

NEWSLETTER

Session Recap-Week Three

January 26-30, 2026



THE NEWS

This week, our office has engaged with a wide range of community leaders, organizations, and partners across Southwest Florida and beyond. We met with the Naples Chamber of Commerce, the City of Cape Coral, and the City of Fort Myers to discuss local priorities and economic development. We also connected with the Florida Gaming Commission, the Florida State Guard, and members of the Lee County 4-H Club to better understand key issues impacting public safety, youth programs, and state operations. The Senator joined the Independent Colleges of Florida in support of the EASE program, reinforcing a commitment to expanding educational opportunity. Additionally, staff met with the Alzheimer's Association, the Naples Jewish Federation, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, and many other community organizations to strengthen partnerships and ensure diverse voices are represented in the legislative process.

2026 SENATE BILLS

SB 1326 (2026) – Prosecution of Defendants

Clarifies mental illness as a criminal defense, strengthens competency evaluations, adjusts sentencing mitigation, and allows mental health treatment in criminal sentences.

SB 1332 (2026) – Career Offender Registration

Requires career offenders to obtain specially marked IDs, meet reporting requirements, and allows limited information sharing for public notification.

SB 1660 (2026) – Responsible Firearm Safety Awareness Month

Designates June as Responsible Firearm Safety Awareness Month and encourages firearm safety education and events.

SB 1734 (2026) - Juvenile Justice

Creates recognition programs for juvenile justice officers and limits when children in dependency cases may be placed in shelters.

SB 1742 (2026) - Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition

Updates the offense by requiring proof that the offender knew or should have known a minor was present.

SB 1750 (2026) - Criminal Sexual Conduct

Increases penalties and mandatory minimum sentences for repeat and child-related sexual offenses.

SB 192 - Patient Funds Held in Trust by Chiropractic Physicians

Removes limits on the amount of patient funds chiropractic physicians may hold in trust.

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Bills Continued

SB 888 (2026) - Professional Service Contracts

Clarifies indemnification, liability, and standards of care in contracts involving design professionals.

SB 1054 (2026) - Traffic Infractions Resulting in a Crash

Requires mandatory hearings and increased penalties for certain traffic violations that result in crashes.

SB 698 (2026) - Onsite Sewage Treatment Permits

Restricts local governments from requiring state sewage permits for certain residential construction approvals.

SB 892 (2026) - Habitual and Violent Felony Offenders

Revises offender classifications and court procedures for habitual and violent felony sentencing.



Education with EASE

Florida's Effective Access to Student Education (EASE) Grant helps make private colleges more affordable for Florida residents by reducing the tuition gap, while supporting enrollment growth and boosting degree completion across the state. Senator Martin, a Stetson University alumnus and recipient of a similar grant himself, recently spoke at a press conference highlighting the program's success in expanding access to higher education. He emphasized the grant's role in helping students achieve their educational goals, strengthening Florida's workforce, and ensuring that more talented students can stay in-state to live, learn, and contribute to the community.



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