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Delegation Digest

Let's Review Week 3 of Session:

Bills are moving through committees, both chambers are passing legislation and budget talks will be starting soon! If you want to learn more about bills that are being passed or heard visit myfloridahouse.gov or flsenate.gov. You can also watch recordings of any committee meetings or tune in live on thefloridachanel.org



Annual "King of the Hill" softball game between the Democrats and Republicans! The evening is an annual tradition hosted by Florida's Professional Firefighters.

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Statewide Bills of Interest:

Many bills are making headlines statewide. Here are just a few of those major topics discussed last week:

Vote on School Board Salaries:

SB 1300 – District School Boards: Modifies district school board member salaries, possibly reducing the salary of school board members in 49 school districts and increasing the salary in about 18 districts. Additionally, it includes certain requirements for instructional materials.

On Tuesday, with a committee substitute, this passed the Education Committee with a vote of 6Y, 3N. It is now in its final committee stop: (S) Rules.

Ban on Early Abortion:

The House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee heard and passed HB 5 on Thursday. After hours of public testimony, debate and questioning, the ban cleared with a vote of 10Y, 5N. The bill bans abortions after 15 weeks and does not give exceptions for rape or incest, but would only allow for abortions in extreme cases of serious medical emergencies affecting the mother, or if fatal fetal abnormalities are present. During this committee meeting, 3 amendments were proposed:

- The sponsor's amendment, which passed, increases the appropriation request to \$1,602,000 for the fetal and infant mortality review committees.
- Representative Skidmore's amendment would require that the cost of attaining a 2nd physician certification is covered by Medicaid, private insurance and kid care. This amendment failed: 5Y, 10N.
- Representative Smith, C.'s amendment would provide protections and prohibit intimidation tactics: 5Y, 10N

House Professions & Public Health Subcommittee approve legislation allowing health care providers to follow their conscience:

HB 747 Passed with a 12Y, 6N vote on Tuesday. The bill allows health care practitioners and insurers to deny services based on conscience. The vague language may open the door to discrimination in health care and does not clarify whether this still applies during emergency situations.

Advanced Air Mobility:

On Tuesday, the House Tourism, Infrastructure and Energy Subcommittee unanimously passed HB 1005, proposing a 20-member Advanced Air Mobility Task Force. The group would evaluate and plan for vertical take-off as well as focus on the potential for electric air transportation





Local Bills Update:

Please note this is just a snap shot of the bills filed by the Delegation members.
You can visit Myfloridahouse.gov or Flsenate.gov to view a complete list of bills.

HB 471 - Town of Lake Clarke Shores, Palm Beach County (Rep. Roth): Passed its second committee stop with a 17Y, 0N vote. Now in its last stop: (H) State Affairs Committee. Provides a legal description for an area and provides that it will be considered an enclave of the town for purposes of municipal annexation.

HB 929 - City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County (Rep. Silvers): Passed its first committee stop with a 14Y, 0N vote. The bill updates the definition for the term “salary”, modifying the members’ collective bargaining representative, provides for a retroactive benefit accrual rate, and provides that members are eligible to receive lump-sum payments for accumulated leave upon retirement. Anticipated to result in an increase in required employed contribution and to increase long-term benefit payouts by the city.

HB 1425 – Town of Loxahatchee Groves, Palm Beach County (Rep. Willhite) Now in its second committee stop. authorizes a sheriff’s office who contracts with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to carry forward documented unexpended state funds from one fiscal year to the next, but the cumulative amount carried forward may not exceed 8 percent of each sheriff’s office total contract amount or grant agreement amount

Member Bills & Project Requests on the Move:

Please note this is just a snap shot of the bills filed by the Delegation members.
You can visit Myfloridahouse.gov or Flsenate.gov to view a complete list of bills

Sen. Gayle Harrell

SB 1240 – Mental Health of Students passed its first committee stop and is now set to be heard next on 2/1 by the Education Committee. This bill requires charter schools to report the removal of a student for an involuntary mental health examination. The Department of Education is tasked with sharing the data with the Department of Children and Families annually.

Sen. Polsky

SB 1238 – Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments is on the Environment and Natural

Resources Committee agenda today, 1/31/22. The bill requires coastal counties to conduct vulnerability assessments analyzing the effects of saltwater intrusion on their supplies and preparedness to respond to threats.

Sen. Powell

SB 1502 – Estates and Trusts amends two sections of Florida’s estates and trusts law to: codify an existing procedure presently used in Florida courts regarding creditor’s pending action against a decedent at the time of the decedent’s death, amends statute regarding creditor claims against settlors, and make it easier for a trustee to resign. This bill is now in its second committee stop.

