

THIS WEEK IN THE FLORIDA SENATE
FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 3, 2018

Senate Advances the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act



This week, the Senate Committee on Rules and the Senate Committee on Appropriations both passed Senate Bill 7026, The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, after hearing testimony and feedback from victims’ families, students, members of the Parkland community, and others. The bill then advanced to the Senate floor for additional questions, review, and discussion from Senators.

The legislation represents a comprehensive approach to addressing the issues presented by the horrible tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, including firearm and school safety, and community mental health resources. Provisions in the bill will provide law enforcement, the courts, and schools with the necessary tools to enhance both public and school safety. Additionally, coordination between education and law enforcement entities at the state and local levels will be enhanced to help prevent a tragedy like this from ever happening again.

The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act will help to ensure that those suffering from mental illness do not have access to firearms, provide communities across the state with the resources needed to identify and treat those suffering from mental illness, and improve the safety and security of local schools. We will continue to work with our House colleagues during the final week of session to pass legislation that will keep our children safe in schools.

Senate Passes Legislation Strengthening Florida's Support of Israel

House Bill 545 (Senate Bill 780), Prohibition Against Contracting with Scrutinized Companies, sponsored by Senator Jeff Brandes, passed out of the Senate this week. Florida proudly stands with Israel and there will be zero tolerance for government-business relationships with companies engaged in boycotts of Israel. The bill prohibits a company that is on the Scrutinized Companies that Boycott Israel List, or that is engaged in a boycott of Israel, from bidding on, submitting a proposal for, or entering into or renewing a contract with an agency or local government entity for goods or services of any amount.

Senate Passes Several Key Pieces of Legislation Helping Solidify Florida's Reputation as the Most Veteran-Friendly State in the Nation

This week, the Senate celebrated Military Appreciation and Florida National Guard Day at the Capitol, and passed several key pieces of legislation designed to help solidify Florida's reputation as the friendliest state in the nation for active duty military, veterans, and their families.



Senate Bill 100, Identification Card and Driver License Fees for Veterans, sponsored by Senator Greg Steube, unanimously passed the out of the Senate. The bill eliminates the \$1 or \$2 fee a veteran must pay to have the word "Veteran" displayed on an identification card or driver license issued by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV). The bill also prohibits tax collector offices from charging the \$6.25 service fee for driver license services rendered, upon providing the specified documentation proving veteran status.



House Bill 75 (Senate Bill 460), Postsecondary Fee Waivers, sponsored by Senator George Gainer and cosponsored by Senator Doug Broxson, also unanimously passed. The bill authorizes a Florida College System institution to waive certain fees for a person who is an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces and using military tuition assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Lastly, Senate Bill 440, Florida Veterans Care Program, sponsored by Senator Rene Garcia and cosponsored by President-Designate Bill Galvano, Leader Wilton Simpson, Senators Aaron Bean, Dana Young, Anitere Flores, Debbie Mayfield, Keith Perry, George Gainer, and Kathleen Passidomo, passed unanimously. The bill addresses specific access and quality of care concerns Florida's veterans continue to face by authorizing the state to operate the Florida Veterans Care Program (program), which would offer veterans and their families an alternative gateway to quality medical coverage.