

Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Legislative Report 2019



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Message from Delegation Chair, Representative Matt Willhite

It is my pleasure to present the 2019 Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation wrap-up report.

Inside you will find highlights of legislation and appropriations that members of our delegation worked diligently on during the 2019 Legislative Session.

This Session the Legislature passed a \$91.1 billion budget: The budget includes a \$783 million increase in K-12 funding, including \$364 million districts can use for teacher pay raises. The budget also invests \$682.6 million in water quality and protection, and \$1.8 billion for Hurricane Michael recovery efforts.



It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the delegation this past year. It is a privilege to be among those who advocate for Palm Beach County and Home Rule in the Legislature, and I am very proud to work with my colleagues on behalf of Palm Beach County's residents.

I have enjoyed working closely with the members and staff of the delegation this year as Executive Director of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation.

Executive Director's Report



We have composed this report to give you a comprehensive overview of the priority issues the delegation has worked on during the 2019 Legislative Session. You will also find a detailed list of appropriations that the legislature allocated to Palm Beach County, as well as those vetoed by the Governor. Our delegation members worked countless hours to bring these appropriations home.

These hours consisted of individual meetings with constituents and groups, numerous public hearings throughout the County (including joint workshops with the Palm Beach County League of Cities, School Board and Board of County Commissioners), several weeks of committee hearings, and the annual 60-day Legislative Session in Tallahassee.

I would like to thank the delegation members and especially the delegation staff for their tireless work this Session. They are the hardest working people I have met and their successes this session reflects all their efforts. Kudos on a job well done! I would also like to thank Christine Shaw for her leadership as the Executive Director of the delegation for the past three years, we wish her all the success in her new role with Florida Atlantic University. I would be remiss if I did not thank Rachel Zara for all her hard work and dedication as the Legislative Delegation Aide for the past two years, we wish her well in all her future endeavors and congratulate her on her new role as Legislative Aide for New Castle County, Delaware, Councilman Carter.

I want to take a moment to introduce Teresa Hadjipetrou as our new Delegation Aide, she comes to the delegation with many years of legislative and community experience and has hit the ground running.

Finally, I would like to thank our Delegation Chair, Representative Matt Willhite, for his leadership over the past year and for his advocacy for Palm Beach County and its residents.

2019 Legislative Session Summary

The 2019 legislative session ended on Saturday May 4, 2019, with a one day extension to pass a record \$91 billion state budget. Lawmakers filed more than 3,500 bills for the 2019 legislative session and fewer than 200 passed both chambers of the Legislature before it adjourned its annual session on Saturday.

This session's budget was focused on Hurricane Michael recovery for the Panhandle with an allotment of \$220.9 million. The largest portion of the hurricane-related spending for the coming year will be \$115 million for affordable housing. Another \$35 million will go to county and municipal roads through the budget and transportation bill. A separate \$14.2 million will help school districts cover declining enrollments that stem from families and students being displaced by the hurricane.

Encouraged by Governor DeSantis, lawmakers agreed to spend more than \$680 million to address water quality, springs protection and Everglades restoration, including \$25 million to battle blue-green algae and red tide. The Florida Red Tide Mitigation and Technology Development Initiative was established to develop technologies and other approaches to mitigate the impact of red tide. This includes investment of \$3 million per year for six years in red tide mitigation.

SB 426 - The Firefighters Cancer Coverage, one of Chairman Willhite's priorities, passed and was signed by the Governor. This bill establishes cancer as an occupational hazard tied to firefighting and provides certain benefits to firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer and benefits to the families of firefighters who die as a result of cancer or cancer treatment.

HB 19 - Prescription Drug Importation Programs will allow drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be imported into Florida by Canada and other countries. The bill will create a framework for importing drugs, with the hope that it would hold down prescription costs for the state and consumers. Importing prescriptions into Florida still needs approval from the federal government.

SB 366 - Infectious Disease Elimination Program expands the pilot needle exchange established in Miami-Dade County by allowing other counties to create their own programs with the approval of their county commissions. This expansion of the needle exchange program will help to reduce HIV transmission rates, lower healthcare costs and open the door for addicts to receive health services. Palm Beach County is poised to become Florida's second county to implement this program.

HB 107 - Wireless Communication While Driving was sponsored by Rep. Emily Slosberg and Rep. Jackie Toledo passed overwhelmingly in the House and Senate and was signed by Governor DeSantis on May 17, 2019. Texting while driving now becomes a primary, instead of a secondary offense, and drivers are required to go totally "hands-free" when operating wireless communications devices in school zones and in construction zones when workers are present. Florida now becomes the 44th state to make texting while driving a primary offense.

