

FPF Legislative Session Report

April 22-26, 2019



The budget moves into the final conference process with week eight completed. Budget Conference Chairs Bradley and Cummings concluded their first meeting on issues left unresolved by committees.

Chair Bradley presented the Senate's offer on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development/Transportation & Tourism budgets. Vice Chair Cummings presented the House's offer on Agriculture, Environment and General Government/Government Operations & Technology budgets.

The Senate accepted the House GOT offers. The House accepted the Senate TED offer on budget items, but will continue to review the proviso language. The next meeting has not been scheduled.

The Senate and the House of Representatives have both unanimously approved our cancer bill. The Senate Bill, SB 426 by Senator Flores, was passed on Tuesday the 23rd with a 38 yeas to 0 nays vote. In addition to the current efforts of Senator Flores, Representative Willhite, and Chair Ingoglia, this legislation dates back to 2003 when then-Senator Jeff Atwater filed the bill and carried it for four years.

Senator Flores thanked all our members that are cancer survivors and the spouses and families of our members that have lost their battle with cancer for sharing their stories. It's amazing what can be accomplished with the persistence of our membership and citizen activists that don't give up. We never give up and never forget.

Over the years, Representative Pickens, Representative Zapata, Representative Jordan, Senator Kline, Representative Harrell, Senator Latvala, Representative Fitzenhagen, and Representative Latvala have sponsored the bill. We greatly appreciate their efforts over the years laying the groundwork for the passage of this necessary legislation.

The House has three vacant positions due to pending special elections; the vote on HB 7129, by Representative Ingoglia, was held Wednesday the 24th with one member excused, resulting in a 116 yeas to 0 nays unanimous vote with all members voting.

On the House floor, State Affairs Chair Ingoglia stated, "Today the Florida House showed that we have the backs of those who have our backs. As community leaders, our firefighters have waited long enough to get the cancer coverage they need. It's not often that you get to do something extraordinary and monumental that will have a great impact on people's lives. I'm honored to stand here beside Speaker Oliva, CFO Patronis, Representatives Willhite and Latvala to deliver a much-needed benefit for these hometown heroes."

The cancer bill has been enrolled and presented to Governor Ron DeSantis who has until Saturday, May 11, 2019, to act on the bill. If signed into law by Governor DeSantis, the bill would take effect July 1, 2019, and add Florida to the list of 45 other states that have cancer coverage for firefighters. We have had several conversations with the Governor's Chief of staff to explain the bill provisions.

The bill provides that cancer coverage will be carried into retirement (up to 10 years) where many firefighter cancers obtained over a long career tend to appear. It puts "No Tobacco Use" restrictions in place, and a minimum five years of service with no other employment in cancerous workplaces.

The bill covers these diseases, which have been identified as more prevalent in firefighters over the course of several studies: Bladder Cancer, Esophageal Cancer, Malignant Melanoma, Oral/Pharynx Cancer, Skin Cancer (Invasive), Colon Cancer, Brain Cancer, Kidney Cancer, Mesothelioma, Ovarian Cancer, Stomach Cancer, Breast Cancer, Intestinal Cancer, Multiple Myeloma, Prostate Cancer, Testicular Cancer, Cervical Cancer, Lung Cancer, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Rectal Cancer, and Thyroid Cancer.

The bill requires certain levels of coverage to be provided to firefighters, by their employer, when initially diagnosed with cancer. These benefits are in lieu of the firefighter filing a costly Workers Comp claim: Coverage for cancer would continue to be available through the employer provided group health insurance plan. Out-of-pocket costs would be reimbursed to the firefighter. A one-time cash payment of \$25,000.00 shall be made upon initial cancer diagnosis. Employer must apply leave time/job retention policies as if the cancer were a line of duty injury.

Employer-sponsored retirement plans and Florida Statutes would consider death/disability from these cancers to be incurred in the line of duty. The bill creates rules/regulations for fire department best practices on cancer reduction & prevention.

The Senate has passed 22 bills and the House has passed 30 bills. Governor DeSantis has approved 19 bills with 3 bills pending his signature; he has not vetoed any bills so far. We are supporting two of the bills signed into law by the Governor – the Police, Fire and Rescue Canines, HB 67 and SB 96 and Public Records Exemptions clarification for home address, HB 203 and SB 248.

The Firesafety Systems or commonly referred to as the condo sprinkler retro-fit bill, SB 908 by Senator Hooper, which we support, was temporarily postponed and remained on the Senate calendar and retained on special order calendar. The House bill, HB 647, was passed on 3rd

reading by a vote of 104 Yeas to 7 Nays and sent to the Senate in messages. HB 647 was received by the Senate, SB 908 was laid on the table and referred to HB 647, placed on second reading, amended to match the Senate version and placed on third reading.

The Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services bill, SB 1210 by Senator Book, lay on the table and referred to HB 983 by Representative Casello. The Senate voted 38 Yeas to 0 Nays, the bill is ordered enrolled.

The Death Benefit bills, SB 7098 and HB 7105, were placed on Special Order Calendar for Monday, April 29th. Last, but not least, Senator Hooper amended SB 722 to prohibit weapons and ammunition from being stored on fire apparatus and rescue vehicles, and amended the bill allowing tactical medical professionals to carry firearms. The amendment also requires the law enforcement agency to issue all weapons and ammunition to these SWAT Medics. The House bill, HB 487, has been received by the Senate in messages and is on the Special Order Calendar; we expect a similar amendment to the bill, which will be sent back to the House for concurrence.

