

NEWSLETTER

Session Recap-Week Eight

March 2-6, 2026



THE NEWS

Committee weeks have officially concluded, marking an important milestone in the legislative session. During this time, the Senator presented eight bills in committee, seven of which successfully passed. Looking ahead, the Senator is scheduled to present five bills on the floor as they move into the next stage of the process. Over the coming week, Senators will meet in the chamber as legislation advances through its final stages, and the House and Senate will begin sending bills back and forth as each chamber considers the other's legislation. Our office will continue working closely with stakeholders to ensure our remaining bills are in the best possible posture as they move forward. At this point, there is still no update on the state budget.

BILLS UP THIS WEEK

SB 536 – Criteria for Determining Criminal Gang Membership

This bill updates how law enforcement determines whether someone qualifies as a criminal gang member. It revises the legal definition and adds the term “gang-related language,” expanding the types of evidence that may be used when identifying gang affiliation.

SB 762 – Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

This bill revises procedures for the Offices of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, which represent defendants when public defenders have conflicts of interest. It requires written notice to courts in certain situations and allows judges to appoint counsel from another region when necessary to ensure cases proceed efficiently.

SB 1296 – Public Employees Relations Commission

This proposal updates procedures for the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission, which oversees collective bargaining for public employees. It allows subpoenas to be served by certified mail or personal service and revises registration requirements for employee organizations.

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Bills Continued

SB 1298 – Public Records/Public Employees Relations Commission

This companion bill creates a public records exemption related to union representation. It would protect documents signed by employees showing they no longer wish to be represented by a certified bargaining agent, while also providing for future legislative review of the exemption.

SB 1332 – Career Offender Registration

This bill establishes additional identification requirements for individuals designated as career offenders. It requires a special marking on driver licenses or identification cards issued by the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and allows the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to access certain information for public notification purposes.



SB 1742 – INDECENT EXPOSURE OF SEXUAL ORGANS WHILE OBSERVING A CHILD

This legislation creates a new criminal offense for individuals who intentionally expose themselves in a lewd or inappropriate manner while observing a child under the age of 16. It also repeals an older statute addressing “unnatural and lascivious acts” and replaces it with updated language and penalties.

SB 1750 – SEXUAL OFFENSES

This bill updates criminal penalties and sentencing guidelines for certain sexual offenses, particularly those involving minors. It increases penalties for repeat offenders and strengthens state law related to the exploitation of children, with the goal of improving protections for minors.



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