2019 Legislative Session Summary

Continuing the response to the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School tragedy on February 14, 2018, the legislature voted to let teachers carry loaded guns, subject to training. **CS/CS/HB 7030 - Implementation of Legislative Recommendations of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Commission** expands the state’s “guardian” program, with the original program allowing some school staffers to carry guns on campus. The expansion now allows classroom teachers to be armed, as well. There are stipulations: School districts must approve the measure, teachers must volunteer for the program, and all participants are required to undergo a background check and psychiatric evaluation. Armed teachers must also attend a gun-safety training course with a sheriff’s office. This legislation makes Florida the first state to put firearms in classrooms. Most urban school districts, including Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade, won’t participate in the guardian program.

CS/CS/HB 369/SB 900- Substance Abuse Services by Rep. Mike Caruso and Sen. Gayle Harrell continues to tighten up sober home standards and address unintended consequences of previously passed legislation. The bill exempts “Oxford Homes” from certification requirements, strengthens patient brokering and deceptive practices statutes, provides for certification and background checks of peer specialists, expands background check requirements for recovery residence administrative personnel and expands violations eligible for exemption, and covers residences that have day/night treatment centers. The Legislature unanimously passed legislation this legislation

A full session summary of the legislation that passed can be found at the Florida House websites, www.myfloridahouse.gov under the publications link.

Palm Beach County Appropriations

EDUCATION

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Atlantic University – Education Enhancement	\$27,939,279
Florida Atlantic University – A.D. Henderson/FAU High Developmental Research School K-8 Replacement Facility	\$11,500,000
Florida Atlantic University – Medical School	\$26,121,007
Florida Atlantic University – Jupiter STEM/Life Sciences Bldg.	\$11,000,000
Florida Atlantic University – Autism Program	\$1,056,776
Florida Atlantic University – Operating	\$119,583,168
Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellows	\$750,000
Florida Atlantic University – Max Planck Scientific Fellowship Program (Recurring)	\$889,101
Florida Atlantic University – Financial Assistance	\$399,658
Florida Atlantic University – Secondary Robotics Team Support	\$100,000
Florida Atlantic University – Tuition Authority	\$136,074,256

Palm Beach State College

Palm Beach State College – Operating	\$56,172,015
Palm Beach State College – Education Enhancement	\$7,443,097
Palm Beach State College – Student Success Incentive Fund	\$1,762,142

Palm Beach County Schools K-12

Palm Beach County Public Schools K-12 FEFP Total Funds	\$1,545,785,560
Palm Beach County Workforce Education Programs	\$17,692,976
Palm Beach School Readiness	\$40,845,982
Palm Beach County Voluntary Prekindergarten	\$28,827,543
Riviera Beach Early Learning to Kindergarten Pilot	\$150,000
Kindness Matters Florida (Statewide)	\$25,000-VETOED
Mangonia Park Reading Program	\$110,5000
Palm Beach School District - West Technical Education Center Adult Vocational Training	\$250,000
Wayne Barton Study Center After School Program	\$325,000

Education Fixed Capital Outlay

WXEL-TV, Boynton Beach—Replace Chiller in HVAC System	\$224,648
Belle Glade Community and Recreation Center	\$3,250,000-VETOED

COMMUNITY SERVICES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Palm Beach Habilitation Center	\$225,000
Alzheimer's Community Care Association - Critical Support Initiative	\$500,000
Place of Hope – Child Welfare Foster Care Regionalization Phase IV	\$250,000
Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health	\$100,000
Community Action Treatment for Mental Health/Substance Abuse – Sinfonia	\$750,000
Palm Beach County Rape Crisis Center	\$282,039
Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program - Boca Raton Jewish Federation	\$92,946
Homeless Housing Assistance Grants	\$4,490,800
Feeding South Florida Community Kitchen	\$1,000,000
Federation Transportation Services, Inc.	\$250,000-VETOED

Projected Net Payments DSH (LIP Not Available until September)	
Palms West Hospital	\$5,831
St. Mary's Medical Center	\$19,728

PUBLIC SAFETY

Criminal & Civil Justice

Sago Palm Facility – PILT	\$142,900
South Bay Correctional Facility – PILT	\$275,560
Continuum of Care Program (Bay, Glades and Palm Beach)	\$2,961,680
South Bay Correctional Facility	\$1,521,875
Justice Administrative Commission for PIP Fraud (Palm Beach and other counties)	\$1,767,857
West Palm Beach – Incident Command Vehicle	\$150,000-VETOED
RESTORE Ex-Offender Reentry Program	\$250,000
Home Builders Institute (HBI) Building Careers for Inmates and Returning Citizens Miami-Dade, Orange, Palm Beach	\$500,000

TRANSPORTATION & GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Transportation Economic Development

