

2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Session Week 7 | February 23-27

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House Education and Employment Committee – 2/24/2026

HB 129 The Florida Virtual School by Representative Smith

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 129 removes the priority admissions requirements, revise board powers and reporting obligations, and expands funding opportunities for the Florida Virtual School.

Members asked about the impetus behind removing the priority system and the nature of issues identified in a routine audit, with the sponsor explaining that no wait lists exist and clarifications were needed for direct-support organizations. The committee concluded with support for the bill.

Vote

Reported Favorably

15 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Dunkley, Harris, Robinson, F., Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

HB 423 Student Elopement by Representative Eskamani

Bill & Meeting Summary

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.

No members asked questions, and in debate, representatives Harris, Aristide, and Daniels voiced strong support, citing student safety and specific concerns for students with autism. No one spoke in opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Robinson, F., Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

HB 753 School Counselors by Representative Hunschofsky

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 753 establishes new evaluation criteria for certified school counselors and exempts certain educator certification requirements for aspiring school counselors.

No members posed questions. In debate, multiple representatives highlighted a shortage of counselors and heavy caseloads, praised the bill's removal of certification barriers, and urged school boards to lessen counselors' unrelated duties.

Vote

Reported Favorably

16 Yeas : 0 Nays

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Yeas: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Robinson, F., Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

[HB 1253 Athletics in Public K-12 Schools by Representative LaMarca](#)

[Bill & Meeting Summary](#)

HB 1253 requires the Florida High School Athletic Association to adopt bylaws allowing coaches to use personal funds for student athletes, subject to certain conditions and annual limits.

Members raised questions about potential liability for coaches providing transportation and related support, as well as fairness among schools with varying resources. Debate highlighted the balance between allowing coaches to help students in good faith and ensuring protective guardrails through FHSAA bylaws and parental consent.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

17 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Robinson, F., Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

[HB 1437 Conversion Charter Schools by Representative Sapp](#)

[Bill & Meeting Summary](#)

HB 1437 allows mediation requirements to address disputes over mutual management plans for conversion charter schools and enables eligible conversion charter schools to access capital outlay funds under certain conditions.

Members questioned whether the amendment granting capital outlay authority for conversion charter schools was necessary or excessive, with Representative Sapp arguing it offered more options while Representative Robinson felt it was premature. Despite concerns, the committee adopted the amendment and passed the bill.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

13 Yeas : 3 Nays

Yeas: Daniels, Dunkley, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager
Nays: Aristide, Harris, Robinson, F.

[HB 833 Private School Facilities by Representative Cassel](#)

[Bill & Meeting Summary](#)

HB 833 allows private schools with 150 or fewer students to be treated as permitted uses in certain zoning districts and operate in existing facilities that meet modified Florida Fire Prevention Code standards.

Members focused on questions about traffic flow, safety standards, and dispensary-distance requirements, with the sponsor clarifying that existing commercial and mixed-use districts address public access concerns under current law. Debate was supportive, emphasizing the value of smaller private schools, greater flexibility for families, and minimal new burdens on local communities.

Vote

Reported Favorably

15 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Dunkley, Harris, Robinson, F., Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

HB 1325 Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund by Representative Booth

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 1325 expands the Linking Industry to Nursing Education Fund by allowing nonmonetary contributions, prioritizing monetary contributions, broadening authorized uses of funds, and clarifying requirements for matching and multiyear awards.

No members posed questions, and the sponsor briefly described how the bill clarifies nonmonetary contributions and streamlines application processes for nursing education partnerships. Members passed the proposal.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

16 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Harris, Robinson, F., Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

House Judiciary Committee – 2/24/2026

HB 045 Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators by Representative Plakon

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 045 oncreases residency restrictions, expand prohibited areas, add definitions related to public swimming pools, and heighten enforcement measures for sexual offenders and predators to limit their contact with minors.

Members questioned whether prohibiting sex offenders from living in apartment complexes with pools is too broad, especially for lower-level or “Romeo and Juliet” cases, while supporters argued it is necessary to protect children from potential predators. Opponents raised concerns that such strict residency restrictions might push offenders into homelessness or more rural areas without improving child safety.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

13 Yeas; 3 Nays

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ACTIVE:39303922.1

Yeas: Daley, Lopez, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Baker, Barnaby, Brannan III, Fabricio, Koster, Plakon, Porras, Steele

Nays: Gottlieb, Skidmore, Maney

House State Affairs Committee – 2/24/2026

[HB 603 Ethics for Public Employees by Representative Lopez](#)

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 603 expands the definition of “relative” to include foster parents and foster children for public employees under state ethics provisions.

