

# *The Slosberg Report*

*February 2022*



***Rep. Emily Slosberg-King  
Florida  
District 91  
House of Representatives***

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## ***The 2022 Legislative Session***

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The Florida Senate and House of Representatives began the 2022 Legislative Session with a joint session on Tuesday, January 11th. The 2022 Legislative Session will meet for the next sixty days in Tallahassee. While in Tallahassee I will be busy meeting with committees in order to pass legislation.



With fellow Palm Beach County Delegation members on opening day of 2022 Session.

## *Appropriations on the Move*

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HB 3133, Second Chance Program-15<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, passed favorably in the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee on January 12, 2022, and now is before the Appropriations Committee. The \$346,735 request would support a year-long program with two phases or tracks that seeks to provide formerly-incarcerated individuals with soft-skill training that increases employability

across various industries and professions, while also providing entrepreneurship development and resources to help formerly-incarcerated individuals open their own profitable businesses.

HB 3767, Rales-Rides-Senior Transportation, passed favorably in the Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee on January 13, 2022, and now is before the Appropriations Committee. The \$212,000 request would enable a minimum 600 frail older adults, including over 275 Holocaust survivors, to age in place by providing access to free transportation to medical appointments as well as social, cultural, educational, and health and well-being programs in order to improve and maintain their physical, mental, and emotional health and wellbeing.

HB 3131, Palm Beach County Green Cay Phase 2, passed favorably in the Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee on January 25, 2022, and is now before the Appropriations Committee. The \$3,000,000 request would enable the Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) to construct 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. PBCWUD will also construct a state of the art learning center and a 63-acre public access park.

HB 3443, Operation Phoenix, expected to pass favorably in the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee on January 27, 2022, and then will be before the Appropriations Committee. The \$731,531 request would support Grey Team. Their "Operation Phoenix" addresses and corrects the systemic root of why our service members experience anxiety, depression, which left untreated, can ultimately lead to suicide. Rather than treating their symptoms with pharmaceutical drugs as is standard practice, Grey Team is able to alleviate their mental and physical suffering caused by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), chronic physical pain, poor nutrition, and lifestyle choices, etc., through the use of innovative, cutting-edge scientific tools combined with basic fundamentals. At the conclusion of our program, service members will understand and implement their newfound eating habits, exercise habits, mindfulness training, and life skills, and will have bolstered their all-important social support network.

Details of all House legislation is available at <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/>

***Co-Sponsored Legislation***

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**HB 25:** Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs  
**HB 83:** Domestic Violence  
**HB 85:** Tax Exemption for Diapers and Incontinence Products  
**HB 111:** Offense Evidencing Prejudice  
**HB 175:** Menstrual Hygiene Products in Public Schools  
**HB 199:** Assault Weapons and Large-capacity Magazines  
**HB 213:** Specialty License Plates  
**HB 361:** Required Instruction in Social Media Literacy  
**HB 513:** Comprehensive Review Study of the Central and S. Florida Project  
**HB 577:** Tenant Safety  
**HB 903:** Online Voter Registration of Students in Public High School  
**HB 1369:** Release of Adoption Information  
**HB 6011:** Recovery of Damages in Claims for Medical Negligence  
**HB 6039:** Recovery for Wrongful Death

## *Committee Updates*

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The House Infrastructure & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee passed a variety of House Appropriation project requests, including HB 3313, Transportation Disadvantaged Discounted Bus Passes - Palm Beach County; HB 3369 – City of Boca Raton City Hall and Municipal Complex Emergency Generators; and HB 2555 – Palm Beach School for Autism - Flashing School Zone Light, which I co-sponsored.

Among other legislation, the Infrastructure, Tourism and Appropriations Subcommittee unanimously passed HB 369, Motor Vehicle Registration Cards, which permits an applicant to request an optional registration certificate card in addition to the required registration certificate.

