



Florida Senate Democratic Caucus

Second Week of 2023 Session: 3/13/2023-3/17/2023



HERE'S THE FIGHT

The Senate Fiscal Policy Committee passed two bills that drew crowds of testimony from people on both sides of the aisle:

SB 256: PUBLIC UNION REFORM

SENATOR INGOGLIA

RAISES THE BAR FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS

- HIGHLIGHTS: REQUIRES A SIGNED MEMBERSHIP FORM FROM EACH MEMBER
- BANS PAYCHECK DEDUCTION FOR DUES, REQUIRES MORE THAN 60% MEMBERSHIP OR RISK DECERTIFICATION
- MOSTLY EXCLUDES LAW ENFORCEMENT, CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS.

"THE UNION IS ALWAYS THERE - TO PROTECT ITS MEMBERS."

SENATOR VICTOR TORRES



SB 236: CIVIL REMEDIES - SENATOR HUTSON

CHANGES CIVIL JUSTICE SYSTEM - FROM LOWERING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR NEGLIGENCE FROM 4 TO 2 YEARS TO MODIFYING THE 'BAD FAITH' FRAMEWORK.

"I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY INCENTIVE FOR AN INSURER TO DO THE RIGHT THING."

SENATOR LORI BERMAN

"INSTEAD OF PROTECTING ALL FLORIDIANS, WE HAVE TO COME TO THE CAPITOL TO PROTECT OUR DIGNITY AND TO LEGITIMIZE OUR EXISTENCE HERE IN THIS STATE."

SENATOR SHEVRIN JONES SPEAKING TO LGBTQ+ FLORIDIANS



[Watch Senator Jones' Speech](#)

Senator Shevrin Jones – the first gay Black Senator in Florida – and several lawmakers spoke at Equality Florida's Pride at the Capitol event to support the LGBTQ+ community.

SB 254: ANTI-TRANS BILL

FIRST COMMITTEE: SENATE HEALTH POLICY

Florida should be expanding access to health care, not limiting it for members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Among other things, this bill would ban young people from accessing gender affirming care treatments and regulate gender affirming care for adults.

SB 202: UNIVERSAL PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHER EXPANSION – SENATOR SIMON

PASSED ITS FINAL COMMITTEE.

SB 266: ACADEMIC INTRUSION BILL – SENATOR GRALL

PASSED ITS FIRST COMMITTEE, TWO MORE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TARGETS DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION AND TENURED FACULTY IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE FIGHTING FOR

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.
FLORIDA SENATE DEMOCRATS

Democratic Bills on the Move

SB 130: GREYSON'S LAW

Sponsored by Senator Berman, Greyson's Law is headed to the Senate floor with unanimous support during its committee process. Greyson's Law will expand the list of factors courts must consider when deciding if shared parental responsibility would be detrimental to a child.

In the wake of the tragic death of Greyson Kessler, Greyson's Law will help children under the threat of abuse from a parent to have legal protection, and give the other parent power under the law to protect that child from abuse.



Senator Berman speaking on SB 130: Greyson's Law

SB 184: HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

Sponsored by Senator Polsky, this bill will expand a current property tax to include surviving spouses of first responders who died in the line of duty.

SB 508: PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

Sponsored by Senator Rouson, this bill revises three statutes that govern admission and participation in "Problem-solving courts", courts designed as pre-trial intervention programs that afford the opportunity to get the help one needs and avoid criminal convictions.

SB 430: ABANDONED AND HISTORIC CEMETERIES

Sponsored by Senator Powell, this bill establishes the Historic Cemeteries Program Advisory Council, with the goal of maintaining and improving cemeteries across the state. The bill focuses specifically on helping cemeteries that have been abandoned for over 50 years, as well as African American cemeteries in the University of South Florida's Black Cemetery Network.

SB 902: TYRE SAMPSON ACT

Sponsored by Senator Thompson, the Tyre Sampson Act aims to improve safety on permanent amusement rides by requiring them to have a report on file with the Department of Agriculture within a specified timeframe. This bill also authorizes the department to conduct unannounced inspections of amusement park rides and revises the circumstances under which the owner or manager of the ride is required to report incidents.

This bill is in memory of Tyre Sampson, the fourteen-year-old who tragically passed away after the mismanagement of the Orlando FreeFall drop tower in Icon Park.



Senator Thompson speaking on SB 902: Tyre Simpson Act

ON THE FLOOR

Highlighting a few bills that passed on the Senate floor week 2:

SB 144: Lactation Spaces:

Sponsored by Senator Berman - Establishes lactation areas in all county courthouses.

SB 286: Legal Instruments

Sponsored by Senator Powell - Allows lenders to pursue rental income from third party investors



Here's a glance other bills filed by Senate Democrats that were heard in committee during Week 2:

SB 114 Tax Exemptions for Diapers & Incontinence Products - Leader Lauren Book - **Creates permanent tax break for children & adult diapers.**

SB 290 Public School Student Progression for Students with Disabilities - Senator Shervin Jones - **Authorizes a parent to retain his or her child in Pre-K if that child has a disability and is enrolled through the state-run Pre-K finance programs**

SB 292 Healthy Food Financing Initiative Program - Senator Shevrin Jones - **Revises requirements for the Food Financing program.**

SB 506 - Comprehensive Waste Reduction & Recycling Plan - Senator Linda Stewart - **Requires DEP to create a waste reduction & recycling plan.**

SB 734 Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments - Senator Tina Polsky - **Authorizes the Department of Environmental Protection to provide grants to coastal counties to assess how vulnerable these communities may be to saltwater intrusion**

SM 848 People of Iran - Senator Bobby Powell - **Urges congress to stand in support of the fight for freedom of the people of Iran**

SB 938 Operation & Administration of the Baker Act - Senator Tracie Davis - **Updates & modernizes the Baker Act handbook.**

SB 1002 Motor Vehicle Glass - Senator Linda Stewart - **Prohibits motor vehicle repair shops from offering incentives to a customer in exchange for making an insurance claim for motor vehicle glass repair**

SB 1004 High School Equivalency Diplomas - Senator Torres - **Prohibits school boards from requiring students to take specified courses before taking the high school equivalency examination if the student can pass a practice test**

SB 1268 Urban Agriculture Pilot Projects - Senator Rouson - **Redefines the term "urban agriculture" to include new commercial agriculture uses**

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