



Good Morning!

As Florida continues to battle the COVID-19 pandemic, the health challenges, and the economic harm it has caused, I want to remind you that we are all in this together and that my staff and I are always here to assist you.

Over the last several months we have helped hundreds of residents in Brevard and Indian River counties. If you experience a problem dealing with a state agency such as Unemployment, Medicaid, Driver's License, Department of Health or any other, my staff and I stand ready to assist you. Please do not hesitate to contact our Melbourne office at (321) 409-2025 or Vero Beach office at (772) 226-1970.

I consider it a great honor and privilege to serve you in the Florida Senate. Thank you for the opportunity to be your voice in Tallahassee. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#).

Protecting Florida's Senior Citizens

As a society, it is our duty to protect our most vulnerable citizens. During the 2020 Session, the Florida Legislature passed legislation to help put an end to elder abuse and support our seniors and their families.

The following bills were recently signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis:

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 994: Guardianship](#) aims to prevent irresponsible and dishonest guardians from abusing Florida's senior citizens. A court-appointed guardian is intended to act as a vulnerable senior's advocate and help make decisions in their best interest. This legislation revises the requirements for a petition for the appointment of a guardian and prohibits a guardian from consenting to or signing a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order or taking other serious actions on behalf of a ward without court approval.

These additional safeguards were prompted by a case in Orlando, where a guardian signed DNR orders against the wishes of the ward without the knowledge of the wards' families. Families place a special confidence in the guardians who care for their loved ones. This legislation will help ensure that trust is maintained.

The 2020-2021 state budget also includes \$8.7 million in funding to support the Office of Public and Professional Guardianship to ensure the legal rights of Florida's elderly population are protected.

[SB 400: Elder Abuse Fatality Review Teams](#) creates in each judicial circuit a multidisciplinary, multiagency elder abuse fatality review team. The teams will review fatal incidents involving elder abuse and make policy recommendations to help prevent future incidents.

[HB 835: Alzheimer's Disease](#) requires state agencies to provide assistance to the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee, and creates a position of Dementia Director within the Florida Department of Elder Affairs. As part of the 2020-2021 State Budget, the Alzheimer's Disease Initiative also received an increase of \$2.8 million to serve an additional 243 individuals on the statewide waitlist. ADI provides services to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other memory disorders and to their families.

[HB 1189: Genetic Information for Insurance Purposes](#) prohibits life and long term care insurers from canceling, limiting, or denying coverage and from establishing differential premium rates based on genetic information.

Legislation Signed to Support Florida Businesses

Florida businesses are the backbone of our economy. In an effort to support our businesses and reduce unnecessary barriers to opportunity for the people of Florida, the Florida Legislature passed the following legislation during the 2020 Session which was recently signed into law:

[SB 1742: Home Medical Equipment Providers](#) exempts licensed physicians and chiropractic physicians who sell or rent electrostimulation medical equipment supplies to their patients, from the requirement of an additional sales license. I am proud to have sponsored this common-sense legislation that supports our small businesses and eliminates unnecessary additional licensing requirements.

[HB 1193: Occupational Freedom & Opportunity Act](#) eliminates barriers of entry to certain professions licensed by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) by adding endorsement and reciprocity provisions, removing supplemental business licenses and corresponding license fees, reducing licensure education requirements, and eliminating other licensure and registration requirements. The impacts of this legislation include:

Enhancing Endorsement & Reciprocity Options

- Requires the Department to enter into reciprocal licensing agreements with other states for several professions and get Floridians to work.
- Requires the Department to post on its website the existence of reciprocal license agreements or which jurisdictions have substantially similar licenses with license requirements and examination.
- Endorses all current and active out-of-state barber and cosmetologists licenses in Florida.
- Adds endorsement of building administrators, inspectors, and plans examiners, or the equivalent certification of another state or territory of the U.S.
- Adds a category of home inspector licensure by endorsement for applicants who maintain an insurance policy as required by this state and have held a license for at least 10 years in another state or territory.
- Removes examination requirements for landscape architects applying for endorsement, requiring only that they hold a license by another state or U.S. territory.
- Provides licensure by endorsement for electrical and alarm system contractors who have been licensed in another state for at least 10 years.
- Allows licensure of veterinarians by endorsement if they successfully completed a state, regional, national, or other exam that is equivalent to or more stringent than the examination required by the board.

Removing Duplicative Business Licences and License Fees

- Eliminates separate business licenses for architects, geologists, and landscape architects who already hold an individual license in order to remove unnecessary barriers to entry.
- Allows yacht and ship brokers to maintain one license tied to their principal place of business without requiring additional licenses for each branch office.