Rales Rides – Senior Transportation	\$159,520
Jewish Association for Residential Care (JARC) Community Works	\$300,000
Transportation Disadvantaged (Statewide)	\$55,900,000
Town of Loxahatchee Groves North Rd. Equestrian Trails	\$47,500-VETOED

Arterial Highway Construction

Boutwell Rd from SR 802/Lake Worth Rd to 10th Ave North	\$3,000,000
Fiber Optic Communication Cable, Various Locations	\$2,240,241
Lowson Boulevard/SW 10th Street from Military Trail to SE 6th Avenue	\$4,463,000
Swinton Avenue from S 10th Street to NE 4th Street	\$1,228,205

Aviation Development Grants

Belle Glade State Municipal Airport Taxiway Charlie Construction	\$1,400,000
North Palm Beach County General Aviation Airport Construct Hangars	\$1,200,000
Palm Beach County Glades Airport Expand Aircraft Parking Apron	\$2,600,000
Palm Beach International Airport	\$2,000,000
Palm Beach International Airport Concourse B Expansion	\$10,468,062

Bridge Construction

El Claire Ranch Road over LL-30 Canal	\$ 2,457,615
Seminole Drive at L-16 Canal	\$2,235,784
SR 704/Okeechobee Blvd Westbound to Southbound SR 9/I-95 Interchange	\$2,100,461

Construct/inspect/Consult Construct/inspect/Consult

SR 25/US 27 from the Broward/Palm Beach Countyline to Mp 12.599	\$2,936,361
SR 9/I-95 from Gateway Boulevard to Lantana Road	\$1,305,343

County Transportation Programs

SR 809/Military Trail at Forest Hill Blvd	\$1,094,964
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Highway Maintenance

I-95 Asset Maintenance Palm Beach County	\$2,000,000
I-95 Asset Management Palm Beach County	\$1,915,000
Palm Bch Co ITS Maintenance	\$1,800,000
Palm Beach County JPA's for Maintenance Lighting Maintenance	\$3,284,972
Palm Beach County Road Ranger Service Patrol	\$1,664,852
SR 25/US 27 Asset Management Contract US 27 & Belle Glade Area	\$1,900,000

Highway Safety Construction/Grants

SR 9/I-95 from Gateway Boulevard to Lantana Road	\$4,432,817
SR 9/I-95 from SR 706/Indiantown Rd to Palm Beach/Martin County Line	\$6,962,003

Intrastate Highway Construction

Palm Beach County Push Button Contract Traffic Ops (Roadway)	\$1,026,000
SR 25/US 27 from the Broward/Palm Beach Countyline to Mp 12.599	\$12,863,295
SR 9/I-95 from Brow/Palm Bch Co Line to South of Glades Rd	\$1,050,000
SR 9/I-95 from South of Glades Rd to South of Linton Blvd	\$1,000,000
SR 9/I-95 NB Noise Wall Extension to North and South of Diane Dr	\$1,238,138

Preliminary Engineering Consult

SR 5/US 1 Federal Highway from CR A1A to Beach Road	\$1,906,333
SR 5/US 1 over Earman River (C-17) Bridge 930003	\$1,001,692
SR 710/Beeline Hwy from Northlake Blvd to SR 708/Blue Heron Blvd	\$2,000,000
SR 806/Atlantic Ave from Turnpike to Jog Road	\$2,500,000
SR 9/I-95 from Broward/Palm Beach County Line to North of Linton Blvd	\$1,000,000
SR 9/I-95 from S of 10th Ave N to SR 882/Forest Hill Boulevard	\$1,010,000
West Palm Beach Service Plaza Parking Improvements (Mp 94)	\$1,000,000
Widen Tpk - Palm Beach C/L to Glades Rd (Mp 73-75) (6-10 Lns) W/EI	\$2,354,918
Widen Tpk (SR 91) Boynton Beach Blvd-Lake Worth Rd (4 to 8 Lns W/EI), Mp 87-94	\$2,329,126
Widen Tpk (SR 91) WPB Service Plaza to Okeechobee Blvd (4 to 8 Lns) W/Exp Ln	\$5,000,000
Widen Tpk from Glades to Atlantic Ave (Mp 76.4 - 81.6) (6 to 10 Ln) W/EI	\$3,819,828
Widen Tpk from SR 710 (Mp 106.1) to Mp 117 (4 to 8 Lns)	\$21,784,000

Public Transit Development

Palm Beach County Block Grant Operating Assistance	\$5,344,100
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Rail Development

SFRTA New Station Study Area, N of Glades Rd to N of Palmetto Pk Rd	\$3,916,735
South Central Florida Express	\$4,930,050

Right of Way Land Acquisition

SR 806/Atlantic Ave from West of SR 7/US 441 to East of Lyons Road	\$14,200,259
SR 9/I-95 at Linton Boulevard Interchange	\$1,270,700
SR 9/I-95 at Northlake Boulevard Interchange	\$6,087,547
SR 9/I-95 at SR 804/Boynton Beach Blvd Interchange	\$14,971,956

