



Delegation Digest

MARCH 22-26 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Week 4 of the 2021 Legislative Session. In this Week's edition of the Delegation Digest, we are highlighting legislation that was heard during the House and Senate Session, Member highlights, budget appropriations, and other notable events.

Hopefully, in the next week, we will see a draft of the House and Senate budget, and Budget Conferences will begin to meet and negotiate differences. Once a final budget has been agreed to by both chambers, a 72 hour waiting period is implemented so the public and members can review the document before adoption by both chambers. Once the 72 hours are over, both chambers will debate and vote on the bill.

To learn more about the bills passed and to watch session or any committee meeting, visit myfloridahouse.gov or flsenate.gov.



LEGISLATION HEARD ON THE FLOOR

Please note this is just a snapshot of the bills filed by the Delegation members. You can visit [Myfloridahouse.gov](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov) or [Flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov) to view a complete list of bills.

During the Legislative process, there are many bills that are bipartisan and are voted with the full support of all members but there are a few pieces of legislation that are partisan and often voted along party lines. **PCB PIE 21-05 - Election** is a bill that has brought mixed and lively discussions during the process. This bill revises provisions relating to voter registration applications, voter registration, elections, and terms of county commissioners, ballots, voting systems, duplicate copies of ballots, audits, reports, vote-by-mail ballots, canvassing board duties, certain notifications, voter signatures, secure drop boxes, and penalties. To get more information on this bill [CLICK HERE](#) 

Another piece of legislation that is making its way through the process and is creating a lot of conversation on both sides of the aisle is **HB 001 - Combating Public Disorder**. This bill authorizes elected officials to file an appeal to Administration Commission if a municipality makes a reduction to the budget of the municipal law enforcement agency; provides for a cause of action against a municipality for failing to provide law enforcement protection during riot; revises penalties for certain riot-related offenses; prohibits cyber intimidation by publication; prohibits specified assemblies from engaging in disorderly & violent conduct; creates an affirmative defense to civil action where plaintiff participated in a riot or unlawful assembly.

HB 001 was heard in the House on March 25 with questions and amendments from both parties. It was debated and voted on during the March 26 House Session. To get more information on this bill [CLICK HERE](#) 

The Senate is pushing through a proposal that would abolish the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC). **SJR 204 - Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission** would be placed on the 2022 ballot asking voters if the Commission should be dismantled. The public would need to approve the question by a 60% vote. This means there needs to be a 60% supermajority by voters to amend the Constitution. In 1968 Florida voters approved the convening of a Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) and would meet every 20 years for possible recommended changes to Florida's Constitution. They have only met three times since its inception, with the most recent meeting in 2017-2018. The CRC in 2017-2018 held 15 public hearings around the state and received input from either citizen ballot initiative or by a legislative proposal. The CRC is composed of 15 appointees from the Governor, 9 appointees from the Senate President, 9 appointees from the House Speaker, and 3 appointees from the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Once the Commission reviews all recommendations, they will adopt those they deem fit to be voted by the public on the election ballot. Once on the ballot, the Constitutional revision would need a 60% supermajority to become effective. If the ballot initiative is passed by the voters then the Constitution will be amended.

SJR 204 was heard in the Senate on March 25 and passed. It will now go to the House for a vote. To get more information on this bill [CLICK HERE](#) 

JOINT DELEGATION MEMBER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

This week each Chair of the House and Senate appropriations committee released their proposed budget for FY 2021-2022. These budget spreadsheets allow members and the public to review what the appropriations committee recommends to be placed in the budget. This is just the beginning of the process so many projects will be added or deleted. We will not know the final numbers until the budget is finalized by House and Senate leadership. Listed are appropriations requests Delegation members have in the proposed budget spreadsheets so far. To follow the budget process please visit www.myfloridahouse.gov or www.flsenate.gov.

Florida Caregiving Youth Expansion Project - The initial goal is to determine the most efficacious way to achieve a successful methodology and implementation of caregiving youth support to increase high school graduation rates of caregiving youth such as has been demonstrated in Palm Beach County. The program wants caregiving youth throughout Florida to learn they are not alone and receive the recognition and support they need for academic and personal success. This budget request was filed by Senator Berman and Representative Caruso.

