



The Delegation Digest 2017-2018 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Session Week 1

January 8-12, 2018

- Week Recap
- Bills and Policy
- Local Bills
- Member Highlights
- Appropriations

Week Recap

The 2018 legislative Session began January 9, 2018. In addition to the start of Session, Palm Beach County Days was held January 9-10. Elected officials, education partners, and community and business leaders travelled to Tallahassee to meet with legislators and advocate for shared priorities of the County. Thank you to all the Delegation Members and Staff for your continued efforts that make Palm Beach County a great place to live, work, and play!



Palm Beach County Day attendees on the House Chamber floor.

Bills and Policy

HB 421 - Homestead Waivers by Rep. Lori Berman was heard in its second committee reference, Agriculture & Property Rights Subcommittee, on Tuesday. The bill provides language that that may be included in a deed that creates a presumption that the spouse knowingly and intelligently waived his or her right to inherit such homestead property. The bill passed favorably out of committee and is now in House Judiciary Committee.

On Tuesday, the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee heard HB 721 - Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services by Rep. David Silvers. The bill requires county jails to continue to administer psychotropic medications as were prescribed at mental health treatment facilities upon a facility client's discharge. The bill also requires county jails to send all medical information for individuals in their custody who will be admitted to state mental health treatment facilities. The bill passed favorably and is now in House Health & Human Services Committee.

The House Appropriations Committee passed out of committee HB 517 - State Employees' Prescription Drug Program by Rep. MaryLynn Magar on Tuesday.

The bill requires the Department of Management Services to implement formulary management cost-saving measures and removes provisions that prohibit the department from implementing restricted prescription drug formulary or prior authorization program in state employees' prescription drug program. The bill has been added to Second Reading Calendar.

HB 533 - Unfair Insurance Trade Practices by Rep. Bill Hager was heard on Wednesday in the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee. The bill allows a property and casualty insurer to condition the sale of insurance on the purchase of motor vehicle services if such services are purchased from a membership organization affiliated with the property and casualty insurer and the affiliated membership organization has maintained more than one million members in Florida continuously since January 1, 2018. The bill is now in House Commerce Committee.

At Wednesday's House PreK-12 Quality Subcommittee, Rep. David Silvers' bill HB 577 - High School Graduation Requirements was heard and passed favorably out of committee. The bill allows a student to use credit earned upon completion of a Department of Education registered apprenticeship or pre apprenticeship program to satisfy the credit requirements for fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts. It is now in House Education Committee.

SB 796 - Specialty License Plates/Florida Beekeepers Association by Sen. Kevin Rader directs the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to develop a Florida State Beekeepers Association license plate and establishes an annual fee for the license plate. The bill passed out of the Senate Transportation Committee on Wednesday and is now in Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development Committee.

The House Health Quality Subcommittee heard HB 673 - Reporting Of Adverse Incidents In Planned Out-Of-Hospital Births by Rep. MaryLynn Magar. The bill, which was found favorable by the committee, requires a physician, certified nurse midwife, or licensed midwife attending a planned out-of-hospital birth to submit an adverse incident report to the Department of Health, within 15 days of the occurrence of the incident. It is now in House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee.

HB 491 – Theft by Rep. Rick Roth extends the mandatory \$10,000 fine to theft of commercially farmed animals or bee colonies of a registered beekeeper. The bill passed out of the House Judiciary Committee and has been added to Second Reading Calendar.

Local Bills

Rep. Matt Willhite's local bill, HB 889 - West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund, was heard on Wednesday in its first committee of reference, the House Local, Federal, & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. The bill revises retirement pension calculations for the City of West Palm Beach police department and corrects scrivener's errors. The bill was reported favorably and is now in the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

Member Highlights

On Thursday, Rep. Lori Berman and Rep. Matt Willhite participated in a press conference highlighting a legislative package to combat the opioid epidemic. One of the most critical issues the state right now; lawmakers are considering options to stop the spread of drug addiction and patients' dependence on prescription medicines. Some of the bills highlighted during the press conference included putting addiction warning labels on prescription bottles, charging a new court fee to help smaller counties deal with the problem, and an application to the federal government for more money to expand treatment.

Appropriations

Wednesday, the House Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee heard member's appropriations project bills. These delegation sponsored bills passed favorably out of the committee:

- HB 2855 Palm Beach State College - Coding & Cognitive Technologies Program by Rep. David Silvers. Senate sponsor is Sen. Bobby Powell.
[Appropriations Project Details](#)
- HB 3161 Habilitation Center for the Handicapped - Adults with Disabilities Program by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo
[Appropriations Project Details](#)

The Justice Appropriations Subcommittee heard and passed the following delegation sponsored appropriation:

- HB 3787 Restore Ex-Offender Reentry Program by Rep. Lori Berman
[Appropriations Project Details](#)

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Delegation Chair
Rep. Bill Hager

Delegation Vice Chair
Rep. Matt Willhite

Senators

Joe Negron
District 25

Kevin Rader
District 29

Bobby Powell, Jr.
District 30

Vacant
District 31

Representatives

Joseph Abruzzo
District 81

MaryLynn Magar
District 82

Rick Roth
District 85

Matt Willhite
District 86

David Silvers
District 87

Al Jacquet
District 88

Bill Hager
District 89

Lori Berman
District 90

Emily Slosberg
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.