

## WEEKLY TALLAHASSEE UPDATE



With Florida's 2025 Legislative Session scheduled to conclude by next Friday, May 2, our State's legislators are facing crunch time working to draft a balanced budget and hearing bills on the floor of the House and Senate before Sine Die. The balanced budget must be completed by Tuesday, April 29, to allow the 72-hour "cooling off" period that is required before a vote may be taken on the 2025 - 2026 State budget. As of last Friday, the House and Senate budgets were \$4.4 billion apart.

**SB 7034 Taxation** sponsored by Senator Avila advanced through the Finance and Tax Committee and heads to the Appropriations Committee. This bill aims to eliminate sales tax on clothing and shoes priced at \$75 or less as well as renewing sales tax holidays that have become frequent in past years such as the back-to-school sales tax holiday and disaster preparedness sales tax holiday. The bill also "includes a \$50 million cap before counties can use tourist development taxes for public facilities, allowing certain high-tourism counties to redirect those funds to different uses, such as infrastructure or public safety." The bill also details a one-year, one-time credit for the annual license tag fee that Floridians pay to register their vehicles.

**HB 7033 Taxation** sponsored by Representative Duggan is the second House tax proposal that was generated out of the Ways & Means Committee, **joining HB 7031 Sales Tax Rate Reductions** to lower the state sales tax and Florida's business rent tax. HB 7033 aims to "eliminate the aviation fuel tax, extends the local communications services tax free until 2031, and delays the effective date of natural gas fuel taxes."

**SB 1730 Affordable Housing** sponsored by Senator Calatayud passed off the Senate floor 36 to 0 which "strengthens the Live Local Act to create more affordable workforce housing options by limiting local government's ability to impose moratoriums and enforce regulations that would restrict the development of affordable housing and incentivize developers to build affordable housing for healthcare workers."

**HB 1309 Reading Interventions and Instruction** sponsored by Representative Snyder passed 117 to 0 off of the House floor. This bill aims to improve reading deficiencies and outcomes for grades Pre-K to third grade by focusing on interventions from fourth to twelfth grade.

**HB 681 Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship Program Funding** sponsored by Representative Melo passed 117 to 0 off the House floor. The bill will create a "structured and performance-based funding framework for Florida's apprenticeship ecosystem by tying funding to participation, performance, and high-demand occupations."

**HB 1367 School Attendance** sponsored by Representative Booth passed 116 to 0 off the House floor. This bill aims to address chronic absenteeism, based on a study that found a 10% point increase in absenteeism correlates with a 6.8% decrease in math proficiency.

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**SB 1574 Energy Infrastructure Investment** sponsored by Senator DiCeglie passed favorably and unanimously through all three committee stops and heads to the Senate floor next to be heard. This bill "promotes the development of renewable energy sources in Florida, which will increase energy independence, and incentivizes the development of additional energy sources, such as renewable gas, to support economic growth and sustainability"

That's it for this week's update, if you're interested in learning more about what's happening in Tallahassee I would recommend visiting the Florida House or Senate website, or the Florida Chamber's website.

Justin Taylor

Sources:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/7034>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/7033>

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

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1730>

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