



The Arrington Articles

Legislative Session Week 8

Hello <<First Name>>>,

Week 8 of the 2026 Legislative Session has wrapped up, which means we have just **one week left** of the regular session.

Leadership in both the House and Senate have confirmed that the state budget will not be ready by the March 13 deadline. We are continuing to work through the details and negotiations to finalize a budget that supports communities across Florida.

I was also proud to present **CS/HB 559** this week, which passed the Senate floor unanimously and is now headed to the Governor's desk.

What this bill does:

- Creates a third-degree felony for anyone who commits animal cruelty in the presence of a minor or entices a minor to participate in an act of animal cruelty.
- Requires juveniles convicted of animal cruelty or aggravated animal cruelty to undergo a court-ordered psychological evaluation and treatment.
- Amends Florida Statute to empower local governments to levy fines up to \$2,500 for a first offense, \$5,000 for a second offense, and \$7,500 for a third or subsequent offense of local animal cruelty ordinances.

- Expands the statewide public database of animal abusers, established under Dexter’s Law, to include additional identifying information such as the offender’s date of birth, county of conviction, and arrest photo.

PARA ESPAÑOL

Weekly Question

Do you feel connected to the resources available in your local community?

Yes

No

Intern Spotlight



KRISTEN ARRINGTON
Florida Senate District 25

MEET OUR SPRING DISTRICT INTERN!

Cayden Ryder

Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Pre-Law Track
University of Central Florida
Class of 2028

@Arrington4FL

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A promotional graphic for a district intern. It features a blue background with a faint image of a building. At the top right is the name 'KRISTEN ARRINGTON' and 'Florida Senate District 25'. Below that is the text 'MEET OUR SPRING DISTRICT INTERN!'. A circular photo of Cayden Ryder is framed by a yellow ribbon with her name. Below the photo is her degree information: 'Bachelor of Science in Political Science, Pre-Law Track, University of Central Florida, Class of 2028'. At the bottom is the social media handle '@Arrington4FL' and icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Cayden is a sophomore at the University of Central Florida



KRISTEN ARRINGTON
Florida Senate District 25

MEET OUR SPRING TALLAHASSEE INTERN!

Mikaela Sierra

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration
University of Central Florida
Class of 2026

@Arrington4FL

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A promotional graphic for a Tallahassee intern. It features a yellow background with a faint image of a building. At the top right is the name 'KRISTEN ARRINGTON' and 'Florida Senate District 25'. Below that is the text 'MEET OUR SPRING TALLAHASSEE INTERN!'. A circular photo of Mikaela Sierra is framed by a blue ribbon with her name. Below the photo is her degree information: 'Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Administration, University of Central Florida, Class of 2026'. At the bottom is the social media handle '@Arrington4FL' and icons for Facebook, X, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

Mikaela is a senior at the University of Central Florida

who is joining our office as a Spring 2026 District Intern. He hopes to attend law school and is eager to gain hands on experience learning about the legislative process and public service.

and a Legislative Scholar who was matched with our office this semester. She is passionate about public service and hopes to continue building a career in the public sector.

Floor Updates



CS/HB 559 passed the Senate floor unanimously, sending this legislation to the Governor's desk!

This important bill strengthens protections for both children and animals by increasing penalties when acts of animal cruelty are committed in the presence of a minor or when a child is forced to participate. By addressing this intersection of violence, the legislation helps protect young people from trauma while ensuring those who commit these acts are held accountable.

CLICK [HERE](#) TO TRACK BILLS

Good Bills

SB 1574 focuses on improving early detection and health outcomes for Florida's newborns. I am proud to join all my colleagues in co-sponsoring this very good bill.

Also known as "Mattie's Law," this legislation expands newborn screening to help identify biliary atresia, a rare but serious liver condition in infants. Detecting the condition earlier allows families and doctors to begin treatment sooner and significantly improve outcomes.

District Updates



Members of #TeamArrington were proud to join residents, community leaders, and local partners at the Hunter's Creek 40th Anniversary Celebration this weekend. From its strong neighborhood spirit to its commitment to community engagement, Hunter's Creek continues to be a place where families thrive and neighbors support one another.

Congratulations on 40 incredible years, and here's to many more!

Helpful Links

Visit www.flsenate.gov to "find your Senator" and to sign up for alerts on specific legislation, committees, senators, or keywords

To view our Legislative page which includes our office contact information, sponsored legislation, along with the committees I

serve on: <https://bit.ly/Arrington25>

Don't forget to sign up for our email updates: [Here](#)

Follow on all social channels [@Arrington4fl](#)

Watch committees or legislative session live or afterwards at www.TheFloridaChannel.org



It is an honor to serve as your voice in Tallahassee and represent Central Florida. Thank you for the trust you place in me. If you have any questions or need assistance, our office is always here to help.

Senator Kristen Arrington



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