



There's a new name for influence.

Florida Legislative Session Week 1 Update



We are committed in keeping you informed and updated throughout Legislative Session. We are excited to announce that we will be sharing

weekly videos. Check out the latest video here to see how we are [looking ahead](#).

Governor Ron DeSantis kicked off the 2020 Legislative Session with this [State of the State](#) address and urged lawmakers to continue to build on the state's strong foundations of environmental protection, educational opportunities, fiscal health, and health care reform. The Governor rolled out an agenda of low taxes and increased environmental funding. He placed special emphasis on education in hopes of attracting and keeping excellent teachers.

Governor DeSantis recommended setting a minimum salary for public school teachers at \$47,500, which will put Florida second in the nation and encourage college graduates to become teachers and to stay in the state. He also proposed a bonus program for existing teachers who performed at a high level. In addition to teacher salaries, both Senate President Galvano and Speaker Oliva said they were working toward a significant proposal that could also accommodate wage increases in other critical areas.

The upcoming months present the Florida Legislature with the opportunity to provide the state with a strong foundation while entering a new decade.

Education

This week thousands of teachers were in Tallahassee to rally for education funding. Previously, Governor DeSantis has proposed spending close to a

billion dollars to raise the state's starting teacher pay, and to revamp the teacher bonus program. However, Florida teachers marched on the Capitol asking for a 10% across the board raise for all classroom teachers and school staff. Governor DeSantis continues to support his budget request to increase funding in order to recruit and retain teachers by raising the starting teacher salary and revamping the teacher bonus program. Education was one of the main highlights of the Governor's State of the State address. In addition to teacher compensation, the Governor discussed vocational education, educational choice, accountability, and a renewed emphasis on American civics and the U.S. Constitution.

Financial Services

It's been a busy week as legislation began being discussed and bills continued to be filed. Taxes and fees have made multiple appearances in filed bills ranging from tax exemptions to authorization on what collected tax revenues may be spent on.

Health Care

House Speaker José Oliva also made his intentions clear of continuing his legacy of reforming the health care industry, striking out specifically at hospitals, medical device makers, and drug manufacturers. This past week's committee action has laid the ground work for some of that health care reform, with various pieces of key legislation working their way through the process, including bills addressing the use of genetic testing for insurance purposes, creating recovery care centers, repealing the ban on specialty

hospitals, and modernizing assisted living facility statutes.

Hemp/Marijuana

There are several hemp and cannabis measures filed this year, many with divergent goals. As with every session, small changes in law will likely have massive impacts in the industry. The two biggest storylines are if any of the cannabis measures get momentum while the Supreme Court is reviewing the Florigrown case and if Commissioner Fried's hemp glitch bill can set the industry on the fast track.

Local Government

This week we saw dozens of appropriations and policy bills - from administration to community development - move through the process. In addition to legislative activity, HUD released its allocation of CDBR-Disaster Recovery funds to assist communities recovering from major disasters in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Technology

Technology will continue to play a key role in the administration's priorities as the primary means by which new policies and practices are implemented. Companion bills emerged Monday calling for the partial reorganization of the recently created Division of State Technology, separating out the Division of Telecommunications and standing up a new Florida Digital Service. We'll be watching these bills closely as they travel through the process. In addition, multiple public records exemption bills

designed to ensure the safety and security of the state's information security infrastructure passed out of their first committees of reference.

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