

MAY 8, 2023

Week 9 – Session Wrap Up

The session concluded on the 60th day, Friday, May 5, 2023. This year, the Legislature passed about 200 of the 1,828 bills that were filed. The approved bills will be sent to the Governor over the next few weeks for signature or veto. The Legislature also approved a final budget totalling \$117 Billion, a considerable increase from the House’s proposed budget of \$113 Billion and the Senate’s \$113.7 Billion proposed budget. The final budget will be presented to the Governor for approval. If the Governor exercises his line item veto power, we will see those changes in June.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo concluded the 2023 Regular Session by offering the following remarks,

“We began session in the aftermath of a destructive hurricane season on the heels of two special sessions needed to help stabilize Florida’s freefalling property insurance market. While these issues alone could have easily monopolized the last 60 days, I am proud that with the tireless work of our Senators, and strong partnerships with the Florida House and Governor DeSantis, we are concluding today having passed significant legislation in nearly every area of public policy, along with a balanced budget, meaningful tax relief for families and seniors, and historic reserves...

From workforce housing, to school choice, to insurer accountability, to public safety, we listened to our constituents, incorporated ideas and feedback from our communities, and made our mark with historic reforms to keep our state affordable and her people free.”



Bill Tracking

SB 846	Prohibits state universities and state colleges from accepting grants or participating in agreements with a foreign country of concern unless specified conditions are met; authorizes state universities to enter into agreements with a foreign country of concern if such agreement is approved by the BOG and specified requirements are met; authorizes the board to sanction and to withhold performance funding from a state university for entering into an unauthorized foreign agreement; requires each state university and state college to annually submit specified information to the BOG and DOE if certain conditions are met.	Passed by the Senate and House. Presented to the Governor. Governor must act on this bill by 05/23/23.
HB 339	Revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to spouse or dependent child of deceased or disabled servicemember; revises eligibility requirements for educational benefits provided by state to dependent child of prisoner of war, person missing in action, or deceased or disabled servicemember who participated in certain military operations.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.
SB 256	Requires a public employee who desires to be a member of an employee organization to sign a membership authorization form beginning on a specified date; requires an employee organization to revoke a public employee's membership upon receipt of his or her written request for revocation; prohibits certain employee organizations from having dues and uniform assessments deducted and collected by the employer from certain salaries; revises requirements for applications for initial registrations and renewals of registration of employee organizations; revises prohibitions for employee organizations and certain persons and entities relating to employee organizations.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.
HB 139	Provides benefits, training, and employment assistance for Veterans and their spouses, including a requirement for Department of Veterans Affairs to create a grant program for veterans' nursing degree programs.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.
SB 240	The bill enhances and streamlines provisions to improve the implementation and expansion of workforce education programs. The bill also increases access to career and technical education in middle and high school, including opportunities for work-based learning, such as apprenticeships. The bill expands the REACH Office's authority, expands the internship tax credit program, and expands the Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program (PCOG). Provides more flexibility for institutions as it relates to the Money-Back Guarantee Program. Converts the Open Door Grant Program to a student financial assistance program.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.

HB 931	Revises date by which SBE & BOG must annually compile & publish specified assessments; establishes Office of Public Policy Events within State University System & provides requirements; designates Florida Student Association as non-profit advocacy organization for students of SUS & provides requirements; & prohibits public institutions of higher education from requiring completion of political loyalty test or for persons to meet certain qualifications for specified purposes.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.
SB 266	Prohibits state universities and colleges, as well as their direct support organizations, from expending any funds, regardless of source, to promote, support, or maintain any programs or campus activities related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The bill exempts from this provision programs required for compliance with federal regulations, or access programs for military veterans, Pell Grant recipients, first generation college students, nontraditional students, "2+2" transfer students from the Florida College System, students from low-income families, or students with unique abilities. The bill revises requirements for general education core courses, prohibiting core courses that distort significant historical events or include a curriculum that teaches identity politics that violates Florida Educational Equity Act, or that are based on theories that systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are inherent in the institutions of the United States and were created to maintain social, political, and economic inequities. The bill adds that such courses will be reviewed by the BOG and SBE and may need to be offered by institutions as an upper level or elective course. The bill specifies that a required change in accreditation for public postsecondary institutions is a one-time-only change, and prohibits an accrediting agency from compelling an institution to violate state law. The bill also modifies the "buy one, get one free" tuition waiver program to include up to two state approved teacher preparation programs, and specifies that students may not lose the tuition waiver if the program is removed from the approved list after enrollment.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.
SB 7026	Requires the BOG to develop regulations for university boards of trustees relating to contracting for the construction of new facilities or for work on existing facilities; authorizes a state university to waive the out-of-state fee for a student who is an intercollegiate athlete receiving a scholarship; revises the list of authorized expenditures that may be included in a carry forward spending plan for state universities and Florida College System institutions; revises a limitation on compensation for state university employees, providing that certain educational facility contracting and construction techniques applicable to school districts also apply to Florida College System institutions.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.
SB 732	Defines the term "military student;" requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules and the Board of Governors to adopt regulations to establish the Collegiate Purple Star Campuses program; specifying program criteria for participating Florida College System institutions, state universities, and career centers.	Passed by the Senate and House. Will be sent to Governor for signature.

SB 542 Requires Florida College System institutions & state universities to have supply of emergency opioid antagonists in certain residence halls & dormitories for use by specified employees; provides requirements for placement & accessibility of emergency opioid antagonists & training; provides specified immunity from liability.

Bill did not pass this session.

HB 1401 Requires the Articulation Coordinating Committee to convene a workgroup by a specified date to develop specified articulation agreements; requiring Florida College System institutions to award transfer credit for certain courses; providing requirements for an associate in arts specialized transfer degree; providing that, upon approval of a new associate in arts specialized transfer degree, Florida College System institutions may offer the degree and shall report certain data.

Bill did not pass this session.

If you have any questions or comments about bills being tracked or other matters not included in the update, please feel free to contact Taylor Mejia, Director of Government and Community Relations.

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