

NEWSLETTER

Session Recap-Week One

January 12-16, 2026



THE NEWS

On Tuesday, January 13th, the legislative session commenced with a joint session of the Florida House and Senate, followed by an address by Governor Ron DeSantis, which has set the tone for the weeks ahead. Committees have been scheduled throughout the week, and all of the bills that Senator Martin presented were found to be favorable within their respective committees. In addition to legislative business, Senator Martin met with members of the local fire departments, representatives from the ALS community, and local officials to discuss community priorities and ongoing concerns. This week reflected a busy and ambitious start to the session many more expected to be taken up on the agenda in the weeks ahead.

Madison Lavender from Stetson University and Ava Aloia from Florida State University join the SD33 team this session as legislative interns.

2026 SENATE BILLS

SB 536 (2026) – Criminal Gang Members

Senator Jonathan Martin's SB 536 modernizes Florida's criminal gang laws to reflect how gangs operate in today's digital world. The bill updates outdated definitions to include online communication, recruitment, and coordination. Closing existing loopholes, it strengthens accountability for gang-related criminal activity and supports more effective enforcement.

SB 540 (2026) – Office of Financial Regulation

SB 540 strengthens cybersecurity requirements for licensed financial businesses and ensures cyber incidents are properly investigated. It also closes a regulatory gap by bringing certain investment advisers under Florida state oversight.

SB 696 (2026) – Registration of Trademarks

SB 696 ensures the trademark classification system continues to meet national and international standards in an efficient and timely manner. It allows online trademark registration applications, and it clarifies that the existing document verification statute may be used to verify trademark registration applications.

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Bills Continued

SB 762 (2026) – Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

SB 762 allows chief judges to assign capital cases cross-jurisdictionally between regional counsel offices when a conflict exists and if the regional counsel office has adequate qualified counsel.

SB 930 (2026) – Florida Retirement Savings Task Force

SB 930 establishes a diverse, 15-member task force to study retirement coverage gaps in Florida and develop data-driven policy recommendations. It directs the task force to evaluate existing models, identify barriers, analyze costs and funding options, and deliver implementation-ready proposals for legislative consideration.



What's Ahead

Looking ahead, the coming weeks will be filled with additional committee meetings and a full slate of bill presentations as the legislative process continues to move forward. The team is hopeful to see priority legislation placed on upcoming agendas, allowing for continued momentum on key topics such as criminal justice issues, consumer protections, and insurance-related reforms. With more bills scheduled for presentation and discussion, the focus remains on advancing policies that reflect district priorities, address community needs, and promote public safety, economic stability, and fairness for Florida families. This busy committee schedule underscores a strong commitment to productive work and meaningful progress throughout the remainder of the session.



(850)487-5033



315 Senate Building
404 S Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399



flsenate.gov/Senators/s33?pref=full



martin.jonathan.web@flsenate.gov