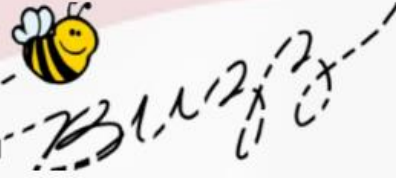




# CAPITOL



STATE SENATOR RADER, DISTRICT 29

MARCH 2019, WEEK 1 RECAP

## DEAR FRIENDS:

The Legislative Session officially began last week on March 5, 2019, and I will be in our state's capitol for the next two months to address the needs of our community. In an effort to do so, I have filed many bills that I feel are common sense and will prove to be beneficial. Should you wish to learn more about any bills that either I or legislators have introduced, please visit [FLSenate.gov](http://FLSenate.gov).

As always, feel free to contact my office with any issues or concerns.

### Senate Bill 502: Prohibition of Plastic Carryout Bags and Straws

This bill that I have introduced would ban the distribution of plastic in stores and businesses throughout the state. Specifically, when checking out at supermarkets, items will no longer be placed in plastic bags, but instead a more eco-friendly solution. Additionally, in restaurants and businesses, the use of plastic straws will be prohibited in exchange for a better alternative. The purpose of these changes is to protect our environment from the costs associated with plastic. Research has been done on its negative effects on the environment, and I feel that our state can progress towards future environmental stability by finding alternatives to plastic.

### Senate Bill 940: Hate Crimes

Although Florida has a hate crime law, the current statute, however, needs to be strengthened and updated to protect ALL Floridians. This is why I filed this bill again. Hate crimes are distinct because they target victims simply for who they are and are intended to terrorize members of entire communities. Our hate crime law is a way for Florida to recognize that these crimes strike special fear within victimized individuals and groups. This legislation would expand the law's definition of disability; bring the Florida Hate Crime law into conformity with federal hate crime law; and cover "mixed-motive" hate crimes, which are currently not covered under Florida's hate crime law. Throughout Florida, there has been a 51 percent increase in the number of hate crimes reported to the FBI in 2017 compared to 2016.

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**Senate**

**Bill**

**672:**

**Beverage**

**Container**

**Deposits**

This “bottle bill” implements a redemption program that would enable individuals to redeem bottles at a recycling center in return for a monetary deposit for each bottle. Currently, a number of states have such a program, some have been in existence for many decades. These programs have proven to increase the recycling rate. The program will not only help reduce litter, but will also help in combatting our struggle with a polluted environment.



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