



THE FLORIDA SENATE

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SENATOR JONATHAN MARTIN

33rd District

For Immediate Release
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Florida State Senator Jonathan Martin on the Bill signing of SB 1296 PERC

This morning, I joined Governor Ron DeSantis at Fort Myers High School for the signing of SB 1296 Public Employee Relations Committee, which is designed to strengthen accountability and transparency in public employee representation across Florida.

SB 1296 revises election guidelines by eliminating voluntary recognition and requiring elections for representation, while also establishing clear parameters for leave time. By requiring regular elections and clearer standards, the bill ensures that organizations remain accountable to their members and that representation reflects the will of the majority—not just a select few.

I would like to thank Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka and Commissioner of Education Anastasios Kamoutsas for their dedication and leadership in advancing this legislation. Their efforts, along with those of many others, were instrumental in bringing this bill to completion.

Throughout committee discussions this spring, examples were presented highlighting concerns about union representation and responsiveness to members. SB 1296 directly addresses these concerns by putting stronger accountability measures in place, increasing transparency, and ensuring that organizations are held responsible to the individuals they represent.

With the signing of SB 1296, the State of Florida reaffirms its commitment to accountability, transparency, and fair representation—ensuring that every member’s voice is heard through consistent and democratic processes.

This legislation will go into effect July 1, 2026.

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