

COATES LAW FIRM, PL
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

HAND DELIVERED

RICHARD E. COATES

MASON COATES*

*LICENSED IN FLORIDA AND TENNESSEE

115 EAST PARK AVENUE, SUITE 1
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301
(850) 681-1029
FAX: (208) 248-9038

FLORIDA
COMMISSION ON ETHICS
JAN 17 2025

RECEIVED

January 17, 2025

Chairman Luis Fuste
Florida Commission on Ethics
325 John Knox Road
Building E, Suite 200
Tallahassee, FL 32303

Re: Randall Fine, Case No.:22-079

Via Hand Delivery

Dear Chairman Fuste:

Our firm represents Senator Randall Fine. We have previously filed a Notice of Appearance. Enclosed is a Notice of Legislative Continuance under Section 11.111, Florida Statutes.

I was only able to discover the Commission's Public Report and Order Dismissing Certain Allegations in the above listed Complaint scheduled to be heard January 24, 2025, on the public section of the Commission's website.

As of this writing, our firm, and therefore Senator Fine, has yet to be provided a notice of such proposed administrative action.

Nonetheless, upon the filing of the attached Notice, the matter scheduled for January 24, 2025, is continued by operation of law and no action may be taken.

If you have any questions, let me know.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Coates

Attorney for Senator Randall Fine

Cc: Millie Fulford, Complaint Coordinator

**STATE OF FLORIDA
FLORIDA COMMISSION ON ETHICS**

In Re: Randall Fine

Complaint No. 22-079

**NOTICE OF LEGISLATIVE CONTINUANCE
UNDER SECTION 11.111, FLORIDA STATUTES**

Senator Randall Fine, through the undersigned counsel Richard E. Coates hereby invokes the automatic continuance provision of Section 11.111, Florida Statutes, and gives notice that this proceeding stands continued. Senator Fine further states as follows:

1. On January 7, 2025, the Commission filed and published on its website that it intends to hear a Public Report and Order Dismissing Certain Allegations concerning Senator Fine.
2. Senator Fine is a current member of the Florida Senate. The Florida Legislature will convene for a Special Session beginning on January 27, 2025, and the Special Session is scheduled to continue through January 31, 2025. See Exhibit I (Governor's Proclamation).
3. Section 11.111, Florida Statutes, requires that, upon notice by a legislator in administrative proceeding before the agency in which the legislator is a party "shall stand continued without the continuance being charged against such party, during any session of the Legislature and for a period of 15 days prior to such session of the Legislature and 15 days subsequent to the conclusion of any session of the Legislature, and during any period of required committee work and for a period of

time 1 day prior and 1 day subsequent thereto,” when the legislator provides notice to the agency. The immunity granted is effective upon filing this notice with the Commission.

4. Senator Fine reserves the right to assert any objections to the Commission’s proposed action.
5. Included also in this Notice are [REDACTED] or any other matter concerning Senator Fine.

WHEREFORE, under Section 11.111, Florida Statutes, the proposed action of the Commission concerning Randall Fine and the matters referenced in paragraph 5, above, are continued by operation of law, and without further order of the Commission on Ethics.

Dated: January 17, 2025

Respectfully submitted,



RICHARD E. COATES
Florida Bar No. 0930032
Coates Law Firm, PL
115 East Park Avenue, Suite 1
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
Office:(850) 681-1029 Fax:(850) 681-7080
rc@coateslaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR RESPONDENT
SENATOR RANDALL FINE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 17th day of January, 2025, a true copy of this notice was emailed to Melody Hadley, Commission Advocate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. E. Coates", written over a horizontal line.

Richard E. Coates

PROCLAMATION

STATE OF FLORIDA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
TALLAHASSEE

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE
AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution permits the Governor to convene the Legislature in Special Session during which only such legislative business may be transacted as is within the purview of this Proclamation, or of a communication from the Governor, or as is introduced by consent of two-thirds of the membership of each house of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution limits the duration of a Special Session to twenty (20) consecutive days; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida is experiencing a wide range of issues that require immediate attention; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's open border policies under Joe Biden have caused an unprecedented increase of illegal immigration into the United States, including Florida, which has resulted in massive costs and other adverse impacts to the American people; and

WHEREAS, the federal government's policies demonstrate a brazen disregard for the rule of law and pose a threat to public safety; and

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2024, the American people elected Donald J. Trump as the 47th President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, President-Elect Trump will be inaugurated on January 20, 2025, and has conveyed plans to immediately address the Biden border crisis; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida will play an important role in supporting the Trump administration and must be fully prepared with sufficient resources; and

WHEREAS, the Florida condominium market continues to face challenges including soaring costs related to assessments, repairs, and inspections; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Legislature to address these challenges to ensure that Florida residents can continue to afford to live in their homes; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, Florida experienced significant natural disasters causing wide-spread disruption to the agricultural industry; and

WHEREAS, these disruptions have revealed several needs within the agricultural industry and the communities highly affected by the agricultural industry that necessitates immediate legislative action; and

WHEREAS, the integrity of the election process is of critical importance; and

WHEREAS, the Department of State has identified several instances of fraud in the citizen initiative petition process the past election cycle; and

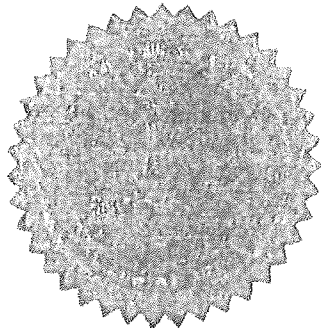
WHEREAS, both in-state and out-of-state organizations exploited loopholes in the citizen initiative petition process; and

WHEREAS, the loopholes need to be immediately closed and the citizens' initiative petition process needs to be strengthened to ensure the integrity of our election process;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RON DESANTIS, Governor of the State of Florida, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by Article III, Section 3(c)(1) of the Florida Constitution, do hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1: The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened in Special Session commencing at 9:00 a.m., Monday, January 27, and extending no later than 11:59 p.m., Friday, January 31, 2025.

Section 2: The Legislature of the State of Florida is convened in Special Session for the sole and exclusive purpose of considering legislation and appropriations relating to (a) combating illegal immigration, (b) condominium regulation, (c) agricultural relief in response to natural disasters, (d) replenishing the My Safe Florida Home program, and (e) citizens' initiative petition process.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed to this Proclamation convening the Legislature in Special Session at the Capitol, this 13th day of January, 2025.

RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR

ATTEST

SECRETARY OF STATE