Sen. Berman

SB 600 – Upgrades to Education Facilities is set to be heard next on 2/1 by the Education Committee. This bill provides incentive for schools to upgrade their energy systems to include on-site solar power and battery storage. Upgrades designed to improve the hardiness and energy independence of educational facilities will be exempted up to \$2 million from the cost per student station limitation.

Rep. Skidmore

HB 3781 – Love Serving Autism's Serve with HEART (Health, Education, Adaptive Recreation, +Therapies) passed its subcommittee Thursday of last week and is now in the Appropriations Committee. The project request’s an appropriation to strengthen the organizational infrastructure of Love Serving Autism (LSA). LSA will expand reach to 1500 Floridians with ASD & DD, re-build skills and opportunities lost during the pandemic, and expand the workforce pipeline.

Rep. Synder

HB 413 – Delegation of the Administration of Prescription Medications passed through all of its committee stops with a committee substitute and has been placed on the calendar for 2nd reading. HB 413 authorizes a registered nurse to delegate to a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) or Home Health Aides (HHA) medication administration to a patient of a nurse registry or county detention facility. It requires the Board to adopt rules and standards that a

CNA must follow for medication administration to a patient of a nurse registry. Under current law, a registered nurse is not authorized to delegate to a CNA or HHA medication administration to a patient of a nurse registry.

Rep. Roth

HB 137 – Florida House Financing Corporation Revenue Bonds is on the Appropriations Committee agenda for today, 1/31/22. The bill makes amendments regarding Florida Housing bond financed transactions, designating Florida Housing as the state fiscal agency to make the determinations in connection with the issuance of housing bonds, removing the authority of the State Board of Administration (SBA) to authorize interest rates in excess of the max and removing the requirement that the claims-paying rating classification be consistent with rules adopted by the SBA.

Rep. Willhite

HB 459 – Step-Therapy Protocols passed through all of its committee stops and has been placed on the calendar for 2nd reading. The bill defines step therapy protocol as a program that establishes the specific sequence in which prescription drugs, procedures, or courses of treatment must be used to treat a health condition. It requires an insurer or HMO to publish on its website and provide to in writing a procedure to request a protocol exemption.

Rep Silvers

HB 3521 ChildNet – Preventing Opioid and General Substance Abuse based Child Removals passed its subcommittee Thursday of last week and is now in the Appropriations Committee. The project request provides an appropriation to provide Safety Management Services to 250 children (and their caregivers) impacted by opioid/general substance abuse, prevent 220 children from entering foster care as a result of opioid/general substance abuse and to reduce the costs associated with opioid/general substance abuse based child removals by \$5.86 million.

Rep. Caruso

HB 3319 – Faulk Center – No Cost/Low Cost Mental Health Counseling for the Economically Disadvantaged passed its subcommittee Thursday of last week and is now in the Appropriations Committee. The project request provides an appropriation to the Faulk

Center to provide 500 uninsured or low-income clients with free or reduced cost services. By making services accessible, we can improve the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of individuals so that they can cope with the stresses of life, work productively, and make meaningful contributions.

Rep. Casello

HB 3311 – City of Boynton Beach Radio Tower passed its subcommittee Tuesday of last week and is now in the Appropriations Committee. The project request provides an appropriation to replace a 35 year old 320-ft. self-supporting radio tower and control sheds located at 551 NW 15th Avenue, owned by the City of Boynton Beach. The results of a recent inspection revealed extensive corrosive damage and deterioration which has compromised the structure's integrity. Replacing the radio tower is paramount, as it is one leg of Palm Beach County's regional public safety communication network. Failure to replace the tower could result in a catastrophic communication void.

Rep. Slosberg-King

HB 3133 Palm Beach County Green Cay Phase 2 Removals passed its subcommittee Tuesday of last week and is now in the Appropriations Committee. The project request provides an appropriation to support the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) in constructing an advanced Water Purification Facility (WPF) to treat reclaimed water from its Southern Region Water Reclamation Facility (SFWRP), adding a new water source to the water supply of Palm Beach County. The purified water will be conveyed to the recreational lakes at the proposed public access Green Cay Park and recharge the aquifer for indirect potable reuse.

In Case You Missed It: Watch Sen. Bobby Powell recap the first week of session.



Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Chair: Rep. Mike Caruso

Vice Chair: Sen. Tina Polksy

Senators

Gayle Harrell, District 25

Tina Polsky, District 29

Bobby Powell, Jr., District 30

Lori Berman, District 31

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Kelly Skidmore, District 81

John Snyder, District 82

Rick Roth, District 85

Matt Willhite, District 86

David Silvers, District 87

Vacant, District 88

Mike Caruso, District 89

Joseph "Joe" Casello, District 90

Emily Slosberg-King, District 91



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The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organization.

