



Delegation Digest

APRIL 12-16 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Week 7 of the 2021 Legislative Session. In this Week's edition of the Delegation Digest, we are highlighting legislation that was heard during Session as well as Delegation member legislation that is on the move.

In the final weeks of the session, bills are quickly moving through their final committees and being heard on the floor. Bills that have not been heard in any assigned committees are considered dead unless they are pulled from their committees and placed on the session calendar by Leadership. Over the weekend, budget conferences met and budget items were negotiated on both the House and Senate sides. Once the budget conferences complete their work, the chairs of the appropriations committees meet and go over any outstanding requests that have not been negotiated. If there continue to be any issues then it goes to the House Speaker and Senate President for final consideration. Once the budget has been negotiated it will head to both chambers for questions, debate, and a vote.

To get more information on bills featured this week, click on the bill title.



LEGISLATION HEARD THIS WEEK

Please note this is just a snapshot of the bills heard on the floor and in committee..
You can visit Myfloridahouse.gov or Flsenate.gov to view a complete list of bills.

HB 279 - Enhanced Penalties for Criminal Offenses - Representative Snyder - UPDATE: The bill passed the House floor 100 yeas, 17 nays. The bill has been placed in Senate messages and referred to the Senate Rules committee. The bill provides enhanced penalties for criminal offenses by amending s. 810.02(2), F.S., to re-rank a burglary offense one level above the ranking specified in the offense severity ranking chart (OSRC) if, during the course of committing the offense, an offender enters any dwelling, structure, or conveyance located on property owned by any law enforcement agency or fire department. As such, the bill may increase an offender's criminal scoresheet sentencing points for an offense such as burglarizing the personal vehicle of a law enforcement officer or firefighter when the vehicle is parked on property owned by a law enforcement agency or fire department.

Sales Tax Holiday

The Senate Appropriations Committee passed a tax package that includes a sales tax holiday for back to school and hurricane season, allowing for shoppers to stock up and save. The tax-free days for back-to-school shopping will run from July 31 through August 7 on clothes costing \$60 or less, school supplies costing \$15 or less, and the first \$1,000 of the price of personal computers. For hurricane season the tax-free days run from May 28 through June 6 on disaster supplies such as tarps costing \$50 or less, batteries costing \$30 or less, and portable generators costing \$750 or less. The House Ways and Means Committee also passed out a similar package but there are a few differences. These differences will be negotiated during the budget conferences.

HM 71 - Recognizing Veteran Suicide - Representative Willhite - UPDATE: HM 71 was adopted by the House and is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

HM 71 - Recognizing Veteran Suicide is a House Memorial urging the United States Congress to recognize the epidemic of suicide among veterans to fully fund suicide prevention efforts by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. According to the 2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, there were more than 6,435 veteran suicide deaths in 2018 – that shows the rate of suicide among veterans at 17.6 a day in 2018. However, the latest data lags two years behind current conditions and does not include any figures from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Mental health experts warn that the pandemic may lead to even more significant increases in mental distress rates among veterans.

HB 979 - Village of Wellington - Representative Willhite - UPDATE: HB 979 is a local bill and has passed the House floor with 115 yeas and 3 nays. It is now in the Senate Rules committee.

This week the House also passed HB 979 - Village of Wellington. This bill aims at prohibiting the sale and use of fireworks located within the equestrian preserves in the Village of Wellington. The Village of Wellington is known as the Winter Equestrian Capital of the world, hosting thousands of spectators during the winter months that travel to Wellington to enjoy various equestrian sporting events. Wellington houses approximately 13,000 highly valuable horses that are bred and trained to compete in various equestrian sports during the season. These horses' owners devote an immense amount of time, energy, and financial resources to these valuable animals' care and training.

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HB 1035 - Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District - Sponsored by Representative Roth - UPDATE: The bill has passed the House floor with 117 yeas and 0 nays. The bill is now in Senate Rules committee.

The Loxahatchee River Environmental Control District (District) is an independent special district created in 1971 by a 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 passed out of all its committees and has been placed on second reading.

SB 184 Purple Alert - Senator Berman - UPDATE: The Bill passed in the Senate Appropriations Committee and is headed to the Senate floor for a vote.

SB 184 establishes a Purple Alert, which can be activated when an individual who falls in the parameters set forth goes missing and whose disappearance is a credible threat of immediate danger or serious bodily harm to themselves. This includes those with a mental, cognitive, intellectual or developmental disability or one with a brain injury or another mental, physical or emotional disability that is not related to substance abuse. HB 79 a similar bill sponsored by Representative Casello passed all of its committees and is now headed to the House floor.

SB 1946 - Anchoring Limitation Areas - UPDATE: The bill has passed the Senate Rules Committee and is now headed to the Senate floor.

SB 1946 provides that, notwithstanding the existing prohibition on local regulation of anchoring of vessels outside of the marked boundaries of mooring fields, a county may establish an anchoring limitation area within densely populated urban areas, which meets certain requirements imposed under the bill. The bill provides that the aggregate total of anchoring limitation areas in a county may not exceed 10 percent of the county's navigable waterways.



“HB 313 expanding the Firefighter Bill of Rights just resoundingly passed the Florida House. As a Firefighter for more than three decades I understand what these men and women go through each and every day, putting it all on the line serving the public. HB 313 is an important step to make sure we are protecting those who protect us. Thank you Representative Busatta Cabrara for running this good bill. I'm proud to be the Co-Prime Sponsor.”

IN AND AROUND THE CAPITOL



Senator Berman and Senator Polsky with Rabbi Michael Shields. Rabbi Shields was sponsored by Senator Polsky for Chaplain of the Day.



Representative Snyder hosting Law Enforcement Day on the House Floor with his father Martin County Sheriff William D. Snyder



ICYMI: Senator Polsky discussing legislation on WPTV To the Point program with Michael Williams.



Representative Skidmore with the Mayor of Belle Glade Steve Wilson and Mayor of South Bay Joe Kyles alongside community representatives.



In the Week 6 edition of the Powell Press Senator Powell acknowledges the passing of the late Congressman Alcee Hastings, gives a recap of the Florida Legislative Black Caucus Scholarship Gala, and speaks on bills that are currently moving through the legislature.

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.



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