



**State Senator  
Audrey  
Gibson  
District 6**



**Session in  
Review  
Week 1  
March 7 - 10,  
2017**

**Dear Constituent and Friend,**

The 2017 Legislative Session is in full swing and I continue to work hard for our district and the State. Bills I filed this year address several areas of concern such as, our justice system, the need for certain non-partisan elections, the ability to cure signatures on provisional and vote-by-mail ballots, focus on diabetes health and several other matters. To review a full listing of my filed bills, visit <http://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/S6/?Tab=Bills>

**SB 382: Judicial Accountability** was filed to take a closer look at the stunning disparities in sentencing. The bill calls for sentencing and plea data to be compiled annually and presented to judges, the Legislature, Governor, and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The bill also specifies that the information be posted for the public on the website of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPGA).

**SB 366: Nonpartisan Elections for State Attorneys and Public Defenders** triggered from recent races in Duval County, the bill would simply make elections for state attorneys and public defenders nonpartisan races across the state.

**SB 598: Elections** requires the Supervisor of Elections to allow a person who voted a provisional ballot, submit an affidavit to cure an unsigned provisional ballot by a time certain exactly like that of an un-signed vote-by-mail. In addition, in response to a federal court order, the bill expands the vote-by-mail affidavit to be used to cure a ballot rejected due to a signature discrepancy.

**My bills passing committee this week:**

**SB 440: Notary Public** expands the list of forms of identification, which a notary public may use in notarizing a signature to include Veterans Health Identification card issued by the VA (through VA clinics or hospitals).

**SB 612: Federal Matching Funds Information** requires agencies to submit information with their budget requests identifying matching federal funds maximization.

**On the Senate Floor**

**SB 2: Higher Education** passed in a 39-1 vote. I supported the bill though I had some concerns about impact on our community colleges and the possibility of higher tuition costs. Since the bill includes an impact study and increases in financial aid, the good for students and families is more positive than not. The bill establishes a block tuition model which by design is to help students be able to take more classes for a set cost. If this works without higher tuition costs, it is obviously a win. Performance incentives have been added for institutions to spur graduating full time students on time.

As we continue through session, I will keep you informed on various issues of impact. If you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact my office.

**As always, it is an Honor and a Pleasure to serve you in the Florida Senate!**

Sincerely,

Audrey Gibson  
State Senator  
District 6

Tune into these stations between 6 am-6 pm Mon to Fri to watch legislative action: [www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority](http://www.flsenate.gov/offices/minority) or WJCT-TV-Comcast channel 212, or WJCT-DT 7.4 or WUFT-TV-Comcast channel 210, Digital Channel 5.2 or Cox 13.

**Session Snapshots**



**Welcoming Representative Tracie Davis and Representative Kimberly Daniels to the Florida House**



**Future Farmers of America members from Frank H Peterson High School**



**Jacksonville Public Library Delegation**



**Duval County High School Students**



**Military and Veterans Affairs, Space and Domestic Security  
Chairwoman Gibson addressing attendees at Florida Space Day reception**

**District Office**

101 East Union Street  
Suite 104  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 359-2553

**Tallahassee Office**

405 Senate Office Building  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
Phone: (850) 487-5009

[gibson.audrey.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:gibson.audrey.web@flsenate.gov)