

THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION 2012 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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MESSAGE FROM THE DELEGATION CHAIR, SEN. ELLYN BOGDANOFF



Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff,
Delegation Chair

As the Chair of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, it is my pleasure to present the 2012 Legislative Report.

Inside the pages of this report, you will find detailed highlights of legislation and appropriations that members of the delegation worked diligently on during the 2012 Legislative Session. Also included in the report are the contact information and committee assignments for each of the seventeen members of our delegation.

This Session, the primary focus was to set new district boundaries for all 160 members of the State Legislature and 27 Congressional members. From June 20th to September 1st,

2011, a large number of statewide public hearings were held in different locations all over Florida so we could listen to constituents' concerns regarding the redistricting process. Over 225 plans were submitted by the public, legislators or staff. In the end, 3 solid maps have been approved and will soon be implemented.

We passed a \$69.9 billion budget which included a \$1 billion increase to funding for education. In addition, six local bills were sponsored and passed by members of this delegation as well as the full state legislature.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Delegation this past year, and I consider it a privilege to be one of the seventeen who serve Palm Beach County in the Legislature. I am very proud of our efforts on behalf of all the residents of Palm Beach County.

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REDISTRICTING IS THE CENTER OF DISCUSSION

Redistricting, also known as reapportionment, occurs every 10 years. It is when the Legislature redraws State House, State Senate, and Congressional Districts. Due to an increase in population based upon the results of the 2010 Census, there will be an increase from 25 to 27 Congressional Districts.

The Fair Districts amendments, which were approved in 2010, mandate that districts be drawn using a list of requirements such as compactness, follow political and geographic boundaries, and within those legal parameters, no district shall be drawn with

the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent. Palm Beach County will have its Delegation Membership reduced from 17 to 13 (4 Senators and 9 Representatives).

On April 30, 2012, the U.S. Department of Justice approved the State House, State Senate and Congressional plans.

Most House Districts will contain a population of approximately 156,678; Senate Districts should account for 470,033 registered voters; and Congressional Districts with a total of 696,345.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



As the Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, I have had the pleasure of working closely with the seventeen members of the Delegation and their staff both in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee.

We've composed this report to help you better understand the efforts and successes that each

Member of the Delegation has worked on over the past year.

Due to redistricting, this will be the last year seventeen legislators will be representing portions of Palm Beach County. Come November 6th, there will only be thirteen. While we are disappointed to be losing 2 House and 2 Senate Districts, we have been fortunate enough to have had a seventeen member Delegation consisting of ambitious, knowledgeable and dedicated lawmakers.

These legislators have been elected to represent something greater than themselves, a constituency that depends on their willingness to serve and give hundreds of hours of their time in what can only be called, "The Most Time-Consuming Part-Time Job, Ever."

These hours consisted of individual meetings with constituents and groups, seven public hearings throughout Palm Beach County (including joint workshops with the Palm Beach County League of Cities, School Board and Board of County Commissioners), many weeks of committee hearings, and of course, the grueling 60-day Legislative Session. With another year of budget constraints and difficult decisions to make, our Palm Beach County Legislators have truly been leaders.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with every member of this Delegation. And behind every successful legislator stands talented, skilled and efficient staff. They have humored me with my numerous emails, phone calls and random pop-ins to their offices. Thank you for always receiving me with a smile and willingness to assist.

Also, I need to thank Todd Bonlarron, PBC Legislative Affairs Director, and Melissa McKinlay, PBC Legislative Affairs/Delegation Aide. I couldn't have asked for better allies and guidance in this unpredictable, yet enthralling legislative process.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to our Delegation Chair, Senator Ellyn Bogdanoff, for her leadership and direction. It has truly been a pleasure.

RECOGNIZING OUR TERM-LIMITED MEMBER



SEN. LARCENIA BULLARD (DISTRICT 39)

Senator Larcenia Bullard was first elected to Florida House District 118 in 1992 and held that seat until 2000. She was elected to State Senate District 39 in 2002 and has been reelected subsequently. Senate District 39 consists of Monroe, and parts of Broward, Collier, Hendry, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties.

The Bullard family has been bitten by the public service bug. Following Sen. Bullard's tenure in the State House, her husband, Edward B. Bullard, was elected and served in the same House

District from 2000-2008. In 2008, her son Dwight M. Bullard, who is currently running for her Senate seat, followed in his parents' footsteps and served in the State House from 2008 to present.

Sen. Bullard's experience and expertise as a community activist, educational consultant, and former teacher have helped guide her while serving on numerous committees. She currently holds the position of Vice-Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Education PreK-12 Committee.

We thank Senator Bullard for her sixteen years of service to the State of Florida and eight years to the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.

Sen. Bullard was the first woman elected to Florida House District 118 in 1992.



