

News You Can Use from State Senator Audrey Gibson



2019 Legislative Session in Review
Weeks 2 & 3
March 12-22, 2019



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Dear Constituent and Friend,

It is hard to believe weeks 2 and 3 of the Legislative Session have ended. At this writing, the Senate has released the start of its \$90 billion dollar spending plan for the state budget including education, environmental issues, Hurricane Michael recovery, health care and other areas of concern. As budgets go, we are in the preliminary stages before the process of negotiating with the House of Representatives.

Additionally, we continue to hear legislative policy proposals in committee.

Two of my sponsored bills were heard in the last 2 weeks:

CS/CS/SB 452: Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams: The bill authorizes the establishment of elder abuse fatality review teams, composed of volunteer members, in each of the 20 judicial circuits. The teams will review fatal incidents of elder abuse and neglect, and make policy or other recommendations to help prevent future incidents of elder abuse-related fatalities to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The bill passed unanimously and now heads to the Governmental Oversight and Accountability committee with one committee stop left.

SB 64: Transportation Facility Designations/Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway: designates a portion of I-295 East beltway between Alta Drive and Pulaski Road in Duval County as "Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway." Officer Whitaker lost his life while on duty, responding to a call to help others. The bill directs the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to erect a road designation marker in his memory.

The bill has passed unanimously in all committed and is now on the floor for consideration

As discussed in week 1, **SB: 182: Medical Use of Marijuana** passed out of the Senate and was transmitted the House of Representatives where the bill passed and was sent to the Governor who signed the bill into law immediately. For information on providers and qualifications for medical marijuana you may visit <http://www.flhealthsource.gov/ommu/>.

I will continue to keep you updated as we continue to hear policy ideas and work on the state budget. 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

Weeks 2 & 3 in the Senate!



With members of Northeast Florida Association of Realtors



With members of the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council, Inc.



With the Jacksonville Transportation Advisory Committee & Disability Rights Florida's Board of Directors



With the week 2 Senate Page program participants