No members asked questions, and debate was minimal. The bill’s sponsor emphasized the importance of recognizing foster families in the ethics laws, and it passed with no opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

26 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Cross, Eskamani, Gantt, Nixon, Spencer, Tendrich, Young, Basabe, Blanco, Botana, Boyles, Chaney, Cobb, Duggan, Gentry, Giallombardo, Gonzalez-Pittman, Griffiths, Jr., Holcomb, Jacques, Maggard, McFarland, Mooney, Jr., Owen, Robinson, W., Weinberger

Senate Appropriations – 2/24/2026

[SB 896 School Safety by Senator Gaetz](#)

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 896 expand school guardian programs to public colleges, create a new firearm discharge offense near schools, strengthen campus safety requirements, and mandate transfer of student threat assessment records to Florida College and state university institutions.

Members questioned how the optional Guardian Program would interact with open-carry laws, raised concerns over safe storage in dorms, and considered a new ban on discharging firearms near campuses. Supporters said trained guardians deter violence, while opponents warned that more guns could lead to confusion and accidents.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

11 Yeas; 6 Nays

Yeas: Brodeur, Burgess, DiCeglie, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Martin, Massullo, Jr., McClain, Trumbull, Wright

Nays: Berman, Polsky, Rouson, Sharief, Smith, Garcia

[SB 1690 Child Care and Early Learning Services by Senator Calatayud](#)

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1690 streamlines child care and early learning services by removing certain annual parental notification requirements, clarifying licensing exemptions, updating terminology, and establishing a new professional recognition center.

Members' questions centered on oversight of the direct-support organization and removing specific parental notice requirements for family child care, with most participants supporting streamlined regulations to expand access.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

17 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Berman, Polsky, Rouson, Sharief, Smith, Brodeur, Burgess, DiCeglie, Garcia, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Martin, Massullo, Jr., McClain, Trumbull, Wright

Senate Fiscal Policy – 2/24/2026

SB 194 Charlie Kirk Day of Remembrance by Senator Martin

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 194 designates October 14 as Charlie Kirk Day of Remembrance and authorize the Governor to issue an annual proclamation.

Several members questioned the appropriateness of honoring Charlie Kirk, with Senator Jones withdrawing an amendment for a “Day of Civic Engagement,” while supporters praised Kirk’s advocacy for free speech and civic engagement and opponents criticized what they viewed as divisive rhetoric about Black women.

Vote

Reported Favorably

12 Yeas; 6 Nays

Yeas: Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Burton, Calatayud, Gaetz, Leek, Mayfield, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Truenow

Nays: Arrington, Bernard, Bracy Davis, Davis, Jones, Osgood

SB 1062 Speech and Debate Education by Senator Brodeur

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1062 creates an annual Florida Speech and Debate Week and establishes the Florida Debate Initiative, Inc. to support and expand K-20 civics, speech, and debate programs.

No members posed questions on the bill; Senator Brodeur summarized its purpose to establish Florida speech and debate week and create a statewide debate initiative, with no opposition voiced. The measure advanced favorably without debate.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

19 Yeas; 0 Nays

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Yeas: Arrington, Bernard, Bracy Davis, Davis, Jones, Osgood, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Burton, Calatayud, Gaetz, Leek, Mayfield, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Truenow, Yarborough

SB 1072 Antisemitism Task Force by Senator Calatayud

Bill & Meeting Summary

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

Members asked no substantive questions. Senator Boyd lauded the measure for supporting Jewish Floridians.

Vote

Reported Favorably

18 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Arrington, Bernard, Bracy Davis, Davis, Jones, Osgood, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Burton, Calatayud, Gaetz, Leek, Mayfield, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Truenow,

Senate Rules – 2/24/2026

SB 186 Student Health and Safety by Senator Garcia

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 186 strengthens epilepsy education and training requirements in schools and clarifies responsibilities for the Department of Health.