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S STATE SENATORS

Sen. Ellyn Bogdanoff District # 25 (R) Delegation Chair



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Staff: Mike Miller; Aaron Nevins;
Laura Coburn; Megan Kossove

Committee Assignments:

Budget Subcommittee on Criminal Justice Appropriations, **Chair**; Budget; Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Education Pre-K-12; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Regulated Industries; Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, **Alternating Chair**; Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining

Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto District # 27 (R)



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Committee Assignments:

Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations, **Chair**; Budget Subcommittee on General Government Appropriations, **Vice-Chair**; Budget; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Education Pre-K-12; Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Reapportionment; Transportation

Sen. Joe Negrón District # 28 (R)



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Staff: Carrie Lira; Holly Demers;
Cheri Vancura

Committee Assignments:

Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services Appropriations, **Chair**; Budget, **Vice-Chair**; Banking and Insurance; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Higher Education; Reapportionment; Rules; Select Committee on Protecting Florida's Children, **Chair**; Joint Legislative Budget Commission

Sen. Chris Smith District # 29 (D)



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Staff: Bea Coleman; Diane Randolph;
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Committee Assignments:

Banking and Insurance, **Vice-Chair**; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities, **Vice-Chair**; Budget Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice Appropriations; Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations; Criminal Justice; Reapportionment; Rules; Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections; Joint Administrative Procedures Committee

Sen. Maria Lorts Sachs District # 30 (D)



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Rebecca Baer

Committee Assignments:

Military Affairs, Space and Domestic Security, **Vice-Chair**; Regulated Industries, **Vice-Chair**; Budget Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations; Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities; Reapportionment; Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

Sen. Larcenia Bullard District # 39 (D)



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Staff: Merdochey LaFrance;
Jennifer Rojo; Ralph McCloud;
Angela Lane

Committee Assignments:

Agriculture, **Vice-Chair**; Education Pre-K-12, **Vice-Chair**; Budget Subcommittee on General Government Appropriations; Budget Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Appropriations; Military Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Reapportionment; Rules; Transportation

Palm Beach County's State Legislators

Rep. Steve Perman

District # 78 (D)



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Staff: Daniel Rogers; Irena Sas;
Tangie Jennings (Ft. Pierce)

Committees: Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee, **Dem. Ranking Member**; Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Agriculture & Natural Resources Subcommittee; Economic Affairs Committee; Select Committee on Water Policy

Rep. William Snyder

District # 82 (R)



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Committees: Judiciary Committee, **Chair**;
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Rep. Pat Rooney

District # 83 (R)



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Staff: Andrew Watt; Sheri Healy

Committees: Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Committee; Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee; K-20 Innovation Subcommittee; Rulemaking & Regulation Subcommittee; Select Committee on Water Policy

Rep. Mack Bernard Delegation Vice-Chair

District # 84 (D)



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Committees: Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee; House Redistricting Subcommittee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Redistricting Committee; Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee

Rep. Joseph Abruzzo

District # 85 (D)



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Staff: Jessica Neer; Kimberly Diaz

Committees: Business & Consumer Affairs Subcommittee, **Dem. Ranking Member**; Civil Justice Subcommittee; Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Committee; State Affairs Committee

Rep. Lori Berman

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Palm Beach County's State Legislators

Rep. Bill Hager

District # 87 (R)



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Staff: Larry Casey; Beth Lerner

Committees: Civil Justice Subcommittee; Insurance & Banking Subcommittee; Judiciary Committee; Pre-K—12 Appropriations Subcommittee; Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee

Rep. Mark Pafford

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Staff: Audrey Piedra; Allyssa McDaniel

Committees: Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, **Dem. Ranking Member**; Community & Military Affairs Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Committee;

Rep. Jeff Clemens

District # 89 (D)



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Committees: State Affairs Committee, **Dem. Ranking Member**; Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Government Operations Subcommittee; Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee; Joint Legislative Auditing Committee (2012); Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining (2012); Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee

Rep. Irv Slosberg

District # 90 (D)



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Rep. George Moraitis

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Staff: Matthew Bogdanoff; Morris Kent

Committees: Energy & Utilities Subcommittee; Finance & Tax Committee; Government Operations Subcommittee; Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee; Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight (2012); K-20 Innovation Subcommittee



FLORIDA STATE CAPITOL

Palm Beach County Appropriations

TRANSPORTATION

Aviation

Palm Beach International Airport Golfview Apron, Taxiways and Infrastructure	\$3,150,000
Palm Beach Lantana Airport Extend Itenerant Apron	\$2,300,000

Bridges

Clint Moore Road Bridge #930202 Painting of Steel Superstructure	\$1,764,717
Jog Road at SR-80/Southern Boulevard Bridge Widening over C-51	\$1,961,902
PBIA Interchange Ramp Expansion Joints Repair for 8 Bridges	\$1,784,366
SR-786/PGA Boulevard Bridge Painting Bridge #930388	\$1,317,605

Economic Development

City of Riviera Beach 13th Street Improvements	\$500,000
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Port of Palm Beach

Port of Palm Beach Port - Wide Slip Redevelopment	\$4,740,091
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Resurfacing/Engineering/Right-of-Way Land Acquisition

