



*Dear Constituent and Friend,*

As we wrapped up weeks 3 and 4, several of my bills were heard and voted favorably in committees. Although we are at the halfway mark of the 2020 Legislative Session, there is still a lot to be accomplished.

**My bills up for consideration:**

**SB 28: Relief of Clifford Williams by the State of Florida** – This legislation known as a claims bill requests that Clifford Williams, who was wrongfully incarcerated for 43 years, be compensated by the State of Florida for the error and to help restore some semblance of normalcy to his life. After passing unanimously in the Judiciary committee, SB 28 is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on Criminal and Civil Justice for a hearing.



*Alzheimer's Association Lighting at the Historic Capitol*

**SB 400: Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams** – SB 400 passed its final vote on the Senate floor and will now move to the House for further discussion.

This bill authorizes the creation of elder abuse fatality review teams in each judicial circuit, comprising of volunteers, to review facts and circumstances in closed cases where the death of an elderly person is confirmed to have been caused by abuse or neglect. The team will review files to identify potential gaps, or deficiencies in the delivery of services to elderly persons, or the need for policy changes.

The findings of the review teams will be sent to the Governor, President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House.



*Representatives of the Girl Scouts - Gateway Council*

**SB 32: Relief of Former Employees of Fairfax Street Wood Treaters by the State of Florida** – SB 32 passed unanimously in its first committee, Environment and Natural Resources and is now in Health Policy committee. This claims bill request the relief of former employees of the Fairfax Street Wood Treaters site who sustained injury from excessive, persistent, and prolonged exposure to toxic levels of arsenic used to treat wood during the company operation from 1980 to 2010. The federal government is allocating \$9 million dollars to help clean up the site and I believe the state should assist with medical expenses incurred over the years.



*Representatives of the Florida Dental Association*

**Other bills of interest:**

**SB 88: Child Care Facilities by Senator Stewart** – Also known as the “Child Safety Alarm Act” requires that after January 1, 2021, vehicles used to transport children by child care facilities must be equipped with an approved alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for the presence of children before leaving the area.



*Representatives of  
The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors*

**SB 136: Adoption Benefits by Senator Bean** –

This bill allows certain military veterans and service members who adopt a child through the state’s child welfare system receive a monetary benefit through the State Employee Adoption Benefit Program. SB 136 also clarifies that an employee of a state agency may include other-personal-services employees who have been employed full-time or part-time by a state agency for at least one year.



*Representatives of the Machinist Union*

**CS/SB 476: Law Enforcement Vehicles by Senator Hooper** –

Provides that condominium, homeowners, and cooperative associations may not prohibit law enforcement officers who are owners, tenants or guests to park their assigned law enforcement vehicle in an area where the owner, tenant, or guest has a right to park.

**CS/SB 604: Servicemembers Civil Relief Act by Senator Bean** –

SB 604 amends the state’s child welfare statutes to protect the rights of a parent, custodian, or legal guardian who, because of their military service, must be absent from their child or from child-welfare-related court proceedings. Among other changes, the bill disqualifies the absence of the deployed parent, custodian, or legal guardian responsible for the child’s welfare as a determinant of child abandonment.



*Receiving the 2020 Champion for Public Education*



*Representatives of State Farm  
NAIFA of Northeast Florida*

**SB 154: Human Trafficking Education in School by Senator Thurston** –

SB 154 requires that information regarding dangers and signs of human trafficking be included in the comprehensive health education instruction that is taught in the public school system.

**SB 186: Lease of Dogs and Cats by Senator Taddeo** –

In instances where a pet purchase is made by a finance contract, the bill prohibits language in a contract that allows a pet to be repossessed by the owner for failure to make required payments. The bill prohibits lease agreements that provide for the ownership to be transferred at the end of the lease term. If a contract violates the provisions of this bill, the contract is effectively void, and the consumer is entitled to complete ownership and a refund of all amounts paid under the contract.



*Nat Ford, CEO  
Jacksonville Transportation Authority*



*Representatives of the  
Florida Assisted Living Association*

**CS/SB 708: Automated Pharmacy Systems by Senator Hutson** –

Allows a licensed community pharmacy to provide outpatient pharmacy services for the dispensing of medication through the use of an automated pharmacy system located inside a community pharmacy or located inside the same establishment as the community pharmacy, if specific requirements are met. According to the sponsor, the bill is largely focused for rural areas.

*Award from Fedrick Ingram, President; Andrew Spar, Vice President; and Carole Gauronskas, Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida Education Association*



*Dr.Carolynn Zonia,  
Democratic Women's Club of Florida*



*Ingrid Montgomery and Members of the Democratic Women's Information Network – Jacksonville*



*Members of the  
Association-American Institute of Architects*



*Esha Patel and Kasun Navaranta  
of First Coast YMCA*



*Members of Indivisible Mandarin*

As we continue through Session, I will keep you informed on various issues of impact. 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!*

Audrey Gibson  
State Senator  
District 6

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