



Good Morning!

This past week the Florida Legislature began budget conferencing meetings. Budget conference is a process by which the House and Senate work out our differences until we arrive at a unified concurrent budget that each chamber will then adopt.

The budget conference between the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, and the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee's last meeting was Friday morning. IT funding across all departments was the main difference between our two budgets, along with environmental funding. The discrepancy was due to funding sources, not necessarily the dollar amount.



The conference between the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, and the House Government Operations and Technology Appropriations Subcommittee had their last meeting on Friday. We were very close in our budgets with the exception of IT funding across all departments.

It was a pleasure to serve as Chair of both committees and working with House members, Chair Holly Raschein and Chair Jayer Williamson respectively. Conference meetings will continue this week.

I was honored to receive the **Fighting for Kids Award** from the Florida Coalition of School Board Members. This award is "*in recognition of your leadership in fighting for freedom in education.*" Thank you Tina Descovich and Matt Susin for presenting me with this award and for your great work on the Brevard County School Board.

I consider it a great honor to represent all of the citizens and visitors of District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

Legislation Update

This week I presented the following bills **on the Senate Floor**:

[HB 325: Coastal Management](#), was substituted for my identical Senate version of the bill, SB 446, which passed unanimously. The bill revises the criteria used by the DEP to prioritize coastal restoration projects based on need and importance. Criteria for ranking beach and inlet sand management projects will be refined to better capture the economic importance of healthy beaches to tourism, storm damage reduction and resource protection. This legislation will also increase transparency and accountability from DEP by requiring project updates be provided to the Legislature for review. The bill will now be sent to the Governor for his signature.

[SB 1278: Biosolids Management](#) was unanimously passed. This bill specifies regulation for biosolids management in order to minimize the migration of harmful nutrients that impair our water bodies. The bill also calls for innovative technologies in biosolids processing to be implemented as a means of protecting our water resources and water quality. This legislation requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopt rules for biosolids management to include stringent land application rates and monitoring requirements. This will ensure that nitrogen and phosphorus do not impair our water quality. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 1180: Consumer Protection from Nonmedical Changes to Prescription Drug Formularies](#) was passed by the majority, 39 YEAS, 1 NAY. This proposal amends the Insurance Code to provide additional consumer protections and improves transparency. This bill requires a 60 day notice be issued to the consumer and their healthcare provider prior to any change to their prescription drug formulary during a policy year. This legislation also adds criteria to the requirement of Insurance companies and HMO's to record all changes in its formulary during the policy year. A report must be submitted to the Office of Insurance Regulation at the end of each calendar year, and will be shared with the Legislature for review. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[HB 549: Continuing Education for Dentists](#) was substituted for my identical Senate version, SB 648, which passed unanimously. This bill requires a licensed dentist to complete a minimum of two hours, as part of their 30 hours of required continuing education requirements, on prescribing controlled substances biennially. The bill will now be sent to the Governor.

The following bills, which I **co-sponsored**, were approved on the Senate Floor this week:

[HB 107: Texting While Driving](#), was substituted for [SB 76: Driving While Using a Wireless Communication Device](#). This bill authorizes enforcement of a ban on the use of a handheld wireless communications device while operating a motor vehicle as a primary offense, rather than a secondary offense. The bill has been sent back to the House for consideration.

[SB 168: Federal Immigration Enforcement](#) ensures that local and state law enforcement agencies cooperate with federal governments to enforce, and not obstruct, immigration laws. The bill prohibits sanctuary city ordinances and requires state and local entities to comply with federal immigration laws. The bill also provides protection for witnesses or victims of a crime of domestic violence, rape, sexual exploitation, sexual assault, murder, manslaughter, assault, battery, human trafficking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, involuntary servitude, fraud in foreign labor contracting, blackmail, extortion, or witness tampering. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 442: Post-secondary Education for Military Children](#) adds military experience to the list of qualifying bases for which service members and veterans may earn post-secondary

course credit from a public post-secondary educational institution. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

