

CAPITOL  *Buzz*
EST. 2013

STATE SENATOR RADER, DISTRICT 29



Legislative Session Recap

FOCAL POINTS

SB 182 MEDICAL MARIJUANA

This bill was voted on the Senate floor during the first week of Legislative Session. I am glad to report that the Florida Legislature passed the Medical Use of Marijuana bill and that it was signed into law by Governor DeSantis on March 18, 2019. The term “medical use” of marijuana will now include the possession and use of the drug in smoking form. The bill contains specific requirements that will allow

for the safe distribution and facilitation of marijuana to those who are in need of its medical benefits. The bill also highlights the effort to make certain that marijuana does not fall into the hands of those who are not supposed to be using it: Those under 18 years of age. The passing of this bill would not allow for the use of medical marijuana inside the workplace.

SB 1020 HEMP

This bill provides requirements for licensure of the hemp manufacturing industry in Florida for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The bill clarifies that hemp seed dealers must follow the state’s Seed Law, as well as a detailed plan and time-frame, must be submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture for approval. In this bill, hemp will be excluded from the term “cannabis” when describing it, taking some controversy out of the true benefits behind hemp. In order for the pilot program to thrive at its greatest extent, the bill suggests that universities are the prime location for enhancing the industry.

The bill makes clear that hemp-derived cannabinoids are not controlled substances. Hemp derivatives may be used for and are not limited to cosmetics, personal care, and products for human consumption. Additionally, the hemp must be tested in an independent testing laboratory. Distribution and retail sale of hemp may be enacted with a certificate of analysis. All relevant information must be submitted to

departments, with accurate detailing of the process used to create such hemp. This legislation also requires registration and a background check every two years.

SB 7066 AMENDMENT 4 IMPLEMENTATION

During the November 2018 elections, nearly 65% of Florida voters approved Amendment 4, to restore voting rights to non-violent felons who have completed their prison terms. This was a monumental success, and a clear rebuke to the state to stop disenfranchising tens of thousands of Floridians from the democratic process. Toward the end of the Legislative Session, this bill was debated in the Senate and House of Representatives. Ultimately, this bill creates barriers to voting rights restoration, which is contrary to what a clear majority of Floridians supported.

The ballot language which stated that these former felons must complete all terms of their sentence has been interpreted to include any outstanding fines, fees, and restitution. In other words, these people will be unable to register to vote until they pay off any amount they still may owe. As a result, ex-non-violent felons will continue to be disenfranchised. Unfortunately, this bill was passed by the Florida Legislature and has been sent to Governor DeSantis.

SB 168 FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT



This so called sanctuary cities bill purports to prohibit sanctuary policies, require state or local government entities and law enforcement to use their best efforts in supporting enforcement of federal immigration laws. Requirements will be enforced for those criminal defendants subject to immigration detainers to transfer to federal custody.

Moreover, it mandates the repeal of any sanctuary policies. The bill sponsor stated that this was proposed to ensure compliance with the law at the federal level. However, no county or city in Florida has been found to not be in compliance. Ultimately, this immigration policy is, in fact, a federal issue that the state is attempting to tackle without knowing the extent of the adverse consequences. Unfortunately, this bill passed both the Senate and Florida House of Representatives.

SB 76 DRIVING WHILE USING A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE

In recent years texting while driving has grown to be a concern to many in the legislature. During this Legislative Session, this practice has finally been outlawed, This new piece of legislation makes it a primary offense to use a cellphone while operating a vehicle. Previously this was categorized as a secondary offense, but now law enforcement

has the ability to enforce this as a motor vehicle violation.

Under the new law, drivers can be pulled over for simply texting while driving. In addition, drivers must be totally hands-free when operating wireless devices in school zones and in construction zones when workers are present.



SB 7030 MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

This bill builds on SB 7026 that was introduced and passed, during last year's Legislative Session. The Legislature voted to adopt the MSD Commission recommendations after a contentious debate.

Some non-controversial provisions include mental health services for students and creating a standardized “threat assessment” tool for schools to keep records of

students they feel may pose a “behavioral threat” to themselves or others. These aspects of the bill can prove to be helpful in the prevention process and allow for more peace of mind for both students and parents. Last year, SB 7026 prohibited full-time classroom teachers from carrying weapons. However, this bill, unfortunately,

expanded on the "Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program" to include allowing full-time classroom teachers to carry guns in school. This was the most contentious portion for many reasons, but most notably because of the effect that it may have on students. Children attend school to learn and should not be concerned with fearing which of their instructors have a firearm in their classroom.

A portion that continues to remain from the 2018 legislation is that School Districts can opt out of the guardian program. Both Palm Beach County and Broward County have done so.