In addition to Vice President Rocco Salvatori and Secretary/Treasurer Gilbert Marsh, we had 1st DVP Randy Wyse, 3rd DVP Wayne Bernoska, 5th DVP Doug Watler, 6th DVP David Perez, 7th DVP Merv Kennell, 8th DVP Mike Bellamy, 9th DVP Bruce Anderson, 11th DVP Eloy Ricardo, 1st District Trustee Scotty Taylor, 6th DVP Emeritus Dean Parkerson, Metro-Broward Local 3080 President Brian Powell, Miami Local 587 members President Alex Cardenas, Freddy Delgado, Raul Cernuda, and Jorge Megias; Palm Beach County Local 2928 members President Scott Bielecky, Angelo D'Ariano, Ricky Christmas, and Drew Reyburn; Metro-Dade Local 1403 members President Omar Blanco, Rich Andrews, Andre Cruzeta, and Claudine Buzzo; and South Walton Local 3516 member Bob Wells that traveled to Tallahassee; all their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Safety and Health

SB 426 Firefighters (Flores)

Companion Bill: HB 857 (Willhite)

FPF Position: Support

4/23/2019 SENATE Read Second Time; Amendment Adopted (566368); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/23/2019 SENATE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed. 4/23/2019 HOUSE In Messages. 4/23/2019 HOUSE Received; Substituted for HB 7129; Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/24/19. 4/24/2019 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/24/2019 SENATE Ordered enrolled. 4/24/2019 SENATE Enrolled Text (ER) Filed. 4/26/2019 Signed by Officers and presented to Governor (Governor must act on this bill by 05/11/19).

SB 908 Firesafety Systems (Hooper)

Companion Bill: HB 723 (Donalds)

FPF Position: Support

4/23/2019 SENATE Favorable with CS by Rules; 14 Yeas, 3 Nays. 4/23/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C3) Filed. 4/23/2019 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/23/2019 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/25/19. 4/25/2019 SENATE Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading. 4/25/2019 SENATE Retained on Special Order Calendar. 4/26/2019 SENATE Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 0647; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0647.

[HB 1393 Department of Financial Services \(Clemons\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 1704 \(Wright\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/25/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Amendments Adopted (543111, 487331, 637373); Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 101 Yeas / 11 Nays). 4/25/2019 HOUSE Engrossed Text (E1) Filed. 4/25/2019 SENATE In Messages. 4/25/2019 SENATE Received; Referred to Banking and Insurance; Innovation, Industry, and Technology; Rules.

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

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

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/24/2019 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/26/19. 4/26/2019 SENATE Temporarily Postponed on Second Reading. 4/26/2019 SENATE Retained on Special Order Calendar.

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

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/24/2019 SENATE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/25/19. 4/25/2019 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 37 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/25/2019 HOUSE In Messages. 4/26/2019 HOUSE Received; Referred to Calendar. 4/26/2019 HOUSE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/29/19.

[HB 7129 Firefighters \(State Affairs Committee\)](#)

[Companion Bill: SB 426 \(Flores\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/23/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Substituted for SB 0426; Laid on Table, Refer to SB 0426.

Governmental Operations

[SB 96 Police, Fire, and Search and Rescue Dogs and Police Horses \(Bean\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 67 \(Tomkow\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/26/2019 Approved by Governor.

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

[Companion Bill: HB 203 \(Zika\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/26/2019 Approved by Governor.

[SB 494 The Firefighters' Bill Of Rights \(Hooper\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 161 \(Casello\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/24/2019 SENATE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/25/19. 4/25/2019 SENATE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 36 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/25/2019 HOUSE In Messages.

Workers Compensation

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

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

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/24/2019 SENATE In Messages. 4/24/2019 SENATE Received; Referred to Banking and Insurance; Rules. 4/26/2019 SENATE Withdrawn from Banking and Insurance; Rules; Placed on Calendar, on 2nd Reading; Substituted for SB 1210; Read Second Time; Passed (Vote: 38 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/26/2019 HOUSE Ordered enrolled.

[SB 1210 Ratification of Rules of the Department of Financial Services \(Book\)](#)

[Companion Bill: HB 983 \(Casello\)](#)

[FPF Position: Support](#)

4/23/2019 SENATE Favorable by Rules; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/24/2019 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/24/2019 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/26/19. 4/26/2019 SENATE Read Second Time; Substituted for HB 0983; Laid on Table, Refer to HB 0983.

[Watch Bills](#)

[SB 302 Nonemergency Medical Transportation Services \(Brandes\)](#)

4/23/2019 SENATE Favorable with CS by Rules; 16 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/24/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed. 4/25/2019 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/25/2019 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/29/19.

[HB 441 E911 Systems \(DuBose\)](#)

4/24/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/25/19. 4/25/2019 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 110 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/25/2019 SENATE In Messages. 4/25/2019 SENATE Received; Referred to Innovation, Industry, and Technology; Infrastructure and Security; Appropriations.

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

4/24/2019 SENATE In Messages. 4/24/2019 SENATE Received; Referred to Judiciary; Infrastructure and Security; Rules.

[SB 536 911 Services \(Brandes\)](#)

4/25/2019 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/29/19.

[SB 722 Carrying of Firearms by Tactical Medical Professionals \(Hooper\)](#)

4/23/2019 SENATE Favorable with CS by Rules; 17 Yeas, 0 Nays. 4/24/2019 SENATE Committee Substitute Text (C2) Filed. 4/25/2019 SENATE Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading. 4/25/2019 SENATE Placed on Special Order Calendar, 04/29/19.

[HB 901 City of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County \(Willhite\)](#)

4/23/2019 HOUSE Read Second Time; Placed on Third Reading, 04/24/19. 4/24/2019 HOUSE Read Third Time; Passed (Vote: 116 Yeas / 0 Nays). 4/24/2019 SENATE In Messages. 4/24/2019 SENATE Received; Referred to Rules.