Additionally, the following bills were **approved on the Senate Floor** this week:

[SB 7030: Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission](#) (MSDPSC) This bill implements the school safety and security recommendations of the MSDPSC, including, enhancing communication and reporting of threats to student safety; Expanding resources available for mental health services; Expedites implementation of school hardening requirements; Provides school districts with options to maximize school safety. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 7070: K-12 Education](#) establishes and modifies several K-12 education programs to support students, families, public schools and teachers. The bill expands educational choice and opportunity for lower income families, elevates public schools by expanding student support services and reducing regulations, and supports teachers by removing teacher certification barriers and providing recognition awards for teacher and principals. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[HB 5401: Department of Environmental Protection](#) creates a Division of Law Enforcement within the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and shifts certain Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement officers to DEP. The bill also requires FWC and DEP to detail their respective responsibilities regarding investigations and the handling of oil spills, hazardous spills and natural disasters. The bill will now be sent to the Governor.

[HB 595: Alcohol or Drug Overdose Prosecutions](#) expands the current law's "grant of immunity" for a person who seeks medical assistance to counteract a drug overdose. The bill creates a similar "grant of immunity" for a person who seeks help for an alcohol overdose by an underage drinker. The bill will now be sent to the Governor.

[HB 7065: Insurance Assignment Agreements](#) addresses the abuse of a policyholder benefit, known as assignment of benefits (AOB), for residential or commercial property insurance claims. The bill also limits one-way attorney's fees related to AOB agreements. The bill will now be sent to the Governor.

[SB 94: Child Care Facilities](#) requires vehicles used by child care facilities be equipped with an alarm that prompts the driver to inspect the vehicle for the presence of children before leaving the area. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 190: Higher Education](#) updates eligibility for the Bright Futures scholarship program. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 322: Health Plans](#) requires each insurer, or HMO, issuing policies in Florida offer at least one comprehensive major medical policy or contract that does not exclude, limit, deny, or delay coverage due to one or more preexisting medical conditions. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 452: Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams](#) authorizes the establishment of elder abuse fatality review teams in each of the 20 judicial circuits. The teams will review closed cases of fatal incidents of elder abuse and make policy and other recommendations to help prevent future incidents. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 494: Firefighters' Bill of Rights](#) provides that when a firefighter is under investigation, they must be notified and provided with certain information before disciplinary actions are

taken and be given an opportunity to address the findings. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 1020: State Hemp Program](#) authorizes the Department of Agriculture to establish a state hemp program and sets up rule making and a board of experts to develop the system. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 910: Court-ordered Treatment Programs](#) expands the eligibility criteria for individuals who may participate in a Veterans Court program to include any veteran discharged, or released from the military under any condition. A Veterans Court is a problem-solving court that provides treatment intervention to military veterans and service members who are charged with, or convicted of criminal offenses, and who are also suffering military-related injuries. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 1136: Cyber-harassment](#) expands the state's prohibition of sexual cyber-harassment to also prohibit dissemination *via electronic means to another person*, in addition to publishing an image on an Internet website in the manner described. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 1552: Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative](#) provides a \$3 million annual appropriation for the next 6 years dedicated to red tide research and mitigation. This bill establishes the Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative as a partnership between the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute and Mote Marine Laboratory. The purpose of the initiative is to develop technologies and approaches needed to address the control and mitigation of red tide and its impacts. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 7098: Death Benefits](#) implements Amendment 7 to the State Constitution, which was approved by the voters in November 2018, to require the payment of death benefits to the survivors of certain first responders, Florida National Guard members, and members of the United States Armed Forces. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 262: Child Welfare](#) speeds up the dependency process for abused children removed from their home to achieve permanency within 1 year. Permanency can be reunification with parents, placement with a permanent guardian, often a relative, or adoption. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 362: Abolishes the Constitutional Revision Commission](#) by repealing provisions establishing it in the Florida Constitution. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

[SB 828: Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition](#) expands the scope of the prohibition on lewd or lascivious exhibition in the presence of an employee of a correctional institution to include any person employed at or performing contractual work for a county detention facility. Current law prohibits such conduct in a state or private correctional facility only. The bill has been sent to the House for consideration.