Faulk Center Behind the Mask Mental Health Services - Since 1973, the Faulk Center has provided low-cost, no-cost psychological and mental health services to low-income individuals and families who otherwise would be unable to afford services. The center's ability to effectively provide these services without interruption has allowed them to establish a reputation that is beyond reproach. This budget request was filed by Senator Polsky and Representative Skidmore.

Place of Hope Child Welfare Services - These funds would allow Place of Hope, Inc. to continue to meet the unprecedented increases in regional placement needs for Florida's abused and neglected children, victims of human trafficking, and otherwise homeless young adults. Place of Hope, Inc. would continue to provide human trafficking prevention and education to youth-at-risk and the public in general. Place of Hope, Inc. will also continue providing human trafficking recovery services for victims. This budget request was filed by Senator Harrell and Representative Snyder.

RESTORE ReEntry - Palm Beach County (PBC) in collaboration with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) and community-based reentry partners facilitate the successful reintegration of reentry participants returning to PBC. The Regional and State Transitional Offender Reentry (RESTORE) Initiative, established in 2011, is a comprehensive model for reentry designed to reduce recidivism. This budget request was filed by Senator Berman and Representative Willhite.

Central Palm Beach County Historical Infrastructure Improvement - The funds secured through this project will mitigate stormwater runoff and pollutant loading into local water systems through the enhancement of existing roadway infrastructure within the central historic region of Palm Beach County. Current roadways and water systems within the area have not been adapted to adjust to modern traffic patterns and increased commercial property use since being incorporated during the 1950's. This budget request was filed by Senator Berman and Representative Silvers

DELEGATION MEMBER APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST

Senator Powell

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.

Oak Street Home - Delinquency Prevention Program - To provide a stable, supportive home-like placement. Reduce negative behaviors such as delinquency, substance use, running away, truancy, defiance. This will result in fewer arrests and fewer Baker Acts and to increase academic performance and work experiences.

Senator Harrell

Florida Chiropractic Society Drug-Free Alternatives for Pain Treatment - The passage of HB 451 (2019) requires health care practitioners to inform patients of nonopioid alternatives for the treatment of pain. To enhance the effectiveness of chiropractic as an alternative to opioids, and to address surging overdoses during the pandemic, this project will provide opportunities for chiropractors to learn new strategies for pain management as an alternative to opioid use. The Florida Chiropractic Society will host events throughout the state to educate chiropractors.

Self-Reliance, Inc - Home Modification for Elders Program - Construction of home modifications and repairs to the homes of seniors of low income and with disabilities that will prevent premature placement in nursing homes and/or assisted living facilities.

Senator Berman

City of Delray Beach - Summer Reading Books - The specific goal of the funds is to purchase books to be distributed to low-income children over the summer to help prevent the summer reading slide and to make up lost ground from distance learning due to Covid-19, and sustain grade-level reading. The books purchased from Scholastic include five leveled books with activity sheets, writing journals, and colored pencils. These materials help the child with reading, content, vocabulary, and learning necessary sight words for comprehension.

City of Delray Beach - Learning Loss Recovery Tutorial Program - The funding will be used to hire certified teachers to facilitate small group tutorials to help school-aged children with learning loss recovery due to COVID-19. 4,000 students attend Palm Beach County public schools and 90% are on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Low-Income children are most at risk of academic failure resulting from a lack of access to remote learning, internet connections, and engagement. This appropriations request is also filed by Representative Hardy on the House side.

EJS Project Teen Center - This funding would 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 the City of Delray Beach. 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 is prepared and equipped to excel in life after graduation.

Senator Polsky

West-Technical Education Center - Adult Education and Workforce Development Training - The specific purpose of this request is to upgrade the technological infrastructure of the facility, purchase needed programmatic equipment, and fund qualified instructional personnel for West Tech that will allow for training or retraining of adult students in a commercial vehicle driving program. Students will receive theory and behind-the-wheel training leading towards the acquisition of a CDL Class A license which can lead to immediate employment.

Boca Raton Habilitation Center - This request would support individuals with disabilities; enhance their self-advocacy, adaptive, vocational, work preparation, and/or social skills through instruction and/or hands-on training. Funds would be used to maintain or expand a degreed, credentialed, and professional staff with skill-sets required to provide services listed above; with decreasing/limited funding, the opportunity for people with disabilities to learn life skills and become vocationally/economically independent will not occur.

