including them alongside law enforcement, clarifying statutory definitions, and adjusting provisions for families and children in need of services.

Member Debate & Questions

- No members asked questions on the amendment or the bill.
- Representative Nan Cobb
 - Introduced HB 1153 and explained, “It amends the definition of officer to include juvenile probation officers and juvenile detention officers.”
 - Noted that the bill “recognizes the Department of Juvenile Justice as a criminal justice employing agency,” promoting consistent statewide training and extending benefits such as the Governor’s Medal of Heroism to these officers.
 - Added that a technical amendment ensures certified managerial and supervisory staff are included under the definition of “officer.”

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

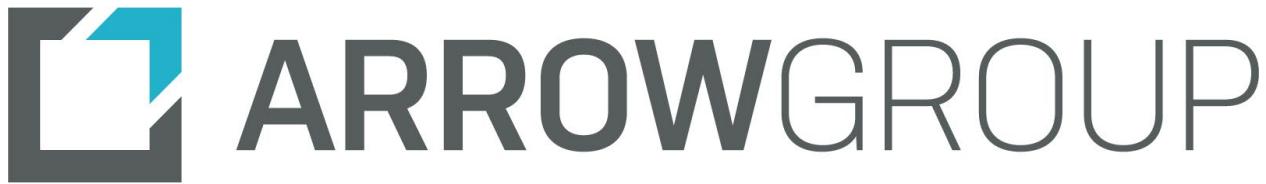
14 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Daniels, Gottlieb, Rayner, Alvarez, D., Baker, Borrero, Chamberlin, Cobb, Jacques, Johnson, Koster, Maney, Porras, Smith

House Student Academic Success Subcommittee – 2/5/2026

HB 423 Student Eloement by Representative Eskamani

*All summaries are created with AI



Meeting Summary

Representative Eskamani presented the bill; HB 423 requires all public schools to establish a SAFE Team and a school elopement plan to safeguard students with disabilities who are prone to elopement.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson
 - Asked who would be held responsible for creating and implementing the school elopement plans and whether private schools would be included.
- Representative Dr. Anna V. Eskamani
 - answered that the Florida Board of Education would have rulemaking authority, covering public schools (including charter schools) but not private schools unless they accept public funds.
- Representative Douglas Michael “Doug” Bankson, Vice Chair
 - Called it “a great bill,” emphasizing the need for a consistent statewide standard to protect students who elope.
- Representative Yvette Benarroch
 - Appreciated the bipartisan nature and pointed to the power of personal stories showing the urgency of a clear protocol.
- Representative Kiyan Michael
 - Described the bill as “amazing” and voiced strong support, highlighting the importance of protecting vulnerable students.
- Representative Yvonne Hayes Hinson
 - Also supported the bill but stressed that “it’s only as good as the person implementing it,” calling for clear accountability.

Vote

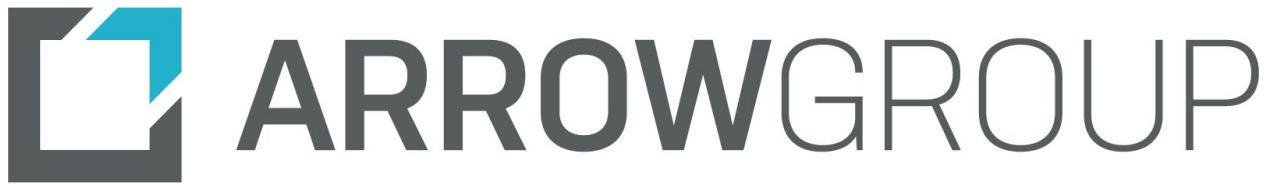
Reported Favorably

15 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Antone, Dunkley, Hinson, Lopez, Tendrich, Bankson, Benarroch, Berfield, Blanco, Gerwig, Hodgers, McFarland, Michael, Owen, Rizo