Reducing Licensure Education Requirements

- Reduces pre-licensure and continuing education hours in order to alleviate the cost barrier to certain professions.
- Removes the continuing professional education requirement for applicants applying for licensure by endorsement as a certified public accountant.
- Reduces the number of training hours required to be eligible for barber licensure from 1200 to 900 and specifies that the 900 training hours must be in sanitation, safety, and laws and rules. Reduces program certification requirements from 1,000 to 600 hours.
- Reduces amount of hours needed for licensure for specialists. Nail specialists reduced from 240-180 hours, facial specialists reduced from 260-220 hours, full specialists reduced from 500-400 hours.
- Lowers the continuing education requirement for cosmetologists from 16 hours to 10.
- Reduces the required continuing education hours for renewal of an alarm system contractor license from 14 hours to 7 hours every two years, and 14-11 hours for electrical contractors.

Eliminating Certain Licensure & Registration Requirements

- Removes all provisions relating to the licensure of interior designers, although it allows for certification on an optional basis.
- Eliminates the registration and regulation of labor organizations by the Department.
- Removes registration requirements and licensure requirements for hair braiding, hair wrapping, and body wrapping by the Department.
- Eliminates the licensure requirement for timekeepers and announcers under the jurisdiction of the Florida State Boxing Commission.

Reforming Requirements in Other Regulated Professions

- Re-defines “one and two family dwelling inspector” as “residential inspector.”
- Clarifies the limited types of veterinary medical services that are already permitted by rule, which include microchipping, vaccinations, immunizations and parasitic control.
- Includes completion of the (PAVE) Program for graduates of foreign schools of veterinary medicine that are not accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association to qualify for licensure as a veterinarian.
- Allows cosmetologists or specialists performing services in connection with a special event to no longer be required to be employed by a licensed salon or be required to make an appointment for a special event through a licensed salon. Also properly licensed individuals may offer hair shampooing, hair cutting, hair arranging, nail polish removal, nail filing, nail buffing, and nail cleansing services outside of a licensed salon.
- Raises the dollar amounts of the construction licensing exemption for handyman jobs to \$2,500.
- Reduces the number of members on the Florida Building Commission from 27 to 19 members.

Creating Cost Savings for Floridians & the State of Florida

- Reduces expenditures to applicants and license holders by approximately \$1,466,318 over the next two fiscal years.
- Reduces expenditures to the state by approximately \$58,680 over the next two fiscal years.

For more information, please visit MyFloridaLicense.com.

District 17 Highlights

Local Projects Funded to Support Vulnerable Citizens

During the 2020 Session, the Florida Legislature provided \$30.2 million to serve additional clients on the Agency for Persons with Disabilities Community Based Services Waitlist in this year's budget. This funding will improve the quality of life for many more individuals with disabilities and their families.

In addition to this funding, the Brevard County Legislative Delegation and the Indian River County Legislative Delegation successfully secured the following resources for our community:

Indian River County

University of Florida Health Center for Psychiatry & Addiction - \$250,000

The Vero Beach UF Health Center for Psychiatry and Addiction provides mental health services to patients in Indian River County and the Treasure Coast at reduced or no cost.

Brevard County

Brevard Adults with Disabilities- \$199,714

The project will address increased employment and community inclusion opportunities for individuals with disabilities. This project is designed to provide work opportunities to those who are not able to sustain community employment and increase worker productivity, skills and, therefore, their income, by creating more focused training approaches.

Easterseals of Brevard County - \$150,000

Easterseals Florida Life Skills and Employment-Readiness Program will expand services to Brevard County. The program provides education and training to individuals with disabilities and special needs.

STEPS Women's Level II Residential Treatment - \$250,000

Specialized Treatment, Education and Prevention Services (STEPS), Inc. will provide opioid addiction treatment for pregnant and post-partum women, and women with children, who are residents of Brevard County.

Circles of Care - \$700,000

Funds will be utilized to purchase Baker Act Crisis Stabilization Unit beds and Mental Health treatment beds for Brevard County for the indigent population that represent an imminent danger to themselves and others.

Back to School Giveaway

The Center Pointe Church in Palm Bay will be hosting their annual Back2School Giveaway again this year in a drive-through style event.

CenterPointe Church Back2School

Saturday, August 1st

Beginning at 8:00 AM

891 Coply Street SE, Palm Bay

Due to COVID-19, this year's event will unfortunately not include services such as hair cuts, medical screenings or games. However, CenterPointe Church will still be giving away 1,000 backpacks filled with supplies and goodies for students. The child must be present in the car to receive the school supplies. If the child cannot be present, a birth certificate is required. For more information please visit cpcurch.net/b2s/.

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



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