Right of Way Support

SR 9/I-95 at Northlake Boulevard Interchange	\$2,477,230
SR 9/I-95 at SR 804/Boynton Beach Blvd Interchange	\$3,913,893
SR 9/I-95 at Gateway Blvd Interchange	\$2,873,766

Seaport Grants

Port of Palm Beach Area D Mitigation	\$1,125,000
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Small County Outreach Program

Barfield Hwy from E 7 Street to E Main Street	\$2,952,534
SW 10 Ave from S Terminus to Dr MLK Jr Blvd	\$1,307,813

Toll Operation Contracts

Account Management System/Ccss Operations	\$49,497,101
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Transport Planning Grants

Palm Beach UPWP FY 2018/2019/2020	\$3,114,354
Turnpike System Equipment & Development	
Account Management System/CCSS Operations	\$3,000,000

Traffic Engineering

Palm Beach County Signal Maintenance & Operations on State Hwy System	\$2,497,583
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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Projects

Lake Clarke Shores - Septic Conversion Project	\$300,000
Palm Beach County Loxahatchee River Watershed	
Hydrological Refinements Phase I	\$160,000
Palm Beach Gardens Stormwater Maintenance, Repairs and Operation Program	\$300,000
Royal Palm Beach Canal System Rehabilitation Project	\$500,000

Beach Restoration

Delray Segment/Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project	\$27,293
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Environmental Project

Loggerhead Marinelifelife Center Improving Water Quality & Coastline Cleanliness in Palm Beach County	\$250,000
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CULTURE & FINE ARTS

Historic Preservation Grants

City of Delray Beach 5 District Historic Resource Survey	\$50,000
City of Lake Worth - Historic Resources Survey Update, Phase IV	\$50,000
City of Lake Worth Digital Preservation of Historic Property Records for Public Education and Access	\$50,000
Town of Lake Park - Town Hall Structural Condition Assessment and Report: Town Clerk Ceiling and Exterior Doors	\$28,000
City of Delray Beach Education and Outreach: Digitizing Historical Records	\$50,000

Cultural and Museum Grants

Adolph & Rose Levis Jewish Community Center, Inc .	\$43,370
Aequalis, Inc.	\$14,113
African American History Museum and Library	\$150,000
Blue Planet International Explorers' Bazaar & Writers' Room, Inc.	\$6,969
Boca Ballet Theatre Company	\$31,223
Boca Raton Historical Society, Inc.	\$25,007
Boca Raton Museum of Art, Inc.	\$45,673
Boca Raton Philharmonic Symphonia, Inc.	\$26,840
Boynton Cultural Centre, Inc	\$5,604
Center for Creative Education, Inc.	\$20,951
City of Riviera Beach - Parks and Recreation	\$6,572
Creative City Collaborative of Delray Beach, Inc.	\$35,131
Cultural Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.	\$43,132
Delray Beach Chorale, Inc.	\$3,412
Expanding and Preserving Our Cultural Heritage, Inc.	\$14,357
Florida Atlantic University - University Galleries	\$17,727
Historical Society of Palm Beach County	\$28,812
Lighthouse ArtCenter, Inc.	\$38,496
Loxahatchee River Historical Society, Inc.	\$37,647
Lynn University, Inc.	\$42,417
Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc.	\$45,673
Norton Museum of Art, Inc.	\$44,959
Old School Square Center for the Arts, Inc.	\$41,124
Palm Beach Dramaworks, Inc.	\$45,197
Palm Beach Opera, Inc.	\$45,276
Palm Beach State College Presenting Season	\$44,595
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc.	\$45,685
South Florida Science Center and Aquarium, Inc.	\$43,302
Sunfest of Palm Beach County, Inc.	\$43,234
The Henry Morrison Flagler Museum	\$45,140
The Lake Worth Playhouse, Inc.	\$25,737
The Morikami, Inc.	\$44,005
The Palm Beach Symphony Society, Inc.	\$40,928
The Zoological Society of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	\$44,051
Village of Royal Palm Beach - Parks and Recreation - Cultural Center	\$39,626
Village of Wellington - Cultural Programs and Facilities Division	\$40,647
Young Singers of the Palm Beaches, Inc.	\$27,673

Cultural Facilities

Maltz Jupiter Theatre, Inc. - Maltz Jupiter Theatre: Renovation	\$500,000
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, Inc- Kravis Center Renovations	\$500,000

