



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



**2018 Legislative
Session in Review
Week 8
February 26 - March 2,
2018**

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

Dear Constituent and Friend,

With one week left in Session, we are nearing completion of the budget conference process to match the House and Senate spending plans. These must match-up and balance before we send the budget to the Governor, who can either sign, line item veto, or veto entirely. As we wrap up the budget process, we continue to hear other legislation important to our state.

Filed bills on the move:

SB 620: Disaster Preparedness Tax Exemption: establishes two 7-day periods during which items purchased to prepare and reduce the effects of disasters, like hurricanes and tropical storms are exempt from state sales tax. The first period begins Friday, June 1, 2018, and ends Thursday, June 7, 2018, and the second period begins Friday, July 6, 2018, and ends Thursday, July 12, 2018.

To help you prepare your disaster supply kit, exempt items include flashlights, radios, tarps, "tie-down" kits, fuel tanks, batteries, cell phone chargers, portable power banks, food storage coolers, generators, reusable ice and carbon monoxide detectors.

The bill now comes to the floor for a final vote.

On the Senate Floor:

SB 1392: Prearrest Diversion Programs: requires the establishment of prearrest diversion programs, civil citations or similar prearrest programs for adults and juveniles in each judicial circuit across the state. Each judicial circuit must specify the misdemeanor offenses that qualify an offender to participate, which creates more uniformity in who can participate. The requirements for completion of the diversion program include but are not limited to, community service hours, payment of restitution (if applicable) and participation in intervention services as indicated by an assessment officer. Currently, prearrest diversion programs are handled differently in different parts of the state, this program is voluntary for qualifying offenders and would not get rid of existing diversion programs.

If an adult or juvenile does not successfully complete the prearrest diversion program, the arresting officer must determine if there is good cause to complete a formal arrest of the adult or juvenile for the original misdemeanor offense or, allow the individual to continue in the prearrest diversion program. In addition, a nonjudicial record of arrest for a misdemeanor offense of a juvenile who has successfully completed a diversion program will be expunged.

This bill spares primarily first-time offenders who commit minor crimes from the consequences of entering the criminal justice system. Implementation of prearrest diversion promotes public safety creates a positive impact in communities as data shows that most individuals receiving civil citations or other prearrest diversion services do not reoffend and have no record that would prevent them from getting gainful employment.

Session snapshots:



Retired Assistant Superintendent Larry Rozier, Principal Maysha Shelton, Teachers and Students of Arlington Middle School for Civics Day at the Capitol



Representatives from the American Cancer Society



Florida Hospital Association annual Caregivers Day at the Capitol including Jacksonville nurses



Jacksonville advocates attending the Rally to Tally on gun violence



Thank you for serving in the Senate this week as a "Page" Rodney Wells II, of Jacksonville, FL

Helpful links:

To track specific legislation, you can visit:
[Florida Senate](http://www.flsenate.gov)

Previous Session in Review updates:

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)
- [Week 4](#)
- [Week 5](#)
- [Week 6](#)
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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

Tune into these stations between 6 am-6 pm Mon to Fri to watch legislative action:
<http://www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority> or WJCT-TV-Comcast channel 212, or WJCT-DT 7.4 or WUFT-TV-Comcast channel 210, Digital Channel 5.2 or Cox 13.