

NEWSLETTER

Session Recap-Week Four

February 2-6, 2026



THE NEWS

This week, we met with local teachers to hear directly about classroom needs and how state policy can better support Florida's students and educators. We also continued important discussions with the Florida Gaming Commission and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on ongoing regulatory and conservation efforts. In the Capitol, twelve bills were formally presented in their respective committees. All of our bills can be tracked on the Florida Senate website. Policy committees are winding down as the House and Senate prepare for the budget conference. We were happy to welcome many local constituents from the Florida Apartment Association to the capital. The Senator also met with many stakeholders within the AI community to discuss new technology trends and how AI can impact Florida in the future.

BILLS UP THIS WEEK

SB 1326 (2026) – Prosecution of Defendants

Clarifies mental illness as a criminal defense, strengthens competency evaluations, adjusts sentencing mitigation, and allows mental health treatment in criminal sentences.

SB 1750 (2026) – Criminal Sexual Conduct

The bill increases penalties for sexual crimes involving children by raising felony classifications and imposing longer mandatory minimum sentences, especially for repeat offenders. It also adds tougher punishments for using a child in sexual performances and creating generated child pornography.

SB 862 (2026) – Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Institutional Security Specialists

The Correctional and Probation Officer Fairness Act establishes a \$60,000 minimum base salary for correctional and probation officers and institutional security specialists, requires annual pay analysis reports, and provides for annual raises, subject to legislative funding.

SB 1296 (2026) - Public Employees Relations Commission

The bill streamlines procedures for the Public Employees Relations Commission by updating filing rules, allowing certified-mail subpoenas, tightening union membership and dues requirements, and revising employee organization certification standard.

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Bills Continued

SB 1298 (2026) - Public Records/Public Employees Relations Commission

The bill creates and updates public records exemptions for certain Public Employees Relations Commission officials, draft orders, and employee showing-of-interest forms, while providing for future legislative review.

SB 1724 (2026) - Utility Services

The bill requires public meetings for certain municipal utility agreements, limits how utility revenues fund general government, adjusts allowed rates and fees for outside customers, and mandates annual reporting to the Florida Public Service Commission.

SB 1370 (2026) - Habitual Traffic Offender Designation

Habitual Traffic Offender Designation; Citing this act as "Isaiah's Law"; revising the definition of the term "habitual traffic offender", etc.



SB 698 (2026) - Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permits

The bill bars local governments from requiring separate state permits for certain onsite sewage systems and instead allows proof of compliance when issuing building or plumbing permits.

SB 1320 (2026) - Tax Referenda

Defines the term "local government spending analysis" and requires a local government spending analysis be included on certain referenda.

SB 1734 (2026) - 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 862 (2026) - Correctional Officers, Correctional Probation Officers, and Institutional Security Specialists

Requires that the minimum annual base rate of pay for a correctional officer, a correctional probation officer, or an institutional security specialist be no less than \$60,000.

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