Senator Davis asked if there would be any fiscal impact on school districts, and Senator Garcia (R) responded that any cost was uncertain but likely justified by the benefit of training. The bill passed without opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

22 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

SB 332 Public Records and Public Meetings/Private Property Rights by Senator Bradley

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 332 authorizes agencies to hold closed attorney-client sessions to discuss certain private property rights claims and keep meeting records confidential until claims are resolved.

No members asked questions on the bill. Senator Bradley explained that it would provide a narrow, temporary exemption for presuit property rights discussions to encourage settlements, and no one voiced opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

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ACTIVE:39303922.1

21 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

SB 964 Financial Disclosures by Senator Wright

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 964 requires reporting individuals and procurement employees to file annual gift and honorarium expense reports with the Commission on Ethics rather than with their financial disclosure statements.

No questions were asked by committee members; Senator Wright briefly explained the new gift and honorarium reporting requirements, and the committee quickly reported the bill favorably.

Vote

Reported Favorably

22 Yeas; 0 Nays

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

SB 1340 Coordinated Screening and Progress Monitoring by Senator Harrell

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1340 requires prompt screening, intervention, and evaluation for students exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia or dyscalculia.

No members asked questions, and Senator Harrell explained the need for early identification to provide tailored support for students with dyslexia or dyscalculia; no opposition was expressed during the debate.

Vote

Reported Favorably

22 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

SB 1612 Electronic Payments Made to Units of Local Governments by Senator DiCeglie

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1612 mandates local governments to accept electronic payments, including online payment options.

No committee members asked any questions or offered debate; Senator Nick DiCeglie simply reiterated the requirement for local governments to accept electronic payments online. No opposition was expressed.

Vote

Reported Favorably

21 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

[SB 1694 Technology Education by Senator Avila](#)

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1694 expands technology education requirements by integrating artificial intelligence into general education and high school computer science courses.

No members asked questions; the sponsor emphasized integrating digital literacy, cybersecurity, and ethical AI use in both postsecondary and high school computer science curricula. The Florida PTA expressed support, and there was no opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

23 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

[SB 1718 Educator Preparation and Certification by Senator Calatayud](#)

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1718 expands enrollment in educator preparation institutes, add a new pathway for temporary certification to those with expired certificates, reinstate all prior subject coverages and endorsements upon certificate reinstatement, and strengthen professional learning capabilities through collaboration and free access for certified educators.

No members posed questions; the sponsor briefly explained that SB 1718 expands temporary educator certification eligibility for those whose professional certificates have expired, and it proceeded without opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

23 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

[SB 7036 Education by Education Pre-K – 12](#)

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 7036 revises state education laws to streamline local rulemaking, expand school choice and safety options, and strengthen academic and operational requirements.

Members focused on why teacher salary supplements were placed partially outside of collective bargaining and whether expanding “educational emergencies” for low-performing schools might trigger

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broader district authority. Debate reflected bipartisan support for fast-tracking raises, managing teacher shortages, and ensuring pedestrian safety near schools.

Vote

Reported Favorably

22 Yeas : 0 Nays

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

House Health and Human Services Committee – 2/24/2026

HB 765 Child Care and Early Learning Services by Representative McFarland

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 765 revises definitions and licensing standards for child care, create a Florida Child Care Fund, and update insurance coverage, curriculum requirements, and professional recognition programs for early educators.

No members asked questions, and in debate the sponsor discussed removing mandatory flu and safety pamphlets, prohibiting insurance cancellations, and establishing resources to enhance child care services.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

21 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Bartleman, Campbell, Long, Tant, Woodson, Abbott, Anderson, Andrade, Black, Busatta, Chaney, Greco, Grow, Hodgers, Kincart Jonsson, Melo, Overdorf, Plasencia, Robinson, W., Tomkow, Trubulsky

HB 933 Children's Initiative by Representative Rosenwald

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 933 establishes two new children's initiatives in Bay and Broward Counties to improve services and programs for disadvantaged children and families.

Members did not pose questions, and Representative Hart-Lowman voiced strong support for expanding the program, noting its longstanding benefit for disadvantaged children.

