



Delegation Digest

MARCH 8-12 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Week 2 of the 2021 Legislative Session. In this Week's edition of the Delegation Digest, we are highlighting the budget and member bills.

Within Florida's Constitution, the Legislature's only job during the 60-day legislative session is to vote on a balanced budget. If they do not vote within the 60-day timeframe, then an extension will be granted by both the Speaker of the House and the Senate President, or a special session will be called after Sine Die (the end of Session). The budget needs to be voted, ratified and signed by the Governor before July 1, the start of the States fiscal year.

This year the budget process is a little different in the House than in previous years. Rather than each member presenting their appropriations requests before their respected committee's, all budget items are placed on a content agenda and voted all at once. Members can vote no by submitting their objection to the Chair. Bills voted out of committee are "in play" for the budgetary process.



BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Please note this is just a snapshot of the bills filed by the Delegation members. You can visit Myfloridahouse.gov or Flsenate.gov to view a complete list of bills.

Senator Harrell - District 25

Foster Family Recruitment and Stability Project

Funding for this project will support recruitment & licensing of foster families in 2022, resulting in up to 56 new families and help to reduce group care placements Children and families who are a part of the foster and adoptive family unit who are under or uninsured will receive therapeutic services

Senator Polsky - District 29

Mental Health Support Services for Adults with Disabilities (Boca HabCenter)

Funding for this project will provide on-site programs or telemental health services to HabCenter clients who suffer from symptoms of anxiety or depression or other mental health concerns. The goal is to improve their overall mental health and well-being, and their daily functioning.

Senator Bobby Powell, Jr. - District 30

Community Based post-COVID Acceleration Initiative

The Community Based post-COVID Acceleration Initiative is a partnership between the School District of Palm Beach County (SDPBC) and the Urban League of Palm Beach County (ULPBC) to re-engage 90 middle school students following the devastating year of the pandemic and its academic stagnation/regression consequences. The ULPBC will administer this model program in Riviera Beach and work with community partners to ensure maximum student engagement.

Senator Lori Berman - District 31

Jewish Family Service - Mental Health First Aid Coalition

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an 8-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The MHFA class is geared to adults of all ages and is available to the general community.

Representative Skidmore - District 81

Glades Homeless Resource Center

Homeless individuals referred to the Glades Homeless Resource Center will receive high-quality services which are necessary to return homeless families, seniors, and individuals to self-sufficiency. This 24-hour, 365-day facility will provide 72 beds of emergency shelter with a maximum stay of 90 days and 88 beds of Supportive Housing with a max. stay of 24 months, for families, individuals, and seniors who are in need of further support and housing services.

Representative John Snyder - District 82

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center Improving Water Quality and Coastline Cleanliness

The specific purpose for these requested funds is to improve upon the health and cleanliness of Florida's beaches and waterways through rigorous beach and underwater cleanups and evaluation of the health of Florida's charismatic wildlife in regards to plastic pollution, harmful algal blooms, disease, and foraging location.

Representative Rick Roth - District 85

Jupiter Inlet District - Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area Living Shoreline

The project entails the construction of a living shoreline along approximately 600 linear feet of eroded Loxahatchee River shoreline within the Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse Outstanding Natural Area (JILONA). Project features include a series of nearshore, low-crested limestone breakwaters, native plantings (wetland and transitional wetland species), and a timber observation pier. The limestone breakwaters will attenuate wave energy and provide valuable hardbottom habitat for fish and wildlife.

Representative Matt Willhite - District 86

Palm Beach County Bunker Gear Contamination Project

This project will purchase bunker gear for Palm Beach County Fire Rescue firefighters in collaboration with 2019 Senate Bill 426 in an effort to reduce exposure to cancer-causing agents. The funds will be used to provide 400 complete bunker gear sets for Palm Beach County firefighters for a total project cost of \$1,200,000. This is our continued effort in minimizing the known risk of cancer to our firefighters. This project is crucial to the health and well-being of our firefighters.

Representative David Silvers - District 87

Preventing Opioid/General Substance Abuse Based Child Removals

Funding for this project will provide Safety Management Services to 250 children (and their caregivers) impacted by opioid/general substance abuse. The funds will also be able to prevent 220 children from entering foster care as a result of opioid/general substance abuse and reduce the costs associated with opioid/general substance abuse-based child removals by \$5.86 million.

Representative Omari Hardy - District 88

EJS Project Teen Center

To provide free quality out-of-school programming and services for teenagers. Our goal is to provide a year-round safe out-of-school space for low-income teens residing in the vulnerable footprint of our city. The organization creates an environment that promotes education, empowerment, self-accountability, leadership, and creating forward-thinking teens. We're working to ensure that each student enrolled in our programs are prepared and equipped to excel in life after graduation.

Representative Mike Caruso - District 89

Florence Fuller Child Development Centers, Inc., (FFCDC) Apprenticeship Training Academy & Employment Program

Train and employ currently un/underemployed individuals in Broward & Palm Beach Counties to become childcare professionals, food service, and maintenance workers. The program supports participants' economic mobility and creates a pipeline of experienced, qualified childcare workers, addressing industry-wide critical shortages disruptive to our economy. The program reduces costs, increases childcare stability, supports families on the path to prosperity, and improves the quality of early childhood education.

Representative Joe Casello - District 90

Transportation Disadvantaged Discounted Bus Passes

The funds for this program will improve transportation options for the low-income, elderly, and disabled residents of Palm Beach County. Through reliable transportation, residents are given the opportunity for economic mobility and to access important services in the community. The transportation disadvantaged bus pass program also provides an affordable alternative to vehicle ownership which has become more important due to the current economic downturn.

Representative Emily Slosberg - District 91

Jewish Transportation - Rales Rides

The purpose of JTRR senior transportation is to enable seniors to age in their homes by providing access to meaningful social, cultural, educational, health and wellness programs to improve their physical, mental and emotional health and well-being.

LEGISLATION ON THE MOVE

HB 979 - Village of Wellington (Local Bill) - Rep. Willhite

The bill provides an exemption from ss. 791.001 and 791.08, F.S., to prohibit the sale and use of fireworks located within the Equestrian Preserve of the Village of Wellington on all days of the year except for supervised public displays supervised and conducted by a competent operator. The displays must be approved by the chiefs of the police and fire departments of Wellington and must not be hazardous to property or endanger any person. Written applications for permits must be made at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display. After permit approval, the sales, possession, use, and distribution of fireworks for the display must be lawful for the permitted purpose only. Permits are non-transferrable. The prohibitions in the bill do not prevent the importation, purchase, sale, or use of fireworks for agricultural purposes. The bill was voted favorably out of the House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

SB 688: Waivers of Exemptions of Applicable Assets - Sen. Berman -This bill protects Florida residents from unintentionally assigning, pledging, or waiving their rights to assets (such as retirement accounts, annuities, and other assets) that are protected under Florida law by requiring that any pledge agreement must specifically identify those types of protected assets in order to constitute an intentional assignment, pledge, or waiver. The bill was voted favorably out of the Senate Community Affairs Committee as well as the Senate Finance and Tax Committee.

SB 084 - Electronic Legal Documents - Sen. Powell - This bill amends the existing process for an online notary who witnesses an electronic record to require the online notary to verify both the witness' and principal's identities. Under current law, the notary is not required to verify the principal's identity when the notary supervises the witnessing of an electronic record. The bill requires an online notary to ask the principal certain questions when only one witness is in the physical presence of the principal if an electronic record to be signed is a will, revocable trust, health care advanced directive, agreement regarding succession, or a waiver of spousal rights, or power of attorney. These questions are intended to prevent fraudulent or otherwise invalid transactions. The bill was voted favorably out of the Senate Judiciary Committee. (Sen. Powell)

HB 1035 - Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District, Martin, and Palm Beach Counties - (Local Bill) - Rep. Roth - The Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District (District) is an independent special district created in 1971 by special act. The charter of the District was most recently codified in 2002. The District operates a sewer and wastewater system serving the Towns of Jupiter and Juno Beach, the Village of Tequesta, and unincorporated portions of southern Martin County and northern Palm Beach County. The bill provides for the codification of existing special acts concerning the District, makes conforming changes, and repeals the existing special acts governing the District. The bill was voted favorably out of the House Local Administration & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.

IN AND AROUND THE CAPITOL



“ The annual Alzheimer’s Rally in Tally Advocacy Day looks a little different this year because of the pandemic. But that isn’t going to stop us from recognizing the 580,000 Floridians diagnosed with Alzheimer’s and lighting the Historic Capitol purple! #ENDALZ #RallyInTally - Rep. Willhite ”



Senator Powell Session Update

In this video, State Senator Bobby Powell, Jr. provides you with an update of Week 1 of the 2021 Florida Legislative Session

WOMEN OF THE DELEGATION

Monday, March 8, 2021, was International Women's Day celebrating all women, past, present, and future. The Delegation would like to honor the women who represent Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. We are proud of their advocacy on various issues on behalf of their districts.

“ There is no **limit** to what we, as women, can accomplish. ”

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MICHELLE OBAMA



Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

Delegation Chair - Rep. David Silvers
Delegation Vice-Chair - Rep. Mike Caruso

Senators

Gayle Harrell - District 25
Tina Polsky - District 29
Bobby Powell, Jr. - District 30
Lori Berman - District 31

Representatives

Kelly Skidmore - District 81
John Snyder - District 82
Rick Roth - District 85
Matt Willhite - District 86
David Silvers - District 87
Omari Hardy - District 88
Mike Caruso - District 89
Joseph "Joe" Casello - 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.