HB 765 Child Care and Early Learning Services by Representative McFarland

Meeting Summary



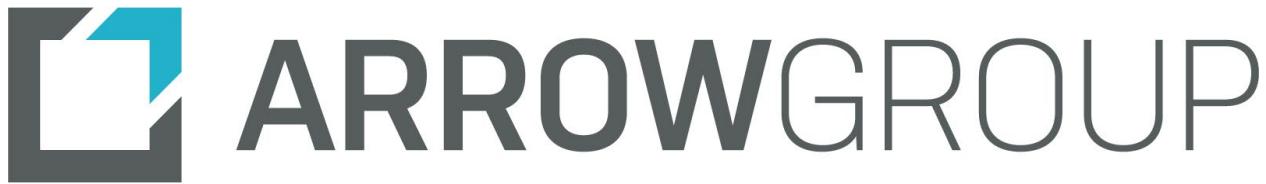
Representative McFarland presented the bill; HB 765 expands and revise regulations for child care, streamline standards, and establish an endowment for early learning initiatives.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Hinson
 - Questioned the removal of the flu brochure requirement.
- Representative McFarland
 - Stated that such paperwork is “a meaningless bureaucratic thing” that does not improve behavior or health outcomes while potentially causing compliance issues. Adding that, “we removed it last year for preschools and this removes it for in-home childcare operators as well to make them equal.”
 - Asked about deleting material reminding parents not to leave children in a vehicle, and if there is anything in the bill that would solve that problem, while noting that she is carrying a motherhood initiative bill that the sponsor “might want to look at.”
- Representative McFarland replied
 - That “signing a piece of paper twice a year doesn’t fix any of those problems,” emphasizing the tragedy of such incidents but maintaining that this approach is ineffective. She added that, “if we could decide as a committee how we help mostly moms, but frankly any parent, to have less on their plate...that leads to this terrible tragedy, I’m on board to solve those problems, just don’t know how.”
- Representative McFarland
 - Introduced HB 765 as her “annual child care bill,” emphasizing:
 - Allowing ESE (Exceptional Student Education) and VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten) programs at both public and non-public elementary schools to offer before and after-care without an additional state child care license.
 - Removing the required flu and distracted driving brochures from child care inspections.
 - Prohibiting the cancellation of a homeowner’s insurance policy solely for providing child care.
 - Creating the Center for Early Childhood Professional Recognition within the TEACH Scholarship Program.
 - Establishing a new endowment, referred to as the “Brighter Futures Program,” to help families with child care costs via private and public contributions, noting that in-state college tuition is now more expensive than childcare tuition.

Vote

*All summaries are created with AI



Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

13 Yeas; 1 Nays

Yea: Antone, Dunkley, Lopez, Tendrich, Bankson, Benarroch, Berfield, Blanco, Gerwig, Hodgers, McFarland, Michael, Rizo

Nay: Hinson

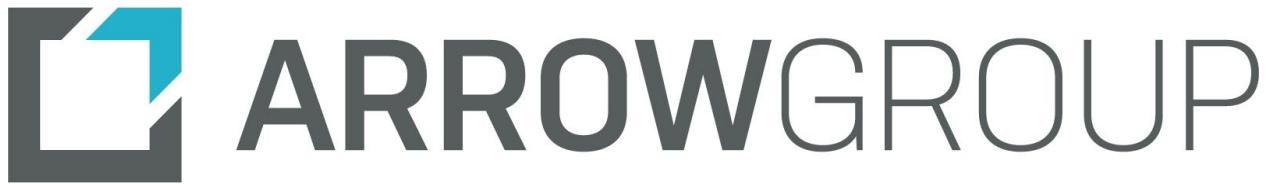
HB 1091 Dental Screenings for K-12 Students by Representative Skidmore

Meeting Summary

Representative Skidmore presented the bill; HB 1091 authorizes schools to conduct noninvasive dental screenings after providing written notice and an opt-out opportunity for parents or guardians.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Bankson
 - Asked if parents could opt out of the screening at any point, or only in advance.
- Representative Skidmore
 - "The screenings happen on a specific day. Notice is given...parents are given the opportunity to opt out. It's not fluid."
 - Also asked if screening results could be used to compel treatment.
- Representative Skidmore clarified
 - "No, this is a screening only...It's up to the parent whether they choose to seek treatment or not."
- Representative Berfield, on the amendment
 - Asked whether the amendment integrates the bill into school health responsibilities
- Representative Skidmore
 - noted the underlying bill deals with school health services and that the amendment adds references to student welfare.
- Representative McFarland, on the bill as amended
 - Questioned the funding of the screenings.
- Representative Skidmore explained
 - "All of that is done in coordination with the Department of Health...This is just simply about notice to parents."
- Representative Berfield (follow-up), on the bill as amended
 - Asked if school districts could use private or community-based resources beyond county health departments.