Culture Builds Florida

For the Children, Inc. - Multicultural Arts Program	\$25,000
Lake Worth Cultural Renaissance Foundation, Inc. - Dia De Los Muertos 2019	\$11,900
Sofia Valiente - Foreverglades	\$25,000
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church - Arts at St. Andrew's	\$9,500
The Children's Coalition Incorporated - Believe & Achieve – A Multicultural Histories Project	\$25,000
The Children's Museum, Inc. - Earth Day	\$15,000
Library Grants	
State Library State Aid	\$23,954,678
Library Cooperatives	\$2,500,000

2019 Local Bills

HB 901 – City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County by Rep. Matt Willhite

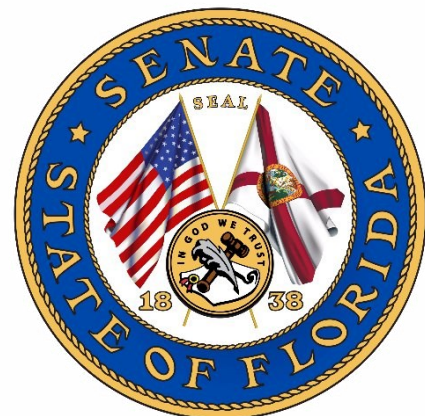
The West Palm Beach Firefighters’ pension fund receives tax revenue under the Clayton Act and must meet statutory requirements to maintain its eligibility. This bill increases the minimum benefit accrual factor to the statutory minimum of 2.15%, adjusts the plan’s assumed investment rate of return from 8% to 7.5%. Further, this bill revises the claims appeals process to extend board action deadlines, and allows the plan administrator to tape and maintain hearings. Finally, clarifies the adjustment in the Plan’s assumed investment rate of return should only apply retroactively to October 1, 2018.

Signed by the Governor on 5/23/2019 and became effective when signed.

HB 819 -West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority, Palm Beach County by Rep. David Silvers

This bill requested an amendment to the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority boundaries to include the commercial portions of CityPlace.

This bill died in the Local, Federal & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.



Legislation Sponsored by Delegation Members

HRJ 57- Percentage of Elector Votes Required to Approve Constitutional Amendment or Revision by Rep. Rick Roth

This bill as a proposed amendment to the State Constitution to increase percentage of elector votes required to approve amendment or revision to the State Constitution from 60 percent to 66 2/3 percent. This change would have aligned with Federal guidelines.

This bill died in the Judiciary Committee.

House Bill 93 - Judicial Nominating Commissions by Rep. Al Jacquet

Would have revised composition of judicial nominating commissions; establishes additional restrictions regarding commission members; terminating terms of commission members as of specified date; provides for initial appointments & staggered terms for reconstituted commissions; prohibits commission member from serving more than two full terms; provides an exception; requires appointing authorities to consider certain attributes in making appointments to ensure diversity on commissions; requires appointing authorities to collect & release certain demographic data regarding commission members & applicants for commission membership; specifies circumstances under which commission member may not vote on matter & must disclose conflict; requires commission member to complete an educational course after his or her appointment; prescribing minimum requirements for course.

This bill died in the Civil Justice Committee.

HB 107 – Wireless Communication While Driving by Rep. Emily Slosberg and Rep. Jackie Toledo

This bill makes texting while driving a primary offense starting July 1, 2019 A public awareness campaign will begin October 1, 2019. and continue through the end of the year, with citations starting January 1, 2020.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 17, 2019.

HB 159 - Sales Tax Exemption For the Elderly by Rep Joe Casello

Exempts from sales & use tax specified items that enable disabled and elderly persons to live independently in their homes or residences.

This bill died in the Ways and Means Committee.

SB 198 - Trademarks by Sen. Lori Berman

Periodically, Florida has updated its trademark classification system to match that of the national and international systems. An update had not been done since 2006. This legislation levels the playing field for businesses that wish to expand outside of the state and country to reach international destinations.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 7, 2019.

HB 353 - Housing Trust Fund by Rep. Tina Polsky

This bill would have required that any sweep of the Affordable Housing Trust Funds be repaid in 5 years and that a report be created to indicate what the swept funds were used for.

This bill died in Transportation and Tourism Appropriations Subcommittee

HB 361 /SB 838- Mental Health by Rep. David Silvers and Sen. Bobby Powell

In 2017, this Legislature created a task force in DCF to look at the issues around this increase in the number of involuntary examination of minors.

This bill implements two recommendations of the Baker Act Task Force's created in 2017. This bill prevents children's suicides by enhancing the voluntary Suicide Prevention Certified Schools Program; and helps Department of Children and Families (DCF) collect more data on children who had involuntary examinations so we can learn how to address this issue. Requires Baker Act receiving facilities to report more information to DCF on individuals receiving involuntary assessments; and requires DCF to analyze and report on child Baker Acts to the Governor and Legislature every 2 years. The bill requires that mental health clinicians report to law enforcement when a patient threatens someone with severe harm or death and is likely to carry it out, and requires law enforcement to act to protect the victim.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019

HB 363 -Public Records/Admission to Mental Health Facilities by Rep. David Silvers

This bill protects the privacy of children that are impacted by the Baker Act. It also provides that all petitions for voluntary and involuntary admission for mental health treatment, court orders, and related records that are filed with or by a court pursuant to the Baker Act are confidential and exempt. The information contained in these court files will not be open for public inspection and can only be released to certain entities.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2019.