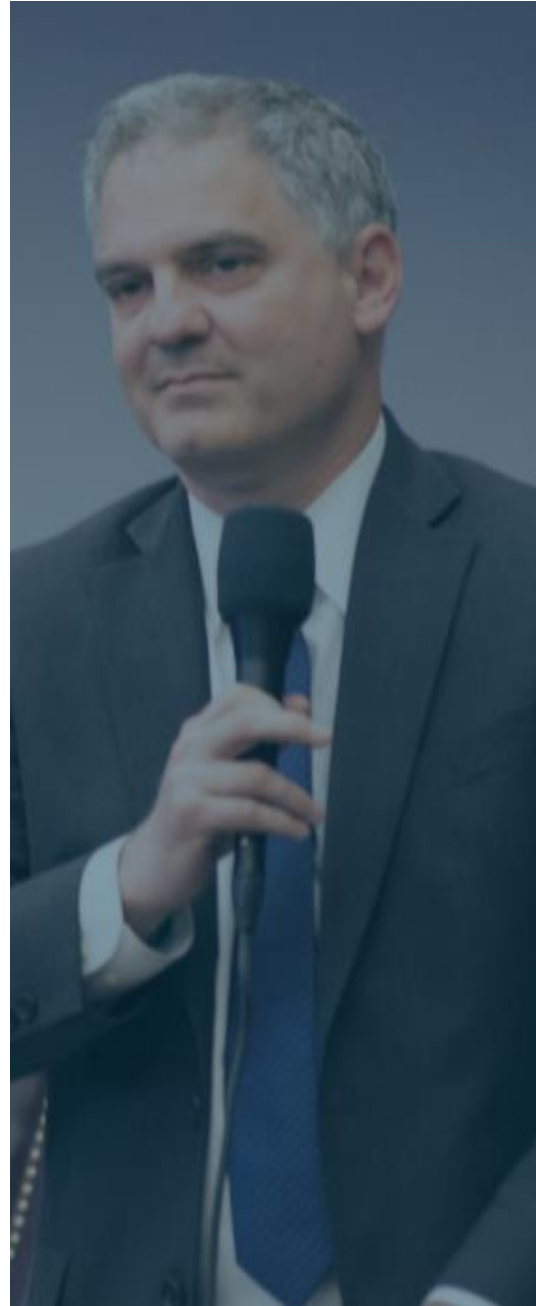
SENATOR RADER'S BILL HIGHLIGHT

SB 828 LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS EXHIBITION IN PRISONS

This legislation corrects a law that was passed unanimously in the House and Senate in 2010, which protects employees in state and private correctional facilities from lewd and lascivious actions performed in front of them. Many prison workers, mainly female, have been victimized by this behavior.

Unfortunately, employees in county detention facilities were not included in the 2010 law.

This legislation would include such employees, making this practice a Third-degree felony in county detention facilities, thus protecting them and putting them in the same position as their state and private colleagues. This bill passed all its committees as well as the House and Senate unanimously. It is now heading to the Governor, where I expect that it will be signed into law and become effective July 1, 2019.



SB 478 OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL

This bill proposed to reestablish the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Office of Drug Control would be managed by a director which the Governor would appoint and the Senate would approve. The Office of Drug Control would report annually to the Governor, the Legislature, and also partner with the Office of Planning and Budgeting to execute a list of duties. Some of these duties include to coordinate drug efforts and enlist private and public sectors at the federal, state, and local level. In addition to this, the Office of Drug Control would also educate and inform the public about the problem of substance abuse and available programs or services. It would do so through educational campaigns at schools and community projects addressing adolescent drug and alcohol use. The reimplementation of this office

would allow for there to be an effective treatment and enforcement of non-harmful drug consumption in the state of Florida.

It would also update the Governor and Legislature on substance abuse trends occurring in Florida, the status and funding of current substance abuse programs and services, and the status of the development and implementation of the state drug control strategy by the office. SB 478 would prove to be helpful in bettering the overall health of Floridians. I am pleased that Governor DeSantis announced that he will be reinstating and restoring this important office and has signed Executive Order 19-97 reestablishing this essential Office.



FLORIDA BUDGET

The 2019 Legislative Session budget conference process was heavily impacted by the relief projects for Floridians affected by Hurricane Michael.

The final budget also includes a number of local funding projects I fought to include. I believe in each of these projects and know that they will prove to be extremely beneficial to our community.

[Florida Budget Overview](#)

[Local Projects Funding](#)







District 29 Cities

City of Boca Raton
Town of Highland Beach
City of Parkland
City of Coconut Creek
City of Belle Glade
City of South Bay
Village of Wellington

Including portions of:
Coral Springs
Lake Worth
Boynton Beach
Delray Beach

District:

5301 N. Federal Highway, Suite 135
Boca Raton, FL 33487
561-443-8170

Tallahassee:

222 Senate Office Building
404 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-487-5029

Email:

Rader.Kevin.web@flsenate.gov

[view this email in your browser](#)

Copyright © 2019, State Senator Kevin Rader, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can **[update your preferences](#)** or **[unsubscribe from this list](#)**.

