



Journal of the Senate

Number 2—Special Session C

Thursday, February 13, 2025

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CALL TO ORDER

The Senate was called to order by President Albritton at 9:00 a.m. A quorum present—37:

Mr. President	DiCeglie	Pizzo
Arrington	Fine	Polsky
Avila	Gaetz	Rodriguez
Berman	Garcia	Rouson
Bernard	Gruters	Sharief
Boyd	Harrell	Simon
Bradley	Hooper	Smith
Brodeur	Ingoglia	Truenow
Burgess	Leek	Trumbull
Burton	Martin	Wright
Calatayud	McClain	Yarborough
Collins	Osgood	
Davis	Passidomo	

Excused: Senators Grall, Jones, and Thompson

PRAYER

The following prayer was offered by Senator Rouson:

O Lord, in love thine ear bow down. Hear thy people pray. May that love that knows no bounds upon us be this day.

Heavenly Father, we come before you with gratitude, recognizing that each day is a gift. Thank you for the breath in our lungs, the strength in our bodies, and the purpose you have placed in our hearts. This morning, through your grace, we woke up in the land of the living, and for that we give you thanks.

Thank you for every person gathered here today, each with unique experiences, perspectives, and a shared commitment to serve. We ask that your presence fill this chamber—guiding our minds, tempering our spirits, and inspiring our actions.

You have entrusted us with the responsibility to lead—we do not take that lightly. The people of Florida have elected us, but you have appointed us for such a time as this. Order our steps and our stops, that we may lead with wisdom, humility, and justice. Let our debates be passionate but respectful, rooted in truth rather than division. Remove any spirit of hostility or personal attacks, and instead, cultivate in us a spirit of collaboration, where differences sharpen our vision rather than cloud it.

Give us courage to challenge complacency, boldness to stand on principle, and discernment to know when to listen. May we never lose sight of the great commandments—to love you and to love our neighbor.

Remind us that while we may sit on different sides of the aisle, we all stand accountable to you. Help us to lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and seek the good of all Floridians.

You know us all. You love us all. Help us to extend that same love to one another. We ask all these things in the many names by which we know you, and the chamber said, “Amen.”

PLEDGE

Senator Davis led the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

At the request of Senator Boyd, the Senate observed a moment of silence in memory of former Senator Tom Gallen, who passed away February 5, 2025. During his time in the Senate, Senator Gallen represented Senate District 24 from 1972-1978 and served in the House of Representatives from 1967-1972.

SPECIAL ORDER CALENDAR

SM 6-C—A memorial to the Secretary of Homeland Security urging the United States Department of Homeland Security to provide guidance and training opportunities for 287(g) agreements.

—was read the second time by title. On motion by Senator Gruters, **SM 6-C** was adopted and certified to the House.

SB 4-C—A bill to be entitled An act relating to immigration; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; creating s. 811.101, F.S.; defining the terms “removal” and “unauthorized alien”; creating s. 811.102, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for adult unauthorized aliens who knowingly enter or attempt to enter this state after entering the United States by eluding or avoiding examination or inspection by immigration officers; providing a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment; providing enhanced criminal penalties for second or subsequent convictions; providing mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment; prohibiting the arrest of unauthorized aliens under specified circumstances; providing affirmative defenses; requiring a court to presume that no conditions of release can reasonably assure the presence of an unauthorized alien arrested for certain violations at trial and to order the detention of such an unauthorized alien arrested for such a violation pending disposition of the case; specifying that such aliens are not eligible for any civil citation or other prearrest or post-arrest diversion program; requiring the arresting law enforcement agency to notify certain entities of the unauthorized alien’s arrest; creating s. 811.103, F.S.; providing criminal penalties for an adult unauthorized alien who, after having been denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed or having departed the United States during the time an order of exclusion, deportation, or removal is outstanding, thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or is at any time found in this state; providing exceptions; providing a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment; providing enhanced criminal penalties for an unauthorized alien whose arrest for such violations was after convictions for the commission of specified offenses; requiring a court to presume that no conditions of release can reasonably assure the presence of an unauthorized alien arrested for certain violations at trial and to order the detention of such an unauthorized alien arrested for such a violation

pending disposition of the case; specifying that such aliens are not eligible for any civil citation or other prearrest or postarrest diversion program; requiring the arresting law enforcement agency to notify certain entities of the unauthorized alien's arrest; creating s. 921.1426, F.S.; requiring a court to sentence a defendant who is an unauthorized alien and who is convicted or adjudicated guilty of a capital felony to a sentence of death; defining the term "unauthorized alien"; providing an effective date.