Mainline Glades Road to South of Atlantic Ave. MP 76.4 - MP 81.1 — Resurfacing	\$1,167,560
Mainline Glades Road to South of Atlantic Avenue MP 76.4 - MP 81.1—Resurfacing	\$9,728,921
Mainline from MP 102.5 to MP 103.7 NB & SB in Palm Beach County — Resurfacing	\$1,327,110
Palm Beach TMC Staffing — Engineering	\$1,053,262
Palm Beach UPWP FY 2012/2013 & 2013/2014 — Resurfacing	\$1,246,191
SR-5/US-1 Federal Highway from CR-A1A (MP 10.567) to Beach Road (MP 11.127) — Engineering	\$1,300,000
SR-5/US-1 from South Glades Road to North of Yamato Road (Boca) — Engineering	\$2,800,000
SR-7 from 60th Street to North Lake Boulevard — Engineering	\$16,596,895
SR-7/US-441 from Broward/Palm Beach County Line to SR-808/Glades Road — Engineering	\$4,448,547
SR-9/I-95 at PGA Boulevard/Central Boulevard — Resurfacing	\$1,500,000
SR-9/I-95 from North of Glades Road to South of Congress Avenue — Resurfacing	\$5,967,885
SR-9/I-95 from The L30 Canal to North of Gateway Boulevard — Resurfacing	\$7,800,398
SR-704/Okeechobee Boulevard from East of Military to East of Congress — Resurfacing	\$2,495,504
SR-710/Beeline Hwy from West of Australian Ave to Old Dixie Hwy —Right-of-Way Land Acquisition	\$1,038,578
SR-808/Glades Road from SR-7 to SR-5 — Resurfacing	\$4,000,000
SR-808/Glades Road from SR-7/US-441 to East of Lyons Road — Resurfacing	\$1,655,205
CR-812/Lantana Road from Sunset Road to Signal East of SR-9/I-95 — Resurfacing	\$1,865,345

SIS/Intrastate Highways

Federal Highway Beautification	\$1,856,708
Indiantown Road Ramp Intersection Modification (Tpk MP 116)	\$1,681,271
Palm Beach County Install Pivotal Hangers on Traffic Signals	\$1,173,277
Palm Beach County Road Ranger Service Patrol	\$1,459,277
CR-812/Lantana Road from Sunset Road to Signal East of SR-9/I-95	\$1,559,724
I-95/SR-9/Noise Wall North of Lake Ida Road to South of SW 23rd Avenue	\$1,791,915
SR-9/I-95 from North of Glades Road to South Congress Avenue	\$60,508,698
SR-25/US-27 Asset Management Contract US-27 & Belle Glade Area	\$1,549,778

Transit

Palm Beach County Block Grant Operating Assistance	\$4,754,934
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Palm Beach County Appropriations

Palm Beach County School District

Palm Beach County Schools K-12	\$1,167,090,448
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Workforce Development

Florida Goodwill Association - Workforce Projects	\$500,000
Public Schools Workforce Education Performance Based Incentives	\$162,529
Public Schools Workforce Education Program Funds	\$18,633,199

Florida Atlantic University

FAU - Autism Centers	\$520,579
FAU - Education & General Activities	\$89,195,933
FAU - Lottery Funds	\$13,896,935
FAU - Student Financial Assistance	\$399,658
FAU - Risk Management Insurance	\$1,915,023
FAU Medical School - Grants & Aids	\$12,778,504

Palm Beach State College

PBSC - Lottery Funds	\$8,766,622
PBSC - Operating Funds	\$42,230,263
PBSC - Education Capital Outlay	\$2,136,975
PBSC (R.I.S.E.) - College Reach Out Program	\$40,115

Health and Human Services

Adults with Disabilities Funds -	
Vocational Rehabilitation	\$760,481
PBC Victims Services & Rape Crisis Center	\$282,039
Alzheimer's Community Care	\$150,000
<u>Criminal Justice</u>	
City of Pahokee (PILT - Sago Palm)	\$142,900
Traffic Hearing Officers (Statewide)	\$1,339,864
Drug Courts (Statewide)	\$10,685,523

Statewide Funding of Interest

Mosquito Control	\$2,160,000
Regional Planning Councils (VETOED)	\$2,500,000
Special Election Funding	\$2,000,000
Libraries	\$23,700,606
Library Cooperatives (VETOED)	\$1,500,000
Transportation Disadvantaged Program	\$43,404,800
Transportation Disadvantaged Program - Medicaid	\$65,486,126

Environmental Protection Projects

Beach Restoration	\$22,000,000
Everglades Restoration (DEP)	\$30,000,000
Florida Forever	\$8,370,000
Torry Island Master Plan Development (VETOED)	\$50,000
Underground Petroleum Tank Cleanup	\$125,000,000

Local Funding of Interest

Public Broadcasting

WXEL-TV, Palm Beach	
(Barry Telecommunications, Inc.)	\$307,447

Other

Security for Presidential Debate (VETOED)	\$250,000
Palm Beach County Water Treatment	
—Glades Area (VETOED)	\$1,000,000

2011 LOCAL BILLS

HB 1255 - ACME IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND LAKE WORTH DRAINAGE DISTRICT

REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

This legislation provides for the transfer of the “Wellington Medical Arts District” from the Lake Worth Drainage District (LWDD) to the Acme Improvement District (Acme). The Medical Arts District property consists of nine major properties totaling approximately 212 acres. The goal of the Medical Arts District is to create an integrated campus that will provide sustainable professional and technical employment opportunities for citizens of Wellington.

HB 1255 was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-256.

HB 1301– WEST PALM BEACH POLICE PENSION FUND

REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

The bill amends the Police Pension Fund of the City of West Palm Beach. It allows the City of West Palm Beach to use collective bargaining to implement pension reform for its police.

HB 1301 was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-259.

HB 1325 - WEST PALM BEACH FIREFIGHTERS PENSION FUND

REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

The bill amends the Special Act Pension Plan for the West Palm Beach Firefighters Pension Fund. These changes cannot be accomplished locally, as the Pension Plan is a creation of the Florida Legislature. An amendment to the Plan is necessary because the City of West Palm Beach and the Association of Firefighters Local 727 have agreed in collective bargaining to certain benefit and funding changes.

