

News You Can Use from State Senator Audrey Gibson



**2019 Legislative
Session in Review
Week 6
April 8-12, 2019**



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Dear Constituent and Friend,

With just three weeks left in the 2019 legislative session, we are quickly heading towards the finish-line yet there is still much to do. The budget remains unfinished which is our only constitutional duty. I anticipate we will start putting the finishing numbers in place in the next week so that we end session timely. To track specific legislation, you may be interested in, or to see the calendar of meetings visit www.flsenate.gov.

My bills in committee this week:

SB 456: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program, would enable Florida's HBCUs to offer scholarships to students enrolled in their institutions through a matching scholarship program with the State. The bill lays the foundation for an appropriation of \$2 million to be deposited into a newly created HBCU trust fund. Each HBCU that desires to participate in the program would contribute \$500,000 in matching dollars through their own fund raising efforts. The accumulated interest from all the funds would be distributed to the participating colleges and universities for scholarships.

With unanimous support, the legislation is on to the next committee.

Other bills of interest this week:

CS/SB 630: Nonopioid Alternatives by Senator Keith Perry - Alachua County: requires the Department of Health to develop and publish on its website educational information to advise individuals of available non-opioid alternatives for the treatment of pain, and create an educational pamphlet discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the use of non-opioid alternatives. The bill also requires a health care practitioner to provide a pamphlet prior to treating with anesthesia or an opioid medication in a non-emergency situation. I supported the legislation which I believe helps us to make further inroads in decreasing opioid addiction and opioid related deaths.

CS/SB 844: At-Risk Adult Alert Plan by Senator Lori Berman - Palm Beach: creates a program that aids in the search for missing adult who has an irreversible cognitive disorder or syndrome or brain injury, including a developmental disability or an intellectual disability, whose disappearance poses a credible threat to the person's welfare and safety. Called an "Orange Alert," the alert, the plan helps protect those who may not meet the criteria for activation under the Silver Alert Plan
(<https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/mcicsearch/currentsilveralerts.asp>)

If you have questions or comments, about these or other bills being considered this session, 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

Week 6 in the Senate!



Representatives from Society of NeuroInterventional Surgery (SNIS)



Interview with Beth Switzer, Executive Director of The Florida Channel for their Florida Face to Face segment



Ben Friedman, Director of Jewish Community Relations Council



Signature Healthcare team advocating for health care needs

Legislators & Staff tour Hurricane Michael damage



Also tune into these stations between 6 am-6 pm Mon to Fri to watch legislative action:
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.