SB 426/HB 857 – Firefighters by Rep. Matt Willhite

HB 857 allows firefighters to obtain cancer treatment under their health insurance and not the costly workers comp system. Requires the firefighter's employer to provide certain levels of coverage to the firefighter when he/she is diagnosed with cancer. This bill covers 21 different types of cancers more prevalent in firefighters. Also, puts restrictions into place – no tobacco use, minimum years of service, and no other employment in cancerous workplaces.

Although HB 857 was not heard in committee, the House and Senate filed identical bills and SB 426 was signed into law by the Governor on May 3, 2019.

HB 449 – Alzheimer's Disease by Rep. Matt Willhite

This bill requires the Alzheimer's Advisory Committee to provide a report including recommendations on Alzheimer's disease policy to the Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President, and Secretary of Elders Affairs. The Department of Elders Affairs (DOEA) will be required to use the committee's report to review and update the Alzheimer's disease state plan every three years. The bill will expand the Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee from 10 to 15 members. Finally, this bill removes requirements that memory disorder clinics be funded before June 30, 1995, to avoid decreased funding due solely to additions of memory disorder clinics since then.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 26, 2019.

HB 573 - Strategic Fuel Reserve by Rep Joe Casello

Creates Florida Strategic Fuel Reserve Task Force within DEM to develop strategic fuel reserve plan for emergencies or disasters; requires DEM to provide administrative & support services; specifies membership of task force; requires task force to elect chair & vice chair; requires task force to submit recommended plan to Governor and the Legislature.

This bill died in Justice Appropriations Subcommittee.

CS/CS/HB 369 /SB 900- Substance Abuse Services by Rep. Caruso and Sen. Gayle Harrell

Department of Children and Families regulates substance abuse treatment through licensure. Individuals in recovery from substance abuse may reside in recovery residences and Florida offers voluntary certifications for recovery residences. The bill amends some of the housing and referral sections to allow for due process and transfers of residents, it also expands the peer specialist definition, which is a person who has lived experience and wants to work with someone in recovery to get through the process as they did. It sets up a certification process for peer specialists and amends the background screening and credentialing process to increase the number of peer specialists available to aid in the recovery process.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 27, 2019.

HB 595 - Alcohol or Drug Overdose Prosecutions by Rep. David Silvers

The bill provides immunity from arrest, charge, prosecution, or other penalty under specified circumstances to a person who provides alcohol to an individual under 21 years old and to a person under 21 years old who possesses or consumes alcohol. Such immunity protects a person who seeks aid for an individual believed to be experiencing an alcohol or drug-related overdose. A person may receive this immunity only by staying at the scene and cooperating with emergency medical services personnel and law enforcement.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 7, 2019.

HB601/SB 318 - Public Records/Child Abuse, Abandonment, or Neglect by Rep. Rick Roth

This legislation is intended to improve Florida's critically important structure for reporting child abuse and neglect. The public policy in Florida is that every single citizen has an obligation to call the Child Abuse Hotline if they believe a child is being abused, abandoned, or neglected. Some people in certain occupations named in statute cannot report anonymously but must leave their name. However, even if you leave your name with Hotline, if you are a reporter your name is supposed to be confidential and not released except in very narrow circumstances. Because of the importance of having Floridians feel that they would be protected if they have to call to report child abuse, this bill strengthens the current statutory protections, for teachers specifically and for all reporters.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

SB 410 - Long-acting Reversible Contraception by Sen. Lori Berman

This legislation would require the Department of Health to establish the Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) Pilot Program. This program would improve the provision of LARC services to women residing in the three pilot counties to expand access to family planning services. The Senate heard this bill in two committees and therefore recognized the importance of family planning services and the positive impacts increasing access can provide, especially to low-income families.

This bill died in the Appropriations Committee.

SB 478 -Office of Drug Control by Sen. Kevin Rader

This bill proposed to reestablish the Office of Drug Control within the Executive Office of the Governor. The Office of Drug Control would be managed by a director which the Governor would appoint and the Senate would confirm. The Office of Drug Control would report annually to the Governor, the Legislature, and also partner with the Office of Planning and Budgeting to execute a list of duties. Some of these duties include to coordinate drug efforts and enlist private and public sectors at the federal, state, and local level. In addition to this, the Office of Drug Control would also educate and inform the public about the problem of substance abuse and available programs or services. It would do so through educational campaigns at schools and community projects addressing adolescent drug and alcohol use. The reimplementaion of this office would allow for there to be an effective treatment and enforcement of non-harmful drug consumption in the state of Florida.

