



The Delegation Digest 2017-2018 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Session Week 3
January 22-26, 2018

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

Week Recap

This week was Children's Week at the Capitol. Organizations from all over the State were in Tallahassee to bring awareness to and advocate on behalf of children's programs and funding needs. Additionally, the House and Senate presented their committee budget allocations this week. On Friday, the proposed full budget allocations for each Chamber were released. Currently, the House and Senate budgets are about \$100 million apart with the [House budget](#) at \$87,197,374,131 and the [Senate budget](#) at \$87,297,406,427.



The Capitol Rotunda decorated for Children's Week.

Bills and Policy

Monday, SB 1612 - Airboat Regulation by Sen. Kevin Rader was heard in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. The bill creates "Ellie's Law" in honor of Elizabeth "Ellie" Goldenberg who died in 2017 from injuries she sustained after being thrown from an airboat on an Everglades airboat tour. The bill prohibits a person from operating an airboat to carry passengers for hire on waters of the state unless he or she has specified documents on board the airboat while carrying passengers for hire. A person who violates the airboat operating provisions commits a noncriminal infraction, punishable by up to a \$500 fine. It was found favorable with a committee substitute and is now in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources. HB 1211 - Airboat Regulation by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo is the House sponsored version.

SB 936 - Juvenile Justice by Sen. Bobby Powell revises the list of crimes for which children of specified ages who are charged with committing, attempting to commit, or conspiring to commit may have an information filed against them by a state attorney and requires children of certain ages who are convicted and sentenced to the Department of Corrections to be kept completely separated from adult offenders in the facility. The bill passed favorably with a committee substitute out of the Senate Criminal Justice

Committee on Monday and is now in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

Sen. Bobby Powell's bill, SB 982 - Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs, which creates the Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs Program was heard Monday in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. The program will provide reimbursement for up to \$1,500 of annual veterinary costs associated with caring for a retired law enforcement dog by the former handler or adopter who incurs the costs. The bill also includes an appropriation of \$300,000 in recurring General Revenue Funds to implement and administer the program. The bill was found favorable and is now in Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice. HB 763 - Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo is the House sponsored version.

HB 8011 - Jewish American Heritage Week, a resolution by Rep. Emily Slosberg was adopted by Publication on Monday. The resolution designates February 12-16, 2018, as Jewish American Heritage Week in Florida to celebrate and honor the invaluable contributions of Jewish Americans and recognize the proud history of Jewish Americans.

Tuesday, HB 673 - Reporting of Adverse Incidents in Planned Out-Of-Hospital Births by Rep. MaryLynn Magar was heard in the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill 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. The bill passed favorably out of committee and is now in the House Health & Human Services Committee.

HB 1099 - Advanced Birth Centers by Rep. MaryLynn Magar creates a new licensure program within the Agency for Health Care Administration for advanced birth centers. The bill requires advanced birth centers to be operated and staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The bill requires a mother and her infant to be discharged from the advanced birth center within 48 hours after the birth of the infant for a vaginal delivery and within 72 hours when delivery is by cesarean section, except in unusual circumstances as defined by rule. The bill was passed favorably with a committee substitute out of the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee on Tuesday. The bill is now in the House Health & Human Services Committee.

On Tuesday, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development heard SB 1130 - Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Department of State by Sen. Bobby Powell. The bill re-creates, without modification, the Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Department of State, and repeals s. 20.106(5), F.S., which is the subsection of law relating to the termination of such trust fund. The bill was found favorable and is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Bill Hager's bill, HB 1073 - Department of Financial Services, was heard Tuesday in the House Insurance & Banking Subcommittee. The bill revises requirements for electronic originals and copying of certain records media; revises certain bureau names and creates new bureaus; revises service options for child transition plans; provides certain exemptions for members and veterans of armed forces; authorizes adjustments to Regulatory Trust Fund; revises requirements for licensure or appointment of managing general agents under the Florida Insurance Code; revises license application process for managing general agents; revises terms of office for Florida Fire Safety Board; and deletes provision for staffing and funding formula of Florida State Fire College. The bill was found favorable with a committee substitute and is

now in the House Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee.

SB 820 - Firesafety Inspectors by Sen. Bobby Powell creates s.633.217, F.S., and prohibits certain actions to influence a firesafety inspector by coercion or compensation to violate the Florida Fire Prevention Code, any rules adopted by the State Fire Marshal, or any provision of ch. 633, F.S. The bill imposes criminal penalties for violation of the prohibited provisions. A first offense constitutes a second-degree misdemeanor. A second or subsequent offense constitutes a first-degree misdemeanor. The bill passed favorably with a committee substitute out of the Senate Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee and is now in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. HB 637 - Fire Safety and Prevention by Rep. Al Jacquet is the House sponsored version.

