



Florida Senate Democratic Caucus

Fourth Week of 2023 Session: 3/27/23-3/31/23

WEEK 4: MOVING AT LIGHTNING SPEED



"OUR COLLEAGUES ARE TRIPPING OVER THEMSELVES TO HELP (THE GOVERNOR) ACHIEVE HIS AGENDA."

DEMOCRATIC LEADER LAUREN BOOK

Watch Leader Book's press avail on [The Florida Channel](#)



Leader Book Speaks to the Press

Leader Book spoke with the press to highlight the dangers of the proposed six-week abortion ban, the tastelessness of pushing permitless carry in the wake of the tragedy in Nashville, and the reason why legislation is moving quicker than ever before.

The Bad Bills Keep Coming

SB 150: Permitless Carry

Permitless Carry passed the Florida Senate and heads to the Governor.

Democrats filed **eight amendments** to the bill, including an amendment to make lock boxes tax exempt and an amendment to allow firearms in legislative committee meetings and sessions.

"If you actually believe what you're carrying, and what you're selling, then it should apply to all of us."

Senator Jason Pizzo



"THESE ARE THE SAME PEOPLE - THAT WHEN YOUR FAMILIES WERE IN NEED DURING COVID - THEY STEPPED UP AND TOOK CARE OF YOU. IF THIS IS HOW WE SAY THANK YOU TO THEM - SHAME ON US."

SENATOR SHEVRIN JONES



Senator Shevrin Jones and Senator Rosalind Osgood debate the union-busting bill.

SB 256 - Union Busting Bill

The union-busting bill targets certain public unions - except for law enforcement, firefighters and correctional officers. Among other things, prohibits monthly paycheck deduction for union dues and raises the percentage of employees that need to be active before a union risks decertification. The bill passed the Senate 23-17 - it heads to the Florida House.

"NOW THESE HARDWORKING INDIVIDUALS HAVE TO GO TO WORK AND JUMP THROUGH A LOT OF HOOPS JUST TO EXERCISE A CHOICE TO BE A MEMBER OF A UNION. I THINK THEY DESERVE BETTER."

SENATOR ROSALIND OSGOOD

SB 300: Six-Week Abortion Ban

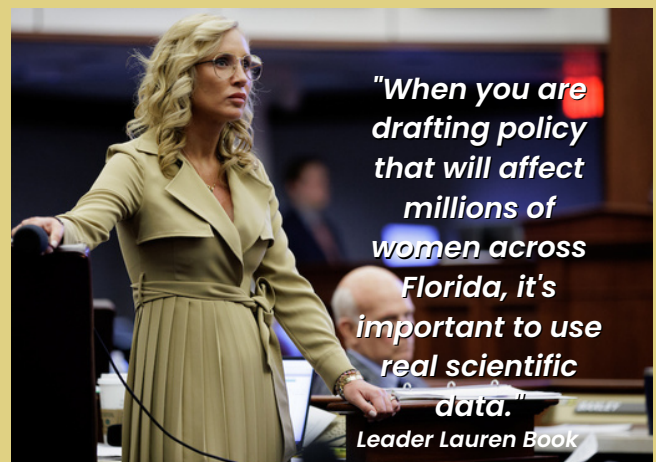
The six-week abortion ban was on the Senate floor. Democrats pushed to make the bill better - filing **nineteen amendments** that were rejected.

Amendments included:

- An exemption for women in danger of domestic violence
- A religious exemption
- An exemption for minors
- Removing 2 physician requirement for imminent
- Changing the name from "The Heartbeat Protection Act" to the "Electrical Activity that can be Manipulated to Sound like a Heartbeat through Ultrasound Protection at the Expense of Pregnant People's Health and Wellbeing Act"

"When you are drafting policy that will affect millions of women across Florida, it's important to use real scientific data."

Leader Lauren Book



DEMOCRATIC BILLS ON THE MOVE

HEADED TO THE HOUSE



SM 848 - People of Iran

"SENATE MEMORIAL 848 MAKES CLEAR THAT THE PEOPLE OF FLORIDA STAND WITH THE PEOPLE OF IRAN."