HB 1325 was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2011-260.

HB 1381 - WEST PALM BEACH DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REP. JEFF CLEMENS

This legislation removes a parcel of land known as One Watermark Condominium from the boundaries of the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority.

HB 1381 was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-261.

HB 1481 - LOXAHATCHEE GROVES WATER CONTROL DISTRICT

REP. JEFF CLEMENS

This bill revises the procedures for the election of the board members, pursuant to a voter referendum held in June 2011, to provide that one seat will be a popularly-elected, nonpartisan office. It specifies that such seat will be elected by qualified electors on the day of the annual landowners’ meeting in 2012, and that such election will be administered by the district. The bill extends the term of one board member by one year and updates a provision specifying the number of board members.

HB 1481 was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-262.

HB 4175 - PALM BEACH COUNTY SPECIAL ACT (REPEALER)

REP. PAT ROONEY

This local bill repeals a 1969 Palm Beach County Special Act relating to rabies vaccination and licensing and regulation of animals. Repeal of this Special Act will allow Palm Beach County to regulate rabies vaccination and handle licensing and regulation of animals through provisions found in general law and in the 1998 Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control Ordinance.

HB 4175 was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-267.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 19 - PUBLIC SCHOOL BUSES

REP. IRV SLOSBERG

This bill would authorize school districts to place commercial advertisements on the exterior of a school bus. While advertising on buses is currently prohibited by State Board of Education rule, school districts may sell advertisements in other locations. Some school districts have policies in place outlining the sale of advertisements on school property.

At minimum, the school district policy must address reimbursement, content restrictions, minimum standards, physical restrictions, equipment standards and limits on advertising.

This bill passed the House by a vote of 108-7 but died in messages in the Senate.

HB 31 / SB 632 - PROTEST ACTIVITIES

REP. PAT ROONEY / SEN. LIZBETH BENACQUISTO

This bill prohibits engaging in protest activities in certain circumstances. Specifically, the bill makes it a first degree misdemeanor to knowingly engage in protest activities or knowingly cause protest activities to occur within 500 feet of a property line of the location of a funeral, burial or memorial service during or within the hour prior to commencement or completion.

HB 31 unanimously passed the House but died in messages in the Senate.

HB 117 - VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS

REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

This bill is designated as the "T. Patt Maney Military Veterans and Servicemembers Court Act." This legislation diverts a veteran or servicemember, who is charged with a criminal offense, into an appropriate treatment program. The veteran or servicemember is eligible if he or she suffers from a traumatic brain injury (TBI), post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), psychological problem, or substance abuse disorder as a result of their service to our country. This bill recognizes traumatic brain injury for the first time in Florida Statute.

Language from this legislation was amended onto SB 922, which was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-159.

HB 125 / SB 278 - PREVENTING DEATHS FROM DRUG-RELATED OVERDOSES

REP. MACK BERNARD / SEN. MARIA SACHS

This legislation, also known as the "911 Good Samaritan Act," provides that a person acting in good faith, who seeks medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose, may not be charged, prosecuted, or penalized for possession of a controlled substance if the evidence for possession was obtained as a result of the person's seeking medical assistance. The bill states that this is not grounds for suppression of evidence in other criminal prosecutions.

The bill also states that a person who experiences a drug-related overdose and needs medical assistance may not be charged, prosecuted, or penalized for possession of a controlled substance if the evidence for possession was obtained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical assistance.

This bill passed as SB 278, which was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-36.

HB 181 - SPONSORSHIP OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

REP. IRV SLOSBERG

This bill creates the "John Anthony Wilson Bicycle Safety Act." It authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to enter into agreements with not-for-profit or private-sector entities allowing those entities to sponsor signage on state-owned greenway and trail facilities in the form of commercial displays. Signs may only be erected after departmental review and approval, and are restricted in relation to placement, size, terms, materials, and constructions.

The legislation describes how proceeds from the agreements are to be distributed: 85 percent to the appropriate department trust fund to manage and operate state trails and greenways, and 15 percent to the State Transportation Trust Fund for use in the Florida Traffic and Bicycle Safety Education Program and the Florida Safe Routes to School program.

This bill passed as SB 268, which was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-198.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 183 - MISDEMEANOR PRETRIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS

REP. GEORGE MORAITIS

This legislation expands the list of persons eligible for voluntary admission into a misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program. Those eligible include persons who have not previously been convicted of a felony and who have been charged with the following:

- A nonviolent, nontraffic-related misdemeanor and who has been identified as having a substance abuse problem;
- A misdemeanor for prostitution under s. 796.07, F.S.;
- A misdemeanor for possession of alcohol while under the age of 21 under s. 562.111, F.S.; or
- A misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance without a valid prescription under s. 499.03, F.S.

The bill also expands the pool of people who are eligible for admission into a misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program by removing the requirement that a person not have previously been admitted into a pretrial program in order to participate in such programs.

The bill may have a fiscal impact on local governments in that persons who successfully complete such programs may have their criminal charges dismissed and may not be sentenced to time in local jails. However, counties may need to expend funds to expand their misdemeanor pretrial substance abuse education and treatment programs if more people are eligible to participate, which would be a negative impact. The bill has no expected fiscal impact to the state.

This bill passed as SB 186, which was signed by the Governor on April 6 2012; Chapter No. 2012-35.

