

# NEWSLETTER

Session Recap-The First 60 Days

January 13-March 13, 2026



## SESSION RECAP

The first 60 days of Session have ended. Throughout the session, we have met with a wide range of organizations, community leaders, and state agencies to discuss issues important to Floridians. These meetings included conversations with the Naples Chamber of Commerce, the City of Cape Coral, the City of Fort Myers, the Florida Gaming Commission, the Florida State Guard, and members of the Lee County 4-H Club. Staff also met with groups such as the Alzheimer's Association, Naples Jewish Federation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the SunCoast, and many others, to hear their perspectives and priorities.

The Senator also participated in events such as Children's Week, where thousands of children and advocates came to the Capitol to highlight the importance of supporting families, early education, and literacy.

It was inspiring to see so many organizations and state agencies come together to emphasize the importance of caring for Florida's children and communities.

In addition to legislative work, we have welcomed visitors to the Capitol, including groups like Family Initiative, and continued meeting with educators, local officials, business leaders, and advocacy organizations. These conversations help ensure that the legislation moving forward reflects the needs and priorities of communities across the state.

The Senator has successfully passed 16 bills on the Senate floor. Fourteen of these bills passed both chambers and are now awaiting the Governor's consideration. While the budget process is still ongoing, the Legislature will reconvene before June 30 to finalize the state budget. This will ensure that Florida has a balanced budget in place for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.



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## **SB 192 – Patient Funds Held in Trust by Chiropractic Physicians**

This bill removes the cap on the amount of patient money a chiropractor can hold in trust for specific purposes. It gives providers more flexibility in managing patient funds.

## **SB 536 – Criteria for Determining Criminal Gang Membership**

This bill updates how law enforcement determines whether someone qualifies as a criminal gang member. It revises the legal definition and adds the term “gang-related language,” expanding the types of evidence that may be used when identifying gang affiliation.

## **SB 540 The Office of Financial Regulation**

This bill strengthens protections against financial exploitation and improves coordination between the Department of Children and Families and the Office of Financial Regulation during investigations involving vulnerable adults. It also requires certain financial service providers to implement stronger information security programs to protect sensitive financial and personal data better.



## **SB 698 – Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permits**

This bill prevents local governments from requiring certain additional state environmental permits before issuing building or plumbing permits. It streamlines the process by allowing proof of compliance instead of separate permit approval.



## **SB 762 – Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel**

This bill revises procedures for the Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, which represent defendants when public defenders have conflicts of interest. It requires written notice to courts in certain situations and allows judges to appoint counsel from another region when necessary to ensure cases proceed efficiently.

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## **SB 928 – Mandatory Remand to Custody Upon Conviction of Dangerous Crimes**

This bill requires individuals convicted of certain dangerous crimes to be taken into custody immediately after a guilty verdict. They must remain in custody while awaiting sentencing without the option of bond.

## **SB 1296 – Public Employees Relations Commission**

This proposal updates procedures for the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission, which oversees collective bargaining for public employees. It allows subpoenas to be served by certified mail or personal service and revises registration requirements for employee organizations.

## **SB 1332 – Career Offender Registration**

This bill establishes additional identification requirements for individuals designated as career offenders. It requires a special marking on driver licenses or identification cards issued by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and allows the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to access certain information for public notification purposes.



## **SB 1370- Habitual Offender Designation**

This bill is called “Isaiah’s Law”, and it revises the definition of the term “habitual traffic offender”.

## **SB 1580 – Illegal Gaming**

This bill strengthens penalties for illegal gambling and betting on rigged events. It also updates oversight standards for gaming regulators to protect public integrity.

## **SB 1440 – Public Records/Cybersecurity Event**

This bill keeps certain information about cybersecurity incidents confidential when reported to the Office of Financial Regulation. The goal is to protect sensitive financial and customer data while investigations are ongoing.

## **SB 1724 – Utility Services**

This bill requires utility service agreements to be in writing and increases transparency when cities provide utilities outside their boundaries. It also updates rules on rates, fees, and reporting to improve oversight and fairness.

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## **SB 1734 - Juvenile Justice**

Expands the definition of law enforcement and will allow juvenile detention officers and juvenile probation officers to receive the same death benefits and commemorative service awards as other officers.

## **SB 1742 – Indecent Exposure of Sexual Organs While Observing a Child**

This legislation creates a new criminal offense for individuals who intentionally expose themselves in a lewd or inappropriate manner while observing a child under the age of 16. It also repeals an older statute addressing “unnatural and lascivious acts” and replaces it with updated language and penalties.

## **SB 1750 – Sexual Offenses**

This bill updates criminal penalties and sentencing guidelines for certain sexual offenses, particularly those involving minors. It increases penalties for repeat offenders and strengthens state law related to the exploitation of children, with the goal of improving protections for minors.



## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU**

Ava and Madison (our legislative interns) were a tremendous asset to our legislative team throughout this session. From assisting with daily operations to supporting the team during key moments of session. They consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic and a positive attitude. We are grateful for their hard work and the contributions they made to our team this session.

## **WHAT'S AHEAD**

The Legislature will reconvene at the end of April to discuss redistricting, a process that was initiated by the Governor at the beginning of the year. Lawmakers will also return to continue discussions on the state budget. While the policy portion of the legislative session has concluded, our work is not finished. We look forward to returning to the district to share updates about the legislative session and continue engaging with the community.



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