



*News You Can Use
from State Senator
Audrey Gibson*



*2018 Legislative
Session in Review
Week 3
January 22-26, 2018*

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Dear Constituent and Friend,

As we begin Week 4 of the Legislative Session, I wanted to update you on Week 3. At the end of the week, the Senate and House released their beginning versions of the 2018-2019 budget. It is very early in the budget process with much negotiation to be still to be done between the chambers to meet our statutory requirement to pass a balanced budget. Several Northeast Florida priorities are positioned in the budget for inclusion.

Legislation of interest heard in my committees:

SB 90: Use of Wireless Communications Devices While Driving: allows for a primary stop and citation issued to a driver who is or in my opinion appears to be texting. Concerns I raised included: how a law enforcement officer can determine texting from dialing given the make up of today's phones; racial profiling continues to be an issue; confusion among many on even what to do when pulled over.

To address concerns I had and those I have heard from others, I put forward an amendment to implement hands free driving, which leaves no doubt when someone is using other than a Bluetooth or headphone to use their wireless device. Without my amendment, I could not support the bill.

Distracted driving and racial profiling are both menaces, and we can help eliminate both by passing multi-focused legislation.

SB 540: Postsecondary Education: relates to the how are community colleges will be governed, namely by creating State Board of Colleges to oversee the states' 28 community colleges in the State College System. Additionally, the bill and would cap the number baccalaureate degrees a community college could offer. This is an overall effort to maintain the original workforce focus of certifications and opportunities for technical studies for job advancement of those desiring such. The bill now moves to the floor for full discussion and debate. If you have questions or comments on this or any bill please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Other legislation you may want to view:

- SB 1028: Corporations**
- SB 1122: Florida Business and Work Force Competitiveness Trust Fund/Department of Economic Opportunity**
- SB 1574: Unarmed Security Licenses**
- SB 616: Motor Vehicles Dealers**
- SB 1020: Alcohol Deliveries**
- SB 160: Specialty License Plates/Ducks Unlimited and Fallen Law Enforcement Officers**
- SB 1130: Land Acquisition Trust Fund within the Department of State**
- SB 296: Beverage Law**
- SB 922: Sale of Alcoholic Beverages**
- SB 1224: Beverage Law**
- SB 526: Deregulation of Professions and Occupations**
- SB 1114: Professional Regulation**
- SB 1120: Expert Witnesses**
- SB 866: Sentencing**
- SB 1412: Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims**
- SB 298: Criminal History Records**

On the Senate Floor:

SB 472: National Statuary Hall: seeks to have a statue of Mary McLeod Bethune, placed in the U.S. Capitol as the representative statute of the state of Florida. Mary McLeod Bethune, cofounder of Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach was an influential civil rights leader, educator, and humanitarian, who started a private school for African-American girls with just \$1.50. Known as "The First Lady of The Struggle" she had the ear of the White House during the Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Though a Floridian indeed, Mrs. Bethune fought for the betterment of all mankind.

Session Snapshots:



**With Deloris Moton Quaranta, President and members of
Northeast Florida Women Veterans**



**Honored to receive the Honorable Carrie P. Meek Servant Leadership Award
Delta Days at the Capitol, Southern Region**



Recording of Comcast Newsmakers at The Capitol

As we continue through Session, I will keep you informed on various issues. 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