SENATOR BRODEUR PRESIDING

—was read the second time by title. On motion by Senator Gruters, by two-thirds vote, **SB 4-C** was read the third time by title, passed, and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—25

Mr. President	DiCeglie	McClain
Avila	Fine	Passidomo
Boyd	Gaetz	Simon
Bradley	Gruters	Truenow
Brodeur	Harrell	Trumbull
Burgess	Hooper	Wright
Burton	Ingoglia	Yarborough
Calatayud	Leek	
Collins	Martin	

Nays—11

Arrington	Garcia	Rouson
Berman	Osgood	Sharief
Bernard	Pizzo	Smith
Davis	Polsky	

Vote after roll call:

Yea—Rodriguez

SB 2-C—A bill to be entitled An act relating to immigration; creating s. 104.155, F.S.; providing that certain persons who vote in an election are guilty of a felony; prohibiting certain defenses from being raised; providing that a person who takes certain actions with specified knowledge is guilty of a felony; amending ss. 319.001 and 320.01, F.S.; defining the term "valid passport"; amending s. 322.02, F.S.; providing legislative intent; amending s. 322.033, F.S.; providing legislative intent; prohibiting the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles from issuing a driver license or identification card to unauthorized aliens and undocumented immigrants; amending s. 322.08, F.S.; revising the types of documents that may be used as proof of identity for certain purposes; amending s. 322.121, F.S.; revising an exception to the requirements for designation as a "Safe Driver"; amending s. 322.19, F.S.; requiring a person who has become a citizen of the United States to obtain specified replacement documents within a certain time; creating s. 775.0824, F.S.; providing legislative intent; defining the terms "dangerous unauthorized alien offender" and "unauthorized alien"; requiring a state attorney to seek to have the court sentence certain persons as dangerous unauthorized alien offenders; providing sentencing requirements; providing construction; amending s. 775.0848, F.S.; providing for the reclassification of certain penalties for offenses committed by an unauthorized alien; amending s. 874.03, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "criminal gang"; defining the term "transnational crime organization"; amending s. 895.02, F.S.; revising the definition of the term "racketeering activity"; amending s. 903.046, F.S.; expanding the criteria the court must consider when making bail determinations; amending s. 907.041, F.S.; revising legislative intent; revising requirements for release on nonmonetary conditions; expanding circumstances a pretrial release service must certify they have investigated; defining the terms "forcible felony" and "unauthorized alien"; providing that an unauthorized alien who is arrested for committing a forcible felony is not eligible for release under certain conditions; authorizing a defendant to request a continuance if certain conditions are met; amending s. 908.102, F.S.; revising the definition of "sanctuary policy";

creating s. 908.1031, F.S.; creating the State Board of Immigration Enforcement within the Department of Law Enforcement; providing board membership, powers, and duties; providing reporting requirements; authorizing the board to adopt rules; requiring the department to provide administrative support to the board; creating s. 908.1032, F.S.; creating the State Immigration Enforcement Council within the State Board of Immigration Enforcement for a specified purpose; providing membership and meeting requirements; providing council duties; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to provide administrative support to the council; creating s. 908.1033, F.S.; creating the Local Law Enforcement Immigration Grant Program within the State Board of Immigration Enforcement for a certain purpose; providing requirements for the application and awarding of grants; providing for rulemaking; amending s. 908.104, F.S.; revising agencies and persons who must use best efforts to support the enforcement of federal immigration law; providing that certain entities may not prohibit or restrict a law enforcement officer from performing certain actions; requiring specified parties to provide certain information to a federal immigration agency; expanding the criteria for receiving a certain exemption; revising applicability; amending s. 908.105, F.S.; providing additional requirements for law enforcement agencies that have custody of specified persons; requiring the Attorney General to initiate judicial proceedings in the name of the state in order to enforce compliance with an immigration detainer issued by a federal immigration agency; providing penalties; prohibiting public funds from being used to defend or reimburse certain persons for specified unlawful conduct; amending s. 908.107, F.S.; specifying that certain officers are subject to suspension from office; amending s. 908.11, F.S.; revising the entities required to enter into certain agreements with the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; requiring the State Board of Immigration Enforcement to approve the termination of an agreement; revising construction; requiring entities that do not enter into such agreements by a specified date to take certain actions; creating s. 908.13, F.S.; creating the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program within the Division of Emergency Management within the Executive Office of the Governor for a specified purpose; providing program requirements; providing for future repeal; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.; ranking an offense created by the act on the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code; amending s. 1009.26, F.S.; revising eligibility for certain fee waivers; requiring students receiving such a waiver be reevaluated for eligibility beginning on a certain date; repealing s. 1 of chapter 2023-3, Laws of Florida, which creates the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program; authorizing the State Board of Immigration Enforcement to adopt certain rules; providing for future expiration; providing legislative findings; providing appropriations; authorizing positions; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision; providing effective dates.

—was read the second time by title.

THE PRESIDENT PRESIDING

Pursuant to Rule 7.1, there being no objection, consideration of the following late-filed amendment was allowed:

Senator Pizzo moved the following amendment:

Amendment 1 (885906) (with title amendment)—Between lines 325 and 326 insert:

Section 9. Paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of section 448.095, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

448.095 Employment eligibility.—

(2) EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION.—

(b)1. A public agency shall use the E-Verify system to verify a new employee's employment eligibility as required under paragraph (a).

2. Beginning on July 1, 2025 ~~2023~~, a private employer ~~with 25 or more employees~~ shall use the E-Verify system to verify a new employee's employment eligibility as required under paragraph (a).

