

NEWSLETTER

Session Recap-Week Two

January 19-23, 2026



THE NEWS

We met with a wide range of community stakeholders, including members of the local arts community, local realtors, the Harry Chapin Food Bank, and the Small Business Development Center. On Tuesday, I joined the Clerks of Court on the Old Capitol Steps to thank them for their hard work within our justice system. We also connected with representatives from the Lodging and Restaurant Association. In addition, we spent time with local officials, including Mayor Mike Miller (Sanibel), Vice Mayor Holly Smith (Sanibel), Dana Souza (Sanibel), and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman, to discuss priorities and opportunities for the community. During this time, several bills were presented and successfully passed through their respective committees.

2026 SENATE BILLS

SB 698 (2026) – Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System Permits

This bill prohibits local governments from requiring certain homeowners and builders to obtain duplicative state environmental permits as a condition of receiving building or plumbing permits. Applicants must instead provide documentation demonstrating compliance with applicable requirements.

SB 890 (2026) – Felony Battery

This bill revises the statutory elements of battery by strangulation and domestic battery by strangulation. It also updates the offense's classification within Florida's criminal sentencing framework.

SB 892 (2026) – Habitual and Violent Offender Designation

This bill updates the definitions of habitual felony offenders and other violent offender classifications. It also revises court procedures used to determine eligibility for enhanced sentencing.

SB 928 (2026) - Mandatory Remand to Custody

This bill requires courts to immediately remand individuals convicted of specified dangerous crimes into custody. Defendants must remain in custody without bond until sentencing or further court proceedings are completed.

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Bills Continued

SB 1284 (2026) – Arrest and Search Warrants

This bill expands judicial discretion to issue summonses instead of arrest warrants for certain misdemeanor offenses. It also broadens the circumstances under which law enforcement may conduct warrantless arrests in specified cases.

SB 194 (2026) – Charlie Kirk Day of Remembrance

This bill designates October 14 of each year as “Charlie Kirk Day of Remembrance” in Florida. It authorizes the Governor to issue an annual proclamation recognizing the observance.

SB 192 (2026) - Patient Funds Held in Trust by Chiropractic Physicians

This bill removes the statutory limit on the amount of patient funds that chiropractic physicians may hold in trust for approved purposes. The change provides greater flexibility while maintaining existing trust requirements.



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What's Ahead

The coming week will bring continued momentum in the legislative process, with additional committee meetings and a full slate of bill presentations. We are looking forward to welcoming students and faculty for FGCU Day at the Capitol on Monday. We will also welcome many other local officials and constituents to the capital next week. With more bills moving onto agendas, the focus remains on policymaking, although the budget process will begin soon.

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