

Pulse in Tallahassee

Florida State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81
Session Week #3
March 18-22, 2019

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are nearly half way through the 2019 Legislative Session. Week three of the legislative session brought several important bills forward, including my bill, HB 1221, Anchored Vessels.

I was visited by several local organizations including the Palm Beach County Realtors Association, PBC Transportation Association, and Florida Educators Association. I greatly look forward to meeting with many more organizations throughout the remainder of session to understand their legislative priorities and goals.



Rep. Polsky and members of the Palm Beach County Realtors Association

Below are some highlights from Week 3.



Rep. Polsky and advocates supporting HB 49, Incarcerated Women

In Committee

- **HB 49, Incarcerated Women**—This bill would require that correctional facilities provide feminine hygiene products to incarcerated women at no charge, as well as restricting some activities that can be performed by male correctional officers. The Criminal Justice Subcommittee voted unanimously for the bill, and it is now headed to the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. While I do not serve on the committee that this was presented in, I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this great legislation.

- **HB 1221, Anchored Vessels**—This bill attempts to accomplish the goals of limiting derelict vessels and expediting the removal of derelict vessels from our near shore waters. Since 2016, taxpayers have paid

over \$77 million for the removal and destruction of derelict vessels in Florida waters. I was honored to present this bill in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee, where it passed unanimously; the bill will head to the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee next.

- **HB 7101, Elections**—The House has released their Elections Reform bill which addresses many concerns following the 2018 elections. Changes include a deadline extension for curing defective vote by mail ballots, expansion of no solicitation zones, as well as allowing for vote by mail ballots to be mailed out earlier by supervisors. This bill was worked on by the State's Supervisors of Elections and addresses almost all of their concerns. It was passed out of the State Affairs Committee unanimously, but my colleagues and I would like to see additional reforms added to the bill.

On the Floor

- **HB 21, Health Care Facility Market Barriers**—This bill would eliminate the Certificate of Need review program, which requires that health care providers apply for state approval prior to establishing a new facility or expanding existing services. There is some concern that this bill could affect the quality of care and services that people receive if hospitals are allowed to open without demonstrating a need within a community. The bill passed in the House 77-33, and is headed to the Senate where its companion bill is still in its first committee.



Rep. Polsky and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police

Don't hesitate to reach out to my office with questions, concerns, or thoughts about the legislation moving through the process.

Sincerely,

Representative Tina Polsky

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