JAFCO Children's Ability Center - The JAFCO Children's Ability Center provides quality respite, family enrichment, and resources to families raising children with autism and other developmental disabilities. The center is open 24/7/365 to provide overnight out-of-home extended respite care and intensive case management to improve the functioning of the entire family, lower stress levels, increase daily living and social skills of the children, preserve the family unit and avoid costly out of home placement for the state.

Exchange Club - Palm Beach and Broward Counties - Requested funds will be used to expand an evidence-based, nationally recognized parent education program for parents who are at risk of or have abused or neglected their children. Funds would provide prevention services to 60 families, in Palm Beach or Broward Counties (144 children/120 adults). The program would reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment, DCF involvement, and child removal from the home.

Stay KidSafe! Elementary Safety Education and Human Trafficking Prevention - These funds will be used for the completion of the child trafficking/exploitation prevention program delivered to students throughout Florida, grades K through 5. Lessons will include animated shorts, suggested activities, and a lesson plan for teachers. This education fulfills the FLDOE trafficking education mandate, and will empower children with safety skills, teach them how to get help, and prepare them for advanced trafficking and safety/mental health education they will be receiving in middle/high school.

Jordan Avi Ogman Foundation Research and Development of TECPR2 Disease Cure - These funds will be used for the research and development of gene therapy for the TECPR2 genetic condition.

Representative Casello

Boynton Beach Town Square Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing - The City is looking to install an enhanced ADA-accessible pedestrian crossing which includes LED lights, in-ground and signage, as well as audible warning devices across Ocean Avenue connecting safe, independent pedestrian circulation as part of the Town Square project. This project will use state-of-the-art accessible pedestrian crosswalk equipment that will promote pedestrian safety with an emphasis on disabled pedestrians.

Representative Caruso

Security Funding in Jewish Day Schools - Funding will be used to make full-time Jewish schools and preschools secure with professional security guards and security hardening as needed.

JARC - Funding would provide community-based employment training and opportunities for adults with intellectual disabilities and Autism.

Representative Hardy

Riviera Beach Utilities Special District Intracoastal Critical Water Main Replacement - Riviera Beach Utility Special District (RBUSD) is planning to replace the over 50-year old water main that is located partially under the seafloor, but some of the main are exposed to water in the Intracoastal and at risk for being damaged, such as by anchors. The replacement main would ensure that pressure is maintained during fire flow and peak hour flow conditioned. Only 1 other main is available to serve residents, thus this project would improve the resiliency of the system.

Representative Roth

West Palm Beach Flood Mitigation Tidal Valve Project - The purpose of the project is to minimize reduce tidal flooding and adapt to sea-level rise and provide safe travel to the public by installing tidal valves. Reduction of tidal flooding creates more sustainable and resilient communities and pro-actively maintains stormwater infrastructure as well as helping maintain the roadways and private property from water damage.

Representative Snyder

Floridians Active Duty Assistance Program (FADA) - Support Our Troops, Inc. - These funds would provide for an expansion of citizen MWR support to deployed and stationed active duty military personnel and families. Support Our Troops, Inc. is a vetted, well-established organization through which Floridians fulfill and implement their desire to help strengthen the morale and well-being of currently serving soldiers, spouses, and their children

IN AND AROUND THE CAPITOL



Senator Powell gives an update on the legislative session from his perspective.



Senator Polsky and Senator Rouson meeting with Youth Farmers



It was a honor today to have Boynton Beach police Captain Michael Kelly acknowledged as Floridas law enforcement officer of the day. Captain Kelly is a decorated officer who continues to serve our great city.

- Representative Casello



Local HB 1035, Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District, passed unanimously out of the Ways & Means Committee today. Thank you Dr. Arrington for the tour of the wastewater treatment facility and for educating us on what's being done to protect the Loxahatchee River.