Please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for live updates on legislation moving through the Florida Senate.

From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis

This week Governor DeSantis received the following bills from the Legislature:

[SB 426: Firefighters Cancer Coverage](#) offers insurance and death benefits for firefighters diagnosed with cancer. I am proud to have co-sponsored this bill which ensures our firefighters and their families will have the support they need.

[SB 310: Off-Highway Vehicles](#) redefines the terms ATV and ROV to increase width and weight allowed for these vehicles. This change will allow manufacturers to meet consumer and regulatory demands for safer vehicles.

[SB 320: Residential Conservation Programs](#) authorizes the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to organize, staff, equip and operate residential conservation programs to provide education and training about fish and wildlife conservation to the public and volunteers.

The Governor has until May 3, 2019 to act on this bill. He can sign the bill into law or veto the bill. If no action is taken by May 3rd, the bill will become law without his signature. If the Governor chooses to veto a bill, the Legislature can overturn the veto by a two thirds vote of both chambers. [Contact Governor DeSantis's Office](#) if you have any questions or concerns about legislation he has received.

This week Governor Ron DeSantis also **signed the following bills into law:**

[SB 96: Police, Fire, Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses](#) increases the penalty from a third degree felony to a second degree felony for intentionally causing harm, permanent disability or death to a police, fire or search and rescue canine or police horse.

[SB 124: Dependent Children](#) addresses the complications that arise when a dependent child or young adult is involved in legal proceedings in multiple courts and jurisdictions.

[SB 184: Aging Programs](#) moves rule making authority from the Department of Elder Affairs to the Agency for Health Care Administration for hospice care, assisted living facilities, adult family care homes and adult day care programs. The bill does not make substantive changes to the requirements of these programs.

[SB 7014: Government Accountability](#) amends statute to enhance government accountability and auditing processes based on recommendations noted in recent reports by the Auditor General.

[SB 7012: Vaping](#) supports the voter-approved ban on vaping and the use of electronic cigarettes in workplaces. The ban was approved in November as part of constitutional Amendment 9.

[SB 64: Transportation Facility Designations/Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway](#) from the Florida Legislature this week. This bill designates the portion of I-295 E Beltway between Alta Drive and Pulaski Road in Duval County as the "Officer Lance Christian Whitaker Highway."

District Highlights

Promise in Brevard Runway of Dreams

Promise in Brevard will be hosting their Runway of Dreams Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon to support their mission of providing young adults with special needs a place to live a life full of opportunities and freedom.

Runway of Dreams
Wednesday, May 1st @ 11:30 A.M.
Promise in Brevard
4105 Norfolk Parkway, West Melbourne

Since 2005, Betsy Farmer, her son Luke, and the Promise team have worked diligently to establish this much-needed housing opportunity for young adults with special needs so that they may have a sense of independence, while simultaneously living and working in our community.

Promise in Brevard, currently provides affordable housing to 126 young adults with special needs. Promise residents have an inclusive, safe and fun place to live among neighbors who care. Promise also offers vocational training and employment opportunities with on-site training and continuing education.

For more information or to reserve your tickets contact donna@promiseinbrevard.com or call (321) 722-7400.

American Red Cross Hangar Party

The American Red Cross is hosting its annual Hangar Party to provide information on how to prepare for the 2019 hurricane season.

American Red Cross Hangar Party
Friday, May 17, 2019 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Corporate Air Hangar at Vero Beach Airport

In addition to hurricane preparation demonstrations, guests will enjoy live music, food, drinks, a silent auction and a Kids Zone. Proceeds from the event will benefit the local Red Cross Chapter to aid in their response to disasters ranging from home fires to hurricanes.

This event is open to the public and free to attend. For more information call (772) 562-2549.

Follow me on Facebook and Twitter, and visit my [Senate website](#)



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