

## WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



As the end of the 2025 Florida Legislative Session is quickly approaching, time is running out on bills that haven't been heard or bills that have stalled in committee. Both the Florida Senate and House of Representatives are meeting as the full chamber to vote on passing bills that will eventually make their way to the Governor's desk for either approval or veto. As you may recall, the Florida Legislature's only constitutional requirement each year is to pass a balanced budget for the following fiscal year.

The Florida Senate released their first budget draft proposal for the 2025 - 2026 fiscal year at \$117.4 billion, which is \$1.2 billion less than the 2024 - 2025 budget for the State of Florida. The Florida House is proposing a \$112.95 billion budget for FY 2025 - 2026, which would be a reduction of \$5.7 billion from the current year's budget. The biggest difference between the two budgets is the House is proposing to eliminate any state government positions that have been vacant more than 90 days, and includes 6,000 less government positions than the Senate's proposed budget. The Senate is also proposing to spend an additional \$1.7 billion on human services than the House.

The budget negotiation process between the Senate and House, known as conference committees, will take place from now until the last week of this year's legislative session. The balanced budget must be agreed upon by both legislative bodies by Tuesday April 29th, 2025 if the legislature is to adjourn by the scheduled date of Friday May 2nd, 2025, due to the 72 hours "cooling off" period that's required of the final budget once approved by both chambers before it's set for a final vote.

**HB 7031 Sales Tax Rate Reductions** sponsored by Representative Duggan passed 112 to 0 off the House floor this week. This bill contains language to reduce Florida's business rent tax from 2% to 1.25% in the following fiscal year. It's suggested this rate reduction will save businesses across Florida \$310 million annually. As previously mentioned, Florida is the only state that charges a tax on commercial leases.

**HB 1183 Cybersecurity Incident Liability** sponsored by Representative Giallombardo passed through the House Civil Justice and Claims Subcommittee, and now heads to a hearing in the State Affairs Committee. This bill aims to "adopt stringent cybersecurity standards and strengthen critical infrastructure by providing liability protections for companies and third-party providers in a cyber-attack if the entity has adopted a qualified cybersecurity program."

That's it for this week, please look for next week's Venice Area Chamber of Commerce Tallahassee update for more information regarding the 2025 Florida Legislative Session.

- Justin Taylor

<https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/7031>

<https://flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1183>

[www.flchamber.com](http://www.flchamber.com)