

MAY 1, 2023

Week 8

As session is nearing a close, the race to reconcile the Senate and House proposed budgets is ongoing. In Week 8, the budget conference subcommittees met Monday - Friday to close the gap between Senate and House priorities within each policy area. Many of the Florida College System items could not be agreed upon and were “bumped up” to the at-large budget conference committee. The at-large committee met throughout the weekend and will continue to meet in Week 9 until an agreement is met. Legislators have until Tuesday, May 2, 2023, to put forth a complete budget in order for the session to end by Friday, May 5, 2023. There is a 72-hour “cooling off” period from the time the final budget is agreed upon by the budget committee, before the full Senate and House can take a final vote on the proposal.

Once the final budget is passed by both chambers, the legislative session will adjourn. The budget will then be delivered to the governor. The governor will have 15 days from the date the budget is received to sign the General Appropriations Act and exercise any line-item vetoes. A two-thirds majority vote of the legislature is required in order to overturn any budget item vetoed by the governor.



Bill Tracking

HB 339 (Similar to SB 550)	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.	The House version of the bill was approved by the House and sent to the Senate. The bill passed the Senate Fiscal Committee and was placed on the Special Order Calendar.
SB 256 (Identical to HB 1445)	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.
HB 139/SB 858 (Identical bills)	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 House. Sent to Senate for approval. Senate placed their identical version of the bill on the Special Order Calendar.
HB 7051 (Similar to 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.	Placed on House Calendar for a second reading.

SB 266 (Similar to HB 999)	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 that violate the discriminatory concepts. 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, similar to HB 999. The bill also clarifies that a public postsecondary institution is not required to change accrediting agencies each accreditation cycle, but that the change in accreditation required in law is restricted to a one-time change, prior to the expiration of this requirement on December 31, 2032.	Passed by the Senate. Sent to the House for approval.
SB 958 (Similar to 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.	Placed on the Senate Special Order Calendar.
SB 542/HB 39 (Identical bills)	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.	Passed by the Senate. Sent to House for approval.
HB 999 (Similar to SB 266)	Revises powers & duties of BOG; revises academic & research excellence standards for preeminent state research universities; provides requirements for hiring university faculty; provides requirements for employment, promotion, & evaluation processes for state university employees; authorizes state university boards of trustees to review tenure status of faculty members; requires such boards to confirm selection & reappointment of specified personnel; requires state university presidents to annually present specified information to such boards; creates Institute for Risk Management & Insurance Education within College of Business at UCF; revises requirements for general education core courses; 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 that violate the discriminatory concepts; provides exemptions for federal laws and for student led organizations.	Placed on House Calendar for a second reading. No action in the past week. The House is likely to take up SB 266 for a vote.
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.

SB 732/HB 845 (Identical bills) 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. Sent to House for approval. Placed on House Special Order Calendar.

SB 846 (Similar to HB 679) 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. Sent to House for approval. Placed on House Special Order Calendar.

HB 1401 (Similar to SB 750) 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.

Placed on House Calendar for a second reading. No action in the past few weeks.

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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