Vote

Reported Favorably

23 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Bartleman, Campbell, Hart-Lowman, Long, Rosenwald, Tant, Woodson, Abbott, Anderson, Andrade, Black, Busatta, Chaney, Greco, Grow, Hodgers, Kincart Jonsson, Melo, Overdorf, Plasencia, Robinson, W., Tomkow, Trubulsky,

Senate Appropriations Committee on Pre-K – 12 Education – 2/25/2026

SB 182 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program by Senator Jones

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 182 establishes a School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program in the Department of Education to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement.

Members asked about the bill's start date and the logistics of placing high-performing teachers as mentors in lower-performing schools. They broadly supported the proposal for its potential to strengthen teacher development and retention.

Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

8 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Jones, Osgood, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Massullo, Jr., Simon, Yarborough

SB 1318 Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program by Senator Rodriguez

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1318 removes the requirement that leftover scholarship funds revert to the state.

Members asked no questions, while Senator Rodriguez explained a technical fix preventing leftover scholarship funds from reverting to the state.

Vote

Reported Favorably

8 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Jones, Osgood, Burgess, Calatayud, Gaetz, Massullo, Jr., Simon, Yarborough

House Session – 2/25/2026

HB 395 Dependent Children by Representative Rizo

Bill Summary

HB 395 requires the Department of Children and Families and each community-based care lead agency to meet quarterly with organizations focused on empowering children with lived experience to solicit input on child welfare improvements.

House Floor Vote

Reported Favorably

116 Yeas : 0 Nays

Yeas: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Daniels, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Franklin II, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Long, Lopez, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Barnaby, Basabe, Benarroch,

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Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Botana, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Giallombardo, Gonzalez-Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffiths, 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, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Steele, Tomkow, Trabulsy, Tramont, Tuck, Valdes, Weinberger, Yarkosky, Yeager

HB 1071 Education by Representative Trabulsy

Bill Summary

HB 1071 revamps Florida's K-12 education system by creating new spending prohibitions, adjusting parental rights, reforming teacher certification, and expanding accountability for public and private schools.

House Floor Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

82 Yeas; 31 Nays

Yeas: Daniels, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Basabe, Benarroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Botana, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Giallombardo, Gonzalez-Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffiths, Jr., Grow, Hodgers, Holcomb, Jacques, Johnson, Kendall, Kincart Jonsson, LaMarca, Maggard, Maney, McClure, McFarland, Melo, Michael, Miller, Mooney, Jr., Nix, Jr., Oliver, Overdorf, Owen, Partington, Perez, Plakon, Plasencia, Porras, Redondo, Rizo, Robinson, W., Salzman, Sapp, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Steele, Tomkow, Trabulsy, Tramont, Tuck, Valdes, Weinberger, Yarkosky, Yeager

Nays: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Franklin II, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Long, Lopez, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young

HB 757 School Safety by Representative Salzman

Bill Summary

HB 757 expands the school guardian program and modifies the law to enhance school safety measures across K-12 and public postsecondary institutions, introduces a new firearm offense near schools, and updates security funding and record-sharing guidelines

House Floor Vote

Reported Favorably with Committee Substitute

83 Yeas; 25 Nays

Yeas: Daley, Daniels, Tendrich, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Basabe, Benarroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Botana, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Cassel, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Giallombardo, Gonzalez-Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffiths, 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, Plakon,

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Plasencia, Porras, Redondo, Rizo, Robinson, W., Salzman, Sapp, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Steele, Tomkow, Trabulsy, Tramont, Tuck, Valdes, Weinberger, Yarkosky, Yeager

Nays: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Cross, Driskell, Dunkley, Eskamani, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Lopez, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Woodson, Young

[HB 859 Exceptional Students and Video Cameras in Public Schools by Representative Chambliss](#) [Bill Summary](#)

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.

House Floor Vote

Reported Favorably

111 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Daniels, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Franklin II, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Long, Lopez, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Basabe, Benarroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Botana, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Giallombardo, Gonzalez-Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffiths, 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, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Steele, Tomkow, Trabulsy, Tramont, Tuck, Valdes, Weinberger, Yarkosky, Yeager

[HB 561 Educator Preparation and Certification by Representative Gerwig](#)

[Bill Summary](#)

HB 561 expands and streamlines teacher certification, preparation, and reinstatement requirements by revising eligibility and coursework provisions for educator preparation institutes, temporary certificates, and professional certificate renewals, and by mandating broader professional development collaboration through the Florida Center for Teaching Excellence.