HB 79 - Public Meetings by Rep. Rick Roth specifies conditions under which members of board or commission of state agency or authority or of agency or authority of county, municipal corporation, or political subdivision may participate in fact-finding exercises or excursions. The bill passed favorably out the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee and is now in the House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

Tuesday, the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee heard HB 155 - State Symbols by Rep. MaryLynn Magar. The bill removes the scheduled repeal of the Loggerhead Turtle as the official state saltwater reptile and the scheduled repeal of the Florida Cracker Horse as the official state horse. In addition, the bill designates the Florida Cracker Cattle as the official state heritage cattle breed. The bill was found favorable and is now in the House Government Accountability Committee.

Rep. Matt Willhite's bill, HB 813 - Licensure of Unarmed Security Guards was heard Wednesday in the House Commerce Committee. The bill will allow applicants for a Class "D" unarmed security officer license to take the required training online. Such training is valid only if the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services receives verification of such applicant's identity, attendance, and successful completion of such training. The bill was reported favorably out of committee and has been added to Second Reading Calendar.

Rep. Bill Hager filed HB 5301 – Judges, formerly PCB JUA1 in the House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee, on Wednesday. The bill establishes two new circuit court judgeships, two new county court judgeships, and decertifies 13 existing county court judgeships. The bill also specifies the created judicial offices must be filled through the electoral process in the 2018 general election and not by gubernatorial appointment. Additionally, the bill provides guidelines for the elimination of the decertified judicial offices. The bill has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

The Senate Transportation Committee passed favorably SB 818 - Emergency Exemption from Tolls by Sen. Bobby Powell on Thursday. The bill provides an exemption from toll payment for persons operating motor vehicles on toll facilities within a county subject to a mandatory evacuation order issued during a state of emergency declared by the Governor. The bill requires the exemption to remain in effect until the evacuation order is lifted. The bill is now in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development.

HB 33 - Texting While Driving, prime cosponsored by Rep. Emily Slosberg, amends the Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law to change the current

enforcement of the ban on texting while driving from secondary to primary, which will allow a law enforcement officer to stop a vehicle solely for texting while driving. The bill also requires a law enforcement officer who detains a motor vehicle operator for texting while driving to inform the operator that he or she has a right to decline a search of their cellphone. The bill passed favorably with a committee substitute out the House Judiciary Committee.

On Friday, Rep. Emily Slosberg filed HB 8029 - Mental Health Awareness Week a resolution designating February 3 -10, 2018, as Mental Health Awareness Week in Florida. The resolution seeks to bring awareness to the over 43.6 million Americans, including first responders, who experience some form of mental illness.

Local Bills

Rep. Matt Willhite's local bill, HB 889 - West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund, was heard Tuesday in the House Oversight, Transparency & Administration 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 Government Accountability Committee.

HB 1113 - Palm Beach County Housing Authority by Rep. David Silvers and Rep. Lori Berman was heard in the House Public Integrity & Ethics Committee on Wednesday. The bill allows the governing body of Palm Beach County to appoint two additional members to the Palm Beach County Housing Authority in addition to the five members that are appointed by the Governor for a total of seven members. The members appointed must be qualified electors of the county and are subject to removal or suspension by the governing body of the county. The bill was reported favorably and is now in the House Government Accountability Committee.

Wednesday, HB 901 - Acme Improvement District and Pine Tree Water Control District by Rep. Mat Willhite was heard in the House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee. The bill transfers the portion of the Flying Cow Ranch property within the Acme Improvement District and places it in the jurisdiction of the Pine Tree Water Control District to facilitate the development of the Flying Cow Ranch property. The bill also amends the charters of Acme Improvement District and the Pine Tree Water Control District to state the new boundaries of each District as a result of the parcel move. The bill was reported favorably with a technical amendment that added the full description for each district's boundary. It is now in the House Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee.

Also heard in Wednesday's House Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee was HB 1093 - Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District. This bill by Rep. Matt Willhite dissolves the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District as an independent special district and transfers it to the Town of Loxahatchee Groves as a dependent special district. The bill repeals all special acts of the Loxahatchee Groves Water Control District and all provisions will become ordinances of the Town of Loxahatchee Groves. The bill would take effect if approved by voters in a referendum. The bill passed favorably and is now in the House Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee.

Member Highlights

Please join me in wishing Rep. Al Jacquet a belated happy birthday! His birthday was on January 22.

On Tuesday, Rep. Lori Berman participated in a joint press conference in support of the “Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act” in honor of Helen Gordon Davis for her pioneering work in the field of equal pay. Rep. Berman’s bill, HB 393 - Discrimination in Labor and Employment, would strengthen state laws promoting equal opportunities and advancement for all.

Rep. Emily Slosberg held a joint press conference Thursday to highlight HB 33 - Texting While Driving. The bill would change texting while driving from a secondary offense to a primary offense, in an effort to make Florida’s roadways safer.

Appropriations

The House Transportation & Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee heard and passed the following delegation sponsored appropriation on Tuesday:

- HB 2339 - Town of Lake Park - Town Hall Waterproofing and Roof Replacement by Rep. Al Jacquet
[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.