

The Skidmore Scoop

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Greetings from Tallahassee

As we close out the first week of the 2021 Legislative Session, bills are starting to move more quickly through the committee process. Some bills have been more controversial than others, and we spent some time discussing and debating COVID-19 Liability Protections, State Preemption of Ports, and HB1 related to Protests. I appreciate receiving your input on issues of importance to you and look forward to hearing from you as Session progresses. You can watch the Legislature live on the Florida Channel or by visiting www.myfloridahouse.gov for the live stream.

Filed legislation for this session

This year, House members were allotted seven bill slots, up from six slots in previous years, and I have filed the following pieces of legislation:

- [HB 251- Risk Protection Orders](#), creates a legal process for families to protect loved ones in crisis
- [HB 391- Transportation Facility Designations](#), renames a portion of Highway 27 in honor of two law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty
- [HB 893- Fee Waivers for Students Living in a Recovery Residence](#), allows state colleges to charge in-state tuition for students in recovery. This bill was the result of our, "There Ought to be a Law," contest with students throughout District 81
- [HB 993- Energy Bill](#), is the comprehensive package developed by the Department of Agriculture to move toward zero carbon emissions by 2050
- [HB 1023- Cost-of-living Adjustment of Retirement Benefits](#), protects members of The Florida Retirement System who retired on or after July 1, 2011
- [HB 1025- Student Retention](#), allows parents to retain their child at the same grade level for the 2021-22 school year to adjust for the lag created by online learning for some students
- [HB 1439- Prior Authorization Bill](#), creates a deadline for insurance companies to respond to a doctors request to provide patient services

Visit www.myfloridahouse.gov to track these and all bills that have been filed this year.

Vaccines in our District

Information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations changes regularly, as federal, state and county programs expand and evolve. The following information is the most current, as of Monday, March 8, 2021. My office will issue updates, as they occur.

The Federal program has launched FEMA vaccine sites in the state. The nearest FEMA site is a walk-up at Miami Dade College's North Campus. Appointments are not required, but are encouraged, MyVaccine.FI.Gov or call 866.201.6313.

State vaccines are issued by appointment only. Register, to be placed on the state waiting list, MyVaccines.FL.Gov or call 866.201.6313.

You can download the required consent form from the FL DOH website. Palm Beach County will continue vaccinations for all who registered with the county earlier this year. The county will continue their program to vaccinate residents of underserved communities and long-term care facilities. A program for home-bound residents is being established. Points of Distribution (PODs) are being considered for the future.

Qualifications to receive a vaccination:

- 1) The Veterans Administration will vaccinate all veterans of ALL ages who currently receive care at the VA, by appointment only;
- 2) Persons 65 years or older can register online at Publix, www.Publix.com/Covid-Vaccine/Florida, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday beginning at 7:00 am or
- 3) At limited Winn-Dixie pharmacies, www.winndixie.com/pharmacy/covid-vaccine;
- 4) Front-line medical and healthcare workers and sworn law enforcement and firefighters 50-years and older;
- 5) K-12 school employees, 50-years and older;
- 6) People under age 65, who are determined to be medically vulnerable or "high-risk" by their physicians, may be vaccinated if provided a required form by their doctor. The form can be downloaded from the Florida Health Covid 19 website.

Florida Department of Education Announces \$1.5 Million for Florida School Districts

Last week, Commissioner of Education Richard Corcoran announced the recipients of the Department of Education's Perkins V Entrepreneurship Education and Training Grant. The grant aims to help scale entrepreneurship-related initiatives across the state's career and technical education (CTE) programs. A total of 22 agencies were awarded, ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 dollars for each proposal. Florida's Perkins V State Plan has committed to creating a robust entrepreneurial statewide ecosystem through its CTE programs. The plan recognizes how self-employment and the ability to create value contributes to Florida's economic security. For this reason, the plan attempts to help all CTE stakeholders understand how to better support interdisciplinary and entrepreneurial ways of thinking and acting across all career pathways.

Contact Your State Representative

Committee Assignments

Health & Human Services Committee-
<https://bit.ly/3rmefRe>

Government Operations Subcommittee -
<https://bit.ly/3c1azOq>

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee-
<https://bit.ly/2PI9ucC>

Professions & Public Health Subcommittee-
<https://bit.ly/3biXAZn>



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