- Representative Skidmore responded
 - Local Departments of Health typically provide information about community resources, and the bill does not restrict schools to one provider.
- Representative Blanco, on the bill as amended
 - Asked for clarification on how parents are notified and how results are communicated.
- Representative Skidmore emphasized
 - "If they don't opt out, screening would take place. If something is found, that information would be sent to the parents," and referenced existing law (F.S. 1014.06) that allows these screenings unless parents decline.
- No members spoke in support/opposition of the bill.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

14 Yeas, 0 Nays

Yea: Antone, Dunkley, Hinson, Lopez, Tendrich, Bankson, Benarroch, Berfield, Blanco, Gerwig, Hodgers, McFarland, Michael, Rizo

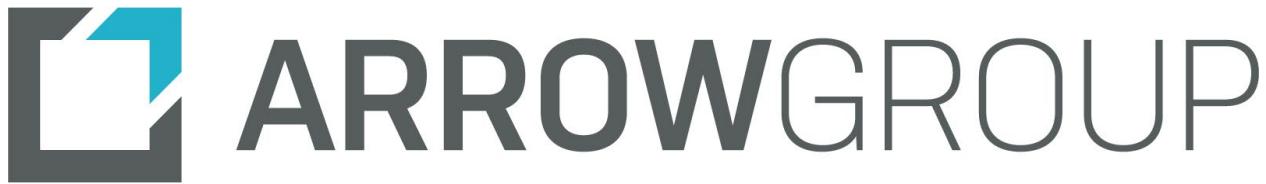
HB 1253 Athletics in Public K-12 Schools by Representative LaMarca

Meeting Summary

Representative LaMarca presented the bill; HB 1253 authorizes coaches to use personal funds for the welfare of student athletes under specified conditions and limits.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Yvonne Hinson, on the amendment:
 - Asked, "What guardrails are we about to put on helping a kid who may need help in this area?"
 - Answered by Representative Chip LaMarca
 - Explained that the amendment ensures the coach must be employed by the school, includes all Florida athletic associations, defines a school year, and clarifies that any assistance must be provided in "good faith" and not used for recruiting.
- Representative Doug Bankson
 - Shared a personal story of providing a donated vehicle to a young athlete, stressing how such support can change a student's life and lead to future success.
- Representative Bruce Antone



- *Recalled a 2024 incident in Orlando where a coach and students were suspended for providing and receiving lunches. Praised the bill for addressing such punitive measures.*
- *Representative Yvonne Hinson*
 - *Mentioned former NFL quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who was suspended for helping students while coaching. Emphasized the importance of removing hurdles for coaches providing assistance, drawing similarities to teachers purchasing materials for students.*
- *Representative Lisa Dunkley*
 - *Credited a former coach for shaping her character and underscored how coaches play a vital role in students' lives.*
- *Representative Johanna López*
 - *Spoke as a former volleyball coach who often spent her own money on food and equipment for athletes. Highlighted the bill's support for coaches and the positive impact on students' academic motivation.*
- *Representative Anne Gerwig*
 - *Commended the "good faith" clause and noted that coaches frequently sacrifice for the benefit of student athletes.*
- *Representative Omar Blanco*
 - *Called the proposal "common sense" and expressed relief that it clarifies a coach's ability to help students in need.*
- *Representative Yvette Benarroch*
 - *Pointed out that coaches sometimes serve as the most consistent mentors in a child's life. Praised the measure for protecting coaches who offer support.*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

