

# Pulse in Tallahassee

Florida State Representative Tina Polsky, District 81  
Session Week #4  
March 25-29, 2019

Dear Friends,

We have reached the half way point of the 2019 Legislative Session. The House of Representatives has been busy passing bills and creating our preliminary budget.

Moving forward we will begin to focus our attention on getting bills through their committee stops and finalizing the budget.

Here are some highlights from our fourth week of the Legislative Session.



Rep. Polsky and members of the Palm Beach County Council PTA

## In Committee

- **HB 107, Texting While Driving**—Currently, in the state of Florida texting while driving is a secondary offense; a law enforcement officer can only issue a citation for this offense if the vehicle's operator is committing another offense (such as speeding, failing to stop at a stop light, etc.). HB 107 would make texting while driving a primary offense in the state, meaning that a driver could be stopped solely for texting while driving. The bill passed unanimously out of its first committee, Transportation and Infrastructure, and is heading to its second of three committee stops, Appropriations.
- **HB 721, Emotional Support Animals**—This bill would require that housing providers give reasonable accommodations for emotional support animals. It also requires that the Department of Health establish a standard format for health care practitioners to provide documentation for an emotional support animal. The bill passed unanimously out of the Children, Families, and Seniors committee, and is heading to its final committee stop, Judiciary, before heading to the floor for consideration by the House of Representatives.



Rep. Polsky and members of the PBC League of Cities

## On the Floor

- **HB 319, Patient Safety and Quality Measures**—This bill would require that the Agency for Health Care Administration develop a patient safety culture survey to help measure the aspects of patient safety in hospitals and surgical centers. It would also require that hospitals provide certain information regarding safety to their patients upon request. The bill was considered by the full house and passed 101-10; its Senate companion SB 7080, is being considered in the Appropriations subcommittee on Health and Human Services.

## On the Horizon

- **HB 365, Services for Veterans and their Families**—This bill would create the Florida Veteran's Care Coordination Program to provide statewide, dedicated healthcare referral services to Vets and their families. The bill has passed all of its committees with unanimous support and will likely be heading for consideration by the full House of Representatives soon.
- **HB 369, Substance Abuse Services**—This bill looks to further enhance the current regulations on Sober Homes in Florida. Specifically, the bill amends background screening for substance abuse treatment providers and strengthen provisions for patient brokering and deceptive marketing practices. The bill has passed all of its committees with unanimous support and will likely be heading for consideration by the full House of Representatives soon.



Rep. Polsky and members of the Junior League of Boca Raton & Junior League of the Palm Beaches

As always feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding any legislation.

Sincerely,

## Representative Tina Polsky



**Tallahassee Office:**  
1302 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe St  
Tallahassee, Fl 32399  
Phone:  
(850) 717-5081

**Boca Raton Office:**  
8177 Glades Rd  
Suite 209  
Boca Raton, Fl 33434  
Phone:  
(561) 470-2086

**Belle Glade Office:**  
110 Dr. Martin Luther  
King Jr Blvd  
Belle Glade, Fl 33430  
Phone:  
(561) 829-1459

### Email:

Tina.Polsky@myfloridahouse.gov

@RepPolksy81

@TinaPolksy

@RepPolksy81