HB 187 - TRAFFIC SAFETY

REP. IRV SLOSBERG

This bill, entitled the “Minor Traffic Safety Act,” prohibits the use of handheld cellular telephones and other electronic communications devices by drivers under the age of 18 and persons driving school buses. It restricts the number of certain passengers permitted in the vehicle operated by a person under the age of 18. It also requires the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue distinctive placards to be displayed in the motor vehicle while a person under the age of 18 is driving such vehicle.

Additionally, this legislation provides for voluntary checkoff on driver’s license applications to permit contributions to AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety.

This bill died in the House Transportation & Highway Safety Subcommittee.

SB 274 / HB 419 - CHILD CARE FACILITIES

SEN. MARIA SACHS/REP. LORI BERMAN

For the second consecutive year, the “Haile Brockington Act” was proposed in an effort to save innocent children’s lives. This bill requires vehicles used by child care facilities and large family child care homes to be equipped with an alarm system that prompts the driver of the vehicle to inspect the entire vehicle for children. Upon the vehicle’s ignition being shut off, the alarm would sound until the driver reviews all rows of seating and ultimately, deactivates the alarm in the back of the vehicle

This legislation also requires the Department of Children and Family Services to adopt rules to carry out this act and maintain a list of approved alarm systems.

SB 274, after passing its first committee of reference unanimously, died in the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee. HB 419 died in the House Health and Human Services Access Subcommittee.

SB 276 - RECOGNITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

SEN. MARIA SACHS

This bill creates the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame Council (Council) within the Florida Department of Veterans. The Council is created to serve as an advisory body tasked with annually accepting nominations of persons to be considered for induction into the existing Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame.

This legislation also designates August 7 of each year as “Purple Heart Day” to honor those wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the United States Armed Forces.

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-199.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 315 - DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING CHILDREN

REP. PAT ROONEY

This legislation would create a “Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children’s Educational Bill of Rights.” The bill recognizes unique communication needs of deaf & hard-of-hearing children. It would require the Department of Education to develop two things: an educational delivery system that is communication-driven and language-driver for deaf and hard-of-hearing children, and a communication model/plan to be part of the Individual Education Plan.

This bill passed the Senate as SB 260 but died in messages in the House.

SB 334 - BICYCLE SAFETY

SEN. LARCENIA BULLARD

This legislation revises safety standard requirements for bicycle helmets worn by minor riders and passengers to require the helmets to meet certain federal safety standards. Helmets purchased prior to October 1, 2012, in compliance with the existing statutory standards may continue to be worn legally by riders or passengers until January 1, 2016.

The bill also amends current statute to allow law enforcement officers to issue bicycle safety procedures and verbal warnings to bicycle riders and passengers who violate bicycle lighting equipment standards in lieu of issuing a citation.

Language from this legislation was amended onto HB 1223 which was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-181.

HJR 353 / SB 1028 - MEDICAL USE OF CANNABIS

REP. JEFF CLEMENS / SEN. LARCENIA BULLARD

This bill proposes the creation of Section 28 of Article X and Section 32 of Article XII of the State Constitution to allow medical use of cannabis by citizens and allow the Legislature to implement these provisions by general law.

This bill died in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

HB 391 - SALE OF MOTOR FUEL

REP. JEFF CLEMENS / REP. MACK BERNARD

This legislation would require retail service stations that charge different prices for cash sales and credit sales of motor fuel to display the respective price for each type of sale.

This bill died in the House State Affairs Committee.

HB 413 - CHIROPRACTIC MEDICINE

REP. STEVE PERMAN

This bill updated the statutes relating to the practice of chiropractic medicine by revising requirements to obtain a faculty license, practice as a chiropractic physician, and other provisions. This legislation was filed at the request of the Florida Chiropractic Association, and it was passed on the floor of both chambers unanimously.

The bill was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-171.

SB 448 - INMATE REENTRY

SEN. ELLYN BOGDANOFF

This legislation would have created a new section of the Florida Statutes that would have required the Department of Corrections to develop and administer a nonviolent offender reentry program for inmates who are imprisoned for committing a nonviolent crime.

With approval of the sentencing court, nonviolent offenders with substance abuse issues who have served at least one-half of their sentence would have been able to be selected for the program. If the offender successfully completes the program, the court must modify the offender’s sentence and place him or her on drug offender probation.

The program was intended to divert nonviolent offenders from long periods of incarceration when a reduced period followed by intensive substance abuse treatment may have the same deterrent effect, protect the public, rehabilitate the offender, and reduce recidivism.

This bill passed as HB 177 but was vetoed by the Governor on April 6, 2012.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 519 - FLORIDA HEALTHY KIDS CORPORATION

REP. LORI BERMAN

This bill adds a dentist as a member of the Florida Healthy Kids Corporation Board of Directors, who is nominated by the Florida Dental Association and appointed by the Governor. The Florida Healthy Kids Corporation is the body that oversees health care coverage for uninsured children.

This bill passed as SB 608, which was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-42.