14 Yeas, 0 Nays

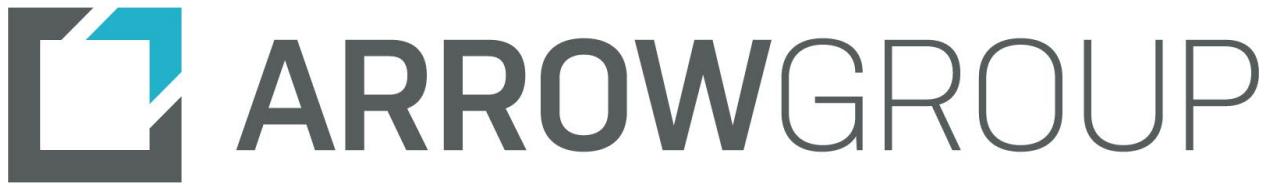
Yea: Antone, Dunkley, Hinson, Lopez, Tendrich, Bankson, Benarroch, Berfield, Blanco, Gerwig, Hodgers, McFarland, Michael, Rizo

House Education Administration Subcommittee – 2/5/2026

[HB 615 Individual Education Plans by Representative Tendrich](#)

Meeting Summary

*All summaries are created with AI



Representative Tendrich presented the bill; HB 615 improves procedures for identifying, evaluating, and providing services to exceptional students by establishing stricter timelines, requiring service documentation, and enhancing parental access and orientation.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No questions were asked.*
- *Representative Wallace Aristide*
 - *"Sometimes we don't fully understand, unless you've been in the setting, the challenges it is to support these types of students. ... Being able to educate the parents can be very difficult and very challenging."*
- *Representative Susan L. Valdés*
 - *"Representative Tendrich, charge on. Continue this... I'm enthusiastically up on this bill."*
- *Representative Dean Black*
 - *"Thank you... you are a leader. ... Everyone vote up."*
- *Representative Fabián Basabe*
 - *"School boards like to talk about equity but parents get caught in bureaucracy. Parents are partners. This legislature is the best partner."*
- *Representative Jose Alvarez, J.*
 - *Any advocate who feels retaliated against should "let us know. We will make sure that they have to answer to us here in the legislature."*
- *Representative Marie Paule Woodson*
 - *"We must provide resources, but I know you will not stop here...The sky is the limit"*
- *Representative Danny Nix, Jr.*
 - *"Thank you for this bill, testimony today was touching and informative... hold them accountable."*

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

15 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Alvarez, J., Aristide, Long, Skidmore, Woodson, Albert, Basabe, Black, Gossett-Seidman, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Porras, Sapp, Trabulsky, Valdes

HB 1085 Local Government Cyber Security by Representative Snyder



Meeting Summary

Representative Snyder presented the bill; HB 1085 creates a grant program to help local governments strengthen cybersecurity defenses.

Member Debate & Questions

- *No questions were asked by any members.*
- *Representative Monique Miller*
 - *Stated: "The cybersecurity grant program for local governments is one of the most successful IT programs in Florida's history."*
 - *Explained: "Often local governments, particularly in rural or fiscally constrained counties, do not have the human or economic resources to properly secure their IT systems. By offering cybersecurity capabilities through the grant program, we have successfully secured more than 200 local governments in just the first two years."*
 - *Concluded: "This bill simply codifies the program in statute."*

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: : Alvarez, J., Aristide, Long, Skidmore, Woodson, Albert, Basabe, Black, Boyles, Gossett-Seidman, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Sapp, Trabulsky, Valdes

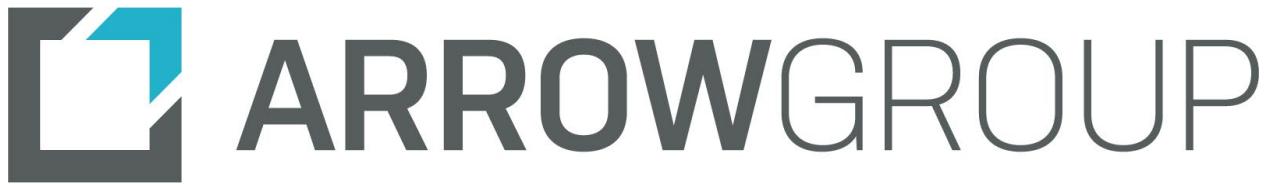
HB 371 Patriotic Displays in Classrooms by Representative Snyder

Meeting Summary

Representative Snyder presented the bill; HB 371 requires displaying the state motto and, subject to funding, portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln in public schools.

