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The Delegation Digest 2019 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Session Week 2 March 11-15, 2019

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Week Recap

The second week of Session 2019 was a week of committee meetings and full session in both chambers . The House and the Senate heard bills for final passage, one of which was SB 182 Medical Use of Marijuana. This bill repealed the state's ban on smokable medical marijuana and it is now on its way to the governor for his signature.



Member Highlights

On Thursday, Representative Mike Caruso passed HB 369 – Substance Abuse Services unanimously out of the House Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee. The bill's purpose is to provide even greater protection for those individuals in rehabilitation and sober home living while expanding the definition of community housing, thereby putting more operators under the jurisdiction of this statute in order to weed out additional bad actors in the industry.

This bill is a continuation of progress from the Palm Beach County Sober Homes Task Force, led by State Attorney Dave Aronberg that has uncovered evidence of patient brokering, insurance fraud, human trafficking, forced labor and sexual abuse.

The bill now moves on to its next committee stop, Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.



Representative Mike Caruso presents HB369-Substance Abuse Services

Bills and Policy

Many of the delegation members had substantive bills heard in committee this week. I have noted them here with links to a bill summary:

[Monday, March 11](#)

[Senate Bill 1136 - The Florida Senate](#) by Senator Harrell

[SB 1124 Dispensing Medicinal Drugs](#) by Senator Harrell

[SB 1126 Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel](#) by Senator Harrell

[SB 838 Public Records/Mental Health Treatment and Services](#)

by Senator Powell

[SB 900 Substance Abuse Services](#) by Senator Harrell

Tuesday, March 12

[HB 595 Alcohol or Drug Overdose Prosecutions](#) by Representative Silvers

[HB 687 Automated Pharmacy Systems](#) by Representative Willhite

[HB 515 Licensure of Unarmed Security Guards](#) by Representative Willhite

[SB 498 Fire Safety and Prevention](#) by Senator Powell

[SB 198 Trademark Classifications](#) by Senator Berman

[SB 368 Land Acquisition Trust Fund](#) by Senator Harrell

[SB 844 At-Risk Adult Alert Plan](#) by Senator Berman

[HB 601 Public Records](#) by Representative Roth

Wednesday, March 13

[HB 613 Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement](#) by Representative Roth

[HB 615 Campaign Finance](#) by Representative Roth

[HB 983 Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services](#) by Representative Casello

Thursday, March 14

[SB 188 Department of Health](#) by Senator Harrell

Local Bills

Rep. Matt Willhite's local bill, HB 901 - City of West Palm Beach, was heard on Wednesday in its first committee of reference, the House Local, Federal, & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. The West Palm Beach Firefighter's Pension Fund receives tax revenue under the Clayton Act, a special act by the Florida Legislature. So as such, must meet statutory requirements to maintain its eligibility. This bill would increase the minimum benefit accrual factor to the

statutory minimum of 2.75%, adjust the plan's assumed investment rate of return from 8% to 7.5%, and finally, revise the claims appeals process to extend board action deadlines and allow the plan administrator to tape and maintain hearings.

Appropriations

This was again a busy week for appropriations. Eighteen of our delegation member bills were heard. The following delegation sponsored bills passed favorably out of committee:

Monday, March 11

[HB 2117 Pahokee 1st Street Stormwater Improvements](#) by Representative Polsky

[HB 2575 Belle Glade NW 3rd Street Corridor Stormwater Conveyance Improvements](#) by Representative Polsky

[HB 2883 Delray Beach Atlantic Dunes Park Phase 2](#) by Representative Caruso

[HB 2931 Lake Clarke Shores - Septic to Sewer Design Project](#) by Representative Silvers

[HB 3047 Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation Project](#) by Representative Willhite

[HB 3329 Florida Caregiving Youth Pilot Project](#) by Representative Caruso

[HB 4437 Plumosa Park Roadway Project Phase I](#) by Representative Jacquet

[HB 4449 Transportation Disadvantaged Discounted Bus Passes - Palm Beach County](#) by Representative Willhite

Tuesday, March 12

[HB 2229 J.W. Corbett Levee](#) by Representative Roth

[HB 2005 Rales Rides - Senior Transportation Program](#) by Representative Slosberg

[HB 4543 Town of Loxahatchee Groves North Road Equestrian Trail](#) by Representative Willhite

[HB 4927 Everglades Restoration Workforce Training Program](#) by Representative Polsky

Wednesday, March 13

[HB 2445 Federation Transportation Services](#) by Representative Silvers

[HB 2045 School Based Mental Health Pilot Project](#) by Representative Silvers

[HB 3113 Belle Glade Community Impact Scholars - Robotics Coaches](#) by Representative Polsky

Thursday, March 14

[HB 2233: Florida Atlantic University - A.D. Henderson University Lab School](#) by
Representative Caruso

[HB 3357: Boca Raton Habilitation Center - Adults with Disabilities \(AWD\)](#) by
Representative Willhite

[HB 4539 The Lord's Place - Job Training and Reentry Center](#) by Representative Silvers

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organization.

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District 82

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District 86

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District 87

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District 88

Mike Caruso
District 89

Joseph "Joe" Casello
District 90

Emily Slosberg
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