Vote

Reported Favorably

112 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Alvarez, J., Antone, Aristide, Bartleman, Campbell, Chambliss, Cross, Daley, Daniels, Driskell, Dunkley, Edmonds, Eskamani, Franklin II, Gantt, Gottlieb, Harris, Hart-Lowman, Hinson, Hunschofsky, Long, Lopez, Nixon, Rayner, Robinson, F., Rosenwald, Skidmore, Spencer, Tant, Tendrich, Woodson, Young, Abbott, Albert, Alvarez, D., Anderson, Andrade, Baker, Bankson, Basabe, Benarroch, Berfield, Black, Blanco, Booth, Borrero, Botana, Boyles, Brackett, Brannan III, Buchanan, Busatta, Canady, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cobb, Conerly, Duggan, Esposito, Fabricio, Garrison, Gentry, Gerwig, Giallombardo, Gonzalez-Pittman, Gossett-Seidman, Greco, Griffiths, 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, Shoaf, Sirois, Smith, Snyder, Stark, Steele, Tomkow, Trabulsky, Tramont, Tuck, Valdes, Weinberger, Yarkosky, Yeager

Senate Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice – 2/25/2026

SB 1632 Ideologies Inconsistent with American Principles by Senator Grall

Bill & Meeting Summary

SB 1632 prohibits certain foreign or religious law enforcement if it conflicts with constitutional rights and expands criminal and educational restrictions on domestic and foreign terrorist organizations.

Members questioned the bill's broad wording and especially the undefined term "promotion," worried it could chill free speech and harm students, while supporters contended the legislation is necessary to address real security threats and ensure foreign or religious law cannot override constitutional rights. Opponents remained concerned about vague language and due process, and supporters pledged to clarify those points in later amendments.

Vote

Reported Favorably

5 Yeas; 3 Nays

Yeas: Garcia, Martin, Simon, Wright, Yarborough

Nays: Osgood, Polsky, Smith

Senate Session– 2/25/2026

SB 482 Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights by Senator Leek

Temporarily Postponed

Bill Summary

SB 482 creates the "Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights" restricting certain state contracts with foreign AI entities, establishing consumer and child safeguards for AI usage, tightening rules on AI-generated likenesses, and requiring parental notice and opt-out for AI instructional tools in education.

House State Affairs Committee – 2/26/2026

HB 139 Adverse Personnel Actions and Ethics Complaints by Representative Maney

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 139 protects employees and certain other persons from adverse actions for disclosing specified ethics violations, and require the Commission on Ethics to facilitate disclosure of ethics complaints to investigating agencies or filing parties under certain conditions.

No member asked substantive questions, and Representative Angie Nixon voiced her support by highlighting concerns over potential retaliation for whistleblowers, with no one speaking in opposition. Ultimately, the bill advanced.

Vote

Reported Favorably

26 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Cross, Driskell, Eskamani, Gantt, Nixon, Spencer, Tendrich, Basabe, Blanco, Botana, Boyles, Chaney, Cobb, Duggan, Gentry, Giallombardo, Gonzalez Pittman, Griffiths, Jr., Holcomb, Jacques, Maggard, McFarland, Mooney, Jr., Owen, Robinson, W., Weinberger

HB 995 Public Employees Relations Commission by Representative Persons-Mulicka

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 995 overhauls public employee labor relations by revising union certification, membership, dues collection, bargaining unit definitions, and dispute resolution processes.

Members questioned whether requiring a majority vote of the entire bargaining unit for union certification was fair, raising concerns about constitutionality and unequal treatment of non-public safety unions. Supporters called it pro-employee and focused on expedited salary negotiations, while opponents noted it undermines collective bargaining rights.

Vote

Reported Favorably

17 Yeas; 8 Nays

Yeas: Basabe, Blanco, Botana, Boyles, Chaney, Cobb, gentry, Giallombardo, Griffiths, Jr., Holcomb, Jacques, Maggard, McFarland, Mooney, Jr., Owen, Robinson, W., Weinberger
Nays: Cross, Driskell, Eskamani, Gantt, Nixon, Spencer, Tendrich, Gonzalez Pittman

House Education and Employment Committee – 2/26/2026

HB 157 School Teacher Training and Mentoring Program by Representative Hinson

Temporarily Postponed

Bill & Meeting Summary

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

HB 725 Political Activity on Public Institutions of Higher Education by Representative Gossett-Seidman

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 725 requires public institutions of higher education to inform students and employees about free expression rights and outline permissible and prohibited political activities, along with disciplinary consequences.

