



# The Delegation Digest 2017-2018 Legislative Session

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

## Session Week 5

February 5-9, 2018

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## Week Recap

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Both Chambers passed their respective budgets on Wednesday. The House passed HB 5001 - General Appropriations Act, which is funded at \$87,197,374,131. The Senate bill, SB 2500 - Appropriations, allocates funding at \$87,297,406,427. The budgets are currently \$100,032,296 apart. A budget conference has been requested but has not yet been scheduled.



*This week marks the halfway point for the 2018 legislative Session.*

## Bills and Policy

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Tuesday, SB 588 - Crimes Evidencing Prejudice by Sen. Kevin Rader was heard in the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. The bill amends Florida's hate crimes statutes and reclassifies the felony or misdemeanor degree of an offense if the commission of the offense evidences prejudice based on the race, color, ancestry, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, homeless status, or advanced age of the victim of the crime. The bill also expands grounds for the reclassification of crimes to include prejudice based on the gender or gender identity of the victim and to include prejudice based on a disability of the victim. The bill was reported favorably and is now in Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

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 out of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee and is now in the Senate Rules Committee. HB 637 - Fire Safety and Prevention by Rep. Al Jacquet is the House sponsored version.

HB 1069 - Substance Abuse Services by Rep. Bill Hager was heard Tuesday in the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee. The bill expands the statutory findings on who may benefit from living in a recovery residence to include not only those individuals who have completed treatment, but also those who are continuing to receive substance abuse treatment. The bill allows for licensed service providers to accept referrals from a noncertified recovery residence if it is determined the individual would benefit from the service and no recovery residence employees/owners directly or indirectly benefit from the referral. It would also require recovery residences to comply with fire code standards according to the type of facility. The bill also expands background screening requirements and adds staff and volunteers who are subject to a level 2 background screening to include anyone with direct contact with individuals receiving treatment. The bill was passed favorably with a committee substitute and is now in the House Health & Human Services Committee.

Rep. Bill Hager's bill, HB 1073 - Department of Financial Services, was heard Tuesday in the House Government Operations & Technology Appropriations 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 two committee substitutes and is now in the House Commerce Committee.

The House Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee heard HB 1437 - Employment Services for Persons with Disabilities by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo on Tuesday. The bill requires participants in an adult or youth work experience activity under either the Division of Blind Services or the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation be deemed an employee of the state for the purposes of workers' compensation coverage. The bill passed favorably out of committee and is now in the House Government Accountability Committee.

On Tuesday, SB 810 - Vote-by-mail Ballots by Sen. Bobby Powell was heard in the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee. The bill authorizes electors to drop-off vote-by-mail ballots at early voting sites in their counties of residence during the sites' hours of operation. The also directs the Division of Elections to adopt uniform rules for the receipt of ballots. The bill was found favorable and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

During the House Session, HB 517 - State Employees' Prescription Drug Program by Rep. MaryLynn Magar was heard on Wednesday. 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 passed by a vote of 110-0 and has been sent to the Senate via Messages.

The House also heard HB 5301 – Judges by Rep. Bill Hager during Session 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 passed by a vote of 111-0 and has been sent to the Senate via Messages.

Wednesday, HB 8017 - 70th Anniversary of Founding of State of Israel by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo was adopted by Publication. The cosponsors for this resolution include Rep. Lori Berman, Rep. Bill Hager, Rep. Emily Slosberg, and Rep. Matt Willhite. SB 584 - Anniversary of the Modern State of Israel, the Senate version filed by Sen. Kevin Rader was also adopted by Publication in the Senate on Wednesday. Both resolutions recognize the 70th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of close friendship and cooperation between the State of Florida and Israel.

HB 8029 - Mental Health Awareness Week by Rep. Emily Slosberg is 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. The resolution was adopted by Publication on Wednesday.

Representative Al Jacquet's resolution, HB 8013 – Taiwan, was adopted by Publication on Wednesday in the House. The resolution expresses appreciation for the sister state relationship between Florida and Taiwan. It recognizes the relationship and shared interests between its people as well as the bilateral economic and cultural ties.

The Senate adopted resolution SB 1914 - FAMU Day by Sen. Bobby Powell on Wednesday. The resolution recognizes February 8, 2018, as "FAMU Day" in Florida to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and its students.

Rep. Lori Berman filed HB 8047 - Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month on Wednesday. The resolution designates March 2018 as "Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month" to increase the awareness and education about colorectal cancer.

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 Thursday in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice. 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 Committee. HB 763 - Care for Retired Law Enforcement Dogs by Rep. Joseph Abruzzo is the House sponsored version.

SB 1440 - Mental Illness Training for Law Enforcement Officers by Sen. Bobby Powell passed favorably out of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice on Thursday. The bill requires the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to establish a continued employment training component relating to mental illness. The bill specifies instructions to be included in the training component. Completion of the training component may count toward the 40 hours of instruction for continued employment or appointment as a law enforcement officer. It is now in Senate Appropriations Committee.

## Local Bills

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Rep. Matt Willhite's local bill, HB 889 - West Palm Beach Police Pension Fund, was heard Thursday in the House Government Accountability Committee. The bill revises retirement pension calculations for the City of West Palm Beach police department and corrects scrivener's errors. The bill was found favorable and has been added to Second Reading Calendar.

Thursday, HB 901 - Acme Improvement District and Pine Tree Water Control District by Rep. Mat Willhite was heard in the House Government Accountability Committee. 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.

## Member Highlights

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Rep. Lori Berman held a joint press conference Tuesday to promote the Equal Rights Amendment bill, HB 1161 - Equal Rights for Men and Women, which she has cosponsored. The bill ratifies the proposed amendment to U.S. Constitution relating to equal rights for men and women. The amendment would ensure that the U.S. Constitution would prohibit sex-based discrimination.

On Wednesday, Rep. Emily Slosberg held a joint press conference to announce Jewish Heritage Week, which begins Monday, February 12. HB 8011 - Jewish American Heritage Week, a resolution by Rep. Slosberg, 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.

## Appropriations

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During the Senate Session on Wednesday, senators heard and voted on the 2018-2019 budget, SB 2500 – Appropriations. During session, a number of amendments were heard and adopted into the final budget that was passed. Below are Palm Beach County specific amendments adopted in the Senate's budget.

- Amendment 995167 by Sen. Bobby Powell  
Palm Beach Habilitation Center Cultural Arts Building - \$480,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)
- Amendment 995164 by Sen. Anitere Flores  
FARR Development of Certification Infrastructure & Trainings - \$300,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)
- Amendment 995214 by Sen. Bobby Powell  
Jerome Golden Center Level II Residential Co-Occurring Disorder Program - \$200,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)

- Amendment 995204 by Sen. Denise Grimsley  
MorseLife Assisted Living Bi-Fuel Generator - \$300,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)
  
- Amendment 995216 by Sen. Wilton Simpson  
Lake Worth Park of Commerce Phase 1B - \$1,500,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)
  
- Amendment 995193 by Sen. Oscar Braynon  
Everglades Restoration Agricultural Community Employment Training  
Program - \$1,500,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)
  
- Amendment 995143 by Sen. Kevin Rader  
Glades Region Infrastructure Improvement Program- \$1,000,000  
[Senate Appropriations Amendment](#)

## 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.*