Member Debate & Questions

- *Representative Skidmore asked*
 - *"Thank you, Representative Snyder. I'm curious if you are in competition with Representative Salzman for the most American bill in the Florida House?"*
- *Representative John Snyder answered:*
 - *"We all know that Representative Salzman is in a league of her own, and so, no competition here."*
- *There were no other substantive questions from committee members.*
- *Representative John Snyder described the bill's purpose:*



- *“Subject to a legislative appropriation, to help us celebrate America’s 250th birthday, direct our public schools to display in a conspicuous place the portraits of our first president, George Washington, and the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln.”*
- *Representative Snyder noted a change in the Proposed Committee Substitute, clarifying that the portraits would be displayed in common areas at each school instead of every classroom.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yea: Alvarez, J., Aristide, Long, Skidmore, Woodson, Albert, Basabe, Black, Boyles, Gossett-Seidman, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Porras, Sapp, Trabulsky, Valdes

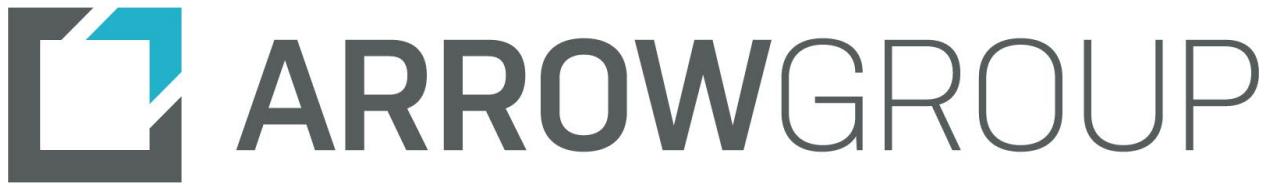
HB 833 Private School Facilities by Representative Cassel

Meeting Summary

Representative Cassel presented the bill; HB 833 expands the ability of private schools with 150 or fewer students to operate in commercial or mixed-use zoning districts and existing facilities under specified fire safety guidelines.

Member Debate & Questions

- *Representative Jose Alvarez*
 - *asked whether the sponsor would be open to allowing local governments to require limited safety-related mitigation strictly for traffic and pedestrian safety, “without giving them zoning control or discretion to deny a school.”*
- *Representative Cassel*
 - *responded that she is “open to any and all suggestions” and looks forward to collaborating on possible solutions that preserve the bill’s intent to reduce red tape.*
- *Representative Wallace Aristide*
 - *Emphasized his support for public schools but acknowledged “people in my area” seeking small private school options. He clarified that any funding follows the student and that families should be allowed to make educational choices that fit their needs.*
- *Representative Nathan Boyles*



- *Expressed support, noting that “increasing those options” aligns with his own practice of school choice. He suggested ensuring that local governments retain sufficient ability to manage traffic flow, which he viewed as crucial for public safety.*
- *Representative Rob Long*
 - *Voiced concern from a municipal perspective about relinquishing oversight of safety measures. He indicated he might support the proposal in future if there is a compromise on traffic safety requirements.*
- *Representative Marie Paule Woodson*
 - *Indicated she still has reservations despite prior discussions with the sponsor. She said she is open to further talks but remains concerned until those concerns are resolved.*

Vote

Reported Favorably

13 Yeas; 3 Nays

Yeas: Alvarez, J., Aristide, Albert, Basabe, Black, Boyles, Gossett-Seidman, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Porras, Sapp, Trabulsky, Valdes

Nays: Long Skidmore, Weinberger

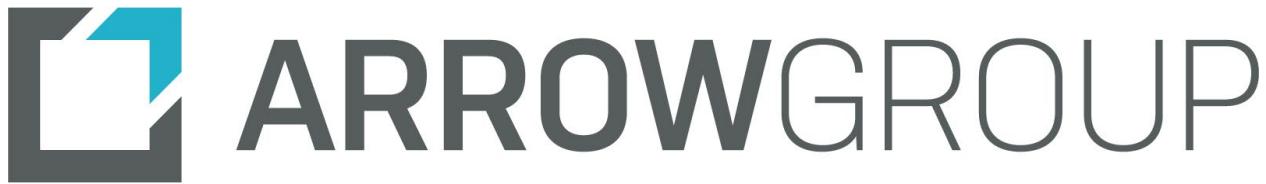
HB 1147 School District Unimproved Real Property by Representative Nix, Jr.