SB 540 - SECONDHAND DEALERS AND SECONDARY METALS RECYCLERS

SEN. CHRIS SMITH

This bill addresses the regulation of secondhand dealers and secondary metals recyclers that involve the purchase and sale of regulated metals property. The bill speaks to various provisions relating to Part I and Part II of ch. 538, F.S., to:

- Define the terms “appropriate law enforcement official” and “personal identification card” and require that secondary metals recyclers maintain and daily transmit an electronic record of the previous day’s purchase transactions to the appropriate law enforcement official;
- Revise the timeframe that secondary metals recyclers are required to maintain purchase transaction records.
- Create the definition of “restricted regulated metals property.”
- Limit the liability of secondary metals recyclers for the conversion of motor vehicles to scrap metal, as well as, in premise liability cases.
- Modify the acceptable forms of payment and outlines time restrictions relating to purchase transactions of regulated metals property.
- Expand the application of penalties for violations to persons who assist with the taking of copper and other nonferrous metals.
- Provide that the regulation of regulated metals property is preempted to the state except with respect to ordinances enacted prior to March 1, 2012, and allows local requirements to be amended to meet or exceed state requirements.
- Provide for liability in an amount equal to three times the actual damages sustained by a utility or communications services provider if the damages are caused by theft of property.
- Provide that an owner of metal property is not liable to a person who is injured during theft or attempted theft of metal from their property and provides an owner of metals recycler is not liable for injuries caused by a dangerous condition created as a result of the theft or attempted theft of the owner’s property if the owner did not know of the dangerous condition.

This bill passed as HB 885, which was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-179.

HB 613 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

REP. MACK BERNARD

This legislation expands efforts by the State of Florida to cut financial ties between state-chartered banks and Iranian-financed terrorists, and will impose new rules on state chartered financial institutions to certify that their corresponding banks are not engaged in federally-prohibited activities with Iranian-linked counterparts. The financial restriction would also apply to any other terrorist organization designated by the United States. This bill creates civil penalties of up to \$10,000 per incident for non-compliance and reporting violations.

This bill passed as SB 792, which was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-201.

SB 634 - SPACEPORT FACILITIES

SEN. LIZBETH BENACQUISTO

This bill changes “spaceport launch facilities” to “launch support facilities,” bringing the definition up-to-date with appropriate spaceport infrastructure language. The language change allows for infrastructure funds to be spent on facilities that are located at launch sites or launch ranges that are required to support launch activities, including launch assembly, vehicle operations, communications and flight safety functions.

This bill was signed by the Governor on February 16, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-1.



LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

SB 678 - STATE CONTRACTS

SEN. CHRIS SMITH

This bill adds the requirement that all state contracts exceeding \$35,000 include a provision requiring any call-center services to be staffed by persons located within the United States.

This bill unanimously passed the Senate but died in messages in the House.

HB 687 - THEFT OFFENSES

REP. STEVE PERMAN

This bill, filed at the request of the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association, would have increased the penalties for individuals who commit grand theft or fraud against senior citizens.

Florida currently has inequities within the Criminal Punishment Code. Criminals convicted with Grand Theft against individuals over the age of 65 receive a lower punishment than its Grand Theft counterpart. This bill would have increased the Criminal Punishment Code by two levels, which would have helped with enforcement efforts. The goal of this bill was to protect Florida's seniors from becoming victims in financial crimes.

This bill died in the House Criminal Justice Subcommittee.

HB 725 - INSURANCE AGENTS AND ADJUSTERS

REP. BILL HAGER

This legislation substantially revises the Licensing Procedures Law for insurance agents, adjusters, and limited lines licensees. The bill creates the new licensure classification of all-lines adjuster to replace the current licensure classifications of independent adjuster and company employee adjuster.

The bill prohibits an employee or an agent or agency from initiating contact with any proposed insured for the purpose of soliciting title insurance unless the employee is licensed as a title insurance agent or exempt from such licensure. It also provides that failure to comply with any civil, criminal, or administrative action taken by child support enforcement program Title IV-D of the Social Security Act is grounds for action against an applicant, licensee, or appointee.

Lastly, the bill substantially revises the continuing education requirements for licensees. Each licensee will be required to complete a 5-hour update course every 2 years.

This bill was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-209.

SB 858 - KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER **SEN. JOE NEGRON**

This bill is a consensus product by the Senate Select Committee on Protecting Florida's Children formed by President Mike Haridopolos in August of 2011 in the wake of the Casey Anthony Verdict.



The bill, effective July 1, 2012, creates a new third degree felony for knowingly and willfully giving false information to a law enforcement officer who is conducting a missing person investigation involving a child 16 years of age or younger with the intent to mislead the officer or impede the investigation, and the child suffers great bodily harm, permanent disability, permanent disfigurement, or death.

This bill passed as HB 37, which was signed by the Governor on April 7, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-53.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 897 / SB 1202 - CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTING

REP. GEORGE MORAITIS / SEN. ELLYN BOGDANOFF

This legislation increases the information that must be shared among parties involved in a construction project and increases the time periods within which construction liens may be recorded or claims against a payment bond may be made. Additionally, the bill:

- Establishes a uniform time period of 5 years to initiate an action to enforce a claim against a payment bond;
- Requires a contractor to supply a copy of the payment bond to the public entity contracting for a public works project before commencing construction;
- Requires government entities to open sealed bids for public works projects at a public meeting;
- Simplifies procedures for a lessor to prohibit the attachment of liens to a parcel of property as the result of an improvement to a leased premises by a tenant;
- Revises the methods by which notices and other documents relating to construction liens must be served; and
- Authorizes a contractor to satisfy certain grandfathering provisions for certification as a contractor by 2015 and allows glass glazing contractors to receive certification through the grandfathering provisions.

This bill passed as HB 897, which was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-211.

