



Senator Wilton Simpson

Weekly Update

Senate District 18

February 18th – February 22nd, 2013

Friends,

Last week we wrapped up our final week of committees before session begins on March 5th.

Before heading to Tallahassee, on Monday I was honored to be the Grand Marshal in the kickoff parade for the 66th

Annual Pasco County Fair in Dade City.



Senator Simpson as the Grand Marshal in the kickoff parade for the 66th Annual Pasco County Fair in Dade City, FL.

On Tuesday, my bill SB 338, Theft of Utility Services, unanimously passed the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and next will go before the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice.

Last Thursday morning, the Florida Natural Gas Vehicle Act (SB 560) unanimously passed the Senate Transportation Committee. This legislation will pave the way for the increased use of natural gas. By increasing natural gas use for transportation in Florida, we will spur economic growth, reduce our dependency on foreign oil, and provide a cleaner burning source of fuel.



Senator Simpson meets with Lisa Stoessel and Ann Mau, ACS reps from Brooksville.

I had the privilege of meeting with many constituents from the district last week while in Tallahassee; two of which from Brooksville met with me to discuss issues on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Lisa Stoessel works as an ACS Community Representative for Hernando and Citrus Counties, and Ann Mau works as a Volunteer for ACS.

I would like to invite you to my webpage at <http://flsenate.gov/Senators/s18> where you can sign up to get my media alerts in real time, see more details about the bills

that I have filed, and track them to see how they progress through committees. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your questions or concerns at: simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov .

Regards,
Wilton

Natural Gas Vehicle Legislation Passes Transportation Committee

Last Thursday morning, the Florida Natural Gas Vehicle Act (SB 560) unanimously passed the Senate Transportation Committee. The legislation was amended to provide for a five year period of no taxes on natural gas fuel. "This legislation will pave the way for the increased use of natural gas; spurring economic growth, reducing our dependency on foreign oil, and providing a cleaner burning source of fuel," said Senator Simpson. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate and my House Sponsor, Rep. Lake Ray, to get this bill passed."

Linking education to jobs and the economy: Business leaders and Senators discuss the Career and Professional Education Act

Senate President Gaetz (R-Niceville) and Senate Education Committee Chairman John Legg (R-Lutz) met with more than thirty representatives from Florida's major business and industry associations to discuss the expansion of the current Career and Professional Education Act (CAPE). This law, passed by the Legislature in 2007, created the first industry certification program in the nation for high school students in order to attract, expand, and retain targeted high-value industries and sustain a strong, knowledge-based economy.

CAPE initiatives lash education to economic opportunity by matching industry-specific demands of Florida businesses with rigorous curriculum that can be applied toward graduation, college credit, or a high-demand industry certification for the workforce. Since the inception of the CAPE Act, more than 450 industry certification categories have had over 500,000 participants. In 2011, the 100,000th nationally-recognized industry certification was awarded.

Sponsored by Chairman Legg, SB 1076 expands the original CAPE Act and is expected to be heard in committee during the first week of the 2013 Session. The legislation will provide incentive funding to expand industry certifications into

technology centers and colleges, moving the current initiatives beyond K-12 education.

Senator Hays sponsors bill to provide options for owners of Low Speed Vehicles

Senate Bill 62 by Senator Alan Hays (R-Umatilla), was reported favorably out of its fourth committee this week. I support SB 62 as a co-introducer, and am glad that it has passed favorably. Low Speed Vehicles (LSV) have grown in popularity for their open-air design and battery powered operation but many Floridians are unaware these vehicles must be licensed and insured similarly to a normal car.

For LSV owners who have no intention of taking their vehicle on major roads, the costs associated with ownership are prohibitive and unnecessary. Senator Hays' bill would allow LSV owners to convert their vehicle to golf cart specifications eliminating the need for licensing and insurance. LSVs must have a peak speed of 25 miles an hour while golf carts are limited to 20 miles an hour. Learn more about this bill and follow its progress during legislative session here:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0062>.

Meet the Staff of Senate District 18: Katie Strickland



Katie Strickland serves as a Legislative Aide in Senator Simpson's Tallahassee Senate office. She is from Tallahassee, where she is in her senior year at Florida State University. Katie will graduate with a bachelor's degree in Finance from FSU in the upcoming month of May. If you should need any assistance with State issues, or have any questions that our office may help you with, please feel free to call Katie and the rest of Senator Simpson's Tallahassee staff at (850) 487-5018.

2013 Florida Senate Schedule

Session Begins: March 5th 2013

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322 Senate Office Building | 404 South Monroe Street | Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
Phone: 850.487.5018 | Email: simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov