

CAPITOL



STATE SENATOR KEVIN RADER, DISTRICT 29



WEEKS 5-6

Dear Friends,

We've reached the halfway point of the 2020 Legislative Session. With time being so limited, we have no shortage of items or issues to discuss and address. During Week 5, several of the committees had their last meetings, and the State Budget is beginning to take center stage. I presented three bills during Week 6, and I am hopeful that they will become law later this year. In the last few weeks of Session, we will be in Conference with the House of Representatives and voting on bills that have made it through the Committees to the Senate Floor.

I may be in Tallahassee, but always feel free to contact my office with any issues or concerns.

SB 1414 FISH AND WILDLIFE ACTIVITIES



Many Floridians have taken an interest in this particular piece of legislation, either in opposition or support. The bill includes several provisions, but most notably, it adds the tegus and iguanas to the conditional nonnative snakes and lizards list. This portion has made it controversial because they will no longer be able to be kept or sold as pets. Some reasons as to why this section has been included are that the tegus cause harm to native species by disturbing alligator nests and consuming their eggs. They are known to utilize gopher tortoise burrows and consume juvenile gopher tortoises. On the other hand, Green iguanas damage residential and commercial landscape vegetation (including trees with foliage, flowers, and almost any vegetable) and cause infrastructure damage by digging burrows that erode and collapse sidewalks, foundations, seawalls, berms, and canal banks. Many Floridians that breed or sell these reptiles, joined by pet owners, came before the committees and expressed reasons as to why they are in opposition to this bill. SB 1414 must still go through the Rules Committee before coming before the full Senate.

LEGISLATION UPDATES

As I previously mentioned, I presented three bills during Week 6 of the Legislative Session. SB 540, Insurance Guaranty Associations, SB 364 Independent Living Task Force, and SB 302 Adoption Records are pieces of legislation that I believe are necessary for our community. SB 302 has passed the Children, Families, and Elder Affairs Committee, and just this week, the Judiciary Committee. As SB 364 has passed the committee process, it is now ready to be heard on the Senate floor. SB 540 was instead presented in Sitting on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, and will be up again on Week 7 for a final vote by the Florida Senate.



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