



*News You Can Use  
from State Senator  
Audrey Gibson*



*2018 Legislative  
Session in Review  
Week 4  
January 29 -  
February 2, 2018*

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**Dear Constituent and Friend,**

As we wrapped up week 4, several of my bills were presented in committees this week with favorable votes. We also began processing budget amendments to prepare for floor debate on the state budget and priorities therein. To track specific legislation, you can visit [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov) at your convenience.

**Filed Bills on the move:**

**SB 1184: Closing the Gap Grant Program:** is a bill I filed to add Lupus funding to the states' "Closing the Gap Grant Program." The program provides funding to decrease racial and ethnic disparities for diseases and illnesses such as, Cancer and infant mortality, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other ailments highly affecting people of color. There are more than 16,000 new cases of Lupus reported annually across the country and women of color are 2 to 3 times more likely to develop Lupus.

With a unanimous vote, the bill moves on to its next committee stop.

**SB 1526: Historically Black Colleges and Universities Matching Endowment Scholarship Program:** will create a program enabling HBCUs to offer scholarships to students enrolled in their institutions. This is a matching scholarship program between the State and Florida HBCUs. Over a period of 5 years, each HBCU would receive \$500,000 annually if a required equal cash match by alumni and other supporters is met.

The bill which received unanimous support would be a plus for all our students if it becomes law.

**Other bills of interest:**

**SB 694: Mandatory Sentences:** Provides for judicial discretion in deviating from mandatory minimum sentencing in non-violent drug related cases.

**SB 1028: Corporations:** under the bill, state banks and trust companies would be allowed to form social purpose or public benefit corporations. In addition to their primary stated purpose, they would be allowed to use corporate assets to pursue public interest goals that have a positive impact on the environment or in other areas that are charitable, artistic, educational, cultural, and literary, among other public benefit areas.

**SB 1574: Licensure of Unarmed Security Guards:** allows a person pursuing a class "D" license for unarmed security officer to perform required pre-licensing training online as an additional option to 40 hours pre-licensing training in person. The applicant must submit proof of successful completion and personal information as required by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The bill received my "Yes" vote.

**On the Senate Floor:**

**SB 140: Marriage Licenses:** was inspired by the story of Ms. Sherry Johnson, who was forced to marry her rapist at 11 years old. Currently, minors can marry under certain conditions, such as with parental consent or in cases of pregnancies. The bill would ban the marriage for anyone under 18 years of age and closes a loophole to prevent victimization.

The Senate unanimously passed the bill.

**Session Snapshots:**



**Duval County Council PTA Student Leadership high school students visiting The Capitol**



**Florida Association of Women Lawyers including members of Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association**



**Florida Fraternal Order of Police**

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

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