

FPF Legislative Session Report

April 8-12, 2019



With week six completed, we have three weeks remaining in the regular session. The committee process is quickly coming to an end. With the exception of Appropriations and Rules, most committees will not meet after next week.

Our Cancer Bill, SB 426 by Senator Flores, passed out of the last committee, which means it is heading to the full Senate for floor debate in hopes of sending it to the House in messages. The Appropriations Community heard the bill Thursday morning with another unanimous vote. The House Bill, HB 857 by Representative Willhite, has 82 cosponsors out of 117 (due to three special elections). This number of cosponsors, for a bill that has not been heard in committee, is unheard of.

The FPF strategy for the remainder of the legislative session will be to continue traditional lobbying in and around the Capitol. We are stepping up our social media pressure with direct targeting legislators, the public, and our membership. We will continue to engage traditional media through op-eds, local interviews, and letters to the editor.

We are actively engaging our members through our "Fully Involved" Call To Action for the last four weeks of the session. This week was our first, which was a quick turnaround after our Executive Council meeting and the King of the Hill softball game. We had two full days, Tuesday and Wednesday, with firefighters walking the halls of the Capitol and collecting petitions in the Capitol courtyard. Our efforts were well received by the public, and clearly recognized by the legislators that the firefighters were still in town.

The condominium sprinkler retrofit bills continue to move; SB 908, by Senator Hooper, is in its last committee. We support this bill and have been watching two other similar bills that are stalled back in the committee process. In the House we support, HB 723 by Representative Donalds, which is almost identical to SB 908. HB 723 is also in its last committee, which will continue to meet.

We recognize that current law requires these buildings to be retrofitted by January 1, 2020. It is clear that many will not meet this deadline, that's why we support moving the compliance date out to January 1, 2023. These bills establish interim dates by which these buildings must submit permit applications, obtain all permits, complete repairs, and pass final inspection. The bills also make clear that ELS Systems is an option.

Two bills that we have been watching, HB 487 by Representative David Smith and SB 722 by Senator Hooper, are now requiring our involvement in the amendatory process. After an extensive discussion concerning these bills related to the carrying of firearms by tactical medical professionals, there was clear direction from the Executive Board that we meet with Senator Hooper to address the issues of immunity, representation, and storage of weapons. Senator Hooper had previously stated that he did not believe weapons should be stored on suppression apparatus and rescue vehicles.

Your team met with Senator Hooper on Monday, April 8th, and was accompanied by representatives from the PBA to discuss our concerns and possible amendments to his bill. The PBA has been officially neutral on the bill, but have serious concerns with any amendments to the bill that reference the Police Officers' Bill of Rights. Senator Hooper agreed that weapons should not be on fire apparatus or rescue vehicles, and would offer an amendment. We had a lengthy discussion on the best way to amend the bill to accomplish this, and also discussed the issue of training and liability.

Senator Hooper offered to consult with the Rules Chair, but thought that these amendments would cause the bill to be re-referred, which would most likely stop the bill from moving any further in the Senate at this late date. Senator Hooper has advised that he met with the Rules Chair and it was determined that these amendments would result in the re-referral of the bill. As a result, the bill will not be heard under its current schedule.

The House bill (HB 487) has been placed on the calendar for final passage. There is a possible amendment to address some of the concerns; however, it would seem that this floor amendment would require a re-referral of the bill. We will continue to work with the sponsors and the other interested parties on these bills through the end of session. We have also committed to meet with all parties involved to find a compromise to this issue so everyone can support the issue should it need to be re-introduced next session.

Wednesday, April 10th, the Governmental Oversight Committee, Chaired by Senator Hooper, heard SB 784 by Senator Gruters, which passed with a unanimous vote. To allow SB 784 to move forward, special actuarial studies were completed on changes to the COLA. SB 784 provides a minimum annual 2 percent COLA for an FRS Pension Plan retiree who was a member of the Special Risk Class on June 30, 2011, and on the date of retirement. The bill provides for the minimum COLA for eligible retirees, applied prospectively for retirement payments beginning on or after July 1, 2019.