Meeting Summary

Representative Nix, Jr. presented the bill; HB 1147 requires annual inventories of school district-owned unimproved property for compilation into a statewide public report.

Member Debate & Questions

- *Representative Skidmore*
 - *Asked whether the bill applies to future land acquisitions and how it would be inventoried.*
- *Representative Nix responded*
 - *“Yes, it will go on the inventory list, but only after they have acquired it, not before.”*
 - *Asked how the Department of Education would use the inventory of vacant land.*
- *Representative Nix explained*



- Having a standard, centralized list “lets us know at the state where we’re sitting at... it’s great to know what’s going on with it.”
 - Questioned why parents or taxpayers could not already learn about district-owned property through public records requests.
- Representative Nix stated
 - “There is no data source to grab it. Why are we trying to do more public records requests... when we can have an opportunity to have a data source that’s already in place?”
- Representative Mooney
 - Emphasized that smaller districts can easily track land, but larger ones may hold extensive properties.
 - Said: “I understand the registry thing and I get it... I think transparency is the key word.”
- Representative Nix
 - Clarified that taxpayers did not create school boards to be investors and that an updated inventory fosters responsible planning.
 - Noted: “Wouldn’t it be good to understand where we’re at... I think that’s a great reason for the state to have that opportunity.”
- Representative Skidmore
 - Expressed doubts that a centralized inventory is necessary and suggested it might target districts’ vacant land for other uses.
 - Referenced last year’s co-location legislation and stated: “I’m really suspicious myself that this is an inventory for vacant land to be given away to charter schools”

Vote

Reported Favorably

12 Yeas; 3 Nays

Yeas: Alvarez, J., Long, Albert, Basabe, Black, Gossett-Seidman, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Porras, Sapp, Trabulsy, Valdes

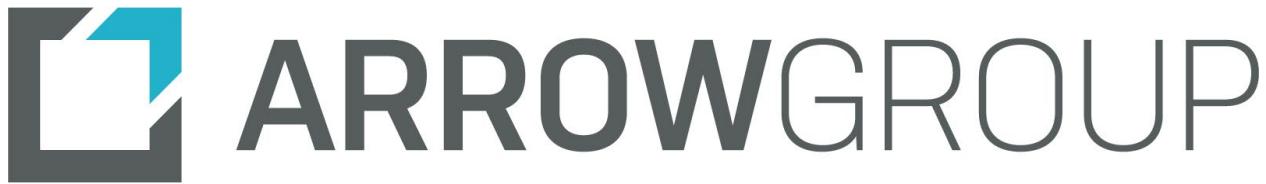
Nays: Aristide, Skidmore, Woodson

House State Administration Budget Subcommittee – 2/5/2026

HB 995 Public Employees Relations Commission by Representative Persons-Mulicka

Meeting Summary

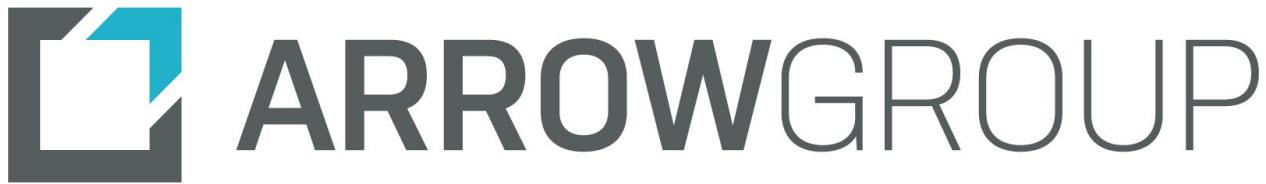
*All summaries are created with AI



Representative Persons-Mulicka presented the bill; HB 995 overhauls public employee labor relations by revising union certification, membership, dues collection, bargaining unit definitions, and dispute resolution processes.