HB 907 - REVIEW OF EXEMPTIONS & EXCLUSIONS FROM TAX ON SALES, USE, & OTHER TRANSACTIONS

REP. MARK PAFFORD

This bill would institute a regular review of individual exemptions and exclusions to ensure they currently serve a broad, statewide, public purpose. Two-thirds of Florida's revenue comes from sales tax, making it a critical factor to the state's economic and fiscal infrastructure. The current tax code is fraught with exemptions that make the entire system unbalanced.

This bill died in the House Finance & Tax Committee.

SB 962 - FLORIDA TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SEN. LIZBETH BENACQUISTO

This bill provides a one time bump in the cap of The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program, created by the Florida Legislature in 2001, to help provide low-income students with opportunities to attend private schools through tax credits provided to contributing companies doing business in Florida.

This bill passed as HB 859, which was signed by the Governor on March 23, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-22.

SB 964 - PROTECTION OF MINORS

SEN. LIZBETH BENACQUISTO

This legislation strengthens laws regarding child pornography and video voyeurism in the state, enhancing penalties for the crime from a third-degree to a second-degree felony if the victim is a minor under the age of 16. It also adds the crime of video voyeurism to the list of offenses that require registration as a sexual offender.

This bill passed as HB 437, which was signed by the Governor on March 23, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-19.

HB 1011 - WARRANTY ASSOCIATIONS

REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

This bill clarifies consumer protection laws related to warranties offered by motor vehicle service agreement companies, home warranty associations and service warranty associations.

The legislation places safeguards for consumers or purchasers of these warranties. This includes identifying the proper documentation necessary for effectuating refunds. The bill also allows the State Chief Financial Officer and the Insurance Commissioner to accept donations to go after unlicensed warranty programs. Any such gifts or grants must be placed in the department trust fund and be appropriated by the Legislature to fight this fraud.

This bill was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-77.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 1027 - PUBLIC SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

REP. LORI BERMAN & REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

This legislation acknowledges the importance of teaching public school students of the tragic events surrounding the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Teachers in Florida public schools would be required to use the highest standards of professionalism, utilizing appropriate materials and instruction in teaching the impact of 9/11 on our country.

The Senate Companion Bill passed the Senate Education PreK-12 and Senate Budget Subcommittee on Education PreK-12 unanimously, but HB 1027 died in the House K-20 Innovation Subcommittee.

HB 1087 / SB 1340 - CONCEALED WEAPONS OR FIREARMS

REP. LORI BERMAN / SEN. MARIA SACHS

This bill specifies additional designated locations where guns are prohibited. It specifically states that a license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm does not allow for firearms to be brought into a child care facility, nor a state, county, or municipal building, nor into school board, constitutional or special district buildings.

Both bills died in their respective Criminal Justice Committees.

HB 1105 - SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

REP. STEVE PERMAN

This bill designates April 7th of each year as “Everglades Day” in Florida.

The Everglades ecosystem is an invaluable part of Florida’s heritage and its future. It is also the primary source of fresh water for South Florida. April 7th was chosen to honor the birthday of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, popularly known as the “Mother of the Everglades.” The purpose of this legislation is to raise awareness of the importance of the Everglades to our state.

This bill passed as SB 924, which was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter 2012-47.

HB 1287 - AUTISM SERVICES AND SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

REP. JOSEPH ABRUZZO

This legislation adds to the voluntary “check-offs” on motor vehicle registration forms and applications for drivers licenses to include two essential organizations: “Autism Services Grant Council” and “Support Our Troops.” The Autism Services Grants Council was created by the Florida Legislature in 2009 to implement and oversee grants distribution for Autism programs. Support Our Troops is a charity that bolsters the well-being of our active duty troops and their families. Their programs range from delivering care packages for the troops overseas to assisting military families.

This bill was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-86.

SB 1816 - PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE PERSONS

SEN. LIZBETH BENACQUISTO

This legislation helps protect children from abuse by strengthening the law requiring adults to report abuse they witness occurring. It defines a “caregiver” to include a parent, legal custodian, adult household member found regularly in the home, or an employee or volunteer given sole responsibility for the care of the child. The bill also strengthens accountability for colleges and universities regarding child abuse reports. Lastly, it provides for victim relocation to sexual assault victims.

This bill passed as HB 1355, which was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-155.

HB 1189 - ELECTIONS

REP. MARK PAFFORD

This bill increases the number of days of early voting from 8 to 15 and restores the last Sunday before Election Day as an early voting day. It also would allow voters to complete a change of address form at the polls instead of requiring them to cast provisional ballots. Lastly, this legislation would increase the number of years from 2 to 4 that voter signatures on citizen petition initiatives are valid.

This bill died in the House Government Operations Subcommittee.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

HB 1389 - WATER STORAGE AND WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

REP. STEVE PERMAN

Florida currently participates with the federal government to lease privately-held land for the purpose of storing water. The land-owners are concerned that if they participate in the program, then their agricultural lands could become wetlands. This legislation gives them the security they need to participate in the program.

This bill will require all land being used in the program to be surveyed, and the wetlands identified. Any wetlands that arise as a result of participating with the program will not require mitigation.

This bill was signed by the Governor on April 27, 2012; Chapter 2012-187.

SB 1416 - REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

SEN. ELLYN BOGDANOFF

This bill rebrands the state's unemployment compensation program as the "reemployment assistance program," and codifies Executive Order 12-03 extending the temporary state extended benefits program.

