



THE FLORIDA SENATE
SENATOR KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO
President

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Senators
FROM: Kathleen Passidomo
SUBJECT: Special Session B – Schedule and Legislation
DATE: February 3, 2023

In coordination with the Governor's Office and the Florida House, we have identified several issues that warrant our attention in advance of the 2023 Regular Session. As such, Speaker Renner and I plan to convene the Legislature in Special Session B, beginning on Monday, February 6. General information regarding anticipated special session bills and sponsors is outlined below, and an updated schedule for the next two weeks is attached to allow for advanced planning.

Schedule Updates: My goal in creating the updated schedules was to make use of existing committee blocks, where possible. The Governor's recommended budget is scheduled to be heard in the full Committee on Appropriations on Tuesday and in the subject-matter appropriations committees on Wednesday afternoon. To accommodate special session meetings, we will reschedule the Wednesday afternoon meetings for next week. I encourage all Senators to monitor the presentation of the Governor's recommended budget in the full Committee on Appropriations this week, so you can be prepared for presentations in the subject-matter appropriations committees next week.

Special Session Bills:

- **Emergency Management** – Leader Albritton will file legislation to provide additional resources to support ongoing relief and recovery for communities impacted by Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. The bill will include additional funding for the Governor's Emergency Response and Preparedness Fund, as well as funding for a Local Government Bridge Loan Program within the Department of Economic Opportunity. The Bridge Loan Program is particularly important to Leader Albritton, to Senator Martin and to me personally, given the financial challenges following Hurricane Ian that are facing several of the communities we represent. I will refer the bill to the Committee on Fiscal Policy.

- **Statewide Prosecutor** – Last year we created the Office of Elections Crimes and Security to establish a framework for law enforcement to investigate violations of elections laws. The State Constitution affords the Statewide Prosecutor concurrent jurisdiction with the state attorneys to prosecute certain violations of criminal laws that impact multiple jurisdictions. State law generally provides the office with the ability to prosecute election crimes. Senator Martin will sponsor legislation clarifying the Office of Statewide Prosecution jurisdiction to prosecute crimes involving elections for a federal or state office, and petition activities. The bill will be referred to the Committee on Fiscal Policy.
- **Illegal Immigration** – [Executive Order 23-03](#) outlines the current efforts the Executive Branch is undertaking to respond to the influx of migrants landing in the Florida Keys. To help mitigate the ongoing impacts of unauthorized aliens coming to the State of Florida, Senator Ingoglia will sponsor legislation to create the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program within the Division of Emergency Management to facilitate the voluntary transport of unauthorized migrants who have been processed by the federal government and released into the United States. I will refer the bill to the Committee on Fiscal Policy.
- **Intercollegiate Athletics** – In 2020, under the leadership of Senator Hutson, Senator Mayfield, and others, Florida was proactive in creating legislation which governs how college athletes can be compensated for use of their names, images and likenesses. However, the recent enactment of NCAA regulations regarding athlete compensation has put many states with such laws at a disadvantage, causing a need for Florida to revisit our current law. While college sports are not high on my list of priorities when compared with the many other serious issues we must address each session, sporting events do contribute greatly to our local economies and the sense of community in many parts of the state; therefore, I recognize the need to address this issue in a timely manner, so our university teams can remain competitive.

Senator Hutson filed Senate Bill 200 for consideration during the 2023 Regular Session, which is noticed for a hearing in the Committee on Postsecondary Education on Wednesday. Senator Hutson is working with the House sponsor, Representative LaMarca, on legislation for the special session, which will be referred to Rules.

Local Bills: As you may be aware, local bills originate in the House, do not need a Senate sponsor, and are typically adopted in the Senate via a consent calendar. However, to provide time for discussion on legislation (outlined below) relating to special districts dissolved during Special Session 2022C, I will utilize the discretion permitted under our Rules to refer these local bills to the Committee on Rules. As the most senior member of the Senate, Senator Hutson will present the local bills in committee and on the floor.

- **Reedy Creek Improvement District** – The Senate will receive from the House a local bill to revise the governance and powers of Reedy Creek Improvement District, while protecting local taxpayers from the District’s debts.
- **Sunshine Water Control District** – The Senate will receive from the House a local bill reauthorizing the Sunshine Water Control District.
- **Eastpoint Water and Sewer District** – The Senate will receive from the House a local bill making revisions and reauthorizing the Eastpoint Water and Sewer District.

Additional Committee and Floor Planning: Bills outlined above on Emergency Management, the Statewide Prosecutor, and Illegal Immigration will be heard in the Committee on Fiscal Policy on Tuesday, and will be considered on the floor Wednesday afternoon.

We will receive the local bills as well as legislation related to intercollegiate athletics from the House later in the week. Tentatively, we would plan to hear bills coming from the House in the Committee on Rules on Friday morning.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues. I look forward to seeing you on Monday.