Member Debate & Questions

- Representative Bruce Antone
 - *Sought clarification on the requirement that a majority of the entire bargaining unit, rather than a majority of ballots cast, is needed to certify, recertify, or decertify a union.*
 - *Asked if these rules also apply to internal union officer elections. The sponsor explained the requirement only applies to certification, recertification, or decertification.*
- Representative Fentrice Driskell
 - *Asked whether 49% voting “yes” and 51% abstaining would result in automatic decertification. The sponsor replied, “Yes, that would then fail.”*
 - *Questioned if a deadline-driven impasse might impose extra costs for special magistrates. The sponsor stated a quick resolution is necessary to avoid extended delays.*
 - *Expressed concerns over counting abstentions as “no” votes. The sponsor maintained the bill does not mandate participation but requires majority approval of the entire bargaining unit.*
- Representative Felicia Simone Robinson
 - *Asked about deadlines in the bill that require bargaining soon after the effective date, noting most school districts do not finalize budgets until late summer. The sponsor responded that “collective bargaining happened well before the school year started” in her local district.*
 - *Also questioned the exemption for public safety units. The sponsor said it followed longstanding Florida policy.*
- Representative Jennifer “Rita” Harris
 - *Questioned whether the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) has the ability to set election dates during timeframes when educators are “less likely to be there to receive a ballot.”*
 - *The sponsor replied*
 - *“No, I have no concern that that would happen.”*



- Asked if the sponsor thinks it would be more fair to allow unions to decide when elections are held.
 - The sponsor clarified that the bill “does not change the current process as to when any elections are set.”
- Representative Monique Miller
 - Stated that the Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) processes are inefficient and that HB 995 will “make these processes easier and clearer for everybody.”
- Representative Shane Abbott
 - Emphasized that teachers should receive state-approved raises in a timely manner, stating, “we continuously give...but it...sure better get to our teachers.”
- Representative Bruce Antone
 - Noted that many teachers earn modest salaries and may not afford memberships. Believed the bill’s majority-of-all threshold is “a bad bill” that does not truly fix delayed raises.
- Representative Felicia Simone Robinson
 - Criticized the carve-out for public safety employees and argued that no large base of teachers demanded these changes. Called it “hypocritical” and not supportive of educators.
- Representative Jennifer “Rita” Harris
 - Described the timeline for bargaining as “hard to achieve” and feared it could reward those acting in bad faith. Disagreed with using abstentions as no votes.
- Representative Fentrice Driskell
 - Raised constitutional concerns about restricting employees’ right to collective bargaining, pointing out no similar participation mandate exists in Florida’s voting laws.

Vote

Reported Favorably

8 Yeas; 4 Nays

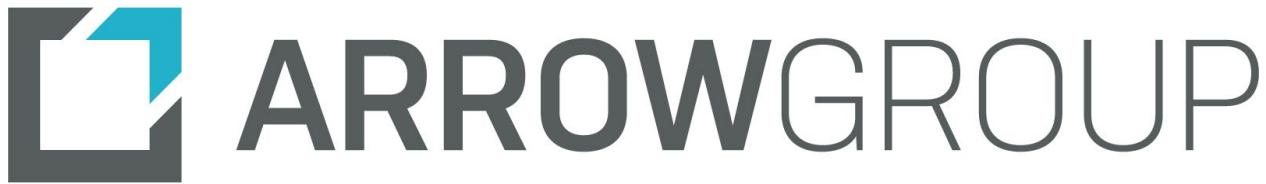
Yea: Abbott, Bankson, Chaney, Grow, Maggard, Miller, Partington, Yarkosky

Nay: Antone, Driskell, Harris, Robinson, F.

2026 Session Bill Statistics

House

*All summaries are created with AI



General Bills:	783 Bills
Local Bills:	49 Bills
Joint Resolutions:	18 Bills

Senate

General Bills:	803 Bills
Local Bills:	0 Bills
Joint Resolutions:	12 Bills

2026 Legislative Session Dates

- Election Dates & Activities [[here](#)]
- Senate 2026 Regular Session Dates [[here](#)]
- Major Budget Events [[here](#)]
- Bill Filing and Appropriation Project Request Deadlines [[here](#)]
- Important House Legislative Dates for the 2026 Regular Session [[here](#)]