



Senator Wilton Simpson

Weekly Update

Senate District 18

February 4th – February 8th, 2013

Friends,

Last week was an exciting one in Tallahassee. My bill SB 338, Theft of Utility Services, was the first bill that I had the honor of presenting before a committee. Last Tuesday, the Communications, Energy, and Public Utilities Committee unanimously passed SB 338 with bipartisan support. Next, the bill will go before the Criminal Justice committee. Last week Representative Artiles and I filed SB 658/ HB 623, the Florida Wine Canister Act. This bill will remove an antiquated law and will allow a Brooksville based manufacturing business within my district to expand operations within the State of Florida and allow consumers more options when dining out.

I greatly enjoy visiting with friendly constituents from home, and was pleased to meet with Angela Lewis-Bennett from Dade City this week.

Please visit 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



Angela Lewis-Bennett & Senator Simpson in Tallahassee.

Sen. Simpson & Rep. Artiles File Florida Wine Canister Act

Last week, Senator Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) and Rep. Frank Artiles (R- Miami), filed Senate Bill 658 and House Bill 623, the Florida Wine Canister Act. “This legislation would simply remove antiquated red tape that arbitrarily limits wine container sizes in Florida,” said Senator Simpson. “By updating these statutes, which were written just after the prohibition era, the Legislature would effectively allow Florida’s hospitality industry to proceed with custom tailored wine by the glass programs through innovative new methods and with technology manufactured within my district.”

“Wine canisters are an environmentally-friendly concept that will result in Florida-based manufacturing jobs, allow Florida’s restaurants to reduce waste and streamline services,” said Rep. Artiles. “Nationally, over 100 distributors distribute wine canisters in 36 states. In fact, Texas and Pennsylvania have recently updated laws to allow wine canisters.”

“By removing these outdated regulations, the Legislature will effectively allow us to grow our Brooksville based manufacturing business while providing the Sunshine State’s hospitality industry with more latitude. We believe this sustainable concept will be very popular in Florida and allow us to continue expanding our workforce and footprint in the state, while meeting consumer demand,” said John Soler, Managing Director of Micro-Matic.

Senate Committee Votes to Increase Accountability of Economic Development Programs

It’s a top priority for President Gaetz and the Republican Caucus to ensure that Taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and Floridians get a good return on their investment. On Tuesday, the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee passed SB 406, sponsored by Senator Andy Gardiner (R – Orlando), which institutes new evaluation processes to measure the benefits provided by Florida’s economic-incentive programs. Similar to the way a business analyzes the return on investment of a project, the state must review whether incentive funds are truly generating a return on Florida’s investment. One of the simplest and best ways to achieve this is through establishing standardized and objective measurements that enable apples-to-apples comparisons of returns across programs. Senator Gardiner’s bill creates a common yardstick to assess which programs are yielding the best bang for the buck to ensure funding is prioritized. The bill will be heard by its second committee of reference next Tuesday, February 12, by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development. Republicans believe that strong accountability measures should be in place at all levels of government.

Meet the Staff of Senate District 18: Judy Parker

Judy Parker serves as District Office Manager in the New Port Richey Office. Judy has been active in the Pasco County community for decades, as a small business owner, serving on the board at Pasco-Hernando Community College since 1999, and being an active member of the West Pasco Chamber, and the Rotary Club of New Port Richey. Residing in New Port Richey, she staffs the office at 5612 Grand Boulevard. Feel free to stop by and say hello, or call the office at (727)816-1120 with any questions or for information and she will be glad to assist you.

2013 Committee Week Schedule

February 2013 - Week of the 11th

February 2013 - Week of the 18th

Session Begins: March 5th 2013

[Follow me on Facebook](#) | [Visit my Website](#)

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