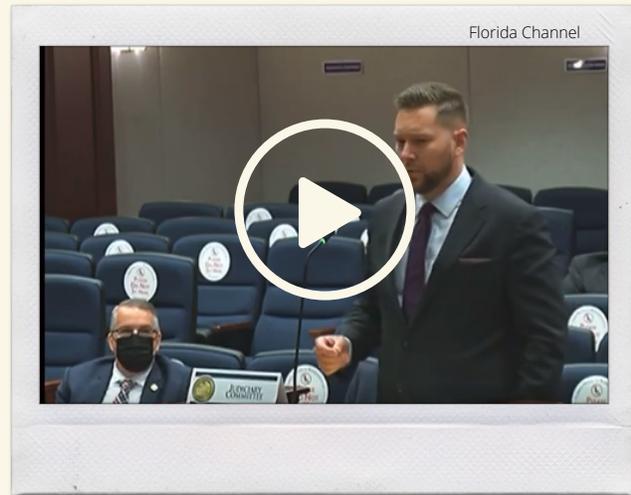
-Representative Roth

MEMBER LEGISLATION

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.

“ It was an honor to stand along with Representative Snyder today at the Judiciary Committee. This amendment to HB 279 will provide enhanced protections for our first responders by increasing penalties for burglars who rob private vehicles on property owned by law enforcement agencies or fire departments.

-Representative Willhite”



SB 196 - Lactation Space by Senator Berman - this bill requires each county courthouse to provide at least one dedicated lactation space outside the confines of a restroom for members of the public to express breast milk or breastfeed in private by January 1, 2022. The bill authorizes the person responsible for the operation of the facility housing each district court of appeal to use state-appropriated funds or private funding to provide a dedicated lactation space. The requirements to provide a dedicated lactation space do not apply to a courthouse if the person who is responsible for the operation of the courthouse determines that the courthouse does not contain a lactation space for employees which may be used by the members of the public or new construction would be required to create the lactation space. The bill passed favorably out the Senate Government Oversight and Accountability.

HB 313 - Firefighters Inquiries and Investigations - by Representative Casello - The Firefighters' Bill of Rights provides specific rights when a firefighter is under investigation and subject to interrogation for a reason that could lead to disciplinary action. Whenever an employing agency receives an allegation of misconduct, management personnel conduct an informal inquiry to determine if a formal investigation should be opened against the firefighter. Currently, questioning pursuant to an informal inquiry is not subjected to the Firefighters' Bill of Rights. The Firefighters' Bill of Rights only applies if, after an informal inquiry, the employing agency decides to conduct a formal investigation of the alleged misconduct. After a formal investigation has commenced, questioning related to the investigation is considered an interrogation and must be conducted pursuant to the Firefighters' Bill of Rights. The bill passed favorably out of its assigned committees and has been placed to be read on the House floor.

MEMBER LEGISLATION



To view Representative Slosberg's present HB 673 and to hear Ms. Gardner's testimony, click above and go to mark 49.26.

HB 673 - DNA Evidence Collected in Sexual Offense Investigations by Representative Slosberg was heard before the House Criminal Justice & Public Safety Subcommittee. HB 673, named Gail's Law, would require the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to create and maintain a statewide system for tracking sexual assault evidence kits from the point of collection through the criminal justice process. The tracking system would be accessible to survivors of sexual assault, giving them the option of opting in for updates on the status of the evidence in their case. Presenting before the Subcommittee, Gail Gardner told her story of once being sexually assaulted. She consented to a forensic exam where a sexual assault evidence kit was collected. Unfortunately, it took 30 years for the evidence to be processed and find Gail's attacker.



Senator Polsky and Representative Skidmore filed **SB 1362/993 - Energy** and recently held a press conference with Department of Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried to discuss the legislation. These bills aim to reduce greenhouse gases in Florida by 55% by 2030, 90% by 2045, and 100% by 2050. Measures in the bill would create rules and require inventories of greenhouse gas emissions.



SB 100 - Highway Projects by Senator Harrell passed the Senate and is now in the House. SB 100 repeals M-CORES and builds on task force recommendations by strategically redirecting transportation funding and offering statewide policy directives to FDOT with the goal of enhancing the economic prosperity and preserving the character of communities paramount to these new projects. To view Senator Harrell's presentation on SB 100, click on the picture and go to mark 28.56.

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation

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

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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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301 North Olive Avenue, Suite 701.4
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Victoria Nowlan - Executive Director
Phone: 561-355-2406
Email: vnowlan@pbcgov.org
www.palmbeachdelegation.com

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.



Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation
301 N. Olive Avenue
Suite 701.4
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561-355-2408
PBCLegDelegation@pbcgov.org