3. Each employer ~~required to use the E-Verify system under this paragraph~~ must certify on its first return each calendar year to the tax service provider that it is in compliance with this section when making contributions to or reimbursing the state's unemployment compensation or reemployment assistance system. ~~An employer that voluntarily uses the E-Verify system may also make such a certification on its first return each calendar year in order to document such use.~~

And the title is amended as follows:

Between lines 21 and 22 insert: amending s. 448.095, F.S.; requiring that all private employers, rather than only those employing a specified number or more of employees, use the E-Verify system to verify a new employee's employment eligibility beginning on a specified date; conforming provisions to changes made by the act;

POINT OF ORDER

Senator Gruters raised a point of order that **Amendment 1 (885906)** was outside the purview of the special session proclamation, and the amendment was therefore out of order. The President referred the point of order and pending **Amendment 1 (885906)** to Senator Passidomo, Chair of the Committee on Rules.

RULING ON POINT OF ORDER

On recommendation by Senator Passidomo, Chair of the Committee on Rules, after reviewing the amendment and the proclamation, pending **Amendment 1 (885906)** did not fall within the purview of the proclamation. Pursuant to Article III, Section 3(c) of the Florida Constitution, during any special session convened by the proclamation, only such legislative business may be considered as falls within the proclamation. The President accepted the recommendation of the Rules Chair and ruled the point well taken. The amendment was ruled out of order.

Pursuant to Rule 7.1, there being no objection, consideration of the following late-filed amendment was allowed:

Senator Pizzo moved the following amendment which failed:

Amendment 2 (682278) (with title amendment)—Delete line 1152 and insert:
eligibility beginning July 1, 2025. Any student, at the time of the effective date of this act, enrolled at a state university, Florida College System institution, career center operated by a school district under s. 1001.44, Florida Statutes, or charter technical career center who has been granted a fee waiver pursuant to s. 1009.26(12), Florida Statutes, before the effective date of this act, may continue to pursue his or her current degree or certificate under such fee waiver for a maximum of 4 years.

And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 103 and insert: eligibility beginning on a certain date; requiring that the reevaluation allow students enrolled in certain institutions to continue to pursue their degrees or certificates under a fee waiver for a specified timeframe; repealing s.

The vote was:

Yeas—14

Arrington	Davis	Rodriguez
Berman	Garcia	Rouson
Bernard	Osgood	Sharief
Bradley	Pizzo	Smith
Calatayud	Polsky	

Nays—22

Mr. President	Gaetz	Passidomo
Avila	Gruters	Simon
Boyd	Harrell	Truenow
Burgess	Hooper	Trumbull
Burton	Ingoglia	Wright
Collins	Leek	Yarborough
DiCeglie	Martin	
Fine	McClain	

SENATOR BRODEUR PRESIDING

THE PRESIDENT PRESIDING

On motion by Senator Gruters, by two-thirds vote, **SB 2-C** was read the third time by title, passed, and certified to the House. The vote on passage was:

Yeas—27

Mr. President	DiCeglie	Martin
Avila	Fine	McClain
Boyd	Gaetz	Passidomo
Bradley	Garcia	Rodriguez
Brodeur	Gruters	Simon
Burgess	Harrell	Truenow
Burton	Hooper	Trumbull
Calatayud	Ingoglia	Wright
Collins	Leek	Yarborough

Nays—10

Arrington	Osgood	Sharief
Berman	Pizzo	Smith
Bernard	Polsky	
Davis	Rouson	

MOMENT OF SILENCE

At the request of Senator Polsky, the Senate observed a moment of silence honoring and remembering the 14 students and 3 teachers whose lives were lost 7 years ago on February 14, 2018, as well as the 7 individuals who were grievously injured at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Committee on Appropriations recommends the following pass: SB 2-C; SB 4-C; SM 6-C

The bills were placed on the Calendar.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RETURNING MESSAGES — FINAL ACTION

The Honorable Ben Albritton, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed SB 2-C.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Ben Albritton, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed SB 4-C.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

The Honorable Ben Albritton, President

I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted SM 6-C.

Jeff Takacs, Clerk

The bill contained in the foregoing message was ordered enrolled.

ENROLLING REPORTS

SB 2-C and SB 4-C have been enrolled, signed by the required constitutional officers, and presented to the Governor on February 13, 2025.

Tracy C. Cantella, Secretary

SM 6-C has been enrolled, signed by the required constitutional officers, and filed with the Secretary of State on February 13, 2025.

Tracy C. Cantella, Secretary

CORRECTION AND APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

The Journal of February 11 was corrected and approved.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Senator Passidomo, the Senate adjourned at 11:49 a.m. for the purpose of holding committee meetings and conducting other Senate business to reconvene upon call of the President.

JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

**Daily Numeric Index for
February 13, 2025**

BA — Bill Action
BF — Bill Failed
BP — Bill Passed
CO — Co-Introducers
CR — Committee Report
CS — Committee Substitute, First Reading

FR — First Reading
MO — Motion
RC — Reference Change
SM — Special Master Reports
SO — Bills on Special Orders

SB 2-C (BA) 8, (BP) 9, (CR) 9 **SM 6-C** (BA) 7, (BP) 7, (CR) 9
SB 4-C (BA) 7, (BP) 8, (CR) 9