



**News You Can Use
from State Senator
Audrey Gibson**



**2018 Legislative
Session in Review
Week 5
February 5-9, 2018**

**101 E. Union Street, Suite 104 Jacksonville, FL 32202.
(904) 359-2553**

Dear Constituent and Friend,

We have reached the half way point of the Legislative Session as we wrapped up week 5. The full Senate convened to debate and vote on bills related to implementing the 2018-19 State budget of roughly \$87 billion dollars. Categorically, the two largest components are education and health care. Once again this year I anticipate robust discussion on how we will allocate funds to meet the needs of a quality education for our children and ensure access to health care. I will update you on both funding and policy as we move forward.

To track specific legislation, you can visit www.flsenate.gov at your convenience.

Legislation I filed on the move:

SB 758: Diabetes Educators: creates a registration category for diabetes educators for persons who have demonstrated comprehensive knowledge and experience in prediabetes, diabetes prevention and who provide diabetes self-management to individuals in the community. Diabetes, which is often called the "silent killer" affects more than 29 million Americans and is the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, amputations, heart disease and it claims the life of one American every 3 minutes. People of color are more likely to suffer from the disease and understanding the importance of diet, exercise and other self management techniques with the help of a diabetes educator can be critical to a persons daily quality of life. After unanimous support, the bill moves to its next stop!

Honoring a community stalwart:

SR 94: William D. Brinton: was published honoring the life and legacy of William D. Brinton, affectionately known as "Bill." Bill dedicated his life to the quality of life of not only the people of Jacksonville, but the state of Florida and many communities around the country and as I, and countless individuals can attest to, Bill had a great knack for convincing other to join him in his quest to make Jacksonville and Florida better! Bill was an accomplished attorney who though it not robbery to spend uncompensated time using his expertise to fight for fist amendment issues, land use and preservation of scenic landscape issues. He fought for proper access and funding for libraries, against the proliferation of billboards and led one of the most successful referendums in Jacksonville through the citizens of tree preservation ensuring protection of trees and funds for approved removal were placed in the the Tree Mitigation Fund. Through it all Bill's family shared him continuously and his wife, daughter and grandsons attended this memorable occasion in the Florida Senate.

District Developments:

I am excited to announce the start of a sidewalk project on New Kings Road (SR 15) which will begin with the letting of a contract beginning April 25, 2018 The addition of sidewalks to a road resurfacing project was evaluated back in July 2014 during a site visit with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). A 2.9 mile stretch of sidewalk from Edgewood Avenue to Wagner Road, near I 295, will be added in conjunction with a 3.6 mile resurfacing project of New Kings Road The improvements to the corridor will provide a safer environment for pedestrians and the motoring public!

In case you missed the e-blast earlier this week, CSX in conjunction with the City of Jacksonville will be closing a portion of Soutel Drive at the railroad crossing (on Soutel, west of New Kings Road near the Southern Propane company). This maintenance project will begin Sunday, February 11, 2018 at 7:00 a.m. and will last for approximately 4 days through Thursday, February 15, 2018. The detour route will run from US 1 (New Kings Road) to I295 to Pritchard Road.

Session Snapshots:



Members of Jacksonville Women's Giving Alliance



President Steve Zona and members of Fraternal Order of Police, Jacksonville Lodge 5-30



**Duval County School Board Members
Chair Paula D. Wright, Becki Couch and Lori Hershey**



Senate Resolution honoring the life of William "Bill" D. Brinton presented to daughter Caroline and grandsons Luke and Adams

As we continue through Session, I will keep you informed on various issues. If you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact my office.

As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson
State Senator
District 6