Pandemics & Public Emergencies Committee passed a Committee Bill, PCB PPE 22-01 – Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund Bill, which creates the Emergency Preparedness and Response Trust Fund (EPR Fund) within the Executive Office of the Governor as the primary funding source available to the Governor during a declared state of emergency. The bill appropriates \$1 billion in nonrecurring funds from the General Revenue Fund to the EPR Fund. Also passed over my objection was HB 215, Emergency Orders Prohibiting Religious Services or Activities, which provides that emergency orders may not directly or indirectly prohibit religious institutions from regular religious services or activities.

The Florida House Redistricting Committee meets on Wednesday, January 26, 2022 at which time the Committee will review proposed House Map #H000H8009, which passed along strict party lines out of the State Legislative Redistricting Subcommittee today. You may review that and other proposed redistricting maps at [www.floridaredistricting.gov/](http://www.floridaredistricting.gov/)

The Florida Senate's Redistricting Committee has approved new state Senate and congressional maps, which will now head to the full Senate for a vote that could take place as early as next week.

## *Meeting with the Community*

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While in Tallahassee I have been able to meet with leaders of the community. Some of the leaders I have meet with were representatives of the Economic Council, Vision Solar, Cultural Council for PBC, COBWRA, PBC Delegation, PBC School Superintendent, Chief of Staff and Board Member, Smart North Florida, Career Source PBC, Education Foundation of PBC, Florida Medical Rights Association, Florida Cares, One Hope United, and Florida Engineering Society.







Meeting with Palm Beach County School Principals on January 25th.



Meeting with representatives from Ruth and Norman Rales Jewish Family Services on January 27th.

## ***Happenings in the Community***

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Our office was notified on January 26, 2022 of the following:

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Four, has installed ramp signals along I-95 on-ramps in Broward and Palm Beach Counties. Beginning Monday, January 31, 2022, FDOT will activate ramp signals at the

following interchange on-ramps: Cypress Creek Road, Atlantic Boulevard, and Palmetto Park Road. The signals will aid in controlling traffic from the on-ramps onto I-95 and improve traffic flow during rush hour.

The District Four FDOT Secretary has advised our office that such ramp signaling has been in place in Miami for several years, and throughout the country, and has proven safe and effective control of traffic during peak hours.

## ***Women's Rights and House Bill 5***

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HB 5, Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality. On the 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the legality of abortion in *Roe v. Wade*, there have been over 100 abortion restrictions signed into law in 2021 in the United States. Florida Republicans have sponsored a bill that prohibits a physician from performing an abortion if the gestational age of the fetus is determined to be more than 15 weeks. HB 5 favorably passed the House Professions & Public Health Subcommittee along party lines and is now headed to the Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

This bill is modeled after a Mississippi law that the United States Supreme Court is considering in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The high Court anticipates issuing a decision in that case which could gut *Roe v. Wade* in late June.

A Texas law that bans abortion once cardiac activity is detected- usually around six weeks, before some women know they are pregnant- has been in effect since September. The Supreme Court has returned a challenge to that law to the Texas Supreme Court, which is entirely controlled by Republican Justices and does not have to act immediately, signaling the high Court's view on the issue.

I have participated in workshops and rallies supporting women's rights. I have historically strongly opposed and voted against every bill that came before me that impeded a woman's right to choose. I have been working with advocacy groups to raise awareness that the right to abortion is facing its greatest assault in nearly half a century. Within the Democratic caucus, I have been working with fellow members opposing HB 5 and considering amendments to the legislation. I strongly oppose HB 5.

## ***February is Black History Month***

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February recognizes Black History Month. Black History Month grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.

President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” Today, Black History Month is a time to honor the contributions and legacy of African Americans across U.S. history and society—from activists and civil rights pioneers such as Fredrick Douglass, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and Rosa Parks to leaders in industry, politics, science, culture and more.

Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The Black History Month 2022 theme, “Black Health and Wellness,” explores “the legacy of not only Black scholars and medical practitioners in Western medicine, but also other ways of knowing (e.g., birthworkers, doulas, midwives, naturopaths, herbalists, etc.) throughout the African Diaspora. The 2022 theme considers activities, rituals and initiatives that Black communities have done to be well.”

*“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”*

-Martin Luther King JR.





February Celebrations

February 14th: Valentine's Day



February 21st: President's Day



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