SENATOR BOBBY POWELL

SB 226 - Support for Dependent Adult Children - Senator Berman

Specifies procedures in court of parents to support a dependent adult child.



Here's a glance at other bills filed by Senate Democrats heard in committee during Week 4:

SB 490 & 492 - Family & Household Members of Homicide Victims & Deceased Minors and its Public Records Exemption - Senator Jones

Requires law enforcement provide contact information to the next of kin for a minor involved in a death investigation.

SB 508 - Problem-Solving Courts - Senator Rouson

Revises statutes for the state's pre-trial intervention court programs.

SB 528 - Gain-time for Attempted Sexual Offenses - Senator Davis

Among other things, eliminates the possibility of gain-time for those convicted of sexual battery.

SB 678 - Disposal of Property - Senator Powell

Florida Department of Transportation may convey property to a governmental entity without consideration if the property is to be used for affordable housing

SB 832 - Holocaust Remembrance Day - Senator Berman

Requires Governor to proclaim January 27 each year as "Holocaust Remembrance Day".

SB 836 - Theft from Nonprofit Organizations - Senator Powell

Reclassifies theft from nonprofit organizations based on the value of the property taken.

SB 938 - Operation & Administration of the Baker Act - Senator Davis

Requires the Department of Children & Families to update and publish a Baker Act handbook annually.

SB 1268 - Urban Agriculture Pilot Projects - Senator Rouson

Redefines the term "urban agriculture pilot projects" to include commercial and non commercial uses.

SB 1292 - Parenting Plans - Senator Jones

Creates a rebuttable presumption that equal time-sharing with minor children is in the best interests of the child.

SB 1520 - Controlled Substances - Senator Pizzo

Amends provisions in a law that enhance punishment for committing various controlled substance offenses within 1,000 of a drug-free zone.

SB 1574 - Judgment Liens - Senator Rouson

Provides more options for a creditor to collect a civil judgment.

SB 1440 - Court Proceedings - Senator Book

Authorizes A/V technology for dependency & delinquency proceedings.

SB 1510 - Visiting County & Municipal Detention Facilities - Senator Pizzo

Allows certain state and local elected officials to visit a county detention facility at their pleasure.

SB 996 - Driver License, Identification Card, & Motor Vehicle Registration Applications - Senator Berman

Requires motor vehicle registration form and renewal form, and driver license or identification card form include an option to make a voluntary contribution to Best Buddies International.

SB 1004 - High School Equivalency Diplomas - Senator Torres

Prohibits a school district from requiring a 16-year old or older student take any course before taking the GED exam, unless they didn't pass the practice test.

SB 1014 - Value of Motor Vehicles Exempt from Legal Process - Senator Polsky

Increases the maximum value number of a debtor's motor vehicle that is exempt from the legal process.

SB 1052 - Exemptions for Totally & Permanently Disabled Veterans - Senator Berman

Provides that a totally & permanently disabled veteran or their surviving spouse may receive a prorated refund of taxes if they apply for an exemption in the subsequent tax year.

SB 1074 - Divine Nine Specialty License Plate - Senator Thompson

Expands eligibility for Divine Nine specialty license plates to member's immediate relative and motor vehicle lessees.

CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS



Senator Torres is honored on the floor for National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

**Thank you for your service
Senator Torres!**



AKA Day at the Capitol



DEAR FLORIDA.
AS DEMOCRATS AND FLORIDIANS, WE'RE SICK OF THE CULTURE WARS BEING PLAYED OUT DURING THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION AT YOUR EXPENSE.
WHILE WE CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS & FREEDOMS - WE HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK:
WHAT ARE THE **REAL** ISSUES THAT AFFECT YOU DAILY? ANYTHING WE CAN HELP WITH?
SHARE WITH US AT HELP@DEARFLORIDADEMS.COM.
TALK TO YOU SOON.
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