

2024 SESSION RECAP

Senator Jonathan Martin

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239-338-2570



THE NEWS

Our success in the 2024 Legislative Session was a great ending to my first term in the Florida Senate. This year I passed twenty bills and brought much needed state funding home to District 33. I could not have done it without the help of my staff: Legislative Aides Nick Roch and Olivia Myers, District Aide Albert Griffith, and Legislative Intern Braden Cors.

SESSION BY NUMBERS:

Bill Committee Presentations: 67
Bills heard in Criminal Justice: 47 first reference 12 second reference
Bills passed by the Senate: 110. By the House: 181.
High/Low Temp in TLH: H: 83F L: 21F
Meetings: Over 200 scheduled meetings with constituents, stakeholders, and agencies.
Number of times the Senators met in the Chamber: 20
Average number of hours spent in the office: 10h/day
Cups of coffee per day: 3
Flight of stairs climbed every day: 7



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Bills That Were Passed off the Senate Floor:

SB 278: Prohibiting agreements that indemnify a community association manager or community association management firm for errors or omissions relating to the provision or preparation of an estoppel certificate. It will also revise the time in which a community association must provide an estoppel certificate to a requestor and put a cap on how much a community association is allowed to charge for an estoppel certification.

SB 682: Revising the timeframe after which a law enforcement agency may take certain actions relating to abandoned property or specified vessels if the owner has not taken specified actions.

SB 688: Requiring a local government to allow an applicant for a certain development permit to satisfy transportation concurrency requirements if the applicant offers to enter into a good faith binding agreement that the project is considered to have mitigated its transportation impacts if the applicant meets certain conditions and requirements.

SB 702: This bill defines the term "property rights", and will require courts to award reasonable attorney fees and costs to a prevailing defendant in certain civil actions under specified circumstances.

SB 758: Prohibiting the placement or use of a tracking device or tracking application to determine the location or movement of another person or another person's property without that person's consent.

SB 770: Authorizing a program administrator to offer a program for financing qualifying improvements for residential property when authorized by a county or municipality. It will also authorize a program administrator to levy non-ad valorem assessments for a certain purpose, providing for compensation for tax collectors for actual costs incurred to collect non-ad valorem assessments.

SB 896: Requiring that a certain annual report required of the Department of Health include specified data, requiring the department to immediately suspend the license of massage therapists and massage establishments under certain circumstances. It prohibits sexual activity and certain related activities in massage establishments.

SB 958:Revising the base salary used to calculate the compensation of county tax collectors and it will revise the base salary used to calculate the compensation of district school superintendents.

SB 988:Providing an exemption from public records requirements for certain information contained in applications and home inspection reports submitted by applicants to the Department of Financial Services as a part of the My Safe Florida Home Program.

SB 1046: Prohibiting a person from falsely personating any personnel or representative from the Florida Gaming Control Commission. Increasing the criminal penalty for specified violations involving a slot machine or device

SB 1090: Revising the punishment for the unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages and the activities that may be declared a public nuisance under local administrative actions. This bill will also abate certain activities to include persons who commit the unlicensed or unlawful sale of alcoholic beverages more than a specified number of times within a specified period.

SB 1128: Authorizing a university to retain and report a reserve balance exceeding a specified amount.

SB 1220: Providing for the reclassification of certain scheme-to-defraud offenses committed against persons 65 years of age or older or persons with certain disabilities. It will also allow a person whose image or likeness is used without his or her consent in a scheme to defraud to file a civil action for damages.

SB 1256: Providing an exception to a requirement that certain voter registration applicants must be registered without party affiliation. It will require that the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles notify certain individuals of certain information and will require the department to ensure that information technology processes and updates do not alter certain information without written consent.

SB 1274: Revising penalties for minors committing specified firearms violations.

SB 1278: This bill will provide additional authority for law enforcement officers of the office of the inspector general concerning department and contractor-operated correctional facilities. Providing that correctional privatization contracts are not exempt from specified state contracting provisions unless otherwise specified.

SB 1530: Prohibiting counties and municipalities from authorizing or otherwise allowing public camping or sleeping on public property without certification of designated public property by the Department of Children and Families. It will authorize counties to designate certain public property for such uses for a specified time period.

SB 1618: This bill will authorize the interception and recording of an oral communications by the parent or legal guardian of a child under a specified age under certain circumstances.

SB 1656: This bill creates the offense of lewd or lascivious grooming. This bill defines what lewd and lascivious grooming is and provides law enforcement with the right to arrest individuals who participate in a pattern of behavior relating to the lewd and lascivious grooming of persons under the age of 16.

Session Overview:

The Senate heard, and passed many big ticket items this Session that will serve the needs of District 33 and its residents. One of the most extensive bills passed was Senator Hutson's SB 1638, which provided funding for environmental resource management. Through Senate Bill 1638, 96 percent of the revenues from the 2021 gaming compact between the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the State of Florida will be directed for the acquisition and management of conservation lands and the identification and prioritization of critical clean water infrastructure investments.

Another piece of legislation that will benefit SWFL is Senate Bill 280, which was passed by Senator DiCeglie. SB 280 protects private property rights, provides local governments with the power to regulate vacation rentals, and strikes a balance between private property rights and commonsense regulation. I am very grateful for my colleague's willingness to run this bill, as vacation rentals play an important role in our local economy.

Senate President Passidomo championed her "Live Healthy" initiative this Session, which is a robust package of policy enhancements and strategic investments that will help Florida's health care workforce to grow and innovate at the same pace as Florida's businesses and population. Access to quality health care is critically important at every phase of life. As Florida's population continues to grow, the legislature must act swiftly and decisively to address shortages of physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals. I am thankful to Senator Burton, Senator Harrell, and Senate President Passidomo for their great work on perfecting this legislation. With Florida having an 8% annual population growth, it is important that we make sure all residents have the tools to Live Healthy.

In observance of Easter our Office will be closed on March 29 and April 1.
My team and I hope that you have Happy Easter.