

Pulse in Tallahassee

Florida State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81
Session Preview, 2019

Dear Friends,

The state legislative session is set to begin on March 5, 2019. This 60 day session is a whirlwind, where the state legislature will be tasked with balancing the budget and shepherding new legislation. I will be publishing the *Pulse in Tallahassee* on a weekly basis to keep you informed on the status of legislation, the budget, and other important decisions being made throughout the session.

As a State Representative, I am allowed to file six bills for consideration. The following are the bills that I have presented to the Florida State Legislature for consideration:



Rep. Polsky speaking on HB 1025 at a press conference in February.



Rep. Polsky and Mom's Demand Action Members.

- **House Bill 121, Instructional Personnel Salaries**—This bill would require a minimum salary of \$50,000 for teachers throughout Florida.
- **House Bill 353, Housing Trust Funds**—This bill would require that any sweep of the Affordable Housing Trust funds be repaid in 5 years and that a report be created to indicate what the swept funds were used for.
- **House Bill 1013, Suspension or Revocation of Driver Licenses**—This bill would remove Driver's License suspension as a penalty in certain non-vehicular crimes, including but not limited to worthless checks and failure to pay court fees.
- **House Bill 1025, Sale, Transfer, or Storage of**

Firearms—This new law would require that guns be stored safely at all times and that a safety and storage manual be given to a purchaser of a firearm.

- **House Bill 1221, Anchored Vessels**—This bill would call for the appropriation of a study by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to understand the impacts of long-term stored vessels. It is hoped that this study will help create legislation that will curb the number of derelict vessels in state waters that cause economic and environmental issues.
- **House Bill 1329, Hemp Production Program Fees**—Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried has chosen to make the creation of the Hemp Production Program one of her priorities this year. This bill creates a registration fee for the new Hemp Production program under the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.



Rep. Polsky and students from the Palm Beach State Belle Glade Campus.



Rep. Polsky and FAU students and faculty members during FAU Day at the Capitol.

The Florida State Legislature's number one priority during the Legislative Session is creating a balanced budget. Florida's budget is approximately \$89 billion and funds a variety of projects and programs. Throughout the session the appropriations subcommittees will be hearing and approving or denying projects that will later become a part of the state budget. I sit on the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee which has been hard at work vetting the large list of projects for consideration. The budget will not be voted on until the end of session. For District 81, I have submitted 18 different projects ranging from environmental, economic development and charitable causes, which will benefit the entire district.

In addition to the budget, here are some hot button topics that I anticipate that we will tackle this session:

- **The Environment**—This has been quite a hot topic over the last couple of sessions. This year there have been bills to ban plastic bags (SB 562), create a bottle deposit (HB 853) and several appropriations requests for water projects.
- **Election Reform**—Given the nature of the 2018 election, legislators on both sides of the aisle are hoping to correct some of the issues that were faced throughout the state. The Democratic Caucus has banded together to file a comprehensive elections bill, that is being sponsored by Representative Geraldine Thompson.
- **Gun Reform**—A host of gun reform bills have been filed this session, including a ban on assault weapons (HB 455), universal background checks (HB 654), and modifications to concealed carry requirements (HB 753).



Rep. Polsky and members of the Alzheimer's Association

These are just some of the topics that will be discussed this session. You can track any legislation that is moving through the legislature on the Florida House's website, www.MyFloridaHouse.gov, or feel free to reach out to my office with questions about any legislation moving through the process.

Sincerely,

Representative Tina Polsky

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