This bill died in the Health Policy Committee. During Legislative Session Governor DeSantis announced that he would be reinstating and restoring this important office, and signed Executive Order 19-97 reestablishing this essential Office.

House Bill 517 - Minimum Wage by Rep. Al Jacquet

Revises formula for adjusted state minimum wage.

This bill died in the Workforce Development and Tourism Subcommittee.

HB 615 - Campaign Finance by Rep. Rick Roth

This bill repeals provisions relating to Florida Election Campaign Financing Act: deletes provisions governing public funding of campaigns for candidates for statewide office who agree to certain expenditure limits.

This bill died on Second Reading Calendar

HB 687- Automated Pharmacy Systems by Rep. Matt Willhite

Current statute allows the use of an automated pharmacy-dispensing machine in an institutional setting, such as a nursing home or hospital, and must be operated by staff. This bill amends the statute to allow a patient to use an advanced technology-dispensing machine. The machine must:

- Allow patient to see on a video screen and speak directly with a Florida licensed pharmacist.
- Be controlled at all times by a Florida licensed pharmacist, who must be able to verify prescriptions prior to the machine dispensing the medication.
- Be owned by a Florida licensed community pharmacy, which is also responsible for the formularies available in the machine.
- Not dispense any controlled substances.

The bill also mandates that the Board of Pharmacy must be notified of every machine location or change in location and directs the Board of Pharmacy to adopt the rules governing the use of the machines.

This bill passed the House and then died in Senate messages.

CS/CS/HB 741 – Anti-Semitism by Rep. Mike Caruso

The bill amends the Florida Educational Equality Act to add religion as a protected class in Florida’s public educational institutions. The bill also defines “anti-Semitism” as a certain perception of the Jewish people, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism directed toward a person, his or her property, or toward Jewish community institutions or religious facilities; and provides examples of what qualifies as anti-Semitism, including examples related to Jewish persons and the State of Israel. The bill requires a public K-20 educational institution to treat discrimination motivated by anti-Semitism in an identical manner to discrimination motivated by race.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 31, 2019.

SB 764/SB 7106 - Risk Protection Orders by Sen. Lori Berman

Current law states that only a law enforcement officer or a law enforcement agency may petition a court for a Risk Protection Order. SB 764 would have allowed for a household or family member to also file a petition as well as create a “safe storage” aspect to firearms in the household. Working with Judicial Committee Chair David Simmons, another version of this legislation, SB 7106, would have allowed for the expansion of petitioning ability only to someone with a biological or legal parent-child relationship, step-parent, grandparent, and sibling. Spotting violent behavior is key to disarming threats where access to a firearm is available and family members are no doubt the most aware of these signs. Although SB 7106 was heard and passed in the Education Committee, it did not receive another hearing.

Both of these bills died in Committee.

SB 828 - Lewd or Lascivious Exhibition in Prisons by Sen. Kevin Rader

This legislation corrects a law that was passed unanimously in the House and Senate in 2010, which protects employees in state and private correctional facilities from lewd and lascivious actions performed in front of them. Many prison workers, mainly female, have been victimized by this behavior. Unfortunately, employees in county detention facilities were not included in the 2010 law. This legislation would include such employees, making this practice a Third-degree felony in county detention facilities, thus protecting them and putting them in the same position as their state and private colleagues. This bill passed all its committees as well as the House and Senate unanimously.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

CS/CS/CS/SB 844 - Orange Alert Plan by Sen. Lori Berman

Senate Bill 844 would create the ‘Orange Alert’ here in Florida. This alert would function similarly to the Silver Alert and would be activated should someone who has a developmental or intellectual disability go missing. It is imperative that we have the ability to use all tools available to locate these individuals as quickly as possible to ensure their safety and well-being.

This bill died on Second Reading in the Senate.

SB 1136– Cyberharassment by Sen. Gayle Harrell

This bill was filed at the request of Martin County Sheriff William Snyder. Cyberharassment; Redefining the terms “personal identifying information” and “sexually cyberharass”; requiring that a person have a reasonable expectation of privacy in an image for the publication or dissemination of the image to qualify as sexual cyberharassment; providing criminal penalties. A sexual cyberharassment violation is generally a first degree misdemeanor, which is punishable by up to one year in county jail and a fine of up to \$1,000. However, a person who has one prior conviction for sexual cyberharassment and who commits a second or subsequent sexual cyberharassment commits a third degree felony, which is punishable by up to five years in state prison and a fine of up to \$5,000.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

HB 1221/SB 1666 - Vessels by Rep. Tina Polsky

This bill modernizes the Florida Boater Safety Program, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission to conduct a study on long term stored vessels, and allows for full due process for individuals whose vessels have been declared derelict. It is hoped that the study conducted by FWC will help create legislation that will curb the number of derelict vessels in state waters that cause economic and environmental issues.

