



Delegation Digest

APRIL 19-23 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Week 8 of the 2021 Legislative Session. We are heading into the final week of session which concludes on April 30, 2021. 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.

Committee meetings have officially ended and all bills that will be voted on have been placed on the Special Order Calendar. This is a list of bills that are set to be heard on the Floor for the House and Senate. Some bills may be withdrawn or temporarily postponed. Once a bill has passed both chambers it is considered enrolled and will be sent to the Governor for signing.

Budget talks continue with all negotiations bumped to the House and Senate Appropriations Chair. If there are still issues then Leadership will discuss them and be ready to be debated and voted on in both chambers. The budget is the one item that the Legislature is bound by the constitution to pass by the end of the 60 day Session.

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 7035 - School Safety - In 2018 the Legislature passed the “Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act” to address school safety and security and establish the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission. HB 7035 improves transparency around school safety and security, addresses student mental health, and clarifies juvenile diversion policies. The bill would increase mental health services for students and require schools to develop plans to notify parents in case of any emergency. It also includes requirements to expand training in mental health for school safety officers and provides for a more diversified team to assess school threats. The bill passed favorably on the House floor and it is now awaiting Senate approval.

HB 529 - Moment of Silence in Public Schools - The bill revises the current law that allows a district school board to set aside a brief period of time for silent prayer or meditation. Instead, the bill requires each teacher during the first period to set aside 1 to 2 minutes for a moment of silence. A teacher may not make suggestions as to the nature of any reflection, and a student may not interfere with another student's participation. The bill has passed both the House and Senate and has been sent to the Governor.

HB 419 - Early Learning and Early Grad Success - The bill establishes a timeline for phasing in a new VPK accountability system based on a performance metric that includes student outcomes, learning gains, and observations of child-teacher interactions. The bill requires the Commissioner of Education to develop a coordinated screening and progress monitoring program for VPK through grade 3 students that provide the outcomes and learning gains data for the VPK performance metric. The VPK accountability system must assign VPK providers a performance designation beginning with the 2022-2023 program year. The bill has passed the House floor and is now awaiting Senate approval. Senator Harrell is the sponsor of the Senate bill - SB 1282.

HB 915 - Port of Palm Beach - Representative Willhite - Local Bill - UPDATE: The bill was heard on the House floor and passed with 116 yeas and 1 nay. The bill provides that newly elected commissioners take office in January following the general election at which they are elected. It repeals the requirement that each commissioner must execute a \$25,000 surety bond upon taking office and the additional \$25,000 surety bond required of the commissioner selected as secretary-treasurer of the Board. The bill increases the compensation of commissioners from \$9,500 to \$12,500 annually. It revises the term “port manager” to “port director” and makes conforming changes throughout the charter.

HB 805 - Volunteer Ambulance Services - Representative Caruso - UPDATE: The bill was heard on the House floor and passed with 98 yeas and 17 nays. It is now headed to the Senate for debate and vote. The bill exempts certain faith-based volunteer first responder agencies that have operated for at least 10 consecutive years from the COPCN. The bill prohibits a local government from limiting, prohibiting, or preventing a volunteer ambulance service from responding to an emergency or providing emergency medical services or transport within its jurisdiction. The bill also prohibits a local government from requiring a volunteer ambulance service to obtain a license or certificate or pay a fee to provide ambulance or air ambulance services within its jurisdiction.

The bill allows a volunteer ambulance services vehicle that qualifies as an authorized emergency vehicle to disregard specified traffic laws and ordinances and use emergency lights and sirens while responding to an emergency. The bill also allows a physician or technician of a volunteer ambulance service to disregard specified traffic laws and ordinances and use red lights in their private vehicles when responding to an emergency. The bill requires an emergency medical technician, doctor, or paramedic of a volunteer ambulance service to complete an emergency vehicle operator course before using a red light in their personal vehicle.

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.

SB 262 - Dispensing Medicinal Drugs - Senator Harrell - UPDATE: The bill passed the Senate floor with 40 yeas and 0 nays and is now headed to the House floor for debate and a vote.

SB 262 amends s. 465.019, Florida Statutes, to authorize medicinal drugs to be dispensed by a hospital that operates a Class II or Class III institutional pharmacy to a patient of the hospital's emergency department or a hospital inpatient upon discharge if a prescriber treating the patient in the hospital determines that:

- The medicinal drug is warranted
- Community pharmacy services are not readily accessible to the patient, geographically or otherwise.
- If prescribing and dispensing occurs, the bill requires that a supply of the drug must be dispensed that will last for the greater of up to 48 hours or through the end of the next business day and that during a declared state of emergency, a 72-hour supply may be dispensed by a hospital located in an area affected by the emergency.

SB 590 - School Safety - Senator Harrell - UPDATE: The bill passed the Senate floor with 40 yeas and 0 nays and is now headed to the House floor for debate and a vote.

SB 590 requires public and charter schools to make a reasonable attempt to notify the parents of a minor student before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity for an involuntary mental health examination. The bill provides that a school principal or designee may delay notification if they believe it is necessary to avoid jeopardizing the health and safety of the student. The bill requires all school safety officers to undergo crisis intervention training. The bill also requires schools to contact a health care practitioner capable of initiating a Baker Act in person or via telehealth prior to a Baker Act being initiated.

SB 848 - Electronic Legal Documents - Senator Powell - UPDATE: The bill has been substituted with the identical bill HB 483 and passed with 40 yeas and 0 nays. It has been ordered enrolled.

SB 848 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.

SB 1946 - Anchoring Limitations - Senator Polsky - UPDATE: The bill passed the Senate with 39 yeas and 0 nays and is now headed to the House 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 adjacent to urban areas that have residential docking facilities and significant recreational boating traffic, 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 delineated navigable-in-fact waterways.

HB 311 - Pub. Rec./Assessment Instruments - Representative Silvers - UPDATE: The bill passed both the House and Senate and has been enrolled.

The bill creates a new public record exemption that protects all examinations and assessments, including developmental materials and workpapers, that are prepared, prescribed, or administered by FCS institutions, the state universities, or DOE. The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the State University System shall make rules and regulations, respectively, governing the appropriate management of the protected materials. The bill provides for the repeal of the exemptions on October 2, 2026, unless reviewed and saved from repeal through reenactment by the Legislature. The bill provides a public necessity statement as required by the State Constitution.

IN AND AROUND THE CAPITOL



In honor of April being designated Child Abuse Prevention Month my staff and I participated in the 1 Blue Fingernail initiative. Representing 1 in 5 children are abused before they turn 18.

-Senator Harrell



Representative Slosberg and her sponsored House page - Delaney. Pages and Messengers are students who come to the Capitol and work one week during the 60-day Regular Session. Each of the 120 Representatives may sponsor one Page and one Messenger. Pages and Messengers assist the Representatives and their staff during the Capitol's busiest time of year while observing state government in action.



Representative and Chair of the Legislative Delegation - David Silvers speaking with staff before going on the House floor



Watch the Week 7 edition of the Powell Press, which is now available on YouTube. During this episode, Senator Bobby Powell covers HB-1 (Anti-Protestor), SB 90 (Voter Suppression), SB 529 (Moments of Silence in Schools) and many other controversial bills.

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

.....
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