In addition to Vice President Rocco Salvatori and Secretary/Treasurer Gilbert Marsh, we had 3rd DVP Bernoska and 8th DVP Bellamy coordinating our "Fully Involved" efforts in Tallahassee. From the 3rd, we had Reedy Creek Local 2117 President Tim Stromsnes, Rick Spence, Aaron Colbert, TJ Hickman, and Jonathan Shirey. From the 8th District, we had Tallahassee Local 2339 President Byron Meadows, Joey Davis, Rusty Roberts, Blake Register, Jesse Lockhart, Jason Reese, Jennifer King, Mark Dazevedo, and Kristen Law; Marianna Local 4397 President Jeremy O'Bryan, Blaine Barfield, Atticus Stephens; and Dan Corcoran, Phillip Henry, Josh Pitts, and John Dowd from South Walton Local 3516. Everyone's assistance is greatly appreciated.

Retirement

SB 784 Retirement (Gruters)

Companion Bill: HB 779 (Clemons)

FPF Position: Support

4/10/2019 SENATE Favorable with CS by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/11/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 4/12/2019 SENATE Now in Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government.

SB 7016 State-administered Retirement Systems (Governmental Oversight and Accountability)

FPF Position: Support

4/9/2019 SENATE Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor must act on this bill by 04/16/19).

Governmental Operations

HB 67 Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs (Tomkow)

Companion Bill: SB 96 (Bean)

FPF Position: Support

4/10/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Substituted for SB 0096; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0096.

SB 96 Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses (Bean)

Companion Bill: HB 67 (Tomkow)

FPF Position: Support

4/10/2019 HOUSE Substituted for HB 0067; Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/11/19.
4/11/2019 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays).

HB 203 Pub.Rec./Civilian Personnel Employed by Law Enforcement Agency (Zika)

Companion Bill: SB 248 (Hooper)

FPF Position: Support

4/10/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Substituted for SB 0248; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0248.

SB 248 Public Records/Civilian Personnel Employed by a Law Enforcement Agency (Hooper)

Companion Bill: HB 203 (Zika)

FPF Position: Support

4/10/2019 HOUSE Substituted for HB 0203; Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/11/19. 4/11/2019 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays).

Safety and Health

SB 426 Firefighters (Flores)

Companion Bill: HB 857 (Willhite)

FPF Position: Support

4/8/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations, 04/11/19, 9:00 am, 412 K. 4/11/2019 SENATE Favorable with CS by Appropriations; 19 Yeas, 0 Nays.

HB 723 Fire Protection Systems (Donalds)

Companion Bill: SB 908 (Hooper)

FPF Position: Support

4/9/2019 HOUSE Favorable with CS by Government Operations & Technology Appropriations Subcommittee; 9 Yeas, 3 Nays. 4/9/2019 HOUSE Committee Substitute Text (C1) Filed. 4/10/2019 HOUSE Now in Commerce Committee.

[SB 1704 Department of Financial Services \(Wright\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 1393 \(Clemons\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/10/2019 SENATE Favorable with CS by Innovation, Industry, and Technology; 10 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/11/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed. 4/12/2019 SENATE Now in Rules. 4/12/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Rules, 04/17/19, 2:00 pm, 110 S.

[SB 7098 Death Benefits \(Governmental Oversight and Accountability\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/11/2019 SENATE On Committee agenda - Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment and General Government, 04/16/19, 9:00 am, 110 S.

[HB 7105 Death Benefits for Survivors of First Responders and Military Members \(Oversight, Transparency & Public Management Subcommittee\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1548 \(J. Rodriguez\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/9/2019 HOUSE Favorable by Appropriations Committee; 26 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Workers Compensation

[HB 983 Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services \(Casello\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1210 \(Book\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/11/2019 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/17/19.

Watch Bills

[HB 411 Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services \(Perez\)](#)

4/10/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (112581); Placed on Third Reading, 04/11/19. 4/10/2019 HOUSE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed. 4/11/2019 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays).

[HB 487 Carrying of Firearms by Tactical Medical Professionals \(D. Smith\)](#)

4/11/2019 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/17/19.