The Senate bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 23, 2019.

HB 1271- Tax Exemption for Use of Real Property by Rep. Mike Caruso

Florida is the only state in the county to charge a commercial rent tax. While each year the legislature slowly lowers the tax by a percentage or two, it will take some time before we eliminate it completely. In order to attract more businesses to Florida and help others stay here while not taking a giant chunk out of our state’s budget, this bill would have worked with the Department of Revenue to determine a dollar threshold for real property rented or leased to an entity with 100 percent common ownership. Currently, an owner may own two properties but have them in separate corporations for insurance purposes, and because of this they have to pay tax on the property. This bill would work to eliminate this small slice of the commercial rent tax. While this bill was not heard in committee, it has enabled numbers to be looked at with the Department of Revenue for next Session.

This bill was not heard in any committee of reference.

House Bill 1303 - Enforcement of Federal Laws by Rep. Al Jacquet

Prohibits state & local law enforcement agencies, school law enforcement officers, & security agencies from certain actions for purposes of immigration enforcement; requires state & local law enforcement agencies to review & revise confidentiality policies; prohibits state & local law enforcement agencies & health care providers from making inquiry or recording information concerning immigration status of certain persons; authorizes limited inquiry & recording of information; provides that certain persons who are unable to afford legal counsel are entitled to representation; requires AG to prescribe format for submittal of complaints; authorizes AG & state attorneys to institute injunctive proceedings.

This bill died in the Criminal Justice Subcommittee

SB 1326 – Incarcerated Women with Newborn Children by Sen. Bobby Powell

This bill would have allowed women inmates who were detained while pregnant or have given birth to a child up to 1 month before being detained to have consistent visitation privileges with their newborn, physical touch privileges with their newborn, and be placed in a Department of Corrections facility closest to their newborn child.

The bill provides for visitation hours with a newborn child every day for the first 6 weeks and at least 4 days a week until the child reaches 1 year of age UNLESS visitation is prohibited due to their classification status (e.g. sex offender). The bill provides for physical contact privileges with the newborn child UNLESS contact is prohibited due to their classification status. The bill requires the mother of a newborn child to be initially placed in a Department of Corrections facility closest to the newborn child’s permanent residence and restricts the mother from being relocated unless her classification status requires relocation to an appropriate facility or if the mother requires access to certain medical treatments or programs and services that are offered at a separate facility.

This bill died in the Criminal Justice Committee.

CS/CS/SB 1418 - Mental Health by Sen. Bobby Powell

This bill implements two recommendations of a Department of Children and Families (DCF) task force which has been studying the issue of Baker Act cases involving minors. First, it encourages school districts to adopt a standardized suicide assessment tool through the voluntary “Suicide Prevention Certified Schools” program that school based mental health professionals would implement prior to initiating an involuntary examination. Second, it increases the number of days, from the next working day to five working days that the receiving facility has to submit paperwork on involuntary examinations to DCF. The bill also requires that when a patient communicates a specific threat against an identifiable individual to a mental health service provider, the provider must release information from the clinical record of the patient sufficient to inform law enforcement of the potential threat.

This bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2019.

SB 7078/HB 843 - Health Care by Sen. Gayle Harrell

This Legislation transforms health care in the state of Florida with the goal of putting patients first. The bill addresses a variety of health care and health insurance issues, including: Access to dental services; Transparency of hospital quality information; Access to primary and specialist care in a hospital setting; Ambulatory surgical center services; Pediatric cardiac standards of care; Patient notification of hospital observation status; Health care contracts in restraint of trade or commerce; Expansion of direct health care agreements; Consumer cost-containment in health insurance; Portability of health care occupational licensure in the United States; Expanded duties of the Pediatric Cardiac Technical Advisory Panel.

The House bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 25, 2019.



The Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation Office is a non-partisan office that serves all thirteen members of the Florida Senate and House of Representatives representing Palm Beach County in Tallahassee. The delegation office is responsible for: scheduling and coordinating all delegation meetings in Palm Beach County and Tallahassee; developing the delegation's legislative program including local bills, appropriation requests, and county and municipal legislative priorities; providing legislative assistance and research to the delegation during the legislative session; and serving as a liaison between the delegation and local governments and community organizations. At the end of each legislative session, this comprehensive report is published by the delegation for all county, municipal and federal offices, as well as other parties interested in all local bills and appropriations affecting Palm Beach County, and general bills passed by Palm Beach County Delegation members.

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