



THE DAVIS REPORT: 2024 SESSION UPDATES

KEEPING YOU IN THE KNOW



Members of the American College of Physicians

SB 24: DOZIER SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND OKEECHOBEE SCHOOL VICTIM COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Dozier School for Boys, was intended to be a rehabilitative institution for young boys convicted of crimes in the state of Florida. However, instead of helping these boys, the institution inflicted harm and abuse in various forms of—physical, mental, and sexual— for many years. In an effort to rectify this injustice, Senate Bill 24 aims to establish the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys and Okeechobee School Victim Compensation Program. This legislative initiative seeks to provide compensation to the living survivors who endured the school's abuses. Beyond monetary restitution, the bill affirms a commitment to support survivors and their families, standing firmly with them and providing the necessary support. We continue to bring awareness to every Floridian about the atrocities of the Dozier School for Boys, in an effort to ensure this abuse never happens again within the state of Florida.

I have advocated for this legislation while in the house, sponsoring legislation and co-sponsoring legislation in the Senate, because we want survivors to know that we stand with them and are dedicated to ensuring justice.

SB 1372: EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS

Educational censorship legislation is on the rise, impacting both K-12 schools and post-secondary institutions, including colleges and universities. SB 1372, similar to other pieces of legislation, contributes to the perpetuation of discrimination and inequity within the Florida educational system and classrooms. This prohibits teacher preparation programs from distorting historical events, teaching identity politics, violating Florida discrimination laws, or basing courses and theories on specified topics. Teacher programs are essential for educators to acquire the competencies needed to foster a thriving diversity, equity, and inclusive environment for their students. However, this bill sends a message to BIPOC and LGBTQ+ Floridians that their narratives and experiences are unwelcomed in Florida classrooms as it intends to eliminate conversations surrounding race relations and gender identity. This legislation, like many others in past sessions become unconstitutional censorship bills and raise constitutional concerns under the First Amendment. It is imperative to ensure that legislation is upholding the constitution and we need to ensure the safety of students in our Florida classrooms as SB 1372 does not contribute to achieving these goals.

I did not support this legislation in committee.

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE? REACH OUT TO MY OFFICE!

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Dear Friends,

We started and concluded the conferencing process for the state budget. The general revenue fund will allocate approximately \$48,015,000.00 of the state budget. Now until the end off session, we are on the senate floor voting on bills as we await on the "cooling off" process to vote on the final state budget.

Stay updated on the process by visiting <https://thefloridachannel.org/> for chamber sittings and <https://www.flsenate.gov/> to track the status of legislation.

As always, thank you for the privilege of representing YOU in the Florida Senate!

Sincerely,

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK!



Tricia Thacker, CEO of Aston Health and team



It was Children's Week and teens from various Jacksonville schools visited for Teen Day at The Capitol

SB 1764: CAR RACING PENALTIES

Deaths as they connect to road fatalities remains a pressing concern across the state of Florida. In response to this growing issue, SB 1764 has been introduced to address and mitigate not only the frequent injuries that occur from street takeovers, but more significantly, the alarming number of fatalities occurring on our state's roadways due to this activity.

This legislative initiative helps implement measures that can effectively contribute to reducing both injuries and fatalities, thereby enhancing overall road safety in our state. While operating a motor vehicle, it is imperative to prioritize the safety of oneself and those on the road and pedestrians as well. Senate Bill 1764 highlights the critical need for heightened awareness and responsible driving practices to ensure a secure environment for everyone sharing the roads in the state of Florida.

SB 1764 received unanimous support in committees and on the senate floor.

HB 1223: MINIMUM AGE FOR FIREARM PURCHASE OR TRANSFER

In Florida, we've witnessed a disturbing number of incidents involving gun violence, particularly in our schools and public spaces, with some instances being racially motivated attacks. One such incident occurred in August 2023, a racially motivated attack at a Dollar General store located in a predominantly black neighborhood, where an assailant, armed with a firearm, took the lives of three innocent and unarmed individuals.

HB 1223 fails to address and mitigate such attacks and effectively aims to reduce the minimum age requirement to purchase a firearm from 21 to 18, which applies to purchases from either a Federal Firearms Licensee (a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer i.e. an FFL) or a private seller.

As legislators, our collective effort should focus on safeguarding Floridians statewide, ensuring a secure environment for all and this legislation does not help put us in that direction.

I will not be supporting this legislation when it makes it to the senate floor.