

# FPF Legislative Session Report

January 9-12, 2018



On Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, the 120<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Session commenced and will continue for the next 60 days. The legislators were welcomed by speeches with desks adorned by flowers and special guests.

President Negron opened with an affirmation of zero tolerance for sexual harassment, correcting the opioid crisis, and hurricane recovery. Governor Scott echoed these priorities, but pushed for even further tax cuts in his welcome address to both chambers. Speaker Corcoran is pushing for a six-year ban on former legislators lobbying the process, and creating penalties for sanctuary cities for not complying with federal immigration laws.

The Speaker is also opposed to allowing local government to take advantage of raising property values to fund K-12 education. He sees this as a tax increase and the Senate President sees it as the State and Local Government partnership in school funding.

The House has officially sworn in three new Republicans and the Senate has one new Democrat. There are two vacant seats in the Senate and the House has four vacant seats.

This year, the legislators have filed even more bills than last year's 2,905. This year's 3,052 are attributed to Speaker Corcoran's procedure for members' appropriations project requests, as was last year's high bill count. However, this year the increased number is a result of numerous bills related to infrastructure improvements for hurricane preparation.

What seems to be missing here are the workers and their issues. This was even more evident as the Legislative Impasse Resolution commenced Friday with a hearing by the Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining. While we have several friends on the committee, the process is flawed.

We are encouraged by the Governor's proposal to increase certain salaries; however, the ranges or positions lack long-term protections, which help with employee retention. Rich Siwica did an outstanding job on behalf of S-20 and we remain optimistic positive changes are possible as we move through this difficult resolution process.

The late Friday notice that the Governmental Oversight and Accountability Committee has scheduled SB 722 by Senator Garcia for a hearing on Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> is encouraging. SB 722 will have two more committee stops on its way to the Senate floor. The HB by Representative Clemons has yet to be scheduled. These two bills are the first step in a multi-step process to address the COLA, or the lack thereof, which is a priority of the FPF.

Senator Book's bill, SB 376, on post-traumatic stress is also scheduled for a second hearing Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup>, which will leave two more committee stops on its way to the Senate floor.

The last report had most of the bills filed that we are actively tracking with a brief description, committee referrals, etc. Below you will find updates on the bills that are starting to move. Each week we will report on action during that week.

In addition to Vice President Rocco Salvatori and Secretary/Treasurer Gilbert Marsh, we had Metro Broward L 3080 President Brian Powell and Gator Fire Council President Scotty Taylor that traveled to Tallahassee; their assistance is greatly appreciated.

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## **Retirement**

**SB 722 Retirement (Garcia)**

**Companion Bill: HB 665 (Clemons)**

**FPF Position: Support**

1/11/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Governmental Oversight and Accountability, 01/16/18, 4:00 pm, 401 S.

**HB 1209 The Florida Retirement System (Asencio)**

**Companion Bill: SB 1692 (Torres, Jr.)**

**FPF Position: Support**

1/12/2018 HOUSE Referred to Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee; Appropriations Committee; Government Accountability Committee. 1/12/2018 HOUSE Now in Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee.

**SB 1240 Retirement of Instructional Personnel and Administrative Personnel (Mayfield)**

**Companion Bill: HB 977 (Fine)**

**FPF Position: Watch**

1/11/2018 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Education; Appropriations.

**SB 1692 Florida Retirement System (Torres, Jr.)**

**Companion Bill: HB 1209 (Asencio)**

**FPF Position: Support**

1/12/2018 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.

**SB 1778 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System (Flores)**

**Companion Bill: HB 615 (Raschein)**

**FPF Position: Watch**

1/12/2018 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.

**SB 7014 State-Administered Retirement Systems (Governmental Oversight and Accountability)**

**FPF Position: Watch**

1/10/2018 SENATE Submitted as Committee Bill by Governmental Oversight and Accountability; 6 Yeas, 0 Nays.

1/11/2018 SENATE Committee Bill Text Filed.

**Safety and Health**

**SB 1432 Community Association Fire and Life Safety Systems (Farmer)**

**Companion Bill: HB 1061 (Moraitis)**

**FPF Position: Watch**

1/12/2018 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Regulated Industries; Rules.

**Taxing Authority**

**SB 1284 The Homestead Exemption For Disabled First Responders (Simmons)**

**FPF Position: Support**

1/11/2018 SENATE Referred to Community Affairs; Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax; Appropriations.

**Workers Compensation**

**SB 376 Workers' Compensation Benefits for First Responders (Book)**

**Companion Bills: SB 126 (Torres, Jr.), HB 629 (Asencio), HB 227 (Willhite)**

**FPF Position: Support**

1/11/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Commerce and Tourism, 01/16/18, 1:30 pm, 110 S.

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**Watch Bills**

**SB 272 Local Tax Referenda (Brandes)**

**Companion Bill: HB 317 (Ingoolia)**

1/11/2018 HOUSE On Committee agenda - Appropriations Subcommittee on Finance and Tax, 01/16/18, 10:00 am, 401 S.

**SB 474 Physician Orders for Life-sustaining Treatment (Brandes)**

**Companion Bill: SB 476 (Brandes)**

1/11/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 01/16/18, 4:00 pm, 412 K.

**SB 476 Public Records/Compassionate and Palliative Care Plans/Agency for Health Care Administration (Brandes)**

**Companion Bill: SB 474 (Brandes)**

1/11/2018 SENATE On Committee agenda - Health Policy, 01/16/18, 4:00 pm, 412 K.

**HB 529 Florida Fire Prevention Code (Diaz)**

**Companion Bill: SB 746 (Bean)**

1/9/2018 HOUSE Favorable by Careers & Competition Subcommittee; 14 Yeas, 0 Nays. 1/11/2018 HOUSE Now in Commerce Committee.

**SB 1466 State Emergency Communications and Warning System (Farmer)**

**HB 1109 (Stark)**

1/12/2018 SENATE Referred to Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security; Rules.

**SB 1518 Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System (J. Rodriguez)**

1/12/2018 SENATE Referred to Governmental Oversight and Accountability; Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government; Appropriations.