Among other things, the bill also provides tax relief to Florida employers through two changes:

1. The bill lowers the wage base by \$500 from \$8,500 to \$8,000 for tax years 2012 through 2014.
2. The bill also increases the recoupment period used in the calculation from 3 years to 5 years until tax year 2018.

This bill passed as HB 7027, which was signed by the Governor on March 28, 2012; Chapter No. 2011-30.

HB 1439 - TAX ON INSURANCE PREMIUMS

REP. BILL HAGER

This legislation provides that amounts collected by certain mutual property & casualty insurance companies as contributions to surplus are not subject to insurance premium tax under specified circumstances.

This bill died in the House Finance & Tax Committee.

SB 1860 – MOTOR VEHICLE PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION INSURANCE

SEN. JOE NEGRON

This bill amends laws governing Personal Injury Protection (PIP) benefits under the No-Fault law and laws related to PIP motor vehicle insurance fraud.

The bill revises the provision of Personal Injury Protection medical benefits under the Florida Motor Vehicle No-Fault Law, effective January 1, 2013. The bill applies two different coverage limits for PIP medical benefits, based upon the severity of the medical condition of the individual.

PIP now offers \$5,000 in death benefits.

The legislation contains numerous provisions designed to curtail PIP fraud. Provisions relating to the investigation of PIP claims by insurers are revised, effective January 1, 2013. The bill defines failure to pay PIP claims within certain time limits as an unfair and deceptive practice. Law enforcement is required to complete a long-form crash report when there is an indication of pain or discomfort by any party to a crash.

The bill calls for a mandatory rate filing by insurers that write PIP insurance. The Office of Insurance Regulation must perform a comprehensive PIP data call and publish the results by January 1, 2015. It also revises provisions related to the PIP medical fee schedule, as well as provisions related to attorney fee awards in No-Fault disputes.

This bill passed as HB 119, which was signed by the Governor on May 4, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-197.

LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY DELEGATION MEMBERS

CONFERENCE REPORT ON HB 5001 - APPROPRIATIONS

SEN. ELLYN BOGDANOFF

This bill contains all appropriations allocated within the State of Florida.

Sen. Bogdanoff was successful in inserting language that would allow a portion of the \$62,660 of Safe Schools Categorical Funding that is distributed to each school district to be utilized for “Bullying Prevention and Intervention” purposes. It also requires the Department of Education to create a mechanism for the enforcement of the “Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act.”

This bill was signed by the Governor with Line Item Veto on April 17, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-118.

HB 7029 - NULLIFICATION AND REPEAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

REP. PAT ROONEY

This bill amends the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) by codifying the legal rule that the repeal of a substantive statute also acts to repeal the administrative rules adopted to implement the statute. Additionally, the legislation creates a summary process for the Department of State to repeal rules that are no longer in full force and effect. The process includes notice to and review by the affected agency as well as notice and opportunity for the public to follow the hearing process in the APA to challenge the proposed summary rule repeal.

Rules involving the five Water Management Districts of Florida, the Health Program Office, the former Department of Commerce, former Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services, former Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, or former Department of Labor & Employment Security were repealed and/or nullified. It now directs the Department of Health and Department of Education to initiate necessary rulemaking before effective date of specified rule nullifications.

The effective date of this law is May 27, 2012.

This bill was signed by the Governor on March 28, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-31.

HB 7049 - HUMAN TRAFFICKING

REP. WILLIAM SNYDER

This bill updates and enhances Florida’s human trafficking laws. It provides local and state Law Enforcement with the tools necessary to combat human trafficking. It combines the three current statutes on involuntary servitude, human trafficking, and sex trafficking into a single statute. It provides for jurisdiction for human trafficking to the Office of the Statewide Prosecutor and to the statewide grand jury. It also increases the penalty for the crime of human smuggling from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony. This legislation permits a judge to authorize the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications when such interception may provide evidence of the commission of the offense of human trafficking. Lastly, it requires an operator of a massage establishment, any employee of a massage establishment and any person performing massage therein to present valid government identification to an investigator of the Department of Health or law enforcement officer upon request.

This effective date of this law is July 1, 2012.

This bill was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter No. 2012-97.

HB 7095 - CLERKS OF COURT

REP. WILLIAM SNYDER

This legislation changes certain responsibilities of the Clerks of Court to enhance the collection of court fees and fines and improve the efficiency of their operations. The bill also requires broader use of the Comprehensive Case Information System (CCIS) among state agencies to reduce operational costs and duties of the Clerks of the Court. It requires all Clerks of the Court to participate in the CCIS. It also adds the payment of court fines, fees and costs as a condition of parole. Additionally, the bill creates a positive fiscal impact to the Clerks of Court and an indeterminate impact to the Public Defenders.

The effective date of this law is July 1, 2012.

This bill was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2012; Chapter 2012-100.

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

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THE PALM BEACH COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION OFFICE

The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all seventeen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives who represent 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 which includes local bills, community appropriation requests and county and municipal leg-



islative 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 organizations.

At the end of each legislative session, this comprehensive report is published by the delegation for all county, municipal and federal offices, as well as other parties interested in all local bills and appropriations affecting Palm Beach County, and general bills passed by Palm Beach County Delegation members.

For more information, or to be put on our mailing list, please call the delegation office at 561/355-2406.