Members asked whether the bill imposes new restrictions on voter registration and free speech, and the sponsor clarified it consolidates existing guidelines and promotes balanced campus engagement. Overall, legislators broadly supported the measure's aim of ensuring fairness.

Vote

Reported Favorably

19 Yeas; 1 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Hinson, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Michael, Nix, Jr., Persons Mulicka, Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

Nays: Harris

HB 1059 Speech and Debate in Education by Representative Booth

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 1059 designates Florida Speech and Debate Week and establish the Florida Debate Initiative, Inc. to expand statewide civics, speech, and debate programs in partnership with the Department of Education's Florida Civics and Debate Initiative.

Members did not pose any substantive questions but voiced unanimous support for expanding speech and debate programs, emphasizing the confidence and civic readiness such initiatives foster in students. They praised the sponsor's efforts and highlighted the bill's role in building future civic leaders without opposition.

Vote

Reported Favorably

19 Yeas; 0 Nays

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

HB 1279 Education by Representative Kincart Jonsson

Bill & Meeting Summary

HB 1279 requires consumer disclosures for blind-related services, revise various education provisions, and modify program eligibility and accreditation requirements.

Members primarily questioned how the bill's 95% Florida resident enrollment requirement would affect funding, out-of-state waivers, Pell Grants, and engineering metrics, and while some raised concerns over accreditation and potential funding losses, most endorsed giving priority to Florida students at preeminent universities.

Vote

Reported Favorably

*All summaries are created with AI

ACTIVE:39303922.1

17 Yeas; 2 Nays

Yeas: Aristide, Daniels, Dunkley, Berfield, Canady, Esposito, Gerwig, Kendall, Michael, Nix, Jr., Rizo, Sapp, Stark, Trabulsky, Valdes, Yarkosky, Yeager

Nays: Harris, Hinson

Senate Session– 2/26/2026

SB 1022 Children’s Initiative by Senator Polsky

Bill & Meeting Summary

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

Senate Floor Vote

Reported Favorably

37 Yeas; 0 Nays

Yeas: Arrington, Berman, Bernard, Bracy Davis, Davis, Jones, Osgood, Polsky, Rouson, Smith, Pizzo, Albritton, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Brodeur, Burgess, Burton, Calatayud, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Garcia, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Leek, Martin, Massullo, Jr., Mayfield, McClain, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Truenow, Trumbull, Wright, Yarborough

SB 564 Student Volunteers at Polling Locations by Senator Yarborough

Laid on Table; Refer to HB 461

Bill Summary

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

SB 212 Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators by Senator McClain

Immediately Certified, Engrossed Text Filed

Bill Summary

SB 212 strengthens residency restrictions, expands definitions, and imposes new contact constraints for sex offenders and predators near places where children congregate, including public swimming pools.

Senate Floor Vote

Reported Favorably

31 Yeas; 6 Nays

Yeas: Arrington, Bernard, Davis, Rouson, Pizzo, Albritton, Avila, Boyd, Bradley, Brodeur, Burgess, Burton, Calatayud, DiCeglie, Gaetz, Garcia, Grall, Harrell, Hooper, Leek, Martin, Massullo, Jr., Mayfield, McClain, Passidomo, Rodriguez, Simon, Truenow, Trumbull, Wright, Yarborough

Nays: Berman, Bracy Davis, Jones, Osgood, Polsky, Smith

SB 482 Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights by Senator Leek

Temporarily Postponed

Bill Summary

*All summaries are created with AI

ACTIVE:39303922.1

SB 482 creates the “Artificial Intelligence Bill of Rights” restricting certain state contracts with foreign AI entities, establishing consumer and child safeguards for AI usage, tightening rules on AI-generated likenesses, and requiring parental notice and opt-out for AI instructional tools in education.

House Commerce Committee – 2/26/2026

HB 221 Minimum Wage Requirements by Representative Chamberlin

Temporarily Postponed

Bill Summary

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.

2026 Session Bill Statistics

House

General Bills:	798 Bills
Local Bills:	51 Bills
Joint Resolutions:	18 Bills

Senate

General Bills:	815 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](#)]